

## Gu Lingfei 901

### Chapter 901 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Serenity also admitted that her in-laws were very good people. However, she could tell that her mother-in-law was not too satisfied with her.

There was no conflict yet between Serenity and her mother-in-law, but as they spend more time together in the future, would she experience the same thing her aunt did in her youth?

What Serenity wanted was to be truly acknowledged by her in-laws!

“Let’s leave it at this, Zachary. It’s late now. You should rest early. I’m going back.”

Serenity suppressed her anger and did not quarrel with Zachary. She could not convince him, and he could not understand what it was that she wanted.

It was a waste of breath to continue the discussion.

Serenity felt powerless. She felt that if they continued talking, they would just end up quarreling again. In fact, the fight would most likely escalate and worsen their relationship further. She came here to settle their issues, not to fight with him.

Zachary stood up and grabbed her arm, saying in a low voice, “Serenity, I won’t sign any contract with you. We’re already married. In this life, we’re husband and wife.”

“If you don’t want to sign, then fine. Rest early.”

Serenity wanted to move his hand away, but he was too strong. She was not strong enough to pry his hand away with just one hand, so he continued to hold her.

Zachary saw her flippant attitude and felt that she did not take what he said to heart at all. She was still thinking of doing what she said. He was angry, but when he saw her injured left hand, his temper extinguished instantly.

She got hurt because she was affected by what he said. She got injured because of his bad attitude.

The injury was on her body, but he felt the pain in his heart.

The couple had different views on the matter. He could not convince her, and she could not convince him either, but he could not fly into a rage lest he hurt her again.

“Seren, don’t go back to your sister’s place tonight, okay? It’s already so late. Your sister must be tired after working all day. Let her rest early with Sonny.”

Zachary did not want to let her go.

Even if she did not share a bed with him, he would feel at ease as long as she stayed under the same roof as him.. He felt she could not give him a sense of security while she felt he could not provide her with a sense of trust.

Alas!

“Don’t worry, I’ll send you back to your sister’s place after breakfast tomorrow. I won’t treat you like before. That time, I only went crazy and did that to you because I was too afraid. Forgive me for my impulsiveness, okay?”

“I told my sister that I would be going back.

“I want to go back, Zachary. Let me go.”

Serenity looked at him with calm eyes laced with stubbornness.

Zachary pursed his lips and looked at her for a long time, then finally let go of her arm.

“I’ll drive you there.”

He picked up the car keys.

Serenity did not refuse him. She was afraid her continuous refusals would anger him. It was not worth the risk.

The young couple walked out of the house in silence and went downstairs together. No one spoke a single word.

When they arrived downstairs, Zachary chose to drive the national MPV. She was used to sitting in that car.

Serenity did not say anything.

When she sat in his MPV, she was reminded of her ridiculous foolishness. She thought he was a simple salaryman just because he drove an ordinary car. She did not even imagine he simply switched to an ordinary car in order to hide his identity from her.

Grandma May and the other members of the York family all drove ordinary cars when they appeared in front of her. Furthermore, all of them were new cars.

Serenity turned her head to look at the night scene outside the window, trying not to think about him and his entire family lying to her.

Zachary drove very slowly, thinking that he could spend more time with her that way.

## **Chapter 902 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

No matter how slowly he drove, the car soon reached Liberty’s place.

Liberty did not want to be too far away from her sister when she was looking for a rented place, so the apartment was nearby Brynfield.

Zachary stopped the car.

“We’re here.”

Serenity opened the car door, said goodbye to Zachary, and got out of the car.

“I’ll take you upstairs.”

“No need. You go back. Drive safe and have a good rest at home tomorrow. You don’t look too good.”

Zachary’s dark eyes burned into her, and he asked in a low voice, “Seren, you still care about me, right?”

He tried to hold her hand, but she simply turned and entered the building.

Zachary stood at the entrance and watched her go up. In the end, he did not walk her to the door. He had his pride too. He had bowed to her several times, but never once she accepted...

After a long time, he turned and went back to the car. He called Josh and Duncan and asked them to go to Neon Nights for a drink.

