Gu Lingfei 1041

Chapter 1041 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Lily said with great interest, "I wonder if I'll have the chance to get to know Mrs. York."

She had heard of Mr. York before but never had the chance to meet him in person.

Lily thought to herself that the woman who could move Mr. York definitely had something amazing about her. She could learn a thing or two from the lady about conquering a man.

Lily was twenty-eight years old this year and was currently single. She had a relationship back when she was eighteen or nineteen but that had been unfruitful. Afterward, she joined her family's company and ended up too busy with work, which was why until now, she had no boyfriend.

Mrs. Lewis had the intention to matchmake her and Duncan and both families were in favor of it. Lily was aware of Duncan's past as a former gangster and she could accept it.

She did not care that he had a scar on his face either because she felt that as long as she made him fall in love with her, she could make him agree to undergo minor plastic surgery to remove the scar and recover his good looks.

Hearing Lily's words, Mrs. Lewis laughed. "You will. Zachary and Duncan are very good friends."

Speaking of this, Mrs. Lewis lowered her voice and said to Lily, "Although Serenity Hunt's background isn't much to speak of, the fact that she's Zachary York's wife is set in stone. It'll be good for you to get to know her and forge a connection with her."

She was worried that a proud and strong lady like Lily would look down on Serenity when the latter was Zachary's most precious person while Zachary was good friends with Duncan too. If Lily were to date Duncan, she would inevitably have to join his circle of friends.

If Lily looked down on Serenity, she would offend Zachary and affect his relationship with Duncan.

Mrs. Lewis did not wish for Zachary and Duncan's relationship to be affected because of Lily.

In Wiltspoon, those who Zachary considered close friends and confidents were limited to her son and Josh Bucham only.

Lily smiled and said, "Mrs. Lewis, I understand. Ladies don't ask where a person is from. It was Ms. Hunt's ability that allowed her to become Mrs. York. I can't admire her enough, so why would I look down on her?"

Even if Serenity was a beggar, as long as she had won Zachary over, Lily would feel that she was the best amongst all women and was worth learning something from.

She was very capable in terms of doing business, but when it came to winning men over, Lily felt that she was lacking experience.

"It's great that you can think that way. Let's go eat."

Mrs. Lewis affectionately pulled Lily into the dining room. The moment they stepped into the dining room, they heard Duncan speaking on the phone with Zachary.

A certain Mr. York was currently preparing a dinner filled with love for his esteemed and beloved wife. Serenity was feeling low and did not want to go out to eat either, so Zachary was personally doing the cooking himself.

Old Mrs. York had not returned and nobody knew where she had gallivanted to again.

In the past, Serenity would be worried about Grandma May, but now, knowing that the old lady was wandering around to secure wives for her grandsons, Serenity no longer worried about her and would not ask where she was going.

Zachary had told her too that when his nana was young, she had been the head of intelligence and was very formidable.

She only gradually eased into retirement after marrying Zachary's grandfather, but many of the past generations still sang her praises. Even now when the current head of the Buchams and his son, a family specializing in intelligence, met Grandma May, they were incredibly reverent toward the old lady and viewed her as a maestro in the field.

Serenity continued to sit on the swing as she quietly watched the sky outside turn from light to dark.

A ringing sound came from Zachary's phone.

Zachary stopped what he was doing and picked up the call after digging out his phone and looking at the caller ID.

"Duncan."

"Zachary, for the barbecue at your family residence tomorrow, don't forget to prepare extra chicken thighs -they're my favorite. I haven't eaten it in ages and I miss your barbecued chicken thighs a lot."

Chapter 1042 | [Serenity & Zachary]

"When did I say I was going back to the manor tomorrow for a barbeque?" Zachary asked.

If Duncan wanted to have some barbeque, could he not eat somewhere else? Why did it have to be at the manor?

"And squid, lamb, and big prawns. Anyway, I like eating whatever you roast."

Duncan continued talking to himself about the food as if he did not hear what Zachary said.

Zachary proceeded to hang up immediately after that.

Though, Duncan's words did make him think about the idea. Tomorrow was Sunday and they did not need to go to work. Plus, he had never brought Serenity to the manor before. He would do as Duncan said and invite a few friends to the manor for a barbecue. There was indeed a barbecue area back at the manor.

