

Gu Lingfei 971

Chapter 971 | [Serenity & Zachary]

The possibility of Liberty and Duncan being together was rather slim.

It had never been Liberty's wish to marry into a wealthy family. The sisters were not ones with wishful ambitions.

Grandma May gave up on the idea.

After leaving Liberty's restaurant, Duncan returned to Lewis & Co. and walked into the office to lie on the sofa. He pulled out his phone and gave Zachary a text message.

It was quiet during lunchtime in the office.

Duncan: [Can I bother you?]

Zachary was having the sleep of his life since he managed to convince his wife to stay at the office for a nap. Duncan's untimely message woke him up.

He would probably travel through the radio wave to give Duncan a beating if the guy was not his best friend.

Serenity was still asleep. Zachary gave her a peck on the lips before grabbing his phone. He tiptoed out of the private resting room and approached a sofa to lie down like Duncan was.

"What do you want?"

Duncan's mind was still blank by the time his best friend answered, so he replied, " Nothing."

Zachary flipped out.

He dialed Duncan's number.

Once Duncan picked up the call, Zachary gave Duncan a piece of his mind.

Duncan said, "I don't think you're Zachary... You can't be Zachary with language like that."

"I would've beaten you up if you weren't Duncan. It's been rough for me. Seren only went soft on me when it came to my health. She finally agreed to move back with me and make me packed lunches to watch my nutrition. Nothing's bothering you, and yet you came to disrupt my sleep. You were asking for it."

Duncan chuckled. "Oh, did you kiss and make up? Let's have dinner sometime since all is good now. I couldn't ask you out when you weren't in the best of moods.

Alcohol is the last thing you need."

Zachary felt better after tearing Duncan a new one.

"Hurry up and tell me what's on your mind. Otherwise, don't disturb my break.

Everybody knew that he would rest after lunch.

"It's nothing really. I was passing by your sister-in-law's breakfast diner while on my way to work. I dropped in for a visit and to give Sonny a pinwheel, and your nana was there.

"Your sister-in-law gave me the rent money in cash, but somehow, I felt guilty when I looked at your nana. What do you think? Did I cross your nana in any way?"

"God knows what you did. I'm not your shadow. I don't follow you around and know your every move."

Duncan was wasting his time over tiny matters.

Was Duncan bragging to him about collecting rent? Zachary rented out commercial spaces too, and his annual rental income was a lot more than Duncan's.

Duncan fell silent before replying, "Man, you're all riled up. I guess you aren't getting something."

"We'll see if you'll be happy when I intrude on your intimate moment with your girl."

"My woman is not born yet. I might not find someone for me ever. You and Josh found your special someone, so we belong to different worlds now. I'm cutting ties with you two."

It was a joke.

"That reminds me. Do you know that the Zimmers went bankrupt? Their house is up for sale to pay the debt. Are you interested in buying?"

"I'd rather invest in new development. The Zimmers might have a spacious villa, but it's secondhand."

Duncan uttered with a smile, "The Zimmers are the Stones' neighbor. By the Stone family, I mean your wife's aunt. You could give the place a complete facelift if you purchase it. It can make a nice marital home and give your wife easy access to her aunt's place.

"I bet your wife will be happy."

Zachary was speechless.

The Zimmers once enjoyed fame and fortune back in the day to live next to the

Stone family. It was a shame that the family's descendants had not been doing too well at keeping the business running. The Zimmers' family business was in the red and they needed to sell the house off to get out of debt.

Chapter 972 | [Serenity & Zachary]

"Clive probably made a deal on the house."

Since the estates were next to each other, it made sense for Clive to buy the property next door and tear down the fence in between to connect the two houses. It would expand the square footage of the Stones' land.

The Stones had the money anyway. Who could beat Clive if he had his eyes on the property?

"I can help you to ask around now if you're interested. Hang on."

Since Duncan felt bad for waking his best friend up, he tried to think of something to make up for it.

That was how the Zimmers' villa came to mind.

Using another phone, Duncan checked with his source and quickly got a reply. The Zimmers' villa was not on the market anyway.

Duncan asked his source thinking it was Clive, but his source had no idea who had purchased the house, and that it was not Clive. Clive was one step behind buying the Zimmers' villa to expand his family's land as someone else had bought the house off.

