

Gu Lingfei 101

Gu Lingfei: Married at First Sight Chapter 101

Liberty said, "There's a part two. It talked about Grandmom being admitted into the hospital and prepped for surgery with the datefixed, having received help from kind netizens.

"The netizens are really tearing into me, calling us ingrates.

Apparently, Granddad and Grandmom struggled hard to raise us, but we repaid them with nothing after we made something of ourselves.

We didn't even visit Grandmom now that she was sick in the hospital.

They said we were heartless and a letdown to our grandparents and deceased parents." Liberty did a slow burn after scrolling through the comments all day It hurt especially when her parents were brought into the picture.

Mom and Dad were way better children to Granddad and Grandmom than her uncles when they were still alive.

Yet, this was the treatment Mom and Dad received from Grandmom and Granddad now that they were dead.

"Liberty, don't read what the keyboard warriors have to say.

They don't know the truth and will believe just about anything.

Without even realizing that they're being used, these keyboard warriors think they're so righteous and kind.

They're just pawns to hurt the innocent." money."Serenity stared deeply into Zachary's eyes before turning to console her sister.

"Don't waste your feelings on them, Liberty.

We already know what kind of people they are.

I'll sort out your diary now and give them a dose of their own medicine."

Zachary jumped in when appropriate.

"I know a lot of people in the press.

We'll fight fire with fire." He would also extend the outreach so everyone would know the Hunts were merciless monsters.

Were Serenity's cousins not getting far ahead in their careers? Zachary would love to see if their future was just as secured as now after this.

He would not live up to his ruthless reputation if Zachary did not bring the Hunts to ruin.

Serenity started to compile the evidence, taking photos of Liberty's diary together with voice recordings to post on Twitter.

Soon, the response of the ungrateful granddaughter went viral with the help of Zachary.

The tweet even pushed the gossip about Zachary and Elisa aside, taking the number one spot on the trending list.

Liberty's diary detailed the truth of the events.

Only fifteen at the time, Liberty's penmanship reflected her age.

The sudden loss of their parents and their relatives' demands for a share of the blood money opened the sisters' eyes to a world of peril.

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The despair, anger, sadness, and helplessness did not go amiss between the lines. Tears filled Serenity's eyes as she flipped through her sister's diary while accounts of the past flooded her mind.

Dad's side of the family and Mom's side of the family were ripping each other apart over the insurance money. All of them were trying to get a bigger cut. No one cared about Serenity and me. No one talked about adopting us and taking care of us. Mom and Dad were dead, but all they could think about was money. What about our feelings? Is this what they call a family?

Mom, Dad, come home. Do you know what your daughters are going through now? How could you leave me and Serenity behind?

It was raining. Was God feeling sorry because my sister and I lost our parents? We didn't have a mom and dad anymore. I cried for Mom and Dad, but they could no longer hear me. I looked at Serenity's clueless face and cried. She cried too.

Serenity had been asking me when Mom and Dad were coming home. She missed them.

I held my sister and cried. I told her that Mom and Dad were never returning. They went to Heaven and abandoned us. We have become orphans, children without a mom and dad...]

To get more money, Granddad and Grandmom said that we won't owe them anything if we agree to give them six hundred thousand dollars. I mean, they have other children who can help with their retirement.

All they want is money, money, money. Money is more important than family. Is money more important than their granddaughters? The blood money was an exchange for their son and daughter-in-law's lives. Don't they have any consideration for their son and daughter-in-law with all that fuss about money? Oh, I guess they don't care about the dead since Mom and Dad are gone.

In the end, they took the money. Granddad and Grandmom got six hundred thousand dollars, and Mom's side of the family didn't want to miss out either, so they wanted the remaining half of the insurance money. What are we going to do if they take away all of Mom and Dad's life insurance?

The mayor couldn't stand it anymore and insisted that some money be left to us for our future and education. In the end, Mom's parents took four hundred thousand dollars. They also said we didn't have

to be responsible for them anymore and vice versa. Mom wasn't their biological daughter anyway. The four hundred thousand dollars was compensation for raising Mom.

Granddad and Grandmom hit me and Serenity with a stick to chase us out. They said that since Mom and Dad are gone, the house now belongs to them. I tried to refute it in tears. Mom and Dad built that house. Why can't Serenity and I live there anymore?

