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Gu Lingfei: Married At First Sight Chapter 161

Surprised, the few CEOs immediately asked Josh,
“Mr. Bucham, does Mr. York have someone he likes? Do you know who the lucky girl is?”

Fancy that. Even Zachary had a shot at love. The probability was slim to none.

“Shh... You gotta keep it a secret or Mr. York will reproach me for being nosy and a blabbermouth. Mr. York hasn’t fallen in love yet. He’s merely a bit interested in the girl. Judging by his character, Mr. York will tell the whole world once he’s fallen head over heels with a girl.”

Mr. York would put the word out there so admirers like Elisa would not harass him.

The CEOs nodded their heads.

It was good enough for them to find out that Mr. York was interested in girls. It got one of the CEOs thinking as he had a daughter who had reached marrying age.

Since Mr. York was a straight guy, the CEO intended to bring his daughter along to observe during business discussions at York Corporation. Who knows? His daughter might catch Mr. York’s attention. The girl, who Mr. York had shown interest in, had not been formally introduced as his girlfriend.

It was a fair competition.

Having no idea that his right-hand man had betrayed him, Zachary was delighted to get a call from his wife. A smile plastered across his face. Of course, he kept his tone flat and deep when talking to Serenity, “Yes?”

“I just called to check in on you. Are you having a break? Am I bothering you?”

Serenity was worried her call might be untimely since it was midday break.

“I’m having my lunch.” “Oh.” Serenity added. “Why are you having a late lunch? I know things can be busy at work, but you must remember to have your meals on time. Don’t starve yourself.”

“Alright.”

It was not the first time anyone showed Zachary concern, but Serenity’s thoughtful words gave him the warmest tingles.

“Um... Mr. York, thank you for sending me lunch. The food was amazing. The dessert was fresh too.” The service of a major hotel was nothing short of impeccable.

Zachary still reflected no emotions in his voice. “I have a late lunch meeting at the Wiltspoon Hotel. You order takeout every day and it’s not the best thing to eat

excessively, so I ordered a few dishes and had the manager arrange for delivery.

“Try and refrain from ordering takeout. If you like, I can arrange for daily food delivery from the hotel.” Zachary could put his trust in the hotel under his company’s flagship.

Besides, he personally made the call to organize the whole thing. It was safer for Serenity to eat it than the takeout she ordered.

“Jasmine and I would get groceries and cook if we had time. We order takeout when we’re busy. Don’t make it a daily arrangement. The Wiltspoon Hotel is the best hotel in the city. The food is heavenly, but I’m sure it’s expensive. It’s fine to enjoy the hotel meals once in a while, but we can’t afford to have them every single day.”

Zachary might be well-paid, but at the end of the day, he was working for somebody else.

Serenity took home a monthly income of around twenty thousand dollars. With her online business booming this month, her earnings went up by a lot to an estimate of thirty thousand bucks.

Although she earned more, Serenity would not waste her money unnecessarily. She saved 70% of her income every month, either keeping it in the bank or investing in low risk wealth management products.

Zachary paused before answering, “Try to cook your own meals. Don’t order takeout anymore. I’m going to have

food delivered to your shop if you get into the habit of ordering takeout. At worst, I’ll spend all my money on food.”

“Fine, fine. I’ll buy groceries at the supermarket near our place to bring to the shop. I’ll make my own food instead of eating out. Don’t send me food from the hotel every day. We can’t afford the hefty price. Although we eat to live, it’s excessive to spend all your wages on food.”

Zachary remained silent.

In her eyes, he was only an ordinary wage earner. Even though Serenity knew he was a white-collar worker, she had no clue about the figure of his salary. She was trying to save him money in case she ate him out of the house and home.

It was clear that she was not a money-hungry woman.

In fact, Zachary realized he was wrong about Serenity going after his money after spending a good deal of time with her.

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“I got my salary today. I’ll wire you the living expenses later. Spend it on food and everything necessary. Don’t be too frugal,” Zachary said.