Sure, the Zimmers' property was preowned, but the place boasted a generous space, so everybody was after the land. As for the house itself, the buyer would probably get a major overhaul of the building structure as Duncan had said.

The Zimmers had a lot of memories of the house, but it was time for others to create something anew.

Out with the old and in with the new.

Since money was no object, the resident would spare no expenses to bring their dream home to life.

Duncan replied, "See. The nice estate is high in demand. Someone got it before Clive."

"Who bought the place?"

That was quick.

"No idea, but we'll soon find out."

Zachary was not bothered as he had a lot of properties. It was all about the location for Zachary when it came to real estate.

He was after the long-term investment, so he would look at the neighborhood, the location, the size, and the age of the property.

Zachary would prefer to get the property as it was.

"Well, I'll leave you to enjoy your break, Zachary."

With nothing more to talk about, Duncan quickly hung up the call.

Zachary yelled at the disconnected call, "Weirdo."

Duncan came in between him holding his wife to sleep.

"Zachary."

Serenity walked out of the private resting room.

"You're up, honey. Did the phone call wake you?"

Zachary swiftly got up and approached Serenity. Holding her by the waist, he brought her to the sofa where the couple sat down.

"No. I woke up on my own. Who were you on the phone with?"

Serenity was only making conversation, so it did not matter to her whether Zachary answered or not.

Zachary answered, "Duncan called and talked about trivial things that are not worth the mention. I don't know what has gotten into him. That was a strange call."

He then relayed the phone conversation with Duncan to his wife.

Zachary had promised that there would be no more lies.

He would be honest with Serenity so long as it was no trade secrets.

Chapter 973 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Plopping herself in Zachary's arms, Serenity yawned and said, "I forgot to talk to you about one thing."

"What's that?"

Zachary took anything that came out of his wife's mouth seriously-no matter how trivial.

"My money-hungry relatives are planning the old switcheroo. They want my cousin to go under the knife to look like me and replace me as Mrs. York."

Zachary glowered.

"My cousin is as old as I am. Our dads look a little alike. Plus, we both take after our dads. I guess you can say that we kinda resemble each other. At least, that was what people used to say when we were little. haven't seen her for more than a decade after my parents' passing. I don't know what she looks like now."

Zachary uttered with a scowl, "These people have their heads in the clouds. Seren, is my father-in-law really your grandparents' son?"

"That's not important when you have parents who play favorites. There are cases where the child can get less attention than an adopted child too.

"Harriet must be going for plastic surgery, but I have no idea where the surgery will take place. Can you look into it and stop her from looking like me? I got the word out of Noah when your bodyguards caught him stalking and taking photos of me."

Noah was not straight with Serenity. All he said was that the photos were for Harriet, so the latter could mimic Serenity's mannerisms.

It was not hard to guess that the Hunts were trying to get Harriet to play Serenity.

Serenity and the Hunts were way past reconciliation. Now that Serenity became Mrs. York, the Hunts resented her for refusing them to ride on her coattails. On top of that, Serenity was the cause of their heavy financial losses.

The plan to have Harriet replace Serenity was so they got someone on the inside to benefit from as well as to get even with Serenity and Zachary.

Zachary immediately called Josh and put Josh in charge of this.

Serenity quietly stared at Zachary as Zachary got off the phone call. With a sparkle in his dark eyes, Zachary said tenderly, "I got you, Seren. I won't let them get away with it."

“Josh has a point. They would hold a grudge for losing everything they cared about, and they would only try to get even when backed into a corner. Now that they had nothing to lose, they would do anything in the name of revenge.”

“They’re a pest and a nuisance.”

Reaching out, Serenity caressed Zachary’s face. “Zachary. I want...”

Zachary drew his face near, lifting his chin and narrowing his eyes as he puckered up for a kiss.

Serenity smiled and met his lips as he wished.

After a few exchanges of lingering breaths and hot smooches, Zachary whispered something raspy in her ear. While Serenity did not catch what he said, his intentions were clear to her.

He was turned on, but it was the time of the month for her, so he had to deal with it.

“Zachary, I’m not mad and won’t make a fuss about you placing security around me behind my back.”

Zachary kissed her and explained, “They’re not there to spy on you. I’m just worried about your safety. You’re my wife, and there are so many people after you now that your identity is out in the open. You can’t stay in the house forever. I had to do it for your safety,”

He would rather die than admit that he wanted to know her every move.

