### Gu Lingfei 1091

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Color washed off the thug's face.

"Are you talking about Mr. York from the wealthiest family in Wiltspoon?" "Oh, it turns out my husband is pretty famous.

Even a hooligan knows his name." The few thugs got onto their hands and feet right away as they wailed, screamed, and pounded their fists on the ground.

They chewed Ms. Jones out.

No wonder the woman paid a lot to hire a group of men to go against a single young woman.

She was the lady of the York household.

Mrs. York had been the talk of the town lately.

Even the thugs had caught wind of the woman.

How did they end up in the hands of Mrs. York? Ms. Jones sure put them in a spot.

Noah would call them unlucky too if he knew about this.

"Have mercy on us, Mrs. York.

We didn't know who you were and trashed your car.

We can make it up to you with another car.

Please look upon yourself to forgive us." "711 talk! '11 tell you who told us to smash your car.

It's Ms. Jones.

Her phone number is XXXXXXXXX.

She gave us a lot of money to follow you, trash your car, and beat you up." The two bodyguards who were there to protect Serenity had already known someone was following Serenity.

They wanted to take out the thugs without anyone noticing, but the thugs acted fast and stopped Serenity's car before they could do anything.

+ Last year, Serenity was ambushed by a group of thugs on her way home in the middle of the night.

Serenity knocked them all out without a scratch herself.

Those thugs took a beating and were held in custody for fifteen days.

"Mis.

Jones?" Serenity fell into contemplation.

She did not recall any Ms. Jones.

Rising to her feet, she said, "Are you in touch with her? Does she give you cash or a wire transfer?" "A middle person contacted us and gave us a deposit.

Ms. Jones later got in touch with us and talked about a wire transfer once the deed is done.

We were to take the money and leave Wiltspoon.

She guaranteed our safety." It appeared the woman was not very cautious.

She contacted the thugs through a middle person in the beginning, but later she spoke to the thugs directly.

She was either cocky or young and inexperienced.

For some reason, Carrie came to mind.

Carrie was only twenty years old, so she was pretty young.

She was spoiled rotten, which meant she fit the bill of being cocky.

"Call Ms. Jones right now and record the call.

Tell her that you have finished the job.

You wrecked my car and beat me up, so she should make the final payment.

The call recording would give Serenity proof as Serenity intended to sue Ms. Jones.

The final payment could also serve as evidence.

"What would happen to us..." Serenity jabbed the man's face with the metal rod again.

"You're not in the position to negotiate with me.

Do as I say, or my husband will take his anger out on you.

That won't be my problem.

"I would try and stop my husband from getting angry if you do as I say.

At least, I can stop him from killing you." The thugs would never lay a finger on the woman if they had known that she was Mrs. York.

Plus, why was it not mentioned that Mrs. York could fight? She was an expert at it too.

# Chapter 1092 | [Serenity & Zachary]

The thug chose to listen to Serenity and gave Carrie a call.

Serenity told the bodyguards to prop him up for the call. The thug would be panting for air while prostrating and talking at the same time.

Carrie was urged by her mother to call the thugs when the call came in. She happily told her mother, "They're calling, Mom! They're calling! I bet they finished the job."

She eagerly took the call.

"Ms. Jones, we trashed the woman's car and beat her up. She's knocked out cold but still breathing. She's not dead. Hurry up and make the final payment. We want to leave Wiltspoon now."

"It's good that you didn't kill her. Snap a photo. I need to be sure that you finished the task before I can pay you."

"We really beat her up real bad. We left the scene immediately since she was bleeding. How could we possibly have stayed for a photo? Hurry up and pay up. We need to run away."

"Are you sure you hit the right woman?" Carrie was not scared at all when she heard Serenity was mangled, bleeding, and unconscious. In fact, she felt the thrill. She finally got her revenge.

Serenity should have stayed out of her business. The nerve of Serenity to come in her way! Carrie's father even had to apologize to Mr. York.

"Yes, of course. She has a bookshop at the entrance of Wiltspoon School and drives a national car. We've followed her since she left the bookshop. There's no way we got the wrong person."

"That's her, all right. Okay, I'll wire the money to you. Take the money and leave Wiltspoon right away. Delete my number, and don't breathe a word to anyone. Otherwise, I can't help you.

"But what if you're scamming me since you didn't take a picture? I'll pay half of the money and the remainder after I'm sure the woman's beaten up tomorrow."

