

Gu Lingfei 301

Chapter 301

“I’ll leave you to your work then.”

Grandma May did not take up too much of her grandson’s time.

After the phone call, Zachary put his phone on the desk and leaned back against his black swivel chair while resting his right elbow against the arm of the chair for his hand to brush his chin. His chin felt prickly. It was time to shave.

Elisa and his wife were getting on well.

Should he figure out a way to wreck their relationship?

The girls would become best friends at this rate. Elisa was bound to find out that Serenity was her love rival when Zachary spilled the beans to Serenity about his identity. Rage would drive Elisa to take it out on Serenity since the former would not be able to let it go.

With Zachary around, he would not allow Elisa to harm Serenity.

Zachary contemplated for a while before giving up on that thought.

He was not someone who could not protect his wife. Why should he be scared of Elisa?

The girls should bond as they liked. It would only do Serenity good to hit it off with Elisa. At least, Elisa would go to bat for her.

People would think it was Elisa who was running things

behind the scene instead of him. It aided his purpose to remain incognito.

Zachary refused to admit that he had no control over Serenity’s circle of friends.

“I’m sorry. The way you carry yourself doesn’t go with our brand. You might want to look elsewhere.”

Before Liberty could sit down, the female interviewer with a slender figure handed Liberty her resume back while giving Liberty a look of disdain.

Dumbstruck at first, Liberty soon turned flushed as she took her resume from the woman.

Out of the many interviews she had, this interviewer was the most blunt to say her appearance was not befitting their vacant post.

She was only applying for an administrative clerk position in the finance department. As someone who had made it to a directorial position, Liberty had set her sights low but she was still rejected.

Crunching her resume, Liberty forced a smile and asked the interviewer, “Can I ask why my image isn’t what the company is looking for?”

The woman stared at her thick waistline and replied, “Since you asked, I’m going to be honest. Although we don’t have

high expectations for the clerks in finance more than we have for receptionists, look at you. You must be at least two

hundred pounds heavy. I bet you struggle to walk at that weight. How could you pig yourself out?"

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Liberty went red in the face. A while later, she asked in

anticipation, "I will keep up with the weight loss. Miss, I really need a job. Can you give me a chance? I have the experience to handle the job well."

It seemed nowadays people on a job hunt were fat-shamed.

"It's your business to lose weight. We only have one vacancy, but there are many applicants who are far better than you. We have so many people to choose from."

Sure, the fat woman was a finance director and had more than enough experience, but she had been out of work for years. Plus, she had a two-year-old at home. Who knew if the fat woman was going to have a second child?

Maybe the fat woman would get pregnant a couple of months into the job. The company would not be able to dismiss her and be left to pay for her maternity leave.

Besides, there were many applicants after any position in

Lewis & Co.

It was not like the company could not fill the position as they were not short of talented candidates. The interviewer had no

relation to the fat woman, so the former had no obligation or need to hire the latter.

Liberty knew that the interview was a bust. She could not hold back at the thought that the woman rejected her for her size. Liberty said, "Your company won't last long with employees like you who judge people by their appearances.

"Yes, I'm fat, but who's to say fat people can't work? You're making it out like it's a beauty contest when you're hiring for a clerical position. Fine. Have it your way. I don't care."

Having been put in her place, the woman grew furious and pointed at the door while snapping at Liberty, "You fat cow! Get out of here! So what if I think you're fat? So what if I refuse to hire you?"

Chapter 302

"Your husband might reject you for being fat and ugly. You'll have something to cry about when your husband finds a young and beautiful girl."

The words hit Liberty where it hurt. She was in a hurry to find a job because her husband had found her repulsive and cheated on her. Liberty set her standards low and applied for a clerical position, so she would have the chance to win custody of her son. It never occurred to Liberty that she would face rejection and humiliation here.

“Call me a fat cow one more time!”

The interviewer walked around the table and approached Liberty to push her out while berating her, “Fat cow! Fat cow! I’ll say it again and again. Get out of here!”