He could even bring Serenity back to stay for a few days and let her familiarize herself with the surroundings. The beautiful landscape there might cheer her up too.

While the plan brewed in his head, Zachary texted Duncan: [Got it. Call Josh too, and tell him to bring Julian along if he's free.]

When Duncan received his buddy's reply, he breathed a sigh of relief.

His cover was nearly blown.

Anyway, even if Zachary had not taken the hint, he would have gone to look for Zachary the next day and clung to his side for the whole day.

Duncan readily agreed.

After Zachary finished texting Duncan, he walked out of the kitchen and to the balcony. Serenity looked at him and asked, "Is dinner ready?"

"Almost. Are you hungry? The soup's ready. Why don't you have some soup first?"

"No, I don't have an appetite."

Making the trip back to her hometown struck a chord within her and evoked memories of the past. Unable to hold back, tears streamed down her face. Even if they had already left, Serenity was still consumed by her memories.

Zachary hunched down to her eye level and reached out to lightly touch her face. He said softly, "I'll bring you to Wildridge Manor tomorrow and we could stay there for a few days. The scenery is stunning and the beauty of nature is well-preserved. Although the manor was built by man decades ago, it has long since become a part of the landscape. It's the flowering season now and the manor has quite a few flower fields. It's absolutely charming.

"Duncan called me just now and suggested a barbecue. I asked him to invite Josh and his cousin too. We have an area specifically for barbecuing at the manor. Do you want to invite Ms. Sox, your cousin, and the rest?"

Zachary recalled that Liberty's diner was going to officially open for business the day after tomorrow and she would not likely be able to join them for the barbecue.

He added, "Tomorrow, first thing in the morning, we'll go pick Sonny up. Then we'll go back and I get Mrs. Lane and Jim to go over and help Liberty out. That way, she won't overwork herself."

Serenity quietly looked at him as she listened to his arrangements.

"What do you think, Seren? Your call. If you don't like it, we can always change the plan."

Serenity reached out and hugged him. Feeling touched, she said, "Thank you, Zachary! It's so good to have you!"

When faced with any hardships, he did not give up on her.

When she was in a bad mood, he tried everything he could to cheer her up.

This man had changed a lot for her sake.

Zachary hugged her back before gently pulling away and said warmly, "We're going to be husband and wife for the rest of our lives, so we should support each other. When I'm sick, you take care of me. When you're in a bad mood, I'll cheer you up."

He took her hand and interlocked their fingers. Their hearts were of one accord.

"When my sister's diner opens in two days, I'm definitely going over to help. Let's just stay at the manor for a night and come back first thing in the morning on the opening day."

Chapter 1043 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Serenity had long learned that the Yorks were not living in Whitmore Mansion, the residence they stayed in during the New Year's holidays. The Yorks had cleaned up the place and moved back in just to deceive her.

Lying was hard work!

Zachary replied fondly, "Alright, I'll listen to you. Anyway, it's our home. We can go back whenever we want to and stay however long we wish."

Serenity was about to take the apron off him while saying, "I'll go make dinner."

"There's no need. I only have two more dishes to cook, then I'm done. You should just sit here and appreciate the blooms while I finish up."

Zachary stopped her, not allowing her to enter the kitchen.

Serenity then kissed him on the cheek.

Zachary felt happiness blossom in his heart.

He returned to the kitchen to continue cooking with elation.

"Babe."

Serenity knew he liked to hear her call him "babe". She would indulge him while they were at home. "You invited Josh and Mr. Lewis to the barbecue but I don't think that's enough people. Why don't you invite Mr. Johnson too?"

"I'll invite Jasmine and Elisa. I'll ask Liberty if she wants to come along."

Zachary's voice drifted out from the kitchen, "Okay. I'll call Mr. Johnson in a bit and ask him to come to the barbecue tomorrow."

Serenity first called her sister.

After her sister picked up, she asked, "Liberty, have you eaten?"

"I'm eating right now. I'm still in the shop."

"I just knew you would still go to the shop."

When they got back from their hometown, it had only been four in the afternoon. Her sister was currently as busy as a bee and would naturally be unwilling to waste those few hours.

