

## Gu Lingfei 691

### Chapter 691 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Ever since the start of the school's winter holidays, Jasmine had been holing up at home. Her daily routine consisted of eating, sleeping, and reading romance novels on her phone.

Her shoppingmode brother would get the occasional phone call from Josh to dine out, and Jasmine would invite herself to the get-together in case her shoppingmode brother might sell her out behind her back.

Now that Jasmine received a message from Serenity that the latter was back, Jasmine quickly replied with a voice message.

"How about Italian tonight? Mr. Bucham took my brother to an Italian place, and the food was great. I've been waiting for you to come back so we can try out the place. You have no idea. I couldn't binge when dining with my shoppingmode brother and Mr. Bucham because I'd eat more than them."

Serenity responded to her with a smile, "I can't tonight. I just got back with Mr. York. We're going to have a slow night. How about tomorrow night? Get my sister and Elisa to join us."

"We don't have to include Elisa since she eats like a lady. She's not a foodie like you and I. We're complete opposites when it comes to food. Your sister is trying to lose weight and is on a strict diet right now. She goes running three times a day. She'd probably end up watching us eat if we asked her to come along. I don't think we'd be able to eat in peace."

"Seren, your sister's weight loss is starting to show. I guess you haven't seen your sister since you just got back. She lost ten pounds in a week. She's really pushing herself and sticking to her guns. I wouldn't be able to hold out and stay away from food if it were me."

It would be tough for a foodie to follow through with a strict diet.

"Your sister lost twenty pounds since the talk about the divorce. She'll achieve her weight goal if she carries on a little longer."

News that her sister dropped ten pounds in a week concerned Serenity. She asked, "Is my sister not eating at all?"

She was not in Wiltspoon to check on her sister's daily living.

Her sister often said all was good when Serenity called. Serenity was told to focus on nursing Zachary back to health.

Jasmine replied, "Nah. Your sister has been working out a lot. I mean, she runs three times a day and cuts down on fats and sweets. Plus, she's busy with the renovation of her shop. No one wants to work during the holidays, so she took it upon herself to order the materials and get around. I'd be surprised if she didn't lose any weight."

"She's taking her three meals. She doesn't finish her plate, but enough for her calorie count."

It put Serenity's mind at ease.

“I’ll see you tomorrow night then. Let’s go to the Italian place you talked about. Just the two of us.”

Since Zachary just got better from the flu, Serenity did not intend to bring him along.

“Sure, I’ll wait for your call.”

The pair chatted for a while through voice messages until Zachary came down the stairs. Serenity said to her best friend, “My husband is done checking in with work. We’re going home now.”

“Go on. I need to go get groceries with Mom at the market. She wants me to come along with her every time. She said all I do is hang around the house. She would nag at me every time I held my phone up to read romance stories. She has an audiobook on during dinner anyway.”

Serenity could imagine Mrs. Lowe badgering Jasmine.

Jasmine would whine about it, but Serenity was jealous that Jasmine had a mother by her side. Serenity wished her mom would yell at her. Alas, her mom was no more.

Zachary walked in to find a smile on his wife’s face. There was also a sense of longingness in her expression.

“Seren.”

He approached her and tenderly called her name, drawing her back from her thoughts.

Snapping out of her wandering mind, Serenity turned to him and asked, “Are you done with work?”

“I’m all good now. My business trip was for ten days, but I was in the hospital for seven days. Callum followed up after me, so I didn’t have much to report on.”

He took Serenity’s hand and led her out of there. “Let’s go home.”

Serenity walked with him.

“Brothers working in the same company come in handy sometimes.”

Callum would take over his shoppingmode brother’s work when Zachary was sick. At least, one’s family would not grumble about doing another family member’s job.

Zachary smiled. He brought Serenity to the parking lot and drove the national MPV parked among luxury sedans.

## **Chapter 692 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Zachary would usually take his Rolls Royce, but the chauffeur drove the sedan back to the old residence and was on standby during his business trip.