Liberty’s fists came to good use for a change. Liberty planted her feet there as the woman had a hard time shoving her out.

“Apologize to me. You must apologize. I’m not leaving until you apologize.”

Livid, the woman turned back to her desk and picked up her phone to call security so they could come in and kick Liberty

out.

Two security guards soon arrived.

Men were stronger than women. Plus, there were two of them. The security guards manhandled Liberty to get her out.

“Let go of me! I want her to apologize to me! She was verbally abusive!”

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Liberty put up a fight. The anxiety of failing to get a job, the betrayal of her husband in their marriage, and the sense of loss for the future were tearing Liberty up inside, leaving her emotions running high and boiling.

As she was big and strong, the two security guards could not hold her vigorous tussle down.

The woman walked out of the interview room and called a few male coworkers over, so they could help the security guards to escort Liberty out.

With the help of a few men, Liberty was kicked out of the office building.

“What’s going on here?”

Duncan was walking with a client into the building when he came face-to-face with the group.

Pulling a long face, his secretary tried to get to the bottom of the matter.

“This woman was here for an interview, but for some reason, she got into a fight with Ms. Chaplin. Ms. Chaplin told us to escort her out.”

One of the security guards explained.

The secretary waved his arm. “Take her away.”

“Hold on.”

Duncan recognized the woman who was being ushered out by a few men to be the plump woman who damaged his luxury sedans. It was the sister-in-law of his best friend, Zachary.

Everybody stopped in their tracks.

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Liberty took the opportunity to free herself from their grasps. While feeling out of breath from the struggle, she tidied up her attire and jogged back to collect her resume scattered on the floor. She was about to leave when a human wall came in her way. Lifting her head, she was met with Duncan's scarred face.

"Mr. Lewis?" Liberty cried in surprise. "Why are you here?"

Seeing that Liberty and Duncan knew each other, everybody was taken aback.

Ms. Chaplin was appalled and freaking out.

The fat woman knew their CEO!

Duncan said amusingly, "This is my company so of course, I'm going to be here. Did you come here for an interview? What's all the fuss over an interview?"

Chapter 303

"This is your company?"

Liberty had no doubts that this was Duncan's company after pulling herself out of the shock. The company's name was Lewis & Co. after all.

Zachary mentioned that Mr. Lewis was an important client of his company. It never crossed Liberty's mind that Duncan was the CEO of Lewis & Co.

Liberty was still in the working scene when Lewis & Co. was on the rise, so she knew what the company was made of. However, she had never connected the dots between Duncan and the CEO of Lewis & Co.

"Mr. Lewis, I don't want to make a scene. I came for the interview, but your interviewer said the way I carry myself doesn't befit the company's image. I asked for the reason, and she answered that I'm too fat. She fat-shamed me. I was furious and put her down for that. She then called me a fat cow and told me to get lost.

"Lewis & Co. is one of the biggest companies here in Wiltspoon. I always thought the employees of your company would have class. I'm surprised to find otherwise."

"Mr. Lewis, I..."

Ms. Chaplin came forward to explain, but she dared not breathe a word after Duncan gave her a look.

Duncan asked Liberty, "What position were you applying for?"

"Finance clerk. I have an impressive resume working as a finance director before."

Duncan took the resume from her and said, "Give me a moment. I'll give you an answer in a bit."

He then said to his client apologetically, "Mr. Daniels, I need to attend to a matter. Can you wait for me at my VIP reception?"

Duncan gestured to the secretary to take Mr. Daniels upstairs.

He walked out of the office building and pulled out his phone to call his best friend. Duncan waited until his friend picked up before muttering, "Zachary, I ran into your sister-in-law again. She came for an interview in my company and had a spat with the interviewer. She was nearly kicked out by the security guards."

Zachary was speechless.

His sister-in-law must be feeling upset now.

"What position was she interviewing for?" Zachary asked.