"Can you give the money straight away? We've committed a crime, but you're holding half the payment now."

The thug would have given Carrie a piece of his mind if Serenity did not stare at him to stop him from saying more than he should. The thug wanted to crawl through the radio wave and strangle Carrie.

"I have the money, and I keep to my word. I'll pay the remaining amount when I receive the word tomorrow. In fact, I'll tip you extra."

Carrie then terminated the call and went online to wire the funds.

Once the thugs got the money, Serenity gestured for the bodyguards to grab the thug's phone. They added the thug's contact number and used the thug's phone to send the voice recording to one of their phones.

"The police will be here soon. You should confess your crimes."

The thugs were at a loss for words.

They were tempted to blast Ms. Jones.

With the bodyguard playing the voice recording, Serenity listened to the female voice and realized that it was not some Ms. Jones. It was Carrie.

Her guess was pretty accurate.

Ms. Jones was a cover name Carrie used.

"Seren."

Zachary arrived in haste.

Police were dispatched from the nearby police station too. The police car followed behind Zachary's personal ride.

"Are you alright, Seren?"

After Zachary got the call from the bodyguard, he ditched his clients and hurried here with his security detail.

He got out of the car and took large strides toward Serenity. Putting his hands on Serenity's shoulders, he nervously scanned Serenity's body to make sure she was unharmed. Serenity was fine apart from a few strands of wandering hair. Zachary sighed in relief.

## Chapter 1093 | [Serenity & Zachary]

"I'm fine, Zachary. My car was smashed. That's all."

The thugs were bashing her car by the time Serenity got out. She and the two bodyguards quickly subdued the perpetrators, but it was too late for the car.

Zachary glanced at the smashed car and remarked, "All that matters is that you're safe. We can always replace the car."

"But you gave me this car."

"I gave you one on Valentine's Day too. You can drive that and send this one for repairs."

Serenity replied, "I prefer the car brand I have right now."

It was discreet.

Zachary said, "I'll take you to get a new car of the same brand tomorrow."

She had a thing against showing off and parading her riches as the wife of the richest man. Zachary was happy to meet her standard and lifestyle. He would do anything to please her so long as he was in the picture.swnovels

"Did you manage to get who is behind this?"

Zachary's question was meant for his bodyguards.

"It's Carrie," Serenity answered.

Since everybody here had not met Carrie, they were unfamiliar with her voice. Nevertheless, Serenity had the pleasure of meeting Carrie twice and got into arguments twice as well. Carrie's arrogant and ear-piercing voice was imprinted in Serenity's mind.

As Carrie did not settle her outstanding payment with the thugs, the police could take over from here and locate Carrie in no time.

"Ms. Carrie of the Newman family?"

Zachary scowled. The Newman man sure had a way of raising his daughter.

He came a few days ago to apologize. Well, it did not take long for his daughter to hire thugs to barricade the road and bash the car. It was the same stunt Noah pulled.

Serenity would have taken a beating before the bodyguards showed up if she did not know how to fight.

It was not a matter Zachary would dismiss.

Now that the police were here, the group went to the station to give their statements.

With the voice and dashcam recordings in hand, the thugs' fates were sealed even if they were sent to the hospital. Serenity, as the victim, was only acting out of self-defense.

The last time Serenity was here on a self-defense case left quite an impression on everyone at the station.

Several months passed, and they were brought back down memory lane.

While they did not recall who Serenity was, they remembered that Serenity was a young and beautiful girl. She was calm in the face of armed hooligans and could turn the tables in the shortest amount of time.

Now that they found out that Serenity was Mrs. York, the police believed it really took some guts, skills, and something extra to be able to secure the footing as the wife of the richest heir.

The voice recording and Serenity's statement pointed the evidence to Carrie. Knowing that Carrie had not settled the final payment with the thugs, the police set out to the Newmans' residence that night itself to ask for Carrie's cooperation in the ongoing investigation.

Since the call history was still available on Carrie's phone, there was no way Carrie could talk her way out of it.

#### Chapter 1094 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Carrie simply got cocky and carried away that she forgot to delete the call history that included the recorded call.

Zachary and his wife left the rest to the police.

Back home, Zachary clung to Serenity.

He went everywhere she went.

He was her shadow when Serenity и.σ.v.ele.во.σк.¢ом grabbed her pajamas to go to the bathroom.