“Your company’s parking lot is like a car show. You can see an array of cars here.”

Serenity commented as she got into the car. She saw many luxury sedans.

“We have a lot of senior executives in the office. People tend to get better cars when their incomes are high. No man can resist cars. Well, you know I prefer properties to cars. The value will only increase with time.”

Serenity would not take Zachary's word for it if she knew the cars in his garage could rival a car exhibition.

"Men love cars, and women love properties. You can make a home out of a house."

Serenity had been saving up to buy a house. The car she had was a gift from Zachary.

Her usual mode of transportation to work was her e-bike.

"Have you texted your sister?"

"I sent her a text, but I haven't received a reply. She must be occupied with something. Jasmine mentioned that my sister has been busy. She lost quite a bit of weight too. Ten pounds in a week. I think my sister could be in a weight loss ad."

Liberty was a good example of determination to shed ten pounds in seven days.

Serenity looked forward to the day her sister would reach her weight goal. She bet her sister's transformation would give Hank something to feel sorry about.

"Liberty is strong-willed. She'll lose weight since she puts her mind to it."

"Yeah," Serenity answered.

Serenity had never been to Regent Residences. The rich community was not an area she ever kept her eye on.

Since entering the residential area, Serenity had her eyes glued to the window as she looked at the view.

Zachary's villa was on the hilltop. By hilltop, it was more like the top of a hillock.

There were about five villas on the hilltop, the one that took up the most square footage was the biggest villa around there.

"Which is yours?" Serenity asked the man beside her.

"The most hidden one. It was slightly cheaper than the rest because of its remote location. I enjoy the peace and quiet. I won't be bothered by neighbors if the property is further away."

Serenity believed every word he said.

He did enjoy the peace and quiet.

Several minutes later, Zachary pulled up at the gate of the villa that was on the very end.

Serenity watched as he stopped the car and was ready to remove the car keys to open the gate. The house keys were strung together with his car keys.

"Is there anyone at home?"

"No. I lived alone in the house before I married you."

Serenity was speechless.

She thought he would invite his parents and nana to live together in such a big house.

It never occurred to her that he would live by himself.

It was likely that his parents did not want to stay with him. Serenity understood that many elders did not like living in a bustling city. They preferred to remain in the family home as it was their comfort space. They were surrounded by familiar neighbors whereas, in the city, people barely knew their neighbors.

### **Chapter 693 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

After unlocking the gate, Zachary got back into the car and started the engine. He drove into the villa compound and parked on the empty driveway.

He replied without Serenity pressing for answers. "My parents and Nana prefer living in the old residence and away from the bustle. They're used to the place because they have been there for decades. They prefer their peace away from us kids. Nana would stay with us for a few days and disappear somewhere else."

Serenity concurred, "Yeah. Sounds like it."

She got out of the car and strolled around the front lawn.

The landscape was great. The estate had a front lawn and backyard. There was a swimming pool, some pruned trees, and a pergola in the front. The tree near the pergola had a swing installed onto the branch. It was perfect to enjoy a good book or the view while sitting there.

The backyard was lush with scenic and fruit trees. There were homegrown Wiltspoonian trees like shoppingmode apple and mango trees.

Serenity observed the open space in the middle of the backyard, contemplating growing fruits and vegetables on the vacant lot.

She blurted out the idea she had in mind.

Zachary said with a smile, "I don't have time to garden. You're the lady of the house. You can grow whatever you want. I don't have a problem with how you use the land."

Truth be told, the gardener cleared the land to grow roses.

Since he wanted to let Serenity know about the villa, Zachary informed the butler to move everybody to the other villa during his time in the hospital while Serenity was not around. The gardener cleared the land for Serenity to have her dream garden.

The swing by the pergola was installed hastily at the last minute.

Serenity would enjoy taking in the view from the swing.

"The place is a little far from our workplaces. I'll forget about it for now."