The townspeople took pity on us, but they couldn't argue over Grandmom. My uncles and cousins are on my grandparents' side. The townspeople were told to mind their own business.

Our stuff was thrown on the floor. They smashed Mom's photo frame and said they'd burn Mom and Dad's pictures if we didn't leave right now.

[It was raining heavily again. Holding a photo of Mom and Dad, I took Serenity's hand and carried our light luggage as we reluctantly moved forward in the rain. We left in the end. Serenity and I are only kids. There's no chance we can beat the adults.

I'm sorry, Mom and Dad. Serenity and I are useless. We can't even protect our home...)

The netizens could picture the events as they read Liberty's diary entries. Many expressed in the comments that they were saddened to tears.

There were townsfolk who stood up for Serenity and Liberty, accusing the Hunts of crossing the line. It finally got through to the netizen's head that they had been fooled.

The supposed grandparents had never raised the granddaughters, nor did they pay for their education. As a matter of fact, the grandparents took a chunk of the

insurance payout after their son and daughter-in-law passed away in an accident.

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Serenity put her sister's diary pages on Twitter in response to the viral tweet about ungrateful granddaughters.

Apart from Liberty's diary, Serenity also put forth evidence from her hometown to prove her grandparents had been living a nice life upon pocketing several hundred thousand dollars. Their children were also

among the richest in town.

It struck Zachary that his dashcam would have recorded Old Mr. Hunt's cocky voice when he called Serenity while Zachary and Serenity were on the way to Liberty's place for dinner.

Zachary went to check on it and confirmed another crucial piece of evidence caught on tape.

Serenity then uploaded the recording of her conversation with Granddad onto the internet.

She left the netizens to fume and raise hell as it was no longer her concern.

Zachary did not give the file on the Hunts to Serenity to publish online. Instead, he left it in Josh's hands to expose the occupations and incomes of the family's children and grandchildren, under the identity of a fellow netizen.

All the traction garnered by the tweet the Hunts made in the beginning had now backfired on them.

The same netizens, who lambasted Liberty and Serenity for their ungratefulness, were now blasting the poster of the original tweet.

With all bets off, Mike's media friends immediately deleted their retweets in fear of being caught in the netizens' hellfire.

"Everything's okay now, Liberty. You don't have to worry anymore. They won't ever ask us for money. The only reason they'd come and look for us is to apologize and beg us to overlook the whole thing."

Serenity consoled her sister. "They make me sick to my stomach."

Liberty picked up her sleeping child. "We've done our part. Justice will prevail. I believe in that. Seren, you and Zachary must be tired after running around all day. You should hurry home and get some rest.

"Go on and take Sonny to bed then."

Serenity and Zachary waited until Liberty came back from putting Sonny to bed to wish her goodnight before leaving

The day out did wear Serenity down.

Still, Serenity caringly asked Zachary when they got

home, "Do you fancy supper, Mr. York? I can cook."

A friend in need was a friend indeed.

Zachary had proved himself a keeper time and again when Serenity was in a jam. However, there were no sparks between them. Not to mention, the six-month contract offered Serenity no assurance in the future of their marriage.

Feelings aside, Zachary had helped her a lot and been there through it all. Serenity should really thank him.

"I'm not hungry." Zachary declined. His dark eyes were fixated on her for a moment before he was heard saying, "Get some early rest. Goodnight."

"Goodnight."

After the couple said their goodnights, Zachary returned to his bedroom as Serenity stood there and watched him shut the door. The sound of his door locking saw Serenity laughing at herself. They were only a little more than total strangers.

He helped her in his duty as her husband. And nothing else.

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Instead of retreating to her room, Serenity went to the balcony and sat on the swing as she stared at the flowers and stars in the night. Having pulled herself together, Serenity got up and went to her room.

It was a quiet and peaceful night for the young couple.

Meanwhile, at the hospital, the Hunts were caught in a media hell storm.

The media circus which they had dragged Liberty and Serenity into did not impact greatly on the sisters. However, Serenity's response to their tweet not only contained Liberty's account of the truth back then, but also the recording of the townspeople's narration. Even the town council backed up Serenity's claims.