"An administrative clerk position in the finance department. She used to be a finance director. Well, she has the experience for sure."

"That's a waste of her talent. Just do what you see fit. You can hire her if you think she's up for the job. You don't have to give her a job because of me."

"Of course. I'll give the job to a talent, not because of who they know. I just want to let you know. That's all. Why do I keep bumping into your sister-in-law? I haven't gotten a new car yet. No, I should head to the car dealership this afternoon and get a cheaper ride."

Duncan was traumatized by Liberty.

To Zachary, the universe seemed to bring them together.

Listening to Duncan's exaggeration, Zachary smiled and replied, "Don't be dramatic. She'll only be a clerk even if she joins your company. You're the CEO. It's not like you're going to run into each other all the time."

"I don't think so. I bet the exact opposite will happen. That's the weird thing about life."

"Try and make sense of the argument. Get your interviewer to apologize if it's not my sister-in-law's fault."

Zachary was rather protective.

Duncan responded with a grin, "With a brother-in-law like you, I wouldn't dare leave your sister-in-law feeling wronged. Alright then. I know what to do. Want to have lunch together?"

"I have a wife. I'm going home to have lunch with my wife."

Duncan rebuked, "So what if you have a wife? I dare you to bring your wife to all the social events."

Zachary answered by hanging up on him.

"That man and his pride. All he knows is to flaunt his marriage in front of us, the single men. He even kept his marriage a secret. Well, I could call him a real man only when he makes his marriage public."

With his best friend hanging up on him, Duncan ran his mouth.

A while later, Duncan walked back into the office building and told Ms. Chaplin off with a stern face, "No need to interview the rest. We'll hire her. She has the experience, and please

apologize to Ms. Hunt! Since this is your first offense, I'll

deduct a month of your bonus. You can expect a pink slip the next time I catch you doing this again. Don't tarnish the company's name."

Chapter 304

Duncan's words drained the color off Ms. Chaplin's face.

Without the guts to defend herself, Ms. Chaplin responded, "I'm sorry, sir. I won't do it again."

She then approached Liberty and said apologetically, "Ms. Hunt, I'm sorry for judging you by your appearance and insulting you. Please forgive me."

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Now that Liberty had cooled down, she replied embarrassedly, "I was at fault too, Ms. Chaplin. I should've watched my tone. Please forgive me for making you mad."

After the pair exchanged apologies, Ms. Chaplin asked when Liberty could start work.

With a job secured, Liberty was overjoyed. She was grinning from ear to ear when she said, "I can start work anytime."

"Come tomorrow then."

"Alright. Thank you, Ms. Chaplin. Thank you, Mr. Lewis."

Liberty expressed her gratitude and happily walked out with her resume.

"Liberty," Duncan called out to her.

Liberty stopped and turned around to face him with a smile. "Do you need anything, Mr. Lewis?"

"You start tomorrow, right? Run five rounds along the cement pavement in the garden outside before work every day. You're not allowed to clock in until you do so." Duncan believed Liberty was way out of shape, but he could look past that for

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his best friend's sake and give Liberty the opportunity to work.

As Duncan did not want the eyes of other colleagues to burn, he requested Liberty to prioritize her health and get in shape.

It was also for her own good.

The smile across Liberty's face froze.

The CEO was asking her to jog a few laps every day before she even started work.

By the looks of the garden in front of the office building, one lap must be around two hundred meters. It would be tiring to run five rounds.

“Got it, Mr. Lewis. I will jog every day.” After the experience today, Liberty knew she should stop letting herself go. Duncan must be using work to make her run and lose pounds since he knew she needed the job.

Liberty did not think Duncan was way out of line. In fact, she believed he had her best interest in mind because of her brother-in-law.

“We have a cafeteria in the office building, so you can have your meals there instead of running all the way home to eat. Please don’t use it as an excuse to eat more than your fill.

You’re on probation for three months. If you still look like this after three months...”

