

## Gu Lingfei 81

### Gu Lingfei: Married At First Sight Chapter 81

Liberty snapped back, "Hank, I take care of our child all day, but you only see me as some useless person who only eats and spends money unnecessarily.

I can take it because I want to give my son the best I can.

"But your sister's kids have nothing to do with me. They're not my responsibility. There's no way I'm going to care for her kids! I can't believe you want guardianship of her children. The burden of providing for them and their education would fall on us.

"The title deed doesn't have my name, so it's your business if you want to transfer the ownership to your sister.

It's also your problem if you can't get the house back.

One thing though, you should return the renovation cost to me before you put her name on the deed.

"I won't be able to get my money back when the house becomes hers."

A shadow of gloom loomed over Hank.

"I said I'll be giving you extra allowance. Isn't that enough? You're at home with a child anyway, so I don't see the big deal of adding another two. Kids over ten years old are hardly a handful. You can just tutor them on their homework.

"If you think a thousand bucks isn't enough, I'll put in another five hundred.

You should be happy with a thousand and five hundred.

"So what if the burden of the kids' wellbeing and education falls on us? They're my sister's kids. It's the least we can do. I trust my sister.

She will return the house to me.

What do you mean by the renovation cost? I bought the house with my money.

Shouldn't you contribute to the renovations since you're living here too?

"The audacity of yours to ask me to repay you for the renovation cost. Dream on!"

Liberty glared at her husband.

Her heart sank to the pit of her stomach.

The couple was in a long-term relationship before tying the knot.

Hank was the perfect boyfriend and husband up until two years into the marriage.

Now, Hank had only been doing things that broke her heart.

Hank only took his parents and sister's side.

It was not just Liberty, but their son, Sonny, also took a back seat in Hank's life.

Hank catered to Chelsea's every request.

The issue of catchment areas had been a national dilemma that had caused many siblings to fall out.

"Hank, I'm sticking to my guns on this. It's not a question of money. It's not my responsibility either. I'm not taking care of your sister's kids for her, nor will I tutor them. If you're going down that route, you might as well pay me the wages of a tutor.

"I'll charge five thousand bucks for each kid every month. That's ten thousand dollars for both of them. Heck, I'll cook, do the pickups and drop-offs, and tutor for that price. Take it or leave it. That's a discount since she's your sister.

"I'm very qualified to be a tutor, so I'm worth the price."

Since it was all about the money, Liberty would play him at his own game!

"I won't agree to transfer the house to your sister's name until you repay me for the renovation cost.

We can divorce if you go ahead anyway.

I'm still going to insist on getting the renovation money back as the divorce settlement."

Her name was never on the title deed because Hank bought the property before marriage.

The Browns did not want to give her a cut of the house.

After finding out that Liberty and Hank were going steady, the Browns quickly bought a house for Hank.

Liberty was not entitled to the prenuptial property that did not have her name on it.

Hank turned black in the face.

"Five thousand bucks for each child? Why don't you just rob a bank? A divorce? Do you think you're only eighteen? You're a married woman with a child and without a job. You're fat and ugly. Just a look at you makes people sick to their stomachs.

How are you going to feed yourself after the divorce?

"Alright now. I need to think about this. Ten thousand is out of the question. The best I can do is three thousand bucks."

"No deal!"

Liberty bluntly rejected before turning over, refusing to continue discussing the subject with Hank.

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Hank was livid and tempted to use force. To his surprise, Liberty suddenly turned around and looked at his raised hand.

Liberty stared right into Hank's eyes with a deadpan look and said, "You better kill me if you want to hit me. Otherwise, you can sleep with one eye open."

In the past, Liberty would endure Hank's verbal and physical abuse.

It was all for the sake of the family, her son, and the love she had for her husband but Hank's insistence on going halves was the last straw.

Since Liberty used to work in the same company as Hank, she had a clear idea of Hank's salary as manager.

