

Gu Lingfei 701

Chapter 701 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Tania's husband had been treating her like a princess since she married him, and it had been going on for over three decades. To her husband, Tania was the most important person in his life.

After a brief silence, Tania said to her son, "What? Are you afraid I'll criticize your wife for leaving the cooking to you while she does nothing? I mean, you just got back from a business trip, and you just got better from a long cold. She shouldn't have let you work in the kitchen.

"I'm not saying you can't dote on your wife, but don't do it excessively and spoil her. She'll become egoistic and willful. What if it gives her a reason to do as she pleases and stir trouble for you?"

Zachary's face fell.

"Fine, fine. I won't talk ill about Serenity. Look at you. I'm just bringing a few points to your attention. It's not like I'm saying she's acting this way now, but you're already giving me an attitude. Look at your long face."

Serenity would be thrilled to find out she was living a real Cinderella story. Tania's concern was her getting out of line because she would be at a higher social standing, leaving her son to clean up the mess behind her.

Alas, the few words of advice upset her son instead. His attractive face turned sour.

"Mom, you haven't spent much time with Seren, so you don't know her. Still, you can trust your son's judgment. You should know that Seren is no bully."

The sisters carried on a discreet way of life after reuniting with their rich and powerful aunt, Mrs. Stone. Anyone hanging around the higher society would know that Serenity and her sister were Mrs. Stone's nieces while the people of the outside world still had no idea.

Oh, the Browns were aware of that fact.

Hank's parents and sister must be kicking themselves now.

Zachary had put the word out, and soon, they would lose their jobs.

The Browns were in for a bigger surprise.

"I believe you. I promise I won't bring it up again."

Tania did not want to make her son angry.

"You're looking well. It seems you're putting on some weight. Serenity must have taken great care of you."

Zachary replied, "Mom, are you sure I'm putting on weight?"

He quickly lowered his head to check his belly.

It was flat. Nothing was sagging anywhere.

He stepped on the weighing scale when he was in the hospital. Zachary was at the standard weight.

“It’s been a while since I saw you. I feel you gained some pounds. So you didn’t? I guess my eyesight must be failing me.”

Serenity was carrying a bag of shrimp into the house when she heard the last part of her mother-in-law’s remark.

Her mind harked back to when she ran into her mother-in-law while shopping. The way her mother-in-law looked at her then was as if she did not know Serenity.

Later, Serenity brought it up to Zachary, and Zachary said that his mother had bad eyesight.

It turned out that her mother-in-law really had poor vision.

“Here’s the shrimp.”

Zachary walked over and took the bag of live shrimp from Serenity. He opened the bag for a look.

“They’re huge,” Serenity commented.

“Yeah.” Zachary then brought the bag of seafood into the kitchen, leaving Serenity to keep his mother company.

Serenity noticed her mother-in-law sitting on the sofa without a glass of water on the coffee table.

She poured a glass of water for her mother-in-law and turned on the TV before saying, “Have a seat, Mom. I’ll help out in the kitchen.”

Tania nodded her head. “Go on. I’m not an outsider. You don’t have to tend to me.”

Turning on her heel, Serenity entered the kitchen.

At least, Serenity was aware that she should help instead of sitting around and waiting for dinner to be served. Tania’s disapproval toward Serenity was not as strong as before.

Ten minutes later, Tania found herself sitting at the dinner table despite already having her dinner. She could not refuse her son and daughter-in-law’s invitation.

“Mom, try some of Zachary’s cooking.”

With a smile, Serenity served her mother-in-law the dishes and urged her to taste the food.

Tania watched as her son put on disposal gloves to peel the shrimp. Needless to say, the shelled shrimp would not find its way to her plate. Tania did not know how to feel about this.

She would be happy when her husband showered her with attention like that.

Chapter 702 | [Serenity & Zachary]

It did not sit well with Tania that her son was so thoughtful toward her daughter-in-law.

It was a good thing her daughter-in-law showed more consideration than her son.

“Let me try.”

Tania took a bite out of the food Serenity served her.