“It’s fine. We still have a chunk of change left from the hundred thousand dollars you gave me the last time. We kept our household expenditures low, so not much of the money was used.”

The furniture took away tens of thousands, but that was a one-time purchase.

The remaining dozens of thousands could last the household for several months. Besides, Serenity was not going to spend his money all the time.

“Just save the unused portion. Men can be extravagant with their spending. Just keep the money that I’ve wired to you. It can serve as an emergency fund. Otherwise, I’ll burn through all my money.”

Serenity gave it a thought before answering, “Alright then.”

She would keep a record of all the transactions.

The money Zachary wired to her every month would be saved and put in writing. It would be easy to divide the

money when they were to go down with the divorce.

“Mr. York, I shouldn’t keep you from your work any longer.”

“I might be home late tonight. Just leave the door unlocked for me. No need to wait up.” Serenity had never stayed up to wait for his return. Still, Zachary had to bring that up.

“Sure.” Without another word, Serenity hung up the call.

Zachary knew where Serenity stood. She did not care whether he was home early or late.

Sigh. This was part of the agreement they signed. She was not allowed to get involved in his affairs.

After having a moment to himself, Zachary transferred twenty thousand bucks to her mobile device.

Serenity accepted the transaction.

With Serenity taking the money, Zachary found himself

in a better mood.

It was only natural that the husband brought home the bacon while the wife spent the money.

Serenity slumped over the cash register for a quick nap.

She got some shuteye before pulling out her tools and materials to start on her craftwork.

Sometime later, a car was heard pulling up outside. As the

clicking of high heels ensued, Serenity turned her head toward the noise.

“Ms. Stone?” Serenity cried in surprise. It was Elisa.

Elisa planned to go on a beach vacation with her mother when Serenity suddenly came to mind. She thought about catching up with Serenity before the holidays since Serenity left a lasting impression on her. Elisa could not help but want to get closer to Serenity.

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“I finally found you.”

Elisa handed over a bag. “I’ve been waiting for you to contact me, but I didn’t get it. I found this place through your absurd relatives. This is a little something for you.”

It was an expensive skincare set.

Serenity accepted the bag of skincare without a fuss. She said with a smile, “You’re too kind, Ms. Stone. You’re welcome to visit me, but you didn’t have to get me a gift.”

“Don’t mind me being blunt. I bought extra, but I didn’t need that many, so I brought you a set.”

In fact, Elisa just bought the gift. She made up the story in case Serenity would not accept the expensive gift. Elisa did not want Serenity to feel like she needed to return the favor

It was only a skincare set. Sure, it might be costly to ordinary people, but it did not cost much in Elisa’s eyes.

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“Serenity, did you make these? They’re beautiful.” Elisa complimented Serenity’s handicraft.

Picking up a newly made maneki – neko for a closer look, Elisa praised, “Wow, it’s so pretty.” “I can give you a few if you like, Ms. Stone. They’re not worth much though.”

“I love them. I love them a lot.”

Elisa nodded her head incessantly. “Thank you.”

She then asked, “Do you sell these, Serenity?”

“Yes, I do. I have an online business, selling these knick knacks. Sales have been pretty good, and this month has been the best month yet.”

Elisa replied with a smile, “Send me the link to your online business later. I’ll share it on Facebook to drum up your business. They’re really beautiful.”

Having learned of Serenity’s business, Elisa was more than happy to advertise Serenity’s products. If a woman of her standards found Serenity’s crafts appealing, others were bound to love her creations too. Those who might not share the same aesthetics would also help with Serenity’s business since Elisa spoke for the products.

Elisa’s presence carried weight among the upper crust in Wiltspoon after all.

“Thank you, Ms. Stone. I appreciate it.”

Serenity offered Elisa a seat while she poured Elisa a glass of water.

After a brief exchange, Serenity inquired, “Why the sudden visit? Do you need help with anything?”