“I understand where you’re coming from. If it weren’t for the bodyguards, we wouldn’t have known what the Hunts were up to. Get more eyes on them. At least we’ll have evidence when they get desperate and commit a crime. They’ll only leave us alone once they’re locked behind bars.”

Zachary was a powerful man, but unlike the lawless heroes in the books, he had his principles and drew the line somewhere.

Serenity did not want her man to break the law because of these vile people.

Chapter 974 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Serenity and Zachary had to wait for the Hunts to make a reckless move and commit a crime before they could send them to jail.

“Do they have any vice?”

“They gamble. Almost all seniors in the town gamble. It’s their favorite pastime after lunch. I don’t know if my uncles gamble, but I guess they probably took up the habit.”

Zachary’s dark eyes shimmered as a plan formed in his mind. Nevertheless, he kept mum about it and said to Serenity, “Leave them to me. Don’t waste your time on them. I’ll be there for you through thick and thin. Just *do* what *you* want *to do*.”

“Are you sure you don’t want me to come along to the event tonight? We have never attended a party as a couple, honey.”

Serenity looked askance at him. “You’re the great Mr. York. Your security detail will be all over you at social events. A lowly peasant like me can’t possibly *get* close enough to see your face.”

Zachary murmured, "That's in the past..."

There was once the couple turned up at the same event before and Serenity was there as her best friend's plus-one. Zachary kept his identity hidden then. He noticed Serenity at the event, but she had no idea he was there.

"Wait until I have full confidence to stand by your side. Even if you don't want to, I'll make you go to events with me."

Getting on her feet, Serenity bent over and propped her arms by Zachary's sides." Give me a kiss, handsome. I got to go."

Zachary laughed. "You're hitting on me again."

"You're secretly happy every time I flirt with you."

Serenity bit his lip. "Take care of yourself. You're on your own if you starve yourself again. If anything happens to you... I'll inherit your assets and use your money to get me a boy toy. That would show you."

"I might just rise from the dead."

Zachary got up and gave her a hug before lovingly uttering, "Seren, I will watch my health so that I can grow old with you. All is good so long as you don't leave me."

Removing his hands from her body, Serenity brought up the packed food. "Send Jim to collect dinner. It's time for you to get back to work. I'm going back to the shop. Elisa might already be there waiting for me."

Zachary reluctantly walked with her out of the office.

He saw her off at the building entrance, watching as she drove off.

The security guards on duty exchanged glances.

They wondered if things were looking good for Mr. York and his wife now.

A few minutes later, Zachary turned around and sauntered into the office building.

A security guard took a bold move by observing Zachary's expression.

Hmm. Judging by the smile on his face, he must be in a good mood.

The couple had kissed and made up.

The employees of York Corporation could finally be at ease.

They could only hope that the couple would remain loving. The employees could not take another one of the couple's fights.

The matter showed everybody who Serenity was to Zachary.

She was one of a kind and irreplaceable.

Serenity was the of Zachary's eye. He definitely made himself to be an uxorious husband.

Chapter 975 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Zachary did not bury himself in work right after returning to his office. Instead, he gave his mother a call.

Since he was not the type to contact his mother unless necessary, Tania was on tenterhooks when she got the call from her eldest son.

The way she saw it, her eldest son would only call her for huge matters. Hence, she was nervous and afraid, especially now that Zachary and Serenity had not gotten back together. As a mother and mother-in-law, Tania felt helpless about the situation.

“Zack.”

Sensing the worry hidden in his mother’s tone, Zachary answered in a relaxed tone as a way to calm her nerves, “Mom. Clive’s wife is pregnant.”

Tania was at first dumbstruck, but soon she came back in a lighter mood. “It is news worth celebrating.”

Alice’s pregnancy had not been announced in the business world as the influential family was particular about the timing. The pregnancy would only be released to the public after the pregnant wife got through the first trimester.

Since Alice was still early in her pregnancy, the news would only be kept to her closest families, the Lafayettes and Stones. It made sense that Serenity knew about the pregnancy since she was Mrs. Stone’s niece.

For Serenity to let Zachary know, it could only mean that the couple had reconciled.