It was tens of thousands a month.

Yet, Hank only gave her three thousand bucks and not a penny more for the household expenses.

To top it off, he was making her pay for her own share, so of course she was disappointed.

Now that she had been let down, Liberty did not want to be a pushover who revolved around Hank anymore.

Hank better not sleep if he ever laid his hands on her again because she would go after him!

Intimidated by the viciousness in Liberty's eyes, Hank loosened his fists at his wife's threat and lashed out, "You're impossible." He then took off.

Liberty watched as the door shut.

She had a lump in her throat and tears that would not stop rolling down her cheeks.

Although Serenity was in the dark about the new disagreement between Liberty and Hank, something did not sit right with her even after she got home.

Sitting on the balcony swing, Serenity gazed at the starry sky and was lost in her thoughts.

Zachary brought Serenity a glass of water and said, "The food was salty tonight. Rinse your mouth with water."

Lifting her head to look at him, Serenity took the glass from him.

"Thank you."

"Something on your mind?" Zachary took a seat next to her.

Serenity took a couple of sips and dwelled in silence before replying, "I get the feeling that my sister is having it rough every day. I thought everything would be better after I moved out, but with that kind of in-laws... My brother-in-law is partial toward his family anyway. They'd probably gang up on my sister."

Liberty would not let anyone walk all over her, but the heart of the matter was that she loved Hank.

She would give up a lot for love.

"Mr. York, I'm lucky you don't have a problematic sister. Your family is very cultured. I could tell at the family event that your mom wasn't too happy with me, but she still treated me with respect. Your family is very nice, and Nana's the nicest of them all.

"It's said that marriage is a woman's second chance at life. All women dream about their happy-ever-after, but even fairy tales have bad endings."

Their marriage was not built on the foundation of love.

Although Zachary asked her to sign an agreement, he gave her everything and more.

At least, he gave Serenity the well-deserved respect as a wife.

Come to think of it, Zachary was way better than Hank.

Of course, the couple had not been married for a long time.

Serenity needed time to attest to Zachary's character.

Zachary fell silent before uttering, "You can let me know if Liberty's unhappy. We'll stand up for her and let the Browns know that we have her back!"

Picking on Liberty was equivalent to picking on and disrespecting him too.

The great Zachary York would never allow that to happen.

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Tilting her head, Serenity stared at Zachary as he met her gaze.

The couple looked into each other's eyes. A long while later, Zachary flicked her forehead.

"Don't look at me like that. Are you doubting the authenticity of my words? Serenity, we'll go to bat for your sister so long as she's in the right."

The Yorks held their family values in high regard.

The husbands and wives had nothing but love for each other.

Growing up, Zachary had never witnessed a case of domestic violence.

Dad said that men who abused their wives were losers! "Mr.

York." "Yes?" Serenity probed and asked, "I want to lean on your shoulder."

Zachary hesitated

"Just for a while. I won't cross the line," Serenity said while her head was a step ahead, leaning forward and finding its spot against his shoulder.

Serenity could feel his body still ending.

Although it was also a strange feeling to her, Serenity needed companionship right now.

It felt great to have a shoulder to lean on! tensed muscles to relax.

It took a while for Zachary's

Although he was not fond of the abrupt invasion of his space, Zachary did not push her away.

The only thing was he did not know where to put his arms.

His awkward placement amused her.

Serenity suddenly reached out to touch his face.

Zachary jolted away.

It was a good thing Serenity braced herself for his reaction .

Otherwise , she would have tumbled from the swing by his sudden flight.

“Serenity!” With a solemn face, Zachary said, “Please keep our agreement in mind, and know your place.”

His weighty stance put Serenity in a good mood.

Slumping against the seat, Serenity unhurriedly sipped on the glass of water while her bright eyes seemed to stare into Zachary’s soul.

For some reason, her gaze could make him blush.