After getting a taste, Tania wanted to say that her son was a better cook than Serenity, but it was not something she could say in good conscience. Tania debated in her mind for a while before deciding to go for the truth. "Zack can't beat Serenity. You should spend some time in the kitchen and cook for Serenity more often."

It could help the couple to bond too.

Tania trailed on, "But you usually are busy at work..."

"Don't worry, Mom. I won't let Zachary into the kitchen during workdays."

Mrs. Lane was part of the family now.

Tania was pleased with Serenity's stance.

"Do you want the shrimp, Mom?" Zachary asked his mother.

"I had dinner, but Serenity asked me to be the judge of who is the better cook between you two. That's why I tried. Carry on with your dinner. I'll go and watch TV."

Tania finished the food on her plate and put down her cutleries before getting up to leave the dining room.

Once his mother was gone, Zachary put the plate of shelled shrimp in front of Serenity and uttered tenderly, "Eat up, honey. Have some broth with it. It's comforting and healthy."

He made eyes at Serenity.

The face Zachary pulled nearly made Serenity barf.

It was hard to believe his stoic face would carry other animated expressions.

Clearing her throat, Serenity took a quick glance into the living room and found her mother-in-law taking a seat gracefully on the sofa. She gasped in awe at her mother-in-law's cultured mannerisms. Tania was more of a lady than a lady in the TV series, displaying grace in the mere act of sitting down.

Zachary drew close and whispered in Serenity's ear. "Fear not. Mom won't peek at us."

It would be a different story if Nana was here. Nana had the tendency to pry.

Mom was brought up in a way that she would not be furtive to look and hear.

"Do you still feel sore, Seren?"

A flush swept across Serenity's face as she gently pushed Zachary away and whispered, "We're having dinner. Behave."

"I didn't say anything."

With the scorching sensation of his lips and tongue brushing against her cheeks, he said in a gruff voice, "It won't hurt like that anymore."

Serenity stuffed his mouth with shrimp.

“The food on the table isn’t enough to shut your mouth. Hurry up and eat. You might not be hungry, but I am.”

Zachary chuckled. Straightening his back, he picked up his cutlery and watched her eat while picking on his food...

“Is the food not to your liking?”

“You’re to my liking”

Serenity was lost for words.

The guy was becoming more of a smooth talker by the minute.

“You’re a feast for the eyes. I get a good appetite just watching you. I can have several helpings of the main course.”

Serenity served him some food.

“You worked all night to prepare dinner. Have some. I don’t want your mom to think I’m starving you.”

Zachary laughed.

Such life may be mundane, but he found happiness in its simplicity.

He hoped they would continue to be sweet and happy just like his parents.

His parents’ relationship was still going strong after all these years.

Chapter 703 | [Serenity & Zachary]

After dinner, Zachary cleared the table while Serenity wiped and tidied the place. She then ventured out of the dining room to take a seat opposite her mother-in-law.

Serenity looked at the time and said, “Mom, why don’t you drive the car into the driveway and stay the night?”

“It’s okay. I’ll head back in a bit. Your father-in-law doesn’t feel comfortable if I’m not at home with him.”

After her son took over the company, her husband retired and had not left Tania’s side since. Her husband could not get used to Tania staying away from home.

Serenity was envious of her parents-in-law’s relationship.

They had been together for decades and were still faithful to each other into their golden years.

“Mom, I didn’t know Zachary bought this villa. He never told me. I only heard about it now. The place is bigger than the apartment in Brynfield. It feels empty that it’s just the two of us here. How about you move in with Dad?”

Tania was taken aback. “You want to live with your in-laws?”

Many young daughters-in-law were against living with their parents-in-law.

Well, it was not just daughters-in-law. Tania's three sons moved out to live on their own when they were of age. They preferred not to share the same living space with their parents.

Youngsters were living in a different world than the oldies.

"I don't mind."

Tania said with a smile, "But Zack doesn't like living with elders. I think we should remain at the old residence and give you youngsters some space."