"Zachary, Mr. York, just tell me what's on your mind.

We'rea married couple.

You can be straight with me about anything." Serenity stopped at the bathroom door and leaned against the door frame before giving Zachary an amused look.

"You've become my shadow since we got back from giving our statements."

You're following me wherever I go." "Seren, please don't leave home without a bodyguard.

I'll assign four bodyguards to keep you safe on a shift rotation, 24/7.

1 can promise you that they'll only report to me if you encounter danger.

They won't be there to spy on you.

"1 know you can fight, but what if a professional is hired next time? You'll get hurt." Zachary's mind harked back to the two times Serenity was stopped in the middle of the road.

The first time, the couple was not speaking to each other.

He did not have people on the scene to help her because he did not want to blow his cover.

By then, Serenity had already taken care of the thugs.

Tonight was the second time.

This time, the thugs were meaner than the ones hired by Noah.

It was a good thing he had eyes guarding her in the dark.

The bodyguards managed to keep her out of harm's way.

"Did you assign bodyguards to follow me? I didn't object to having them around." "That's just two of them.

I want to add two more, so I need to pick your brain on it." Zachary did not intend to move the two original bodyguards from their assignment.

However, he could include two more and they'll be out in the open with Serenity.

It would serve as a deterrent to those out to get Serenity.

These people would not dare try anything if they knew Serenity had a security detail.

"you should bring along two or four bodyguards during the day, so the people will think twice before attacking you.

They wouldn't pull something like tonight." Serenity could tolerate the protection in the darkness, but she would feel watched if she had two or four bodyguards following her out in the open.

On second thought, the two bodyguards in the shadows were practically spying on her every move too.

After much silence, she replied, "Alright.

I can do that, but I won't accept beyond two bodyguards.

I don't need four of them.

Not many of them are impulsive and reckless like Carrie." With Serenity giving her word, Zachary was relieved and said, "You can't be too careful.

You're the envy of many now.

It's best to practice caution.

"T have picked four bodyguards for you, and since you're only taking two, I think I'll send the remaining two to watch over your sister's breakfast diner.

"We can't let our guard down on Mr. Newman and his wife.

Carrie will be punished by the law due to the incident tonight.

The crime she committed will earn her some jail time, and her parents won't think this is deserving for their daughter.

"They'll resent you and think that you're the cause of their daughter's unbecoming.

They might try and get their revenge, but since you're my wife, they likely won't get a chance.

Who's to say they won't switch their attention to the people who you care about and are the closest to you???????? "Like your sister and Sonny." The people who mattered most to Serenity were her sister and her nephew.

A three-year-old boy like Sonny made an easy target too.

Serenity would never be able to μ.σ.ν.εθε.βσ.σκ.¢σμ forgive herself if anything were to happen to Sonny, especially if it was because of her.

Zachary's explanation got Serenity thinking.

She replied, "We'll go with your suggestion.

Mr. Lewis has security guards patrolling the streets, and my sister and Sonny are safe in the diner, but what if Sonny leaves my sister's sight for even one second?" Serenity left her words hanging.

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"seren, don't put the pressure on yourself.

We're only taking preventive measures.

Besides, people in our circle often go around with security detail.

No one will be caught dead without one." Serenity blamed herself.

"I'm concerned that the Newmans will get back at me through my sister and Sonny." However, she did not regret helping Camryn.

Carrie went too far.

"It won't happen.

Don't worry.

I'm here for you.

Besides, your sister rented the shop from Duncan.

Duncan is pretty responsible as a landlord.

He won't let his tenants get into that kind of situation.

Heck, he owns the commercial space of half the street.

He has never had a problem." Duncan had been on the other side of the law before.

Even though Duncan had turned away from the dark side, he was still on good terms with many people from his past.

No one would stir trouble on his turf.

Plus, Duncan was fond of Sonny.

Duncan would not sit by and watch if anybody were to lay a finger on Sonny.

"The only people with the audacity to come after you are the Newman mother and daughter and your relatives.

I'll let Josh know to have eyes on both families.

At least we'll know if they are up to something, and we will be ready for them." Zachary then asked his beloved wife, "Will you still help Camryn if you could turn back time?" Serenity replied without a second thought, "I will.

She would've died if Elisa and I didn't jump in that night." It never occurred to Serenity that Carrie would have no respect for the law.

Zachary smiled, knowing that his wife would not turn away from justice.