This was the reason Tania was delighted. It was not that she was happy for Alice.

“I’ll prepare some supplements to give to the Stones.”

Zachary thanked his mother.

Tania said, “Our family’s relationship with the Stones doesn’t matter because Mrs. Stone is Serenity’s aunt. We don’t have to do anything if we don’t know about Alice’s pregnancy, but now that we do, we should be polite and send gifts. It’s the least I can do to be respectful.

“When are you bringing Serenity home for dinner?”

“I’ll bring her to the manor for a short stay when she has time.”

Tania replied, “Okay. Have a talk with her sister. We shouldn’t leave her out for your wedding with Serenity. Make sure we observe all the traditions.”

“Got it, Mom.”

“Why don’t you give me the address of your sister-in-law? I’ll discuss your wedding preparations with her.”

Zachary answered, “My sister-in-law is renting a place now.

“I wanted to give her a house, but she and Serenity refused.”

Tania fell silent for a while before saying, "Your nana took a liking to Serenity likely because of Serenity's independence of making her own money."

She had no interest in the Yorks' fame and fortune.

It was rare that Serenity and her sister were able to stay true to themselves against temptation in this materialistic world.

Only, Serenity did not come from a nice family. Her money-hungry relatives...

The Hunts made Tania sick.

They were a vexatious family. Tania had never met anyone more ruthless and unreasonable.

Talking about properties, Zachary's mind flew back to his Valentine's gift for Serenity. Serenity did not accept his gift in the end.

Zachary thought about getting Jasmine to play the middle person, but Jasmine told him to do it himself.

He wanted to transfer all his personal assets to Serenity, but Serenity turned down his gesture too. Nevertheless, she was willing to hold onto the important paperwork such as the title deeds only because he threatened to throw the stuff away.

That was how she relented.

Still, the black card was given back to him.

Chapter 976 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Zachary could not even give Serenity one thing because she did not want anything.

Serenity was a stubborn woman!

Yet, Zachary loved her so!

"The etiquette lessons I talked to you and Serenity about..."

"Mom, she asked her aunt for help on this. She'll be going with her aunt to social events, starting tonight. With Mrs. Stone showing her the ropes, it will be quicker and more efficient than taking a class on etiquette."

Tania replied, "Alright. I'll keep out of this. I can bring her along to social events too, if she wants to."

As Serenity's mother-in-law, Tania had not spent much time with her. Besides, she believed Zachary was out of Serenity's league. Tania would only be critical and harsh if she was the one to bring Serenity into the high social circle, and the seemingly cordial relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law would deteriorate.

Tania understood why Serenity leaned toward seeking help from Mrs. Stone.

Mrs. Stone was once a tough businesswoman. With Mrs. Stone taking Serenity under her wing, Tania trusted that Serenity would find herself in and around Zachary's circle.

"I'll make a note of everybody's birthdays, so our family has a reason to host a

celebration. At least, Serenity can get practice runs at home.”

Zachary uttered with a smile, “You can discuss it with Nana and the other aunts. You ladies can decide on the domestic affairs.”

His mother believed Serenity was not right for him. However, Tania did nothing to hurt Serenity, not even voicing her disapproval out loud.

Compared to mothers who forcefully stepped into their children’s relationships, Zachary believed his mom was rather open-minded.

Tania got some work to do now.

After a call with his mother, Zachary put everything into his work.

He should earn more money and make his wife the richest woman in Wiltspoon.

With a black sedan pulled up far away, the person inside kept tabs on All You Can Eat diner.

“Do you see that fat woman? That’s her, Hank’s ex-wife, Liberty.”

Jessica said to her brother as she pointed at Liberty’s breakfast dinner. “She took a huge cut of Hank’s money after the divorce. That was why Hank couldn’t fork out the 777,777 dollars for Jack’s and your home renovation and new cars.”

Oscar observed for a while before turning his attention to his sister. “Jessica, tell me what you want me to do about it.”

“My mother-in-law and sister-in-law regret burning the bridge with her. It’s a good thing that Hank’s still on my side, but he often drops by to see their son, or so he said. I’m not happy about it, but I’m not pregnant. I don’t have a kid of my own, so I don’t have a reason to stop Hank from seeing his son.