Serenity failed short of Tania's expectations and living together would mean Serenity's flaws to be put under a magnifying glass. It would not help Tania to warm up to Serenity.

They might as well stick to the status quo-Serenity believed her mother-in-law was nice while Tania would not pick on Serenity's faults every day. Everybody would be happy, and besides, absence made the heart grow fonder.

Once Zachary came out of the kitchen, Tania rose to her feet and excused herself.

"Zack, come and see me off."

Serenity initially wanted to get up and walk her mother-in-law to the car, but she sat still since the mother and son must have something to talk about privately.

Zachary quietly walked with his mother out of the house.

Once out of the villa and near the gate, Tania stopped and asked her son, "Zack, are you planning to spend the rest of your life with Serenity?"

"What are you trying to say, Mom?"

"You get what I mean. I won't interfere with your decision, but Serenity needs a few lessons on etiquette. She's the missus of the York family and your wife. She'll be accompanying you to social events, and her actions represent you.

"People will laugh at you if she doesn't do a good job. See if you can bring it up to her. Is she okay with brushing up on her etiquette? Does she know anything else other than crafting? She can take up a few other skills too."

Zachary looked at his mother and inquired, "Which aspect of her behavior is failing,

Mom?"

Tania opened her mouth, but no words came out.

She believed Serenity did not carry herself like the lady of a wealthy family. Nevertheless, Tania was grasping at straws to pick out what Serenity was lacking. Serenity was magnanimous, proper, and not an embarrassment to Zachary.

A while later, Tania replied, "I'll guide her when you come clean to her about who you are. She can do better at presenting herself."

She then asked her son, “Are you still married by name? Three months should be enough for you to be the judge of Serenity’s character if you plan to spend a lifetime with her. She doesn’t know who you are, so you don’t have to put up an act. The way she carries herself and handles issues can show her personality.

“Don’t get intimate with her if you still can’t make up your mind. At least, it will lessen the blow and hurt if you do divorce.”

Turning black in the face, Zachary uttered, “Mom, Nana said that York boys do not believe in divorce.”

Tania had no words.

The person who was adamant about getting a divorce six months later was him.

It was his own words, not hers. Tania only found out about it later.

“I’ll only have Serenity as my wife!”

Chapter 704 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Tania stared intently at her son for a while before breaking the silence. “You call the shots for your own affairs. I can only give you some advice. I’m going back before your dad gets worried. Are you and your wife coming home for New Year?”

“Didn’t Nana tell you? I’ll be back with Seren to the old residence for New Year.”

“The old residence. Oh, you’re referring to that mansion. No wonder your nana has been going there lately.”

It turned out her son wanted to take Serenity back to Whitmore Mansion to celebrate New Year’s holiday. The place had been through the vicissitude of life and reflected the former glory of the Yorks’ ancestors.

“How long are you planning to keep up with the act?”

“I got it thought out, Mom. I know what I’m doing. I’ll let the whole of Wiltspoon know about my marriage to Seren when the time comes.”

He could get a start on wedding planning.

Zachary envisioned a beautiful ending, but only God knew how reality would pan out. Tania replied, “Sure. I’m off then.”

“Be safe on the road. Call me in advance when you’re coming next time. Don’t scare your daughter-in-law.”

Tania answered, “Don’t make me out to be an evil mother-in-law. Serenity has the spunk to answer back. I don’t think I can scare her.”

Zachary fell silent before thanking his mother.

“Why are you thanking me?”

“Thank you for not finding fault with your daughter-in-law.”

Tania could not resist the urge to kick him.

“I want you to have a nice life and be happy. I can put up with her flaws if you like Serenity and she makes you happy. I’d at most take a soft approach to correct her wrongs without nitpicking.”

The love she received from the Yorks over the decades had conditioned her to be more sensible than she was in her younger days. Tania was not mean at heart, to begin with.

If there was something Tania had to point out, she found the couple did not marry into equal social standing. There was a gap there. She hoped Serenity could change for Zachary like brushing up on etiquettes and taking up a skill or two.

“Alright then. I got to go.”

Tania got into the car.