Serenity believed the apartment in Brynfield was more accessible.

They could come over to stay at a villa every once in a while for short breaks.

“We have cars, so we can drive here after work. It’s quieter than Brynfield. A lot of our neighbors are families with kids. We can hear the angry screams of moms upstairs and downstairs, tutoring their children on homework.”

Serenity responded with a grin, “Don’t complain about the noise. You’ll know how it feels when you have to help your child with homework.”

Zachary confidently uttered, “I’m a mellow man. I’ll hold my ground even when I have to help my child with homework. I won’t yell at them. What’s the point of screaming? Will screaming help if they don’t know how to do their homework?”

Serenity gave him a skeptical look.

“You always get ahead of yourself but look where you end up. You’re in charge of homework when we have a child at school age. I’ll take care of the house chores, so you can unleash your mellow energy and hold your ground.”

Turning on her heel, she walked away.

Zachary caught up to her and put his arm around her shoulder before chuckling. “Let’s go into the house and make babies. Otherwise, you can’t verify that I can hold my ground when helping our kid with homework.”

Before he could help their child with homework, they must first have a child.

“You haven’t been living here for a while now. Is the kitchen usable?”

“It’s been a while, but my mom will hire a few cleaners to tidy up the place in two days and stock up the fridge, so I can come back and make my own meals.”

Serenity had no reason to suspect Zachary was lying.

The way she saw it, many mothers would fuss over their children’s daily lives.

Hank was an example. Her sister took care of basic needs after marriage while his mother would check in on Hank every now and then as if Liberty would do a bad job.

“Let’s have dinner and a stroll after that.”

Zachary remarked, “But I want to eat you up now, Seren.”

Serenity pouted. “What’s the rush? Can’t you take me around to get familiar with the place?”

#### **Chapter 694 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

“This is our home. We can spend the rest of our lives here, so there’s no rush to look around.”

With his arms around Serenity, Zachary ushered her into the house, even picking her up in between to rush up the stairs. “I’ll prepare a sumptuous dinner for you downstairs once I get my fill.”

Serenity was at a loss for words.

They entered the master bedroom on the second floor, but before Serenity could check out the room, the desperate man put her down on the bed.

With his muscular body pinning her down, Serenity lifted her arms and nudged him. She said, "You're heavy."

Holding himself up with his elbows, Zachary lowered his gaze to meet hers. He did not hide the burning passion in his eyes as he inquired in a gruff voice, "Can I, Seren?"

"It's not too late for you to change your mind. I can just take another cold shower."

Serenity caressed his face. "You got your good looks from your parents combined. To have a piece of meat hanging around me every day, I could've turned into a she-wolf and devoured you. Don't take a cold shower. You just got out of the hospital."

Zachary put his weight on her as he leaned in for a peck on her lips. He chuckled. "Liar, liar, pants on fire. You were relieved to hear that we were sleeping in separate rooms. Don't think for a second I didn't see through you. You love to hit on me and run away before anything concrete happens."

Now that they started to have feelings for each other, and he destroyed the signed agreement of both parties, Serenity was ready to take the bold step forward and have the marriage consummated.

Otherwise, they would continue to be married by name.

"Go and take a shower."

"Sure."

Zachary sealed her lips once more before turning over to get off the bed. He picked up a change of clothes and said to Serenity, "I'll shower in the guest bathroom. You can stay here."

Serenity remarked with a smile, "Go on."

Zachary could not help but make his way back to smooch her face a few times before happily going on his way.

Serenity was lying in bed, waiting for him by the time he finished his shower in record time.

Following his presence, a blush crept onto Serenity's cheeks as she tugged on the covers over her.

Catching her nervous tic, Zachary took his time instead.

He drew close to sit by the bed and asked thoughtfully, "Do you want some alcohol?"

She tended to let loose with alcohol in her system.

"Do you have any?"