“Mr. Lewis.” Liberty interrupted Duncan.

“Mr. Lewis, I promise to shed the weight in three months.”

Her weight had gone out of control because she ate a lot and skipped the exercise.

She should be able to get in shape in three months if she refrained from overeating and got those steps in.

Duncan smirked. “I shall wait to see the result at the end of the probation.”

He then instructed Ms. Chaplin. “Get to the office early every day and watch her. Don’t let her come inside the building if she doesn’t finish her rounds.”

Ms. Chaplin respectfully took the order.

Liberty was lost for words.

She had a beef with Ms. Chaplin. Yet, Ms. Chaplin was tasked to watch her run.

There went her chance to slack off.

“Nothing’s going on here. You’re all dismissed. Get back to work.”

Having resolved the job issue for his best friend’s sister-in law, Duncan waved his arm and told everybody to return to work while he went inside. His client was still waiting for him.

Chapter 305

Once Duncan and Liberty were gone, everybody around started to speculate how their CEO might have met Liberty. It appeared their CEO was watching out for Liberty.

“Could she be the CEO’s relative?”

“No, I don’t think so. Didn’t you hear the fat woman address the CEO as Mr. Lewis? They have met before, but I guess they’re not very close.”

“Do you think our CEO has a crush on the fat woman? He’s thirty-five this year, but he doesn’t have a girlfriend.”

Duncan was a young and promising CEO, but the scar on his face together with his towering and muscular build and penetrating eyes gave the impression that he was with the mafia.

That was the reason he did not have a girlfriend despite being in his mid-thirties.

Everybody turned their attention to the person who pointed that out. Ms. Chaplin smacked the back of the person's head and replied, "What's in that head of yours? I can't believe you'd think that. As a woman, I'm turned off by the fat woman. I'm sure you men feel the same if not worse.

"All Mr. Lewis has is a scar on his face. He's pretty hot if you don't look at that side of his face. A man like Mr. Lewis can get his hands on any woman. Why should he go after a fat cow?"

"One more thing. Liberty is married and has a two-year-old boy."

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The crowd stopped speculating the pair in a romantic way.

However, they were still curious about Liberty's relationship with Duncan.

Duncan's demands for Liberty to run and lose weight were for her own good. As if they would believe nothing was going on between them.

The man himself would have lamented how he got into the mess if he was aware of the conversation among his employees.

Elisa left Wiltspoon School at eleven o'clock in the morning and was headed for Wiltspoon Hotel to stumble upon Zachary.

Zachary arrived at the shop by the time Serenity had finished cooking.

"Uncle Zak."

Sonny was playing with his toy as Zachary entered the shop. Screaming in joy, he ditched the toy and ran toward Zachary.

Serenity was puzzled by her nephew's sudden attraction to Zachary's stone face when her gaze fell on the white dog Zachary had on a leash. He was also carrying a double-story cage that housed two kittens.

The kittens were chunky and adorable.

Sonny was drawn in by the little animals. It had nothing to do with Zachary's charms.

"Doggie... Doggie..."

Pointing at the dog, Sonny kept repeating the word "doggie". While undoing her apron, Serenity asked, "Whose pets are these?"

Zachary placed the cat carrier on the floor and tied the dog leash to the leg of a shelf before picking Sonny up. He then answered his wife's question, "I asked a friend to get the dog and cats for me. Do you like them?"

Serenity asked in glee, “Mr. York, are you saying that these pets are for me?”

Zachary acknowledged faintly. “You mentioned that it’s too quiet at home and that you want to keep a few pets. I bought them for you. The cats are ragdolls, but I can’t remember the breed of the dog.”

Serenity exclaimed cheerfully, “It’s fine. I don’t care about the breed. I love them all. They’re so cute and beautiful.”

The dog was not a large breed. She took an instant liking to the dog’s white fur.

“Ragdolls are expensive.”