“Find a few hooligans to stir trouble at her diner in turns once it is open for business. Nothing too extreme or to the point of assault. I just want her reputation and business ruined is all.

Jessica reminded her brother, “Her aunt is the missus of the Stone family who owns Stone Group. Her sister is married into the wealthiest family in the city.

“Just look for something that will put her out of business. I’m just paying her back. the favor. Hank and I lost our jobs because of her.

Jessica could take things up a notch, but she did not have the guts to do so.

She was afraid of Zachary and the Stones’ payback.

“Why should she be enjoying life when I’m experiencing hell now? There can only be one winner between us, and it has to be me!”

The thought that her in-laws favored Liberty got under Jessica’s skin.

She was the victor, and yet she had it rougher than Liberty. Reality did not sit well with Jessica.

Chapter 977 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Jessica's explanation only drove fear in Oscar. "Jessica, she's well connected. It won't go unnoticed if we hired a few hooligans to stir trouble. Her relatives are wealthy and powerful. They're not people we can mess with.

"Did you say that her brother-in-law is the heir of the wealthiest York family? All the more reason to stay away from them. Don't you know how the Yorks are? We've heard of the family even though we live in a rural area. Forget it. A hundred thousand dollars isn't worth me taking the risk."

Jessica winced her face. "I'm your sister, Oscar. So you're going to let it go when someone is making my life a living hell?"

Oscar replied, "How is she making your life a living hell? I mean, you lied to us. Hank had a wife and a son when he was with you, but you became his mistress and wrecked his family apart. You kept that fact from us. Here we were, thinking you found yourself a good man.

"Do you think I don't know you well? I bet you're the one picking on the Liberty girl. If nothing else, you were the homewrecker. You should feel ashamed of yourself instead of trying to get even with her.

"It's hard enough for a single mother to run a business, but you want to take away her only livelihood. I'll stick up for you if she bullied you, but did she though?"

"The huge settlement she got out of the divorce is between her and Hank. The Brown family isn't to be blamed for Hank's refusal to give us over seven hundred thousand dollars. You're only looking out for Hank, so you don't want to waste the money on me and Jack to fix our houses up and buy new cars.

"We doted on you for nothing. What did we get out of your marriage? Hank only gave a lot less than a hundred thousand dollars for Mom and Dad's retirement. Jack and I got nothing. I would do anything you ask if you bought us a car and house."

At the end of the day, Oscar believed his sister gave him crumbs. Whatever he got from his sister was not worth the risk of offending the York and Stone families.

At first, the Yateses were in the dark about Hank's wife and son. It was only after Hank divorced and talked about marriage with Jessica that the Yates family found out Jessica became a homewrecker.

The Yateses were displeased about this as Hank was a divorcee while Jessica was young and had not been married before. Sure, Hank was only thirty-one years old, but he was getting the better deal out of the bargain.

Hank owned the house and car, and his house was worth millions. Since Hank was also on a million-dollar annual income, the Yateses made a huge demand, asking for 777,777 dollars as a wedding gift.

This was an astronomical amount to ask for in Wiltspoon, especially for a wedding that was not among the wealthy. Ordinary families would only ask for tens of thousands, if not thousands when it came to financial gifts. 777,777 dollars was enough to scare any family from marriage.

As Mrs. Brown put it to her daughter, Jessica was not made of gold.

Besides, the Yateses were not returning wedding gifts of the same value. All the family intended to give were things like bedding, and the money they would get from the Browns were intended for the Yates brothers instead of the newly married couple.

Of course, the Browns were unhappy with the gift exchange.

It also rubbed Jessica the wrong way as it seemed like her family was selling her to get a better life themselves.

Since her parents did not have her best interest at heart, Jessica went ahead and got married to Hank in secret. Now that everything was a done deal, her parents had no leverage to demand the money.

“It’s not like you’re incapable. You can earn the money to buy a house in the city. My husband and I are jobless now. We need money for the wedding, the reception, our home renovation, and whatnot. Money is an issue for us now.”

Chapter 978 | [Serenity & Zachary]

“Weren’t you and Jack the reason Mom and Dad asked for a lot of money? Ask any family, and none of them will tell you that they expect that much for a wedding gift. What would you think if your children’s in-laws demand that much for a wedding too?”

