

Gu Lingfei 251

Chapter 251

In the evening, when the work day was about to end, Josh knocked on the door to the CEO's office and entered, carrying a stack of documents in his arms.

Zachary raised his head and eyed him for a second before he returned to his work. After Josh sat down, Zachary remarked, "What use is your secretary?"

"She's pregnant! I'm being considerate of her. I don't want her to run back and forth, and tire herself out. Her husband might come looking for me then. So I did it myself."

Josh placed the stack of documents in front of his good friend.

"I've looked through them. There's no problem with them, so you just have to sign them."

After he set the documents down, he got up to pour himself a glass of warm water. He sat back down and proceeded to drink his water while looking at the man sitting opposite him.

Zachary was extremely handsome. Even if his face was tense all day in a cold and serious expression, it wasn't enough to mask his handsome exterior.

In this age and day where looks were everything, girls and young women would fall for him without fail once they glimpsed at him a few times.

Maybe there was an exception, and that was their Mrs. CEO.

Josh admired Serenity, hands down. In just a little more than a month, she had managed to coax the most thoroughly iron-hard tree of York Corporation that was their CEO into flowering buds, and it even seemed like the buds were about to bloom.

And more importantly, Serenity had not fallen for Zachary.

How did she manage to protect her heart?

Zachary treated her pretty well. Those admirers out there only had a glimpse of Zachary a few times but could not forget him for years after, like Elisa Stone! She was just like that. After being unable to get over him for a few years, she tried to pursue

him.

On the other hand, you had Zachary treating Serenity so well and even making many exceptions for her, but Serenity could still protect her heart and remained unmoved. That was the part that Josh admired her for.

"What are you looking at?"

Zachary had not raised his head, but he knew his friend was staring at him.

"Looking at your handsome face, duh! Zachary, you really are handsome. You're just bad-tempered and aloof. If you were the gentle and considerate type, people might think you were a woman. If you were a

woman, how could anyone else go on? But if you were a woman, I'd do anything to cling to you and marry you."

Zachary flipped through the documents Josh had brought and studied them carefully. After making sure there really were not any problems with the documents, only then did he sign off on them.

"Isn't there a business reception tonight?"

"Yeah. Are you planning to go? If you are, the organizer would probably dance in joy for a month and brag about it for the next ten years."

The business reception that was being held at Wiltspoon Hotel that night could not be considered a high-level reception. The invitees were middle management at big corporations or bosses of smaller companies.

Someone like Zachary, who was at the top of the top, would never take part in a business reception like that of tonight.

Of course, if Zachary wanted to go, he could.

"If you want to go, I'll get Mr. Murray to wait for you."

Mr. Murray was a manager of one of the subsidiary companies under York Corporation. Josh had arranged for him to take part in the reception after he analyzed the invitation sent to York Corporation by the organizer.

That was because the subsidiary Mr. Murray was managing had just opened recently and still needed to network to get business.

Taking part in a business reception and getting to know some of these old managers would smoothen the road before him even if he could not get their business.

"I'm not going. I was just asking."

Zachary rarely attended gatherings held by the upper crust, let alone a business reception like that.

He just wanted to go to the hotel to have a drink.

"You have something on your mind, or else you wouldn't have brought it up out of nowhere."

"I want to have a drink or two," Zachary said nonchalantly.

He had a presidential suite exclusively for his use at the Wiltspoon Hotel, located on the top floor.

In the past, if the socializing ran late, he would not return home and just stay in the hotel.

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"Want to come along?"

No matter where it was, wherever Zachary lived, there would be a large collection of fine wines.

“No, thanks. I’m scared of getting drunk again. When you get drunk, you have your wife to take care of you. I am but a single dog. No one would take care of me even if I got alcohol poisoning and died.”

“You make yourself seem so pitiful. You could go on a blind date too and have a shotgun. marriage to get a wife to take care of you.”

Josh chuckled. “With you as a precedent, I think I’d better obediently wait for my fate to come around.”

“What’s wrong with me? I’m doing just fine!”

“Sure, sure. You’re doing just fine. So much so that your expression hasn’t warmed a single degree for the past few days. Your work efficiency has increased a lot, but you’ve made life harder for those under you. These few days, more and more people have automatically volunteered to work overtime even into the wee hours.”

York Corporation would not force its employees to work overtime. As long as they managed to finish their work, they not only did not have to work overtime, they could. even get off work early.