She waved her son goodbye and drove away.

Zachary watched her mother disappear into the distance before making his way back into the house.

His phone rang once again.

Pulling out her phone, Zachary realized it was Clive on the other end.

Clive called him when he was trying to make babies with Serenity for the first time.

Zachary was tempted to cuss Clive out when he checked his phone for missed calls after the matter.

Out of the times Clive could have called, why did it have to be when he was doing the deed?

If Clive could read Zachary’s mind, he would argue that he could not predict his call came untimely.

“What do you want?”

Zachary tried to be kinder to Clive since Clive was his beloved wife’s cousin.

Nevertheless, there was no way he could be Mr. Nice Guy right away.

“See you at the Grand Hotel at midnight. I’ll meet you at your house if I don’t see you there.”

Zachary furrowed his brows. “Must I go?”

“What? Are you scared to see me?”

Peevish, Zachary callously blurted, “See you there!”

It was frustrating that Clive turned out to be his wife’s cousin!

Chapter 705 | [Serenity & Zachary]

On the other end of the line, Clive curtly said, “I’ll reveal to Serenity who you are if I don’t see you there. She might not be angry about the other things you hide from her, but the fact that you’re the great Mr. York will rub her the wrong way because of Elisa.”

Black in the face, Zachary snapped back, "I said I'll be there. Just wait for me."

The nerve of Clive to threaten him!

"I'm the older cousin. Shouldn't you be the one to wait for me?"

Zachary coldly uttered, "The Grand Hotel belongs to you. You can be there any time. If you change the location to the Wiltspoon Hotel, I'll arrive early and welcome you in the presidential suite."

"Is something riding on your guilty conscience? Are you scared? Is that why you're making me wait for you?"

"Clive, cut the crap."

Clive chuckled. "I'm older than you. You can't change the fact that Serenity is my cousin. You don't have to acknowledge me as the older figure if you don't want to be Serenity's husband. It's rude that you don't respect me as an older family member when you're her husband."

"I might just pick on you in front of Serenity."

"Don't you dare!"

Clive laughed hard. "Why won't I? Do you think I like and fear you? I'm dying to have you replaced and introduce a better man to my cousin."

"Out of everyone in Wiltspoon, no one is better and more brilliant than I am."

Zachary believed when Clive said he would get him replaced.

Nobody expected to end up in this sort of sticky situation.

"Zachary, when did you become so shameless? You may have Wiltspoon's business world in the palm of your hand, but that doesn't mean you're the best man out there."

Zachary faintly answered, "Men become shameless when they get married."

Clive was at a loss for words.

The changes in Zachary were a real eye-opener to Clive.

"I'm hanging up if there's nothing else. I need to put my wife in bed before I can sneak out to see you."

It was Clive's turn to be appalled. "Don't talk as though we're having an affair."

"Yuck. As if I'd ever have an affair with you."

Zachary hung up the call.

With his enemy slamming the phone ahead of him, Clive removed the phone from his ear and clicked his tongue. Clive mumbled to himself, "I could say the same about you. As if I'd ever have an affair with you."

"Honey, who are you having an affair with? Do you have a mistress? Who's the miserable wretch?"

Alice heard Clive's murmurs as she was coming out of the bathroom. Livid, she charged toward Clive and questioned Clive with a straight face.

She was already unhappy with him.

Clive had time to go to the movies with her for a change to relive their date nights. However, he ended up snoozing off on the chair when they got inside. It riled Alice up.

In the end, they left before the movie finished.

Once out of the movie theater, Clive found his energy back again.

He used to watch even the cringiest romance movies when they first went out. Clive would sit in the movies until the credits rolled and remember the storyline better than she did.

Now that they were married, Clive would doze off the moment he stepped into the theater...

The difference before and after marriage was huge.

Clive did not bother to act interested anymore.

"Alice, what are you thinking? I was just off the phone with Zachary."

Alice widened her eyes. "You were on the phone with Zachary talking about having an affair. You guys..."

Clive responded, "Honey, where is your mind wandering to? We've been married for years. You should know by now that your husband is a straight guy."

