

Gu Lingfei 1121

Chapter 1121 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Zachary gave it a thought before saying, "It sounds like a good plan. The DNA test is the most direct approach and compelling evidence.

"I'll send someone to bring him here. You can get a DNA test with him. You can slam the evidence in their face during the trial unless Noah isn't their grandson."

Serenity said, "Um... What if Noah isn't their grandson..."

Zachary was speechless.

The couple's minds went blank.

In the end, Zachary said, "Just get a DNA test with your grandfather. The old man is not going to cooperate for sure. Here's where Noah can come into place. He can get a few strands of hair from your grandfather. The hair follicles have to be intact to do the DNA test."

The DNA test did not always have to be done with blood.

Noah was the youngest grandson in the Hunt family. Serenity had roughened the boy up a couple of times to the point Noah revered Serenity now. It was a great opportunity to use him.

Believing that Zachary's plan was doable, Serenity remarked, "We'll do it your way. We can get Noah to pluck a few of my granddad's hair and I'll use it for the DNA test. We'll know whether my dad is their child once the result is out."

With the couple engaging in chatter, the journey home felt short.

They soon arrived at the hilltop villa at Regent Residences.

Mrs. Lane came out to open the gate.

The sight of Mrs. Lane reminded Serenity that it was time to up Mrs. Lane's salary. She brought it up to Zachary, and Zachary replied, "You're the boss in the house. Whatever you say goes. You can increase Mrs. Lane's wages without my permission."

"She helped my sister a lot, and that's not the nature of her job. I don't feel comfortable not giving her extra for the ad hoc tasks. We run the household together. Even if you don't make the decision, I should let you know about it. The last thing I want is you having no idea what's going on in the house."

"Alright. Increase her wages."

Jim turned over to look.

Zachary faintly remarked, "Your salary has been adjusted multiple times."

Greed was not a good color for Jim.

Jim chuckled. He and Mrs. Lane were the first two people to keep faith with the missus. As a result, they had multiple pay rises and higher bonuses.

Serenity said to Jim, "Jim of all trades."

Jim was dumbstruck at first but quickly broke into a smile. "Thank you for the compliment and affirmation, Missus."

Serenity burst into laughter.

The bodyguard got out of the car to open the car door for the couple. Zachary was first to get off, and he extended his hand to help Serenity out of the vehicle.

Dressed in an evening gown and killer stilettos, Serenity was careful in getting out. She did not want to end up with a twisted ankle. Besides, she was still holding the bouquet that Zachary gave her.

"Sir, Missus."

Sam somehow emerged out of nowhere.

Together with Mrs. Lane, he respectfully greeted the party.

"Sam, Mrs. Lane."

Serenity responded with a smile while Zachary said a quick hello and led Serenity into the house.

Sam wanted to follow them when Mrs. Lane held him back. She murmured in a low voice, "Are you sure you want to be the third wheel?"

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Sam replied, "Thank you for the heads-up, Cecilia. Mr. Zachary wouldn't be happy if I went

"Is the bedroom arranged according to Mr. Zachary's instruction?"

"It's all done to give the romantic feel. I can guarantee the missus will have a great experience, and they will take their relationship up a notch."

Mrs. Lane replied expectantly, "I hope we'll hear some good news from the missus soon."

Mr. Zachary had been working hard.

"You can talk about it with me, but don't bring this up to the missus. We don't want her to feel the pressure. Mr. Zachary has not been together with the missus for a long time. They might want to have some alone time before adding a family member."

Although Sam looked forward to the missus carrying a child, employees like themselves had no right to rush the couple if they wanted to enjoy a few years without kids.

Mrs. Lane said, "I know. I won't say such a thing in front of the missus. More than anything else, I hope the missus and Mr. Zachary will never stop loving each other."

She had witnessed Mr. Zachary falling in love with the missus and been there through the couple's ups and downs.

Mr. Zachary would sometimes pour his feelings out to Mrs. Lane, and she would guide him in the right direction.