The Hunts' jobs, income, and residences were uncovered by resourceful netizens.

They lived in villas and had decent employment with annual incomes ranging from hundreds of thousands to over a million. Now, enough about the younger family members. Old Mr. and Mrs. Hunt had savings up to hundreds of thousands as well.

The Hunts family had more than enough to foot the grandmother's medical bills but they sought damages from the two granddaughters instead. The netizens did

not take too kindly to the proofs, especially the phone conversation between Old Mr. Hunt and Serenity.

[The grandfather would rather guilt-trip his granddaughters into paying the bills than spend his own money. It's not like the family doesn't have other

children. All their children are successful on their own, so why can't they pay up?

Why bring the granddaughters into the picture when they have children? Besides, the grandparents signed a contract that both parties won't owe each other anything after getting the insurance money. They sure have the nerve to change the story to their advantage.

Get a load of that voice recording. The grandfather must be joking. I can't believe he's demanding the granddaughters to pay for gas and accommodation. The children should be caring for the sick parents in the hospital, not the granddaughters!) [It's reasonable to expect the children and grandchildren to come together and chip in for the medical bill, but why were only their granddaughters targeted? Never mind that the grandsons are not contributing with the funds, the grandfather wants the granddaughters to reimburse the grandsons' gas and accommodation. Talk about discrimination against girls.

The guy named John is a senior executive at one of Stone Group's subsidiaries. The Stones should reconsider their hiring policies.

Once the netizens got information on the Hunts' jobs and incomes, Serenity's cousin, John received the most hate. John was not all that innocent since he got his secretary to pen the storyline to his narrative.

There were users who tagged Stone Group's official handle.

The public was calling for John's dismissal. "The d*mn brats. They're trying to get my children and grandchildren in trouble. Those girls will hear from me about this. Bastards! Ingrates! What's wrong with asking them to pay for their own grandmother's medical bills? I don't see why I can't tell them off since they won't even visit or pay."

Old Mr. Hunt was running his mouth in the ward.

Old Mrs. Hunt echoed her husband's opinion. All she could think of was to get out of the hospital and give the granddaughters an earful or two.

The whole family came together at the hospital, cramming in the ward as they discussed their next plans. Mike was all over the place. His friends were bitter that Mike twisted the story and put them in a difficult position. A few of his friends wanted to cut ties with Mike, claiming he was a terrible human being.

"What do we do now, Mike?" Mike's father asked. "I read the comments. It's not looking good for us. How did the public manage to dig out information on our jobs and incomes?"

"Everything else is not important, but John must keep his job. These nasty netizens are tweeting to Stone Group's official handle, demanding that they fire John."

John did not make it to the hospital because of his busy schedule. He would contact Mike directly for anything.

Since the reverse of public outrage, John went straight to hiring professional trolls to paint the family in a good light. He also spent money to make Serenity's tweet disappear. It was strange that he could not reduce traffic on the tweet.

With every attempt of whitewashing the truth in the Hunts' favor, the professional trolls faced backlash from angry netizens and in the end, the netizens' spite and fury overwhelmed them.

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John's father, Chris Hunt, said to Mike, "John's job is priority. If he loses his job over this..."

Chris stopped short of finishing the sentence, but by the look on his face, Chris was putting the blame on Mike.

It was Mike's idea to turn the media against Liberty and Serenity.

"Uncle Chris, John has been with his company for a long time. His boss won't fire him over something so trivial. I'll clarify that John has nothing to do with the whole thing."

Mike ran a home business, so whatever was going online had no adverse effect on his business.

Feeling assured, Chris phoned John and told him to explain his innocence in all of this before potentially losing his job.

"The girls are too much," one uncle reproached. "Fine if they didn't want to pay. Why did the girls have to ruin us like this?"

Although the Hunts' tweet about the ungrateful granddaughters went viral, the post did not spread as far and wide as they liked. Serenity's response, however, received a lot of attention, and the Hunts began to get calls from friends and family about it.

Many strangers even called in to give the family a piece of their minds.

The Hunts had no idea whether Liberty and Serenity were subjected to cyberbullying, but they were now in the eye of the storm. The public backlash was happening both online and in real life. There were people who came to the hospital to chew them out. If it were not for the hospital's security guards chasing the people away and threatening to call the cops, the Hunts would probably be in direct contact with the public's fury.