Of course, Serenity did not think there was anything she could help Elisa with since the latter was the heiress of Stone Group. It was hard for Serenity to imagine that just a few days ago, her best friend was talking to her about the scandal between the heir of the Yorks and Elisa. Several days later, Elisa came looking for her. It was as if they had been friends for years.

Fate brought them together. Serenity was in disbelief of her good luck.

It was an unlikely occurrence to befriend a true heiress like Elisa, and even Jasmine whose family owned tens of millions in assets. Yet, Serenity, an ordinary citizen, crossed paths with them.

Serenity decided to get two lottery tickets on her way home tonight. She might hit the jackpot and win millions.

Elisa answered with a grin, "There's always a reason to visit, right? Yes, I need your help with something."

Serenity looked at Elisa, waiting for her to speak.

The way Serenity saw it, Elisa had everything going – she had the looks, the bearings, the figure, and social status. Serenity bet Elisa would look cute together with the heir of the Yorks. However, Serenity had never met the heir, so she had no idea what he looked like.

The heir of the Yorks was laughty and aloof. He must be a hunk for Elisa to go crazy over him.

Serenity wondered to herself, 'Who's the better looking between the heir of the Yorks and my man?'

The Yorks were one big family some centuries ago.

"Serenity, we made the trending news on Twitter, so you know what was up with me, and I know what went on in your life. I'll cut to the chase. Don't laugh at me. I came to talk to you about Mr. York. You know that I like him a lot. I've had a crush on him for many years. I've thought about giving up, but I can't just put my feelings aside. I might as well profess my feelings to him and try to win his heart.

"We're both single and available anyway. I'm not committing a fault, a crime, or something immoral to chase after him, but no one supports me. My sister-in law started off on my side, but she switched sides after my brother told her oil,

"We have only met, but we clicked immediately. I think of you as my friend, so I came to pour my heart out to you. Am I wrong to love somebody? What's wrong with pursuing him?" Elisa was in distress.

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Not only was Elisa's family against her courting Zachary, but her best friends also persuaded her to let it go, saying that it was not an easy pursuit with Zachary. Besides, her family and the Yorks were rivals in business.

Only Serenity encouraged her to go for it.

Elisa clung to Serenity, deeming the latter to be her confidante.

"I wouldn't go after Mr. York despite his brilliance if he had a wife or girlfriend. I'm a good catch, so I don't need to steal someone else's man. The fact is that he's single. Now that I've found the one, I must put it into action and try. Even if nothing comes out of it, I won't regret trying."

Elisa let it all out of her chest.

Serenity had caught wind about Elisa's haughtiness, but she had the means to be lofty, spoiled, and willful after all. All Serenity saw in Elisa was an ordinary lovesick girl.

It appeared to Serenity that Elisa was in a positive frame of mind,

Elisa had a non distorted outlook on life.

Serenity had overheard some gossip about Mr. York when she accompanied her best friend to the dinner party the other night Serenity knew that the man had been single.

The heir of the Yorks always had bodyguards around him to stop any young women from getting close.

He never gave any young women a chance. Nevertheless, Elisa was bold to profess her feelings publicly and became the talk of the town together with Mr. York.

“You aren’t wrong, Ms. Stone. Everybody has the right to go after true love. As you said, Mr. York is single without a girlfriend in sight. You’re single without a boyfriend too. It’s not illegal or against morality and ethics for you to woo him. It’s normal for you to act this way.”

Elisa bobbed her head.

“Serenity, you’re the first person ever to give me the green light to woo Mr. York.” Serenity smiled, realizing, at last, the reason Elisa came to look for her.

Elisa wanted to confide in the one person who took her side and stood behind her when she could not get the support of her friends and family.

“Serenity, have you ever dated anyone?”

“Me? I saw a guy once during college. The relationship kind of fizzled out when we walked different paths after graduation”

Many student couples ended their relationship and went their separate ways after graduating from school,

Such was the case with Serenity and her first love.

“Um... Who went after who? Do you have experience making the first move on men? Teach me a few tricks of your own.”