Sam uttered, "I hope Mr. Zachary and the missus will have their happily-ever-after and end the fights and silent treatments."

Brant took over as the butler when Sam had to take time off work. It happened during the time Mr. Zachary came clean about his identity. The missus could not accept the truth, and with the tension running high between the couple, the employees were constantly on tenterhooks. Brant called dozens of times a day to urge Sam to come back and resumed his role as the butler.

It brought back a not-so-nice memory for Mrs. Lane. "The York boys do spoil their wives."

She was comforted by that thought.

Since Sam and Mrs. Lane were whispering outside the house, Serenity heard nothing of the conversation. Zachary led her into the main house, and she was shocked by what was inside.

The house was decorated gorgeously and romantically with a rainbow of balloons and flowers adding a pop of color to the place. There was a red carpet unfurled on the ground, leading a path upstairs. She guessed the end of the red carpet was his bedroom door.

Flower petals were sprinkled next to the carpet, exuding a romantic and beautiful vibe.

Apart from the balloons and flowers, there were pictures of her with Zachary in their everyday life. There was one of them shopping for groceries, having dinner together, enjoying the garden on the swing, etc. In short, the photos captured their moments together as a couple.

Serenity had no idea when these pictures were printed, much less when they were taken.

Nevertheless, the romantic setting and pictures of them together took her down memory lane. Of all the good and the bad they went through as a couple, Serenity remembered the good while Zachary was willing to shoulder the bad for her.

Keeping an eye on her expression, Zachary could tell his plan was a success when he saw the joy and awe on her face. He had cracked his head to think of something romantic and asked help from everybody to set the place up. His wife was impressed.

Josh was not the only guy who knew how to set the mood. He could too.

Just as Josh wanted Jasmine to be happy, Zachary wished the same for Serenity. Serenity did not have to envy Jasmine.

"Zachary."

Serenity held his hands tight and gleefully uttered, "It's beautiful. The place is so beautiful. I feel so loved."

He put a lot of heart into it.

It was hard for a man like him to set up such a romantic scene for her.

"I want to take pictures. I want to take a video to capture the moment. I'll have something to look back on every time I watch the video."

She wanted to save the wonderful setting Zachary made especially for her. It would always remain a sweet memory when they turned old and gray.

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“Sure,” Zachary dotingly responded.

Serenity put the bouquet on the coffee table and pulled out her phone to capture the romance in the room, preserving Zachary’s love for her in a digital form.

After Serenity took photos and videos, the couple took a few more together.

Serenity was over the moon.

“Take a look upstairs.”

Serenity said with a smile, “Did you decorate the room like this too? It must be beautiful and romantic. I’m so glad.”

Zachary grinned without a word as he took her by the hand upstairs.

Serenity was right. The red carpet extended to their bedroom door.

Pushing the bedroom door open, Serenity could not stop herself from smiling.

The setup in the room was no different from downstairs, but the love language was written in the air. A glass of wine in this sensual room would push the flames of desire to an all-time high.

It was a night of pleasure and intimacy.

With the sun rising in the east, the break of dawn took over the night and welcomed a new day.

Serenity was not able to wake up at her usual time.

She was lost in a sweet dream.

As always, the man beside her opened his eyes and stared at Serenity’s serene and content face. His eyes softened as he scanned every bit of her facial features and leaned in for a peck on her lips.

“Good morning, Seren,” Zachary whispered in her ear after the kiss.

Serenity was deep in her sleep to hear the morning greeting.

“I went overboard last night, Seren. Carry on with your sleep. I’m going to work and make money to support you.”

Zachary murmured in her ear and smooched her cheeks. It took a while before he could convince himself to get up.

Half an hour later, a certain somebody strutted down the stairs, feeling rather fresh.

Sam waited on the landing. Seeing that Zachary was coming down, he courteously informed, “Breakfast is ready, Mr. Zachary.”

“Okay.” Zachary ran his eyes around the room décor and commented, “The place exudes a different kind of beauty during the day.”

Sam said with a grin, “You decorated the place, especially for the missus. It’s beautiful whether during the night or day. The missus will be very happy.”

