

Gu Lingfei 51

Gu Lingfei: Married At First Sight Chapter 51

“Don’t let the old Mrs. know about today.”

Zachary told the people around him.

The bodyguards heeded his instruction.

Mr. Zachary was married. Yet, Ms. Stone openly professed her love to him. The old Mrs. should never find out about it.

Elisa’s brazen stunt did not go unnoticed among those in York Corporation. The employees stole a few glances at their boss as Zachary walked into the building.

Bearing a straight face with his lips pursed as always, Zachary took strides while being surrounded by his bodyguards. There was just a regal air about him. Such a man was a heartthrob to most young women.

Many young female employees in the company would be swept off their feet after catching a glimpse of the young CEO. However, nobody had the guts to come clean about their feelings toward Zachary, let alone chase after him.

The way ordinary people saw it was that the Yorks were far beyond reach. Even if the boys of the York family were known for their commitment to their partners, the issue was bagging one of their hearts.

Back in his office, Zachary pulled out his phone to call

Clive. It took a while before Clive picked up the call. “My, are pigs flying? I can’t believe the great CEO, Mr. York, is calling me. To what do I owe the honor?”

With a cheeky smile, Clive teased Zachary through the phone.

“Clive, sort your sister out!”

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The mention of his sister saw Clive taking it seriously, “What did Elisa do?”

He knew that his sister had a crush on Zachary for many years and could not move on from him. Lately, Elisa told Clive that she planned to profess her feelings for Zachary.

With that in mind, Clive had a bad feeling about it. Did his brash sister go and rip her heart out to Zachary? Why did she have to fall in love with Zachary’s deadpan face?

“She’s pestering me! She’s outside my office right now. Either you come here and take her away or I’ll get my men to throw her out.”

“I’ll get my wife to take her home now so we don’t trouble you, Mr. York. Go on with work, Mr. York.”

Zachary scoffed coldly and ended the call.

Clive was left seething with rage, not toward Zachary, but his sister. He immediately called his wife and shot a question the moment the call was picked up. “Honey, where are you?”

“I’m shopping with Mom. What’s wrong? You sound angry.”

“Go to York Corporation now to collect Elisa. The girl went to look for Zachary and harassed him. You know Zachary. He won’t stand for it.”

Clive was mad at his sister for loving Zachary still despite the family’s dissuasion. He was also worried that Zachary might not be nice to Elisa. Although Zachary was like a block of ice, he had a fiery temper. Anyone who got on Zachary’s nerves would be thrown out regardless of class, status, or gender. Zachary would not hesitate to disgrace the person.

Zachary was the mover and shaker of Wiltspoon’s business world. Since the media put his every move under a magnifying glass, Zachary would not have to do anything for the media to tear into the people on his hit list.

Clive’s only concern was her sister’s reputation tarnished by Zachary. She would not be able to show her face in Wiltspoon again. His wife replied, “I’ll head there right now. Don’t be mad. All Elisa wants is to try. She’ll give up if it fails. She doesn’t want to live with the regret of not even trying.”

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“Zachary isn’t someone she can handle. Try and get her to move on. You don’t see other young women hanging around Zachary other than his family. He’s a heartless man. Why can’t Elisa listen to reason?”

Clive threw in the towel on his sister.

“I’m too busy to deal with her now. Honey, I’ll leave Elisa in your hands.”

“Carry on with your work. I’ll pick Elisa up now and take her to go shopping with Mom. Mom’s been feeling down lately.”

Clive’s wife, Alice, had a great relationship with her mother-in-law. Seeing that her mother-in-law was feeling blue, Alice persuaded her to go out and get some sunshine. A bit of retail therapy might do her good.

Clive fell silent.

He knew the reason behind his mother’s melancholy. There had not been any news about his aunt. It was the one thing Mom could never stop talking about.

Clive’s mother, Audrey, grew up in an orphanage. Her parents passed away when Audrey was young, survived by Audrey and her sister who was four years younger. The sisters were then sent to the orphanage. Later, a wealthy

couple came to the orphanage with the interest to adopt a child.

The couple took to Audrey’s younger sister. At the time, Audrey was eight years old while her sister was merely four. Although reluctant to part with her sister, Audrey knew she was in better hands with the couple. Hence, Audrey agreed to let the couple adopt her sister.

The sisters took a picture as a memento before the fateful separation. It had been decades since they saw each other again.

