

## Gu Lingfei 1151

### Chapter 1151 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Thinking about it, Duncan had a net worth of hundreds of millions. Everything he bought was of good quality and expensive. It was normal that he did not know how to ask for a discount.

Liberty did not voice her thoughts.

Duncan's spending habits had nothing to do with her. She was simply his tenant.

"Aunt Ser, when will I have a little sister?" Sonny asked innocently.

Serenity served food for her nephew. "I don't know either. Even if I got pregnant, what if it's a little shopping brother?"

She had been discussing with Zachary how the York family had always given birth to sons.

She suspected the York family was not fated to have daughters.

Sonny gave it some thought and said, "Aunt Ser, I want a little sister. I don't want a shopping brother."

"Why don't you want a little brother?"

"A brother can't wear skirts, just like me."

Serenity burst out laughing.

When she saw her sister eating like a bird and not eating meat, she said, "Liberty, you've been waking up early and resting late every day. You must be exhausted. You should take in more nutritious food. You can't just keep losing weight."

"I try not to eat too much meat for dinner. I still have to go for a jog later. If I eat more, I'll have to run several more rounds."

Liberty had slimmed down a lot compared to the time before she divorced. However, she was still fat compared to Serenity, who always maintained a model-like figure.

In the end, Serenity gave up as she was unable to convince her sister to eat more.

"I'm already used to eating this much. I've been eating strictly according to the recipes the dietician gave me and exercising sufficiently. I only achieved this outcome after persevering for so long. I can't let my effort go to waste."

Liberty glanced at her sister's body enviously. She said with a smile, "I'll take note to manage my weight from now on and maintain a model-like body like you. I won't let myself eat till I end up becoming a two-hundred-pound fatty."

She did not realize that she had indeed become exactly that.

Logically speaking, she should have been upset and had a bad appetite. Her mother-in-law and sister-in-law always bothered her, and her relationship with her husband turned sour. On the contrary, she still managed to eat and sleep well.

Luckily, she started controlling her mouth and got active. Her weight kept dropping.

Liberty wanted to stop losing weight after she hit hundred pounds. She did not want to be too skinny as it would make her grow old faster. She was already over thirty years of age. A middle-aged person was supposed to be a little chubby as a sign of contentment.

“I kickbox regularly, which burns a lot of calories. That’s why I don’t put on weight easily.”

Serenity said, “However, I’ve gained a few pounds too. Zachary fed me especially well. I’ll have to go to his gym every day to exercise too.”

“That’s called pounds of happiness.”

Liberty was glad that Serenity and her husband had a good relationship.

She had a failed marriage, so she hoped her sister could live a better life.

Ring, ring...

The doorbell rang.

“Mom, Aunt Ser, I’ll get the door.”

Sonny slid down his chair and ran to open the door.

Serenity followed her nephew nonetheless.

Sonny ran to the door. He went on tiptoes, yet he still could not reach the doorknob even after several tries. He turned to look at Serenity with bright eyes.

Serenity smiled and lifted him to let him open the door.

The door opened. The person standing there was Zachary. “Uncle Zak.”

### **Chapter 1152 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Sonny was happy to see Zachary. His tiny body leaned toward Zachary. Zachary quickly put down the items in his hand to carry the child.

Serenity bent over to pick up the two bags of fruits and a carton of milk he had bought. She said with a smile, “Why are you here? Didn’t you say you had a business engagement? I bought two bags of fruits for my sister, and now you too. We even bought the same types of fruits.”

Zachary carried Sonny into the house. “That’s because our hearts are linked. Something came up, so my client can’t come over. Tonight’s schedule was canceled, so I rushed over to have a meal.”

He knew that his beloved wife was at his sister-in-law’s place.

That was one of the benefits of having bodyguards following Serenity. He could give Serenity freedom and not ask about her whereabouts during usual days, but he would also be able to find her with just a call if he wanted to know her location.

“Liberty,” Zachary greeted.

Seeing that her brother-in-law had come, Liberty put down her cutlery and stood up to welcome him. When she saw her sister carrying bags in her hand, she said, “You two don’t have to buy anything when you come over to my place in the future. I can buy them myself. Take two bags of fruits when you’re heading back later. Sonny and I can’t eat that much.”

