

## Gu Lingfei 621

### Chapter 621 | [Serenity & Zachary]

"Don't go out, Seren. I'll deal with him," Jasmine said before rushing to the entrance of the bookshop to stop Shawn. Grabbing him by the arm, Jasmine yanked him away.

"Jas."

Forced to keep up with his cousin's footsteps, Shawn tried to put a brake on the pulling, but Jasmine dragged him all the way to his car with all her might.

"Unlock the car door!"

Jasmine ordered with a stern face.

Shawn gave her a rather disgruntled look.

"Jas."

"I said, unlock the car door!" Jasmine sternly commanded. Although she was shorter than Shawn, she stood her ground against the man. Her chilly eyes were fixated on Shawn until

the latter unlocked the door.

Jasmine opened the door and stuffed him into the car.

"Jas, I'm here for you, not Serenity."

Forced to take the passenger seat, Shawn watched as his cousin buckled him up.

"Sit tight and don't get out of the car!"

Jasmine ordered and shut the car door before getting into the car from the other side.

She moved quickly and decisively as she started the car and drove away with Shawn when Serenity emerged from the shop.

Serenity did not look too pleased.

After all that was said to Shawn, he still came looking for her. Was Shawn trying to drive her to move her shop elsewhere or compelling her and Jasmine to break off their partnership?

It was a good thing that the term break was starting tomorrow, so there was no need for Serenity to be at the shop. She could work on her crafts at home.

Serenity soon looked away and continued packing up. She moved the display racks at the door into the shop.

Jasmine sped all the way.

Despite Shawn's attempts to break the silence, Jasmine refused to say a word.

"Jas."

Shawn uttered peevishly, "Where are you taking me? I'm talking to you! Why are you ignoring me? I can't have feelings for Serenity anymore, but does that mean I can't see my own cousin?"

"Don't come to the shop if Serenity is there."

Tilting her head, Jasmine glared at him. "Shawn, are you trying to force Serenity to move her shop elsewhere or sever our business partnership?"

Shawn turned pale in the face and replied stubbornly, "I didn't know Serenity was at the shop, Jas. I've been having it tough at work. I just want to confide in you."

He had always had a great relationship with his cousin.

Shawn would seek his cousin to stand up for him whenever he experienced a rough patch.

Sure, he had a lot of male cousins, but he had no guts to go straight to them.

Shawn would let Jasmine know, and Jasmine would notify the male cousins, so everybody would band up to stick up for him.)

His parents were nice to Jasmine's family, not just because they were family, but also because Jasmine was supportive, helpful, and protective toward him more than other family members do.

## **Chapter 622 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Jasmine had always had Shawn's back through thick and thin. His cousin was in the position to give him the upper hand at getting the woman of his dreams. However, not only was Jasmine not supportive, but she was against it for the first time ever. She stopped him and even yelled at him.

Shawn was in agony, unable to obtain the woman he loved.

The fact that his closest cousin did not support him only added to the pain.

"I'm all ears if you want to talk to me about your work. You can call me or go to my place. I'm not working tomorrow since it's the weekend. What do you want to talk about? I can give you the whole day to pour out your feelings.

"I mean, of course, things aren't going well for you at work. Is your focus on your work? All you think about is pestering Serenity. I told you a million times. Serenity's married and doesn't have that kind of feelings for you. What's the point of getting all over her face?

"You're only chipping away what's left of your friendship with her. She and her husband have gotten into two arguments because of you. You won't feel bad about it, but I do."

Tilting his head, Shawn looked at the fleeting scenery of the bustling cityscape outside the window.

Although many traveled home to be with their families as the new year closed in, a lot stayed to party in the city.

"I can't help myself, Jas. I know it's wrong, and people will call me a homewrecker to come. in between Serenity and her husband, but I simply can't help myself. I just want to see her. I'm happy to look at her without talking.

"I've known her for over a decade, yet I become a homewrecker... Zachary should be the homewrecker. It had only been a few months since he knew Serenity. Why did he get to overtake me?"

Jasmine would pull Shawn under a running faucet and pin his head under for a drench to wake him up if she was not driving right now.

"Love is not about long you know the girl, but about connections. You and Serenity are not meant to be. So what if you guys know each other your whole life? You and Serenity wouldn't work out even if Zachary wasn't in the picture. Why can't you get it in your head? Why are you so hung up about the duration?"

"Serenity doesn't love you, and that's the most crucial point. Zachary has nothing on you if she loves you. She only sees you as a brother."

Shawn tugged on his hair with anguish. "Jas, I don't want to be her brother. I'm not related to her by blood at all. I just want to give it a go, Jas. I won't be able to get over it without. going for it."

"How do you intend to give it a go? Hasn't Serenity made it clear to you?"

"What? Do you plan to broadcast to the world that you're wooing her?"