Perhaps rosiness had crept onto his face.He could feel the flush “You’re thirty now, Mr.York.Have you never been in such close contact with a woman? That’s a pretty exaggerated response from me touching your face.

People might think I did something to you,” Serenity teased.

She thought to herself, ‘Grandma York has her reason to push Zachary into marriage.

Zachary would never find his other half without a push from the family.

He would probably still be single when he hits eighty.’ LI Nevertheless, it was fascinating to hit on him.

A touch on his face brought about quite a huge reaction.

What if she took it up a notch and kissed him?

Zachary’s stare could burn holes in her head.

Serenity was in high spirits to start taking his glare seriously.

She responded with a smile, “Do you want to touch my face to get even? You can do it twice as long.”

Zachary winced.

He had to admit that he behaved rather excessively over a brief skin contact.

Zachary was overwhelmed by an unfamiliar feeling when she quietly rested against his shoulder.

However, she caressed his face before he could read into his emotion.

For a moment, Zachary thought she was going to take the intimacy one step further.

Her teasing rubbed Zachary the wrong way, but his manners refrained him from engaging in the nonsensewith her.

All he could do was call her names in his mind’ Cheeky girl!

“Do you feel better now?” Zachary asked.

“Yeah. Not bad. I feel a lot better than before.” Zachary ground his teeth and hissed through clenched teeth, “You’re taking pleasure in the pain of others.”

“Mr. York, that’s a good use of hyperbole.

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Zachary was speechless. He refused to budge from a stare-down before saying faintly, “It’s late. Get some early rest. Don’t fall asleep here again. It’s chilly at night. You’ll feel the pain when you catch a cold.” Zachary then turned on his heel and left.

Soon, Serenity picked up on his door closing and locking.

Serenity murmured with glee, “Who is he trying to keep out by locking the door?”

It was her who Zachary was trying to keep out! Back in his room, Zachary went straight to the bathroom, but not for a bath.

He stood in front of the mirror and stared at his reflection.

Judging by the faint blush, he did turn red on the face.

Lifting his hand, he traced his facial lines and rubbed the spot Serenity touched while searching for the tingles he got back when her fingers ran along his face.

He turned on the tap and washed his face.

Thinking back on his reaction, Zachary smiled and mumbled to himself, “I’ve never let anyone touch my face for as long as I can remember.”

Now that he had reached adulthood, his stern and aloof personality warded anyone off from invading his personal space.

Besides, it was hard for young women to approach Zachary through his wall of bodyguards.

There was no chance anyone could throw themselves at him or take liberties with Zachary.

Despite the impenetrable defense, Zachary dropped the ball on that one woman at home.

Serenity defiled the innocence of his face.

Yet, she was his legal wife. It was not like he could do anything to her after she violated his face.

Plus, his response was ridiculed in return.

Zachary took his time in the shower.

Reminded by the woman on the balcony, he opened his bedroom door and put his foot forward before shrinking back into the room.

He was giving the cheeky girl a free peep show if he were to walk out bare-chested without his dressing gown on.

A few minutes later, Zachary confidently took strides out of the room after he put on his dressing gown and tucked everything under, making sure nothing was showing.

He went to the balcony to check on the woman.

Well, he might catch her asleep on the swing.

As expected, the girl had dozed off there.

Zachary was caught between emotions, especially after he told her not to fall asleep there.

With a kick to the swing, the seat jerked into the air and startled the woman awake.

“Mr. York? Is it morning already?” Staring into her bleary eyes, Zachary was tempted to give her a noogie.

“You fell asleep here. Get up and return to your room. I told you off about this, yet here you are. You could’ve told me you wanted to feed the mosquitos and I would’ve moved your bed to the greenery.” He meant to be mean, but behind all that tough exterior is a softie.” Zachary was rendered speechless.

“Oh.” Serenity got to her feet and murmured, “You might not have ever called him a softie. Plagued by sleepiness, Serenity retreated to her room without another peep. She took a quick shower and conked out. It was a quiet night all the way through.