“I didn’t know Seren bought fruits too.”

Zachary smiled gently.

Liberty had to admit that the power of love was invincible.

Since they first met, her brother-in-law had been respectful toward her, but he was always cold. However, compared to before, Zachary started smiling more and had become gentler even if he was not smiling.

The tough guy had become softer.

“We were just eating. You can wash your hands and eat with us.”

Liberty went to the kitchen to get a set of cutlery for her brother-in-law. She shifted all the delicious dishes to his side as well.

Serenity was speechless.

She knew that she would lose her sister’s favor once Zachary came. It was like she was a sister Liberty picked up from the streets.

The doorbell rang again just two minutes after they sat down.

Sonny went to open the door again. However, he got smarter. He moved a stool to open the door and forbade the adults from following him.

Soon, they heard Sonny calling, “Granddad, Grandmom.”

It was Mr. and Mrs. Brown who came.

Mr. Brown carried Sonny inside while Mrs. Brown held the stool Sonny took to boost his height. She said to Liberty while entering, “Liberty, how can you let Sonny open the door? He can’t even reach the doorknob yet. What if he falls when using the stool?”

Sonny was the Brown family’s only hope to continue the family line.

“Did you just start eating?”

Mrs. Brown saw a lot of seafood placed on the dining table. The prawns and crabs were huge. There would definitely be a lot of meat in the crab pincers. Mrs. Brown was going to say that Liberty was not practical.

Only three to four people were eating, yet they bought so much seafood. Did Liberty not know seafood was expensive?

The Brown family had not eaten seafood for a long time. Whenever Chelsea went over, she would complain that she could not eat as much seafood as she wanted ever since her sister-in-law changed.

Jessica hated Chelsea a lot. Hank had allowed Jessica to be in charge of their finances. She could not bear buying seafood for her sister-in-law.

Jessica once said to Hank, "Buying seafood for your sister just to let her criticize me and drive a wedge between you and me after she had her fill is so unrewarding. I won't do it."

Therefore, Chelsea could never eat seafood like prawns and crabs when visiting her family -even clams were out of discussion.

However, Mrs. Brown swallowed her words right away after she saw Zachary.

It made sense to have a generous meal prepared as Mr. Zachary was also eating.

"What's your business here?"

Liberty's gaze was indifferent. She disliked her ex-husband's family coming over so often.

"Liberty, we want Sonny to stay at our place for some time." Mr. Brown stated their intention immediately as he knew Liberty hated them.

Since their new daughter-in-law no longer restricted them from getting close to Sonny, Mr. and Mrs. Brown could not wait for another second and went to look for Liberty to pick Sonny up.

### **Chapter 1153 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Liberty kept quiet.

Serenity spoke, "You never took care of Sonny before. He'll not be able to get used to it and cry if you take him to your place. If you want to visit Sonny, you can come over every day during the daytime and play with him."

Mr. Brown said embarrassedly, "Serenity, we didn't take care of Sonny before, so we're trying to make up for it now. We're old and bored at home. If we help your sister to take care of Sonny, she'll be able to focus on earning money too."

He asked the child in his arms next, "Sonny, do you want to follow Granddad and Grandmom home?"

Sonny asked, "Is Mom coming?"

Mr. Brown was stunned. He replied, "Your mom isn't going, but your dad is in Granddad and Grandmom's home. Sonny, follow us back and stay with us, okay? That way, your mom won't be tired as well."

Sonny twisted and turned to get down. He ran back to the table, climbed onto his chair, and sat down. "I want to eat. If Mom isn't going, I won't go too. I want Mom!"

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were at a loss for words.

“Since you two must’ve eaten already, I won’t invite you to have a meal. You can sit on the sofa and watch TV first. We can talk again after we finish eating.”

Liberty poured a glass of warm water for her former in-laws. After that, she turned on the TV for them and returned to the table to resume eating with her sister and brother-in-law.

Mr. Brown smiled sheepishly. “Enjoy your meal. We’ll watch TV.”

The old couple saw the four bags of fruits placed on the coffee table. They guessed it must have been Serenity and Zachary who bought them.