"How would I know if you swing both ways?"

Clive was speechless.

Chapter 706 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Clive relayed the whole phone conversation he had with Zachary to his wife, clearing any doubts that he swung both ways.

Zachary did not tell Serenity about the call from Clive to meet up.

He went back into the house and joined his wife on the sofa to watch TV.

They enjoyed the TV program until Serenity started to yawn. Zachary eagerly turned off the TV and carried her upstairs.

Back in the bedroom, Zachary lay in bed with Serenity to chat for a while. The conversation ended when the person next to him stopped speaking. Tilting his head, Zachary realized Serenity had drifted into slumberland.

Zachary heaved himself up and drew close to her before murmuring, "Seren. Seren."

Serenity was asleep to realize what was going on around her.

With his mind at ease, Zachary kissed her cheeks and tenderly uttered, "Goodnight, Seren."

He then lifted the covers and tiptoed out of bed.

Zachary tucked Serenity in, grabbed his coat, and snuck out of the bedroom.

Out of the villa, Zachary called his chauffeur and security detail to meet him at the Grand Hotel.

He got to make a grand entrance to see Clive.

Clive told Zachary to meet him at the Grand Hotel at midnight, and Zachary arrived at midnight sharp.

Not a minute too soon.

“Sir.”

The team of bodyguards went up to Zachary,

Zachary got down from the car and went straight inside. While walking, he said, “Keep up.”

His security detail followed Zachary into the Grand Hotel.

As it was midnight, the hotel was rather quiet.

Clive must have informed the receptionists in advance as the hotel staff did not seem surprised about Zachary’s arrival.

Zachary took the green channel all the way to the top floor of the hotel.

Like Wiltspoon Hotel, the Grand Hotel had a presidential suite on the top floor catered exclusively to Clive.

Once on the top floor, Zachary, escorted by his security detail, came to the entrance of the presidential suite.

There were two men in black standing at the door. They were the Stones’ bodyguards.

Clive did not show off like Zachary. He would bring along two bodyguards to social events, but most of the time, he was without any security detail.

Zachary would argue that his security detail was to protect his chastity and not for ostentation.

The two bodyguards put their hands out and stopped Zachary.

Pulling a long face, Zachary shot a piercing glare at the bodyguards and remarked callously, “Mr. Stone invited me over.”

One of the bodyguards courteously uttered, “Mr. Stone is waiting for you inside, Mr. York, but you came empty-handed.”

Zachary scowled. “What do you mean?”

The bodyguard explained patiently, “Mr. York, Mr. Stone said that he’s your wife’s cousin, so that makes him your relative. Since this is the first meeting, he won’t see you if all etiquette rules are not observed. You can go back, and he’ll meet with your wife tomorrow instead.”

Zachary grimaced. “How is it our first-time meeting? I’ve known Mr. Stone for many years. Don’t you know?”

“Mr. Stone mentioned that it’s your first encounter since becoming family.”

Zachary was rendered speechless.

Clive was Serenity’s family.

It was impolite to show up empty-handed when seeing the wife’s family for the first time.

Zachary fell silent for a moment before conceding. Turning around, he instructed Sam. “Sam, can you check whether there’s any shop open at this hour? Just buy anything you can find.”

So long as he got something to offer Clive.

Chapter 707 | [Serenity & Zachary]

“Mr. York.”

The bodyguard spoke up once more.

Zachary turned his attention to the bodyguard.

The bodyguard uttered, “Mr. Stone said you need to get it yourself to show your sincerity. You can’t let your bodyguards run the errand for you. Your respect for Mr. Stone represents your love for Ms. Hunt.”

In other words, Zachary would be insulting Clive if he did not make the purchase himself. It meant he did not love Serenity enough to give Clive basic respect.

Clive’s terrorization saw Zachary seething with rage. Yet, Clive got him where it hurt.

Although Serenity and Mrs. Stone had not known each other for long, they were related by blood.

Zachary could not take the Stones lightly.