Serenity often yapped about going all the way with him, now when it came down to it, she had cold feet. Well, she was mostly shy.

It was hard to shake her nerves away since she did not have experience.

Alcohol was good to soothe the nerves.

“Yes, I do. I have a minibar in the bedroom. Wait here. I’ll make you something.”

Zachary did not want to get her drunk. It was just a shot to sweep away her nerves and fear.

Serenity nodded her head.

As she was nervous, Serenity lay in bed right after the shower without checking his room out. She had no idea he had a minibar in here. After much thought, Serenity grabbed her phone from the bedside table and googled something...

A large hand came and took away the phone in her hands.

Zachary’s husky voice was heard. “Seren, I hope I can be the one to teach you.”

### **Chapter 695 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Having been caught searching the web, Serenity could not stop the burn in her cheeks.

She sat up and snatched her phone back. Locking the screen, Serenity pretended like nothing ever happened and said, “I was just looking around because I was bored Where’s the alcohol?”

Zachary brought two glasses of alcohol over and gave one to Serenity. He uttered, “We didn’t have dinner, so we can’t drink much. Just a little will do.”

“That’s so little. I’ll finish this in two gulps before I can taste the alcohol.”

Serenity whined before taking the glass from Zachary. She took a sip to savor the taste. As expected, the liquor was not strong enough. He must be afraid she would get wasted.

She downed the drink like it was water.

Zachary took a sip and stared at her.

Since he was not self-conscious, he did not need alcohol to psyche up.

“Aren’t you going to drink that? I’ll have it if you’re not going to.”

Serenity reached out to grab his wine glass. His glass was bigger and had more alcohol than hers.

Zachary stretched his arm up high so she could not steal his glass. He pushed her hand away and put the glass on the bedside table before pressing her down by the shoulders. While leaning in, he sealed her luscious lips and pinned her down onto the bed.

“Zachary...”

“I’m a little scared...”

“Don’t be scared. Leave it to me.”

Zachary tenderly kissed her so she could relax her nerves.

Taking in his affection, Serenity gradually loosened up and swayed along his hips as they lost themselves in a sea of lust.

Ring, ring, ring...

Zachary's phone rang.

"Your phone's ringing."

"Ignore it."

He was too busy to pick up the phone.

Ring, ring, ring

The phone rang nonstop, but Zachary refused to pick up. The caller tried three times before giving up.

It was Clive.

Clive got the message that Zachary was back from his business trip. He wanted to ask Zachary out for a talk.

Yet, Zachary did not take his call.

Clive put his phone on the dinner table.

While carrying the dishes out, Alice took notice of Clive's sour face. She asked with concern, "What's the matter, Clive? You look upset. It's after office hours, so you shouldn't be thinking about work. You promised me. No business meetings tonight. We're going to the movies later."

Clive answered, "I tried to give Zachary a call, but he won't answer. I called him three times too."

"He just returned with his wife, and it's dinnertime. They must be eating. Do you have time tonight to meet him even if he picks up your call?"

Alice looked at him with her piercing and threatening gaze. Clive could try to ditch her at home to have a talk with Zachary.

Clive immediately responded, "I don't have time tonight. I'll ask him out tomorrow. He must be busy since he just got back with Serenity."

The couple was presently at Alice's family home. Since Mrs. Stone and her daughter were not around, the couple could talk without scruples. They did not need to worry about Elisa hearing about Serenity and Zachary.

Clive intended to enjoy the movies with his wife later before inviting Zachary out.

The dark of the night was the perfect time to talk as Elisa would not know about it.

Meanwhile, at Regent Residences...

### **Chapter 696 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Zachary appeared rather delighted as he strolled down the stairs. Anyone near him right now could hear that he was humming to a tune.

It had been a while since they got married, but Zachary was no longer just Serenity's husband by name.

He took strides into the kitchen and grabbed the apron hanging off the door. Zachary put on the apron and opened the fridge to check for ingredients. He took out a few ingredients for the dishes he planned to make.