The family might even get rotten eggs thrown at them.

One of Serenity's aunts broke her silence. "I wasn't in favor when you all decided to do this. Mom and Dad signed an agreement with the girls over ten years ago that they would owe us nothing. Now that Mom's sick, you're all ganging up on the girls to fork out cash.

"It's not like Mom and Dad don't have us. We all have money. It's our responsibility as children to take care of Mom now that she's not at her best. Why did we have to drive Liberty and Serenity up the wall? Even the worm will turn. Liberty and her sister aren't worms. Did you forget about what happened three years ago? "You're well aware of what you did to the girls when their parents passed away. Do you think you can get them to pay by making up a story online? Think about it. Who's

the biggest loser should they retaliate? There are only two of them while we're one big group."

Everybody kept their mouths shut.

The family was one when they were after the money.

Now that everything had backfired, they started blaming each other.

A while later, old Mr. Hunt asked, "What do we do now?"

He regretted giving Serenity a call. It never occurred to him that the brat would record their conversation.

He continued, "Let's see if we can contact Serenity to delete the tweet. It won't end well for us if things get bigger than they already are.

"Mike, get in touch with that brat and tell her to delete the tweet. At worst, they don't have to pay for their grandmother's medical treatment." Old Mr. Hunt believed the fix would be as simple as that.

Mike replied helplessly, "She blocked my number."

He fell silent for a moment before adding, "I'll write another tweet in Grandmom and Granddad's names to apologize to Serenity and Liberty. We could play our cards right and let the girls know that Mom and Dad admit their wrong and regret their actions. Now that they're old and terminally ill, all they want is to see their granddaughters. Hence, they resorted to such an extreme measure."

"There's no way I'm going to apologize to them. Sure, we signed the agreement, but that didn't mean I'm not that grandmother anymore. Shouldn't they come to visit me when I'm sick? Shouldn't they pay for my surgery?" Old Mrs. Hunt refused to budge.

"Just don't read the negative comments. It's not like the netizens can kill us."

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Old Mrs. Hunt was well-known in town for her temper. She was assertive and never yielded to anyone. She insisted that her children and grandchildren were not in the wrong

God knew how long the old lady could keep up with that pride.

Without any idea how her relatives spent the night, Serenity had a good night's sleep. As morning light rolled around, she dreamed about her parents. She cried out to her mom and dad while trying to reach them but only caught air.

By the time she woke up, tears had drenched her pillow.

Serenity stared blankly at the ceiling for a long time before sitting up. She pulled out tissues to wipe away traces of tears on her cheeks as she mumbled under her breath, "Mom, Dad, did you know that your daughters were bullied? Don't worry. Liberty and I aren't the same kids from fifteen years ago. They can't push us around anymore."

She picked up her phone for a look. Serenity muted her phone before she went to bed last night.

There were multiple missed calls and unread text messages.

Serenity checked on the missed calls. Since they were unfamiliar numbers, Serenity guessed they were from the Hunts. She randomly tapped on two text messages to read. It was about asking her to delete the tweet and that they were a family no matter what.

The Hunts said they would be ruined because of her.

The family would put everything behind them if Serenity deleted the post. Serenity would not need to pay for the grandmother's medical treatment too, but she should come to the hospital to visit her grandmother if she had a heart. It was the least she could do as a granddaughter.

Serenity could not be bothered to read more of these messages.

These people still believed they were in the right while Serenity went overboard. It did not seem to dawn on the Hunts that they were the ones who started it. Liberty and Serenity would be torn apart by the public if the sisters did not have sufficient evidence to disprove the tweet.

Why should Serenity do her part as a granddaughter when her grandparents did nothing for them sisters?

Should Serenity be grateful that her grandparents took half of her parents' life insurance payout? Should Serenity be grateful that her grandparents beat up the sisters and kicked them out her parents' home?

As if!

Other than the Hunts' text messages, concern came flooding in from Jasmine, Shawn, and friends too.

Serenity replied to them that she was doing well.

After a quick wash-up and change of clothes, Serenity walked out from her room into the kitchen. It was time to prepare a rich and nutritional breakfast for her man.

