

Gu Lingfei 401

Chapter 401

Serenity returned to her room and closed the door behind her. She leaned against it and touched her burning face.

She had no clue why she blushed.

Maybe she saw something when she accompanied Liberty to catch Hank and Jessica in the act last night.

After standing there for a while, Serenity hurriedly went into the shower because she had to make breakfast for Zachary later.

Before that, Serenity suddenly thought of Mrs. Lane and called her. After Mrs. Lane answered the phone, Serenity said, "Mrs. Lane, you can take Sonny to my store later, so you don't have to rush back."

"Okay."

"How's my sister?"

"She's acting like she's okay and says she's going to work after breakfast. I'm making a cup of coffee for her to boost her energy because she didn't sleep well last night."

Serenity felt sorry for her sister, but she also knew that it was not appropriate for Liberty to take the day off. After all, Liberty had only just started work a few days ago.

"Ask

my sister to be careful when she rides her bike to work."

"I will."

Serenity hung up the phone before heading for her shower.

When she was done, she habitually walked to the dresser and sat down, wanting to brush her hair.

Something was missing from the dresser.

Where was the golden hairpin she drew?

That was the sample she sketched because she wanted to make some hair accessories to sell online.

It took her two nights to draw it.

Serenity combed her hair while looking for her drawing.

She searched for a while but could not find it.

"How can it disappear? I put it on the dresser, and no one has been in my room..."

Serenity recalled what Zachary said about how soundly she slept last night for him to carry her upstairs.

Zachary was in her room.

However, it was a drawing of a golden hairpin. Why would a big man like Zachary take her golden hairpin? Moreover, it was only a drawing, not even the real thing. He had no reason to take her drawing.

1/2

Mrs. Lane had been following Serenity to the store since she started work. Even if Mrs. Lane came back before Serenity last night, Mrs. Lane probably would not have thrown away her drawing as scrap paper, right?

Serenity thought about it for a while and did not call to ask Mrs. Lane about it. It was just a drawing, so there was no need to question Mrs. Lane on her second day of work. That would easily cause a misunderstanding with Mrs. Lane.

Worst comes to worst, Serenity could spend two more nights redrawing it.

With that thought, Serenity went to make breakfast.

Zachary did not sleep last night and still had to go to work as usual later, so Serenity made a cup of coffee for him.

When the couple had breakfast together, Serenity asked, "Mr. York, did you see the drawing on my dresser when you carried it back to my room last night?"

Zachary looked up at her and did not answer right away. He was waiting for her to continue. "I think my handicrafts are a bit monotonous, so I thought of adding some new designs to my online store vintage hair accessories. But I rarely do these, so I drew a sample to start off. That drawing is a sample of a golden hairpin."

Zachary thought, 'I see...'

He replied honestly, "I saw that drawing. You drew it excellently, and it looked like a photo."

"Where is that drawing? I just found out that it's missing."

"I flushed it down the toilet."

"What?!"

Serenity was stunned. "How could you..."

"When I took you back to your room last night, you suddenly sat up and threw up on my hand as soon as I put you down. So, I grabbed a piece of paper and wiped my hands with it, only to find out later that it was a drawing. But since it was already soiled, I flushed it into the toilet along with other tissues."

Serenity was speechless and thought, 'Did I throw up last night?'

Chapter 402

Serenity had no recollection of it at all.

She only drank two bottles of beer. Although she fell asleep afterward, she was not considered drunk. How could she vomit if she was not drunk?

Did she vomit because she ate too much last night?

Serenity was a little skeptical. However, it was just a drawing anyway, and Zachary had no reason to lie to her. Hence, Serenity dropped the subject.

She would heed Liberty's advice and drink less in the future.

"Do you want to get it back?"

"How can you get it back? Even if you do, it's all mushed up. It's okay, I'll just redraw it."

Zachary said apologetically, "I didn't know that drawing was so important. I just grabbed it without a second look. Next time, don't put your drawing on the dresser. It's too close to the bed."

"Okay."

Serenity thought to herself, 'Well, this kind of thing can't happen every day...'

She would not drink every day either.

"Mr. York, you don't have to feel sorry. It's my fault for not putting it away properly. Don't worry, I'll redraw it."

"I can buy a real golden hairpin for you as a sample."

Serenity quickly declined his offer. "No need. I'll just draw the sample again myself."