However, if their work was not done by the day, they would work overtime on their own accord because that day’s work could not be put off to the next day.

Due to the cold war with his wife, Zachary was in a bad mood and directed all of his attention to his work. He was originally already a fast worker, but when all of his attention was focused on his work, his efficiency grew by leaps and bounds. This had him manage to finish three days’ worth of work in a day.

And so the life of those under him was made harder.

“Mr. Chaplin’s been so busy he hasn’t even had time to have a drink of water.”

Zachary put down his pen.

“Have they been complaining to you?”

In York Corporation, Zachary, as the CEO, was naturally a figure feared and respected by everyone. When the employees had complaints, they would only dare to make them to Josh, because Josh had some degree of compassion and was not cold and aloof like Zachary.

Plus, Zachary trusted Josh and relied on him heavily, and they were good friends too.

Telling Josh was equivalent to letting Zachary know.

“No, but I have eyes. Zachary, just listen to me and you’ll be fine. Tonight, buy a present to go home to coax your wife.”

Josh inwardly thought with great disdain that if Zachary was like this every day, he would not be able to stand it either.

Even he had to fight for the chance to catch his breath.

As he said that, he picked up the copper wire tree for a look.

Zachary had displayed it on his table. Josh knew that it was given to Zachary by his wife and the reason it was displayed there was that Zachary had fallen for Serenity. But others who had no idea of this would blindly decide to follow the trend and help Serenity's business.

Of course, Zachary, that stubborn and tight-lipped man, would never admit that.

Josh did not want Zachary to admit that he had fallen for Serenity too quickly either because that would mean there would be no show to watch anymore. It was just too much fun watching the awkward Zachary.

Zachary thought, 'I have bad friends.'

"If you're that bored, there's something I need your help to look into."

Josh immediately waved his hands as a "no". "I'm so busy! Really, I'm not bored at all. What do you need help with?"

He was a terrible scandalmonger, and that was how Zachary managed to get him in the palm of his hands.

"Help me look into Hank Brown of Waltham Electronics. He's a manager in Waltham who's deeply trusted by his boss."

"Why, are you planning on poaching him? No, wait. That name's kind of familiar. I think he's... Oh! He's that brother-in-law of yours, right?"

Josh had a good memory and recalled it right away.

He did not want to know too much. It was not his fault that his boss asked him to look into things all the time!

He only knew about it because he had no other choice.

"It is him. I suspect he's having an affair. Get your people to compile the evidence of his affair and pass it to me. Don't let too many people know about this, I'm not 100% sure about this either."

Chapter 253

Josh was not surprised that Hank Brown was having an affair.

He said, "That sister-in-law of yours changed too much after getting married. After Hank Brown got his promotion, any of the women around him would have been better than

your sister-in-law. Now that time has passed, he'll naturally start to be repelled by her."

Zachary's gaze was cold, and so was his tone of voice. "Why did she change so much? Because she loved him and wasn't afraid of her body changing. She gave birth to a child for him, and after that, to let him focus on his work, she brought the kid up and took care of the whole household alone. She gave up her youth and her beauty for him."

He could also attest to her looking different before and after her marriage. Liberty had changed a lot. She should at least lose some weight.

But that was not an excuse for Hank to have an affair. Ruthlessness had long lurked within Hank, but it just had not had the chance to make its appearance before this. Now that he was doing well in his job, he was arrogant and started to look down on his wife, treating her with disgust.

If Hank really thought Liberty was too ugly in this state, he could have asked her to lose some weight.

Liberty still had some feelings for him. She surely would have worked hard to lose weight if had asked her to. Hank instead sought to oppress Liberty in every aspect of their marriage and lives together, finding fault in her at every turn and even suggesting that they split their household expenses by halves.

Did Hank not know that Liberty was not working at the moment and had no income to speak of?

“That’s true. A good, principled man wouldn’t have changed his heart even if his wife became a two-hundred-pound fatty.”

A faithful man would not have had an affair because their wife became ugly or gained weight.

When it came down to it, Hank was sick of Liberty.

It was possible he had deliberately made Liberty gain weight so he would have an excuse to be disgusted by her and have an affair.

“Make sure Hank Brown doesn’t find out about this.”