The following day, Zachary woke up to breakfast served on the table. His wife was watering the plants on the balcony. He went out there.

“Morning, Mr. York.”

Serenity greeted him with a grin.

Zachary hummed in response.

Serenity went back to pouring water over the plants.

The roses were blooming today.

“It will be beautiful when the roses climb all over the balcony and blossom.”

Zachary’s mind harked back to the rose garden at the gate of the Yorks’ estate.

It was breathtaking when flowers bloomed, but he never stopped to smell the roses, probably because he had seen them one too many times.

Although the family’s greenhouse enjoyed a variety of roses, Zachary rarely had time to appreciate the beauty.

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Feasting his eyes on the balcony garden, Zachary uttered faintly, “You can grow the whole yard with roses when we move into a bungalow.

When they grow and climb the walls, the full bloom is a sight to behold.”

Serenity replied with a smile, "The price of properties has skyrocketed to an all-time high. I can't even scrape together the deposit for a studio apartment, let alone a bungalow."

Of course, Serenity had considered getting a bungalow...in her dreams.

Anyone would've wanted to live in a bungalow if they had the means to do so.

Privacy was guaranteed in the standalone building.

An apartment was not exactly the perfect sanctuary as the walls were not thick enough to soundproof from upstairs and downstairs.

Zachary held his tongue.

The place they were staying now was a last-minute purchase before their marriage. He had been staying in a huge mansion prior to this.

"Mr. York, get some breakfast. I'll join you after I'm done watering the flowers."

"Sure." Zachary turned around and ventured into the dining hall.

Breakfasts by Chef Serenity might be simple, but she always changed up the recipes to make things interesting.

Serenity was a great cook who could make toast and homemade jam taste good.

Zachary believed his palate was overwhelmed by all the best gourmets in the world.

That was why he found Serenity's simple and common dishes delicious.

Zachary was the first one out the door today.

He ran into Josh in the office building.

Josh blinked at Zachary.

Zachary kept a blank face.

"Why do you look hot and bothered?" Walking alongside Zachary, Josh nudged him and poked fun in a hushed tone, "What? Can't please your lady?" Zachary turned his head and gave Josh the evil eye before making his way to his office.

"Knowing you, you couldn't and didn't." "We're good!" Zachary retorted peevishly.

"Oh." Josh proceeded to pry into Zachary's affairs.

"Why do you look like you didn't get enough last night then?"

"And how can you tell?"

How could Zachary have that look when he had never experienced a hot and tantalizing night? Besides, Serenity did not make his heart race, nor did he get the animalistic urge when he was with her.

With that in mind, Zachary had to admit that he was detached in the emotions department.

“I saw it with my two eyes. Anyway, Zachary, I ordered breakfast. Have you eaten? Come join me.” Zachary turned his head to face his friend again.

He pursed his lips before saying, “I have a wife. I get out of bed to have breakfast ready on the table. Only those who are single would order breakfast in the office.” Josh was stumped.

Zachary’s marriage sure gave him bragging rights.

He was suddenly curious as to how Zachary got along with Serenity “How’s the progress with your investigation? Send the file to my office later.” Josh answered with a grin, “You know you can count on me.

I’ll have it delivered to your office right away.’ “Good,” Zachary responded.

With the pair splitting up, Zachary took his personal elevator to the top floor.

Since Josh’s office was not on the top floor, he could not be bothered to share the elevator with his stone – faced boss.

Josh was a hard-shell figure in the office too, but he was popular among his peers because unlike Zachary, he was not a walking wax sculpture .

As Zachary’s trusted man, Josh was the go-to person when the employees needed to get a message to Zachary.

Zachary had just stepped into his office when Josh came in with his breakfast delivery.

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Josh was holding a small stack of paper which could easily be mistaken for office documents.