Zachary had no choice but to give up.

How could he have suspected that she married him at first sight for his money?

Maybe it was because his grandmother kept nagging at him every day and because Serenity had saved his grandmother, so he thought Serenity was asking for a reward. That was why Zachary had such a prejudice against Serenity in the beginning.

He misunderstood her and put his guard up against her.

Zachary also signed a damned agreement that he wanted to use to restrain her. Who knew she abided by the agreement, and he was the one being restrained?

He thought about how he destroyed the agreement last night and happily ate the breakfast that his wife prepared for him. He instantly felt a burden being lifted from his chest and no longer felt that much pressure.

After breakfast, Serenity cleared the dishes while Zachary took the cup of coffee that Serenity made for him and walked out to the balcony. He sat on the swing and drank the coffee leisurely.

Although it was instant coffee, Zachary thought it was the best coffee he had ever had.

The sun gradually rose.

In Wiltspoon, it did not feel cold in November as long as the sun was out.

Serenity was still wearing short sleeves during the day.

Ladies could also be seen everywhere in skirts and dresses on the street.

Serenity rarely wore skirts and dresses.

Zachary suddenly yearned to see how she looked in a dress. She must be gorgeous.

“I thought you went to work.”

Serenity, who had washed the dishes, came out to admire the flowers like she always did and saw Zachary sitting on the swing chair as he drank the cup of coffee. She smiled. “Don’t you think I bought the right chair?”

“Yeah, it’s nice.”

Serenity sat down next to him and looked at the flowers on the flower stand. “Well, that’s only because your balcony is big enough. If it’s small, it would’ve been a waste of space to plant flowers, not to mention a swing chair.

“Can you get used to drinking this coffee?”

“It’s fine as long as it has the same effect.”

Serenity leaned back on the chair. “I just placed an order online for an automatic coffee machine and some coffee beans just now. I won’t let you drink instant coffee again because it just feels wrong.”

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Zachary admitted. “This is the first time I’m drinking instant coffee.”

“I figured. You’ll just have to put up with it today.”

Zachary worked in a big company and was a manager there, so his coffee must be freshly ground.

The couple sat on the swing chair on the balcony and went out together after Zachary finished drinking the cup of coffee. Zachary sent his wife to the store before heading straight to the office.

Chapter 403

Josh was waiting for Zachary at the entrance of the office building.

His pearly whites welcomed Zachary.

“I thought you weren’t coming to the office today.”

Josh followed Zachary inside while the bodyguards stopped at the entrance of the office building.

“If I don’t come in and ask you to preside over the meeting, you’ll just complain about how much you must’ve owed me in the past life that you’re enslaved by me now.”

“You’re quite self–

aware and know that you’ve been enslaving me this whole time, huh?” Zachary turned his head to look at him. “I’m just providing a stage for you to perform. If I didn’t, would you be able to get the attention of your patriarch?”

The younger generation of the Bucham family was not inferior to the York family.

Josh stood out among the Bucham family's younger generation mainly because of his capability, his friendship with Zachary, and his position in the top management of York Corporation.

He was the most valued nephew of the Bucham family's patriarch, so he had a very high status within the family. Josh was not interested in becoming the next patriarch and was very close to the patriarch's son. The two of them were like biological brothers.

Josh giggled. "You're just training me to be your chief of intelligence. It just so happens that I love gossip, and those private affairs you asked me to investigate are all gossip-worthy news. If I'm ever short of money, I can make a fortune by selling one of your personal scoops to the paparazzi."

The two men entered the elevator together.

Zachary retorted, "You'll only be short of money if you transfer all your property to me. Otherwise, you'll never lack money."

Although Josh had a thing for gossip and drama, he was reliable and tight-lipped. Otherwise, Zachary would not be able to trust Josh to this extent.

Clive Stone tried to poach Josh countless times, but he failed to do so.

So many people tried to get Josh drunk so Josh could spill the York family's internal secrets, but they all failed too.

"You have so much money that you can't possibly spend in your lifetime, yet you still want me to transfer mine to you?! By the way, did you enjoy catching the scandalous pair last night?"

Since they were the only ones in the elevator, Josh asked about it openly.

"And why didn't you ask me to help? I was dreaming about it all night!"

For those who liked gossip, it was incredibly frustrating not to be able to watch the drama unfold.