“Relax! I’m the one handling it. Do you still not trust me to do the job well? Unless my men want him to know, we’d have dug it all up to eighteen generations back in his family tree and he’d still have no clue about it,” Josh said as a guarantee,

“Zachary, this is a pretty good idea of yours. When you hand the evidence of Hank

Brown’s affair over to your wife, she’ll definitely be grateful to you for it and then you guys can finally make up and be like how you were before.”

The corner of Zachary’s mouth spasmed. “Be like how we were before? When we first got to know each other, I couldn’t even remember her name.”

Josh was speechless.

Alright, that was not the right thing to say.

Having asked Josh to look into Hank Brown, Zachary passed the stack of documents he had dealt with and blandly said, “You can get off work now.”

“I want to, but I still have a business engagement to attend tonight.”

Zachary was speechless.

Right, he had to go to a business engagement too.

When Zachary discussed business with others, it would usually either be in the company or in his presidential suite at Wiltspoon Hotel.

Fine. He did not have to go to the hotel to drink tonight. He could drink as much as he wanted at the business engagement.

Serenity gave some of the seafood Elisa had given her to her sister to bring home to eat. She gave some to Jasmine too. Although Jasmine's family did not lack good things and ate seafood every day, she happily accepted it because her good friend was giving it to her.

Just as Callum York arrived to pick Grandma May up, Serenity lugged the biggest bag of seafood out.

When he saw his sister-in-law lugging a big bag with difficulty, he hurriedly got out of the car and rushed forward to take it from her. "Serenity, this is so heavy. You could ask us to help carry it for you."

It would not do to tire out his sister-in-law.

"That's right! I told you that you didn't have to. Let Callum do it, men like them are stronger." Grandma May said.

She thought to herself, 'Look at how Callum is, he knows how to be considerate of others. It's just that iceberg Zack who doesn't know how to.

'Sigh... How worrying.'

Grandma May acknowledged to herself that this was worrying, but not a hint of it showed on her face. Her eldest grandson had provided her front seat tickets to a truly entertaining show, and she was enjoying it thoroughly. She was not exactly worried. That simply did not exist.

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"Serenity, what's all this?"

Callum had detected the smell of seafood.

"It's seafood. A friend of mine brought it back after holidaying by the beach. She gave me a lot. They're all fresh, and your brother and I can't eat that much, so I'm giving some to you guys to bring home and eat."

Callum stole a glance at his nana. Seeing that she was not declining it, he said, "This is a lot."

Seafood was something their family lacked the least.

However, since it was given to him by his sister-in-law, he best helped bring them home.

"Nana, don't forget to give everyone a portion to try."

Serenity had meticulously prepared a portion for each family unit, contained in individual nets. After getting home, all Grandma May had to do was to hand it out portion by portion. They were equally divided.

"Alright, I will."

Grandma May waited for Callum to put the seafood in the trunk before getting in the car. She then said to Serenity, "Serenity, I texted Zack earlier, telling him to come over and eat with you before going back to the company to work.

"He should already be on his way over. Callum works at the same company and Callum's already here. You should hurry and make dinner. You don't have to send us off."

Serenity was speechless for a moment. "Nana, you should have said so earlier. I was planning to heat up the leftovers from lunch and there's only enough for myself."

"If you start preparing dinner now, you'll still make it in time. Go on! Zack always works super late. Cook a few extra dishes for him and make sure he fills his stomach," Grandma May said.

Serenity could not say no to Grandma May's face.

After sending her off, Serenity was left alone in the bookshop.

She hurriedly picked up her phone to text Zachary to tell him not to come over because she was too lazy to cook for him, but only remembered that she had deleted his number after opening her messages. No, wait! He deleted her number first.

After thinking about it, Serenity decided to unblock Zachary's number.

If Zachary's phone number had a soul, it would have thought, 'After getting locked into the darkness, I can finally see the light again.'

Serenity then called Zachary.

His phone rang.

Right at the doorstep of her bookshop.

Zachary picked up her call anyway. The fact that she called him had let him know that she had unblocked him.

"Serenity."

Zachary's voice was rich, low, and had a magnetism to it.

Serenity thought to herself that if she had a voice fetish, she would definitely fall hard for Zachary after hearing his voice.

Luckily, she did not have a voice fetish, but that did stop her from liking the sound of his voice.

"What's up?"

"I wanted to tell you not to come over anymore. I'm too lazy to cook again, but since you're already here, forget it. I'll go get a portion of white rice takeaway and heat up the leftovers from lunch. We'll just make do for this meal."