Without another word, Zachary turned on his heel and left.

He went to get a gift for Clive.

The major supermarkets were closed.

Zachary had to go to a convenience store that operated 24/7.

He did not take his time to pick a gift. Instead, he led his security team into the convenience store and cleared the shelves.

The store employee was startled by the massive group of men entering the store with solemn faces. Even though the leader could pass as a celebrity, the store employee was not in the mood to appreciate his hotness. What if they were the mafia?

Her survival instincts kicked in to protect herself and had the police on speed dial.

It was a good thing that these people swept the items off the shelves and piled them up on the cash register. The hottest sourpuss solemnly uttered, “Check out, please.”

The store employee was relieved.

They were not the mafia.

A good few minutes later, Zachary exited the convenience store together with the security detail. Every bodyguard had their hands full with grocery bags.

The store employee took a glance at the shelves. Those people practically emptied the stock.

It stuck in her mind that among the stuff bought, there were also packs of sanitary pads...

Why did a bunch of men need sanitary pads?

Zachary finally met Clive twenty minutes later.

While Zachary went on a shopping spree with his bodyguards, Clive sat on the sofa, munching on snacks and watching TV. Clive took it easy for sure.

Zachary was tempted to fling his bought goods at Clive when he walked into his nemesis chillaxing.

Pulling a sour face, Zachary drew close and dropped all the grocery bags onto the coffee table.

He then went out.

Zachary grabbed the other bags from the bodyguards and moved them into the suite, piling them onto the coffee table and two-seater sofa.

It was quite a heap of stuff.

Then, he went on to sit on the single-seater opposite Clive.

“Is that enough respect for you?” Zachary coldly snapped.

Clive lowered the TV volume before rummaging through the items in the bags. As he looked, he nitpicked, “Zachary, what did you get? Are they even worth anything? The stuff is for kids.

“I don’t even have children. This brand of cigarette tastes awful. You could at least get me cigars. This is not good alcohol.”

He glanced at the bags. “You went to a convenience store. Shouldn’t you at least get me something from a major supermarket?”

Clive caught a glimpse of the sanitary pads among the random things in one bag. Pulling out the packs, he tossed them at Zachary.

Zachary slapped the flying packs away, but one pack of sanitary pads fell into his arms.

“Zachary, are these what you’re giving me as gifts?”

Chapter 708 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Zachary could not hide the embarrassment on his handsome face when he got a good look at the item.

Clive gave Zachary hell. Zachary reacted by going all the way to the convenience store and clearing the shelves. He did not even look at what he grabbed, so he had no idea the sanitary pads were caught among the stuff.

“You have a wife.”

Zachary threw the pack of sanitary pads back to Clive.

Clive burst into laughter.

Clive laughed so hard that Zachary wanted to pounce on him and strangle him!

In all the years of fighting, Zachary had never been so awkward before Clive.

Clive could not stop guffawing for a long time. Rubbing his belly, he said, “Zachary, are you trying to make me laugh to my grave so you can inherit my family’s fortune? Man, you’re killing me.”

“You better have a will written out to pass down your inheritance to me before you die laughing.”

Clive’s laughter mellowed into a chuckle. “You probably won’t think much about my fortune. I’m not as wealthy as you.”

“Well, better than nothing. Besides, your personal assets alone are worth several billion. I don’t mind taking over your fortune at all.”

Clive hurriedly got up and walked away before he killed himself laughing. He went to brew Zachary a pot of strong tea.

He returned to his seat on the sofa moments later. Clive poured Zachary a cup of tea and slid the cup across the table to Zachary.

Clive poured himself a glass of water.

It was bad for sleep to drink tea in the middle of the night. The sleepless night would have a direct effect on energy levels at work the following day.

In his mind, Zachary quietly called Clive out about his devious ploy.

He could forget about sleep if he were to take a sip or two of strong tea.

Clive himself was enjoying a glass of water.

Zachary had a feeling that he would not win on Clive’s turf.

“Is there something important for you to meet me here?”

Zachary refused to drink the cup of tea.