"It's at the Stone Group's hotel. You'll just attract unnecessary attention if you go. You might even be in today's headlines."

Josh said reluctantly, "As if no one will recognize you if you go..."

"I put on makeup."

Josh was lost for words.

Well, he did not think of that.

"Was there a fight?"

"Yup."

“Was it amusing?”

Zachary glanced at him again. Seeing Josh’s eager face, he smiled and said, “Yeah. My sister-in-law was really good at acting, and her fighting skills can compare to my Serenity’s.”

“Wow, so she’s become YOUR Serenity, huh?”

Josh locked in on the keyword.

“Otherwise, could she be yours?”

Josh quickly said, “I wouldn’t dare make her mine. Your wife is exceptional at fighting.” “She practiced kickboxing.”

Josh sang her praises. “Wow, brawn and brains! Zack, you definitely picked up a treasure. Grandma May introduced such a good woman to you only because you’re her grandson. Back then, you looked like the Grim Reaper in the office every day when Grandma May nagged you about marrying Serenity.

“I’m also a capable man, but Grandma May didn’t think to introduce such a brawny and brainy girl to me. By the way, does Jasmine know how to fight?”

Chapter 404

Zachary looked at Josh speechlessly.

Josh touched his nose embarrassedly and said, “I’m suddenly looking forward to the blind date with Ms. Sox.”

“I’ll arrange for you two to meet this Saturday afternoon. You can decide on the location and let me know once you’ve booked the place. Then I’ll get Serenity to inform Ms. Sox.”

“That’s the day after tomorrow! Zack, look at me now. Do I look good? Do I have acne on my face? Is my beard too long?”

The elevator arrived at the top floor.

Zachary waited for the elevator door to open and left without Josh, who was like a peacock ready to spread its train of feathers.

Josh hurriedly followed in his footsteps.

“Mr. York, Mr. Bucham.”

Mr. Chaplin stood up and greeted the two bosses.

Both of them nodded in response to Mr. Chaplin’s greeting.

After entering Zachary’s office, Zachary pointed to the door of his lounge and said, “I have a mirror in the lounge, so you can go in and take a look in the mirror.”

Josh pulled out his chair and sat in front of his desk. He smiled and said, “I’m still confident in how I look. Ms. Sox will fall in love with me at first sight.”

“Serenity sees me every day but still hasn’t fallen in love with me yet. Jasmine Sox is her best friend, and they have similar preferences and temperaments.”

11

Josh said, “Don’t rain on my parade! You’re a lousy matchmaker. You should praise Jasmine like no other.”

“How could I describe her if she’s like no other?”

Josh opened his mouth but could not refute it. After a long while, he said, “Zachary, you’re either mute or sharp-tongued. I really don’t know what to do with you.”

“Anyway, send someone to watch Hank Brown and his family, as well as Jessica Yates and hers. He asked my sister-in-law for a divorce. A scumbag will definitely do something before the divorce is finalized.”

“Don’t worry. I’ve always had someone watching them.”

“Then what are you doing sitting here?”

“There’s nothing else?”

Josh felt the news that he received was not enough to satisfy his thirst for gossip.

Zachary wanted to pick him up and throw him out the window.

Seeing that Zachary stopped talking, Josh said with a smile, “Fine, let’s talk about work. Would you like a cup of coffee?”

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“I just had coffee.”

“Right... You’re a married man, so your wife can take care of you. You don’t have to worry about dying of hunger or thirst.”

Josh, who was used to being single, suddenly wanted to marry a woman he liked so he could enjoy the life of a married man too.

After the two were done talking shop, Josh left Zachary’s office.

Zachary looked at the time. He had a meeting scheduled in ten minutes, so he used this spare time to call I Duncan.

Duncan laughed heartily on the phone and asked his friend. “Zachary, to what do I owe the pleasure?”

“I need to ask you for a favor.”

“Is it about your sister-in-law? I hired her because of you the day she came for the interview, so everyone is already speculating about our relationship. She was also

ostracized by her colleagues in the office. If you want me to take care of her again, I think she'll quit her job because she'll feel excluded."

As the CEO of Lewis & Co., Duncan was a well-respected figure in the company and knew everything that Liberty was going through at work.

He did not stand up for Liberty again for fear that she would have a harder time in the office.

"How long is her probation?"

"Three months."