“Here you go.” After slipping the papers to Zachary across his desk, Josh took a seat and put his breakfast on the table.

He asked his boss, “Do you want some? I got my food delivered from the Wiltspoon Hotel.

It’s delicious.” Since Wiltspoon Hotel operated under York Corporation, Zachary usually grabbed his breakfast, lunch, and dinner there.

Now that Zachary had a wife, it had been a while since Josh dined with his boss.

Josh kinda missed those moments.

“I’m good.” Picking up the file, Zachary flipped through and asked, “Is everything here?”

“Yeah. It’s all there. No stone is left unturned.”

“It’s not a lot.”

“The younger members of the family have it pretty good while the seniors spent their lives on the farm. What more can there be?” Zachary was without a word.

As mentioned by Josh, there was nothing much to write about the seniors, albeit the info on the younger family members did take up a few pages.

Josh included age, marital status, and number of children in each relative's profile to occupy more pages in the file.

Having read the file, Zachary had a deeper understanding of the family's insolence and brazenness.

Serenity's cousins and uncles made quite a good living.

John Hunt worked in a subsidiary of Stone Group as an executive, earning himself an annual income of a million.

The least successful cousin enjoyed a nice annual wage of four hundred thousand bucks.

Serenity and her sister probably did not earn that much altogether.

The relatives had the nerve to demand Serenity to foot her grandmother's medical bills and their gas for traveling. It was utter shamelessness on a whole new level! The relatives walked away aggressively with a huge chunk of the insurance payout, taking advantage of the underaged sisters who lost their parents so suddenly.

Now, they were making Serenity pay for the medical bills.

Zachary was aware that all kinds of people existed in the

world, but he had never come across those without a hint of compassion like her relatives.

Caught in the moment, Zachary felt sorry for Serenity.

"Why do you look upset? Did they do something to your missus? Do you want me to teach them a lesson?" Zachary callously responded, "My wife's affairs are not your problem." Josh blinked his eyes.

He sensed jealousy in Zachary's tone, but it could be all in his head.

"I mean no harm. I thought you might want a little help since you're busy. Say the word, and I'll get it done."

"Just hold."

"Oh." Josh blinked again.

By that, Zachary was not asking Josh to hold for his orders, but to lie low until the Hunts made a move.

He could only return fire once he laid eyes from whence the direction of the attack.

Mike, the oldest grandson of the Hunts, was acquainted with people in the press.

Zachary had a feeling that Mike was likely going to pull the sisters into a media sh\*tstorm as a form of emotional blackmail.

"Boss." "Speak."

"What did your missus make for breakfast today?" Josh asked nosily.

"Don't give me that look. I'm just curious how you two are getting along. Besides, the marriage happened all of a sudden. It's not like you married for love. Oh, and you didn't make your marriage public either.

“Would you say hello to your wife if you bump into her on the streets? Or would you play dumb?” Zachary blurted coldly, “Why don’t you just go back to eating your breakfast?”

Josh chuckled.

Fine.

Zachary could have it his way.

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Ring, ring, ring... The office phone was ringing.

Zachary accepted the call and put it on loudspeaker.

“Mr. York, Ms.Stone is here again.” With his face falling, Zachary uttered in a flat tone, “Ignore her.”

The secretary replied, “Ms.

Stone ordered a truck of flowers to be arranged into a heart shape and delivered to the entrance of our building.

Apparently, the heart represents her love for you.” Josh’s eyes on his boss were sparkling with gossip.

Zachary looked askance at Josh before retorting, “What’s the security here for? Why are they allowing trash at our doorstep?” He then terminated the call.

The secretary got the message loud and clear.

Josh chuckled.

“Elisa is a great girl.She’s forthcoming with her feelings.I mean, the number of women who have a thing for you has got to be as many as the hair on my head, but only Elisa has the guts to profess her love and prove it with her actions.” “Go for her then if you think she’s great.Get her to give you all the attention, so I can have my peace again.”