Having enjoyed a great night, Zachary had a big smile on his face. He remarked in delight, “Seren was happy about it.”

Setting a romantic mood could really make his wife’s day.

Zachary intended to spice up his romance game so that Seren could experience joy every day.

Zachary sat down at the dining hall and told Sam, “Seren is resting right now. Don’t let anyone disturb her. Mrs. Lane can make her something to eat when she wakes up. Tell her I’ll make an arrangement for what we discussed last night.”

Sam gleefully replied, “Understood.”

Judging by Mr. Zachary’s cheerfulness, Sam knew the missus was more than happy about last night.

The employees were delighted too. Their callous and emotionless boss picked up on romancing. Old Mrs. York no longer needed to worry about Mr. Zachary’s marriage.

Chapter 1124 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Well, Grandma May was occupied getting her other grandsons to ditch the singlehood.

Inspired by her first successful matchmaking, the old lady wanted to keep the momentum going and put her other grandsons, who were at the right age to marry but stayed single anyway, on the market.

All that was left to do then was to wait for the birth of her great-granddaughter.

A reward of five hundred million dollars would be given to the one who would give her a great-granddaughter!

Zachary had a moment to himself as he finished his breakfast and read the paper for fifteen minutes on the sofa in the living room. He then got up and walked out of the house to get to work.

Prior to leaving, he reminded Mrs. Lane to take good care of Serenity. By the worried look on his face, Mrs. Lane was tempted to suggest he brought Serenity to work with him.

“Jim.”

Before getting into the car, Zachary suddenly told Jim, “You don’t have to follow me today. I need you to do something for me. Go to the Hunts’ hometown and find Noah. You are free to coerce or threaten him, but he needs to pluck several strands of Old Mr. Hunt’s hair with follicles. He can’t cut the old man’s hair with scissors. Make sure to transport Old Mr. Hunt’s hair in a ziplock bag.”

Jim respectfully answered, “Sure. I’ll get going now.”

Zachary then got into the car and left the villa on the hilltop under the escort of his security detail.

Halfway to the office, Zachary recalled during their intimate moment, Serenity talked about taking Sonny to the bookstore so Liberty could focus on the business. He instructed the chauffeur, "Go to All You Can Eat. It's on the street leading up to Lewis & Co."

Since Zachary and Duncan were best friends, the chauffeur often ferried his boss to Lewis & Co. Hearing that it was on the same street, the chauffeur immediately rerouted.

Liberty had put out a hiring yesterday, so a lot of people had inquired about the job since yesterday afternoon.

While she had only intended to hire one person, Liberty finally decided upon two middle-aged women who appeared rather honest and good with their hands. They were the hardworking kind who would not quit halfway as they had a family to feed.

The two waitresses were starting work today.

It was past the morning rush hour when Zachary arrived at the breakfast diner. Still, the diner was packed with people. There were laborers who got off work from a graveyard shift. Hearing that a new breakfast place had opened, everybody came to try the tasty and new variety of food.

Liberty and the two waitresses barely had time to pause for a break.

Sonny was sitting behind the cash register, slumping against the chair asleep.

It was hard for kids to last through the morning after waking up early.

Having no time to look after her son, Liberty simply draped a jacket over Sonny.

Zachary walked into the scene, feeling bad for his nephew.

Drawing close, Zachary picked Sonny up from the chair and told his sister-in-law. "I'm taking Sonny with me, Liberty."

Liberty stopped working for a second and approached Zachary with a question, "Is it convenient for you? He can rest here if you're busy. I accidentally woke him as I was getting up this morning. He stayed awake with me for several hours until now. He's exhausted."

"Where's Seren?"

"She's still asleep. It's okay. I'll take Sonny to the office. He can sleep in my private resting room. Sonny's a well-behaved boy. He won't bother me."

Even if Sonny was awake, Zachary had a big enough office for him to run around and play.