Zachary was lost for words.

Chapter 405

"That's because she's too fat. I asked her to run five laps in the small park in front of the office every day before reporting to work. She's not allowed to start work if she doesn't finish five laps. I'm forcing her to lose weight, but it won't be obvious after one month. That's why I gave

her a three-month probation."

Zachary was speechless again.

Duncan was a bit too nosy.

He gave Liberty a job and even concerned himself with Liberty's figure.

Duncan was truly the best boss in the world.

"Duncan, give her a month's probation. After she passed her probation, give her a salary increase. If you think she's not worth an increment, I'll fork out the increment every month and give it to you in private."

"She's only a clerk in the finance department, so no matter how much of an increment you give her, it won't be much. At most, it'll be a thousand dollars, so what's the use of that?"

"A thousand dollars might be nothing to you, but it's plenty of use to ordinary people. My sister-in-law is about to get divorced, and she wants to fight for her son's custody. A stable job and a stable income will help her gain custody of her son."

"She used to be a finance manager in Waltham Electronics, so she's certainly capable. She's only a clerk in the finance department now, so it's a demotion for her. It won't be abrupt to give her an increment after her probation. I'm not short of that sum of money, so you don't need to pay me back."

Unlike Josh, Duncan did not like to gossip. He noticed Zachary addressing Liberty as his sister-in-law and was not at all surprised.

Liberty was Serenity's sister, and Serenity was Zachary's wife. Thus, Zachary calling Liberty his sister-in-law was not out of the ordinary.

"Thanks, Duncan."

“You don’t need to thank me. Liberty is now my employee, so it’s only right that I pay her salary. Is she getting a divorce?”

“Her husband cheated on her.”

Duncan said unsurprisingly, “I met her twice before while she was walking on the street with her son. The second time I met her, she bought so many things, but her husband didn’t come to pick her up. I knew at that moment there was something wrong with her husband.”

If they were in a good relationship, her husband would have gone to pick up his wife and son when he found out that his wife bought that many things.

“Zachary, don’t worry. As long as she doesn’t resign, I won’t fire her.”

“I’m relieved that she works for you. I need to get into a meeting now. I’ll buy you dinner someday. You can come over to my house and try my wife’s cooking. Her home-cooked meals are delicious.”

“You’re finally allowing us to see her, huh?” Duncan teased Zachary.

He saw Serenity once before, but only her back.

Duncan was curious if Serenity was as beautiful as a goddess because Zachary fell in love with her in just two months.

Zachary smiled and did not say more. He hung up the call with Duncan.

At the Brown family residence.

“You want to divorce Liberty?”

Mr. Brown stared at his son who had come over after taking the day off. “Didn’t you say that you’ll put up with her for Sonny’s sake?”

Hank lowered his head and was fixated on his smoking.

Olivia came over with Lucas. She was sitting next to her husband and said, “Why are you yelling? Don’t scare Lucas.”

She softened her voice and asked her son, “Hank, why’d you mention divorce all of a sudden? Did you two fight again? Or did Liberty make a fuss because of what happened yesterday?”

Chapter 406

“Is Sonny alright?”

Olivia was indeed a little concerned for her grandson after doing something like that and coming home.

Her other grandson, having fallen sick this time, had made it so that the whole family could not have peace. Just having a recurring fever alone was enough to worry everyone.

Sonny was younger than Lucas by a year. If he had fallen sick too, who knew how much suffering the family would have been put through?

“He should be fine, I didn’t go home and didn’t see Sonny. I saw Liberty near the neighborhood going to work like normal.”

After a whole night of suffering and having beaten up both him and Jessica, Liberty could actually still go to work like nothing had happened.

He was alright. Jessica was still cooped up in the hotel, too scared to leave and meet anybody because the handprint on her face had not faded away.

Last night, after Liberty and her sister left, Jessica hugged him and cried for a very long time, saying it was all his fault she had to suffer such humiliation and making him feel pity for her.

This strengthened his will to divorce Liberty.

“That’s good. I don’t have to worry then. I don’t feel so good having done something like that either. No matter what, Sonny’s still my biological grandson. It’s that mother of his that’s cruel. He’s still so young, but she abandons him to go to work.”

Olivia placed all the blame on Liberty.

“Hank, tell me why you want to divorce her right away.”

