"Mm, he said there's a lunch appointment in the afternoon."

Tania said nonchalantly, "Tell him you won't be going then. We haven't eaten outside or gone shopping together before. Zack won't fight me on this."

People have been spreading rumors that she had had a bad relationship with Serenity. They said Serenity had always attended banquets with Mrs. Stone but was rarely seen returning to the manor to accompany her mother—in—law; neither had they eaten together in public or gone shopping.

Tania wanted to ignore the rumors. She was aware of the status of her relationship with Serenity.

However, she was asked about it by her friends whenever she went to play cards with them. She felt annoyed.

Tania gave up on playing cards and looked for her daughter—in—law immediately. She wanted to take her daughter—in—law and splurge at luxury brand boutiques. She would dispel the rumors with concrete actions.

That was the reason for Tania's sudden visit.

"Okay."

Serenity was about to call Zachary when he called her.

She picked up his call in front of her mother–in–law.

"Honey, why did my mom come looking for you?"

Zachary was not worried that his mother would bully Serenity.

His mother used to think Serenity was not good enough for him. She was secretly unhappy. but never said harsh words in front of Serenity or made things difficult for his wife.

When other people were saying Serenity was nosy and calling his mother about it, his mother's elegant manners as Mrs. York was lost. She scolded them to protect Serenity and demonstrated the York family's protectiveness.

Serenity and his mother would not get into a conflict, but Zachary still wanted to know why his mother suddenly went to Serenity's bookstore.

"Mom wants to... I'll let Mom talk to you."

Serenity passed the phone to her mother–in–law with a smile. "Mom, you can tell Zachary."

Tania took the phone and talked to her son over the phone. "Zack, you don't have to pick Serenity up anymore. I'm borrowing your wife from you for half a day."

Zachary said, "Mom, what are you doing?"

"Nothing. I just wanted to have a meal with Serenity and go shopping with her. I think I've never bought her a gift before. I'll go shopping with her and buy something she likes."

Zachary could at least guess his mother's intentions.

"Did those chatty people talk nonsense in front of you again?"

Tania did not answer him, but her silence meant tacit agreement.

Zachary frowned. Those women really loved to gossip. They did not dare call his mom anymore, but they still made the rumors reach her ears.

To tackle those rumors, the best idea was for Serenity and Tania to appear together to show that they had a good relationship.

Zachary was unhappy that his wife, who was initially accompanying him to his lunch engagement, was snatched away by his mother. However, he could not fight against his mother for his wife.

"You can borrow my wife if you want to. Just remember to return her to me at night."

The possessive Mr. York had no choice but to hand over his wife.

Tania smiled and said, "Don't worry. I know. I won't monopolize Seren."

Serenity was speechless.

Tania handed the phone back to Serenity. Serenity could not be lovey-dovey with Zachary in front of her mother-in-law. She heard most mothers-in-law could not stand their daughter -in-law being affectionate with their son. It would give them the impression that the son they had painstakingly raised was stolen.

Serenity's interactions with Zachary were proper when they were with her mother—in—law.

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Serenity hung up the phone after saying a few words to Zachary.

Not two minutes later, she received a notification that money was transferred to her bank, account.

Zachary changed the phone number bound to the household bank card to hers. He was worried she would feel uncomfortable if he received a notification every time she spent. money.

He told her to let her use the money at will, but...

Zachary was very considerate with regard to that.

After the phone number linked to the account was changed to Serenity's, she became much more comfortable when spending money.

Zachary transferred a sum of money to the account and told Serenity to spend as much as she wanted while shopping with her mother—in—law.

Liberty arrived a few minutes later.

Only when her nephew was handed over to her sister did Serenity accompany her mother—in -law to lunch.

Then, the mother—in—law and daughter—in—law spent time together until the evening.

Tania was the wife of the current head of the York family. The stores she frequented were shops that people without status could not visit.

Naturally, they met many other affluent ladies.

Tania took Serenity to those luxury stores on a shopping spree. They held arms intimately as they went in and out of the stores, and their bodyguards were in charge of carrying all the bags. They were very eye—catching as they strolled the streets.

Occasionally, Serenity would buy some snacks she liked to eat. Tania also indulgently bought the snacks and accompanied Serenity.

The mother–in–law and daughter–in–law smashed the rumors of their disharmony with. practical actions.

The next day, photos of them shopping together were published by the entertainment news. Audrey looked at the news and said to her husband, "Our daughter has a good eye. It's a shame that Zachary and she weren't meant to be.