As she came of age, Audrey left the orphanage and put her wits and skills to the test, working her way up the corporate ladder. She earned the boss' trust and confidence in return. Plus, she caught the eye of the boss' eldest son. Finally, she married into a wealthy family and became Mrs. Stone.

Now that she had the means, Audrey never gave up on looking for her sister but heard nothing back despite her decades of effort.

Not too long ago, Clive came across some news about his aunt. Audrey was overjoyed as they had located the wealthy couple who adopted the girl. Clive and his dad went along with Audrey to visit the wealthy couple and found out that the couple had their own child a year into the adoption.

Since then, the couple stopped being nice to Audrey's

sister and told their maid to take Audrey's sister away to give her to someone else as they only wanted to leave the family inheritance to their flesh and blood. Decades passed, and the maid was long gone. The maid's family had no idea about the whole thing, much less to whom Audrey's sister was given.

The recent update of the search had been hanging over Audrey.

Now, the only way to locate Clive's aunt was through the yellowing photograph that Mom had kept until now. Clive had put a digital copy of it on the web, hoping it might lead them to his aunt or his aunt's children.

"Honey, tell Mom that we'll find her sister so long as she's still alive. Even if her sister isn't around anymore, we will locate her children. Mom needs to relax. We still need her to identify her sister when she's found."

Clive loved his mother tremendously.

He hoped his mother could pick herself back up again. Alice replied, "I will. Get back to your work. I'll pick Elisa up. Clive, if Elisa won't listen, why don't we just let her try? Zachary might be indifferent, but he's a decent man who Elisa could give herself to."

Truth be told, all the York boys could be trusted to carry out the marriage vows.

Deep down, Alice supported Elisa. Alice believed Elisa was

a good fit for Zachary and for her to take the plunge to confess to him.

Both families were in the same class. Although the families did not get along because of the competition in business, they would still practice social formalities whenever they crossed paths.

Should Elisa take down Zachary and marry into the York family, it would ease the discord between both families.

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Elisa was picked up by her sister-in-law in the end while the smashed car was towed away.

When Alice came by, Elisa even said, "Since Zachary wrecked my car, I have an excuse to cling to him. Alice, now that I made the first move, I need to keep going. I won't forgive myself if I don't put in the years to pursue Zachary."

“Alice , you’re the best. Clive only listens to you. Please talk to him for me. I just need him off my back from my pursuit of happiness.”

Elisa was envious of her brother and sister-in-law’s love story. Alice went after Clive, and it took a year before Alice won his heart. The roles were reversed after marriage as Clive spoiled Alice crazy.

It was not the first time Alice mentioned that she would not have her happy ending if she did not bravely go after the love of her life.

While driving, Alice uttered, “Elisa, I’m all for you pursuing your happiness, but it’s Zachary we’re talking about. Aren’t you aware of his reputation in Wiltspoon? He’s known for keeping a distance from women. Have you seen any young women around him?”

“Besides, our family is not on good terms with the Yorks.

Your brother might not be an enemy of Zachary, but they’re rivals at the end of the day. They don’t see eye-to-eye. I’m worried Zachary might use you as a weapon or a punching bag.” “I don’t think he’ll do that. The Yorks hold themselves in high regard. The men of the family are famous for spoiling their wives.”

Having witnessed the love between her brother and sister -in-law, Elisa looked forward to sharing the same intimacy with her future husband.

Among the upper crust of Wiltspoon , York’s men stood out for putting their wives above everything.

“No matter what, your brother is only doing it for your own good. We’ll save this conversation for another day, Elisa. Mom is waiting for us at the Hermès store. Let’s get some fresh air with Mom. She’s been feeling down because of that thing with her sister.”

Pursing her lips, Elisa replied, “Mom and her sister have been apart for so many years. God knows how many times her sister had been through the adoption system. Her sister might have lost the photograph too. We’re looking for a needle in a haystack here.”

“Still, we have to try.”

Elisa remained without a word.

That was Mom’s only wish. As her children, they had to

help Mom Mulailit,

Serenity was clueless about her rival in love as it had been a busy day at the shop. After closing the shop at eleven at night, she rode her e-bike home.

Wiltspoon was a thriving city. Even at eleven o’clock, the streets were filled with endless human traffic. It was a bustling scene as the public lined up by food trucks, itching for midnight snacks.

