

Gu Lingfei 461

Chapter 461

Serenity and Liberty were unaware of the rare occasion that Mr. Brown sided with Sonny.

Sonny's swollen face subsided slightly after applying the ice pack.

He kept crying and wanting to go home.

Serenity asked the doctor if they could leave, and the doctor said he could be discharged from the hospital. However, they had to be careful because Sonny might get a fever at night.

In the evening, Zachary and his brothers sent Liberty and Sonny home.

Serenity was still worried about Sonny, so she brought Zachary to the balcony and said, "Can I stay over with my sister and nephew tonight?"

Zachary was reluctant to part with Serenity as he started to have feelings for her and wanted to cling to her 24/7 if he could.

However, Serenity was Sonny's aunt, so he understood that she would want to stay back with Sonny at this time.

"Zachary?"

Serenity saw his deep eyes that were staring straight at hers. His thin lips were pressed into a straight line, and he did not speak. Thus, she asked carefully, "You don't want me to stay? But the doctor said Sonny might have a fever tonight, and I'm worried that my sister will be too tired taking care of him alone."

Zachary's big hand reached out and touched her face.

His touch was gentle as he stroked her face. It felt like a gentle spring breeze that made Serenity want to close her eyes and slowly enjoy this rare tenderness.

"You should also take care of yourself too while taking care of Sonny."

Zachary finally spoke.

His voice was as deep as usual, but it was a little less cold and more affectionate.

"I will."

"Let me know if anything happens. Don't leave me out of it." Zachary always recalled the time when Serenity fought Noah Hunt and the gang by herself. She was brave and subdued the gangsters, leaving him no chance to play the hero who saved the damsel in distress.

Serenity smiled. She glanced at the living room and hugged Zachary's lean waist when she saw the York brothers were not looking at them.

She leaned her head against his chest.

Zachary hugged his wife back tightly.

He liked the feeling of her in his arms.

Holding her soft body like that made him feel particularly happy.

Josh asked Zachary if he was in love with Serenity.

Zachary thought, 'Maybe I'm already in love with her...'

"Thank you, Zachary."

Zachary was by her side every time Serenity encountered difficulties. He helped her and comforted her. To her, he was like an invincible superman.

Several times, Serenity was moved by Zachary's actions. That feeling gradually turned into affection.

Zachary sighed and thought, 'Josh said that feeling touched is not the same as love.'

However, it was how love was formed.

"Serenity, we're husband and wife, so your business is also mine. Don't keep thanking me because it'll make me feel like an outsider."

Serenity said while she nestled in his arms, "But we signed a half-year agreement. Who knows how long our marriage will last?"

Zachary was speechless.

"Zachary, can I tell you something?"

"What is it?"

"The drawing you threw away... I just remembered that that was our agreement on the flip side. I didn't really care about the agreement and left it on my dresser. Then I used it to sketch my ideas... But you destroyed it."

Zachary's dark eyes flickered.

She remembered that the flip side of the drawing was their agreement.

So what if she remembered?

He already burned both agreements to ashes and flushed them down the toilet.

"Since you ruined my copy of the agreement, are you going to give me a new copy or will you destroy yours as well?"

That way, she would feel less insecure about the whole thing.

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Zachary gently let go of Serenity, bowed his head, and looked at her.

Serenity gulped.

Every time she looked at him, she could not overlook his attractiveness and always wanted to take advantage of him.

If he had always been so gentle, she would have jumped him in less than a week.

If she was more courageous, she could even try different moves every day.

When Serenity was thinking about various ways to sleep with Zachary, Zachary's deep voice resounded in her ears. He asked, "When did we sign an agreement?"

Serenity was speechless.

She looked dumbfounded as she was in disbelief that Zachary would say such a thing.

"Back when we got our marriage license, you drafted the agreement and asked me to sign it. The contract period was half a year."

Zachary looked calm and said blankly, "Why don't you recite the content of the agreement for me?"

Serenity opened her mouth but could not say a word.

After so long, she could not remember much about the contents of the agreement. She only remembered that the contract period was half a year and that they should not interfere with each other's private affairs.