As someone who had been there, Liberty got the message when she heard her sister was still asleep. She wanted to remind the couple to show some restraint, but it was not her place to tell Zachary off. Liberty uttered with a smile, "Alright then. Thank you."

"Don't mention it. I'm really fond of Sonny."

"Sonny takes long naps, so he'll probably be up in the afternoon. Call me when he wakes up. I'll come and pick him up."

Even if Zachary took her son away, Sonny would not be much of a bother as he would be asleep for a while. Hence, Liberty felt comfortable leaving Sonny in Zachary's care.

No sooner had Zachary taken Sonny away than Hank entered the breakfast diner with Jessica.

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Jessica started looking around the place the moment she set foot in the diner. She was disappointed that Sonny was not around, but she did not show it on her face.

It was the two servers' first day, so they had no idea about Liberty's relationship with Hank. One of them came forth with a smile on her face, asking the couple what they would like to eat.

Hank brought Jessica to an empty table to sit down.

"Jessica, wifey, what would you like to eat?"

Before they went out, Jessica had demanded Hank to specifically call her "wifey" in Liberty's presence.

Even though Liberty had no feelings for Hank, Jessica could not stop herself from seeing Liberty as her love rival.

It was probably because Jessica stole Hank from Liberty. Hence, she felt insecure that Hank would be taken by another.

"I'll have whatever you're having."

Hank told the waitress, "Two breakfast sets."

She took down their order and asked the couple to wait while she brought the food to them.

Most of the food was prepared in advance, except the main dishes which were made to order.

"Why don't I see Sonny?" Jessica asked in a seemingly casual manner.

Hank did not know the answer to her question. By right, Sonny should be in the diner.

Did Serenity take him?

"I'll ask Liberty."

Since Jessica had agreed to let the Browns visit Sonny and even allow Sonny to have short stays at the Browns' residence, Hank could finally talk about his son with his wife.

Rising to his feet, Hank walked up to Liberty, who was busy in the kitchen, and asked her through the window between the dining area and kitchen, "Where's my son, Liberty?"

Liberty took a glance at him and went back to work.

It took a while before she faintly answered. By then, Hank nearly threw a fit from waiting. Sonny's asleep."

"Asleep? Where?"

Liberty kept to herself.

Hank went on to say, "Your business is doing good, and you're busy. It's not safe to have Sonny here. What if he runs outside, and you don't realize it? Someone might just kidnap him. What are you going to do about it then?"

"My son is such a cute boy. He fits the profile of what these kidnapers are after. I'm going to take Sonny with me so my parents can take care of him for a while."

Liberty took a fleeting glance at Jessica who was helping herself to breakfast.

Getting the message, Hank spoke in hushed tones, "Jessica said yes to it. She's happy to have a child in the house. It will make the place livelier, and my parents won't constantly fight with Jessica."

Liberty wanted to say no. Still, she had to consider the terms of the divorce. At the end of the day, Hank was Sonny's father. Liberty said, "You can take him to stay with you if he agrees. You can't make him if he's not keen on it."

She left the choice in her son's hands.

Sonny was more than willing to have outings with his father, but he did not want to live somewhere with his mother out of his sight.

"Of course, he's keen. It's his home too. I am his father. My parents are his grandparents. My parents are used to looking after children. They're bored out of their minds now that they have no little kids to take care of. They have been nagging me to look after Sonny."

"Don't worry. You have Sonny's custody and I won't fight for it. I'm just trying to share the burden. It's all for Sonny's safety."

Hank then added, "Where is Sonny sleeping? I'll take him home after breakfast. It's none of my business that you want to start a business, set up an eatery, or to make money, but it pains me to see my son getting up at the crack of dawn because of you."

Chapter 1126 | [Serenity & Zachary]

"Sonny went with his uncle."

"Mr. York? Isn't Sonny asleep?"

Liberty faintly remarked, "He's asleep. Zachary carried him away in that state. You can pick him up at York Corporation if you want to."

Hank was speechless.

"If Sonny doesn't want to stay at your place for a few days, you can visit him at Seren's bookshop. It would be hard for me to find the time to look after him since I'm busy, but he'll be spending a lot of time at Seren's bookshop."