"In that case, you shouldn't blame yourself.

What you did is admirable.

We can't please everybody in this world.

There are bound to be a few bad apples.

"We can't stop these bad apples from coming into our lives.

All we can do is keep our guard up.

Anyway, go and take a bath.

It's late." Serenity echoed his thoughts.

Even if she did nothing, there would still be people who would not see eye to eye with her and would wish her the worst of luck.

Since she had no regrets about helping Camryn, she should not dwell and blame herself further.

As for the possible retaliation from the Newmans, she should go with Zachary's advice and just be ready for the vile family.

Having gotten over it, Serenity went into the bathroom for a bath while Zachary sat down on the bed to give Josh a call.

Josh and Jasmine had just arrived at the Soxes' residence after a night out together.

He wanted to come in for a drink when Zachary's call came.

Jasmine said it was late and her family was asleep anyway.

He was told to go home and rest.

He watched Jasmine enter μ.σ.ν.εθε.βσ.σκ.¢σм the house and took the call from Zachary.

"Are you still on a date?" "It's late.

Ijust drove my girlfriend home.

Why are you not asleep at this hour?" Zachary answered, "Something happened to my wife again." Getting a bad feeling, Josh asked with concern, "What happened? Did you fight or have another misunderstanding? Did you drink at tonight's business meeting and screw around when you were drunk? Zachary was speechless.

"You're the one screwing around.

I didn't even drink a drop of alcohol." "Not a drop? And Mr. Moe и.σ.ν.єєє.вσ.σκ.¢σм was fine with that?" Mr. Moe was the client Zachary met tonight.

"T was straight with Mr. Moe that my wife doesn't like me drinking."

She doesn't like the stench of alcohol on me.

I have to sleep in the study if I drink, and Mr. Moe called me an uxorious husband.

I drank tea instead."

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Josh uttered with a smile, "You're not the Zachary I know anymore.

I can't believe you said that to Mr. Moe." "Seren was stopped in the middle of the road, and her car was trashed when she was on her way home." Josh was intrigued.

"Who's the fool to block the missus's car? I bet the person is in the hospital right now." Zachary was caught between tears and laughter.

"TI get someone on the case right now." "It's fine.

I know who it is." "who?" Curious, Josh asked.

He was nosy, and gossip was his game.

His imagination wandered to great heights.

"Was it your admirer?" Zachary replied, "Yours, actually." He added peevishly.

"It's Ms. Carrie of the Newman family." It did not take long for Josh to find out who Zachary was talking about.

Josh uttered, "Ms. Carrie must have it in for the missus.

Mr. Newman apologized not too long ago, and here his precious daughter was at it again.

"Was she arrested?" "We called the cops on her.

She's been detained since we have evidence.

Josh, I need a favor from you.

I need eyes on the Newmans and Seren's relatives." Josh was quick to catch on.

"Are you worried that Mr. Newman might try to get even?" "It's better to be ready for them.

Ms. Carrie is the Newmans' precious daughter.

They spoiled her rotten.

There's no guarantee they won't come after Serenity now that their daughter is detained.

At least we'll know what's coming if we keep our eyes peeled." Seeing that his best friend had a point, Josh gladly answered, "Alright.

[1] make sure I have people spying on these families' every move." "Tell your people to be smart about it.

The Newmans aren't easy to deal with." Zachary and his wife had discussed that the circumstances around the death of Camryn's biological father were suspicious.

Mr. Newman married his brother's wife, saying that he was taking care of his brother's wife and daughter following his brother's death.

However, the public was not blind.

There was an intimacy between Mr. and Mrs. Newman without the awkwardness of their former relationship as in-laws.

Many speculated that the pair had a thing from way back then.

Only, this was the Newmans' private affair.

The Newman family did not possess the wealth and power they had today.

Since the family was not included in the higher society, everybody made a few jokes at the expense of the Newmans for a while before forgetting all about it.

Now that they had built their wealth and joined the ranks of billionaires, Mrs. Newman started taking her precious daughters to social events, so her daughter could marry into the upper crust.

1 It was then the Newmans returned to the public eye.

Of course, the Newmans may keep to themselves, but the Buchams had connections to dig deep into the Newman family's history.

There was no such thing as a secret to the BuchaMs. Despite the Buchams' great network of intel, they had better things to do than dig into the Newmans.