"Serenity, you might've been too caught up in your sister's affairs recently that you're having hallucinations. We didn't actually sign an agreement. If you really think we did, I can let you search my room when you're home. If you can find the so-called agreement that you mentioned, then I'll believe you."

Serenity gaped and froze in place.

They clearly signed an agreement.

Was he in denial?

Zachary lowered his head, kissed her lips, and said solemnly, "Don't think too much about it. I'll take my brothers out to dinner. Mrs. Lane can stay and help you girls."

Serenity was still dumbfounded. Zachary, who had always been arrogant and cold, actually denied and refused to admit that they had signed an agreement. This shocked Serenity.

After hearing what he said, she could only nod dumbly.

Seeing her stunned face, Zachary smiled and let go of her hand. "I'll get going then."

"Oh, okay. Treat your brothers to a nice dinner, and I'll transfer the money to you."

"No need. I have money. We don't need to split everything so clearly between us."

Serenity took out her phone and wanted to transfer money to Zachary, but he had already returned to the living room. She stopped looking at her phone and watched as he ushered his brothers out for dinner. Zachary also did not forget to instruct Mrs. Lane to cook for the Hunt sisters.

Zachary knew that at this moment, the Hunt sisters were definitely not in the mood to go out for dinner with them.

However, he was also afraid that they were too upset to eat, so he left Mrs. Lane there to cook for them and make sure that they eat.

"I'm exhausted from going around with you guys all day. Zack, I'm going for dinner with you boys before I go home."

Grandma May chose to leave with her grandchildren.

She said to her granddaughter-in-law, who came in from the balcony, "Seren, call us if you need anything. Don't worry. Even if the sky is falling, these boys are tall enough to hold the sky up for you girls."

Grandma May's words warmed the Hunt sisters' hearts.

"I will, Nana."

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The eight York brothers surrounded their grandmother and left.

The group went to the Wiltspoon Hotel for dinner.

When the lobby manager at Wiltspoon Hotel saw the York brothers coming in with Old Mrs. York but without their bodyguards, he was a little lost.

Should he greet them respectfully?

However, Mr. Callum said that as long as Mr. Zachary did not bring his bodyguard, he should treat them as regular hotel guests and pretend not to know them.

While the lobby manager was deliberating on what to do, Zachary and his family had already entered the hotel and walked past the manager.

All eight of them York brothers were extraordinary. When they walked into the hotel together, they instantly attracted the attention of countless people.

The passersby heard the brothers talking to the old lady softly and heard them address her as their grandmother.

They gave the old lady envious looks. This old lady was so blessed to have eight extraordinarily handsome grandsons. Their eyes were green with envy!

If Grandma May knew what they were thinking, she would say, "Don't envy me. I have too many grandsons to worry about. Their marriage alone is enough to give me a headache!"

After the meal, Zachary said, "Callum, take Nana back to the main residence. I'll visit the Buchams' residence."

Josh had the evidence of Hank's transfer of property, and Julian Bucham was at home tonight. Zachary told Josh that he would go over and get it himself.

"I'm not going back to the main residence."

Grandma May refused.

"Serenity isn't going home tonight, Nana, so you don't have any good show to watch. You'll get bored if you stay in Brynfield. You can come back tomorrow if you want."

Grandma May glared at Zachary. "I won't be bored. I'm not watching anyone's show either. I just miss my granddaughter-in-law and want to live with her. Anyway, I'm not staying with you, so you can't control me."

Zachary could not help but laugh. "That's my house."

"But are you in charge?"

Zachary choked.

At home, Zachary let Serenity call the shots.

"You don't have the right to speak if you don't call the shots, so shut up!"

Zachary was speechless as he thought, 'Is she even my grandma?! Deep breaths!'

Grandma May got up and instructed her grandchildren. "Tomorrow, we're going to that house again to ask for compensation, so you boys will have to get together again. We can't let them get away with beating up Sonny without paying the price!"

Callum represented the rest and said, "Nana, since we've taken this into our own hands, we'll definitely see to it that it's settled. Don't worry."

"Find out the details of that family and cut off their sources of income. We'll see how arrogant they'll be then!"

Zachary answered, "Nana, I'm already on it."