Serenity went to play with the kittens. She said, “The ragdolls cost a few thousand dollars at the very least, and that’s a friends–and–family rate. The kittens must cost you over ten thousand dollars each.”

“The price doesn’t matter so long as you like them. Let’s be clear. They’re not allowed in my room. You’re responsible for their care if you want to keep them. You’re on poop duty.”

Serenity smiled widely. “Don’t worry. The pets and I won’t step into your territory. I will teach them that your bedroom is

off–limits.”

Her delight amused Zachary.

Chapter 306

However, Serenity’s words left Zachary dumbfounded.

It was not like he could argue since he forbade her from entering his bedroom in the first place.

Similarly, he was not allowed inside hers.

Once more, Zachary believed the agreement he signed was restricting himself instead.

He would never dream that he would be the first to be tempted to break the contract.

Zachary wondered if he could back out of it.

Where did she hide the agreement? Should he steal and destroy the contract when she was not at home?

It was simply a fleeting thought that Zachary quickly quashed.

The Great Zachary York would never do such a brazen act.

“What an adorable dog.”

Running her fingers down the dog’s fur, Jasmine could not get enough of the dog’s cuteness.

Zachary had a good eye. He picked out the most adorable dog and kittens.

Sonny fought to get down on the ground. He did not want Zachary to hold him as he wanted to play with the doggie.

Serenity pulled out her phone to take pictures of the dog and kittens. However, she did not post it on Facebook right away.

Zachary had always kept an eye on her Facebook posts, but now... he still had not added back her contact and Facebook account.

“Serenity, send me the pictures you took.”

While she basked in joy, Zachary set up a trap for her to jump in.

Serenity blurted, “You deleted my number. Why should I send the photos to you? You’re free to take however many pictures you want.”

Zachary fell silent.

A while later, he drew close to Serenity and quietly tugged on the hem of her blouse.

A suspicious flush crept onto his cheeks when Serenity shifted her eyes toward him. Zachary whispered, “I was wrong, Serenity. Can I have your number again?”

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Blinking her eyes, Serenity stared at his reddening face. It was hard enough for a prideful man like him to concede but since he also gave her a dog and two kittens as pets, Serenity generously gave him her number.

“I’ll block your number if you delete my contact again.”

After adding her contact number, Zachary was back to his stoic self. He said in a husky voice, “I won’t make the same mistake twice.”

It appeared the couple had drawn the line at deleting contacts.

They would be cutting contact if he were to delete her number again.

“So, you know you were wrong?”

Pursing his lips, Zachary took a quick look at Jasmine and Sonny. He found the pair occupied with the dog so he leaned into Serenity’s ear and murmured, “I’m sorry. I was wrong about you, but you need to keep a distance from Shawn. He likes you.”

Serenity glanced at her best friend and matched his hushed tone. “I said, I won’t look for another man before we get a divorce.”

Zachary was at a loss for words.

Why was he unhappy again?

“Seren! Seren! I found a job!”

With Liberty's voice coming through, her round figure soon emerged. She gleefully walked into the shop and yelled, "Seren! I found a job! I'm starting tomorrow. I'll be working in finance, a post I'm familiar with."

Chapter 307

"You're here too, Zachary."

Seeing that her brother-in-law was around, Liberty smiled at Zachary before picking up her son. Liberty smooched her son's cheeks a few times until the little man was tickled pink.

"Liberty," Zachary greeted his sister-in-law.

"Huh? Where did these cats and a dog come from? They're so cute!"

Liberty noticed the new members in the shop after kissing her son.

"Zachary gave them to me. Liberty, did you find a job?" It had been quite some time since Serenity saw Liberty so elated as she did when she came in.

Liberty first praised the pets Zachary bought before answering her sister, "I got a job. It was unexpected. I didn't think I'd bump into someone I know. Seren, do you know where I'll be working?"

"It's Lewis & Co."

Serenity did not pay much attention to the major corporations in town. She only recognized York Corporation, the most well known company in the city because her best friend would not stop talking about the heir. She became more familiar with the company after she got married to Zachary as the latter worked at York Corporation.