Serenity came out of her shop and hung up when she saw Zachary.

"Do you want anything else to eat? I'll help get some takeout of whatever you want to eat."

Zachary moved the phone away from his ear and stuffed it into his trouser pocket. He did his best to make his expression a little gentler and his voice a little less cold. "Just a portion of white rice is enough. There's no need to get anything else."

"Alright. Are you in a rush to go back to work? If not, help me look after the shop for a bit. I'll head over to the restaurant nearby to get the rice. Help me heat up the food too."

Zachary was silent for a while before he gloomily agreed. "Okay." In order to make up with his wife, the great Zachary York had to eat leftovers.

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Serenity got in her car and sped off.

Zachary watched her go before walking into the bookshop. He took a look at the materials that she had not put away yet. He could not make sense of it, so he turned away and went into the kitchen.

He washed the wok and put a little water in it before placing the leftovers from lunch into the wok, then turned on the gas to heat it up.

Out of boredom, he casually opened the fridge and saw that it was stuffed full of seafood.

They were all given by Elisa Stone.

Elisa Stone was pretty generous to Serenity, even dragging a carful of seafood back for her.

Thinking of how Serenity taught Elisa how to pursue him and that being the reason. Elisa gave her so much seafood... and that he'd eaten quite a bit at lunch...

"Serenity? Serenity!"

Shawn Lowe's cries came from outside.

Zachary immediately turned the fire down to its lowest and speedily ran into the bathroom, closing the door behind him..

There was no other reason than for the fact Shawn Lowe had met him before. If Shawn saw him, his real identity would be exposed to Serenity.

Zachary did not want Shawn to expose his real identity.

Shawn walked into the bookshop and called for Serenity a few more times after seeing there was no one around.

In the bathroom, Zachary pinched his nose and shouted: "Who's there? Serenity's not in at the moment. Is something the matter?"

Hearing a stranger's voice and having seen the national MPV parked in front of the shop, Shawn guessed that it was Serenity's husband.

He was silent for a moment before he replied: "Are you Serenity's husband? Where did she go? It's not a big deal, I'll just give her a call."

"She's probably driving at the moment. You can tell me what you have to say to her and I'll pass on the message when she's back," Zachary said from the bathroom.

How could Shawn tell Zachary the truth?

He had come over to beg Serenity to accompany him to the business reception at Wiltspoon Hotel that night.

Although Lowe Enterprise did have its place in Wiltspoon's world of business, Shawn, as a successor, was still in training. He was still a small fry. His father arranged for him to attend tonight's business reception to expand his network of connections within the industry and to get to know the elites.

Once he took over Lowe Enterprise and if the management got gutted, he would still be able to choose from the elites at this business reception and nurture his own confidants.

"It's nothing much, brother-in-law."

Shawn walked further in. "Where are you, brother-in-law?"

He saw that there was no one in the kitchen.

Zachary harrumphed in his heart. 'Brother-in-law? Who on earth was his brother-in law?

You call me brother-in-law, but you want to snatch my wife away!'

Zachary saw Shawn as his love rival, and he was his love rival indeed. Shawn was definitely waiting for him and Serenity to divorce.

Even if they divorced, did Shawn really think he had a chance? If Serenity was going to fall for Shawn, she would have fallen for him long ago. She said it herself, that she only saw him as a little brother!

"I'm in the bathroom. You can sit outside for a moment. I'll be done soon."

"I-I have something urgent to deal with, so I won't stay. I'll make a move first, brother -in-law."

Shawn did feel a little guilty.

Even if Serenity and her husband did have a shotgun marriage, he could not ask Serenity to go with him to a business reception right in front of her husband's face.

"Alright, I won't send you off then."

Zachary would never ask Shawn to stay.

Shawn paused for a second, then turned to walk outside.

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Zachary only came out of the bathroom when he heard Shawn's footsteps fade into the distance.

and He was thankful for two things right then and there. One for Nana calling him over, two for himself resisting his pride and taking the out that Nana offered him. Otherwise, Shawn would have the chance to be alone with Serenity.

Shawn walked out of the bookshop, got into his car, and drove away. However, just as he reached a junction, he stopped his car and called Serenity.

Serenity quickly picked up his call.

“What’s up, Shawn?”

“Serenity, are you free later? Around 7:30 pm.”