They would only get the dirt on the Newmans if necessary.

| Josh answered, "Okay.

Don't worry.

I will only send my best men out.

They're alert and can fight.

They can work undercover if you ask me.

"Come to think of it, do you think Mr. Newman is involved with any shady dealings? Do you want to run checks on Newman Enterprise?" "It's better to know the enemy.

Look into it if you have the time.

We can catch them in one go if he's involved with anything shady." Josh shared the thought too.

After the exchange, Josh ended the call.

He planned to get his men on top of Newman Enterprise once he got home.

#### Chapter 1097 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Serenity had no idea that her man had everything sorted out while she was enjoying a good soak.

She came out of the bathroom and found Zachary sitting on the bed. Drawing close, she wrapped her arms around the nape of his neck and pressed him onto the mattress. She was on top of him.

"Honey, you're killing me."

Zachary's voice was raspy when he hinted at his beloved wife.

With a smile. Serenity brushed her lips along his face and gave him butterfly kisses before rolling away from him. She gave him a kick. "Off to the showers, you go. You smell of cigarettes."

"I didn't smoke."

"Well, someone did. You got the cigarette smell on your clothes."

Zachary took a whiff of his clothes. Nothing smelled like tobacco. Nevertheless, it must be true since his wife said so. He went to take a shower and changed into a fresh set of clothes.

By the time he came out, Serenity was snoozing away in dreamland.

Zachary stared at her serene face, feeling envious of her sometimes.

Serenity could function normally on meal intake and rest no matter what happened. She would not let anything come in the way of her sleep and three meals.

She was the type to get over things quickly and have an open mind. She would not dwell on issues for too long or be hung up over things.

In short, Serenity was an optimist. To her, things would always get better tomorrow.

Leaning forward, Zachary planted a kiss on Serenity's face and tenderly uttered, "Have a sweet dream, honey. Dream of me."

Serenity woke up the next morning. She had a great dreamless night, so she did not dream about Zachary.

Zachary was making breakfast in the kitchen when she got up.

Thinking that Grandma May was not home, Serenity wandered out of the bedroom in her pajamas. She followed the fragrant aroma to the kitchen and hugged Zachary from the back. She stuck her face on Zachary's back and purred, "Babe."

Her seductive voice could make Zachary melt.

Zachary turned around to cuddle up and get a morning kiss when he caught sight of Grandma May strolling in from the balcony.

She was walking into the kitchen and happened to stumble upon the couple making out.

She wanted to pretend she was not there, but Zachary caught her.

Hearing Zachary calling his nana, Serenity immediately let go of Zachary and turned to Grandma May with her face flushed scarlet.

"Zack, did you see my reading glasses? I can't find them. Oh, I'm getting old. I can't see without my reading glasses."

Grandma May turned on her heel to leave while mumbling to herself, "I put them on the coffee table, but I can't find them now."

Zachary and Serenity knew that Grandma May never wear reading glasses.

"What time did Nana come home last night?" Serenity whispered the question only when Grandma May left the room.

Zachary's eyes deepened at the sight of Serenity in her pajamas. His mind flew back to her opening the door in her pajamas when they first got married.

"Go back to your room and get changed. You should only wear like this when it's only us at home. Of course, I won't object to sexier lingerie, but I prefer you covered up when there's someone else around."

Serenity pinched his arm and spoke in a muted tone, "I thought we were alone at home. You didn't even tell me that Nana was back. Thank goodness I didn't do anything lewd."

Otherwise, she would be utterly embarrassed.

Serenity was quite modest with her pajamas, except for having the tendency of taking off her bra when she slept...

With that fact dawning on her, Serenity folded her arms against her chest. "I'm going back to the room to change."

She slipped back into the bedroom.

Zachary chuckled.

There was no need to feel embarrassed around him.

## Chapter 1098 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Serenity and Zachary were an old married couple now.

A while later, Serenity emerged from the bedroom and watched as Grandma May kept up the act of rummaging for her non–existence reading glasses. Serenity uttered, "Never mind if you can't find them, Nana. I'll go with you to get another pair of glasses later."

"Alright. I'll stop looking then. I'm getting old. My memory isn't as good anymore. I remember putting them here, but I can't find them now. Maybe the glasses grew a pair of legs and ran off."

Serenity replied with a smile, "Maybe they grew a pair of wings and flew away like a butterfly."