Furrowing his brows, Hank said nothing more.

Given a choice, Sonny would rather pick his aunt over his father.

Hank had once told his son that he would take him to the zoo. The little guy was happy, but he left with his aunt the next day anyway. Sonny was willing to give up on the trip to the ZOO.

He knew where he stood.

Hank had not been a good father. Although his son called him dad, they were not very close.

He returned to his seat at the table. Jessica asked, "You look upset. What happened? Did you get into another row with her? Is Sonny around?"

"Zachary took Sonny away. She said that we can't make Sonny stay with us if he doesn't want to. I can already tell that Sonny won't want to stay with us. My parents have never taken care of Sonny before. I used to be busy with work, so I hadn't spent much time with Sonny. I doubt he'll want to live with us for a while."

After a brief silence, Hank added, "We can visit when we miss the boy."

Although freaking out inside, Jessica remained calm on the surface and spoke understandingly, "It takes time to bond even for fathers and sons. You should visit him often when you have the time. Take him out, bring him to nice restaurants, and have fun with him at the playground. He'll learn to trust you as his father and be willing to stay with you."

Hank answered, "Yeah. There's no rush. We can take things slow."

"Why don't you tell Liberty that we'll take Sonny to the zoo this weekend?"

"Sounds good. Sonny was jumping with joy when I said I would take him to the zoo."

Hank had no idea what Jessica was up to. He thought Jessica wanted to get along with Sonny and eventually have a child of her own.

He accepted Jessica's suggestion wholeheartedly.

Zachary carried the little man into the office, earning surprised looks from York Corporation's employees.

When did their CEO have a son?

Was he not married for merely six months?

How did a six-month-old marriage produce a two- or three-year-old toddler?

Zachary had always had a shine to his nephew. Without the help of his bodyguards, Zachary carried Sonny out of the car and into the office building. Everybody was shocked by the love and care he had for Sonny.

No one thought it was strange that their CEO doted on his wife because the York boys were well-known uxorious husbands.

They thought their aloof CEO would not have the patience to care for a child. It never occurred to anyone that he had great potential to be a stay-at-home dad.

Once Zachary carried Sonny into the lift, the two receptionists started their exchange in a low voice.

“Is that the boss’s illegitimate child?”

The receptionist glanced at her colleague and said, “Don’t you know that his wife has a sister?”

“I do. Boss’s wife lost her parents early on in life. She has been living with her sister for more than a decade—everybody knows that. Oh, I get it. The child is the nephew of the boss’s wife. I heard her sister divorced her husband and has custody of the child. The son

is about two to three years old.”

Chapter 1127 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Seeing the light, the receptionist uttered with a smile, “That sounds about right. The child must be his wife’s nephew. I can’t believe the CEO would bring his nephew to the office. People would think he was carrying his own son by the gentle way he held the child.”

“He might be dying to be a father... Maybe the missus is pregnant, and he is doing at practice run on caring for a child. He probably wants to be a very involved father.”

The other receptionist was shocked. Was it possible?

Deep in his sleep, Sonny did not wake up during the car ride and the walk to the office. His uncle finally laid him down on the bed in the private resting room.

Zachary bent over to take off Sonny’s shoes and socks before removing his jacket. He also tucked the boy under the blanket.

The sight of the adorable child only made Zachary’s heart melt. He leaned forward to kiss Sonny on the cheek.

“Sonny, I want to have a little boy or little girl with your aunt every time I look at you.”

The boy a little shy of three years of age was sound asleep, so of course he was not going to respond to Zachary.

Zachary stayed for a while before leaving the private resting room. He had just come out of the room when Mr. Chaplin knocked on the door and entered.

“Mr. Lewis is here, sir.”

“Okay.” It then occurred to Zachary that he was meeting Duncan to talk about a partnership. He gestured for Mr. Chaplin to let Duncan in.

Duncan took large strides into the office, asking with a smile, “I heard you brought a child to the office, Zachary. Is it your illegitimate child? I can’t believe you. We’ve been buddies for many years, and you never bother to tell me that you secretly had a child.”