First things first, Zachary wanted to make a broth suitable for women after their first time.

He got the ingredients ready and dumped them in a slow cooker set on high. He then went on to prepare the next dish.

After much thought, he gave Sam a call. With the line connected, Zachary instructed, "Sam, deliver some live shrimp over. I don't see any fresh seafood in the fridge."

The other dishes did not matter as Serenity's favorite was shrimp. It was a must-have.

"Have you and the missus had dinner yet?"

Sam felt bad. "You should've asked Mrs. Lane to prepare your dinner in advance."

"It's fine. It's no issue to have our dinner later. I wasn't hungry. Serenity had something to eat at the office just now."

"Alright then. I'll send someone to deliver the live shrimp. It should take half an hour."

Zachary was cool with that. Shrimp was easy to cook as it only took seconds. He could start on the other dishes first.

It had been a while since the Great Mr. York cooked in the kitchen. While humming a song, he prepared the ingredients and cooked a few of his best dishes to serve his wife.

Zachary never felt so thankful for his nana as he was right now.

Nana raised them differently from the other wealthy families. At the request of Nana, Zachary, his brothers, and his cousins learned their way around the kitchen.

He had his suspicions that Nana wanted them to become chefs and win their wives' hearts through their stomachs. The women would not be able to leave the boys once they got a taste of the boys' food.

Zachary prepared Serenity's dinner with love in the kitchen while Serenity lay in the bathroom. The hot bath relaxed her aching body.

Ring, ring, ring...

The phone that was put aside rang.

It was her sister.

Serenity quickly took the call.

"Seren, are you and Zachary home? I was busy and only saw your message now. Sorry, I didn't reply to you in time."

"I got back in the afternoon. Have you had dinner, Liberty? Where's Sonny? I miss him."

Liberty replied with a smile, "I'm carrying Sonny on my back. I haven't had dinner. I just got back from the shop. I bought groceries, and I'm almost home. I'll cook dinner when I get home."

"What about Mrs. Lane?"

"I told Mrs. Lane to watch over your place since you and Zachary weren't around. Someone has to look after your pets and garden. I can manage on my own."

Although Brynfield had tight security, Liberty was worried that no one was at home. Hence, she asked Mrs. Lane to house-sit.

"It's late. Sonny must be starving."

Serenity felt bad for her sister.

"I made food for Sonny this morning and kept it in the thermal container. He had some at the shop, so he's not feeling hungry yet."

Carrying her son on her back, Liberty climbed up the stairs with her groceries in hand. It was tiring, but Liberty had been keeping up with exercise to lose weight. Running around to set up her shop increased her workout and built her stamina too.

It was unlike before when she was left catching her breath from climbing the stairs.

"I should leave you to make dinner, Liberty. I'll see you tomorrow."

She would not be going over tonight.

"Sure. I'm back at my rented apartment. I'll start on dinner now."

Liberty stopped in front of her place and hung up the call. She whipped out her keys to unlock the door before carrying her son into the house.

## **Chapter 697 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

After a phone conversation with her sister, Serenity felt a lot better. She stood up and got out of the bath.

Her darling husband had thoughtfully left a change of clothes for her before she went into the tub.

Ten minutes later, Serenity went down the stairs.

All was quiet downstairs.

Serenity thought their house in Brynfield was eerily silent. Since he was always home late, she did not have anyone to talk to when she got home.

That was why she wanted to have pets.

Mrs. Lane later joined the family, adding some noise to the quiet home.

To her dismay, he bought a villa that was bigger than the property in Brynfield. It was a quieter environment for the couple to live in.

Once on the ground floor, Serenity could hear the commotion in the kitchen.

Serenity drew close and saw Zachary busy in the kitchen. Without startling him, she leaned against the door frame and observed him.

He looked most charming when he was earnest at work!

Nevertheless, he was attractive doing anything at all.