Serenity rode her bike past the food trucks. A group of young men saw her and catcalled her, but she turned a deaf ear, refusing to give them her time of day. She hit the brakes at a red light.

By the time the traffic lights turned green, she restarted her engine and zipped past the intersection before the bike suddenly conked out. Serenity thought she was out of battery, but her battery was still on full bar. Why did it stop?

The bike would not start despite Serenity's multiple attempts.

That was strange. What could be the problem?

"Is that you, Serenity? I thought your back looked familiar. For a moment there, I thought my eyes were deceiving me."

With a car pulling up beside Serenity, the person inside lowered his window. It was Jasmine's cousin, Shawn.

"Shawn."

Serenity answered, "I don't know what's wrong with my bike. It suddenly stopped working, but the battery is full." "Hang on, Serenity. I'll park the car by the side of the road to get out of the way."

Shawn then drove his car to park by the curb. He got out of the car and checked on Serenity's bike. Shawn replied apologetically, "I don't know much about e-bikes to know what's wrong with it, Serenity. How about I get your bike towed to a repair shop? I'll drive you home." Serenity asked, "Do you know if there's an electric vehicle repair shop nearby?"

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Shawn said with a smile, "I don't know. I'll get your bike fixed. I promise to return a fully functioning bike to you."

Since Shawn was Jasmine's cousin and a friend for many years, Serenity knew she could trust him. "Thank you."

Happy to be of assistance to Serenity, Shawn dialed a number and made a call. Serenity heard him sharing their location.

The only thing next was to wait for the tow truck.

"Sir."

The driver's keen eyes picked up on the sight of a familiar woman opposite the traffic lights. It appeared to be the missus judging by the build. While waiting at the traffic lights, he turned around and said to Mr. Zachary who was resting his eyes. "Sir, the woman looks like the missus."

Zachary opened his eyes and turned toward the man and woman standing by the road. He could not recognize the man, probably due to the distance, but the woman did seem like his wife.

After living under the same roof for a while, Zachary grew familiar with Serenity's silhouette.

"Slow down the car when you pass by. I need to be sure if it's her."

“Alright.” Zachary pulled out his phone with the intention to call Serenity but on second thought, held back that idea.

Soon, the traffic lights turned green.

With Zachary’s luxurious convoy taking the speed down a notch, Zachary was able to identify the woman to be his wife, Serenity.

It only sprung to Zachary’s mind who the man was as the convoy was driving away. It was Shawn!

His love rival!

Were Serenity and Shawn together, to begin with?

Or did they run into each other?

Although Zachary had questions, he chose to keep quiet and not call Serenity.

The convoy of luxury sedans cruised out of sight. ,

Shawn stared at the receding convoy before turning to Serenity . “Did you see those few cars there? One of the vehicles is Mr. York’s exclusive ride.”

It only came to Shawn after the convoy was gone.

Serenity casually inquired, “Which Mr. York?”

“The heir to the wealthiest York family. He’s also the CEO of York Corporation. He was at the dinner party, but you girls were too busy with the food to catch a glimpse of him.”

Shawn looked up to Zachary.

“I don’t belong to your circle. I was only at the dinner party as Jas’s plus one. I had to try the food of a seven – star establishment. I doubt I’d ever cross paths with Mr. York or the wealthiest in Wiltspoon. Why should I bother to catch a glimpse of him?”

People were all over Mr. York that night. Serenity could not see his face even if she wanted to.

“Shawn, have you met Mr. York? Does he have eleven toes or two heads?”

Shawn chuckled. “Mr. York is a normal man without eleven toes or two heads. He does have an above–average look and that presence about him. I’m flattered that he talked to me.”

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“Even if Mr. York’s a normal man, he won’t engage with ordinary people like me.” Serenity might be nosy about the heir of the York family at the dinner party, but that was about it before she lost interest.

As normal as Mr. York could be, he would not interact with regular people like her.

Serenity was not the lowest class in society, nor was she that high up on the hierarchical pyramid. The richest people she knew were Jasmine and Shawn.

Shawn qualified as an heir to a wealthy family.

Since Serenity and the heir of the richest family did not belong in the same world, their paths would not cross.

Shawn grinned without a word.

Although he never looked down on Serenity, it did not mean other privileged men would not turn their noses up at her. Shawn knew wealth and social standing stood above the rest among the upper crust.

