

Gu Lingfei 141

Gu Lingfei: Married At First Sight Chapter 141

Serenity chuckled and said, "I heard Granddad and Grandmom are doing well in the hospital; eating well, sleeping well, and coming down on me pretty hard too. They don't seem to think they're in the wrong. Are you sure they want to apologize to me?"

Mike wanted to jump to his grandparents' defense, but no words came out of his mouth.

Grandmom and Granddad did not genuinely accept their faults. Instead, the Hunt family persuaded them to do so. The family wanted to put everything behind them before things got more out of hand for them.

With both parties' reconciliation, the public interest would soon wane and they would be distracted by the latest trending news. It would not be long before the netizens forgot about the Hunts, and the family would have their peace back.

If there was one thing the Hunts learned, it was that the internet was a powerful force that worked like a double edged sword. While the internet could be a tool to attack someone, those who abused it would suffer devastating consequences when their actions backfired on them.

"Now, if there's nothing, I'd like you all to leave. Don't crowd my place and get in the way of my business."

Serenity showed them the door, refusing to engage with them any further.

The Hunt boys scowled.

Standing in a corner, Jasmine and Shawn gave them a warning look.

A while later, John said, "Serenity, you should learn to forgive and forget. Don't burn your bridges." Turning on his heel, John walked out.

John was the brightest among his family members in the same age group. In fact, he was the most accomplished out of everybody in his town.

Praise and flattery followed him everywhere back in his hometown. With Serenity putting him in the spot, John was not going to stand there and take the humiliation.

John resented Serenity and believed she had no regard for family. They were cousins, for goodness' sake! The whole family was close when Serenity's parents were still around. However, Serenity and Liberty started clashing with the rest of the family after the passing of their parents.

Serenity would jump at John's throat if she knew what was on his mind.

The Hunts knew better than anyone else the reason Serenity and Liberty drifted apart from them.

He sure had the nerve to put the blame on the sisters!

The Hunt brothers and cousins drove away in their cars. Apart from Noal who was too young to get a driving license, the rest brought their own vehicle. There were a total of seven cars.

In the same fashion they came, it was quite a bustle when they left too.

The cheapest car among them cost two to three hundred thousand dollars. John drove a Mercedes Benz worth over a million bucks.

“They’re unbelievable, Serenity. Don’t be quick to kiss and make up. Let them sit in dread for days and dwell in their undoing before you consider a reconciliation. Otherwise, they’ll take you for a pushover and think that a fake apology could cancel out all the bad they’ve done to you. They will still try to take advantage of you the next time.”

Having read Serenity’s post on Twitter, Shawn’s heart went out to Serenity.

Shawn hated himself for his being young as he had only entered the workforce and could barely stand on his two feet. He was incapable of being shoulder Serenity could lean on yet. If he had the influence, status, and finesse possessed by the heir of the Yorks, Shawn would make the Hunts’ lives a living hell.

“I won’t patch things up with them so easily. It’s not like they genuinely want to make peace anyway. They only came looking for me because the netizens put the heat on them. Not to mention, they must live with the repercussions. They’d rather die than admit they’re wrong if it weren’t for the retribution in their lives now.”

The Hunts did not think they were in the wrong the whole time. They believed Serenity should foot the medical bill now that Old Mrs. Hunt was sick. They expected Serenity to pay for gas and travel expenses as they accompanied Old Mrs. Hunt all the way to the city and visited her too.

Since Old Mr. and Mrs. Hunt occupied Serenity’s family home, it gave an illusion to the Hunts that Serenity’s family should be responsible for the old folks. Serenity’s family should be the ones paying for everything.

As for whatever happened in the past, the Hunts chose to forget about it.

“Honestly, I wouldn’t believe such people exist in the world if I hadn’t seen and heard it with my own eyes and ears. I’m not just talking about one or two. The entire family is bizarre.”

Jasmine had never seen anything like it. It was mind blowing:

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Shawn believed the Hunts were unbelievable. Their shamelessness was on a whole new level.