While watching him, Serenity was hit with an idea and pulled out her phone. She tapped on the Facebook app and started taking a video of him to post on stories. She included a caption.

“The stunning back of the man who is making me dinner.”

After posting the video, she clicked on the video to watch it herself when Zachary caught the noise.

Turning around, he saw her and beamed. Zachary remarked, “Why don’t you have a lie-down? I’m not done cooking.”

“I’m hungry.”

Since he had spotted her, Serenity made her way into the kitchen. She leaned in to look into the pan over the fire and uttered, “I’m too hungry to lie down. It’s only the two of us, so we don’t need a lot.”

“I’m making five dishes. Do you want some fruit since you’re hungry?”

Serenity could guess what he was cooking by the ingredients he set aside. She replied, “These dishes won’t take too long. I’ll wait.”

Just then, the doorbell rang.

“Who’s that?” Serenity asked.

“I didn’t find your favorite shrimp in the fridge, so I asked Mrs. Lane where she usually gets her supply. I placed an order for immediate delivery. It must be them. Go and take a look.”

“Sure.”

Turning on her heel, Serenity advanced forward before tracing her footsteps back. She wrapped her arms around his waist from behind and buried her face against his back. “Zachary, are you going to always be good to me?”

Zachary stopped what he was doing and held her hands around his waist. He turned around and looked deeply into her eyes. “You’re my wife. I will always be good to you. I will never be the one to leave you. I won’t ever agree to a divorce even if that’s what you want!”

To him, marriage was for a lifetime. Serenity may get angry when his cover was blown, but Zachary would not possibly let her go.

Serenity uttered with a smile, “We just became a real couple. Don’t talk about divorce.”

She loosened her grip around his waist. “Carry on with your cooking. I’ll get the shrimp. You can leave it out next time. There’s no need to get the shrimp delivered.”

“It’s your favorite. I’d satisfy your needs if time permits.”

With a smile, Serenity took off.

## **Chapter 698 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

A silver sedan stopped right outside the villa, and a person stood at the gate.

Through the gate, Serenity looked at the figure and thought it looked familiar. At closer inspection, she recognized that it was not the delivery person but her mother-in-law who she had met a few times.

“Mom.”

Serenity took a moment to take in the surprise before rushing to open the gate. It was then she realized she did not have a key to unlock the gate. Serenity apologetically said to her mother-in-law who was on the other side of the gate, “I didn’t know I needed a key to open the gate, Mom. Hang on for a second. I’ll get the key from Zachary.”

“Okay,” Tania faintly replied and stopped pressing on the doorbell.

Serenity rushed back into the house, running into the kitchen. She told Zachary, “Your mom is here, Zachary. I tried to open the gate, but I couldn’t without a key. Give me a key. I’ll unlock the gate now.”

“Didn’t you say your mother was going to drop by two days later? Why doesn’t she have a key?”

Zachary replied, “The house keys are on the coffee table in the living room. My mom might have forgotten to bring hers.”

“That reminds me. What’s the portion like? I wonder if your mom has had dinner.”

Her mother-in-law’s sudden visit was not something Serenity was going to take lightly.

“My mom must’ve had dinner by now.”

“Oh.” Serenity took quick paces out of the kitchen and picked up the keys from the coffee table on her way out. She rushed to the gate, only to make her way back to the kitchen. Serenity said, “How about you open the gate for your mother while I cook?”

She was concerned her mother-in-law might not look favorably upon her since Zachary was busy in the kitchen while she hung around. Her mother-in-law would not be too pleased that Serenity was not taking good care of Zachary.

Some mothers-in-law could not stand their sons contributing to house chores. They believed the daughters-in-law should be doing all the work. They did not want their flesh and blood to be tired. As mothers-in-law, they expected their daughters-in-law to work while being on top of caring for children and handling house chores.

On the other hand, mothers whose sons-in-law took on the household chores would think their daughters married well.