"If Mrs. York didn't care about her daughter–in–law, she wouldn't personally take actions to refute the rumors. She may not be exceptionally pleased with Serenity as her daughter–in- law, but it's true that she still protects Serenity."

Audrey felt both admiration and regret.

She would die in peace if her daughter could marry into the York family. Unfortunately, Zachary did not like Elisa.

Darrell said, "Of course our daughter has a good eye, but don't bring up the matter of her and Zachary again. Zachary is your nephew–in–law now. It's not good for you to keep mentioning him as Elisa's former love."

"I only talk about it in front of you. I won't bring it up when Zachary's around."

Audrey naturally knew that it was not good. She just could not help but sigh when she saw how Tania protected Serenity.

As an aunt, she was glad that the York family treated Serenity well.

Fortunately, a good man like Zachary was not stolen away by an outsider and fell into her niece's lap instead.

"I wonder about Elisa's marriage."

Darrell comforted his wife. "Our daughter is a great girl. She'll surely meet an excellent man who loves only her. Zachary is not the only good man in this world. No matter how exceptional Zachary is, Elisa and he won't have a good ending if he doesn't love her. It doesn't matter even if Serenity didn't exist. There's no point in forcing people who weren't meant to be.

"Let's worry more about Anthony's marriage. He's older than Elisa."

Audrey felt a headache at the mention of her second son. He was never at home, so she did not even have the chance to nag him.

Every time she called him, he always said he was busy and hung up without waiting for her to say anything. She was infuriated with him.

"I understand now why Old Mrs. York is so frantic looking for partners for her grandsons even at her age."

Darrell was speechless.

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Meanwhile, when Serenity saw the entertainment news article, she was silent for a long time before saying to her friend, "Now that my status is different, every little thing can make it to the entertainment section of the news."

It was her first time making the news after becoming the missus of the York family.

Jasmine was used to seeing gossip like that and laughed. "Your husband is the biggest name in Wiltspoon's business world. You barely interact with your mother–in–law, and you've recently attended various parties with your aunt, so it's natural they started to misunderstand.

"A lady called your mother—in—law before to say that you were meddlesome, and she told your mother—in—law to discipline you. You heard about that, right? Those people just wanted to see your mother—in—law treating you badly because they were jealous you were able to marry into a top—class family like the Yorks.

"I heard from Josh that Grandma May and your mother–in–law have the most say in the York family. Their words are law in the manor.

"I have nothing to say about how well Grandma May treats you. I think she dotes on you. more than she does her own grandsons. Besides, she was the one who introduced Zachary to you, and she told Zachary to marry you as a way for him to repay her.

"She pulled you into the York family circle, so it's natural for her to protect you. It's useless for people to try and provoke your relationship. Grandma May is the most shrewd old lady I've ever met. She always arranges everything jokingly, but her plans always work out well in the end."

Now that Jasmine was dating Josh, she was the first to know about all sorts of gossip. She knew more gossip about Serenity than the latter did about herself.

Serenity was not a gossiper.

Most of the gossip she knew that went around Wiltspoon, she heard from Jasmine.

Jasmine analyzed the situation and continued to say, "Since Grandma May is out of the question, others aim at your mother–in–law instead. They want to torture you through your mother–in–law so as to destroy Zachary and your happiness.

"Mothers—in—law and daughters—in—law not getting along is an age—old tale. Mothers—in-law in the past often bullied their daughters—in—law, and nowadays the latter usually don't like. living together with their in—laws, so it's easy for conflicts to happen.

"If you don't live together, then there's a distance, and that distance will help the mother–in- law and daughter–in–law live in peace. The man they both love won't have to be caught in the middle.

"It just so happens that you and your husband don't live with your in–laws, so you don't meet his mother as often. Because of that, other people guessed that you were on bad terms with your mother–in–law, and they tried to use her to torture you. That's why there are many rumors saying that you two have a bad relationship.

"When those rumors reached your mother—in—law's ears, she couldn't stand it so she took you with her to dispel the rumors. Your mother—in—law is very kind to you, Seren. You might not be her ideal daughter—in—law, but she still protects you. She can't stand listening to rumors of you two not getting along."

Serenity was very grateful to Tania after hearing that the latter was protecting her. Her mother—in—law never made things hard for her before. When she fought with Zachary, her mother—in—law's heart ached for Zachary, but she did not cause trouble for Serenity or even badmouth her.

Serenity felt that it was rare to have a mother-in-law as good as Tania.

She said, "In the end, other people only had the opportunity to spread rumors because I don't spend enough time with my mother—in—law. I should spend more time with her in the future. If we interact more often, there won't be a chance for others to spread rumors about us.