Mrs. Brown whispered enviously, “Serenity has always liked to buy food and drinks for her sister. Now that she’s rich, the quality of the fruits she bought also improved.”

All the fruits bought were expensive.

If Chelsea saw them, she would definitely want to take two or three bags home.

Whenever Chelsea came over, she would take fruits that Serenity bought for Liberty when leaving and while Liberty was not paying attention.

Using Hank’s words, Chelsea was just like a thief. She liked to return to her family’s house and take things from there.

He did not think much of it in the past since Chelsea was his biological sister. Now that he had changed wives, he thought his sister was too much.

Mr. Brown turned his head and glared at his wife. Mrs. Brown pouted from his stare. She muttered, “Back then, I said we shouldn’t agree to them getting a divorce. I told you not to give her money, but you never listened. If Liberty and Hank didn’t divorce, Serenity’s husband wouldn’t have been so cruel for the sake of Sonny even if their relationship had turned sour.”

Their son could have kept his job.

Mr. Brown said angrily, “Do you think they won’t get a divorce just because you disagree? Hank’s attention isn’t on Liberty anymore, and he doesn’t care about Sonny enough. They treated each other like enemies and always quarreled. It’s not good for Sonny’s growth.

“You just want to take advantage and benefit from Serenity marrying into a wealthy family. Our family ended up like this because of our own doing.”

Mr. Brown blamed his wife, daughter, and himself. He was the head of the family. If only he had been fairer, things would not have turned out that way.

He knew that Liberty was a more suitable partner, but he never took her side whenever his wife or daughter badmouthed her in front of his son.

He was not a good person either.

Mrs. Brown pouted.

Who would not want to benefit from being associated with Serenity?

Even something small from Zachary would be enough for an ordinary person to spend for a lifetime.

“We’re here tonight to take Sonny to our place.”

Mr. Brown sternly reminded his wife not to create unnecessary trouble.

They were utterly bored living in their son’s house.

Mr. Brown wanted to return to their old home, but Mrs. Brown refused. She insisted on staying in the city with their son and daughter-in-law.

### **Chapter 1154 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

In Mrs. Brown’s words, her son would not be hers if she returned to her old home. Her son would be under Jessica’s complete control.

Besides, Hank and Jessica had not held their wedding yet. Jessica said only to hold the wedding after their house renovation was done. She would appear more presentable that way.

They were living in a rented house. Jessica’s family would not even have a place to stay if they were to have a wedding before that.

If Mr. and Mrs. Brown could take care of Sonny, they would not be as bored as they were now and could nurture their relationship with Sonny.

After all, Sonny was the Brown family’s only hope of continuing the family line. Jessica was not getting pregnant. They did not even know whether she was fertile or not.

Liberty had vegetarian food. She finished her meal in no time. Seeing her former in-laws whispering to each other, she walked over and took the four bags of fruits her sister and brother-in-law brought to the kitchen.

A few minutes later, she brought out a plate filled with only one type of fruit. She did not prepare the other fruits.

There were also snacks that Serenity and Elisa bought for Sonny in the house. Liberty took a few of them and put them on the fruit platter. She placed everything on the coffee table for her former in-laws.

“Liberty, your store’s business must be booming, right?” Mrs. Brown asked as she ate the fruit freely.

“It’s doing fine.”

“You don’t have the time to take care of Sonny because you’re usually busy. Let us take Sonny back to our place. We’re his grandparents. Are you afraid that we’ll mistreat him? Elderlies like us can definitely take good care of a child. Don’t you worry ’bout a thing.” Liberty said calmly, “I spoke to Hank about this before. If Sonny agrees, you can take him away for a short stay. If he’s unwilling, you can’t force him.

“Ever since I divorced Sonny’s dad, I never stopped any of you from visiting Sonny.

“Isn’t maintaining everything as it is now good enough?”

When Liberty had just gotten divorced, she wanted to cut off all communication with her in-laws.

However, her ex-mother-in-law asked around stalking her, and found her current address. She did not expect her former in-laws to regret it and keep looking for her every other day.

“Sonny already said just now that he doesn’t want to go.”

Liberty did not want her son to live with the Brown family.

Jessica was a scary stepmother. Liberty was worried that Sonny would be abused.