Liberty laughed and asked her sister, "Have you and Zachary eaten?"

"He's cooking right now. Liberty, we're going to his family home tomorrow. He's invited a few friends to come for a barbecue. Do you want to come with Sonny?"

Liberty immediately responded, "I still have a lot of things to do and I'm opening the day after tomorrow. Although everything is prepared, I still feel like there are a lot of loose ends for me to tie up. But, I've also never been to your in-laws' home. I really want to visit."

Tania had yet to contact Liberty and Mrs. Stone. Liberty was still internally a little worried that her sister's in-laws were dissatisfied with her sister in some aspect.

Tania was still preparing the supplements to be gifted to Alice as well as gifts for Liberty. She intended to pick a good day to invite Liberty out for a meal for both families to meet officially and discuss the couple's wedding.

As a result, she had not contacted Liberty yet.

"Zachary will arrange for Mrs. Lane and Jim to go over and help out. If you have anything more you need to buy, make a list. Once they're there, you can just hand it over to them to help you buy. Liberty, let's go there together then."

"Alright. I'll bring Sonny with me."

Liberty could not leave the store behind, but going to the Yorks' home to meet the parents on behalf of her deceased parents was a little more important than what she had at hand.

Since her brother-in-law had all the bases covered, she would just hand it over to Mrs. Lane and Jim to handle the store while she would bring her son with her to the Yorks' family home.

"Seren, Sonny wants to talk to you."

When the little guy found out his aunt was on the line, he kept tugging at his mother's sleeve, wanting to talk to her.

Liberty handed the phone to her son and he immediately took the phone and said sweetly, "Aunt Ser."

"Sonny, are you having dinner? Are you full? What did Mommy cook for you?"

Sonny said happily, "It's not Mom's cooking. It's the food Dad brought Sonny to buy. It's delicious, but Mom didn't eat it. Mom's just eating vegetables."

Liberty was still trying to lose weight. She would not eat meat during dinnertime and only a little bit of meat during lunch.

"Your dad came again?"

That Hank really was clingy and would not leave them alone.

What a family of oddballs.

Chapter 1044 | [Serenity & Zachary]

"Dad brought Sonny to play in the park."

Serenity asked him, "Has Dad left already?"

"Dad's gone back already. He said he'll come again tomorrow to take me out to play. I wanna go to the zoo and Dad said he would bring me there. Aunt Ser, do you want to come with me to the zoo tomorrow?"

Hank took Sonny out to play for a while and the little guy was really happy. Now, he only had his father on his mind and kept talking about him.

Serenity laughed and said, "Aunt Ser is going to a barbecue tomorrow. Your mom's going too. Do you want to come, Sonny?"

Without any hesitation, Sonny replied, "I want to go! Then I'm not going to the zoo with Dad anymore."

Both the aunt and nephew went back and forth with questions and answers, happily chatting away. Serenity only ended the call after a long while, then proceeded to call Jasmine and Elisa, inviting them to go on a road trip to Wildridge Manor together the next day.

It was said that Wildridge Manor was captivating and was a scenic area, but of course, not just anyone could get invited to Wildridge Manor.

"Honey, it's time to eat," Zachary called out toward the balcony as he brought the last two dishes out from the kitchen to place on the dining table.

Serenity hurriedly ended her call to Elisa and got up as she responded to Zachary, turning to walk back into the living area.

She walked to the dining table and saw that her favorite fresh prawns were on tonight's menu. She reached out to pick one up and put it into her mouth.

"You peeled the prawns."

"Uh-huh. It took a bit of effort."

When she reached out once more to pick something else to eat, Zachary lightly smacked her hand." You're already an adult but you're still taking food with your hands."

Serenity giggled and picked another prawn up to put into her mouth. Only then did she enter the kitchen to grab the utensils and plates.

The couple was just about to sit down and eat when they heard the sound of the door opening.

Nana was back.

She smelled the aroma of the food as she entered the house and she asked as she walked over, "Are you eating dinner? Who cooked? It smells divine!"

The old lady naturally entered the kitchen and brought a set of utensils and tableware out with her as she said, "Guess I'm back right on time for some delicious food."