Despite Shawn's efforts to rub shoulders with the veterans in the business at the dinner party, he was met with lukewarm responses.

"The truck's here."

After the truck was parked by the road, a man exited the vehicle and said, "Sir." It was then Serenity realized that Shawn called his family's chauffeur over. The Lowe family's personal driver borrowed a pickup truck from somewhere. Together with Shawn, the driver moved Serenity's e-bike onto the truck.

"It's late, Serenity. I don't think any repair shops are operating at this hour. Bryan will haul your bike to a workshop tomorrow and deliver it back to you in one piece."

"Thank you."

Serenity thanked Shawn from the bottom of her heart. She might have to push the bike all the way home until morning light if she had not bumped into him.

Shawn smiled. "What are friends for? Get on, Serenity. I'll take you home. Are you still living at your sister's place?"

"No. I live in Brynfield now. I'm lucky you were here tonight, or I'd have to walk home while pushing the bike. I don't know what happened. The battery was full, but still the bike stopped working."

Serenity suspected a short circuit.

She got into Shawn's car.

Shawn was aware of the change in Serenity's marital status. Although her husband's last name was York, the man had nothing to do with the wealthy Yorks.

She must be living with her husband now. Shawn did not impose by asking the name of Serenity's man.

On the way to Brynfield, Shawn inquired, "Do you fancy supper, Serenity? I'll treat you." Serenity replied with a smile, "I enjoy supper on rare occasions only. It's late. You have to work tomorrow. I don't want to take up more of your time."

That was a no

Shawn left it at that.

He knew Serenity too well. Insisting further on the matter when she had already declined would only put her

off.

Serenity told Shawn to stop the car when they arrived at Brynfield's community gate.

"I can walk from here."

Shawn meant to walk her to her block so he could have an idea of the building she was living in. However, it was hard to access a gated community like Brynfield. Alas, Shawn had to give up on that thought.

He could ask Jasmine for Serenity's address anyway.

"Thank you for tonight, Shawn."

Serenity expressed her gratitude toward Shawn once more.

"It was no big deal. You've thanked me enough. You could buy me dinner if you really want to thank me." Serenity smiled. "Sure. I'll take you and your cousin to dinner."

Shawn pursed his lips and responded, "Can't it just be the two of us?"

"We can do that. But are you fine with Jasmine nagging at you?"

Shawn curled his lips, agreeing in silence.

Waving him goodbye, Serenity tapped her card to access the neighborhood.

Shawn waited until her figure was out of sight before winding the window up and starting the car. Serenity took strides to her home and pulled out the keys to open the door.

It did not take long before she realized that the door was locked from the inside.

Did Zachary assume she was back and lock the door when he came home? Um... What should she do now?

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56 Should Serenity call Zachary to wake him up? Nana mentioned that Zachary would be furious if anyone were to disrupt his sleep. Serenity looked at the time. It was past midnight. Zachary must still be awake since he usually came home around this time.

Serenity took the plunge and called Zachary.

Zachary was wide awake. In fact, he locked the door from the inside on purpose, albeit he had no idea of the reason behind his own actions. Anyway, it triggered Zachary to see Serenity and Shawn together, looking like a match made in heaven.

The conniving woman was in a rush to look for her next sugar daddy since she could not get much out of him. She had Nana completely fooled. At the end of the day, Nana had only known Serenity for three months. How well could Nana know Serenity? Yet, Nana, driven by gratitude, put a lot of trust in Serenity and nagged Zachary to marry her...

Zachary's phone rang but he refused to pick up Serenity's call.

The ringing stopped after a while but not for long as Serenity called again.

Zachary left Serenity high and dry for three call attempts before picking up

“Are you asleep, Mr. York?”

“What do you want?” Zachary seethed.

“You locked the door. I can’t get in.”

After a brief silence, Zachary’s flat but sarcasm tinted voice came through. “I thought you were going to stay at a hotel tonight.”

The spite came out of nowhere for Serenity. Why would she stay at a hotel?

What was with the sudden lash out? Did she step on his toes in any way?

“Can you open the door, Mr. York?”

Being the bigger person, Serenity let his tone slide.

Zachary remained without a word.

The couple settled into an awkward tension before Serenity broke the silence. “Mr. York, I’m fine if you want me to stay at a hotel. I can always use the debit card you

gave me to pay for the night at Wiltspoon Hotel.” Zachary, “...”