“Serenity, I got your conversation with them on tape,” Jasmine said. “I’ll send the voice recording to you in case they make things up about you again online.”

Serenity gave her best friend the thumbs up. The Hunts got her so riled up that it slipped her mind to record on her phone.

“Shawn, aren’t you going to work?” After sending the voice recording to her best friend, Jasmine realized her cousin was still at the shop. She urged him to hurry to work.

Reluctant to leave, Shawn uttered, “I’m working in my family’s company. It doesn’t make a difference if I’m a little late.”

“All the more you should put in the effort and abide by the company’s rules and regulations since you’re working in your family’s company. Set a good example so no one can find fault with you. Hurry along now. You’ll get it if Aunt Rachel finds out you’re not in the office.”

As Shawn was the firstborn, Jasmine’s aunt and uncle had high expectations of him to eventually take over the family business.

Serenity chimed in, “Shawn, you should rush to work. It’ll be time to clock out if you don’t leave now.

Although Shawn grumbled and whined, he grabbed his car keys and walked out while reminding Serenity, “Serenity, don’t forget to buy me dinner.” “Got it. When did I ever break my promise to you?”

Shawn left the bookshop reluctantly.

With Shawn gone, the bookshop resumed its former peace.

Jasmine proceeded to read s while Serenity worked on her crafts.

She put away her tools when noon was approaching as school was out for the day.

Meanwhile, after business–related discussions ended in the CEO’s office at York Corporation, Josh casually brought up, “Mr. York, I got word that the missus’ relatives made quite an entrance when they turned up at her shop. The lot of them came in a few cars.”

Zachary’s dark eyes glistened, but he kept a straight face. Without lifting his chin, he said saintly, “Serenity is her own woman. It’s not like those people can get their way even if they show up since she has a leg to stand on.”

Seeing that his boss was not the least bit worried, Josh sensibly changed the subject It had only been a short while since their marriage. His boss was detached in nature, so it was likely Serenity needed more time to win his boss’s heart.

Oh, Serenity! The battle is far from over. You need to keep going! ‘You can do it!’ Josh cheered Serenity on in his mind, hoping the missus could steal Zachary’s heart soon. It would be interesting when it happened.

“Lunch together?”

Zachary put his signature on the paperwork before putting down his pen. He glanced at Josh and declined the request, “You put me off lunch.”

Josh was speechless.

“You’re nosy like a woman. I prefer silence.”

Josh was dumbfounded, to say the least. How was Josh supposed to gather intel for Zachary if he did not pry into other people’s business?

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Zachary was a little worried that Serenity could not deal with the Hunt cousins, but he said nothing about it. He did not even give Serenity a call. Now that they had been married for nearly a month,

Zachary had a bit more of an idea of Serenity's personality now than before. Serenity would call him for help if things were more than she could handle. Since there were no calls from her, it meant she could manage. Besides, she would not lose since she had a leg to stand on.

With this in mind, Zachary switched to another car after work and drove to Wiltspoon School.

ILU

When Zachary was leaving the office, Josh complained that Zachary had recently pushed all the business dinners onto him.

Zachary replied, "I have a wife. I should go home to spend some time and bond with my wife after work."

Josh was speechless.

"As it! It's clearly an excuse!

'It's just his excuse to slack off!'

Josh protested in his mind. Zachary had been neglecting his work since he got married. It was so unlike him.

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It was not like Zachary could hear Josh's complaints. Zachary arrived at Wiltspoon School to see students flooding into Serenity's bookshop. Some were checking on reference books while others were picking stationery.

Considering his imposing mien, Zachary did not enter the shop in case he scared the students away. It would affect Serenity's business.

Serenity mentioned that he should work in education since he was stricter than a school teacher.

A while later, the students returned to the school in droves for their extracurricular activities.

Zachary got down from the car and entered the shop.

Serenity was clearing the mess at the cash register when she spotted Zachary coming in. Surprised, she watched the man stride into the shop while feeling in awe of his commanding presence once again.