After the call, he drove away and went straight to Neon Nights.

Josh and Duncan arrived before him. The two asked for a private room and ordered beers while waiting for him.

When Zachary came in and saw the two beers they ordered, he exclaimed, “Are there no good drinks in this bar, or do you not have enough money to buy good booze? Why are you drinking beer? When it comes to alcohol, the stronger the better! No one is going home sober tonight!”

Tomorrow was the weekend, so he could sleep the whole day away.

Josh said, “I’ll accompany you guys, but I won’t drink. One of us has to remain sober. Otherwise, who will send you home?”

“Also, I have to accompany Jasmine to her aunt’s house for dinner tomorrow, so I can’t drink or get drunk.”

Duncan nudged Josh’s arm and asked nosily, “You’re already meeting Ms. Sox’s family? You’re progressing quickly.”

“I wish. Jasmine likes to take it slow. Mrs. Lowe found her another blind date—an executive in Lowe Enterprise. Calling her over for dinner is just a front for her to go on a blind date with that guy.

“How dare anyone try to go after a woman I have my eyes on? No matter how exceptional the other man is, how can he compare to me?”

He wanted to let everyone know that he was pursuing Jasmine so that the Sox family would stop arranging blind dates for her.

Duncan laughed. “There really aren’t many people who can compare to you.”

Zachary ordered a few bottles of spirits.

He sat on the sofa and started drinking.

“You were happy as a lark when you went to pick up your wife. What happened? You guys haven’t made up yet? Why are you drinking?”

Zachary did not say anything and silently drank his liquor.

Duncan accompanied him and drank two glasses, but Josh did not touch a drop of alcohol.

“Zachary, talk to us if you have something on your chest. I might not be able to help you, but Josh is here. Having him help you analyze is better than you bashing your head against the wall.”

Duncan stopped Zachary from drinking the last bottle and said with a frown, “Stop drinking. You’ll drink yourself into a coma at this rate.”

Zachary shook Duncan’s hand off, picked up the bottle, and poured himself another glass. However, instead of drinking from the glass, he lifted the bottle and drank straight from the mouth. He downed the bottle until it was empty.

His grip loosened and the bottle fell to the ground and shattered.

Then, he suddenly swept all the bottles and glasses on the table to the floor.

They shattered with a loud crash.

The waiter at the door was startled and entered the room to check on them.

When he saw that it was Josh and the others, he hurriedly withdrew again and closed the door.

#### **Chapter 904 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

“I’ll send him to Serenity’s place. She’ll take care of him.”

Josh wanted to help his best friend out.

Duncan reminded him, “Zachary is drunk and spewing nonsense. If he said those words he said earlier in front of Serenity, it would be adding insult to injury.”

Josh paused. “I’ll send him to Wildridge Manor.”

Duncan had no problem with that.

The three of them left the bar. Duncan helped Zachary into Josh’s car, said a few words, and watched Josh drive away. Then, he called for a cab for himself.

On the way back to York’s residence, Zachary occasionally yelled a few times. One moment, it was “Serenity, I love you. Don’t leave me.” The next moment, it was, “What else do you want from me? It’s not like I need you.”

He kept repeating those words.

It was a fight between his love and ego. His love prevailed one moment, and his ego the next.

More than an hour later, Josh’s car arrived at Wildridge Manor. He called Grandma May in advance, so she waited for him at the entrance of the house.

“Grandma May.”

Josh parked the car and called out to the old woman. “Sorry for bothering you when it’s so late.”

“No, I’m sorry for troubling you to send Zack back this late.”

Grandma May told the bodyguards to help Zachary out of the car. When she saw how he was so intoxicated that he could not even walk, she asked Josh, "How much did that brat drink?"

"A few bottles. He got so drunk that he started talking nonsense, so I didn't dare send him to Serenity. I was afraid she'd get angrier if she heard what he said."

"What did he say?"

Josh did not conceal it and told Grandma May the absurdity that Zachary said.

Grandma May snorted. "I'll call him a man if he has the balls to say that in front of Serenity."