"Nana."

Serenity pulled out a chair for the old lady before taking the bowl from her to serve her some soup.

Meanwhile, Zachary helped serve Grandma May some couscous.

He would know the usual amount to scoop for his nana.

"You weren't at home the whole day today. Where did you wander off to?"

Both Zachary and Serenity were attentive and filial, which made the old woman really happy. After hearing the question, she said, "Zack, can you not use the word 'wander'? I was off doing some serious business."

Zachary grabbed a piece of salmon and thoughtfully checked for tiny bones before placing it onto Grandma May's plate. "What serious business could you be up to? Aren't you just devising ways to fool other families' precious daughters into marrying your foolish grandsons?"

She jabbed-back at Zachary without mercy, "And was it not all thanks to your nana's help that you managed to marry Serenity?

"Just my luck to have so many foolish grandsons, one more foolish than the next? They don't even know how to get a girl. Do you think it's easy trying to get good matches for you lot?"

"Pfft-"

Serenity could not hold it in anymore and burst into laughter.

Only Grandma May had the guts to retort against Zachary like that.

Each of the York family's sons was a leader among men, but in their nana's words, they turned into fools when it came to relationships, and were even outdoing their foolishness one after another.

"Nana, you're trying to make me die of laughter so you can inherit my flowers, aren't you?" Serenity said as she laughed.

Grandma May laughed too and she reached out to pat Serenity's back. She said, smiling, "Take it easy. Don't hurt your stomach from laughing."

Chapter 1045 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Zachary helplessly looked at the two women.

Once Serenity was done laughing, he said, "Honey, have some soup first."

Serenity said in relief, "Luckily, I wasn't drinking soup earlier, or else I might have spat it out."

"Dig in."

Grandma May laughed as she scooped from a dish she liked. After tasting it, she frowned and said, "Seren, these weren't cooked by you, were they? It tastes a little different from before."

"Does it taste bad?" Zachary asked.

"If you think it tastes bad, I'll call Kevin right now and get him to pick you up so you can go to the hotel and eat all the delicacies there since my homecooked food isn't to your taste."

"Such a belligerent tone. It must be Zachary's cooking."

Grandma May continued to eat as if nothing had happened and said to Serenity, "Seren, Zack's cooking hasn't improved much. You should let him practice more. Let him cook on the weekends and prepare all your meals. With more opportunities to practice, his cooking will get better."

Zachary's expression was dark. "Nana, you're insulting me yet you're eating my food at the same time."

"You never used to cook. If it weren't for Seren's influence, I wouldn't be able to eat your cooking either. I definitely have to eat more now that I have the chance to. Although they don't taste five-star, they're still palatable-I won't die, at least."

Zachary was speechless.

"Nana, we're going for a barbecue tomorrow."

Serenity changed the topic so they would stop bickering.

"You young'uns can go ahead. I'm a bag of old bones with no teeth. How could I eat barbecue?"

Grandma May did not want to be the third wheel.

Right now, she was trying to scope out a good match for Dylan York, but she still did not have anyone in mind yet.

Sigh... She had too many half-witted grandsons that she even had to worry about their marriages.

"We're going back to Wildridge Manor for the barbecue."

Zachary added, "Liberty is going too."

Grandma May hummed in acknowledgment and said, "Liberty's going too? Then Nana will follow you guys back to join in on the fun. You should call your mom and dad later so they can make preparations. Liberty is young, but she represents the elders in Seren's maiden family."

"Got it."

Serenity was deeply moved as she listened to their conversation.

Her in-laws did not look down on her family just because her pedigree did not match up with Zachary's.

This was a show of respect for and recognition of her.

Since the small gathering the next day was essentially a meeting of the parents, Grandma May got

Serenity to call Mrs. Stone and invite her and her husband to come along too.

Duncan did not expect his act of dragging Zachary out as a shield would turn into a family meeting between the elders of Hunts and Yorks.

Liberty had met everyone in the York family before, but she had never been to the real York family home. Therefore, Grandma May attached great importance to this visit and she specially called Liam and Tania to make sure they made ample preparations.