Grandma May finally praised Zachary. What a rare occasion! "Good job. If you had such a quick reaction when you're with Serenity, I guarantee that I'll become a great-grandmother by next year!"

Zachary rolled his eyes.

His grandmother liked to praise him and insult him at the same time.

In the end, Grandma May got into Callum's car and went back to the main residence.

As soon as she got back, Rowan complained that they left him out. Grandma May laughed and said cheerfully, "You can come with me tomorrow as an extra headcount!"

Rowan thought, 'I'm only filling in for the headcount tomorrow and missed the most exciting part today...'

Meanwhile, Zachary took his exclusive car along with his bodyguards and went to the Buchams residence.

He did not go to Josh's house but went to Julian's place instead.

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Josh was talking to Julian. Although they were second cousins, it did not prevent them from being close-knit brothers.

A bodyguard in a black uniform entered the room while walking in front of the two men, and said respectfully, "Mr. Julian, Mr. Josh. Mr. Zachary York is here."

"Let him in."

The bodyguard responded respectfully and turned to leave.

Josh pointed to the yellow envelope on the table. "Zachary's here to collect that."

"He came in person because he wants to meet me."

Julian instructed the butler to make tea and serve some fruit to the guest.

Julian often used his family's influence to help Josh. In fact, it was to help Zachary. Zachary knew that very well, so he came in person to thank Julian.

"Zachary wanted to come and see you long ago, but you've been busy and you're always away from home, so he hasn't had the chance."

"Since he's your friend, he's also my friend. Friends help each other, so he doesn't have to stand on ceremony. I'm glad that you've proven your value in York Corporation."

Julian patted Josh on the shoulder. "Work hard, but don't just focus on work. You should start thinking about marriage. Your mother keeps talking about how you still don't have a girlfriend at your age."

"Julian, you're older than I am, but you don't have a girlfriend either, so why should I worry?"

Julian said, "Nevermind... Forget I said anything."

The bodyguard from earlier invited Zachary in.

Zachary's security detail helped to carry the gifts that Zachary brought and silently retreated to the entrance.

"Zachary!"

Josh stood up and walked toward him.

Julian got up too but he let Zachary approach him. Josh introduced them, and the two men stretched out their right hands.

“Julian, nice to finally meet you.”

“Zachary, I’ve heard a lot about you. Now that I’ve met you in person, I believe that you’re just as legendary as they say.”

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The two men shook hands, and Julian asked Zachary to have a seat.

“Mr. York, you don’t have to come bearing so many gifts.”

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“Don’t worry about it.”

Zachary often asked Josh to help him investigate things, which utilized the Buchams’ network of information. The Buchams’ intelligence is controlled by Julian, and Josh helping Zachary was equivalent to Julian helping Zachary.

Julian was usually elusive, so Zachary never had a chance to meet him. It was a rare occasion. that Julian was at home tonight, so Zachary hurried over.

After exchanging some pleasantries, Josh picked up the yellow envelope and handed it to Zachary. “This is the evidence you wanted. If we didn’t dig into it, we wouldn’t have known how shocking it is. Your scumbag brother-in-law has more than one million dollars in his savings.

“His appetite is also getting bigger, so he earns more side income. I think it’ll be exciting to hand this evidence to his boss.”

In fact, there was no need to suppress Waltham Electronics. As long as they handed this evidence of Hank accepting bribes and commissions to Waltham Electronics’ boss, Hank’s

managerial career would be over.

However, Waltham Electronics and a subsidiary of York Corporation were competitors, and Zachary wanted to take the opportunity to suppress them.

Once Waltham Electronics could not hold back any longer, York Corporation would hand over the evidence of Hank’s side income and threaten them that they could keep their company if they fired Hank and Jessica.

Waltham Electronics’ boss would have hated Hank and Jessica to the core by then because they caused the company trouble for no reason. He would then make life difficult for the cheating pair.

That way, Zachary could suppress his opponent while dealing with Hank and Jessica, killing two birds with one stone.

Zachary took out the evidence of Hank's transfer of property from the envelope. After reading it carefully, he was fuming.

He heard from his grandmother that the divorce agreement Hank prepared stated that the house and the car belonged to him and that he did not have much savings. Therefore, he was only willing to give Liberty thirty thousand dollars.