"Grandma May, Zachary is just depressed and venting. When he sobers up tomorrow, he'll cling to Serenity again like gum."

Grandma May said, "In vino veritas. You should look up what that means."

Josh was speechless.

Fortunately, he did not send Zachary to Serenity. Otherwise, like Grandma May, Serenity would think that Zachary was speaking his hidden thoughts after drinking.

"Do you want to come in for a glass of water before you go?"

"No need, Grandma May. I'll leave now. I have plans tomorrow."

Grandma May was aware that Josh was pursuing Jasmine and smiled. "All right. You go back first."

After Josh left, she ordered the bodyguards, "Move a deck chair to the swimming pool and let Zack lie there for tonight. The cold will help him sober up."

"Old Mrs. York," a bodyguard protested.

Grandma May's expression fell. "Did you not hear what I said? Since he likes to drown his sorrows in alcohol, I'll help him out. Do as I say. No matter what accident happens tomorrow, he won't dare do anything to you with me around."

## **Chapter 905 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

What would Zachary do? He was dreaming after passing out drunk.

In his dream, he was fighting Serenity fiercely, and he shouted at her, "It's not that I need you, Serenity. I can toss you away any time. Don't regret it when that happens!"

Serenity looked at him coldly and then turned to leave.

"Serenity! You'll never leave me! You're mine! I need you!"

His instinctive reaction was to pull her back and not let her go.

He pulled her and held her tightly, then lowered his head to her for a furious kiss as if trying to sear himself onto her...

"Splash--"

When Zachary was fiercely entangled with Serenity in his dream, he flipped over and tumbled out of the deck chair. He fell into the pool.

The cold water instantly engulfed his body.

His dream shattered, and the blazing fire in him that had ignited was extinguished the moment he fell into the pool.

F\*ck!

It was freezing!

There was so much water!

Why was he in the water?!

Zachary was caught off guard when he fell into the pool and choked on two mouthfuls of water. When he came to his senses, he hurriedly swam to the opposite side and climbed out.

Swears spilled from his mouth.

“What’s going on here? Who threw me into the pool?”

He wiped the water droplets off his face and roared.

The lights around the pool glowed softly. It was peaceful and quiet.

No one responded to his roar because there was no one around the pool.

There was only a deck chair on the other side along with a blanket that had fallen. Half of the blanket dipped into the pool while the other half remained dry.

Zachary swore again.

Even without asking, he knew that this was the York residence. That day, he swam in this very same pool and forced his nana out of feigning sickness.

There was no one except Nana who had the guts to get someone to place him on the edge of the pool.

He was just depressed and went drinking.

How could Nana do this to him?

Zachary sobered up the moment he fell into the pool.

He walked around the pool, went back to the deck chair, and threw it into the pool. He also kicked the blanket that was used to cover him into the water. Then, he walked into the house with sopping clothes.

The lights in the lounge were still lit.

Zachary entered and saw his nana sitting on the couch. With her reading glasses, she leisurely read the newspaper. Next to her was her walking cane, but she mostly used it to whack her grandchildren.

“Oh, what happened? Why did our eldest young master come back all wet? Did you go meet Poseidon for a game of chess?”

Zachary had a dark expression and said nothing.

Water kept dripping from his clothes. When he stopped, a large puddle soon formed on the ground beneath him.

“Did Poseidon not tell you to stay and be his son-in-law? Besides, you said you didn’t need Serenity.”

Zachary frowned and walked over with a sullen face. He stood in front of his nana and dripped water all over the ground.

Grandma May put down the newspaper, picked up her walking cane, and swung it at Zachary.

Zachary jumped and took several steps back.

“Nana!”

“Stand back. Don’t pee on my feet.”

“It’s not urine, Nana! It’s water!”

### **Chapter 906 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

The scowl on Zachary’s face could not be any more grimacing.

Nevertheless, he did not have the nerve to go ahead to face another beating from Nana’s cane. Taking his nana’s cynical remark to heart, Zachary callously retorted, “Nana, I never said Serenity’s not the only girl out there for me.”

There was no way he would say such a thing.

Serenity was the only one for him. He did not want anyone but Serenity.