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He was like a king gracing peasants with his existence. It was no wonder the students dared not set foot into the shop when he was around. Zachary had that towering air about him that drove people away.

Zachary stood before Serenity in no time, smug to see Serenity drooling over him. He was aware of his attractive physique,

Without showing any emotions on his face, Zachary cleared his throat.

Snapping out of her thoughts, Serenity said with a smile, "Don't you have to work late tonight? How did you find the time to visit me?"

Zachary came home from work after midnight every day when they first got married.

Lying through his teeth, Zachary replied in a husky voice, "The project I was working on has ended, so no overtime for me."

"Oh." Serenity then asked, "Have you eaten? Should I order takeout for you?"

Before Zachary could reply, Jasmine came over and said, "Serenity, you should head home with Mr. York. I'll watch the shop. There's nothing much going on at night anyway."

Since the students barely had time to roam around after extra-curricular activities, not many would come to the shop unless it was to look for reference materials.

"Alright. We'll head back then." Serenity accepted her best friend's offer to watch over the shop.

She got her things ready before taking out a copper wire tree from under the cash register to give to Zachary. She said, "I made this for you. Do you like it? The maneki neko is not ready yet I'll probably need time until

tomorrow morning to give you the finished product."

Zachary took the miniature tree and was pleased that he had a bigger pot than Callum's. With the callous lines along his face softening, he replied gruffly, "Sure." "I'm glad you like it. Let's go." Serenity walked around the cash register and said goodbye to her best friend before leaving the bookshop with her husband.

She wanted to ride on her e-bike. Zachary solemnly said, "We're taking my car."

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After a pause, Zachary added. "I'll drive you to work tomorrow morning."

Since Zachary was being thoughtful, Serenity left her e bike at the shop and took a ride in Zachary's car.

Jasmine watched the couple as they left while mumbling to herself, "They're acting more like a couple now."

Although Zachary was aloof and antisocial, his care for Serenity was in the details.

"I'd be happy to marry immediately if a man like Mr. York comes into my life."

It was a pity that her blind dates had nothing on Zachary. The supposed fine men were only placed above the rest because of their high income. However, they were far from being labeled fine men.

The man Jasmine went on a blind date with at Beans and Cream had taken a fancy to Serenity. The man even

made a private call to the matchmaker to ask about Serenity, only to find out that Serenity was taken. The man must be living in Lalaland.

Jasmine called the man to give him a piece of her mind, threatening to ruin him if he were to look for Serenity in private and come between her marriage.

“Oh, Serenity. You must be here to visit your sister.”

Serenity ran into her sister’s neighbor from downstairs, and the neighbor said hello to Serenity.

“Mrs. Zaks, have you had dinner? Yeah. I’m here to see my sister.”

Serenity stopped to chat with Mrs. Zaks and stroked the hair of Mrs. Zack’s young granddaughter. She took out a few fruits from the bag and gave them to the little girl. She looked at her grandmother to get permission before accepting the fruits.

“Thank you, Serenity.” The little girl politely thanked Serenity.

Serenity complimented the little girl’s manners and then asked Mrs. Zaks in a hushed tone, “Mrs. Zaks, everybody was looking at me funny when I got out of the car. Is there something wrong with me?”

“No. You look the same as always.”

Mrs. Zaks added with a smile. “You must be imagining it. Oh, I got it. They might look at you that way because of your sister. I guess you didn’t know, but your sister had a fight with your brother-in-law. Your sister chased your brother – in-law down several streets with a kitchen knife.

“Everybody thought you were the feisty one in the past. No one knew your sister had it in her.”

During the three years living in Liberty’s home, Serenity once came to her nephew’s defense and got into a screaming match with someone. She was only one person while the other party was an entire family. Still, the family lost to her.

Since then, she earned herself a title for her sassiness in the neighborhood.

“My sister and brother-in-law had a fight?” Color drained from Serenity’s face while Zachary raised a brow.

“I don’t know what’s the reason for the fight. Everybody saw your sister going after your brother-in-law with a knife the other day. We only saw your sister return alone. I heard that your brother-in-law’s family picked him up. Your sister probably didn’t let you know because she didn’t want you to worry about her.”