"My in-laws get along so well that they're basically attached at the hip. Even I was afraid of being the third wheel. When we shopped yesterday, my father-in-law called almost every twenty minutes to urge her to go home.

"My father-in-law also complained on the phone that she was throwing away her man for her daughter-in-law. He bemoaned how she went out without telling him or bringing him along, saying that he could've helped to carry our stuff for us. She had to spend quite some time to coax him before we could continue shopping."

Jasmine listened with envy, and she laughed, "I hope Josh and I can be like your in–laws. after decades of marriage. They get along so well it's like they're still dating."

Serenity also envied her parents-in-law's relationship. She said, "Zachary dotes on me, but that's the same for all the men in his family. His uncles also dote on their wives. They're a good family, so the men were raised well."

Therefore, even if she wanted to spend more time with her mother—in—law, she had to consider her father—in—law's feelings.

Ring, ring, ring...

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Ring, ring, ring...

Serenity's phone rang. It was a call from Zachary.

She looked at the screen and laughed. "Speak of the devil."

Jasmine said, "Be happy about it. Mr. York is so busy, but he still calls you every once in a while. It's clear that he really dotes on you. Of course, my Josh isn't bad to me either. Oh, he's not mine yet. He hasn't proposed to me yet."

Serenity answered the call.

"Honey, I'm on my way. I'll reach in ten minutes"

"You're coming here?"

Serenity was a little surprised because she did not know why Zachary was suddenly coming over. However, she soon figured it out. He said that he would accompany her to get the results of the DNA test.

She looked at the clock. It was half past two. He should be at work at this time.

He pushed away a lot of his work to accompany her. In his heart, anything that was related to her was his number one priority.

The taste of being pampered so much was sweeter than sugar.

"I'll just get the results by myself. You're busy at work."

Zachary said, "It's fine. It won't take that long anyway."

"Okay, I'll wait for you."

"Great."

Serenity made a kissy sound, making Zachary chuckle. "Honey, I want you to kiss me, not your phone."

Serenity laughed and hung up the call. She said to friend, "My man isn't as easy to coax as yours."

She learned that trick from Jasmine.

It was very useful at first, and Zachary was elated when she used it on him. However, it was not useful now-he wanted a real kiss.

Jasmine grinned. "It's because Mr. York has experienced something sweeter before. Of course he'd want something more."

Serenity's face flushed red.

"When will you and Mr. Bucham be inviting us to your wedding?" Serenity changed the topic. "I'm still waiting for your wedding invitation."

Her wedding with Zachary was set to be after fall-still a long way from now.

Jasmine's expression was somewhat blissful. "He hasn't proposed to me yet. I'll agree to marry him whenever he proposes. Don't worry, you can't run away from my wedding banquet."

Josh was already planning on how he was going to propose.

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Ten minutes later, Serenity heard the sound of a car honking and spoke to her friend before taking her phone that was left on the table. She went around the counter and left.

After a few steps, she turned back and picked up her bag. "I forgot to take the bag that Zachary gave me. He'll pull a long face if I don't go out with it."

Jasmine laughed. "What a blissful worry."

Serenity held the branded bag Zachary gave her and walked out of the bookstore. The two bodyguards saw that it was Zachary who came to pick her up and very sensibly did not follow her again.

Zachary got out of the car, holding a bouquet in one hand and opening the car door for her with the other. He passed the bouquet to Serenity when she approached.

"This is for you, honey."

"Thanks, babe."

Serenity took the bouquet, smiled and kissed Zachary's face, and got into the car.

Zachary touched the place she kissed with a smile in his eyes, then followed her into the car.

"Honey, I brought you some pastries for afternoon tea."

Zachary got into the car and handed two boxes of pastries to Serenity.

Serenity smiled and took the boxes, complimenting him, "You're getting more and more. considerate, babe."

She leaned over and left a peck on his cheek again, whispering in his ear, "Love you."

Zachary held her shoulder and whispered back into her ear, "I love you too."

Jim, who was sitting in the passenger seat, thought, 'Mr. Zachary, please spare a bachelor like me.'

Jim and his colleagues also wanted to fall in love after watching Zachary and Serenity show off their affection every day.

Serenity placed the bouquet at her side and took a box of pastries while asking, "Do your want to eat together?"

"You go ahead. I've never liked sweets, but I'll eat them if you make them personally."

Serenity did not force him since she knew that he did not have a sweet tooth. She ate with relish under his doting eyes.

"Do you know which hotel my granddad and the others are staying in? I'll go straight to them after getting the results. I'll be making the first move this time."

Serenity wanted to settle the issue of the house as soon as possible.