Hank took two puffs of his cigarette, then raised his head to look at his parents. He said feeling a little embarrassed, “Jessica and I stayed the night at a hotel last night. Liberty called me, and because Jessica thought Liberty had something urgent to tell me about, she took the call on my behalf.”

“Liberty actually found the hotel. She brought her sister along and the two of them blocked me and Jessica on our way out...”

“We fought very fiercely, and Liberty hit Jessica really badly. Until now, she doesn’t dare leave the hotel and meet anyone! Mom, I don’t want to be with Liberty anymore. I can’t do it even just for another day! I want to divorce her!”

Hank’s parents were speechless.

Mr. Brown suddenly stood up and swung his fist at Hank.

Hank didn’t expect his father would hit him, and he so squarely met the fist head-on.

“Old man, what are you doing?!”

Olivia hurriedly set Lucas down and got up to pull her husband away. She stopped him from continuing and explained, “Last time, Hank already said that he no longer loved Liberty and

just hadn’t brought up the idea of divorce for Sonny’s sake. With her in that state, Liberty’s no longer a match for Hank either.”

“Am I wrong in disciplining him for turning his back on his family?!”

Mr. Brown added angrily, “What will happen to Sonny if they divorce now? Sonny’s our darling grandson!”

That punch he gave his son was not out of blame for Hank having had an affair, turning his back on his family, and betraying his marriage. Instead, he was angry that his son had been so impatient and had not been considerate of his grandson.

“Sonny will definitely fall to me. That’s my son! Liberty isn’t capable of raising our son anyway. Dad, don’t worry, I won’t let you lose your grandson. When the time comes, if you guys don’t want to live with me, I’ll send Sonny over. You guys are raising Lucas anyway, so raising Sonny will be the same, and the cousins will have each other for company.

“Once Sonny can start kindergarten, he can go with Lucas. Dad, Mom, set all of your worries down. Liberty definitely can’t get custody of Sonny.”

Even if Liberty had a job now, she had only started working for a few days. She had not even gotten her first paycheck. How could she measure up to him?

He had already asked someone to help him go to Lewis & Co. to find out what Liberty’s position was and think of a way to get her colleagues on his side to help him punish her, by her making a mistake at work and getting fired.

Although Serenity would help her sister, Serenity’s earnings could not help Liberty fight for Sonny’s custody.

Hank was not concerned at all that Sonny’s custody would end up in Liberty’s hands.

Even if he did not have the time nor the thoughtfulness to be involved in his son’s care, he would much rather send him to his old home for his parents to raise than let Liberty take him

Chapter 407

Hank’s parents saw that their son was adamant about divorcing his wife. He had already done all sorts of things with Jessica before getting caught by Liberty. With Liberty’s character, there was no way she would just take that lying down.

Olivia said, “Hank, after you married Liberty, it was all you going to work and earning money. She had no income at all. If you divorce her, you should ask her to pack her clothes and leave immediately after settling the divorce proceedings at the City Hall.

“Don’t allow her to take anything else.”

Since the divorce was set in stone, they would attempt to reduce the losses brought about by it.

“Mom, you don’t want me to let her take anything else? That’s not possible. She’ll only leave with nothing if she herself doesn’t want anything. After we married, she didn’t work, but my income will be considered both our shared assets. The moment she initiates the divorce proceedings, I’ll have to give her half.

“Although I’ve been paying for the house and the loan after we got married with my income, she has a right to it because my income is considered a post-marriage asset. I can not give her the house, but I’ll have to compensate her with a sum of money. I’ve done the calculation and I don’t have to give much.

And she paid for the renovations, which she's told me before that if we divorce, I have to return the money used for renovations to her.

"The renovations together with home appliances cost about four hundred and twenty thousand bucks. That was all forked out by Liberty. But I've told her before, I'm not going to pay her back even a cent. She paid for it of her own volition. I didn't force her to do it, so I'm not paying her back for that."

Olivia immediately said, "Why should you pay her back for the renovations? Just ignore her on that. No matter how she argues or makes a fuss, there's no need to pay her any mind. Hank, have you calculated your assets after you got married? If you really have to give her half, how much do you need to give her?"

"Around two hundred thousand bucks."

"Two hundred thousand?!"

Olivia cried, "No, Hank, you can't give her two hundred thousand bucks! She didn't earn a cent after she got married to you, so why should she take two hundred thousand bucks of your money? She can get two thousand only, whether she likes it or not!"