Josh choked.

“She’s not my type.” Josh gave an excuse as he was picky about finding his soulmate.

It was all about sparks and butterflies.

Without that flighty feeling in the stomach, Josh could not fall for the woman no matter how pretty she could be.

“Zachary, are you planning to spend the rest of your life with Serenity?”

“What does it have to do with you?”

Josh was choked for words once more.

“You’re goofing around on company hours.Finish your food and get out.If you have nothing to do...”

"I'm busy. I have a lot of work. I'll get right back to it now." Terrified by the prospect of increased workload, Josh cut Zachary off and took mouthfuls of his breakfast before packing up and getting out of there.

Josh waited until he was out of the office before mumbling, "I wasn't being nosy.

I was just concerned.

That's all." So much for being nice, One innocent question almost cost Josh extra work.

His boss was bound to overwork him to death.

Although Josh had left, he was not ready to give up on good gossip.

Josh told his secretary to take photos of Elisa's beautiful display of flowers so he could use it to make fun of Zachary every now and then.

Besides, he could learn a thing or two from Elisa's bold pursuits of love and emulate her when he were to meet the one.

The symbolic display of flowers representing Elisa's love had just been arranged.

The sea of red was a beautiful sight.

The security guards on duty got the orders from the top to destroy Elisa's heart-shaped flower display.

However, they could not bring themselves to do it when they arrived at the floral art piece.

Holding a megaphone, Elisa shouted at the sixty-eight story building.

"Zachary, I like you!" Everybody at York Corporation was amazed by Ms.

Stone's bad\*ss stunt.

"Ms. Stone, please leave now." A security guard on duty intervened.

Ignoring the security guard, Elisa yelled and hollered at the office building

After taking the first step, Elisa had no qualms cranking up the pace.

Her proclamation of love and floral arrangement at the entrance of York Corporation quickly caught the eye of passers-by.

A growing crowd formed to stop and take photos and videos.

The media even caught wind and dropped by. It was a pity that the flowers were destroyed and removed by the time the media arrived.

However, Elisa stayed on as the security dared not lay their hands on her.

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Elisa was the heiress of the Stones after all.

The Stones and Yorks might not get along, so the security guards' inhospitality toward Elisa could aggravate the hostility between both giants.

It was not a responsibility the security guards could shoulder.

Soon, a few speeding cars pulled up in front of York Corporation.

Getting out of the car, Clive took quick strides toward his sister who was yelling out all the love she had for Zachary through a megaphone.

The scowl on his handsome face did not go amiss.

There was no question that Zachary called Clive again to make a fuss about his sister's antics.

Clive happened to be in a meeting when he received the complaint.

Frustration could barely describe Clive's emotions right now.

Ditching his team of executives, Clive took his bodyguard and came all the way to drag Elisa back.

"Zachary..." Before Elisa could finish, the megaphone was snatched right out of her hands.

She looked over and met the stern eyes of her brother.

Dumbstruck, Elisa cowered and cried timidly, "Clive." Clive tossed the megaphone aside before grabbing Elisa by the wrist and dragged her along.

"Clive, I like Zachary. I really do. I have had a crush on him for many years, and it's taken me until now to confess. You need to let me do this. What if he falls in love with me too? Ouch, Clive. You're grabbing me too hard!"

Without a word, Clive hauled his sister to the car and pulled the door open to stuff her inside.

Elisa tried to get out from the other side of the vehicle.

"Take one more step." Getting cold feet, Elisa lost the will to run and stayed put.

Clive got into the car, shut the door, and ordered emotionlessly, "Drive."

The driver stepped on the gas.

"Clive—" Elisa snuggled up to her brother while holding his arm as she appealed to his soft spot.

"Shut up!"

Clive chided.

"I have told you a hundred times that Zachary's not a good match for you. You should give up but you won't listen to me, huh?"