"Yeah, I had someone keep an eye on them. They're staying in a budget hotel. I'lL accompany you to see them after we get the results."

John was furious after his car tires were slashed by Chelsea, and his car was towed away again. He yelled that he wanted to settle the score and claim compensation from Chelsea.

He was getting his tires changed today, so he did not have a car to use for now. Old Mr. Hunt and the others stayed in the budget hotel and watched TV in boredom.

"Seren, if the DNA test results show that your dad really isn't their biological child..."

Serenity said firmly, "That's impossible. My dad is definitely their biological child. He takes after my granddad the most."

Zachary had never seen his father–in–law before, not even his pictures, so he did not know how much his father–in–law resembled Old Mr. Hunt.

In any case, they would soon get the results of the DNA test and find out whether or not Scott was Old Mr. Hunt's biological son.

When they arrived at the center, Zachary accompanied Serenity to get the results.

After reading the report, Serenity took out her cell phone and took a picture of the report to send to her sister.

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"What does it say?"

Zachary had not seen the results yet. He watched her actions but could not see a smile on her face, so he assumed his father—in–law really was not the biological son of Old Mr. and Mrs. Hunt.

"The results say that my granddad and I are related by blood. My dad is their biological child."

"They're actually related by blood? With how badly they treat you, I always thought you weren't biologically related."

Serenity looked at her husband and seemed amused. "You sound like you were hoping my dad wasn't their biological child."

Zachary said sheepishly, "They're so ruthless that I thought your dad wasn't their own. How can they do this when he's their actual son? It's heartbreaking."

"My sister and I had our hearts broken by them long ago. We'll never reconcile in our lifetime."

Serenity put the results away. She had not received a reply from her sister yet, so she guessed that Liberty should be sleeping.

The business at All You Can Eat was booming, and Liberty was turning a profit, but it was tiring. She had to get up early since she was running a breakfast diner, so she would catch up on her sleep with Sonny in the afternoon.

They would sleep until the evening and get up to eat a simple dinner, then Liberty had to start preparing and shopping for ingredients for the next day.

Some of the dishes had a long prep time, so Serenity would go over and help her sister when she had the time. If they prepared the food the previous night and kept it fresh in the refrigerator, it would save a lot of work the next day.

Zachary knew which budget hotel Old Mr. Hunt and the others were staying in. He accompanied Serenity and went there straight with his group of bodyguards.

John was not in the hotel, but Old Mr. Hunt and his two sons, as well as his eldest grandson, Mike, were there.

The four of them sat on the bed playing cards, When they heard a knock on the door, Mike. went to open the door while still holding onto his cards.

"Who is it?"

"It's me, Serenity."

The Hunt family were surprised to hear Serenity's voice.

Mike opened the door and saw Serenity standing outside. Beside her was Zachary, and a group of bodyguards brought up the rear. The bodyguards were all tall and sturdy. Their eyes stared coldly at Mike, making him feel slightly intimidated.

He stammered and asked Serenity, "What do you want? W–Wait. W–Why are you here?"

"Are you playing cards?"

Serenity glanced inside. "I want to negotiate with you. It's the same reason you all came here."

At Serenity's words, Old Mr. Hunt slammed his cards on the bed and jumped. He put on his shoes and shouted, "Negotiate? What's there to negotiate? Serenity, your last name isn't Hunt. Your dad isn't my biological son. We adopted him and raised him into an adult, but he left without even repaying us. The house he left behind will be taken as his gratitude to us."

Old Mr. Hunt put on his shoes and strode over to Serenity, wanting to scold her. However, when he saw Zachary standing beside her with a frosty expression, he did not dare point his finger at Serenity.

The most exceptional man in Wiltspoon was his grandson–in–law, but he did not enjoy the blessings that came with being Zachary's grandfather–in–law. Instead, along with his sons. and grandsons, he suffered heavy losses because of Zachary.

"Your father isn't my son, Serenity! You're not my grandchild either. We're not related by blood, yet you still have the nerve to fight for property with an old man like me. I'm telling you, I won't negotiate. I won't move out of the house even if I lose the lawsuit."

After his grandsons told him about the law, he also learned that going to court would be bad for him.

That was why he tried to say that his son was not his biological child.

Serenity did not rush to refute him or take out the report. She asked calmly, "Did Noah pull out a few strands of your hair a few days ago?"

"I don't know what was up with that brat. He said I had a lot of white hair and wanted to pluck some of them out. I gave him a tight slap."

After Old Mr. Hunt complained about Noah, he suddenly realized something. "How did you know that?"

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