If the tables were turned and their sons handled household tasks, these women would groan about their lazy daughters-in-law. They would feel bad that their sons married a wife who was not raised well.

Serenity knew a thing or two about issues between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law from her sister's failed marriage. She was worried she would face the same problem.

"It's fine. Go and open the gate for your mother-in-law."

"Will your mom blame me for not relieving you of household tasks? Will she make you do nothing at home while I should do all the work?"

Zachary answered, "I don't think so. We've only been married for three months. You only met my mom once or twice. There shouldn't be any issue between you two."

His parents, uncles, and aunts only had sons. Nana taught all the boys to be kind to all the women at home.

Growing up, Dad would often tell him that Mom is the only woman in the family, so they should love, care for, and protect Mom together.

By right, Mom should not have a problem with him being in the kitchen.

This was because Dad often cooked for Mom.

"You're not even sure about that. You should open the gate."

Serenity went up to pull the apron off Zachary.

"Seren."

Zachary grabbed her hand and tenderly uttered, "You don't have to care what my mom thinks of you. We're the ones in this marriage. We decide how we run the household. I'll talk to my mom if she says anything to you."

There was no reason his mother could enjoy his father's undivided attention and care if Serenity could not.

As the husband, Zachary was glad to make his wife dinner.

It was nobody's business to change that.

"Now get out there. Don't keep my mom waiting."

Zachary lowered his head to kiss her cheek. "Don't worry. I'm here for you."

### **Chapter 699 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Zachary's loving statement gave Serenity assurance. She uttered with a smile, "I'll open the gate for your mom now. Don't come at me if I fight your mom for accusing me of skipping on house chores."

Serenity was a firm believer that all household tasks should not fall on the married women's shoulders.

She would argue with her mother-in-law if the latter started criticizing her as Mrs. Brown did to her sister.

Zachary smiled. "Alright. I won't come at you, but I trust my mom won't say that to you."

Even if Mom had a problem with Serenity, she would only mention it to Zachary. Mom would only tell it to Serenity's face when she felt Serenity had crossed the line.

Serenity went to unlock the gate for her mother-in-law.

Tania was getting impatient from waiting, but she did not show it on her face.

While opening the gate, Serenity apologetically said, "Sorry to keep you waiting, Mom."

Tania tenderly asked, "Have you and Zachary eaten?"

"Not yet. Zachary's cooking in the kitchen."

With the gate opened, Serenity asked as Tania walked into the villa, "Mom, don't you want to drive your car into the driveway?"

Stopping in her tracks, Tania contemplated before answering, "I just dropped by to see you. I'm leaving in a minute. I'll just leave the car there."

Since finding out that her son got the nasty flu during a business trip, Tania had been keeping in touch with her son every two days. She knew that her daughter-in-law took great care of her son and kept him on a tight leash, making him take his daily shots.

Tania had mixed feelings about it.

She was not fond of Serenity as her daughter-in-law. Her son had no choice but to marry Serenity to repay her kindness for saving Grandma May.

Tania thought Zachary would never fall in love with Serenity.

To her surprise, it took less than three months for Zachary to develop feelings.

Although Serenity had an aunt like Mrs. Stone as family support, the Stones' wealth had nothing to do with Serenity.

Tania would not think highly of Serenity just because of her connection with Mrs. Stone.

Cultured as she was, Tania would not say or do anything to Serenity.

Zachary was spending the rest of his life with Serenity, not her.

Her son knew what he was doing. He could decide whether Serenity made a good wife or if the marriage was working.

It was so long as Zachary did not mind Serenity's upbringing and being the laughingstock of the community.

"Zachary's cooking?"

Tania appeared surprised. "It's been a while since he cooked anything."

Serenity closed the gate and went into the house with her mother-in-law. While walking, Serenity happily chatted, "He bragged about his cooking. I wasn't convinced, so I told him to show me. Mom, you should try Zachary's cooking later and be the judge of who is the better cook."