“You can persuade Sonny. He’ll agree if you talk to him.”

Liberty looked toward her ex-mother-in-law. Her attitude remained cold. “I respect Sonny’s decision.”

Mrs. Brown was speechless.

In the end, Liberty did not want them to take Sonny away.

After some time, Mrs. Brown said, “Liberty, Sonny’s last name is Brown. His name is Sonny Brown. He’s the Brown family’s grandson. Taking him back to our place is simply a matter ‘ of course.”

“I’m not stopping you guys. I just want you to ask Sonny for his opinion. If he agrees to it, you guys can take him back. If he’s unwilling, I’m fine with you guys coming to visit him every day.

“Stop emphasizing to me that Sonny’s last name is Brown. I can change his last name to Hunt anytime.”

Children taking their mother’s last name was getting common.

“No! Aren’t we having a discussion now, Liberty? You can’t secretly take Sonny to change his last name, okay?”

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were nervous. They were afraid Liberty would change Sonny’s last name.

Although Sonny would still be their grandson even if his last name were Hunt, they still felt their grandson would belong to the Hunt family if he did not have Brown as his last name

## **Chapter 1155 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

After Serenity and Zachary were done eating, he said to his wife, “Seren, bring Sonny and sit over there. I’ll collect the dishes.”

Zachary would do chores at home, so Serenity was used to it. Since Zachary told her to bring Sonny to sit on the sofa, she carried Sonny over and sat beside her sister.

After she was seated, three people looked at her.

Her sister and her sister’s former in-laws were staring at her.

Serenity was puzzled. “Liberty, why are you guys looking at me like that? Is there food stuck on my face?”

She touched her face, but there was nothing on it.

“Serenity, how can you let Mr. York clean up the dishes and do household chores?” Mrs. Brown scolded Serenity.

“When a man returns home after working outside for the entire day, you should take care of him properly as his wife. Men will like returning home if you let them feel the warmth of family.”

Serenity understood why the three of them stared at her.

She said, “My sister took good care of your son in the past too. Could he not feel the warmth of family? Or did he dislike going back home because he had another woman?”

Mrs. Brown was rendered speechless.

Serenity set Sonny aside and gave him a lecture. “Sonny, you should learn from Uncle Zak in the future. He’s what it means to be a good man.”

She added, “My husband’s nana also told me to let my husband do more chores. We own the family together. I’m working too. Why should the wife do all the household chores? Why should the wife be a free housekeeper and serve the whole family?”

“Zachary and I split the work between ourselves and do household chores together. No one is superior to the other.”

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were speechless.

They honestly did not expect that the great Mr. York would be willing to wash the dishes and do household chores.

From a woman’s perspective, Serenity was very fortunate and enviable.

After some time, Mrs. Brown reached her hands out to Sonny. “Sonny, let Grandmom carry you, okay?”  
“No.”

Sonny turned his head and was unwilling. He even climbed onto his aunt’s lap and sat there.

“Sonny, your dad said he’ll bring you to look at tigers at the zoo tomorrow if you follow us back for a short stay. Do you want to go?”

Going to the zoo had always been on Sonny’s mind. However, he still insisted, “I’ll go if Mom goes.”

He looked toward Liberty and asked, “Mom, are you going to the zoo tomorrow?”

“I’m busy in the morning, but I can accompany you to the zoo in the afternoon.” Sonny said to his grandparents, “I’ll go with Mom.”

No matter how much Mr. and Mrs. Brown persuaded Sonny, he refused to follow them home.

In the end, Mr. and Mrs. Brown left Liberty’s house resignedly.

Mrs. Brown regretted that she never came from her old house to help care for Liberty after Sonny was born. She did not help to raise Sonny either, so Sonny was not close to them.

Sonny did let them embrace him and called them Granddad and Grandmom. However, whenever they wanted to take him away, he would refuse to follow them.

The child was close to whoever raised him.



Mr. and Mrs. Brown had been raising their daughter's children all along. Their daughter's children were close to them, but they were the Repton family's grandchildren.

### **Chapter 1156 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Sonny was Mr. and Mrs. Brown's true grandson.

When they returned to their rented house, they saw their son and daughter-in-law watching TV. Their expressions did not look good.