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Everybody in the neighborhood knew how close the sisters were.

Liberty kept the matter from her sister to save her the worry.

“Thank you, Mrs. Zaks.” Serenity thanked Mrs. Zaks before continuing her quick walk toward her sister’s residential building while dragging Zachary along.

“My brother-in-law was angry that my sister hadn’t cooked lunch for him when I dropped her off the other day. Hank looked like he wanted to hit my sister, but he wiped that look off his face when he saw me,” Serenity babbled to Zachary.

“Why didn’t my sister let me know?”

Serenity felt bad for her sister. Women gained a second chance in life when they got married. Her sister’s second chance in life did not seem smooth sailing.

Hank’s attitude toward Liberty changed for the worse less than three years into the marriage.

Zachary replied firmly, “Your sister doesn’t want you to worry. Mrs. Zaks said that your sister chased your brother – in law down a few streets with a knife. It means your sister had the upper hand. Don’t worry. It will be fine.”

It was hard for Serenity to take her mind off it.

Nevertheless, she did not dwell on the matter further with Zachary. She pulled Zachary up the stairs and pulled out the key her sister had given her to open the door.

Liberty was cooking in the kitchen. Detecting the sound of the door opening, she thought Hank was home. She picked up her pan and came out of the kitchen. She would not hold back if Hank had the nerve to lay his hands on her again.

Hank had not contacted her since returning to his parents’ home. Nevertheless, her in-laws had bombarded her phone with hate messages and badmouthing her in the Browns’ family group chat. Her in-laws brought together other relatives to accuse Liberty of her failure as a wife that warranted a beating from her husband.

In short, they were saying that she deserved it. Hank was not at fault. She was at fault instead.

Some older relatives believed they were of authority to persuade her to apologize to Hank, saying something about not going to bed angry. It was not about some blood feud, so there was no need to yak about it in the family group chat.

Of course, the Browns’ relatives were on Hank’s side. They advised her to be understanding of Hank and spend less money. Apparently, Hank had it hard at work, so it was normal that he had a bit of a temper when he

returned home. Liberty was supposed to be tolerant of his mood swings.

Livid, Liberty quit the Browns’ family group chat.

She would never visit these relatives’ homes with Hank ever again.

“Ant Swer.”

Sonny was sitting on the living room floor, playing with his building blocks when he saw his aunt entering the house. He rose from the floor with delight and ran toward Serenity.

With her sister here, Liberty intuitively hid in the kitchen. Since the bruises on her face had not gone down, Liberty had avoided going out to get groceries in the past two days. It was a good thing she had enough ingredients in the fridge to last a few meals. Serenity picked up her nephew and kissed him on the cheek before persuading him to go along with Zachary while she went to the kitchen.

“Liberty.”

“Aren’t you watching the shop tonight, Seren?” Liberty asked Serenity with her back facing her sister.

“Jas is at the shop tonight. Liberty, what’s going on between you and my brother in-law?”

Serenity came directly to the question as she approached

her sister. Catching a glimpse of the black-and-blue on Liberty’s face, Serenity immediately turned her sister around.

“I’m going to make Hank pay!” Serenity saw red and turned on her heel to leave.

How dare he beat her sister up! Did Hank think her sister had no family to back her up? So long as Serenity was around, she would not let anybody walk all over her sister!

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Serenity’s sister was her rock. Now that Serenity was all grown up and had the means, it was her turn to protect her sister.

“Seren.”

Liberty held onto her sister and said, “Don’t go. The injury is only superficial. Plus, I didn’t let him get away with it. I chased him down a few streets with a knife and scared him out of his wits. I trust he won’t be violent to me anymore.”

“If he has done it once, he will do it again, Liberty. He won’t know fear if you don’t fight back when he lays his hands on you. He’ll only assault you again.”

There should be zero tolerance toward domestic violence!