“Hang on!” He callously uttered before hanging up.

A few minutes later, he got out to open the door. Zachary turned on his heel and walked away the second the door was opened.

Serenity walked into the house and locked the door behind her. With Zachary making his way to his bedroom, Serenity called him back. “Wait, Mr. York.”

Zachary stopped in his tracks without looking back.

“Mr. York, what’s with the salty and sarcastic tone tonight? Did I offend you in any way? Just tell me directly if you have a problem. Don’t bring the issues to bed and give me that sassy attitude. I can move out if you intend to lock me out every day. This is your house anyway. Your house, your rules.”

Serenity was annoyed too. Zachary turned around. His dark eyes bore into hers with the chills of a dark and stormy night.

Serenity reckoned she would be frozen solid by the time he was done with her.

“How did you come home tonight?”

“What?”

Serenity was confused by the question. “Who took you home?”

Serenity was dumbstruck. How did he know Shawn drove her back when she got off at the community gate? Did he have telescopic vision? Perhaps Zachary caught her getting out of Shawn’s car while on his way home. Regardless, Serenity did not notice Zachary at all.

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“Serenity, we have an agreement. We’ll divorce after six months, so can’t you wait until then before moving on to the next guy? I don’t know why you’re on the prowl when we’re still legally married. You’re basically cheating on me right now.

“I might not have any feelings for you, nor will I ever, but no man will stand by being cheated on.”

He was only acting weird because he was angry. Zachary was furious that Serenity was so quick to have an affair.

Shawn had a crush on Serenity.

That was Zachary’s love rival!

This was not a matter of love but a man’s pride and dignity.

Serenity looked around as if searching for something. Unable to find anything handy, she grabbed her purse, filled with her phone and keys, and hurled it at Zachary. Since Serenity had learned self-defense, she got a pretty aim.

Caught off guard by the attack, Zachary was smacked right in the face.

The keys and phone in her purse turned into weapons and did a painful number on his lips.

He shot an angry look at Serenity.

No one had ever disrespected him like this!

Serenity walked over and bent to pick up her purse. Her tone matched his. “You asked for it.

“You convicted me of some mumbo jumbo you conjured in your head without so much as seeking clarification. Have you always been this bossy and self-righteous?” Zachary felt his aching lips while glaring at her. “What are you looking at? Is this a stare-down? As if I’d lose to you.”

Serenity raised her purse peevishly.

Zachary thought to himself, ‘... Not again!’

How did she find the cheek to strike him?

T–This was domestic violence!

“My ride broke down in the middle of the road, but I was lucky to run into Shawn. He’s my best friend’s cousin. I’ve known him longer than I have you. I guess you could say we grew up together.

“Anyway, he wasn’t going to drive past when he saw me stranded. He called a tow truck for me and sent my bike to the workshop before driving me home. We’ve done nothing wrong, but you made it sound like we were having an affair.

“Talk about the pot calling the kettle black. Perhaps you’re the one cheating on me.”

Zachary, “...”

For once, Zachary was lost for words.

“Mr. York, you could’ve told me if you didn’t want to get married back then. I didn’t make you sign the papers. Why do you look like I’m preying on you? I had no objections to the contract you drafted. I signed it when you told me to

“I didn’t ask you to leave me the house and car after the divorce. You proposed that on your own accord. I might as well take up your offer since you see me as some scheming woman going after your money.”

She had no intention of keeping his house and car on the day of the divorce.

Serenity only married him to move out of her sister’s place while giving her sister peace of mind. These were the only reasons and nothing else.

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“You seem to think I’m out to search for another guy and cheat on you. You saw me and Mr. Bill sitting together when I accompanied Jasmine on her blind date. I bet that was what you were thinking. People might think you were jealous.”

Zachary hissed. “Trust me. I don’t get jealous.”

“Well, it seemed to me you were pretty jealous.”

Zachary did not look so upset anymore after Serenity cleared the air. With tension in the room lifted, Serenity poked fun, “Uff. I could smell the jealousy from a mile away. I guess you’re putting the Word of the Day to good use.”

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Zachary might pull a long face, but a rush of blood crept to his ears. He was blushing for getting the wrong idea about Serenity, not because he was shy. There was no way he could be shy!

“It was the question of a man’s pride!”

“Ha!” Serenity scoffed.

Zachary’s handsome face went completely red.