Grandma May even tagged everyone in the family group chat. As long as they were in Wiltspoon, they had to return to Wildridge Manor tomorrow.

After dinner, Grandma May urged the young couple to go out for a walk.

Zachary complained, "The wind is too strong outside."

Grandma May glared at him. "Don't you know how to layer up? No matter how strong the wind is, if you're heavy enough, can it blow you away?"

Zachary was struck speechless.

Was he heavy enough?

Had he gotten fat?

No way. Seren said he had lost weight and her heart ached to see it.

Chapter 1046 | [Serenity & Zachary]

It was after Zachary had lost weight and started having gastric problems again that Serenity felt pity for him and that was how their relationship got better. Thus, his deception and concealment of his identity had come and gone with the wind.

Serenity came out of the bedroom with a jacket on and she had helped grab one for Zachary too.

"It's really windy tonight and the spring chill is still lingering. You should put on a jacket before we go out."

Serenity walked over and thoughtfully helped Zachary put on his jacket. His face was full of smiles.

Grandma May looked away, unwilling to look at her silly grandson.

The couple left for their walk, hand in hand.

Meanwhile at the Browns' rented house, Mrs. Brown came to the door.

She was anticipating greeting her son when she heard the door open. Once she saw that it was really Hank, she asked in concern, "How was it? Was it open? Where did Liberty bring Sonny? Did she hide with Sonny somewhere else because we kept disturbing her?"

Mrs. Brown was hoping that her son would separate from the Yates woman and remarry Liberty, but she knew deep down that was a slim chance. So, Sonny had become the one thing she was most afraid of losing.

If Liberty went into hiding with Sonny, where would they go to look for them?

Hank first asked quietly, "Mom, is Jessica home?"

"She's gone out to buy some takeout. I asked her to cook, but she said there were too few ingredients in the fridge and decided to pack some food home. She can't make concessions at all. Now that the two of you are unemployed and your sources of income are gone, she still doesn't know how to cut back on spending."

Mrs. Brown was extremely displeased with her new daughter-in-law.

Hank breathed a sigh of relief and after entering the house, he first went to take a look at the kitchen. Other than vegetables, there were only three eggs left in the fridge. Indeed, the ingredients left in the fridge were too few.

"Mom, you and Dad do nothing at home all day but you don't even help by doing groceries at the market. Even I can't stand eating just vegetables and eggs every day, let alone Jessica."

As long as it was his parents doing the cooking, the food would only consist of a plate of plain lettuce and three boiled eggs.

Yes, just three boiled eggs-one for him and one for his parents each. Jessica had no share of it.

Jessica could tolerate it once or twice, but after many times of this happening, Jessica could no longer endure it.

"We're just helping you save money."

Mrs. Brown answered as if it was a matter of course. "You guys still have to renovate the house and holding a wedding needs money too. Why don't you discuss it with the Yates woman and call off the wedding? You guys have already registered your marriage anyway and the wedding gift has been given to her parents.

"We're all one family now anyway, so why hold a wedding? It's a waste of money and it's your second marriage. There's no real need to have another wedding."

Hank came out of the kitchen and uncompromisingly said, "I promised Jessica to hold a grand wedding for her. I can't disappoint her. This is my second marriage, but it is her first. Women mostly only wear the wedding dress once in their whole life."

He had no way of resolving his mother's resentment for Jessica, but he would not yield on the things he had decided to stand firm on.

He still had some money left.

The money he provided Jessica with for the renovations and for holding the reception only made up half of his savings.

After having lost his job as punishment by Zachary, who knew when he would be able to find a job next?

How could he dare spend all his money? He mentioned to Jessica that the marital home needed renovations and that they should furnish it simply because they only had that bit of money. If Jessica wanted to furnish it with classier stuff, she would have to fork out the money herself.

"If you had been as thoughtful toward Liberty back then, my grandson wouldn't have left my side either. Hurry up and tell me-did Liberty hide away with Sonny?"

Hank walked to the sofa to sit down, asking, "Where's Dad?"

"He's playing chess at the opposite neighbor's. He's having a good time-he doesn't seem to be worried about anything."

"Liberty did not hide away with Sonny. Maybe she closed the shop because they had something urgent came up. I brought Sonny to the park to play for a while. Sonny's very happy."