"Dad, Mom, didn't you pick Sonny up?"

Hank stood up and turned toward his parents. He asked that question when he did not see his son.

Jessica walked over too. She said, "I organized the smaller room and decorated it into a kid's room. I bought a lot of toys for Sonny too. Why didn't you pick him up?"

Jessica had received a lock of hair and a note from an unknown woman. On it was written that the hair belonged to her mother. It also asked her to carry out the plan as soon as possible and bring Sonny to crowded places like the zoo or a children's park.

If she did not follow that woman's instructions, the next item sent to her would be two of her mother's fingers.

Jessica was terrified.

She counted on her in-laws to bring Sonny back, but they failed.

How could she put her plan into action?

Mr. and Mrs. Brown went to sit on the sofa. Mrs. Brown said, "Liberty didn't stop us, but she said we could take Sonny only if he agreed to leave with us. If he disagreed, we couldn't force him.

"Naturally, Sonny refused to follow us back."

Hank followed his parents and sat on the sofa. Upon listening to his mother's words, he said, "Who asked you guys to care for and love Chelsea's children only in the past? You didn't even help to raise your grandson. That's why Sonny isn't close to you two."

"Look who's talking. We're Sonny's grandparents. There's a generation gap. You're his father, but have you fulfilled your responsibility as one? Your relationship with Sonny isn't deep at all."

Mr. Brown had pent-up anger in his chest and happened to have nowhere to vent it, so he retorted the moment Hank started complaining about him and his wife.

Hank did not dare say another word.

"What do we do now?" Jessica said.

Mrs. Brown looked toward her and snapped, "What can we do? We'll accompany Sonny often from now on. He's still young. We can still nurture our relationship with him.

“You shouldn’t overthink when Hank visits Sonny in the future. He’s visiting his son, not Liberty. Don’t keep getting jealous.”

Jessica simply wanted to separate Sonny from Liberty and let that unknown woman get someone to take him away. That way, her mission would be completed, and her family would be safe.

“Mom, I know. Actually, I like Sonny a lot. He’s so pretty and cute. I might even be able to give birth to an adorable child like Sonny, in the future if I look at him every day.

“Hank and I will go and pick Sonny up and bring him to the zoo to have fun tomorrow. Is he willing to go?”

Jessica thought that even if they could not get Sonny to come over for a stay, she could still carry out her plan as long as Sonny was willing to play with Hank and her.

“Sonny said that he’ll go if his mom is going too. Liberty runs a breakfast business, which only takes up her morning. She can accompany Sonny in the afternoon. If you two really want to take Sonny to the zoo, you can pick Sonny and Liberty up after lunch.”

Jessica did not want Liberty to come along.

If Liberty were present, it would not be easy for the people to make their move.

While Hank would probably be careless and sometimes neglectful as a father, Liberty was definitely more careful as the mother. She would hug Sonny tightly to her in crowded places. It would not be easy to do anything.

“If Liberty comes along, Sonny will refuse to get close to us even more,” Jessica muttered as she glanced at her husband. Her meaning was clear. She did not want Hank and Liberty to have a chance to go out together.

Mr. Brown said, “If you think having Liberty around isn’t good, we’ll come with you tomorrow afternoon. Your mom and I have been living in the city for so long, but we’ve never gone out to have fun. We can have a family outing and relax.”

### **Chapter 1157 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Jessica pouted and did not say anything else. She turned around, went back to her room, and slammed the door hard.

“Darling, darling.”

Hank called her twice.

Mrs. Brown said to her son, “Leave her alone. She just doesn’t want you going on an outing with Liberty. It’s not like you’re going out with Liberty alone. We’re all coming along, but she still chooses to be jealous.

“Did she forget that she snatched you from Liberty?”

. Mrs. Brown disliked Jessica a lot.

She used to think that her son was capable. At this moment, she disdained Jessica for being a homewrecker.

The Brown family decided to pick up Sonny and Liberty to go to the zoo tomorrow afternoon. The weather was neither too cold nor hot-just lovely for an outing.

On the other hand, Serenity and her husband returned home after lingering in her sister's house for a while.