“That kind of money will be good for me to start a family with Hank. How can I possibly allow Hank to give it away? It’s only for formalities’ sake, but what did you tell Mom and Dad? 777,777 dollars is lucky for you. All I get is seven thousand dollars in return, and nothing more.

“Mom and Dad will get a hundred thousand dollars while you and Jack get three hundred thousand each. Why? Why are they selling their daughter to give their sons everything? What about the daughter?”

Faced with her sister’s questioning, Oscar turned red in the face and lashed out, “You’re favoring outsiders instead of family. We’re your brothers. You should get more out of the Browns since they’re wealthy, but you can’t get anything now because you’re married.

“You went behind our backs and got married to Hank. Look, the 777,777-dollar gift is now seventy thousand. What’s wrong with helping me and Jack out when you’re getting a nice life in the city? It’s normal for siblings to help one another.”

“Just because I’m your sister doesn’t mean I owe you. Why should I give you all the help when life is not even good for me? Why should I give you everything to renovate your houses? What about me? I don’t even know if I have a bedroom, let alone a home, with Hank. Why should I suffer while you live the life?”

“We’re all Mom and Dad’s children. Sure, I owe Mom and Dad my life, and I’m not saying I won’t help them out financially. You can give a little something to our parents too. Like you, I can contribute to their medical bills if they fall sick.

“I don’t owe you and Jack anything!”

“You’re not really part of the family anymore since you’re taking Hank’s family name. Do whatever you want. I don’t have time for you.” Unable to win the argument, Oscar grimaced and opened the car door to walk away.

Jessica was fuming too.

With the five thousand dollars coming to mind, she opened the car door and shouted at her brother's receding figure, "Give me back the five thousand dollars, Oscar!"

He better cough up the money since he was not doing her bidding.

Oscar took off running.

Fat chance of him ever returning the money!

He believed his sister would not cause a scene over five thousand dollars.

Jessica was not going to have a falling out with her brother over a small lump of cash. In fact, she wished she did not have a fight with her brother. How did the situation get out of hand?

Nevertheless, her family's actions let her down every time she thought about it.

Jessica saw no wrong in asking for a bit more financial help. She believed Hank would not value her if she married into the family without getting anything out of it.

Chapter 979 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Liberty married into the Browns without asking for anything.

The wedding gift, be it material items or money, should be given according to the current going rate and local traditions. Nevertheless, Jessica's parents demanded a lot to give to her brothers and left Jessica nothing to start her own family with.

Jessica was not going to say yes to that.

Now that Hank put her in control of the purse strings, Jessica was paying for everything their house needed. She felt the pinch every time she footed the bill.

The responsibility fell on her to manage the household finances and everything was not cheap.

As the head of the household, she started to get on top of their financial situation. Besides, she and Hank were still out of employment.

They were eating away what little savings they had, so they had to be budget conscious.

Jessica was relieved she only contributed one-third of her past salary to her family. She spent another one-third and saved the remainder in the bank. At least, she had some savings of her own.

It was all about self-love. She had to love herself before she could love someone else.

Jessica hopped out of the car, shut the door, and locked the car.

She was driving Hank's car.

Hank bought himself another vehicle. Of course, the car cost more than a hundred thousand dollars. Hank talked about becoming an uber driver if he was still jobless after the wedding. In short, he would still provide for his wife.

Jessica believed Hank's feelings for her were genuine. At least, he treated her much better than he did Liberty.

Drawing a few deep breaths, Jessica unlocked the car and retrieved her Louis Vuitton bag. Hank gave her the bag when they were dating. Hank said he had never bought anything expensive for Liberty, but Jessica deserved only the best.

Jessica agreed to be his side chick because Hank was generous, young, and handsome.

Clinging to her Louis Vuitton bag, Jessica took strides to All You Can Eat with her chin held high like a victor.

Before she even came close to the diner, a car approached and pulled up in front of the diner. Jessica recognized the car.

It belonged to her ridiculous sister-in-law, Chelsea.

Stopping in her tracks, Jessica decided against going in there for now.

She wanted to see the reason Chelsea and her mother-in-law came to look for Liberty.

Liberty and Grandma May were discussing having a party for the diner's opening next week. Grandma May suggested having a party at the Wiltspoon Hotel since the Yorks owned the hotel. They could offer Liberty the best price, and better yet, for free.