"That's good then."

Mrs. Brown sighed in relief.

Then, she continued, "You need to spend more time with Sonny to nurture your relationship with him. Or else, you'll feel frustrated when he calls someone else 'dad'."

Chapter 1047 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Without realizing it, Hank had become his sister's enabler for many years.

Mrs. Brown was at a loss for words.

The door opened.

Hank dropped the conversation with his mother, guessing that Jessica had come home.

As expected, when the door opened, Jessica walked in with two portions of fast food.

"Darling, you're back. You're right on time-let's eat. I got two set meals for us."

Jessica walked over, carrying the two set meals. She sat down beside Hank and opened a bag to take out one set meal and passed it to Hank. Then, she placed her portion on the coffee table, opened the fast food cover, and began to eat.

Hank looked at his mother, then looked at Jessica, and asked, "Darling, did you only get two sets? What about Mom and Dad?"

Jessica said as she ate, "I didn't buy any for them. They can cook whatever they want. There are still two packets of instant noodles at home-enough for them to have one each. And there still are three eggs, enough for the three of you to have one each."

When her in-laws cooked, they would cook very little. When her mother-in-law served them, she would serve her father-in-law and Hank a large portion. Mrs. Brown would then serve herself a large portion too, but would never serve her a portion.

When Jessica went to help herself, there would only be a little left in the pot.

Her mother-in-law did it on purpose.

Every time Jessica ate at home, her mother-in-law would deliberately not buy groceries, and even if she did buy some, she would buy food that Jessica disliked.

Even when she just prepared a plate of plain lettuce and three boiled eggs, it would be just enough for the three of them and there was no share for Jessica as the daughter-in-law.

If it were not for Hank still on her side, giving her half his share of food and even his boiled egg to her to eat, Jessica would have found it impossible to stay in this house.

The more they interacted, the more Jessica understood why Liberty had thanked her after getting divorced.

Since they had started it, she would respond in kind.

That was why she only bought a set for Hank when ordering takeout. As for her in-laws- nothing!

Mrs. Brown was so angry her chest started hurting and she pointed at someone who was eating with gusto while she herself was on the brink of letting loose a stream of abuse.

"Mom, I'll give you my share. I'll have instant noodles-I haven't eaten them in a long time and I want to have some."

Hank hurriedly shoved his set meal into his mother's hands to avoid another conflict erupting between his mother and wife.

Mrs. Brown's heart ached for her son and she slammed the set meal down on the coffee table heavily. She stood up and said angrily, "Do you think I can't afford a fast food set meal? I have a pension too! Son, let's go. Call your dad up. We're going to a restaurant!"

Jessica turned to look at Hank.

Hank immediately surrendered and chose his wife. He said to his mother, "Mom, you go with Dad."

Mrs. Brown's chest hurt with anger once again but finally left in a huff.

The family battle had a temporary ceasefire.

Chapter 1048 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Without realizing it, Hank had become his sister's enabler for many years.

Mrs. Brown was at a loss for words.

The door opened.

Hank dropped the conversation with his mother, guessing that Jessica had come home.

As expected, when the door opened, Jessica walked in with two portions of fast food.

"Darling, you're back. You're right on time-let's eat. I got two set meals for us."

Jessica walked over, carrying the two set meals. She sat down beside Hank and opened a bag to take out one set meal and passed it to Hank. Then, she placed her portion on the coffee table, opened the fast food cover, and began to eat.

Hank looked at his mother, then looked at Jessica, and asked, "Darling, did you only get two sets? What about Mom and Dad?"

Jessica said as she ate, "I didn't buy any for them. They can cook whatever they want. There are still two packets of instant noodles at home-enough for them to have one each. And there still are three eggs, enough for the three of you to have one each."

When her in-laws cooked, they would cook very little. When her mother-in-law served them, she would serve her father-in-law and Hank a large portion. Mrs. Brown would then serve herself a large portion too, but would never serve her a portion.

When Jessica went to help herself, there would only be a little left in the pot.

Her mother-in-law did it on purpose.

Every time Jessica ate at home, her mother-in-law would deliberately not buy groceries, and even if she did buy some, she would buy food that Jessica disliked.