Serenity replied, “Hm... It was more of puppy love for my first relationship. It ended as soon as it began. It wasn’t the case of who initiated the relationship. We started seeing each other. Then we developed feelings for each other and grew close.

“We went to the mall and enjoyed good meals at the restaurants. We graduated before we could even hold hands. We split up and went our own way after that.”

Elisa was dumbstruck for a moment before she found her voice. “That’s terrible , Serenity. The relationship ended before you could hold hands. It’s like it ended before it started.”

“It was regrettable. My dating experience has been blank since graduation.”

“It’s okay. I’ll be single with you.”

Serenity burst into laughter. “I don’t think there’s anything bad about being single. I have my freedom. Family becomes your responsibility when you get married. It’s not as good as being single.”

Just like her sister

Although Serenity was no longer single, she signed a contract with Zachary. It was a marriage of convenience. Since they were not to disclose their marriage to anyone, Serenity felt her life now was no different than her singlehood.

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“Girls chasing after boys is really not that different from guys chasing after girls. Invest in his interest and hang in there. Your efforts will see you through . He’s bound to say yes if you keep asking him out.”

Elisa gave it a thought before replying, “I know I should persevere and stick with it. To be honest, my sister-in law initiated the first move on my brother. I saw the whole thing. My brother was like Mr. York at the time – lofty, detached, and unconcerned.

“My sister-in-law was all over my brother every day and eventually wore my brother down with her persistence. There was a time my sister-in-law wanted to give up and stopped turning up anywhere near my brother. The surprising thing was that my brother got used to her being around. Her absence and intention to back out of his life turned him to being more forward with his feelings.

“Now my brother’s known in Wiltspoon for worshiping the ground his wife walks on.”

Elisa was most envious of her brother and sister-in-law’s marriage. It started off tough when her sister-in-law went after her brother, just like what Elisa was experiencing now. However, her brother got it bad for her sister-in-law thereafter,

After marriage, her brother remained crazy about her sister-in-law.

It never occurred to Serenity that the wife of Stone Group’s CEO initiated the courtship and won her man’s heart in the end. Serenity said with a smile. “Your sister in-law is a successful example. You should get the know how from her.”

“She won’t help me now because my brother told her not to. She tried to fight for me, but since my family won’t budge, my sister-in-law simply went with the flow.”

Serenity gave Elisa a sympathetic look.

An heiress of a wealthy family probably did not have much of a say in her marriage.

Serenity heard that many marriages among the rich and powerful were arranged.

“What does he like? You could give him that as a gift every day. The way to a man’s heart is through his stomach. Present him with different food every day. Keep going even if he shuts you out and embarrasses you. He might accept you one day.

“You mentioned that your brother got used to having your sister-in-law around. He only realized he couldn’t be without her when your sister-in-law walked away. Well, isn’t that an idea too?

“You could also create some intentional coincidences.

Wait for him along one of his usual routes and play the damsel in distress or something. He’ll help you so long as his heart isn’t made of stone. That should give you a chance to get on with him.”

Serenity gave Elisa a few suggestions that she believed were useful, showing her how to go about having some alone time with Mr. York through intentional encounters.

She believed their feelings could be developed once the pair got together.

Of course, there was something called love at first sight too. Nevertheless, not everyone could feel the butterflies in their stomach at first encounters.

Elisa believed Serenity was on to something.

She uttered gratefully, "Thank you for the advice. I'll reward you handsomely if I ever marry into the York family and become Mrs. York one day."

Serenity grinned. "You can just invite me to the wedding."

The upper crust would hold the wedding reception at the finest hotel. Serenity was all about the food.

"Of course. You'll be my maid of honor should I win Mr. York's heart."

"You go, girl! I'll be waiting to be your maid of honor."

Serenity cheered Elisa on, giving her support and encouragement

"Okay. I can do it. I'll snag the man!" "Um... Can I be honest with you about something?"

Elisa answered, "... What? Are you telling me you've been dishonest with me?"