“Why?”

Serenity did not say if she was free but instead straightforwardly asked him why.

Shawn hesitated before saying, “I have to attend a business reception at Wiltspoon. Hotel in a while. I need a female companion. You know me, I don’t have a girlfriend yet, so I wanted to ask for your help to accompany me to the reception.”

“Get Jasmine to go with you. I’m not free. My husband’s still waiting in the bookshop. to have dinner with me.” Serenity rejected his invitation without a second thought.

She saw Shawn as a younger brother, but Zachary misunderstood her and thought she was treating Shawn as a backup partner.

Although she had no intention to do so, she would still minimize the chances of her being alone with Shawn, or even better, if there were not any at all.

Speaking of which, the last time she treated Shawn to a meal, Jasmine was there too. They were not alone together, but Zachary still managed to misunderstand after seeing them and thinking she was cheating on him with Shawn. That really pissed her off.

Why was it that in Zachary’s eyes, she was someone who could not wait to find her next partner?

Shawn felt uncomfortable in his heart upon hearing Serenity bring up her husband, but he did not show it and proceeded to beg. “Serenity, are you really going to eat dinner all the way till seven o’clock later? Please help me out. Jas always has something going on at night. She can’t help me with this.”

“Must you

have a female companion? I don’t need until 7 pm to have my dinner, but I still have to watch the shop. And anyway, I’m married. Shawn, I’ve always treated you as my younger brother, but in others’ eyes, we’re not blood-related.

“If I were to accompany you to this business reception, what would they think of us?”

Shawn knew Serenity did not see him as a man at all and only did think of him as a younger brother.

That did not stop Shawn from feeling hurt to hear her actually say it out loud, that she only saw him as a younger brother.

If only he had known earlier that Serenity needed a man to get into a shotgun marriage with, he would definitely have helped her.

Unfortunately, there was no such thing.

Serenity was probably put off by the fact that he was three years younger than her. She had never considered him as an option and would rather marry a stranger than him!

Shawn understood that in his heart, but still could not help but hope.

Jas had said that Serenity and her husband had signed an agreement and would divorce after half a year.

Once she was divorced, he would definitely confess his feelings to her.

“Serenity, that’s just what they think. Who cares what they say? Our consciences are clear.”

Serenity was silent for a moment before she said with complete honesty, “Shawn, my husband minds a lot if I’m spending time alone with other men.”

Shawn might really have just been looking for a female companion and did not mean anything else by it, but Serenity had to drill into Shawn’s head that she was now a married woman!

and they

Serenity had started to

After having argued with Zachary and having experienced the cold war could not even be considered to have made up at this moment

pay attention to her proximity to men.

Shawn was speechless.

“Shawn, I’m going to start driving, so I’ll hang up now. If you really need someone to go with you, get Jas to go. What could she have tonight? Isn’t it just watching dramas? If you just mention it to her, she’d definitely help you with this.”

—

Jasmine Sox was actually a hermit.

At night, she loved to stay at home watching dramas and reading s on her phone. Serenity proceeded to hang up.

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Despite Zachary having said there was no need to get anything else to eat, Serenity still ordered two freshly cooked dishes and two portions of white rice to go.

After paying for the food, she walked out of the restaurant carrying the packed food and got into her car.

Ring, ring, ring...

Her phone started ringing again.

This time, the call was from Zachary.

Shawn came and went, but Zachary was overly sensitive about it, so he could not resist. making a call to Serenity.

"I'm coming back now," Serenity immediately said without waiting for Zachary to speak first, and promptly hung up.

Zachary, who was almost immediately hung up on by his wife, looked at his phone in silence for a long while.

He knew Serenity was still mad at him in her heart.

The two of them had not actually made up. Their current situation was only due to Nana's interference and out of respect for her.

Serenity did indeed return to the bookshop in a jiffy.

"Have the leftovers been heated up? We can eat now."

Serenity asked Zachary who was seated behind the counter as she walked in, carrying the packed food.

"It's done."

Seeing that she had returned, Zachary immediately stood up and walked out from behind the counter. He walked into the kitchen to grab plates and utensils for them and then returned to the kitchen to bring out the heated food.

Serenity placed the packed food on the counter. Zachary saw that there were new dishes. and said, "Did I not say there wasn't a need to get anything else?"