Two hundred thousand? That was like cutting her flesh off of her body.

Hank did not want to give Liberty any money

either.

It was just that, while initiating the divorce now, it would be too sudden for him to move his assets away. He could only negotiate for a divorce. If that did not work, they would have to go

to court.

Mr. Brown said guardedly, "You got caught cheating by Liberty. Will that work against you? For example, will she take away all your assets?"

Hank said without shame, "Dad, there are tons of men who've had affairs. How many of them really lost all their assets? Liberty and I didn't sign a prenup before we got married, and the

Chapter 407

law doesn't say that the cheating party will absolutely lose all their assets. It's just those people who think that the cheating party should lose all their assets."

So many men richer than he was had had affairs, but they had not lost all their assets now, had they?

"It's just because I cheated... If Liberty files for the divorce proceedings, she's the innocent party. I'll have to be more considerate of her when we split our assets."

Olivia was confused. She only understood one thing—when her son divorced, he would have to give Liberty some of his money.

She was extremely unwilling to let this happen, especially when her son said that he would have to give Liberty more consideration when they split their assets. Was that not equivalent to her son giving Liberty even more money?

“Hank, why don’t... Why don’t you forget about divorcing her? You see, you’ll lose so much when you do! Go and admit you’re wrong to Liberty, and tell her you won’t do it anymore. Even if your relationship can’t be as good as it was, at least you’d be able to stay married.

“She loves Sonny, so for Sonny’s sake, she might not divorce you then.”

So many women, after marrying, ended up having husbands who had affairs but endured it because of their children.

Olivia felt that Liberty too would endure it for Sonny.

Chapter 408

“Tell her that you won’t go halves on everything anymore and give her a little more allowance in the future, so don’t get divorced. You and Jessica should do your best not to let her see you two together.”

“Mom, I want to divorce her!”

Hank was insistent. “Jessica has never been married before and she’s dating me. I have to take responsibility for her. I don’t want Jessica to suffer any more grievances.”

Olivia said unkindly, “Wasn’t Liberty a beautiful maiden too before she married you? I don’t see you taking responsibility for her to the end. And now you’re making her suffer for another woman?”

“Mom, whose side are you on?”

Olivia pursed her lips.

Jessica was very good at buttering them up and making them like her, but Olivia felt that when it came down to it, Liberty was better at facing life than Jessica was. Liberty had gone through hardships and had tenacity. Jessica, on the other hand, was the youngest in her family, was coddled by her parents and her older brother, and had never gone through much hardship in

her life.

A woman like that would be with him through the thin, but not necessarily through the thick.

“I told Liberty that we should take these two days for us both to calm down. The day after tomorrow, I’ll go talk to her about getting divorced. We’ll discuss the terms first. If we can’t come to an agreement, she can sue me then! Either way, this marriage must end. I started. hating her a long time ago.”

Hank now seemed like he was possessed, insisting on getting divorced.

Although he said he would give Liberty some money, that was but a fraction of his assets.

The sum of money he had saved under his father’s name—now that was the biggest portion of them. There were more than a million bucks there.

Liberty had no clue about that, and even if she guessed of its existence, she had no proof and could not nail him for doing that.

Hank's parents looked at each other.

Finally, Mr. Brown said, "Since you've made your decision, your mother and I can't say anything either. Just make sure you apologize to Liberty properly and negotiate the terms of the divorce. Other than giving her a bit of money, don't give her anything else. And see if you can talk her down the sum of money a little. Is ten or twenty thousand alright? Two hundred thousand is just too much."

"That's right. She didn't even earn a cent after she got married, but she wants to take two hundred thousand with her when she leaves? She's basically hitting the jackpot. Just get married to a few more men, and get divorced a few more times. Wouldn't she become a rich woman then? Hank, you have to stand your ground. Give her twenty thousand bucks at most. "You don't have to fight her over this, Mom will do it! I'm already old and I'm not afraid of

being embarrassed. I'll fight her to the bitter end and I definitely won't let her take so much of your money. I don't believe she'll dare to hit back at me!!

Olivia resolved to be an unreasonable, savage shrew of a mother-in-law and was determined. not to let Liberty take her son's two hundred thousand dollars.