Serenity responded with a smile, "Well, no. I've read the gossip about you and Mr. York. The tabloids painted you as a spoiled and willful person who isn't the easiest to get along with. I can't say I know you well enough since you and I had only just met. You might want to change for the better if that's the media's depiction of you. Perhaps Mr. York's put off by that type of girl."

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Elisa was rendered speechless.

Was she bratty and willful?

Come to think of it, Elisa had to admit that she did act like a spoiled brat.

It was largely because she was the apple of the Stones' eye. Her family's love did not give her a stuck-up attitude, but Elisa was not the easiest person to get along with. She would not hesitate to kick out anyone who had gotten on her list of dislikes if she found them hanging around her.

She had no consideration for other people's feelings.

Even her relatives were not spared from her wrath.

It took a while before Elisa gratefully said to Serenity, "Thank you for telling me this, Serenity. No one ever talked to me about changing my bad behavior."

Serenity thought to herself, 'Who would say something so blunt to your face?'

She made a bold suggestion because she did not belong in Elisa's circle. Besides, Elisa saw Serenity as her love guru.

"Seren."

Having woken up from her afternoon nap, Jasmine came

out when she overheard Serenity talking with someone. She rubbed her eyes when she saw Elisa. Oh, it was a stranger.

Nevertheless, there was just something familiar about the girl. Jasmine felt like she had seen the girl somewhere before.

Jasmine had never met Elisa in person. The only reason she found Elisa familiar was because Jasmine had seen a photograph of Elisa online.

While gossiping about Mr. York and Elisa, Jasmine had once told her best friend that the pair were a good match for each other.

"You're up, Jasmine." Serenity beckoned her best friend over and introduced her to Elisa. "Ms. Stone, this is my best friend and partner of this shop, Jasmine." Elisa did not hit it off with Jasmine as she did with Serenity, but out of respect for Serenity, she magnanimously nodded at Jasmine as a greeting. Jasmine froze the moment she found out that the proud and beautiful woman turned out to be the sister of Stone Group's CEO who had been fearlessly asking Mr. York out.

Her opened jaw and wide eyes amused Elisa.

While Elisa clicked with Serenity and was willing to share her secrets, she clammed up in the presence of others. With Jasmine up from her nap, Elisa got up and excused

herself.

"Ms. Stone, this maneki-neko is for you." Serenity gave Elisa the maneki-neko intended for Zachary.

She and Zachary were married, so it should not matter if she were to delay her gift to Zachary by a few days.

Elisa happily accepted the gift and asked for the link to Serenity's online business. As Serenity wrapped the lucky cat in a gift bag, Elisa said, "I'll be going away to the beach for a holiday with my mom in the afternoon. We have a beachfront estate there and lots of fresh seafood to eat. I'll bring you some when I come back."

Serenity loved seafood too much to miss out on it. "I look forward to it."

Now Serenity was Elisa's kind of gal. Serenity would readily accept and reject gifts depending on whether the gift was to her liking or necessity. There was no mincing or pretense getting in the way. Serenity was forthcoming with her emotions and intentions.

Elisa wanted Serenity as a friend for sure!

In fact, Elisa was not a snob. She was willing to befriend anybody who she got along with, regardless of class and status. She was quite like Grandma May in that sense.

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Once Elisa was gone, Jasmine asked curiously, "Seren, how did you know Ms. Stone? She even came to the shop to look for you."

Serenity told Jasmine the whole story about Elisa flagging her e-bike down and sending Elisa to York Corporation.

Jasmine replied after a pause, "Really?"

Props to Elisa for her courage and tenacity to go after the heir of the York.

"I think Ms. Stone isn't as unreasonable as described in the rumors. She's only haughty because of her upbringing. She hasn't lost perspective on life though. While she loves Mr. York, she said she wouldn't ask Mr. York out if he was taken."

Elisa's pride kept her from coming in between someone else's relationship

Jasmine concurred, "She sounds like a great gal. We're not in her circle, so we wouldn't know her true character without engaging with her. The rumors can't be trusted completely. Sometimes, seeing is not believing either, let alone hearsays."