"I was worried you wouldn't be used to eating leftovers, so I got two dishes, especially for you. The food from this restaurant is pretty good. When I get takeout, I order it from this restaurant often."

Hearing that the two dishes were specially ordered for him, Zachary's gaze on her deepened.

For the pair of husband and wife to get along, he was putting in the effort, and so was she.

He was changing, bit by bit, and so was she.

"Oh, right. There was a guy who came by looking for you earlier. He called me brother-in-law."

Zachary seemed to say nonchalantly as he helped scoop some rice for Serenity. "He said he was looking for you for something. When I asked him what it was, he didn't say and didn't even stay two minutes longer before leaving. Did he call you? Was it an urgent matter?"

Serenity did not hide the truth from him and said, "That was Shawn. It wasn't anything urgent. I asked him to ask Jasmine for help because I couldn't help him with whatever he needed."

Zachary did not say anything more.

The pair of them descended into silence for a short moment.

After a pause, Zachary still decided to ask.

“What did he ask for your help with?”

Serenity put a peeled prawn into her mouth. This was from the leftovers when Zachary peeled the whole plate of prawns. Sonny could not eat that much, so there was still half a plate of it left.

She loved eating prawns.

She loved all kinds of seafood.

“He’s going to attend the business reception at Wiltspoon Hotel in a while and he needed a female companion. He wanted to invite me to go with him, but I rejected him. I’m a married woman now.”

After Serenity said that, she gave Zachary a look.

Zachary knew what she meant by those words.

His expression remained composed. He did not eat less just because his wife gave him a look.

Serenity’s honesty made him feel much better, and he felt like he had a particularly good appetite. He ate the two dishes Serenity had specially ordered for him with great relish.

The two of them ate up all of the food.

After the meal, Serenity was about to clear the table when Zachary stood up and did it first. “I’ll do it. You should sit and have a rest,”

“You make it sound like you’re afraid I’m about to burst.”

Zachary smiled, what a rare sight. “I really am afraid you ate so much you’ll burst.”

“The seafood can’t be kept. It doesn’t taste good after the first meal, let alone overnight. We have to finish it and not waste it. Seafood is pretty expensive right now. You might be earning a lot, but we should still be saving where we can.

Zachary laughed. “I can still afford to take care of you. If you like eating seafood, we can buy it for ourselves after this.”

“All the seafood Ms. Stone gave us is fresh. She brought it back specially from the seaside.”

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“If

you want to, we can take a weekend trip to the seaside too and have seafood freshly caught from the sea.”

This was Zachary’s first time suggesting that they take a weekend trip.

“It’s already November.”

“As long as the sun behaves normally, November in Wiltspoon is still hot, especially during the day. It’s even more suitable to go to the seaside for a holiday then. It won’t be too cold nor will it be too hot.”

Serenity rubbed her stomach. “We can talk about this later. I can’t be sure now that I won’t have something else on that weekend.”

Zachary gave a hum in response.

As he cleared the table and brought the dishes into the kitchen to wash them, he heard his great and mighty wife remind him, “Don’t pour too much dishwashing liquid in and end up filling the sink with bubbles.”

Zachary kept a straight face and did not respond.

After ten minutes, Zachary was done with the dishes.

Having looked in the fridge earlier, he knew there were some fruits in the fridge.

He washed a fruit plate and took out some of each type of fruit from the fridge. He washed the fruits before cutting them into pieces and arranging them on the plate.. After putting a few toothpicks onto the plate, he walked out of the kitchen while carrying the fruit plate.

“Have some fruits.”

He put the fruit plate on the counter.

Serenity was speechless for a moment. “Are you actually trying to make me so full I’ll burst?”

Zachary lightly poked her forehead. “Don’t you know how to go out for a walk to help with digestion?”

The entrance to Wiltspoon School was so wide, and there was a long double-lane road by it. It was also next to a big river. If she just walked one lap along the road, which was also the riverside, she would be able to ease her digestion.

Serenity was surprised by his sudden intimate action and instinctively raised her hand to smack his away, but he withdrew his hand before that could happen.

She smacked the air instead.

“We should go out for a walk in a bit.”

Serenity sat up straight and asked, “Don’t you have a business engagement tonight?”

“There was one tonight, but Nana insisted that I come over to eat with you, so I had to call it off.”

Embarrassed, Serenity said, “I didn’t ask Nana to do that, okay?”