"Two hundred thousand could build you a two-story house in the countryside. Now, materials are costly. If this was back then, two hundred thousand could not only build you the house, it could pay for all the fixtures as well."

Hank sighed. "We'll see what terms Liberty puts forward when we discuss it the day after tomorrow."

Olivia hummed, thought about it, and said, "What about Sonny? Why don't we bring Sonny back here for now? I heard that when kids are too young, they'll generally award the rights to the mother, as long as the mother has the ability to support the kid. Sonny's only a little over two years old, and it's always been Liberty and her sister who's looked after him. The court. might really give Sonny's custody to Liberty."

When the court made its decision, it would not take into consideration that Sonny was the only paternal grandson the Browns had—only the child's best interest would be taken into. consideration.

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"If the custody falls to you, and Sonny comes to stay with us, we'll be able to cultivate the bond. If the custody falls to Liberty and Sonny's here with us, we can just insist on not giving Sonny back. What can Liberty do then? Sonny is my grandson!"

Mr. Brown also was more concerned about the issue of his grandson than other divorce matters. He said to his son, "Hank, your mother's right. First, bring Sonny to stay with us as soon as possible. Your mother and I will take care of him for now."

Chapter 409

Mr. Brown continued to say, "It's fine even if you give a little more money to Liberty. We shouldn't be too unrelenting and should leave a way out for ourselves. Then we'll be able to meet amiably in the future, but Sonny must return to us!"

Sonny was a Brown, after all!

"Dad, I guarantee you that I'll definitely get custody of Sonny."

"Before the two of you are divorced, I don't believe your guarantee. It's better if you get Sonny to come and stay with us and let your mother and I take care of him. I'll only stop worrying then."

Hank said helplessly, "Dad, you and Mom have never taken care of Sonny. If I bring him over, and he can't get used to it and makes a fuss, what then?"

Olivia rallied. "That's exactly why we have to take him in now to nurture the bond. In the future, when you get married again, will that Yates woman be willing to take care of him? Sonny will definitely end up with your dad and I. We're his biological grandparents, after all."

"How many kind stepmothers are there out there? And anyway, you and that Yates woman are both still young. You'll very quickly have your own kid between the two of you. Sonny wasn't born by the Yates woman—she definitely won't treat Sonny well."

Never having taken care of Sonny before was one thing but Hank's parents were still more concerned about their grandson being abused by his future stepmother.

In recent years, there had been a lot of news about stepmothers abusing kids borne by the husband's previous wife. Some had only been a few years old when the stepmothers abused them to death.

Once there was a stepmother, there would be a stepchild. Who knew how their own child would treat Sonny in the future?

Sonny was their first grandson. Hank's parents viewed him with great importance.

"Your father and I have some retirement funds, and we're not too old yet. As long as our bodies are healthy, we can still raise Sonny. In the future, you'll only need to pay for his living expenses and his school fees."

Hank thought for a moment and said, "Fine. I'll go home tonight and bring Sonny over tomorrow for you guys to take care of him."

Hank's parents only then felt relieved when he agreed.

Serenity and her sister knew early on that the Browns would put up a fight when it came to a divorce.

Serenity slept for almost half the day at the shop to recover her mental strength. It was already past eleven when she woke up.

Seeing Jasmine play with Sonny and Sonny laughing uncontrollably, Serenity felt a little sad in her heart. Once her sister were to go through with the divorce, Sonny would no longer have a complete family.

Divorce, no matter who it came to, whether adult or child, was a form of harm.

1/2

"You're up," Jasmine said as she smiled.

"If you're still sleepy, you can sleep for a little while longer. Once Mrs. Lane's done making lunch, I'll wake you up to eat."

"I feel much better already after sleeping for half a day."

Sonny walked over. "Ant Swer."

Serenity picked him up, and he asked, "Ant Swer, are you sick? Why are you always sleeping?"

He even mimicked the way his mother normally felt his forehead and touched Serenity's forehead.

He then touched his own forehead but did not know what to say.

This action of his made Serenity laugh and hug him tightly. Once Serenity loosened her grip, she said while smiling, "I'm not sick. I didn't sleep well last night, so I'm making up for it now. That's why I was sleeping so much."

"Why didn't you sleep well last night?"

Sonny felt that once he climbed onto the bed, as long his mother was by his side, he could sleep extremely well.

Was Ant Swer unable to sleep well because she did not have her mother by her side?