On the way back, she told Zachary, "In the past, the Brown family said they loved Sonny, but those were just empty words. They never lent a hand. My sister and I raised Sonny by ourselves. They never raised Sonny, yet they wanted him to get close to them. What's this absurdity?"

"I was the one who took care of my sister after she gave birth. I lost six pounds in that month because of exhaustion."

Serenity loved her sister. After her sister gave birth, she never let her do anything and told her to lie down and rest. She brought food to her sister's room and forbade her to even wash the dishes. She feared her sister would get joint pains if she were in contact with cold water.

The month after Liberty gave birth, the newborn Sonny often cried and made a fuss. Sometimes, he would cry for a long time at night and refuse to sleep.

Hank had to work, so he moved to the guest room to sleep. As Sonny's aunt, Serenity had no choice but to carry the crying Sonny and walk around because she wanted to let her sister rest well. She could only rest after Sonny fell asleep.

Liberty talked to Hank about asking Mrs. Brown to come over to tend to Sonny during that time. Hank said his parents had to care for Lucas and could not leave. He added that Serenity could take care of her sister and nephew since she was around.

"They're jealous that Sonny is close to me but didn't think who raised him. Hank always complained about me living in his house. If it weren't for my sister and nephew, I would've moved out long ago.

"I just care about my sister and nephew."

Zachary held his wife's hand lovingly. "It would've been nice if we knew each other earlier."

"If the timing weren't right, we wouldn't recognize each other even if we walked past."

"They're trying to get close to Sonny now because they want to ease the tension and improve our relationship to make me let Hank off the hook. If so, Hank will be able to get a job. They want your sister and Hank to remarry too."

Zachary had seen through all of the Brown family's plans.

Serenity figured everything out too.

"They can try everything they want, but my sister won't fall into the same pit twice."

Zachary agreed. He thought, 'Duncan must've not figured out his feelings yet.'

The Brown family kept bothering Liberty-maybe this could aid and encourage Duncan and his sister-in-law to get together.

Zachary had long felt that his friend and sister-in-law were destined for each other.

They would bump into each other frequently.

Duncan mentioned that he would always meet Liberty whenever he drove a new luxury car.

After that, minor problems would easily arise in his car. Subsequently, whenever he drove a new car and met Liberty by chance, he would park the car far away and walk over to greet her.

Zachary and Serenity returned to the villa on the hilltop.

However, when they arrived at the gate, an expensive car blocked their road.

Their driver honked and the person in the car moved.

He pushed the door open and got out. Then, he walked over in big strides.

The driver and Jim, who was in the passenger seat, recognized the person. It was Duncan.

Jim turned his head and said to Zachary, "Mr. Zachary, it's Mr. Lewis."

Zachary thought, 'I really can't talk about someone behind their backs. Speak of the devil.'

### **Chapter 1158 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

"Ask him what he wants.'

Did Duncan have nothing better to do than drive a car and block his way in the middle of the night?

Jim lowered the window and asked Duncan, who was walking over, "Why are you here, Mr.Lewis?"

"Zachary's in the car, right? Zachary, I want to stay at your place for some time. I've already brought my luggage. However, Sam said he could not make the decisions and didn't let me enter. I had no choice but to wait for you here."

Zachary was speechless.

If Duncan were not an old friend, he would have asked the driver to step on the gas and hit the car blocking the way.

Serenity was surprised. Seeing her husband's dark expression, she asked Duncan, "You want to move here, Mr. Lewis? Why?"

"That woman keeps staying in my house and refuses to leave. She knows the address of the other houses I own too. She'll be able to find me no matter where I stay. It's annoying. I have no choice but to bring my luggage and trouble you two."

The woman Duncan spoke of was Lily Harmon.

Lily was the most suitable daughter-in-law candidate in Mrs. Lewis's eyes. Most importantly, Lily did not mind the scar on Duncan's face. Therefore, Mrs. Lewis was trying her best to get them to be together.

Duncan did not want to return to Westwood Manor, so Mrs. Lewis brought Lily to a villa owned by her son.

Duncan's mother knew how many properties he owned.

He could not avoid it, so he was going to use Zachary as a shield again. He packed a few sets of clothes and came rushing to Zachary with his luggage.