“I don’t like or love you, so why would I be jealous? I couldn’t care less who you’re with if it weren’t an affair.”

“You don’t have to stress that you don’t like or love me multiple times as if I’m all over you. We’re only roommates living under the disguise of marriage. To be honest, I was in a hurry to move out because I didn’t want my sister and her husband to fight because of me. I

agreed to your nana’s proposal to get a marriage license with you so I had a place to stay.

“If you want to talk about an ulterior motive, then it would be your house. I get free accommodation and save on rent while still putting my sister at ease.” .

Zachary, "..."

His house was more appealing to her than him as a person.

Zachary had no qualms admitting his non-existent feelings for Serenity.

However, it was a bit much to hear the same thing coming from her mouth.

"I stand by my marriage vows. Wouldn't it be better if I stay in the house and drive the car you'd leave me after the divorce to look for another man? Why should I put myself in a position where I get nothing?" Zachary, "..."

It took a while before he ate a humble pie and apologized to Serenity. "I'm sorry, Serenity. I misjudged you." Zachary did not have a leg to stand on anyway.

His actions warranted an apology.

"Just come to me if you have a problem next time. Don't lock me out the door like earlier. I anticipate troubles in your future marriage if you keep up with that. It'd be worse if your wife had the same personality as yours. The relationship will end in silent treatments before breaking down completely."

After a brief silence, Zachary reminded her, "I'm already in a marriage. We don't share the same personality."

Zachary acted petty tonight, unlike Serenity who had been nothing but thoughtful. Serenity replied, "... I'm talking about your future

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marriage. Not me."

It was in Zachary's plans to divorce six months later.

Still, it was written clearly on the contract that the divorce would only happen if there remained no sparks between them.

Zachary's distrustful and stuck-up nature was not the most attractive trait in Serenity's books.

Even so, she had to admit that she could count on Zachary because he was attentive and considerate in many other ways. "I don't have feelings for anyone."

"That sounds about right. Maybe you'll meet someone if you could get down from your high horse once in a while and stop thinking that everyone's out to get you. You struck gold when you married me." Zachary thought to himself, '... Struck gold? More like coal.'

He had never met such a narcissistic woman in his life.

"Alright now. Now that everything's in the clear, you should go to bed." Although Zachary disliked her tone, he said nothing in the end. He returned to his room and slammed the door.

Serenity murmured under her breath, "I won't feel bad even if you break the door. This is your house anyway!"

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It was a silent night.

The following morning, Serenity got up and watered the plants on the balcony. Nothing beat the view of mother nature.

Serenity had to say that spending a little bit of time in the mini garden had always put her in a good mood. At least, it cleared her mind and soul of the lingering annoyance she had for Zachary. The mini garden was only made possible by Zachary.

After getting over last night, Serenity went into the kitchen to make breakfast.

It did not take long before Zachary was up as well. He walked to the kitchen door and watched Serenity at work.

His pursed lips quivered. "Morning, Serenity."

Serenity turned her head around to look at him. "Morning."

"Can I help you with anything?"

"I'm good. You can put the laundry out and sweep the place if you have nothing to do."

Zachary was taken aback. Well, she was not shy to order him around.

Yet, a word slipped past his lips. "Sure." He turned on his heel and walked away.

Zachary hung the laundry in the sun before getting his hands dirty with the cleaning.

The house was spotless since there were only both of them occupying such a huge space. Not to mention, they were often away at work. However, Zachary swept every nook and cranny, leaving no corners uncleaned.

By the time Serenity had breakfast ready, Zachary was far from complete.

"What's taking you so long?" Serenity muttered before grabbing the broom from Zachary.

Zachary, "..."

Serenity swiftly finished the job in a few minutes.

Opening his mouth, Zachary wanted to get a word out but decided against it.

He stole a few glances at Serenity. After the misunderstanding last night, Serenity was livid and even hit him.

Lucky for him, Serenity did not seem upset anymore and made breakfast for him too.

The girl was not one to be messed with!

Zachary finally got a feel for where Serenity drew the line. It was preferable to solve any issues face-to-face. Otherwise, he should find the right time to cut to the chase. No accusation, no bad blood. She was an easygoing

girl.

“You can look at me openly. No need to act like peeping Tom. I know I’m pretty. I can bag silver at a beauty contest.”

Zachary laughed. “I thought you’d say you’ll bring home the crown.”