Her relationship with Grandma May was good. She married him in the first place because of her.

Worried that he would think she was manipulating Grandma May, Serenity tried to explain.

Zachary looked at her with keen, dark eyes, and said gently, “I know it wasn’t your intention.”

Nana was giving him an out.

Serenity looked at the time and saw that it was just past seven. "It's still early. What time was your business engagement originally? You can still go do your thing."

Zachary was silent.

The moment he stopped talking, the lines of his face would tense up tightly. It made him look especially serious and cold.

His thin lips pursed into a line, as tightly as a clam.

There was a saying that men with thin lips were ungrateful.

Whether or not he would be ungrateful, Serenity had no idea, but she knew he was cold hearted and just as unfriendly towards younger members of the opposite sex.

If it were not for her fateful encounter with Nana where she helped Nana, which led to Nana's gratitude, and without Zachary being extremely filial toward his Nana, he would have definitely treated her much worse than this.

No, he would not even have married her in the first place.

Zachary met Serenity's gaze and the two of them looked at each other.

"Serenity, do you dislike being alone with me that much?"

When Zachary asked that, his tone was low, and his gaze toward Serenity seemed to spark with a dangerous gleam.

"Do you like being alone with me?" Serenity asked him in return.

Zachary was silent again.

His silence gave Serenity her answer. She did not mind either way and took out her phone to watch videos. She said, "Mr. York, if you're really busy, go ahead with your business. I'm used to watching the shop by myself."

To be honest, she really was not used to Zachary being here and accompanying her.

Zachary's expression darkened. She was chasing him away!

Chapter 259

Zachary saw that Serenity's attention was entirely focused on her phone and had the impulse to snatch her phone away.

The good thing was he had great self-control, so he did not actually do that, lest the relationship deteriorated again.

He walked closer, stood in front of Serenity, and said in his deep voice, "Honey."

Bam!

Serenity was so shocked by him calling her "honey" that she dropped her phone on the floor.

She quickly bent over to pick her phone up. When she saw that her phone screen cracked really badly, she immediately said in dismay, "My phone case cost a hundred bucks."

Zachary took the phone from her and had a look at it. Yeah, it was broken pretty badly. When he heard her words of dismay about the phone case, he said, "I'll buy you ten in compensation."

"You should buy a few more for me. I'm worried I'll drop my phone case and break them multiple times when you lose your marbles and call me 'honey'."

The corner of Zachary's mouth spasmed. He looked at her in silence for a moment. before saying gravely, "Serenity, we're still husband and wife."

It was a hundred percent normal and completely justified of him to call her "honey".

Serenity took her phone from his hands and asked him bemusedly, "Tell me, what else do you want to say? I think you'd better go back to calling me by my name from now on. I'm not used to calling you 'babe', and I'm not used to you calling me 'honey' either."

"I'm sorry."

Zachary's expression was serious. He thought his expression must have looked apologetic.

However in Serenity's eyes, he looked so serious he resembled the head teacher in school, someone the students would take a detour to avoid running into.

That was wrong

"That night, I was a bit impulsive and I did some bad things to you. me, so I'm sorry."

Serenity just looked at him, waiting for him to continue.

Who knew that after those two sentences, he would just look at her? There was no continuation thereafter.

of

This was his apology for molesting her. He did not apologize for his misunderstanding of her and Shawn.

"There's nothing between Shawn and I."

Serenity had explained herself long ago, but still explained it once more. "I really don't have any romantic feelings for him. I treated him to a meal to thank him for helping me. There wasn't anything else to it. And anyway, it's written in the agreement that we won't interfere in each other's private life."

She hadn't interfered in his private life.

Zachary was speechless.

Once more, he regretted making her sign that agreement in the beginning. It had not tied her down at all but instead had become a burden he could not get rid of.

“Also, Jasmine was worried you thought she was trying to help matchmake me and Shawn, so she asked me to make sure I explained it to you clearly that neither I nor Jasmine has ever thought of setting me up with Shawn.”

Zachary now truly believed Serenity had no romantic feelings for Shawn at all. He pursed his lips and asked, “Shawn has a crush on you, don’t you know?”

Serenity was stunned.

Shawn had a crush on her?

That could not be possible... could it?

She was older than Shawn by three years.

“O—other than the day you saw Shawn and I eating lunch together, when else have you met him? How do you know he has a crush on me? Did he tell you that?”