Although Duncan was dense, he knew he was disturbing his friend's romantic time with his wife by coming over.

However, no one but Zachary's name could help him to block Lily.

Josh could not as well.

If Josh could help Duncan to block Lily, Duncan would have moved in and stayed with him.

Josh would probably think he dodged the bullet if he knew what was going on.

Serenity glanced at her man. She said to Duncan with a smile, "Mr. Lewis, you can drive your car inside or move it first. We can resume talking after we get inside."

Zachary said with a darkened face, "I'll let you stay in Seaview Villa."

Duncan immediately said, "Seaview Villa is too far. It takes two hours to get to the seaside from the city by car. It's inconvenient for me to go to work."

"Babe."

Serenity said gently, "Babe, let's talk after letting Mr. Lewis in."

Zachary let out a hmp. "Old third-wheeler."

Serenity and Duncan were speechless.

Duncan resigned to the fact that he was a third-wheeler. He was thirty-six years old. Well, he would be considered old compared to those in their twenties. He had simply accepted himself as an old third-wheeler.

However, Zachary was not a young man in his twenties either. He was in his early thirties.

Duncan was only five years older than Zachary.

Although Zachary was unhappy, he still let Duncan move into his villa.

The romantic set-up Zachary decorated for his wife was still there.

Duncan entered the house after the couple with his luggage in tow. When he saw the interior of the house, he stopped. He suspected he had come to the wrong place.

Was this Zachary's house?

It was decorated nicely with a romantic atmosphere.

Duncan did not think an iceberg like Zachary had a romantic side to him.

Duncan touched his nose. He could not blame his friend for not letting him inside his house anymore. He was really a third wheel.

### **Chapter 1159 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Zachary owned many properties. He and Serenity usually lived in the villa on the hilltop and their house in Brynfield.

These two houses were near their workplaces, which made it convenient to commute.

Duncan did not want to travel far for work, so he had no choice but to brazenly stay with Zachary for some time.

“Zachary, did you plan all these?” Duncan asked his friend, who had a dark expression.

“It’s decorated so nicely, like a proposal or a wedding setup. You can have the same design as this when you and Serenity hold your wedding. It’ll surely impress many women.”

Zachary snapped, “Who else could it be if not me? You?”

“I don’t have such a high EQ to think of these ideas to make women happy.”

Zachary glared at him. “Of course you don’t. The only thing you know is to collect money.”

Duncan asked, “What money did I collect?”

Zachary did not explain further.

Duncan was puzzled.

Serenity poured a glass of warm water each for the two guys. She was about to go and prepare some fruits.

Zachary pulled his wife to sit beside him. He said, “Honey, just ignore him. He comes here often and is more familiar with this villa than you are. He can help himself to whatever he wants to eat.”

“That’s right, Serenity. Don’t bother about me. I’m familiar with this place.”

Duncan did not dare let Serenity serve him.

His friend’s face had been as dark as charcoal ever since he saw him.

It was as if his face was covered in a layer of soot.

“What happened? Lily hasn’t left yet?” Zachary asked his friend with a cold expression.

“She hasn’t. I don’t know how long she intends to stay. My mom likes her a lot. She calls me every few days to ask me to go shopping with Lily and buy her a meal. I refused all of them with the excuse that I was busy.

“However, my mom brought her to live in my villa. She’s my mother, so I can’t chase them out. Since they’re not budging, I left.”

Duncan sounded aggrieved.

He was probably the man who was most pestered to get married in the whole world.

Unfortunately, it was his mom nagging him to get married. He could not do anything to her.

Lily was thick-skinned too. No matter how Duncan acted, she would accompany his mom happily.

Lily also managed to please his mom to the point he lost his mom’s favor. She listened to everything Lily said.

Duncan knew Lily was the vice president of Harmon Corporation. She was a strong woman. Harmon Corporation and Lewis & Co. were equally excellent. Although they were not in the same city, he obtained detailed information about Harmon Corporation because of Lily.

His mom must have taken a liking to Lily not only because she was old friends with Mrs. Harmon but also because she had her eye on the Harmon family’s wealth and status.

“If you want Ms. Harmon to leave, then it’s simple-bring a woman home.”