Adding up all of Hank's savings, including the money he spent on Jessica, Zachary calculated that it was roughly more than two million dollars.

If Liberty filed for divorce and divided their property, she could get at least a million dollars.

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Ring ring ring...

Julian's cell phone rang

After he answered the phone, he said apologetically, "Mr. York, I have something urgent to attend to. My apologies for not being able to host you."

Zachary quickly stood up.

"Josh, please entertain Mr. York on my behalf."

Julian instructed his cousin and left.

After Julian left, Josh took Zachary to his place. Zachary then listened to Josh's mother complaining that if Josh did not get a girlfriend soon, he would be alone forever.

Finally, Zachary managed to excuse himself. When they got out of Josh's house, Zachary said, "Next time when your mother is at home, don't ask me to come over."

Josh laughed. "Whatever she says just goes in one ear and out the other."

"How was your blind date with Ms. Sox? Didn't you mention it to your family?"

"Julian knows about it, but I didn't tell anyone else lest they pester Ms. Sox and scare her away."

Zachary patted him on the shoulder sympathetically. "If you like her, you just need to work harder to get out of bachelorhood."

"After getting married, they'll urge me to have a baby, then another baby, and endless babies! The elders will never stop."

Josh did not believe that his parents would stop nagging him if he got married. Look, even after Zachary kept his promise to Grandma May and married Serenity, Grandma May was still harping on them to have a child.

"I like Ms. Sox. She's straightforward and doesn't beat around the bush. Sometimes, she leaves me speechless and I have no way to refute her."

Those were not problems to him because Josh fancied girls like Jasmine.

“Then you should take the initiative to pursue her.”

Zachary was rather pleased that Josh liked Jasmine. At least he did not play cupid in vain.

Josh smiled and said nothing.

He then watched as Zachary left his house with a group of bodyguards.

Early next morning, Zachary arrived at Bright Boulevard.

He called Serenity in advance, and Serenity was waiting for him at the entrance of the neighborhood.

After seeing his car, Serenity walked toward him with a smile.

Zachary got out of the car and seemed to remember something. He turned around and took a bouquet of flowers out of the car.

“Seren.”

He addressed Serenity differently.

Seeing that he was holding a bouquet, Serenity was reminded of how awkward he was the first time he gave her flowers. At that time, she was so anxious.

He later gave her the bouquet and said that it did not mean anything.

Serenity was happy that he was so stubborn and arrogant because this proved that he had never been in a relationship before.

Zachary was an intelligent man who had a low EQ and was a late bloomer in the romance scene.

Serenity liked that Zachary developed feelings for her.

She had to train him to be a good husband.

“Um... I think this bouquet of flowers...”

Zachary was still not used to giving his wife flowers. He was desperately searching for a good excuse but his mind turned out blank. He could not think of any excuses. He just knew that he

had to hand over the bouquet to her.

Serenity took the bouquet, lowered her head, and smelled the fragrance of the flowers. She quickly raised her head and said with a smile, “This bouquet is beautiful and smells great. I love it!”

She was in a good mood when she received a gift from her husband so early in the morning.

Zachary struck while the iron was hot and quickly said, “If you like it, I’ll send one to you every day.”

Serenity was touched by his sweet talk. “There’s no need to give me a bouquet every day. We don’t have a vase to put these flowers at home.”

“I’ll buy you a vase.”

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Serenity was elated that he had the thoughtfulness to do so, but she still rejected the idea.

Just as Zachary was about to anxiously say something, with one arm hugging the flowers, she hooked her other arm around his neck. She pulled his head lower, leaned in closer and said softly, "Don't put too many flowers at home, or else the owner will be easily charmed."

After she said that, she even patted Zachary's chest—she was telling him not to be easily charmed by others.

Zachary was at a loss for words.

Was there such a saying?

He would have to ask Josh about this another day.

Serenity got into his car.

Zachary returned to his car and as he started it, he asked, "How's Sonny?"

"The swelling hasn't gone away completely. Last night, he had a fever and cried the whole night. This morning, his fever finally went down but he was so tired from crying he only fell asleep in my sister's arms then."