“I know. That’s why I didn’t give in and beat him up too. Teven went after him with a knife. You should’ve seen the scared look on his face. His legs were shaking. I heard that you must win the first fight between couples, and I won! He should think twice before laying his hands on me next time.”

Liberty pulled her sister back firmly, keeping Serenity from getting even with Hank. “He’s back at his parents’ home. You’ll be facing his entire family if you go there. It won’t go well for you. Don’t go. I won’t tolerate his

behavior anymore. I’ll fight back if he screams and raises his hand at me.”

“Liberty, why didn’t you tell me?” Heartbroken, Serenity caressed her sister’s bruised face and asked in distress, “Does it still hurt, Liberty? D*mn Hank! How could he be rough with you? You’ve been together for so many years and even gave him a son. I can’t believe he hit you.”

Liberty curled her lips bitterly. “He has been disgusted by the way I look since a long time ago.

“Did Zachary come over too?”

“He’s here. He’s playing with Sonny in the living room,” Serenity replied.

Liberty spoke in a muted tone to urge her sister, "Seren, you see how my marriage is breaking down. At the end of the day, it's all because I quit my job and trusted your brother-in-law when he said he'd take care of me. You need to always be financially independent. No matter what, women should have their own source of income.

"Don't believe the bullsh*t men say about supporting you financially. It'll put you in a passive position. It's fine if he follows through with his marriage vows and loves you forever, but if you get a man like your brother-in-law ... Look at what happened to me.. Also, you have to take care of your appearance Take time for your self and watch your figure. Men are lying when they say they'll love you

no matter what you become! They're shallow and their values are only skin-deep."

"I will, Liberty."

Serenity owned a bookshop, so it would not impede her from running a household.

Zachary never said anything about getting her to quit and supporting her at home. All he did was make her sign a contract to divorce six months later...

As for gaining a thicker waistline after giving birth, Serenity believed that she was far from going down that route. It may not even happen.

She did not intend to remarry if she and Zachary were to separate. Serenity was fine with being on her own.

Serenity could adopt a child from the orphanage if she wanted to raise a child.

"Why did you fight, Liberty?"

Serenity wanted to know the reason.

Liberty turned off the fire and removed the pan from the stove. "I'm guessing you and Zachary haven't had dinner. Let's eat together. I'll make extra servings of pasta."

She only made enough for herself and Sonny,

"I'll do it, Liberty."

Serenity was a better cook than her sister

She began preparing the pasta and ingredients for the sauce before turning to her sister and asked, "Tell me, Liberty. Why did he strike you?"

"It's about going halves. Since he insisted on doing it, I demanded the same on everything else too. That was when he manhandled me. I wouldn't have had a go at him if it wasn't for his sudden outburst."

Now that Serenity was in the know, Liberty spilled the beans on the reason for the fight.

Serenity chewed her brother-in-law out.

Although Liberty stopped her from getting even with Hank, Serenity decided to look for her brother-in-law after dinner.

As Liberty's family, Serenity needed to put the message out there. She would go after anyone who came at her sister!

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As the sisters only had each other for many years, Liberty understood Serenity well enough to know that her sister would stick up for her. In a deliberate effort to get her sister to stick around, Liberty took out a bottle of wine and enjoyed a glass with Serenity until midnight before letting the couple leave.

Serenity was a lightweight, and Liberty took out a stiff drink. After a glass of wine, Serenity found herself tipsy. She was feeling dizzy and staggering in her footsteps by the time she left her sister's place.

Liberty saw the young couple off at the door.

She used to attend social engagements with her boss when she was working back then. Having learned to hold her liquor, Liberty could handle a glass of wine just fine.

"Zachary, Seren's drunk. Please take good care of her," Liberty urged her brother-in-law.

She got her sister drunk, so Serenity would not go after Hank for payback

Liberty was afraid the Browns would gang up on Serenity if she went to the Browns' residence.

The Browns were just as absurd as Liberty's relatives.

"I will take good care of Serenity, Liberty."

Zachary helped Serenity down the stairs effortlessly. After Serenity nearly fell more than a few times, Zachary had to pick her up and carry her.