Since Elisa held prestige in class, many who were jealous of her might spread the word that she was obnoxious,

bossy, and rude.

Elisa's visit did not affect Serenity whatsoever.

She kept to her routine while Jasmine started to wear Serenity down about attending Mrs. so-and-so's birthday party with her.

"The party will be held at the Dawsons' mansion. The Dawsons are neighbors with my aunt. Plus, they do business together. My aunt wouldn't ask me to tag along if it weren't because she had a good relationship with the family. Come with me, Seren. My aunt is trying to set me up with her neighbor's oldest son." Jasmine vaguely remembered the Dawsons' son. Since she often spent time at her aunt's place, Jasmine had met the neighbors.

The young heir of the Dawson family was plump and mediocre at best when it came to looks. No one would do

a double-take at the man on the streets if he was not born into wealth and power.

Not everybody in higher society had a pretty face.

"Mrs. Lowe's taking you to fix you up for a date. Why should I come along? It's different this time. It's Mrs. Dawson's birthday party. I'm not going."

Serenity would not budge, refusing to accompany her best friend to another party.

There would be many at the event, but less than a handful

whom Serenity would know. She would only go there for the food. Although she was a foodie, it did not mean she would bury her face in food all the time. Serenity did not want to embarrass herself either.

The upper crust would not be caught dead stuffing their face, unlike her.

“You’re my best friend. Come and check out the guy for me.”

“Your aunt will see if the guy is a good fit for you without my help. Mrs. Lowe has more experience anyway. She’s been through it all. Not to mention, you’re her niece. She’ll only want the best for you. You should give it a go since she intends to set you up with the Dawsons’ son.

“It’s better than the so-called fine men your mom introduced you to.”

Jasmine responded, “The guy isn’t good-looking at all. He’s short and fat. He’s still single at thirty-five years old because he doesn’t have the looks. For that reason, Mrs. Dawson is growing anxious and has become less fussy about marrying in the same social class.

“My aunt saw it as a chance for me to marry up. She doesn’t have my best interest at heart. I don’t want to go. My aunt even called my mom, so both of them can gang up on me. I had no choice but to give in to their request. My mom has been nagging now more than ever about us being at the same age, but you’re married while I’m still

single. Is it wrong to be single at twenty-five?”

It really put Jasmine on the spot.

It was not like she was thirty-five. Yet, her mother and aunt kept badgering her about tying the knot.

Her mother was not as pushy before Serenity got hitched. Now that Serenity said goodbye to singlehood, everything Jasmine did seemed wrong in her mother’s eyes. Jasmine’s mother could find fault even in the air that she breathed. She believed she could forget ever finding peace until she started dating.

“So, you don’t like the Dawsons’ son because he’s ugly.”

Serenity believed it was not all about social class for Mrs. Lowe. Character was important too. Jasmine was her niece no matter what. Mrs. Lowe would not push her niece to a terrible man unless she wanted to break ties with Jasmine’s family.

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Jasmine pursed her lips. “He’s a little ugly. I’m scared that my baby will turn out hideous if I marry an ugly man. Your situation is the best. Since you and your husbands have the looks, your baby will turn out beautiful.”

She would rather marry a motivated wage earner like her best friend. So what if Mr. York was not born with a silver spoon? He worked hard to get to a senior white-collar position at York Corporation.

Anyone who could get into the York Corporation's headquarters was an elite among elites.

Serenity replied after a brief pause, "You should spend less time on your chick lits. I think you read too much and now you imagine yourself meeting a young, handsome, and rich CEO like the female characters in your books. The young CEO only has eyes and the hots for the leading lady. Jasmine, that's all fiction. Where are you going to find that many young CEOs in real life?"

"The CEO of York Corporation is young, but he took over the family business that has been around for years. How can other men compete with a man who was born with a silver spoon? I'm sure you know meeting a CEO like Mr. York is impossible, let alone chasing him."

Jasmine opened her mouth to justify her thoughts, but no words escaped her lips.