Serenity's good mood deflated again once Sonny was mentioned.

"Zachary,"

Serenity looked at him with her head tilted and said, "If, and I'm saying if, in the future we also have children, no matter what happens or how our relationship has changed, don't hurt the children, okay?"

Zachary immediately stepped on the brake.

He too turned to look at Serenity.

The pair of husband and wife looked each other in the eyes and both could see the seriousness in each other's gazes.

He had never said to her that he loved her, but his feelings toward her had seeped into his every action.

She had never said to him either that she had fallen for him, but she had gradually relied on him.

Both of them knew that their worlds were starting to integrate with each other, little by little.

Zachary reached out his hand and lightly caressed Serenity's face. He leaned his body over and his handsome face got closer. When Serenity closed her eyes, light kisses landed on her

forehead, her face, and her lips.

"Serenity, if you treat me sincerely, I will definitely love you back tenfold."

"I have very little room in my heart. If I let you in, there's only room for you, and none for anyone else. Our relationship will never change. If we have children... Then that's just a continuation of our lives. I'd rather get hurt myself than ever touch a hair on our children's

heads.”

Serenity opened her eyes and looked straight into his deep gaze. His eyes were as dark and deep as an abyss, but yet held a sort of magnetism that attracted her. She could not help but want to jump into those deep pools and sink into its depths with him.

“Zachary.”

“Yeah?”

“I think I’ve fallen for you.”

Zachary chuckled and pecked her lips once more. “I’m a ship that’s heading toward the shore of happiness. If you’re willing, I’ll welcome you aboard to sail with me.”

Pausing for a moment, he then said, “But it’d be best if you thought about it and figured out if what you feel for me is love or gratitude. Don’t confuse the two.”

Serenity was silent for a moment before she replied, “You’re right. I should think about it properly.”

Was what she felt for him love or gratitude?

“If there really is only gratitude for you and not love, what then?”

Zachary was struck speechless.

Seeing the way he could not respond to that, she laughed and pushed him away. “You should drive. Don’t stop here and block others’ way.”

Zachary sat straight and returned to his usual serious look, as if he was not the very person who had said those touching words earlier. He started the car again.

Serenity had a feeling that this incident with Sonny and having had the conversation earlier had pulled the distance between their hearts closer.

Inside the car, the couple did not speak and only the music was heard playing.

As they were making their way to the lobby of Liberty’s place, Zachary suddenly said, “Divorce really causes a lot of harm to the kids.”

Serenity replied, “But there truly isn’t a need to maintain some marriages. If those sorts of marriages don’t end, it’ll still cause harm to the kids.”

Zachary remained silent.

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After Zachary parked the car, he remembered the evidence of Hank’s asset transfers and called out to Serenity who was about to get out of the car.

“I asked a friend to help look into Hank’s asset transfers. My friend was very helpful and sent me the evidence last night. I put it in the backseat. It’s in that yellow folder.”

“Your friend truly was very helpful. He managed to gather the evidence so quickly.”

Serenity was not only grateful to that friend of his. She was curious about him and really wanted to meet him.

She thought it would take a long time to gather the evidence, since Hank had not just started doing this recently.

Yet, Zachary's friend managed to gather all the evidence in just a day's time.

"Zachary, it's such a waste if that friend of yours doesn't open his own detective agency."

After Serenity got out of the car, she opened the door to the backseat and picked up the yellow folder that had been placed there.

"He has a relative that specializes in information gathering. His family has a large network, so they're highly efficient."

The Bucham family's intelligence network spanned far and wide and Wiltspoon was their home base, so their intelligence network in Wiltspoon was deeply rooted. It could be said that as long as the Buchams wanted to know about it, there was nothing they would not be able to find out.

However, their services had an exorbitant price tag, which ordinary people could not afford.

"I always thought people like that only existed in novels. I didn't think there'd be such an amazing family in real life."

After Serenity picked the yellow folder up, she put the bouquet of flowers Zachary gave her back into the car.

Zachary looked at her.

Serenity explained, "My sister's in a bad mood right now. Let's not show off our affection for each other in front of her."

She leaned forward, kissed him, and said as she smiled, "It's fine as long as I know you gave me flowers."