“So you never said that?”

Stumped, Zachary took a moment before uttering, “I might have said it in my dreams. How did you know, Nana?”

Was it possible that it did not happen in dreamland?

He had a huge fight with Serenity and said the unthinkable in a fit of rage. The rage somehow inflamed something else in him too....

“Nana, I—I had a lot to drink. What did I do to Serenity while intoxicated?”

If he was drunk to use force on Serenity....

Jesus!

Zachary had to stop his thoughts from spiraling there.

Alcohol could really mess things up!

He was wasted.

Grandma May put down her cane and said, "How am I supposed to know what you did to Serenity? You were rambling on after downing a few bottles of liquor. I thought you could use some help to sober up. How do you feel? Is your mind clear now?"

Zachary fell silent before saying, "I'm sober."

Grandma May's method of sobering him up could end up fatal if his waking came too late. He would have to wait to reconcile with Serenity in Heaven then.

"Can your problems be solved by drowning your sorrows?"

Zachary shook his head. "At least I can forget my troubles for a moment."

"Are your troubles still here now that you're awake? Or does it feel worse? You can say anything and do anything when you're drunk. You might think it's a dream, but you could be acting it out in real life."

Zachary turned as white as a sheet. He nervously asked, "What happened to Serenity, Nana?"

"I don't know."

Grandma May's tactic of intimidation worked. However, the old lady had no clue how Serenity was doing because the person who drove her wasted grandson home last night was Josh and not her granddaughter-in-law.

Zachary turned on his heel to leave.

"Come back. What time do you think it is? She's going to give you an attitude if you wake her at this hour."

It was five o'clock in the morning. It was not even the break of dawn.

"Also, change out of your wet clothes. You look like you took a bath with your clothes on."

Turning a deaf ear, Zachary proceeded to walk out of there.

"Josh was the one who sent you home last night."

Grandma May had to come clean before her drunken grandson went to Serenity looking like that.

By the looks of his pale face, Zachary must have done something to Serenity in his dreams. Serenity would probably be left scratching her head if her door was pounded first thing in the morning.

Stopping short, Zachary turned around and brisked his pace back to Grandma May.

"Josh drove me home? Did I do anything to Josh?"

Furious, Grandma May smacked him on the arm and chided, "God knows what you did to Josh. Josh fled right after dropping you off. He didn't even come in for a drink."

Zachary looked sullen.

Grandma asked him on purpose, "Zachary, what happened in your dream? Josh is your most trusted and closest friend. He dumped you here before running away. Did you mistake him for Serenity?"



“Nana!”

Zachary hissed through clenched teeth, “I don’t remember a thing!”

His memory was stuck on asking his two best friends out to Neon Nights. He needed a drink after Serenity proposed signing a new contract with him. She needed time to get used to his status as the heir of the Yorks. While she would try to adapt to his world, she would not push herself if it was not for her. If it was not meant to be, Serenity hoped Zachary would not push the agenda and let it go too.

### **Chapter 907 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

In other words, the couple would divorce and be set free if Serenity could not blend into his circle.

Was marriage all about equal social standing?

Zachary and his family never once turned their nose up at Serenity. Why must Serenity put pressure on herself and care about what other people think?

He believed there was no gap between them!

His word should be taken for it!

“You can pretend nothing happened since you don’t remember. Oh, there’s one thing you kept repeating all night—‘Serenity, you’re not the only one out there for me.’ Are those your true thoughts? You should go and talk to her when the sun comes out. What are you trying to accomplish by making a huge fuss about it with us?”

With his face falling, Zachary bitterly smiled. “Seren said a lot to me, Nana. She doesn’t want to be a defenseless girl, hiding under my wing. She wants to be a woman standing proudly next to me.

“Serenity wants to share common interests. It’s not like we don’t have anything in common to talk about. I’m not trying to raise her like a pet. She’s my wife. There’s nothing wrong with me wanting to take care of my wife financially, but she wants to get on by herself.