Duncan’s face fell. “Who can I bring back? You know I’m single. I’ve never met a woman I’m attracted to-someone I want to marry and protect. I keep thinking my woman isn’t born yet.

“Maybe I’ll have to wait about twenty more years to meet her and end my life as a single guy.”

Zachary and Serenity were speechless.

“Zachary, I’ll just stay here for a few days. I don’t believe Lily won’t leave after a few days.”

Duncan said brazenly, “I can pay rent. Just treat it as if I’m renting your place.”

Zachary said with a glum face, “You even brought your luggage-what else can I say? You can stay here as long as you want. Serenity and I will move back to Brynfield tomorrow.”

## **Chapter 1160 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Duncan said embarrassedly, “I’m sorry, Zachary.”

“Go to a hotel if you’re ashamed.”

“I’m not. It’s not my first time having a short stay in your house. Josh and I often stayed over in the past. We would always do so when we drank too much or it was too late.”

Zachary was speechless.

He pulled his wife to stand up with him and said coldly, “You can stay in the guest room that’s furthest from the master bedroom. Rest early.”

After that, he went upstairs with Serenity.

Zachary complained when they returned to their room, "When have I become Duncan's shield? Has my place turned into a shelter for him?"

Serenity laughed and said, "Mr. Lewis only came to stay for a few days because he had no other choice. You two have been friends for so many years."

"He didn't run out of choices. He's just using me as a shield. He doesn't have a low EQ because he was aware of Lily's feelings for him. But he doesn't have a high EQ either. He bought Sonny a few sets of clothes and collected money from your sister afterward."

Serenity stepped forward and hugged her husband. He enjoyed her taking the initiative to hug him. Even the sound of his complaints became softer.

"Maybe Mr. Lewis really just adores Sonny and doesn't have feelings for my sister."

They could have been looking at Duncan and her sister with preconceived ideas.

"Seren, a man won't treat a woman well out of the blue. If he did, then he definitely has some interest in that said woman."

"Mr. Lewis is very nice to Sonny."

Zachary chuckled and did not give further justifications.

His nana had proven it-either Duncan had not realized his feelings yet, or he was pretending.

Zachary thought it was most likely the former.

Duncan must have truly thought he was treating Liberty well because of Sonny.

He liked Sonny.

"Even if Mr. Lewis is interested in my sister, I rather hope he doesn't like my sister. I know Mrs. Lewis has already chosen her daughter-in-law and that Ms. Harmon is a good match for Mr. Lewis in terms of social status.

"Not to mention, my sister doesn't intend to get married again. Even if she does, she probably won't consider Mr. Lewis."

Mrs. Lewis was not as open-minded as Serenity's mother-in-law.

Tania thought she was not good enough for Zachary but respected his decision and choice. She also never bothered her or gave her an attitude. She was nice to her daughter-in-law.

Some people were dissatisfied with Serenity helping Camryn during the Dowlings' banquet. They called Tania and tried to drive a wedge between them but they were scolded by Tania instead.

Serenity heard about it from Old Mrs. York.

Otherwise, she would not have known that her mother-in-law was so protective.

Old Mrs. York said that Serenity was the York family's missus. Whether she did well or not, it was not the outsiders' place to criticize her.



In other words, family members could criticize Serenity, but outsiders were not allowed to badmouth her at all.

Serenity truly liked the open-mindedness and protectiveness of the York family's adults.

"If Duncan realizes that he likes Liberty, we can just watch from the sides and do nothing. Duncan is an assertive person. Ever since he left his family's control and established Lewis & Co., he's been taking charge of his life."

"The elders of the Lewis family won't be able to control him. If he genuinely likes Liberty, and as long as she's willing to face everything with him, they'll be able to be together until the end. No matter how difficult Mrs. Lewis is, she can't do anything to Duncan."

"Mrs. Lewis can't do anything to Mr. Lewis, but she'll target my sister."

Serenity sighed. "When my sister was with the Browns, she had enough of her mother-in-law's criticisms. If she gets married again and her mother-in-law is harsh on her... I'll feel bad for her."

She wanted her sister to find happiness. However, she was also afraid her sister would meet another terrible mother-in-law.