She had nothing to say.

Anybody would love to be the leading lady of a romance

Nevertheless, Jasmine was not trying to bag some big-shot CEO. She did not have a thing for that kind of man.

"Seren, please go with me one more time."

"Not happening."

"Are we still friends, Seren?"

Serenity did not bother to pick her head up. "We are."

"Shouldn't you be helping out a friend in need?"

"I'll help you when you're in need, but you're going on a blind date. Don't expect me to save you from an innocent date."

Jasmine pleaded, "Seren, just this once. I promise. It's just this once. Think about the food!"

"Our lunch from the Wiltspoon Hotel today was delicious."

Seeing that her best friend would not stop with the pleas, Serenity had to pull out the big guns. "I'm going on a date with my man to bond."

Jasmine was at a loss for words.

It did not go unnoticed that Jasmine gave her best friend

a plaintive look the whole afternoon.

Serenity toughened herself up against her best friend's resentful eyes as she refused to accompany Jasmine to another event.

Since Zachary would not be home early due to a business engagement, Serenity stayed at the shop and told Jasmine to get off work early. Unable to persuade her best friend, Jasmine took her purse and went home.

As Serenity was alone at the shop with nothing much to do, she called her sister and found out that her brother-in-law still had not come home. Serenity sighed to herself. It was likely her sister's marriage would not last long. It was not that she wanted Liberty and Hank back together, but Serenity felt bad for her nephew. Children were the ones who would be most affected by their parents' separation.

Sonny was only two years old and had always been in Liberty's care. Her sister would have a higher chance of winning custody if she had a source of income.

Chapter 169

It was eleven o'clock at night by the time Serenity closed the shop. She rode her e-bike home.

"Drive safe, Serenity." The female store owner from next door graciously said. Serenity replied with a smile, "I will." Watching Serenity's receding figure, the female store owner muttered, "She's such an independent child with a sad past. It was a good thing she stood up to her bloodsucking relatives and refused to succumb to their

absurd demands.

"Just watch her. Serenity will rise above all the bad. Her good fortune is written in the stars, and she's bound for success. Things are difficult before they are easy. Those who picked on her will be sorry." The female store owner then glanced at her husband and pursed her lips. "You're always into the mystic mumbo jumbo. Why don't you start a business on fortune telling or something? Why don't you give me a reading? When will I be rich?"

"Hurry up and move the stuff into the shop so we can close for the day. We should wash up and get some sleep." It was unlikely that her husband would be an expert at

reading tarot cards after flipping through a few books on astrology. Anyone could be a fortune teller if it were that easy.

Serenity reached home at half past eleven at night. She opened the door to the house and was welcomed by darkness. Since Zachary was not home yet, she left the door unlocked

The huge house was only occupied by the duo. The place appeared rather deserted as the couple were often at work.

Feeling a little hungry, Serenity went into the kitchen and opened the fridge to check for existing ingredients. In the end, she took out butter, milk, and parmesan cheese to make a nice plate of macaroni and cheese.

Following a rattle at the door, Serenity came out of the kitchen and watched Zachary enter the house.

"You're back, Mr. York."

Zachary turned his head around to look at her and hummed a response. After locking the door behind him, he approached her and asked, "Did you just get back?" "Jasmine had to leave early, so I was on duty at the shop tonight. I usually get home at half-past eleven at night. I'm making mac and cheese for supper. Do you want some?" Zachary shook his head. "No, thank you." Food and drinks were served during his social engagement tonight, so he was not hungry.

Since Zachary did not want supper, Serenity only made a plate of mac and cheese for herself. Seeing that Zachary quietly sat on the sofa without turning the TV on or looking at his phone, Serenity got the impression that he was bothered by something. She asked out of concern, "Do you have something on your mind, Mr. York?"

"No."

Zachary pulled out his phone and put it on the coffee table before standing back up to take off his suit jacket. He then stared at Serenity. Taking the hint, Serenity put down her plate and went to take his suit jacket. With a smile, she inquired, "Should I take off the tie for you?"