There would be many chances to show off their love in the future, so there was no need to rush it now.

Zachary was relieved. "The two of you really do have a great bond."

"We only had each other to rely on for more than a decade, and my sister did a lot to raise me. She was only five years older than me, and when we suddenly lost our parents, she was not only a sister but a mother to me too. In my heart, she's the most important person in my life."

She and Zachary walked into the building together. "You and your cousins share a really good bond too. They respect you a lot as the eldest and they're very respectful of me even though we've only met a few times before."

Zachary smiled. "Since we were young, our parents taught us to be respectful to each other and that having a harmonious family would lead to success in any undertaking. They said that no matter how powerful a person is, they need the support and help of friends and family to

survive in this world. ‘

Nothing of significance was ever achieved by an individual acting alone.

When he was just a kid, he had been internally recognized as the successor of the family. When he came of age, he took charge of the huge York Corporation. He stood at the center while his cousins revolved around him, helping and supporting each other the whole time. Despite all that, the biggest share of the burden lay on his shoulders.

How could his cousins not respect him when he bore the heaviest share of the burden on his shoulders alone?

Moreover, if someone helped him do it, they would be respected in return.

The couple went upstairs together.

When they entered Liberty’s home, they saw Mrs. Lane falling asleep as she sat on the sofa.

Mrs. Lane woke up when she heard the door open and saw that Serenity and her husband had returned. She hurriedly stood up with a smile. “Mr. York, Miss Hunt, breakfast is ready.”

“Mrs. Lane, make sure you catch up on sleep later. These few days have been hard on you.”

Mrs. Lane hummed in agreement.

Last night, the three adults had not slept well because of Sonny’s fever and continuous crying.

Serenity walked into the room to check on her sister and nephew. Seeing them finally be able to sleep soundly, she was relieved.

She leaned down, lightly touched Sonny’s still–pale face, and brushed a kiss on his small face. She said softly, “Sonny, I’ll definitely help you get justice.”

Serenity then tip–toed out of her sister’s room.

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“Mrs. Lane, it wasn’t easy for Sonny and my sister to fall asleep, so don’t wake them up yet. Just keep some porridge warm on the stove for them to eat when they wake up.”

Mrs. Lane nodded. “Alright.”

The three ate breakfast together. Serenity made herself a cup of instant coffee to wake herself

Once Mrs. Lane finished eating, she left the little dining area. Zachary took advantage of this to reach out and hold Serenity’s hand.

“Seren.”

Zachary said warmly, “You should stay home and rest. I’ll go alone.”

Serenity held her hand back and reassured him, “I’m fine. I’ll be able to hold up as long as I finish this cup of coffee. And anyway, you’re going to the Reptons’. You might have to continue arguing with them,

and you're not as good as I am in that department. Even if brought all your cousins, you might not be able to win against Chelsea Repton in an argument."

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All the Yorks were cultured people. Arguing was definitely not in their DNA.

"I'm Sonny's aunt. I definitely have to help him seek justice when he's been bullied so terribly into this state. Yesterday, when Sonny fainted, I didn't have the time to duke it out with the Reptons because I was concerned about him. Now that he's recovered slightly, I'm in the mood to confront them."

Zachary looked deeply into her eyes.

Serenity smiled. "Zachary, stop looking at me like that as if you're trying to seduce me. You'll make my heart beat faster. My thoughts will go wild and I just wish I could pounce on you and gobble you up."

Zachary was struck speechless.

Ring...

Zachary's handphone started ringing.

It was Callum calling.

Zachary picked up the call. "Zack, we're all waiting at the XX highway intersection's toll booth."

"Alright, I'll come over now."

Zachary hung up and said to Serenity, "They're waiting for us at the same spot as yesterday."

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Serenity hurriedly chugged her unfinished coffee down in three gulps.

After a few more words to Mrs. Lane, the couple left Liberty's home.

On the way there, Serenity received a call from Elisa Stone.

"Serenity, you got the photos I sent you, right? Do you feel a sense of familiarity after seeing them?"

Elisa had heard from Serenity that someone in her hometown had adopted a girl before and hoped she could find some useful leads through Serenity to find her aunt.