Grandma May thought it was a shame. "Oh, I didn't get to see them flying away like a butterfly."

Serenity was amused by the old lady's antics.

"When did you come home last night, Nana?"

"I was back before you were. I went to bed early last night. I don't know what time you guys came home last night."

Although Serenity was skeptical of Grandma May's answer, she left the conversation at that.

After the trio enjoyed breakfast together, Grandma May talked about having a chat with the other ladies in the neighborhood and left. Zachary drove Serenity to the shop.

Serenity gave her sister a call while on her way to the shop.

"How was business this morning, Liberty?"

"Good. I was swamped with customers. I was lucky that Mrs. Lane came to help me first thing in the morning. I can hire someone if business is this good every day." Since Mrs. Lane worked for her sister, Liberty could not always rely on Mrs. Lane for help.

Liberty did not want to hire anybody in the beginning as she had no idea how the business would turn out.

"Your business will always be booming." Serenity believed her sister's breakfast diner would be a hit the moment her sister decided to go into the food and beverage line.

"Seren, I'll talk to you when I'm not so busy in the afternoon."

Liberty was so busy that she had no time for a chat with her sister on the phone.

"I shouldn't keep you then. Bring Sonny over for lunch later. I'll get your favorite food."

Liberty happily agreed to the lunch date. She should meet up with her sister to talk about taking their relatives to court anyway.

Serenity did not mention last night's incident so as not to worry her sister.

Liberty dove back into work after hanging up the call.

Mrs. Lane was tied up with work too. No one was looking after Sonny, but it was a good thing the boy was well—behaved. He sat behind the cash register, playing with his toy bricks.

Hank came into the diner and looked at the tables full of customers. Some people were enjoying their breakfast while others were on their phones and waiting.

It appeared business was thriving.

He was dumbstruck and somewhat frustrated.

Deep down, Hank wished Liberty would not succeed in her business. It would be best if she lost her source of income like him.

"Sonny."

Hank was lost in his thoughts, but he soon snapped out of it. Seeing that his son was sitting alone behind the cash register, he approached the boy.

"Dad."

Sonny was bored playing by himself, but his mother was busy. Mom said that she had to earn a lot of money to send him to school. He had to be on his best behavior and should not bother Mom for the littlest things.

Since Dad was here, Sonny was happier than ever.

He put his hands out for Hank to hold him. Staring at his father with his beady eyes, Sonny gleefully uttered, "Dad, are you taking me to the zoo to see the tigers?"

His father talked about taking him to the zoo to see the tigers the other day, but Sonny chose to go with his aunt.

Nevertheless, the little man did not forget what his father said.

Hank answered with a grin, "I don't have time today, son. Can we go another time?"

#### Chapter 1099 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Sonny was pretty well-behaved, but he was less than three years old after all. He had a cheeky side to him.

Hank took Sonny to a nearby park the other day, and the playful and active child ran everywhere. Sonny would wander off far away if Hank took his eyes off the boy for one second. It frightened Hank as he thought he had lost his child.

Since then, Hank did not want to take his son out anymore.

In fact, the first time they went to the park together was because Hank ran out of excuses not to go.

Sonny sensibly asked, "Oh. Do you need to work?"

Hank lied, "Yeah. I need to work and make money."

He still had no luck in the job department.

Since it appeared Liberty was doing well with her business, it got Hank into thinking of setting up a business with Jessica after the wedding. They could be their own boss.

Without needing to take orders from other people, they could work on their own schedule.

Would Zachary come after him if Hank were to set up a business though?

Hank's worst fear was Zachary having it in for him all the way.

Worse came to worst, Hank would become an e-hailing driver. It would be tough, but at least he would have an income.

It had not slipped Hank's mind that he still held the roles of a husband and a father. He had the responsibility of bringing home the bacon resting on his shoulder.

"Oh."

Sonny was rather accepting that his father needed to work because Mom had always told him that in the past. It was not old news. The little man knew his father had to go to work every day.

Seeing that her ex—husband was here again, Liberty really did not want to give him the time of day—not like she had time to spare anyway.

Hank carried his son to Liberty and said, "Liberty, I haven't had breakfast. Get me your recommended breakfast set."

Before Liberty answered, Mrs. Lane jumped in while serving the other customers. She said, "Mr. Brown, please proceed to pay at the cash register. You can pay, find a seat, and wait for your meal."