“There are so many women out there who want to marry me. I could have anyone in the world, but I don’t want them. Serenity’s the only one for me. Why can’t she be like everyone else and enjoy all the wealth and privilege I can give her? It makes sense that she wants to be self-reliant if I can’t afford her or fail in my duties as a husband.

“I have the means to take care of her and the family. Yet, here she was, talking about being independent. She owns a shop and has an income. Isn’t that enough? I didn’t stop her from running her business. I never asked her to stay at home and be a good wife.

“Don’t I give her enough freedom? She’s my wife. No one will have the audacity to disrespect her. No one will give her an attitude. She basically has Wiltspoon in the palm of her hand with me around. I bet Elisa said something to her that started this. I knew that woman was no good. She’s out to drive a wedge between me and Serenity.”

Poor Elisa, after all that good word she put in for Zachary.

The attack was uncalled for.

“You got so much anger in you because Serenity talked to you about that, and your true feelings were revealed when you were drunk?”

Zachary responded, “Nana, I didn’t mean it. I clearly spoke in anger without thinking. You see how much I care for Serenity. I’m the heir of the York family, for goodness’ sake. I get everything I want. Sure, I made a mistake, but I apologized for it. She’s still

M—My ego was bruised, that was why everything came out wrong.

“Nana, please don’t tell that to Seren, or you’ll blow your chances of having a great- granddaughter.”

Talking about great-granddaughters, Zachary suddenly expectantly uttered, “We tried to make babies after Seren’s Aunt Flo left. I wonder if she’s pregnant.”

Grandma May looked at him and said, “So what if she’s pregnant? You don’t share the same values. What’s the point if you can’t communicate well? You’re only going to fight. Zachary, you haven’t gotten anything figured out.

“Do you know what kind of woman Serenity is?”

Zachary fell silent.

“Go to her once you really get to know who she is. Otherwise, your relationship will only go in circles. Get upstairs and change. You better stay put and give Serenity some space for now.”

Zachary begrudgingly said, “Why can’t I visit my wife? What if someone steals her away?”

“The whole city knows she’s Mrs. York. Who would dare cross the line and woo her?” Zachary then mumbled something under his breath.

“Are you going upstairs to change or what? No one’s going to make you take a shot now if you catch a cold.”

With a sour face, Zachary turned on his heels and went up the stairs.

Did he really not get Serenity?

Serenity felt that she did not deserve him because he was too wealthy.

Nevertheless, what was his belonged to her too.

Josh pulled up at the gate of the Soxes’ residence. He got out of the car and checked himself out in the side mirror. Happy with his looks, Josh retrieved the gift he bought from the back seat.

He walked to the front door and pressed the doorbell.

The Soxes’ watchdogs barked and sprung at the noise.

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Seeing that it was Josh, the two hounds stopped barking and wagged their tails at him.

Josh was often around the Soxes' residence in the name of hanging out with Drake. His frequent visits gave Mrs. Sox the wrong idea that Josh took a fancy to Drake, but it also drew him closer to the two hounds.

Drake came to open the door.

"Are you here for me?"

Josh answered with a smile, "You wish. I'm here for your sister."

Drake grinned. "I found out yesterday that my mom thought you had a crush on me. Haha! That was hilarious."

"I'm surprised Mrs. Sox took it the wrong way."

"Well, you always came looking for me. Anyway, my sister's getting dressed upstairs. She said she doesn't care if you come, but she hasn't decided what to wear since getting up. Oh, women. It's one of those no-means-yes moments."

Josh told him off, "Don't speak ill of your sister in front of me."

Drake commented, "Are you on her side already?"

"Drake, is that Josh? Oh, it is Josh. Come on in."

Mrs. Sox waited at the door.

Josh handed the gift over to Mrs. Sox and shyly uttered, "Mrs. Sox, I wasn't sure what you and Mr. Sox like, so I bought a little something I thought was nice. I hope you'd like it."

"Oh, you didn't have to. Mr. Sox and I are happy enough that you came."

Well, more like relieved—their single daughter had finally caught the eyes of a brilliant man.

Here they thought their son might marry a man. It was all a misunderstanding. That was another reason to feel relieved.