Today, her mother would return from their seaside villa.

Elisa hoped very much that when her mother returned, she would have some good news for her that could cheer her up.

Serenity hesitated for a moment before saying, "Elisa, I do think your aunt looks familiar to me. Like... If Sonny wore pigtails and a dress, he'd look a little similar to your aunt. Maybe... Maybe kids all look about the same when they're that young."

Afraid that Elisa would misunderstand that she was trying to create a relationship where there was none, Serenity hurriedly explained, "Elisa, I don't mean anything else by it. Just that when I looked at it

closely, I thought Sonny shared some degrees of similarity to your aunt. In a few days, when I'm free, I'll try to draw a likeness of what your aunt might look like as an adult from the photo of her as a kid."

If Sonny really did look similar to Elisa's aunt, that would mean her mother was Elisa's aunt.

However, her mother died fifteen years ago.

Elisa was silent.

Her silence made Serenity uneasy. Worried that Elisa would misunderstand her, she said once again, "Elisa, give me a few days' time. I'll help illustrate your aunt as an adult. I'm just not free right now. I mentioned that Sonny looked a little like your aunt, but maybe kids all look about the same at that age, so don't think much about it."

Mrs. Stone had been looking for her sister for many years now, and there had been people who had tried to pose as her sister to try and make connections with the Stones.

Serenity did not want Elisa to misunderstand her.

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While Serenity was feeling uneasy, Elisa spoke. Her voice was abnormally calm when she asked Serenity, "Serenity, my mom will come home around noon. Can I go to your place to pick up Sonny?"

Elisa did not have much of an impression of her aunt, and could not tell much from the photos of her. In Serenity's words, children were all cute when they were young.

If Sonny looked like her aunt, even if it was just a little, she could not just let it go. She had to let her mother see him.

Elisa recalled the moment she first met Serenity. Something inexplicable had made her want to get closer to Serenity.

The first time she met Sonny, she liked him right away too.

If Sonny was her aunt's grandson, that might explain why she liked Sonny from the moment she met him.

It was not like she had never seen a kid of Sonny's age before, but only Sonny made her like him from the very first moment. He made her want to kidnap him to be her own nephew and when she bought toys for him, she was not stingy at all. She even wished she could open a toy factory for Sonny just to make toys for him.

It was the same for Serenity.

Considering her status, there had never been a shortage of people by her side who sucked to her and flattered her. She did not like them.

The number of true friends the twenty-six-year-old had could be counted on one hand because she was picky.

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However, that closeness felt at first sight with Serenity allowed her to disregard Serenity's family background and class, which made her befriend Serenity willingly.

That was not just because Serenity helped her think of ways to pursue Mr. York.

It was because she really liked being friends with Serenity.

"Elisa, I can't do that right now. Something's happened with Sonny."

Hearing that, Elisa's heart skipped a beat. She asked worriedly, "What happened to Sonny?"

Serenity hesitated for a moment before deciding to tell the truth. "You know my sister asked her husband for a divorce, right? After that, the Browns took advantage of my sister's inattention to kidnap Sonny and sent him to Chelsea's house.

"But they didn't take good care of him. Chelsea's younger son hit Sonny and when Sonny retaliated, he ran crying to his older brother to get revenge on Sonny when he was the one

who started it first. That little b*stard beat Sonny so badly that he had to be hospitalized."

Elisa immediately got furious. "Serenity, why didn't you tell me when such a serious thing happened? I told you to just tell me and I'd definitely help you. How's Sonny now? Has the person who attacked Sonny been caught?"

Setting aside the possibility that Sonny might very well be her aunt's grandson, she could not stand hearing that Sonny had been attacked purely because he was so cute and she really liked him.

"Sonny has a soft tissue injury to the face that hasn't healed yet. His attacker also kicked him. twice. I saw the security camera footage, Sonny was sent flying as far as a meter away. I really want to tear his attacker to shreds for this! But... his attacker is still a kid too, around ten years old."

No matter how big and burly Matthew Repton looked, his age was the crux of it. He really was just a ten-year-old kid.