"Why did you drink when you couldn't? Your sister had a reason to bring out that bottle of wine. Yet, you were so foolish to drink it."

Serenity wrapped her arms around Zachary's neck while letting out a blech. With the stench of alcohol invading his space, Zachary turned his head away in disdain and said, "Don't blow your breath at me. You smell of alcohol. It reeks."

LLLL

"I want to!"

Serenity stuck her face against his. "I'll stink you to death. Why didn't you stop me when you saw through my sister's plans?"

Zachary was not comfortable with her being so close to him and nearly hurled her to the ground.

"Serenity!"

Scowling, he cried, "I know you're still sober. Don't you dare try to cop a feel!"

Serenity chuckled before resting her head on his shoulder. "I want to get even with Hank for abusing my sister. I'll go tomorrow if I can't go today. I'll barge into his office to find him!"

“How could you say that my breath stinks? I didn’t even complain about your breath when you were drunk the last time.”

Zachary muttered, “I didn’t ask you to look after me when I was drunk, but you need my help to carry you now.”

Serenity murmured, “I didn’t ask you to carry me.”

Zachary was rendered speechless.

Well, no good deed went unpunished.

After descending the stairs, Zachary stuffed his drunken wife into the car. Due to her tendency of groping him, he shoved Serenity in the backseat so her wandering hands would not get in the way of his driving.

It did not matter to Serenity as she got into the car, lay down, and conked out.

Zachary turned over to glance at her. Seeing that she had fallen asleep without qualms, Zachary squinted his eyes and said nothing

He quietly drove his wife home.

Midway, the woman in the backseat jolted up and yelled, “Pigs will fly when men become dependable.”

She fell back down and continued her beauty sleep after that.

Zachary turned his head around to look at her once more.

He sat in silence for a while before his husky voice echoed in the car. “Don’t paint all men with the same brush. It takes all kinds to make a world. Some men can’t be trusted, but there are reliable guys too.”.

Zachary would be a reliable man if he were to fall for her.

Even if love did not exist between them, he would do his due diligence as a husband in the next six months.

The woman in the backseat did not answer.

Zachary did not count on her to give a response.

Soon, they were back at Brynfield.

Zachary parked the car, got down, and pulled open the door to the backseat. He popped his head in and called out to the girl, “We’re home, Serenity. Get down.

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With Zachary waking her up, Serenity sat up and rubbed her eyes innocently before staring straight at Zachary without blinking.

Suddenly, she extended her arms and said with a sparkle in her beautiful eyes, “Carry me out of the car, Handsome.”

Wincing his face, Zachary reached his hand out to knock her head. His tone turned chilly. "I warned you. Don't act drunk and take advantage of me. You might be intoxicated, but you're not wasted. You're aware of your actions."

Serenity was indeed aware.

However, the alcohol made her rather impulsive.

Despite his multiple warnings, Serenity could not keep her hands to herself.

No way a big man like him was scared of a young lady's harassment.

He would be made a laughingstock if word were to get out.

"Zachary..."

Serenity giggled and asked, "Do you have some sort of problem like the heir of the Yorks?"

He was more innocent than her in the affairs between men and women.

With alcohol getting to her head, Serenity could not help but tease him.

"What kind of problem?"

"You either can't get it up or you swing the other way."

Zachary turned black in the face.

"Nana kept playing matchmaker for you and I. I was thinking that for a man to be single in his thirties, he must be ugly. I realized I was wrong when I met you. You're not ugly. In fact, you're hot.

"So, I was thinking if there was something wrong with you .." Amid the giggling, Serenity's hands were busy fondling his chiseled face. "Zachary, are you a wife beater? I should tell you now that I'm trained in the art of self-defense. I'll beat you up if you put your hands on me.

"Oh, my. I'm tempted to kiss your handsome face. How about you give me a smooch? Come on. Pucker up..."

Serenity's insolent advances and conceit tipped Zachary over the edge.