She was happy to be of service to a hunk. Zachary's silence was his consent. Hence, Serenity attentively removed his tie and examined it before saying, "Your tie looks familiar. Did I buy this for you?"

Zachary murmured to himself, "That took a while."

Still, he remained his usual blank face and gave a nod.

Serenity was surprised as she thought he would not wear the clothes she got him. It was unexpected of him to wear them to work right away.

"Should I wash the jacket and tie for you?"

"No. Just hang them up. I'll put the washer on later."

The couple had their individual washing machine in their rooms. They did their own laundry.

After hanging the suit jacket up as told, Serenity went to sit down at the dining table. She took out her phone to scroll the news while enjoying her mac and cheese.

"Is my maneki – neko ready?" Zachary asked out of the blue.

Chapter 170 "I've made the maneki-neko, but Ms. Stone saw and loved the creation when she suddenly came to visit me. I thought since we live together, I can make it up to you at any time." Black in the face, Zachary fixated his profound eyes on her.

Serenity asked cautiously, "Are you angry, Mr. York?" Zachary scowled and spoke in an icy tone, "How can I not be angry when you gave something meant for me to someone else without my permission?"

To make things worse, Serenity gave it to Elisa! Did Serenity know that Elisa was chasing her husband? How could she give away his maneki-neko to her competition?

That was generous of her!

Serenity stopped looking at her phone. Holding her plate of mac and cheese, she made her way toward Zachary while eating. She sat down next to Zachary and said fawningly, "I'm sorry, Mr. York. It's my fault. I'll make it up to you tomorrow. Don't be mad." Zachary glared at her rather grimly.

His lips were pressed together tightly. Since Zachary had not cooled off, Serenity slid her plate of mac and cheese to him. "Why don't you have my supper?"

Zachary winced his face. "How can you give me something you've already taken a bite out of?" He was a little OCD when it came to sharing food. He was not going to eat food that had been touched. "I only took a few bites. Forget it if you mind. I'm hungry anyway." Serenity immediately withdrew her hand and went back to digging in her mac and cheese. "Man, I'm a good cook. I can make an ordinary plate of mac and cheese taste exquisite. Well, your loss." "Don't change the subject, Serenity. We're talking about the maneki-neko."

"I gave it away. You can't expect me to ask it back from Ms. Stone. Ms. Stone mentioned that she's going to have a beach holiday with her mother. She probably isn't in the city anymore. Besides, I don't know where Ms. Stone lives."

The residences of the rich must be luxurious and equipped with the best security system.

Even if Serenity knew the location of Ms. Stone's home, she probably would not make it past the gates.

"I'm sorry. It's my fault I shouldn't have given Ms. Stone the maneki-neko that was supposed to be for you. without asking you. She said it was pretty and she liked it a lot, so I gave it to her. How about this, Mr. York? I'll give you two more – one maneki-neko and a golden dragon. What do you think?"

She should keep in mind never to give others the stuff that was meant for him. Otherwise, he would be furious.

It never crossed her mind that he was so... principled. Alright. It was her fault.

The tension along Zachary's jaw eased up.

"It better not happen again." For her to give away things that were supposed to be his, Zachary got the feeling that she did not appreciate or care about him.

Speaking of which, Serenity had not realized that the suit jacket he just took off was her gift to him.

The girl was usually witty and perceptive. Yet today, it was as though she was blind. Even Josh could tell his clothes were different today. Despite living together with him, Serenity did not seem to pick up on that. As Zachary sat in frustration, his relaxed facial muscles began tensing up once more. Nodding her head, Serenity promised, "There won't be a

next time."

She would not dare try that again to a person of principle. It took an extra dragon for him to let go of the matter.

Although her handicrafts were not of much monetary value, Serenity spent hours on manual labor.

“Mr. York.”

Serenity was almost finished with her food when she stole a glance at Zachary’s still agitated face. She then had a painful decision to fold. “How about you pick a design you like, and I’ll make it exclusively for you?”