"I wanted to get over him, but the years didn't help me to move on. I can't give up now. I love him. Am I wrong to show it? How would we know the outcome if you don't let me try and fight for it?"

Loved by her family, Elisa came from a line of wealth and power that gave her the confidence to face life.

She would do what no one had the guts to do.

Regardless of her compatibility with Zachary, Elisa believed she should give it a go.

She was willing to accept failure for trying as giving up without a fight would always remain regret.

"It's not like you don't know Zachary. You can't even get within three meters from him!"

"He hasn't fallen for me yet. I'm sure he'll make an exception for me once he's smitten."

Clive smirked as he stared at his sister who would stop at nothing until she had taken a crack at it.

He was furious, helpless, and sorry for his sister to have fallen head over heels for Zachary.

"Elisa, I know a lot of fine men. Listen to me. Get Zachary out of your head. He's not good for you. Heck, the man's heart is made from iron. No woman can melt his cold heart. Even if someone can, that person won't be you.

"Don't make yourself a laughingstock. You're not just embarrassing yourself, but me too."

"What do you mean embarrassing? I'm only being truthful with my feelings. You should be familiar with the tricks. Didn't your wife adopt the same method to score your heart? You only have eyes for her now. See, there's nothing embarrassing about a woman going after a man."

Clive was left speechless. It sounded about right.

His dear wife had always been direct with her feelings. His wife pulled out all the stops when she pursued him.

### **Gu Lingfei: Married At First Sight Chapter 89**

Back in the bookshop near Wiltspoon School, Serenity sat behind the cash register, scrolling on her phone reading news while Jasmine was lost in a romance book.

As the owner of a bookshop, Jasmine had free rein to explore all the books she wanted.

That was the perk for doing what she loved for a living.

Jasmine had read almost all the romance s in the shop.

At times, Serenity would tease by asking Jasmine to become a writer since she had always enjoyed a good chick lit.

"Seren, the main characters of this story got married at first sight too."

As she put down the book, Jasmine added with a smile, "Just like you." Serenity was fixated on Jasmine.

"Lots of people got married after dating shortly. Well, you did say that the female character of that book blindly married a billionaire. My husband is only a wage earner."

Even though Zachary was a senior white-collar worker in a major group, he was working for someone.

"You might want to cut down on reading. I think the stories are getting way over your head. You'll never find Mr. Right because you'd compare the male leads to the men you meet in real life. The irresistible

men in your books only exist in fiction.” Rarely were there young, attractive, wealthy, and devoted CEOs in real life.

“I’m just passing time with these books. I don’t have a knack for crafting like you.” Closing her book, Jasmine pulled out her phone and scrolled for any interesting news.

Her general preference was tabloid.

She visited her favorite site and checked the trending updates of the day.

With one article piquing Jasmine’s interest, she exclaimed, “Seren, check out Twitter.”

“What’s the big news?” Serenity spared her a glance but nothing more.

She had a Twitter account, but she rarely managed it as her number of followers were only in the double digits.

Occasionally, she would tweet about her crafts since her followers were loyal customers.

“Someone declared their love to the heir of the Yorks.” “Oh.”

Serenity was not the least bit intrigued.

The way she saw it was that she would never cross paths

with the big man of the York family.

Why would she waste time on a figure who played no part in her life?

“I heard that the heir’s not short of admirers. I mean, he’s the heir to and CEO of York Corporation. Marrying him is basically marrying into wealth and power.

“The woman must be a certain somebody to pull such a bold stunt to make a pass at the heir. Do you want to guess who she is, Seren?”

“It’s neither you nor me for sure.”

That shut Jasmine up.

Jasmine whined, “Why aren’t you intrigued by the hottest gossip of the year?”

“It’s the sister of Stone Group’s CEO. His only sister. Stone Group’s only second to York Corporation in Wiltspoon. However, the two giants don’t seem to be on good terms. I can’t believe Elisa has a thing for young Mr. York. I admire Elisa’s bravery and confidence to profess her feelings and go after the man!”