"Grandma May, business is business. I want to have a party for the opening of my restaurant. You can't let me have the party for free, but a discount is always welcome. Maybe I should just cook."

She was operating a breakfast place, so she would be busy in the morning. She could close the restaurant by the time afternoon rolled around.

Liberty had time to get groceries and cook.

"You'll overwork yourself. Why don't you reserve two tables at the hotel? I'll tell Kevin to give you the best price."

"Thank you, Grandma May."

This time, Liberty graciously took up on Grandma May's offer.

It would be hard for two families to come together if one party was overly cordial.

"Grandma."

Sonny was playing by himself in a corner when his grandmother and aunt entered the restaurant. He said hello to Mrs. Brown.

"Sonny."

Mrs. Brown looked at Sonny as if he was a money tree.

She never really took the time to spend time with Sonny before. Now that they were apart, all Mrs. Brown thought about was her only grandson.

Chapter 980 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Mrs. Brown went to pick Sonny up and planted kisses on Sonny's cheeks, only giving it a rest when Sonny frowned.

"Sonny, I couldn't get you a toy since I came over in a rush. I'll give you some money, so you can ask your mom to take you out shopping. You can get whatever you want."

Mrs. Brown then pulled out a wad of cash and stuffed a few hundred-dollar bills in Sonny's hand.

"Mrs. Brown."

Liberty immediately stopped her and took her son from Mrs. Brown. Liberty uttered, "Don't give Sonny money, Mrs. Brown. He's still young. He'll get into the habit of asking for money to buy things if you keep giving him money."

Mrs. Brown replied, "Then you take the money. It's for Sonny to buy things."

She then handed Liberty the cash.

Refusing it, Liberty answered, "Mrs. Brown, Sonny has everything he needs. It's okay. You can keep the money for yourself."

Since Mrs. Brown often dropped by for chatter, Liberty learned that Hank gave a lot less allowance to his parents. Mrs. Brown mentioned that Jessica was stingy, cutting down on her parents-in-law's allowance now that she was holding the purse strings.

Jessica moaned to Hank that her parents-in-law had a state pension and were at the age of receiving the pension. While the money was not a lot, the husband and wife got around five thousand dollars from the government.

Her parents-in-law did not have to spend their money since they were living with Hank, so Jessica refused to give a lot for their allowance. Jessica was concerned that her parents-in-law would give the money to her sister-in-law instead.

"I have money. Besides, this is for my grandson. Take it."

With Liberty rejecting the money from Mrs. Brown again, Grandma May jumped in. "Liberty, this is a token gesture by Sonny's grandmother. You should take it. Sonny's grandmother never brought him any clothes before. You should take the money and buy some new clothes for Sonny."

Mrs. Brown made a face.

Since Mrs. Brown knew what Grandma May was made of, she grimaced but said nothing and gave the money to Liberty.

Jealousy was eating Chelsea up inside. Liberty's diner was looking great and neat after the renovation. The thought that Liberty was about to make money made Chelsea even more jealous.

Chelsea had dreams to be a boss of her own too.

Nevertheless, Jessica refused to lend her husband money to start a construction supply business.

Chelsea was reluctant to fork out a few hundred thousand dollars of her own money to set up a shop.

She could earn the interest by keeping the money in the bank. On the other hand, there was a chance her husband's business might fail...

"When is the grand opening of your diner, Liberty?" Chelsea asked with a forced smile.

She now believed Liberty was a lot nicer than Jessica.

"Your health is more important than work, Liberty. Look at you. You lost a lot of weight. You had it easy with our family. You used to be skinny, but Hank provided for you well."

Everybody glared at her.

Chelsea smiled embarrassedly. "I was just being honest."

Liberty curtly uttered, "I'm on a diet."

"Why go on a diet? You looked better and jolly before. Stop losing weight. You're fine the way you are now."

It was not just Chelsea, but every member of the Brown family did not want Liberty to shed the pounds too because they knew Liberty would become desirable once she regained her appearance from back then.

The Browns, except Hank himself, hoped Liberty would get back together with Hank.

Hank would hold a senior position in York Corporation if they could rekindle their love and marriage. It was said that the annual income of a senior executive at York Corporation was several million.

The money was secondary. Most importantly, the Browns would be living large due to their ties with the wealthiest family in Wiltspoon.