Although he would be wasting a few hours here, Zachary could sleep for a few hours with his wife in his arms before going to work if he stayed away from the tea.

Clive beckoned to Zachary and said, “Have some tea, Mr. York.”

“Thank you, but I don’t like tea. Besides, it’s late. The tea will disrupt my sleep routine.”

Clive pulled a long face on purpose. “Are you trying to be rude?”

Zachary fearlessly looked at Clive without breaking his stare, pointing out, "You're Seren's cousin. Even if you haven't bonded with her since the relationship's new, you should at least be considerate of her. She'll bear the brunt if I lose sleep the entire night."

Clive was at a loss for words.

The pair engaged in a stare-down before Clive put on a solemn face. He asked Zachary, "What's the meaning of you keeping your identity from Serenity? Are you worried she'll go after your money after learning who you are?"

"I bet you already got your answer from Seren. I can't be bothered to answer you. Cut to the chase. It's late. You might not want to go home, but I miss Seren."

Since they finally had their wedding night today, Zachary did not want to waste any time with Clive.

Clive was speechless.

How could his nemesis become his cousin-in-law?

On second thought, Clive was relieved that Zachary was not in love with his sister. Otherwise, Zachary would just get on his nerves every day.

It was difficult to make a tough nut like Zachary yield.

"Elisa. I'm most concerned about Elisa's feelings."

Clive got on with it.

There was sarcasm in Zachary's eyes. He knew that Clive had Elisa's best interest at heart, not Serenity's.

Clive had the nerve to act like he was the older cousin.

"Now that you're back from your business trip, you should steer clear of Elisa if you intend to visit my parents with Serenity. You know how madly in love Elisa is with you. Although she stopped pestering you, she hasn't let go of her feelings for you completely. If she finds out you're Serenity's husband..."

Clive did not have to finish his sentence as Zachary got the hint.

Chapter 709 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Zachary fell silent for a while before gruffly uttering, "I believe you should be on top of keeping Elisa away."

He could not possibly be the one to get rid of Elisa.

"We'll make arrangements. You need to text me before coming, so I can distract her away from seeing you. I'll keep my parents in the loop too."

Zachary had no problems with the plan.

He did not want Elisa to know about him and Serenity for now.

They were in the honeymoon period of their relationship. God knew what Elisa would do in a moment of madness when she found out.

“I probably can’t make time before New Year, but I’ll find time to visit your family with Serenity after.”

Serenity had lost her parents. There was no way she would visit her money-hungry relatives back in her hometown.

Family to Serenity was Liberty and the Stones.

Clive asked, “What are you doing before New Year? Isn’t your office closed by Christmas Eve?”

Stone Group was giving its employees time off around that time. Major corporations tended to be busy during the year-end, only pausing their operations just before Christmas.

“I’ll be swamped with work in the next few days, and then there’s the company’s annual dinner. I need to fly to Annenburg the following day after the annual dinner for the CEO of FC & Co.’s wedding. I’ll probably be back just before New Year.”

Clive had caught wind of the wedding bells ringing for the CEO of FC & Co., but he did not receive an invitation because his company had no business with FC & Co. Since York Corporation and FC & Co. were business partners, Remy got on well with Zachary. It made sense that Zachary would make the trip to Annenburg.

“I’m envious of you,” Clive remarked.

Zachary immediately got the meaning behind his words.

Clive was envious that Zachary had business and personal relations with people like Ben.

Ben was surrounded by awesome people. The Johnsons boys aside, Clive’s brother-in-law was the head of Meadspring’s Lafayette family. The connection was enough to make anyone turn green.

“Zachary, you’re always a little bit luckier than me.”

Zachary faintly replied, “We have our own destiny, carved by God. Just resign to fate.”

Clive was speechless.

“Are you attending the annual dinner with Seren?”

Zachary was quiet for a bit before answering, “I’ll sort it out.”

He would keep Serenity behind the scenes for a while and let her show up after his speech. He would not be caught that way.

Serenity could attend the company’s annual dinner, but she would have to sit out of the wedding in Annenburg. It was too risky as his cover could be blown.