Pressing her down onto the backseat, he towered over her with his muscular body and clasped her roaming hands down above her head. Then, he lowered his head and sealed her babbling lips,

Well, he would show it to her!

Perhaps Serenity was drunk, as this time, she did not fall into a state of shock like before. Instead, she responded with passion through her mouth.

Zachary intended to give her a butterfly kiss, but her response awakened the potential lurking within him. He took it all the way and locked his tongue with hers in a deep kiss.

After the kiss, Zachary stepped out of the car and grabbed her feet to drag her out. He scooped her out of the car and slammed the door shut before hauling her over his shoulder. Zachary started to walk with Serenity hanging upside-down from his shoulder.

While Serenity's head was spinning from the kiss, she was lifted off the seat before she knew it. The next thing she knew, Zachary had carried her over his shoulder. With the pressure against her gut making her rather uncomfortable, Serenity put up a struggle.

"Zachary! Zachary! Put me down!"

He was rough!

Zachary could at least show a bit of tender loving care.

He turned a deaf ear to her screams.

"Zachary, I promise I won't hit on you. I'll abide by your contract. Now put me down. I feel sick. I'm going to puke.

Don't blame me if I vomit all over you!"

Zachary warned her, "Don't you throw up on me."

"Put me down then. I feel sick."

"Are you still drunk?"

"I am. Oh, no. I'm a little sober. No, half... I've sobered up."

Following her answer, Zachary curled his lips but quickly pursed them straight. He put her down, so she could walk.

He then ditched her and went on ahead.

... Was he mad?

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On the contrary, Zachary was not the least bit angry. He just did not want Serenity to catch him smiling.

It was only when he walked into the residential building that he realized his wife did not keep up with him. Stopping in his tracks, he turned around and asked solemnly, "Are you planning to spend the night standing there?"

Snapping out of her thoughts, Serenity ran over compliantly.

"No hard feelings, Mr. York?"

Zachary gave her a chilly look. Well, his face tended to

give out that vibe, to begin with. Poking her forehead, he remarked, "It better not happen again!"

Acting like a disciplined child, Serenity raised her hand and promised, "I promise it won't happen again."

Without another word, Zachary turned around and walked on. Serenity quickly followed behind him.

Staring at his muscular back, Serenity felt the alcohol wearing off. She muttered to herself, 'Nana told me to pounce on him, but I don't have the confidence to warm the heart of an ice prince.'

However, it was great fun hitting on him.

She only had the guts to make a pass at him because she had a glass of wine. The most Serenity would usually do was caress his face. He kept his guard up against her as if she was pulling his pants off rather than touching his face.

Once they were home, Zachary made a beeline to the kitchen.

Since Serenity had no idea what he was up to, she asked him about it, but he ignored her. Not wanting to poke her nose into his business, Serenity walked to the balcony and sat on the swing. She leaned against the seat and pushed back on her tiptoes for a gentle sway.

All she could think about was her sister's marriage.

Serenity and Zachary got married at first sight. They did not know each other prior to signing the papers. After marriage, the pair carried on life with mutual respect.

They probably were not close enough to show each other their flaws.

Undeniably, Serenity had it better than her sister.

At least, she would not be upset by Zachary's attitude toward her as feelings were not involved in their relationship!

Nevertheless, Liberty and Hank got married after years of dating. Her sister might say she had given up on her brother-in-law, but Liberty still had feelings for Hank.

Besides, Sonny was also in the picture.

Thinking about the love and affection between her sister and brother-in-law in the past, Serenity sighed.

Was marriage really the tomb of love?

Her sister suffered domestic violence at the hands of her brother-in-law in less than three years into the marriage.

"Serenity."

Zachary's cries from the house pulled Serenity back to reality from her wandering thoughts.

After she answered him, Zachary added. "I made you something for your hangover. Have a drink before you wash up and get to bed. Leave everything else for tomorrow."

He knew that Serenity felt sorry for her sister and wanted to stick up for her.

Since it was late, and she was not exactly sober, Zachary did not want to get into it with her now.

Serenity fell silent, not expecting that he went into the kitchen to make something for her hangover.