Josh stepped into the house and met Mr. Sox. Josh shyly said hello.

Mr. Sox returned a smile with a much friendlier look on his face.

Now that the air was cleared up, Mr. Sox suddenly saw Josh in a positive light.

After gesturing for Josh to sit down, Mrs. Sox told her son, "Tell your sister to come down. Josh is here. We should get going to your aunt's place."

"Alright." Drake rushed upstairs to call his sister.

Mr. Sox handed Josh a cigarette.

Waving his arm, Josh replied, "I don't smoke, Mr. Sox."

Mrs. Sox complimented, "That's a good habit. Jasmine doesn't like men who smoke."

Josh was well aware of the fact. He smoked but only on rare occasions.

Josh kept cigarettes and a lighter handy for frequent social engagements.

Mrs. Sox poured Josh a drink before taking a seat in front of Josh. She looked at Josh with a smile and asked, "Does your family know about you and Jasmine?"

Josh thought to himself, 'Is the meeting between the parents coming up soon?'

Bearing an embarrassed smile, Josh answered, "I plan to let my family know when I finally get Jasmine to be my girlfriend, Mrs. Sox."

He feared his family might scare Jasmine off with their overly keen friendliness.

"Okay. I have high hopes for you. You can do it. I have a gift for you. You'll get an even bigger present when you call me Mom."

### **Chapter 909 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Josh said with a smile, "I better work on it so I can get the bigger gift from you soon."

"I heard that no gossip slips past your family," Mr. Sox chimed in.

Josh replied, "That's true. Are you into gossip?"

Mr. Sox uttered with a straight face, "Gossip doesn't appeal to someone of my age, but you can share a little with me when we have nothing to do. I'm fine with it."

Squealing at her husband, Mrs. Sox remarked, "Jasmine takes after him."

Jasmine's love for the buzz and gossip came from her father.

Josh happened to be the same type. He and Jasmine seemed destined together.

God knew what embarrassing moments Jasmine's parents would share with Josh. while she was not around. Hence, Jasmine finally decided on a dress after standing in front of her wardrobe all day.

Jasmine wore a dress, grabbing her phone on the way out.

"Get it together, Jas. Josh is downstairs."

Drake called her sister's attention to her bearing. She should walk like a lady.

Now that an eligible bachelor had the hots for his sister, Jasmine might scare Mr. Bucham away if she did not keep up with her appearance. Drake did not want to end up slaving off his remaining years to look after his spinster sister.

Despite being years younger than his sister, Drake was worried about his sister ever finding a man.

Looking back, Jasmine said, "We don't have privacy with him around. Why bother putting up an act?"

Drake was speechless.

With Josh's identity in mind, Drake had a mini heart attack. Would Josh dig into all his deepest and darkest secrets too?

While Josh may be in the intelligence business, he was only interested in learning more about Drake's sister.

Josh would only go as far as to get a feel of Drake's character and likings before pandering to Drake's needs. It was a strategy to win Drake's favor.

It would not take long for Josh to get the girl if he got his future brother- and parents- in-law on his side.

By the looks of things, his future father-in-law appeared fond of Josh.

Jasmine would probably be his by now if he had come clean sooner about his feelings.

Josh was going to have dinner at the Lowes' as Jasmine's boyfriend.

This was to stop Mrs. Lowe from introducing so-called good men to Jasmine. These men had nothing on Josh!

"Can I have a word with you, Mr. Bucham?"

Before they made a move, Jasmine pulled Josh to a corner and stuffed a wad of cash in Josh's hand. She whispered, "Mr. Bucham, this is the payment for pretending to be my boyfriend."

Josh lowered his gaze at the money before picking his head up to meet her eyes. He smiled. "Don't worry, Ms. Sox. This is what I'm paid for. I promise I'll do a good job."

Stuffing the cash in his pocket, Josh wrapped his arms around her waist and grinned cunningly. "Let's go, darling. We don't have to keep your parents waiting."

Jasmine was at a loss for words.

"No point paying if you don't get your money's worth. I must make sure I'm more than up to your expectations. Come. Let's practice our kiss. Kissing is a normal thing for couples."