Although tempted to throw something at Duncan, Zachary could not find an item of good weight.

He peevishly snapped back, “He’s not my illegitimate child. He has parents, you know. But someone likes him a lot and wants to be his dad.”

“Sonny?”

Without a second thought, Duncan named Sonny.

Something did not feel right. Duncan was too quick to answer when Zachary said someone wanted to be Sonny’s dad—as if he confessed.

Sure, Duncan was fond of Sonny and wished Sonny was his son. However, he did not like Liberty that way.

“Who else apart from Sonny? Other people may not know me, but how could you not? It would have rocked the community if I had an illegitimate child of this age.”

Zachary drew close and asked Duncan to sit down on the sofa.

Instead of taking a seat, Duncan made his way to the private resting room. He asked, “Is Sonny playing in the private resting area? Is he asleep? No wonder I couldn’t see him when I was passing by All You Can Eat.”

“He’s asleep. Don’t wake him.”

“I won’t wake him. I just want to kiss his little face. I’ve been dying to nibble on his face. How can he be so cute?”

Zachary let Duncan enter the quiet zone, and the latter took his time in the private resting room.

Duncan came out with tenderness running along his coarse facial lines. Judging by his content face, he probably slathered Sonny’s face with saliva.

“Sonny takes after my sister-in-law.”

Zachary’s comment came out of nowhere.

Duncan walked up to the sofa and sat down, replying, “He does.”

There was no way he could kiss those puffy cheeks if the boy resembled Hank.

Seeing that the message went over his best friend’s head, Zachary smiled without elaborating further.

“Why did you bring Sonny to the office?”

“Seren said that she would be taking Sonny to her shop, but she got up late today, so I brought him here. He’s asleep anyway. He won’t bother me.”

“Oh.” Duncan did not see a problem with that.

“Do you want anything to drink?”

“Just a glass of water please.”

Duncan said, but he got up and poured himself a drink anyway. He even told Zachary off, “You never attend to me and Josh when we come around. We have to do things ourselves.” “Only you two get to make yourselves at home here.”

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Duncan was without a word.

Since Duncan's purpose of being here was to talk about partnership with his best friend, the pair soon got right into it.

Once the duo ironed out all the kinks, Duncan was ready to leave and said, "I'm going to check on Sonny again. I'll take him out for some fun if he's awake."

"You take him out? I bet he will cry his eyes out while you panic and rush to send him back."

Duncan choked.

That was right. Sonny did not take kindly to his hugs.

Nevertheless, Duncan went into the private resting room once again. It did not take him long to yell from inside, "Zachary! Zachary! Hurry!"

"What's the matter?"

His outcry gave Zachary a scare. Zachary jumped to his feet and raced into the private resting room.

"Sonny wet the bed. Look at the pool of pee on the bed sheet," Duncan told his best friend as he pointed at the child on the bed.

Zachary was lost for words.

He drew close and removed his jacket before picking Sonny up. Zachary then took off Sonny's wet pants and held the boy with the jacket over him. The last thing he wanted was for Sonny to catch a cold.

Since Sonny had been asleep for a while now, he opened his eyes when Zachary was removing his pants.

Seeing that it was Zachary, Sonny curled his lips and mewed, "Uncle Zack."

"Oh, Sonny's awake."

Sonny beamed.

Turning on his heel, Zachary carried Sonny out of the private resting room and lifted the covers off Sonny while telling his friend who barged into the room, "Duncan, can you remove the bedsheet?"

"Sonny peed on it..."

"What? Can't take the stench?"

Duncan was speechless.

The smell did not bother him. It was simply his first encounter with a tiny human wetting a bed.

Duncan removed the bedsheet. Recalling that his best friend had a washing machine in the private resting room, Duncan put the soiled sheets and pants into the washing machine.

He came out of the private resting room to find Sonny sitting on the sofa. The boy was still using his uncle's jacket as pants.