Serenity brazenly responded, “I should be humble. I shouldn’t say it out loud even if I have what it takes to be the champion.”

Zachary, “...”

After washing her hands, Serenity beckoned Zachary to have breakfast.

She made egg muffins and sausages.

The couple had a couple of them each. The combination of red bell pepper, cherry tomatoes, and cheese in the muffin was Serenity’s favorite.

“I’ll drive you to the shop later,” Zachary said. Without picking her head up, Serenity refused. “I can get a cab.”

“It’s not far from here. It won’t take up much of my time

to drive you to the shop and get to the office. I can be flexible with my working hours.”

He called the shots at York Corporation after all.

Zachary was free to come and go at any time. It was not like anyone could and would stop him.

“Alright then. We should leave after breakfast. Traffic is horrible during rush hour.”

“Sure,” Zachary answered.

No matter what, she was his wife. He had the means of transportation and time to take her to work. No way was Zachary going to allow another man to drive his wife to places.

Ring, ring, ring... It was Serenity’s phone.

Serenity had the habit of putting her phone on the dining table during meals. As the couple was sitting side-by-side, Zachary was tall enough to get a good view of her mobile screen even at a seated position. The caller ID was “Pretty Boy Shawn”. Pretty boy!

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Zachary had his doubts about Serenity’s aesthetics. Sure, Shawn was good-looking, but Shawn had nothing on him; he was way more attractive than Shawn.

Zachary wondered what name he was saved as in Serenity’s list of contacts. The curiosity was eating Zachary up inside. Serenity took Shawn’s call. “Morning, Serenity.” “That’s early. What’s up?”

“Have you had breakfast, Serenity? I’ll pick you up for work, and we can have breakfast together. My treat or you can buy me breakfast if you want to.” Shawn’s voice reflected hopeful anticipation.

Since he was a huge help to Serenity last night, Shawn now had an excuse to drive Serenity around and buy her breakfast.

“That’s okay. I’m nearly finished with my breakfast. My husband will be taking me to work later, so you don’t have to make the long trip.”

Oblivious to Shawn’s feelings for her, Serenity simply did not want Shawn to brace the long distance from his home

to Brynfield while getting stuck in the morning rush traffic.

Shawn’s wishful thinking was crushed by the mention of Serenity’s husband.

That poured cold water on Shawn’s enthusiasm for sure.

It slipped Shawn’s mind that Serenity was taken!

Serenity had always been single, but she suddenly changed her marital status for a stranger. Why could she not wait for him? Although Shawn was young, he was happy to be her husband. It was a pity that Serenity never saw Shawn as a man.

Shawn was only a younger brother to Serenity.

They had known each other for a long time. From the moment he understood what love was, Serenity became his crush.

It was a shame... Nothing came of it.

“Okay then. I’ll have your bike delivered to the shop once it’s repaired.”

Despite his heartbreak, Shawn kept it cool in case, Serenity picked up on weird vibes.

“Thank you.”

“Don’t mention it. Well, I’ll leave you to finishing your breakfast.”

Shawn quickly hung up the call. He was afraid he would reveal his true feelings if the conversation carried on. He did not want to blow up in Serenity’s face.

Zachary overheard the entire exchange.

He was unaware of the smile across his lips when Serenity mentioned that her husband would be driving her to work

Serenity put down the phone only for it to ring again.

This time, it was an unidentified number.

Serenity hesitated for a moment before accepting the strange call.

“Serenity, it’s your brother.”

The unrecognized voice of a man saw Serenity frowning her brows. She retorted , “Brother? My mom only gave birth to me and my sister. We don’t have a brother.” As her parents bore no son, the family home and field were occupied by her uncles after her parents passed away.

Her grandparents were still around, living in Serenity’s family home. It had been years since the sisters returned to their hometown. At least for now, it was not in the sisters’ plan yet to go to court and reclaim the house.

“I’m Mike, your cousin.”

The person on the other end made his identity known.

Serenity dug into her memory. It seemed she did have a cousin named Mike.

“What do you want?”

After years of no contact, it could not be good news now that he called her.

Serenity had her guard up.

Since the Hunts’ home was over an hour’s drive from the city, it was unlikely they knew she was married.

That bloodsucking family demanded money from Liberty when she got married. If they were going to ask the same from Serenity, Serenity would not hesitate to kick them out!