She got up, left the balcony, and went inside.

They could divorce six months later so long as they did not invest any emotions into the marriage. They would proceed to go their separate ways thereafter.

With that in mind, Serenity cautioned herself against flirting with him while she was drunk.

They should remain a married couple by name who kept a respectful distance from each other.

Zachary put the drink on the dining table. With Serenity stepping into the house, he said faintly, "I'll leave the drink here. Clean up once you drink up."

He turned around and went to his room. As always, he locked the door behind it to stop her from prying and entering

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A few minutes later, Serenity mumbled to herself, "Do you think I want to go into your room? If one day you were to beg me, I wouldn't set foot inside at all."

Having realized that she also had the habit of locking her bedroom door, Serenity stopped rambling. Ultimately, this was the aftereffect of marrying at first sight.

After guzzling down the hangover cure Zachary made for her, Serenity returned to her room and turned in for the night.

It was a quiet night throughout. The following day, Serenity woke up to the sun shining on her face.

She felt around the nightstand for her phone and looked at the time. It was past seven o'clock. Even as an early riser, Serenity barely got up at this hour today. She was usually awake by six in the morning.

This was the result of having one glass of wine last night.

It was a good thing she did not wake up with a headache.

She was hungry though. Serenity felt bad for her sister last night and that resulted in her not much eating at her sister's place. Now, the

hunger was settling in.

She got dressed, brushed her teeth, and left her room in record time. She was about to make her way into the kitchen to get a start on breakfast when she noticed a breakfast spread on the dining table. It was her favorite full breakfast, complete with bacon, sausages, hashbrown, pancake, and coffee.

Zachary came out of the kitchen with the perfect sunny side-up eggs in hand. Seeing that Serenity was up, he said faintly, "I didn't see you when I got up, so I went out to get breakfast. I cooked some eggs."

"I thought you made everything yourself." She was also about to say that he had the makings of a great chef.

It turned out that he got takeout.

Since Serenity was hungry, she sat down and helped herself to a sausage.

"The sausage tastes good. I don't think you got the food from the restaurants around here."

Although many restaurants had full breakfast on their menu, the taste was always not quite there. The hotel restaurants tended to be more savory.

"I drove to the Wiltspoon Hotel to get breakfast. The Wiltspoon Hotel has a good variety, and they make their food from scratch. Their food tastes out of this world. I was thinking I might as well get the best food I could find."

Truth be told, Zachary told his bodyguards to get takeout from the hotel.

"I share the same thought. I prefer to treat myself to the best food around."

Serenity had a taste of Zachary's eggs and realized it was not bad at all. She remarked with a smile, "Mr. York, I can't believe you also have the potential to become a chef."

Zachary was without a word.

Once the couple was nearly stuffed, Zachary suddenly said, "Serenity, it's better that you don't look for your brother-in-law to get even today."

"Why?"

"You should ask your sister whether she wants to continue with her marriage. If they still want their marriage to work, you, as the sister-in-law, shouldn't try

to teach your brother-in-law a lesson. Of course, you can't pretend like nothing ever happened but it never hurts to ask about it.

"Although you have a great relationship with your sister, your sister and brother-in-law are in this for the long run. They wouldn't be able to move on if you kick up a huge fuss. What if they were to kiss and make up? You'd become the bad person, and your sister might blame you for telling your brother-in-law off."

Zachary had not married anyone prior to Serenity, so he had no experience on how to make a marriage work. Nevertheless, he had heard about a family standing up for a woman in their family after the latter's fight with her spouse. In the end, the couple could not live with each other. The woman even blamed her family for her failed marriage.

It was because the woman had never considered divorce.

Serenity's fork halted at picking her mushroom. It might not be what she wanted to hear, but Zachary had a point.

Her sister raised the subject of divorce to Serenity, but only in private. There was no telling whether Liberty had made up her mind about it.

With a temper such as hers, Serenity might beat Hank up when she sought him out. Would her sister feel sorry for Hank if Serenity hurt him?