“Duncan, go and shop for some clothes for Sonny. He needs pants.”

“Oh.” Duncan rushed out to buy Sonny some clothes.

He worked fast and returned with a dozen selections of clothes from a single store that sold children’s wear.

“Zachary, I’m back with the clothes. I don’t know if they are the right size.”

Duncan walked into the office with a huge bag of clothes and uttered, “The quality seems good, so I bought them. Let’s see if they fit Sonny. I can go get the right size if the clothes don’t fit.”

Since this was his first–time clothes shopping for the boy, he had no idea the size he should get.

Zachary took the bag of clothes. “A couple of sets would do. Why did you get a dozen? Huh? Why is there a dress?”

Duncan replied, puzzled, “Is that a dress? I might have grabbed it by accident.”

Seeing his best friend pull out a long–sleeved dress from the bag, Duncan turned red in the face.

“Uncle Zack, this looks good.”

With a pretty dress catching his eye, Sonny reached out to grab it.

Zachary uttered, “This is a dress, Sonny. It’s for girls. You’re a boy, Sonny. You can’t wear dresses.”

Chapter 1129 | [Serenity & Zachary]

With his dark eyes sparkling, Sonny asked, “Why can’t boys wear dresses?”

Duncan replied, “That’s because dresses are for girls.”

Sonny turned his attention to Duncan.

Zachary grabbed a pair of pants and picked Sonny up to help him into the pants. He said, “ That’s because boys have to do a lot of heavy lifting, and doing the work in a dress makes it quite difficult.”

“Why are boys doing the heavy lifting?”

“Boys have to do the hard work, so the girls don’t have to. We leave the lighter load to your mom and your aunt.”

Somewhat getting the idea, Sonny answered, “I’ll do the heavy lifting when I grow up, so Mom and Aunt Ser get less work.”

Zachary remarked with a smile, “Good boy, Sonny.”

Duncan had no words.

Ring, ring, ring....

The intercom phone was ringing.

Putting Sonny down, Zachary got up to take the call.

He quickly put down the phone and told Sonny, "Your mom's here, Sonny."

"Mom's here."

Hearing that his mother had arrived, the little guy immediately stuffed the dress in the bag and searched for his wet pants. Since he could not locate them, Sonny asked, "Uncle Zack, where are my other pants?"

"They were wet, so I dumped them in the washing machine."

The person who replied was Duncan.

Sonny did not respond as he put all the muscle work into carrying the big bag of clothes out.

The boy also urged Zachary, "Uncle Zack, don't forget to return the pants once they are clean and dry."

Zachary answered with a smile, "Okay. I'll return the pants to you. Your size doesn't fit me anyway."

The little guy even remembered to bring home his soiled pants.

"Sonny, don't take the dress. Dunc will return it. It's not like you can wear the dress."

Stopping in his tracks, Sonny turned back and responded, "I want to keep the dress, Uncle Zack. The dress is for the little sister Aunt Ser gives birth to."

Zachary laughed in greater delight at the comment. He approached Sonny and picked the boy up. "Do you think your aunt will have a girl?"

"My mom said so."

Zachary gleefully remarked, "That's right. That's right. Your aunt will give you a pretty little sister to play with. Okay, we don't have to return the dress. You can keep it as a gift to your little sister."

Sonny solemnly nodded his head.

He was going to buy lots of dresses for his little sister once Aunt Ser popped one out.

"Mr. York, the meeting is starting."

Mr. Chaplin knocked on the office door and reminded Zachary of the time.

Zachary wanted to go with Sonny to the lobby, but after a quick look at the time, he handed Sonny to Duncan. "Sonny, can Dunc take you downstairs to your mom? I want to go to a meeting. I need to make lots of money to get formula milk for your little sister."

"Sure."

Sonny was not keen on letting Duncan hold him, but he was a sensible boy. He knew that Uncle Zack had to make money for his little sister, so he should not bother his uncle. Formula milk was expensive. Sonny often went with his mother to get formula milk, and he saw Mom handing over a lot of money so he could have the tasty milk.