She remembered Stone Group because of Elisa while the names of other major corporations were not something she

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kept track of.

Serenity did not bother taking interest in things that were unrelated to her as she had better use of her time such as selling her crafts online.

Hearing that it was Lewis & Co., she asked with a smile, "Is Lewis & Co. a big deal, Liberty? Did you meet an old colleague, who had changed jobs and is working there now?"

Liberty was walking on air now that she had landed a job. Since it was unnecessary to lie to her sister, Liberty told the truth when recounting what had happened.

The story made Serenity angry. Sure, Liberty was heavy, but the Chaplin lady had no class to fat shame her sister. Her sister would have been kicked out of the building if Mr. Lewis did not come into the picture.

"I was at fault too, Serenity. I was too blunt and made Ms. Chaplin angry for calling her out on it. It's all in the past now. I got a job and will be working together with Ms. Chaplin. Let's not talk about ancient history now.

"Besides, we have already apologized to one another. I can't believe Mr. Lewis is the CEO of Lewis & Co. Thank you, Zachary. I think Mr. Lewis only gave me the opportunity because of you."

Liberty could take a hint.

Sure, she had met Duncan twice, but not for a good reason. Duncan's luxury sedans always ended up at the repair shop every time they ran into each other. Duncan probably would have shooed her out if it was not for Zachary.

Zachary replied in a low voice. "I didn't do anything, Liberty.

You owe it to yourself to be hired by the company. Mr. Lewis might be a client of my company, but he's a man of principles. He wouldn't let you work with him if you didn't have the ability."

Nevertheless, Liberty expressed her gratitude to Zachary multiple times.

Serenity was fixated on her husband.

Noticing her gaze, Zachary looked at her, and their eyes met. There seemed to be something in Zachary's eyes.

Serenity did not incessantly give thanks to Zachary like her sister even though she knew her sister was likely hired by Mr. Lewis because of Zachary. Serenity intended to wait until they were home alone at night to express her gratitude.

She should think of something to give him in return for acting as the conduit in getting her sister a job.

"Liberty, Zachary, come and have lunch. You have to get back to work later, Zachary."

Serenity told everybody to get a start on lunch while she entered the kitchen. Zachary quietly followed behind her.

She would call him by his name in front of her sister, but Serenity was back to addressing him formally whenever her sister was not around.

"Mr. York, I don't need your help here."

Serenity remarked when she looked back to find her husband tagging along.

Tension ran along his facial lines. No sooner had he lamented about the way she addressed him in his mind than she proved

his grievance to be true.

"I came to wash my hands."

Zachary's gruff voice carried a hint of discontent. However, Serenity was used to it as he had always talked this way anyway. She could not pick up on the displeasure in his tone.

He made a beeline to the sink and turned the tap to wash his hands.

Chapter 308

Zachary turned his head back and looked at Serenity who was focused on carrying two dishes. Zachary quickly glanced at the food. It was a plate of greens and another plate of seafood.

This was the seafood Elisa gave Serenity.

He took large strides over and grabbed the plates from Serenity's hands. "Since I'm here, I'll take the dishes out. You won't have to travel back and forth."

"Thank you, Mr. York."

Instead of leaving, Zachary stopped in his tracks and looked back at her.

"What's the matter?"

Serenity picked up another two dishes after Zachary took over the first two. With his dark eyes staring straight at her, Serenity was puzzled and lowered her gaze to her clothes to see if they were stained.

"Can you... not call me Mr. York?"

Zachary voiced his displeasure.

It was best to come clean with Serenity about his thoughts as Serenity was in no mood nor did she have the time to guess what was on his mind.

She abided by the agreement.

"What should I call you then?"

Pursing his lips, Zachary was at a loss for words.

He did not feel it was intimate enough if she addressed him by his name.