"We've reported it to the police, but for a ten-year-old kid, education is the emphasis. They can't arrest him and can only compel his parents to subject him to strict discipline. Right now, my husband and I are going over to discuss the issue of compensation with them.

"Sonny suffered a really big shock and fainted on the spot. Last night, when we left the hospital and returned home, he had a high fever and couldn't stop crying. He only managed to fall asleep in my sister's arms this morning after his fever went down and tiring himself out from crying."

"A ten-year-old kid beat Sonny so cruelly? And they're cousins, right? Your sister's sister-in law is a rare specimen in this world. With a mother like that, how can anyone expect her kids to turn out well? Serenity, send me the location. I'll gather a few cars of people to go over. They're not going to fight, just scare them a little, so they won't bully Sonny again in the future."

Elisa was beyond livid after hearing all that. She was a protective person. It did not matter why the other party had hit Sonny, she would always be on Sonny's side.

“My husband called all his cousins to come over. There are already about eight or nine people there. I don’t need your help with that for now.”

Serenity thanked Elisa, but politely turned down Elisa’s offer to bring more people over.

Elisa’s temper was rather... volatile.

Their visit to the Reptons today was purely for negotiation.

If they brought Elisa with them, Serenity was afraid she would not be able to contain her temper and would blow up on the Reptons.

It was enough to bring just the York cousins with them. “Your husband has that many cousins?”

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“Yeah, they’re a pretty big family. Thank you, Elisa.”

Elisa felt relieved after hearing that Serenity’s husband had brought backup. “Serenity, you had a shotgun marriage with that husband of yours, right? It seems like he’s not that bad. At least he’s willing to help out when you run into trouble.”

Unlike Liberty’s husband. So what if they had known each other for twelve years?

He still could not match up to Serenity’s husband from a shotgun marriage.

“Alright. I won’t go this time, but the next time, if you run into trouble again, you have to tell me, or else I’ll consider you’re no longer thinking of me as a friend. Send your sister’s address to me. I’ll visit Sonny there.”

Serenity did not deny this request.

After she ended the call, Serenity sent her sister’s address to Elisa Stone.

Zachary had been partially paying attention to Serenity’s conversation with Elisa.

When he heard Elisa wanted to bring people over, his hands that were placed on the steering wheel tightened.

If Elisa Stone came over, his identity would be revealed.

He did not want it to be suddenly revealed. That way, Serenity would not be mentally prepared for it and it would be hard for her to accept. Plus, their feelings were not firm yet.

It was not suitable for his secret to be exposed all of a sudden.

Luckily, Serenity politely declined Elisa’s goodwill.

Zachary did not have any positive feelings towards Elisa, but could not deny that Elisa was sincere toward Serenity.

Elisa’s temperament and status meant she did not need to keep it in no matter what she encountered as she could do whatever she wanted.

Zachary pretended to ask casually, "Was that Ms. Stone?"

"Yeah. She sent her mom and aunt's photo from when they were little for me to take a look. That day, I glanced at it but didn't notice anything. Later on, when I looked at it a little closer, I suddenly felt her aunt looks pretty similar to Sonny."

Zachary was so shocked by this statement that he nearly ran into the car in front of him.

He immediately hit the brakes.

Serenity's body jolted forward for an instant.

"Don't drive so quickly. Why don't I drive instead?"

Serenity even said of him, "You should drive a little slower. It's better to stop for three minutes rather than get just a second ahead."

When she drove, she would not speed unless there was something urgent. Otherwise, she was usually very steady.

Zachary started moving the car again and said, "The traffic conditions were so good I couldn't resist speeding up."

"Serenity, you said Sonny looks like Elisa Stone's aunt?"

Zachary continued to pretend like nothing was wrong and asked Serenity.

Serenity did not notice his odd behavior. His acting was Oscar-worthy. She was not well versed in acting and was not able to tell.

"A little. There are maybe around four or five degrees of similarity. Sonny looks more like my sister, but also a little bit like Hank."

At the mention of this, Serenity suddenly gasped in realization. "Oh! If Sonny looks like Elisa's aunt, my sister should look even more like her."

However, when Elisa saw her sister, she did not have any strange reaction. Maybe her sister was too fat, so Elisa could not tell?