Duncan carried Sonny, together with the bag of new clothes, to take the lift down.

Liberty was waiting in the VIP lounge in the lobby.

She would usually close the business near noon, but since Zachary took Sonny to the office, she was worried Sonny might wake up and pester Zachary. Hence, she closed the shop at ten o'clock.

Minutes later, she saw Duncan carrying her son out of the lift through the glass door.

Jumping to her feet, Liberty took quick paces out of the VIP lounge and cried, "Sonny."

The duo looked over.

With Sonny fighting to get to the ground, Duncan bent over and put him down. He watched as the boy ran toward Liberty.

"Mom."

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Getting on bended knee, Liberty asked her son, "Were you a good boy? Did you bother your uncle?"

"I've been a good boy... But I wet my pants, Mom."

Sonny looked embarrassed when he mentioned this.

Liberty inquired, "Were you sitting anywhere?"

"Uncle's bed."

Liberty was speechless.

"Dunc bought me a lot of new clothes and a dress. We can keep the dress for Aunt Ser's baby girl!"

Liberty had no words.

Duncan shopped for clothes for her son, and it included a dress too.

How dense was the guy to buy a dress for a boy?

Not the least bit awkward, Duncan drew close and handed the bag of clothes to Liberty. He then scooped Sonny up and told Liberty, "Come on. I'll walk you two out."

Liberty kept up the pace. "I took my e-bike.

"Mr. Lewis, how much were the clothes? Let me pay you back."

"It's fine. They aren't worth much."

"I should, though."

Liberty insisted on returning the money to him.

Duncan hesitated for a moment before uttering, "I spent almost two thousand bucks. You can give me a thousand five hundred."

Lowering her gaze at the bag of clothes, Liberty assumed Duncan was not a bargain hunter. It made sense that the whole bag would cost nearly two thousand dollars if he shopped at the new arrivals section.

She opened her purse and pulled out one thousand five hundred dollars to hand to Duncan. She said, "This is for the clothes, Mr. Lewis."

With one hand holding Sonny, Duncan took the money with his free hand and stuffed it in his pocket without counting.

The pair took strides out of the office building until Duncan asked, "Are you sure you need a lift?"

"We're good. Thank you, Mr. Lewis."

Duncan put Sonny down and remarked, "Easy on the road then. Don't forget to put a helmet on Sonny. The wind is blowing pretty strong today."

"I have a helmet in the boot."

Holding the bag of clothes with one hand, Liberty took her son's hand with the other and said, "Say goodbye to Mr. Lewis, Sonny."

Sonny waved his arm at Duncan, "Bye, Dunc."

Duncan waved back with a smile, "Goodbye, Sonny."

Standing there, Duncan watched as Liberty led Sonny to the e-bike and drove away. Then, he walked to his car.

Ring, ring, ring...

His phone rang.

Seeing that it was Zachary, Duncan took the call as he strolled along. "Aren't you in a meeting, Zachary?"

"Can't I take a break and drink some water? Why didn't you drive my sister-in-law and Sonny home?"

Zachary was still in his office, refusing to admit that he was acting nosy at the moment. Armed with a pair of binoculars, Zachary looked down through his window and saw his sister-in-law riding away with Sonny. He wanted to give his best friend a telling-off for not seizing the opportunity.

"Liberty rode her bike here. She doesn't need a lift. I'm not free anyway. I have to rush to Wiltspoon Hotel for a meeting with the client."

Zachary was at a loss for words.

"Your sister-in-law paid me for the clothes."

Getting a bad feeling, Zachary asked, "Paid for what?"

"The clothes I bought for Sonny. I spent almost two thousand bucks, but I only asked for a thousand five."

Zachary uttered, rather baffled, "It makes sense why your mom fret whether you'll ever get married."

He then terminated the call.

Having been hung up on, Duncan grumbled, "What's with the nonsensical questions? I know you have a wife, and your family isn't on your back hounding you to get married, but mine is. But here you are, making such a crass comment. You're really a bad friend." Poor Zachary.