"Babe" would be a good choice, but he did not have to be a rocket scientist to ascertain that she would not call him that.

He was not used to being called that either.

"Up to you," Zachary said right before carrying the dishes out.

Serenity murmured under her breath, "If I don't call you Mr. York, will you answer me when I call you 'babe'?"

He told her to keep their marriage a secret. There were not many who knew they were married.

Not taking the matter seriously, Serenity quickly served lunch.

Jasmine and Liberty set up the table and wiped it clean.

With the couple bringing the food out, Jasmine and Liberty went to the kitchen to help.

Grandma May might not be here today to remind Zachary to peel shrimps for Serenity, but Zachary had gained the experience. He sat down at the table, put on disposable gloves, and peeled shrimps before putting the plate of deshelled shrimps in front of Serenity.

Knowing that Sonny loved eating shrimp too, Zachary set some aside for him.

“Thank you, Uncle Zak,” Sonny thanked Zachary.

Zachary replied tenderly, “I’ll get you more when you’re finished with this.”

“Okay,” Sonny answered obediently.

The little guy had already filled his stomach with a sandwich, but he wanted in on the action. Seeing that Uncle Zak had disposable gloves on, he said to his mother, “Mama, I want that...”

As his vocabulary was still limited, Sonny pointed at the disposable gloves Zachary just removed, indicating that he wanted to wear them to eat the shrimp.

Liberty believed the gloves were too big for her son, so she replied, “You can eat the shrimp with your hands. We’ll wash your hands when you’re done, okay?”

Zachary pulled out a pair of disposable gloves and handed them to Sonny. He said to Liberty, “It would be great if Sonny can develop a hygienic habit.”

Chapter 309

With Zachary putting it out there, Liberty did not argue and helped her son put on the disposable gloves.

After lunch, Zachary helped his wife to clear the dirty dishes and brought them to the kitchen to wash.

Liberty could not stop singing praises of her brother-in-law in her sister’s presence. Liberty urged Serenity to be nice to Zachary.

She was utterly afraid that her failed marriage would discourage her sister from believing marriages could work.

Hank was a cheating b*stard, but that did not mean all men were the same.

Good husbands still existed in the world.

Liberty was not lucky enough to meet the right guy.

Serenity replied helplessly, “Got it, Liberty. You don’t have to constantly put in the good word for him. I’m going to help him with the dishes.”

She then slipped into the kitchen before her sister could start nagging about Zachary’s greatness again. Liberty told her to treat Zachary right as if she had been bullying and torturing him.

Jasmine secretly laughed in a corner.

Zachary was getting ready to wash the dishes when he heard approaching footsteps. He turned his gaze to the kitchen door to see that it was Serenity. He said, “I’ll do the dishes. Have a

seat. It must be tough to prepare a seafood feast.”

“I made a variety of food since you were coming for lunch.”

Serenity pushed him aside. “Why don’t you have a drink out there while I clean the dishes? Your sister-in-law fears that I mistreat and push you around. She keeps telling me what a great guy you are and how I should be nice to you. I’ve probably heard it a thousand times.”

Zachary did not fight over the dishwashing duty. He washed his hands and answered in agreement, “Liberty has been through it, so she knows what’s going on. She said it right.”

Serenity was speechless.

“I brought along the evidence of your brother-in-law’s affair. The file is in my car. Should I bring it out to your sister now?”

“That’s fast.”

Zachary replied, “Yeah. My friend’s pretty good at gathering intel. He’s good at what he does.”

“Does he own a private investigation agency?”

“I guess you can say that.”

Someone among the Buchams was in that line of work, but the Buchams did not rely on the agency to gather info. The family was rather secretive like the Johnsons in Annenburg.

“Give the file to me before you go to work. I’ll hand it to my sister later. Let her celebrate finding a job today. I don’t want to ruin it for her.”

“Sure.”

“If your friend doesn’t mind, can you invite him to have dinner at our place? A hotel would do too. We should thank him for helping.”