Serenity made it extra special today to thank Zachary for his help and company.

Zachary came out of his room to a sumptuous breakfast spread on the table. He asked, "Serenity, did you invite anyone over for breakfast? What's with the feast?"

"We're not expecting guests. It's just us."

Dumbstruck, Zachary ensued with a smile. "Are pigs flying? To what do I owe this great banquet by our great chef?"

Serenity took off her apron and replied, "Yes. Pigs are flying. It's a shame you got up late and missed the miracle."

Zachary was amused by her cheeky comeback. He enjoyed a good laugh to find his playful wife staring at him in awe.

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Tensing his facial muscles, Zachary gave Serenity a warning look.

"Mr. York." Serenity asked him, "Can I kiss you?"

Zachary was stumped.

Had she no shame?

She went as far as to ask a man this kind of question.

"Your smile is gorgeous. It took my breath away. I just want to hold you and have my way with you."

"Serenity, you sure have the cheek."

"My cheeks are right here."

Serenity smacked her face with a smile as Zachary winced.

"I only said that because we're married. I mean, we're married in the eyes of the law, so it's not a crime to kiss you."

With Zachary pulling back a few steps, Serenity burst out laughing at his flight instincts.

Zachary flew off the handle.

Well, she was to be blamed for his reaction. The last time she even touched his face out of nowhere.

As her roars of laughter tipped him over the edge, Zachary closed in suddenly and grabbed the chuckling girl to pull her into his arms. Zachary dipped his head forward and sealed her lips, swallowing her laughter altogether. Serenity's giggles ended abruptly.

Taken aback, Serenity widened her eyes and stared at the magnified face.

She only poked fun at him because his smile was beautiful. She enjoyed teasing him since, in terms of romantic intimacy between a man and a woman, he was more of a blank slate than she was. It never occurred to her that Zachary would one-up her.

He put her words into action and kissed her.

Zachary merely pressed his lips against hers to stop the aggravating giggles. Without exploring her lips for a taste, Zachary released his hold and shoved her out of his embrace.

Curling his finger, he flicked her on the forehead. Serenity cried out in pain.

“That’s what you get for acting smug,” Zachary said in a raspy voice,

He then, like nothing ever happened, sat down at the table and calmly ate his breakfast.

Serenity was speechless.

Running her fingers against her lips, Serenity stared at her husband who started on breakfast with a stoic expression. Who was playing who? So, who won?

It was clear that she lost.

That was quite a scare for Serenity.

Having snatched a last-minute victory, Zachary was feeling as cheery as the sun in the sky. He relished his meal.

In order to beat the game of love, shamelessness is all that mattered.

He got her good because she was not up to his level.

Since Serenity did not have the guts to even make a comeback with another kiss, she bashfully took a seat opposite him while glaring at the man.

Zachary found it hilarious.

He thought Serenity had more experience than him and would show him the ropes. It turned out that she was no better than he was.

On the day they signed the papers, Serenity mentioned that she had a relationship in the past, but that was eight years ago. It must be her first love. First love usually happened at the age when everything was pure and innocent.

In other words, Serenity, like him, was a blank sheet of paper.

“Why did you prepare such a feast today? Is it to thank me for yesterday?”

“Yes, Captain Obvious.”

Zachary gleefully filled his plate with food and said, “I was helping you and myself. You’re my wife no matter what. It wouldn’t look good on me if anything were to happen to you. Of course, I’m glad you’re grateful for it. I enjoyed today’s breakfast.”

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“You don’t have to transfer the money for the car.” Zachary changed the subject back to the recent car purchase.

As Serenity did not have Zachary's bank account details, she had been sending fifty thousand dollars to his mobile device every day.

However, Zachary had not once accepted the transaction.

The first transaction of fifty thousand dollars had made its way back to Serenity's bank account.

"I got you a car, so it'll reflect nicely on me. Presentation is important after all. I might be busy with work, but there are occasions I'd need to bring you to business dinners too. It will be humiliating for me if people find out that my wife rides a malfunctioning e-bike."

Zachary saw the car as keeping up appearances.

"I thought it was an apology gift," Serenity retorted.