Serenity put a damper on her spirits.

“We were talking about Mr. York swinging the other way the last time. Ms. Stone won’t have her feelings reciprocated. We could probably see a more optimistic result if Mr. Stone went after him instead.”

Jasmine was lost for words. Mr. Stone was married, and the wedding stirred a TL sensation in the Wiltspoon community.

The couple was very much in love.

Mr.Stone made a name for himself in Wiltspoon as someone who would give his wife everything  
Jasmine believed Mr.Stone was a real-life character out of the romances – young, handsome, and rich.

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“It would be a shame for Ms. Stone if Mr. York plays for the other team.”

Jasmine added regrettably, “That would be a disappointing result now that someone had the prowess to woo Mr.York.Speaking of which, do you think he swings the other way?”

Serenity replied amusedly, “How would I know?”

It was only their suspicion, but of course, Mr.York’s sexual orientation would be determined should he accept and marry Ms.Stone.

Nevertheless, what did it have to do with Serenity? The hottest gossip, even if it was about Mr.York, was not worthy of Serenity’s time.Jasmine, however, loved getting into it.

Every so often, Jasmine would babble about local big stories within Serenity’s earshot.

Refusing to engage in gossip, Serenity took out her tools to get into her crafting.

Jasmine rambled on under her breath while checking out the trending news.

She was reading an article when her expression slowly turned grave.

Not too long later, she slammed hard on the cash register.

The loud smack startled Serenity.

“What was that about, Jasmine? You scared me.”

“D\*mn it! This is outrageous!”

Seething with rage, Jasmine got up and passed her phone to Serenity.

Jasmine uttered furiously, “Seren, is this article about you and Liberty? Your names and a photo are on the news.

The two girls in the photo look like you and Liberty.

“It’s written that all you and your sister only ever cared about are yourselves without regard for your family, and that you turn your back to your sick grandmother.

Apparently, you never visited your family for over ten years, and now the old lady is sick because she misses her granddaughters dearly.”

Serenity got a bad feeling about it.

She swiftly took the phone from Jasmine and read the trending story.

A photograph of a younger version of herself and her sister was also tweeted.

The article really riled Serenity up.

Needless to say, someone among the relatives posted the tweet, but there was no telling which cousin it was.

The tweet disclosed her personal information such as name, photo, and personal mobile number.

The sisters were published as villains, shunning the family after the grandparents tried to make ends meet to raise the sisters and afford their education.

Yet, the kindness and love were repaid by years of absence.

Now that the grandmother was critically ill and wished to meet the granddaughters by her deathbed, the sisters refused to even turn up at the hospital.

It was such a believable lie.

At the very end of the tweet, the poster appealed to the netizens to contact Serenity and Liberty so the sisters would rush to Wiltspoon General Hospital to visit the grandmother for a final goodbye.

Serenity's hands were shaking by the time she got to the end of the article.

It never occurred to her that these people would be so shameless to smear her and Liberty's names online.

The sisters went viral, probably because it was paid content.

The purpose was to drag the sisters' names through the mud.

Although Serenity and Liberty were ordinary people, the tweet put the sisters in the forefront of abuse by keyboard warriors.

Fueled by a pretentious sense of righteousness, these keyboard warriors hid behind online anonymity, skinning the sisters alive and tearing into them without getting to the truth of the matter.

The sisters would be exposed to cyberbullying! Fifteen years had passed, but Serenity's relatives were just as brazen and ruthless as before.

They jumped on Serenity and Liberty without mercy and consideration that they were family!

These relatives sure went the whole nine yards to make Serenity pay for the old hag's medical treatment! "Are you okay, Seren?" Jasmine was worried as her best friend was burning in hatred.

Keeping to herself, Serenity scrolled through the comments.

Judging by the mean comments about them sisters, the relatives must have spent a lot of money on trolls.