Even when she just prepared a plate of plain lettuce and three boiled eggs, it would be just enough for the three of them and there was no share for Jessica as the daughter-in-law.

If it were not for Hank still on her side, giving her half his share of food and even his boiled egg to her to eat, Jessica would have found it impossible to stay in this house.

The more they interacted, the more Jessica understood why Liberty had thanked her after getting divorced.

Since they had started it, she would respond in kind.

That was why she only bought a set for Hank when ordering takeout. As for her in-laws- nothing!

Mrs. Brown was so angry her chest started hurting and she pointed at someone who was eating with gusto while she herself was on the brink of letting loose a stream of abuse.

"Mom, I'll give you my share. I'll have instant noodles-I haven't eaten them in a long time and I want to have some."

Hank hurriedly shoved his set meal into his mother's hands to avoid another conflict erupting between his mother and wife.

Mrs. Brown's heart ached for her son and she slammed the set meal down on the coffee table heavily. She stood up and said angrily, "Do you think I can't afford a fast food set meal? I have a pension too! Son, let's go. Call your dad up. We're going to a restaurant!"

Jessica turned to look at Hank.

Hank immediately surrendered and chose his wife. He said to his mother, "Mom, you go with Dad."

Mrs. Brown's chest hurt with anger once again but finally left in a huff.

The family battle had a temporary ceasefire.

Chapter 1049 | [Serenity & Zachary]

The first thing the next morning, Duncan got up anxiously. He got changed and went out the door after washing up without even eating breakfast.

He was terrified that his mother would shove Lily on him and make him accompany her everywhere.

In the face of a mother who was always urging him to get married, the best policy was to leave.

Truth be told, Duncan could understand where his mother was coming from since he was already thirty-six, after all, and not twenty-six. His eldest nephew was about to get married too while as the youngest uncle, he still had no girlfriend. How could his mother not be worried then?

The result of escaping to Brynfield so early in the morning and calling Zachary at the entrance to the neighborhood was-

"Go away!" Zachary was still lying on his bed with his wife in his arms. When he received the call from his good friend, with a dark expression, he bluntly replied Duncan with those two words.

"Why are you so fierce? Considering our many years of friendship, what's the big deal about me coming over to your place to have breakfast?"

"Bro. What time is it now? You came over so early! You came over without even eating breakfast, is there a tiger in your house that wants to eat you?" Zachary replied Duncan hotly.

He had not planned to cook today and had specially asked Kevin to bring breakfast from the hotel since it would have been on the way as Kevin was heading back to the manor too.

If Kevin could hear Zachary's thoughts, he would have said that it was not on the way at all and that because his eldest cousin had asked for it, his route had to become "on the way".

Duncan took a look at the time and said, "It's almost seven. I decided I would come for breakfast so naturally, I came earlier.

"Zachary, you're a psychic. There really is a tiger at home-a tigress, in fact. I'm afraid I'll be consumed until no bones are left, so I came to your place to escape. You're my best shield, you know."

Zachary was speechless.

When it came to Duncan who always spoke the truth, Zachary had no way of countering him.

When Serenity woke up and opened her eyes to see her man was still lying beside her, but had an inexplicable expression on his face, she asked, "Babe, who is it?"

"A refugee," Zachary said as he hung up on Duncan.

A refugee?

Serenity did not respond for a moment. She asked curiously. "Who's the refugee?"

"Who else could it be, other than Duncan? Josh has Ms. Sox now, so he no longer needs to take refuge away from home."

Serenity blinked as understanding dawned on her. She laughed and said, "Are the Lewises aggressively nagging him to get married?"

"I think Mrs. Lewis must have invited some rich young lady who she has set her sights on to become her daughter-in-law to stay at their house and Duncan doesn't like it. That's why he fled here to come and use me as a shield."

Serenity sat up and hugged her husband in sympathy, but her face showed amusement. "Mr. Lewis is thirty-six this year, isn't he? You can't blame his family for being anxious about him. If it were me and I had a son that old who was still unmarried, I'd be anxious too.

"What time is it now?" Serenity asked as she picked up her phone to look at the time.

"It's time to get up and make breakfast."