Zachary replied after a pause, "It works both ways."

"Well, don't give me any more living allowances for the year since you already got me a car."

Zachary lifted his chin and stared at her without saying yes or no.

Serenity took his silence as his affirmation on the matter. It was a weight off her shoulder as she believed she owed him nothing now.

"Pay no mind to your relatives for now. They might stick to their guns now, but it won't last long. They'll apologize to you. You and your sister can bring your grandparents to court over your parents' house. You should make them pay half if not all.

"No need to go soft on people who prey on you and walk all over you."

If Zachary had a choice, he would make the Hunts' lives a living hell.

This was Serenity's personal business. He could offer suggestions on what to do, but ultimately, it was her choice to make.

"I'll go to court to repossess my parents' home after Grandmom's surgery." "Okay," Zachary answered. They were her grandparents after all. Serenity tried to show a bit of leniency as they were still family.

After breakfast, Serenity went into the kitchen and brought out two containers. She said, "Most of the breakfast is untouched, so I'll pack it up for you. You can bring it with you to the office and have it when you're hungry. We shouldn't waste food."

Zachary pulled a long face as he believed bringing packed lunch to the office was beneath him as the CEO.

"I'm full. I don't need any packed lunch." "Okay then. I'll bring the food to the shop. Jasmine loves my breakfast, and Shawn too. He'd usually pass by the shop on his way to work. I'll text him now to drop by for breakfast on his way to work." She should never go heavy on making breakfast ever again. Despite knowing that Serenity's feelings for Shawn were restricted to friendship, the mention of Shawn still put Zachary in a foul mood. He fell silent for a while before making the sacrifice. "Give me the packed food. Callum's working in the same office too. I'll bring him some."

It was better than letting Shawn have it.

“Don’t make too much food even if it’s just to thank me. It’s just the two of us. How many are you trying to feed?” Serenity always had a huge appetite, but she had overdone herself today. She would not be able to finish all that food alone.

“Callum, is it? Yes. Share the food with him.”

Zachary’s younger brothers and cousins struck quite an impression with Serenity. It was mainly because they

were charming hunks in their own way.

Who would forget a beautiful face? “Sure,” Zachary responded.

After putting food into the containers, Serenity cleared the table and washed the dishes. She then went to the balcony to water her plants. With the flowers in a beautiful bloom today, Serenity took a bunch of photos as usual and shared them on Facebook.

Zachary was rarely on Facebook, but since having a wife, he would keep an eye on her latest update. Her activity on Facebook would give Zachary an idea of her personality.

He was always the first to check out Serenity’s post of flowers. However, he would never like her posts because he did not want her to know he had been keeping up with her.

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Zachary stood at the door to the balcony and watched Serenity quietly for a minute before turning on his heel to leave for work. All this happened without Serenity knowing

Carrying his wife’s packed lunch for him, Zachary was on his way to work.

Before leaving, he said to Serenity, “I’m off to work.”

“Drive safe,” Serenity replied kindly.

Zachary closed the door and carried two containers of food down the stairs.

His bodyguard squad was waiting for him there. They were either caught standing, perching, or sitting in the

greenery. Having caught sight of Zachary descending with food containers in hand, the bodyguards got on their feet and stared at him. No one drew close to Zachary.

Zachary was speechless.

What? Did they not recognize him because he was carrying containers of food?

“Sir.”

Thinking on his feet, Jim took quick paces over and attentively took the packed food from Zachary.

Without a word, Jim headed straight to the Rolls Royce.

Soon, the Rolls Royce drove out of the neighborhood escorted by the bodyguards' vehicles.

Serenity happened to look down from the balcony and saw the luxury sedans, which were commonly spotted in the neighborhood, driving away in convoy. She also caught sight of her man's national MPV tagging along at the very end.

It was better to give way to the expensive cars than cut into their lane. God forbid if anyone crashed into them. The repair cost would be too much of a burden for ordinary people to afford.

The area must be one of the finest neighborhoods since a resident was driving a ten-million-dollar Rolls Royce here. Serenity wondered how much Zachary paid for the house.