Josh lowered his head to kiss Jasmine, startling Jasmine into pushing him away. Putting her hands out, Jasmine said, "Give me back the money. I'm not renting a boyfriend anymore."

Josh gave her back the money. Although there was a smile on his face, his words came off as domineering. "I'll bang you if you offer me money again. That's what you're paying me for."

Jasmine was lost for words.

The man was not one to be messed with.

With Josh joining along for dinner at the Lowes', Mrs. Lowe soon found out that Josh was courting her niece. She was happy and embarrassed at the same time.

The Buchams were higher up the social ladder than the Lowes. Her niece was luckier than her.

While Josh was making his intentions known to Jasmine's family and friends, Zachary left Serenity alone under his nana's orders.

Zachary put up with it for a week.

During the week, Zachary unleashed his pent-up emotions at work. Taking the brunt of it, the employees begged Josh to simmer Mr. York down. Otherwise, the employees would continue to suffer in Zachary's hands as the overtime would never come to an end.

Zachary was efficient when he put his mind to work. Even Josh could not keep up with him.

### **Chapter 910 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Zachary had no idea his commitment to work had caused distress to the entire office. It was Monday after he took seven days to cool off. He invited Serenity out at the start of a new week.

The injury on Serenity's hand healed up well after seven days of rest. At least, she could now drive.

Zachary asked to meet her at the presidential suite on the top floor of Wiltspoon Hotel.

Serenity brought Sonny along.

The little man was with her today because the facelift for Liberty's restaurant was nearing completion. Since Liberty would be busy in the coming days, she did not have time to look after Sonny. The responsibility of caring for Sonny fell on Serenity's shoulders.

"Mrs. York."

Standing at the hotel entrance, Jim and his colleague watched as Serenity carried Sonny out of the car. Jim went ahead and respectfully said hello.

"Where's your boss?"

"Mr. Zachary is waiting for you on the top floor. Please come with us."

Remaining deferential throughout, Jim and his colleague led Serenity into the hotel.

A few minutes later, Serenity entered the magnificent presidential suite with Sonny in her arms.

With his back facing the door, Zachary stood by the window. The room bore a heavy stench of cigarettes.

Zachary, who rarely ever smoked, had helped himself to multiple packs.

Serenity noticed the ashtray, filled with cigarette butts on the coffee table. There was also a thick yellow envelope on the table, but the content was unknown.

They had not seen each other for a week.

By now, Serenity had gotten a grip on herself.

"Uncle Zack."

Sonny was the first to break the silence.

Sonny's voice urged Zachary to turn around. He quickly put out the cigarette in his hand.

He was aware of Serenity coming into the room.

The only reason Zachary did not turn around was that he was smoking. He did not want her to see him smoking because she had a thing against smokers.

It never occurred to him that Serenity came along with Sonny.

Zachary did not want to expose the little guy to second-hand smoke.

Drawing near, Zachary removed the ashtray from the coffee table and put it far away. He opened the door, letting fresh air clear the cigarette stench.

Serenity watched as he did all that.

"I—I was bored and took a few puffs. I'll quit smoking if you don't like it."

Zachary explained as he came forward to take Sonny from Serenity's arms. Weighing the boy in his hands, Zachary remarked, "Sonny has gotten a little heavier.

"Please sit, Seren."

Zachary asked his wife to sit down.

Serenity took a seat.

"I'll pour you a drink."

Zachary put Sonny down and poured his guests a drink. He also took out some snacks for Sonny.

He then took a seat next to Sonny.

Zachary stared at Serenity for a while before picking up the yellow envelope from the coffee table. He handed the envelope to Serenity and said, "This is for you, Seren."

"What's this? Divorce papers?"

Zachary responded, "Dream on."

Pursing her lips, Serenity took the yellow envelope and replied, "I thought you came around."

She opened the yellow envelope and pulled out the papers from inside. It did not take long for her to see what they were all about.

Zachary uttered tenderly, "I'm giving you my assets, so you don't feel the weight of the stress. I accept your proposal to sign an agreement, but my only condition is that we don't divorce."