Zachary propped his hands on the counter and leaned across it, his handsome face suddenly approaching Serenity’s face closely.

Serenity looked at him, blinking her big eyes.

This iceberg really is handsome.

Every time she saw his face in close proximity, Serenity had the urge to touch his face.

She had tasted those thin lips of his before. She had to say, his temperament was cold. and aloof by nature, but when he kissed her, he was truly passionate; his passion as fiery as a burning flame, almost seeming as if he wanted to melt her whole being.

“Look at my gaze,” Zachary commanded in a low voice.

Serenity looked at him. What was in his gaze?

There were his eyeballs.

“Do you see it?”

“I see your eyeballs.”

The corner of Zachary’s mouth twitched.

“What do you want me to see? I see your eyes are very big too. They’re very nice, just like your face. Mr. York, you really are blessed by the heavens. You have all the merits of a man’s appearance.”

Serenity could not resist teasing Zachary.

She ambushed his face with both her hands, pinching his cheeks, and said, “You’re always making such a stiff expression. I thought your face would be as hard as marble, but pinching it now, your face feels quite soft. I heard that people with soft facial muscles have a good temper. You have such a bad temper, but your face still feels soft when I pinch it.”

Chapter 260

Zachary was speechless for a moment. "Can't you see the sincere emotions in my eyes? Shawn looks at you the same way I just looked at you. I'm a man so I understand how other men are. He has a crush on you, and he's been crushing on you for a very long time."

It was just this silly woman who foolishly thought of him as a younger brother.

Shawn did not want to be her younger brother, he wanted to be her man.

As for her teasing, Zachary did not stop Serenity from teasing him again and taking advantage of him.

"Are there emotions in your eyes? I can only feel killing intent."

Zachary's expression darkened.

His performance had been in vain.

Serenity laughed embarrassedly. "Maybe your acting just wasn't good enough. Any emotion in the eyes has to come from the heart. You don't love me, so your gaze when you look at me naturally wouldn't have any emotions then."

Zachary raised his hand.

He finally smacked away her mischievous pair of hands.

"Mr. York."

"Say it."

"I- Um, I think, I really really want to kiss you."

Zachary kept a straight face and just looked at her with his dark eyes.

Serenity was embarrassed again. "You're just too handsome."

After they kissed the last time, she kind of missed that overbearing kiss of his.

Huh?

Did she just fall?

"If you don't want to, just forget it. You should hurry and go do your thing. I'll keep watching the shop," Serenity said as she picked up her phone again and pretended to look at it, avoiding his gaze.

Out of nowhere, a pair of big, strong hands pulled her up from her position behind the counter. Those hands grabbed her shoulders and pulled her forward. He moved closer and covered her sweet lips with his.

Serenity blinked. This man must not be used to women taking the lead. She felt like laughing because this guy just had to win in everything.

"Ow."

She felt pain bloom on her lip.

He had bitten her!

Although there was no blood, it did hurt.

“Are you a dog?! You bit me!”

“You’ve bitten me before too.”

Who told her not to pay attention?

He thought his charm was boundless with her praising him for being handsome and even saying she wanted to kiss him, but when he kissed her, she was so distracted, her mind might have even flown off into the abyss.

It was so disrespectful of his effort to take the initiative.

“You petty bastard!”

She held Zachary’s face with both her hands and bit his lip hard. She then watched as his thin lip slowly started to swell because she bit it a little too hard.

Zachary made his way behind the counter.

“What do you want, Zachary? You’re a grown man. Are you planning to go tit for tat with a little girl like me? Where are your manners? Where’s your generosity? You Ah!”

Zachary caught her and pushed her against the counter. He kissed her dominantly and forcefully. It was not until she raised the white flag of surrender that he let her up.

dare tease me like that again, you’ll suffer the consequences.”

“If you

Zachary warned her as he loosened his grip on her.

No one should treat him like some sort of celibate saint who could resist the temptation of a beautiful woman in his arms.

With her teasing him like that all the time, he would sometimes want to fall into temptation too.

“Who told you to look so good? Why do you look so handsome if you have nothing to do with it?” Serenity muttered.

Zachary’s expression darkened again.

She teased him first and was now blaming him for being handsome.

“Serenity! Get out here, you damn brat!”

The sound of the violent yell swept into the shop at the speed of a tornado. Nobody had arrived yet, but their voices came through first.