Hank replied, "I'm Sonny's father. Do I need to pay? Liberty, we were once husband and wife. What is a breakfast set going to cost you? Can't you treat me to breakfast?"

Although Hank still had a bit of savings after renovating the marital home and giving the Yateses financial support, he wanted to scrimp wherever he could since he was without an income now.

Besides, he had always pinched pennies with Liberty.

The couple was going halves on expenses the last few months before the divorce.

Nimble behind the grill, Liberty said, "Mr. Brown, don't talk to me about our marriage. I don't want to fight because Sonny is here, and I have lots of customers too. As Mrs. Lane mentioned, you can pay if you want to support my business. I'll be happy to make your food. Otherwise, I'll call the patrolling security to kick you out if you don't intend to pay."

Hank grimaced. "What're a few bucks to you? Can't you buy me breakfast?"

"No. I can't do that."

His expression winced with anger before turning to Sonny. "Look at how petty your mom is, Sonny. She won't even give me breakfast and expects me to pay."

Sonny told him outright, "Dunc pays when he comes for breakfast. Aunt Elisa pays too, so you should pay."

The only people Mom refused payment were Aunt Ser and Uncle Zack while the rest were expected to foot their bill.

## Chapter 1100 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Sonny might not understand that it was a business, but he knew that no one else but Aunt Ser and Uncle Zack were the only exceptions to the paying rule.

Hank was dumbstruck for a moment before remarking, "I'm your father, Sonny. How can you compare me with Mr. Lewis? He's an outsider. Besides, Mr. Lewis isn't a good man. He's scary."

Sharing the sentiment, Sonny bobbed his head and replied in his childish voice, "Dunc is scary, but he's not a bad man!"

Hank did not forget the time he told his son to kick a fuss every time Duncan came looking for Liberty. Refusing to dwell on the same topic, Hank took the hint and talked about breakfast again. His son was stubborn.

The little man said that Mr. Lewis was scary, but he was not a bad man. Despite Hank's efforts to change the boy's mind, Sonny stuck to his guns about Mr. Lewis.

"Alright. I'll pay. Happy now? I feel like it's all about money for you after the divorce.

"You're so petty. You hold every dime against me. We were once a married couple no matter what."

Hank whined while putting his son down to take out his wallet. He pulled out twenty bucks from his wallet and handed the money to Liberty. He said, "The breakfast set."

Liberty took his money and gave him back his change.

"You wanted to split the differences in the expenses and bring money to every conversation we had before we divorced. Now that I have nothing to do with you, have you no shame to freeload off me?"

Hank choked.

Women were such vengeful souls.

They went halves for a couple of months. That was all. It had been several months since the divorce, and Liberty was still hung up about the past.

"I'm Sonny's father."

"All You Can Eat belongs to me and not Sonny. You're Sonny's father, but you're not mine. So don't act like I'm your child."

Hank retorted, "You've changed, Liberty. You've become sharp—tongued. I bet you learned it from Serenity. Your sister has married into an affluent family, and these families are all about etiquette and class. Can she adapt with that temper of hers? You should talk some sense into Serenity. Tell her to be more ladylike."

Lifting her head, Liberty callously glared at Hank.

There was not another peep from Hank.

Serenity and Liberty had been living large since Liberty decided to go separate ways with Hank.

With Sonny in his arms, Hank turned around and walked away. He spotted an empty table as a customer was leaving. Hank called Mrs. Lane to tidy up the table before taking a seat at the table with his son.

Watching as Liberty dove back into work, Hank was brought back to the past. He slowly realized why Liberty changed. No. Liberty did not change—she merely regained her shrewd and capable self.

The years Liberty was most foolish and gullible was when she was his wife.

They had known each other for more than a decade. He would be lying if he said he never had feelings for Liberty.

Liberty was good to him in the past because she loved him. Hank took her love for granted and thought she was simply useless.

Now that she had stopped loving him... She became the intelligent and capable woman she once was.

Deep down, Hank was jealous of Liberty's success in her career, so he manipulated her in the name of love and got her to ditch professional wear for an apron.

Liberty's life as a housewife revolved around her husband and child. Her whole world was caring for the family, from the parents—in—law to Sonny. Liberty had no time to go shopping or have a get—together with former colleagues. As time went on, her former friends started walking out of her life.

She became out of touch with society. The daily bustle of household chores left her no time to dress up, and slowly, Liberty put no thought to her appearance.