Zachary responded, “I’m buying him dinner tonight. Don’t worry about that. We won’t owe him any favors.”

Since he had a business dinner today, Josh was naturally coming along.

Josh must wonder how that was considered a dinner treat if he heard this.

“All right. Thank you!”

“It’s no big deal. I hope your sister can break free from the Browns.”

Creeps like the Browns did not deserve his sister-in-law.

Zachary might say so, but he had not broken his gaze at Serenity.

Serenity stopped washing the dishes and turned around to face him. She said, “By the way you’re looking at me, I get the feeling that you don’t want my verbal thanks. How about a kiss?”

Zachary’s eyes deepened.

Serenity smiled. "Ah, forget it. I should make you an eagle with hopes that you soar in your career."

Zachary would prefer it if he got the kiss.

However, he could not bring himself to say it out loud.

With Serenity turning back to washing the dishes, Zachary fell silent for a while before walking out dejectedly.

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She would usually tease him, but she seemed to stop that now. Perhaps it was due to the few days of silent treatment.

Chapter 310

Zachary sat outside for a while before getting ready to go back to work. Serenity came out of the kitchen after washing the dishes. Seeing that he needed to go, Serenity walked with him to his car.

Keeping to himself, Zachary grabbed the envelope from his car and turned around to hand it to Serenity. He said in a husky voice, "It's all in here."

Serenity took the evidence of Hank's infidelity, intending to thank him once more. Looking into his dark and profound eyes, Serenity looked around and gave up on the thought when she saw people around them.

"Watch out on the road. Send me a text message when you're at the office, so I know you got there safely."

Zachary pressed his lips together before acknowledging gruffly that he heard her.

After getting into the car, he gave her a lingering look and drove off.

Serenity stood there and watched as his car accelerated away while feeling something had changed between them

It felt a bit like love.

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Perhaps she should not hide in her shell anymore. She could try and poke her head out to give love another go.

There was still a chance since the six-month agreement had not come to an end.

With that in mind, Serenity took out her phone and sent a text message to Zachary.

Serenity: [I wanted to kiss you just now, but I chickened out because there were people on the street.]

She did not get an immediate reply after hitting the send button.

Serenity paused for a moment before taking the envelope back to the shop.

Sonny was asleep in his mother's arms.

Jasmine was enjoying cuddles with the two kittens when Serenity returned to the shop. She asked, "Has your man left?"

"Yeah. His lunch break is over. His work can get busy. He often gets home at midnight."

Serenity stroked the kittens.

Zachary gave her two ragdolls all at once. Honestly, Zachary was very good to her.

The dog was adorable too.

Now that she was a pet owner, Serenity had to place an online order for dog food later.

"Liberty, there's a cot there. Let Sonny nap there for a bit, so you don't have to hold him."

Serenity went up and carried her nephew before handing over the envelope. She said, "Zachary asked a friend to collect evidence of Hank's affair."

The envelope felt heavy in Liberty's hand.

Taking in a few deep breaths, Liberty reached her hand into the envelope and pulled out the photographs inside.

Apart from the photographs, there was also information on the mistress and receipts of Hank's gifts to the mistress. The receipts were photocopies.

The pictures and the prices of the gifts were also printed on paper.

Liberty examined the photographs one by one. Although there was nothing of a sexual nature, they were intimate like lovebirds. The pictures burned Liberty's eyes.

The other woman was about Serenity's age.

She was beautiful, slender, and hot, the type that men would go for in a lover.

Jessica Yates!

That was the mistress's name.

The gift receipts and pictures were an eyesore.

Liberty found it ironic.

She quit her job to become a housewife, give Hank a child, and run the household like clockwork. Yet, Hank accused her of sitting all day and doing nothing. He only gave her three thousand bucks for living expenses, claiming that she only squandered the cash.

Hank even insisted on halving expenses with her.

It had been a long time since he had given her anything.

Hank was only willing to fork out a thousand and two hundred