Zachary worked as a senior executive at a major corporation. However, Serenity knew nothing beyond that. She never asked him either. Since he kept his guard up against her, Zachary's mind would go on the deep end again if she started asking questions about his job. After Zachary was gone, Serenity nourished the flowers with water and took a seat on the swing. She had time to read the netizen's comments after her big response.

Seeing that the netizens were having a go at her relatives, Serenity felt at ease.

There were people who advised Serenity to forgive and forget since it was all in the past. Plus, her grandmother was sick and frail now. Nevertheless, other netizens jumped to Serenity's defense whenever these comments turned up.

It was unwise to judge a person until others had walked a mile in their shoes.

People were unlikely to let bygones be bygones if they were in Serenity's shoes.

Serenity believed barely a handful of them would be able to put everything behind.

Nevertheless, it was always easier said than done.

Serenity was out the door after a quick rest. Needless to say, she went to visit her sister first.

Liberty had already left to get groceries with her son by the time Serenity arrived at her place. Serenity called her sister and found out that her sister would not be back any time soon, so she made her way to the bookshop.

The Coo's office

Having made himself a nice cup of coffee, Callum was walking out of the pantry and ran into Zachary who

knocked on the door and came right in. "Zack," Callum said as he approached Zachary. Spotting the boxes of packed food in Zachary's hands, Callum uttered with a smile, "Are you here to deliver me breakfast, Zack?"

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Zachary put the packed food on Callum's desk and said gruffly, "Serenity knows we're working in the same company. She made extra for breakfast and asked me to bring some to you. It's not healthy to eat out all the time."

"You used to eat out all the time, Zack."

Although the meals were at their own hotel, it was still eating out. Putting down his cup of coffee, Callum eagerly took out one of the food containers and removed the lid. "I couldn't stop thinking about Serenity's cooking for days after getting a taste of it last Saturday."

"Wow! Look at the variety, abundance, and presentation! I bet it tastes good." Callum opened up both containers, gasping in awe of Serenity's ingenuity. Not only was Serenity brilliant in crafts, but she had a talent for cooking too.

No wonder Nana took to Serenity and insisted on Zack marrying her

She was a combination of beauty, grace, and talent.

Seeing that Callum was delighted, Zachary seemingly casually said, "Serenity got up first thing in the morning and prepared a nutritious breakfast spread to thank me for helping her. I couldn't finish it, so she packed you some."

Callum was lost for words.

He quickly curled his lips. "Surely, Serenity only packed the food you hadn't touched."

Zachary's turn in silence. Had he known, Zachary would have taken a few bites out of everything. The boy would not be so smug if he was eating Zachary's leftovers. "Anything else, Zack?"

"What? Why are you in a rush to kick me out after I hand delivered food to you?"

While giving Callum a dirty look, Zachary's eyes stumbled upon a copper wire craft on the corner of the desk. It looked like a miniature tree.

Zachary picked up the craft for a closer inspection and said, "I think this art piece comes from the same artist as the ones Nana displayed at home."

Since Nana put Serenity's craftworks on display in the most prominent areas of the house, it was hard not to notice.

"Good eye." Callum sat down and dug into the homemade breakfast while complimenting, "Serenity made it. She was stocking up on inventory when I dropped Nana off at the shop. She gave me a miniature copper tree."

"Zack, it's not without a reason that Nana likes Serenity. She's pretty good with her hands. It's like she breathes life into her masterpieces. Everybody has been saying how pretty it is since I put her craft there. They went online and bought some for themselves too."

"I recommended Serenity's online business to them. It should boost her sales."

Zachary quietly put the miniature tree down and said faintly, "Enjoy your breakfast and get back to work after that. Don't try to slack off."

He turned around and took off.

Callum spoke with food in his mouth, "Bye, Zack. See you around."

Zachary stopped at the door and looked back. His gaze fell on the miniature tree. Still, he said nothing as he opened the door and left.

Catching on to the situation, Callum chuckled and mumbled, "Could he be jealous?"

Otherwise, Zachary would not be fixated on the copper wire tree before running along

Zachary was feeling weird about it.

He was still Serenity's husband even though they had no feelings for each other. Yet, Serenity gave Callum her handiwork while he got nothing.

He could not put his ego aside and ask her for one too.

However, he did not feel right either that he had no copper wire plant to display on his desk. In fact, he felt left out by Serenity