He supposed he had to tell Serenity that he had another business trip coming.

Clive took a moment in silence too. He nodded without another word.

Although he gave Zachary a hard time, Clive could tell that Zachary’s feelings for Serenity were real.

Zachary would not give Clive the time of day if he did not fall in love with Serenity. He would not sit here to talk to Clive and would walk away the moment Clive’s bodyguards stopped him at the door.

“It’s late. You should get back.”

Clive turned off the TV and picked up the car keys. He rose to his feet. “I should get home before my wife gets anxious from waiting.”

Zachary snuck out whereas Clive’s wife knew that Clive was meeting with Zachary. Alice was waiting for Clive at home, probably scared that Clive and Zachary might get into a tiff.

Getting up, Zachary walked out of the room with Clive.

The pair sauntered alongside each other to the lift, but there was no more exchange of words.

Chapter 710 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Clive’s and Zachary’s bodyguards trailed behind without a word. People would think they saw ghosts if this group of people did not make a sound while striding ahead. Clive stopped right before getting into the lift.

“Zachary,” he said in a low voice.

Zachary turned his head to look at him.

Clive took a long pause before saying, “Stop stealing my business.”

Zachary nonchalantly replied, “People have a choice to change their minds before they seal the deal. Some even back out after signing the contract. That’s how business is. You can’t say that I steal your business. You should recognize that Stone Group is not strong enough to convince clients from choosing York Corporation instead.

“Business is business. Favor is another thing. Don’t mix personal with business.”

Clive remarked, “Zachary, *you* have balls.”

Zachary remained offhanded. “Of course, I have balls, but you... You’ve been married for years now. When are you going to have a baby? Are you unwell or something? Since you’re Serenity’s cousin, I can recommend a specialist to help you.”

“Unwell, my foot. I’m as fit as a fiddle. My wife and I want to enjoy a few years with just the two of us. There’s no hurry to get a baby.”

Clive nearly blew up.

However, he understood that Zachary was not the only one curious about it. The world was also wondering if there was something wrong with him, his wife, or both because a baby was not in the picture yet.

“I got to go. You don’t have to see me off, Mr. Stone,” Zachary said as Sam pressed the button for the lift. Zachary then entered the lift with his security detail.

Clive was left outside the lift, screaming, “Who’s seeing you off? I’m going home!” He could not believe Zachary went ahead to take his personal lift!

Clive decided to go home and discuss with his wife about having a baby. They were blissfully married and enjoyed each other's company for years, but they were not getting any younger. Clive's parents did not rush them for a baby.

Nevertheless, the Lafayette family had been urging them to make a big family.

Every time Clive went with Alice to visit her family, his father-in-law would talk about babies while his mother-in-law would call Alice into the room for questioning. Well, it was all about the babies.

It did not matter to Zachary whether Clive and his wife wanted to make babies.

He would like to have a baby with Serenity though.

Nana nagged all day long about having a great-granddaughter.

Of course, Zachary would not put pressure on Serenity to get a daughter. He would like their child regardless of gender.

If they had a son, the boy would be cute like Sonny.

Zachary believed that his child with Serenity would be much more handsome and adorable than Sonny because he had better looks than Hank.

The two CEOs returned home with a dream of becoming a father.

Fast asleep, Serenity had no idea that Zachary went out.

Zachary came back to find her snoozing. He leaned in to kiss her, but the desire simply overtook him during the kiss and tempted him to take her on another sensual ride.

Serenity thought she was dreaming.

She woke up the next morning, staring at the ceiling. She was stuck between dreamland and reality.

Was she dreaming last night or did the man not keep it in his pants in the middle of the night and took advantage of her while she was sleeping?

Cocking her head to Zachary, Serenity pinched his sleeping face and said, "You must have had your way with me while I was sleeping. You lewd wolf!"

Zachary had to go to work today.

Since Mrs. Lane was not around, Serenity got up, washed up, and went downstairs to make her husband breakfast. She heard the doorbell halfway down the stairs.