He had never seen Ant Swer's mother before.

His mother said Ant Swer's mother was his maternal grandmother.

"Because I was thinking of how to make money, make lots of money and become a rich woman! That's why I didn't sleep well."

Sonny blinked, and wanted to reply, but was kind of stumped on what he should say. The torn look on his face was incredibly hilarious to witness.

"Has Sonny eaten?"

Sonny rubbed his tummy and replied, "Jazz fed me! Sonny's full."

Serenity laughed and put him down. "Then Sonny can keep playing. I need to make a call."

"Okay."

The little kid obediently walked back to Jasmine and let Jasmine play with him. Serenity placed a call to Zachary.

Chapter 410

Zachary instantaneously picked up her call.

"Mr. York, were you alright this morning? Can you hold up? If not, you should get the remaining day off to come back and rest after your meeting."

Hearing her concern, Zachary felt happy. He leaned back on the black swiveling chair. He said as he spun, "I only managed to hold up because I had a cup of coffee after I got back to the office. Work is almost over. I can sleep for a bit soon."

"Aren't you going to eat?"

"I'm too sleepy and I don't have an appetite. I don't feel like it."

"That won't do. You've worked the whole morning. If you don't eat lunch, you'll get gastric problems. It'll be very hard to recover fully afterward."

Zachary said softly, "I just don't feel like eating."

"After you finish work, you should get some sleep first. I'll send some food over to you in a bit. I'll call you once I've reached your office."

He only lost his sleep because of her sister's issue. Whether it was for their public image, or in private, Serenity could not just let Zachary skip lunch.

"Alright then. I'll sleep in the office for a while. Give me a call when you reach. Be careful when you drive."

"I slept for half the day in the shop, so I'm in good spirits. It's fine. You should go and do your thing. Once you're done, hurry up and get some sleep."

After she finished saying that, Serenity hung up.

She then got up to enter the kitchen and took out an insulated lunch box. As she washed it, she said to Mrs. Lane, "Mrs. Lane, Mr. York isn't coming back to eat, so I'm sending some food over. You guys should go ahead and eat first. Just keep some for me and I'll come back and eat them."

Mrs. Lane hurriedly said, "The food's already done. They can eat once your sister comes over. Why don't you eat first? If you only eat when you get back, it'll probably be past one o'clock by then. You'll get gastric issues that way."

Serenity thought for a moment. That was true, so she let Mrs. Lane fill up the box with pasta and some side dishes. Mrs. Lane even packed some soup for him. In the end, the insulated lunch box was packed to the brim.

Serenity speedily drank a bowl of soup and shoveled a bowl of pasta down, hardly touching the side dishes.

Filling her stomach in just a few moments, she picked up the insulated lunch box and said to Mrs. Lane, "I'm going to send the food over first, Mrs. Lane. When it gets busy later, please look after Sonny."

The students were all pretty respectful and did not need much supervision. All Jasmine had to do was mind the cash register.

"I will. You should hurry and send the food over to Mr. York."

Mrs. Lane was worried that Zachary would be hungry.

She urged Serenity to hurry on over and give him the food.

After he ended his call with his wife while still in the office, Zachary delightedly sent Josh at text.

Zachary: [You go ahead by yourself to eat at the hotel later. I'm not going anymore.]

Josh: [You're going to Mrs. York's shop to eat again?]

Zachary: [I'm too sleepy, so I'm going to have a nap to recover some sleep first. My wife's worried about me so she's sending some food over herself.]

Josh did not feel like replying anymore.

He felt like a handful of a public display of affection had just been shoved into his face.

He seriously suspected that Zachary was deliberately bragging about a husband and wife's affection to provoke him into looking forward to his own marriage and his date with Jasmine even more. Then, Zachary would have bragging rights as the matchmaker.

Knock knock!

There was a knock on the door.

This interrupted Zachary who wanted to continue showing off the affection between him and his wife.

The person outside did not wait for his reply before pushing the door open and walked in.

It was Nana.

"Nana, why are you here?"

Precisely at this time too.

Serenity would be reaching soon too. Did Nana speed here just to be a third wheel?

She did not just bring herself, she brought a luggage bag with her too.

Zachary saw Nana dragging in that luggage and his face turned an unsightly shade. His brows furrowed and he asked, "Nana, what are you doing?"