Tania's impeccable face from religious skincare only the wealthy could afford beamed. She said, "Zack isn't the best cook among his brothers and cousins. The one with the talent is Austin. Austin always hides away in the kitchen to create new flavors since he was a little boy. After going at it for over a decade, he's now the best cook in the house."

Austin was Tania's youngest son. He did not take up a position at York Corporation. Instead, he started his own business in the food and beverage scene. Austin had made quite a name for himself.

"The simple dishes you make are delicious. I prefer your cooking to Zack's.

"It's been a while since I tasted Zack's cooking. I can't remember the taste."

Serenity grinned. "You came at the right time. You can savor Zachary's cooking later."

"Sure." Tania nodded.

Since Zachary took over the management of York Corporation, he had not caught a break and had no time to go into the kitchen. Plus, he lived on his own and rarely came back to the old residence. As his mom, Tania had not tasted her son's cooking for a long time.

The mother-in-law and daughter-in-law had a pleasant talk while walking with Serenity keeping the conversation alive.

Zachary was worried at first that his mother would give Serenity an attitude. He quickly whipped up the last dish and hurried out of the kitchen. He was about to head out the door when his mom and wife waltzed in, sharing a talk and laugh.

He stopped as his handsome face wrinkled in smiles.

Zachary knew he had nothing to worry about.

Serenity had the knack of setting the tone that his mother would have nothing to pick at.

"Mom."

Zachary tenderly called his mom.

"I got a good whiff of the delicious aroma the moment I came in. I guess your cooking hasn't digressed."

Tania complimented her son before turning to Serenity. "You gotta keep it up, Serenity. Don't let him beat you."

"Mom, you haven't even tried his cooking yet. Zachary's food might not taste as good as it smells. He should be the cook every day to refine his skills if he loses to me. He should be put in charge of the family dinner during New Year."

With her beautiful eyes sparkling, Tania responded with a grin, "You must get him to practice when he has time, so we don't get food poisoning."

Zachary listened as his mother and wife shared a pleasant conversation. His mother tried to fool Serenity into taking care of the three meals, and Serenity made a beautiful comeback without stepping on Mom's toes.

The doorbell rang again.

“It must be the seafood delivery. I’ll go collect it.”

Turning on her heel, Serenity headed for the gate once again.

With Serenity gone, Tania began to circle her son.

“Mom, whatever it is, you can tell me. Seren isn’t here. She can’t hear you.”

Tania extended her arm and tugged on Zachary’s apron before saying, “You look a bit like your dad like this.”

“I’m my dad’s son. Of course, I look like my dad.”

Zachary led his mother to sit down on the sofa.

“How long has it been since the heir of the Yorks and CEO of York Corporation held a pot and pan? You’re going back to cooking for a woman. Zack, I’m impressed.”

She was not very fond of Serenity as a daughter-in-law, but she knew her son well.

Without an older family member playing the matchmaker, the boy would forever live a single life.

Her son could not stand playing with girls when he was a little kid. Teenage boys would start pursuing girls while her son got dozens of love letters without even trying. He handed the letters to the teacher without even opening them.

The girls, who wrote the love letters, got an educational speech from the teacher.

Over time, many girls could no longer muster the courage to confess their feelings or give him love letters. They simply admired him from afar.

Zack would not attend any trips with buddies if there were any girls tagging along.

In short, he had a thing against engaging with women.

Grandma May had once suspected Zack was misogynistic.

As Tania had a good understanding of Zachary’s character, however displeased, she did not stop Grandma May from fixing him and Serenity up.

She wanted to see if Serenity could change her son’s attitude toward young women.

Tania could accept Serenity if there was chemistry between the couple.

She would not have had hard feelings if the couple decided to split. Tania could then set her son up with an heiress of an equal footing with the Yorks.

Zachary uttered in a gentle voice, “Mom, I’m only walking the same path as my dad. Dad is a role model.”

Tania was speechless.

**Chapter 700 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

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