As she said that, she lifted the covers to get out of bed.

Zachary hugged her and pulled her back, falling back onto the bed together. "There's no need to make breakfast today. I've asked Kevin to bring a few servings of breakfast with him when he passes by here before he leaves for the manor."

"When did you ask him?"

"While you were asleep."

Zachary indulged in her presence as he hugged her. "Let's lie back down for a while. It's fine even if you can't sleep. I'll be extremely happy if I can just hug you like this."

Serenity smacked his big, unbridled hands away. Liar.

It would be weirder if she believed him. Men's words while in bed could not be trusted.

Chapter 1050 | [Serenity & Zachary]

"Mr. Lewis is already here. Hurry up, get up, and go outside to bring him in," Serenity said as she once again got out of bed.

Zachary tried to pull her back onto the bed once more, but she expertly dodged him.

As he watched her walk to her wardrobe to take some clothes, he said, "It's not like I asked him to come over and wait. He wanted to come over, so just let him wait. Once Kevin is here, we can get Jim to go out and lead them both in to save Jim from making the trip twice."

Serenity picked out the clothes she was going to change into and also grabbed a suit for Zachary

"I'm on leave, so I'm not wearing a suit."

Serenity turned back, holding the suit, and very quickly grabbed a different set of clothes for him to change into.

She walked into the bathroom to change, and Zachary said to his wife's receding back as he held his clothes, "Honey, we're already an old married couple. There's nothing to be embarrassed about changing in the same room."

Serenity could not be bothered to respond.

In private, that pervert's words became increasingly provocative and flirtatious.

Some things really were just in a man's nature and did not need to be taught for him to know it.

When Serenity exited the bathroom, Zachary was still sitting topless on the bed. Seeing her come out, he spread his arms and a smile bloomed on his handsome face.

"Honey, wanna hug."

Serenity was speechless.

She walked over and snatched away the shirt he held in his hands. Then she pulled him up and helped him put it on as she said, "If you get a cold because you didn't put your shirt on, I'll make you get jabs every day and suffer from the pain!"

Zachary dropped his smile and complained, "Honey, am I not at all charming? You're actually not moved at all. Are you not going to count how many packs I have?"

"We're already an old married couple. How could I not know what your body looks like? If you want to show it off, you can wait until summer arrives and then show it off. What's the point of showing off your body now? If you catch a cold, it'll get all twisted. That's what you'll get if you try to look cool and not keep yourself warm.

After buttoning his shirt, Serenity stood on her tiptoes to whisper something into his ears. Nobody knew what she said but a certain Mr. York was all smiles and hugged Serenity tightly before he returned to his usual serious gentlemanly image.

"Honey, you're a rotten egg if you're lying to me."

"Fine, fine, I'm a rotten egg if I'm lying to you. A person can't turn into a rotten egg after lying anywayaren't you still human after lying to me for months?"

Cat got Zachary's tongue immediately.

He was overwhelmed with guilt.

After dawdling for about another ten minutes, the couple came out of their bedroom.

Grandma May had already gotten up and was doing yoga on the balcony.

Serenity asked the man beside her in a whisper, "Nana does yoga?"

"She's constantly wandering about outside. Sometimes, she'll go to the park to brag with people of the same age, so she picked a few things up that way."

Grandma May's ears were vigilant and she replied to her grandson, "I go to the park often to brag to my peers about my nine grandsons. Other than my youngest two who are still studying, my other seven grandsons are all outstanding. They're handsome, rich, filial, and loyal."

Zachary was lost for words.

Could he say that Grandma May was actually bragging?

"When I praise you, it's like you're deaf. But when I say something negative about you, your hearing is suddenly very sharp."

Grandma May stopped her yoga flow and added, "That's because when you praise me, my hearing isn't very good and I can't hear clearly, so I want you to praise me more and louder. When you scold me, my hearing's great so I don't miss a thing."

Zachary pursed his lips. Forget it. He could never win against his Nana. Young people should not stubbornly argue with their elders. He should respect his elders and care for the young, after all.

Grandma May asked as she walked in, "Zack, are you not making breakfast today? I wanted to freeload on Serenity's privilege and taste your cooking again."