Shawn was speechless.

That had crossed his mind.

"You hadn't listened to a word I said to you, Shawn. Your love for Serenity is hurting her. Not only are you causing arguments for the couple, but your parents, too, will never agree. to let you go after Serenity.

"Your family can't accept the relationship, and you don't have the means to make it out there on your own. Your constant pestering will only bring harm to Serenity. Are you calling this love?"

"Shawn, love is not possessive. It's letting go. You should wish her the best if you truly love. her. You'll be happy when she's happy, even if she's not with you."

Shawn was without a word.

Realizing that Jasmine was driving to his house, Shawn asked, "Are you taking me home, Jas?"

"I'm taking you home. My aunt must still be at home at this time. I want to show you your mom's reaction when she finds out that you like Serenity. You'll understand what your love for Serenity would bring."

At first, Jasmine had no intention of letting her aunt know about Shawn's feelings for Serenity.

Jasmine knew her aunt well enough to expect a backlash after her aunt learned the whole

thing.

However, due to Shawn's constant harassment of Serenity, Jasmine had to tell her aunt. and break Shawn's heart in the cruelest way.

With his mother's good opinion of Serenity in mind, Shawn responded, "My mom will be happy. She loves Serenity."

Jasmine smirked.

All she could say was that Shawn was green and had a lot to learn about his mother.

### **Chapter 623 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Jasmine dashed all the way to Shawn's family home.

After pulling up, she sent a text message, asking Serenity to wait for her at the shop. She would be back in half an hour.

[Sure.] Serenity replied with a meme.

Mrs. Lowe was about to leave home for a social gathering. Her nights were either filled with game nights, social events, or accompanying her husband to business dinners.

Seeing that her son's ride was parked outside the house, Mrs. Lowe was taken aback by her niece getting out of the car. She smiled. "Jasmine, what brings you here with Shawn?"

Mrs. Lowe then said to her son who had stepped out of the car. "Your dad said that you disappeared right after work. Shawn, your father's busier than ever. You should be helping him."

Her husband mentioned that the companies under Lowe Enterprise that had partnerships with York Corporation previously were discontinued for some reason. York Corporation ended these partnerships on their accord.

Out of the few projects under talks, York Corporation jumped in minutes before two projects were signed.

There was the possibility for projects and developments to fall through in business.

However, York Corporation's blatant act of ending partnerships and stealing Lowe Enterprise's projects was telling the world that York Corporation was against Lowe Enterprise.

Lowe Enterprise and York Corporation's collaborations were minor developments as both companies were in different industries. However, York Corporation was sending a message to the world that put Lowe Enterprise in the spotlight.

Many wanted to know whether Lowe Enterprise had upset York Corporation.

No one would dare go up against York Corporation, except Stone Group. That was because Stone Group and its CEO were successful and in the same league as Zachary. It would be a suicide mission for Lowe Enterprise to challenge York Corporation as the company was not even ahead of Stone Group.

There were people betting on how long Lowe Enterprise would last against York.

Corporation.

Mrs. Lowe knew her husband had responded to the public and clarified that there was no bad blood between Lowe Enterprise and York Corporation. Nevertheless, York Corporation had not made any statements.

Her husband had been trying to meet with Mr. York, but the reply received was that the CEO had no time before the year-end. Mr. York would need to check his schedule in the new year.

The Great Mr. York was occupied with work, so it was not easy to set up an appointment.

Mrs. Lowe believed all was not lost as an appointment could be set next year. The Great Mr. York had demonstrated his fondness for her son during the last social event and both of them exchanged a few words, which helped solidify her son's position as the heir to Lowe Enterprise.

Hence, the company's short-term predicament was not a serious worry to Mrs. Lowe.

"Mom, I went to look for Jas after work," Shawn explained.

Mrs. Lowe told him off, "You love to follow your cousin around since you were little. You're in your twenties now, but nothing has changed."

"Aunt Rachel, are you heading out?"

Jasmine walked up the steps to her aunt and checked her out before complimenting her, "Your makeup is on-point tonight, Aunt Rachel. You look younger by twenty years. We look like sisters when I stand next to you."

Mrs. Lowe reached out and dabbed Jasmine's lips. "You just know the right words to say, smooth talker! I'll look younger without makeup if you can bring me good news like finding a good man in your life."

Jasmine smiled. "Don't worry, Aunt Rachel. I expect a huge gift when I get married."

"I have a lot of nieces and nephews, but you're my favorite. I'll give you the biggest gift when you get married. I can guarantee you'll have the wedding of the century!"

"Don't be in a hurry to leave, Aunt Rachel. Let's head back inside. I need to talk to something."

"What's the matter?" Mrs. Lowe asked while making her way back in.

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## **Chapter 625 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

“Aunt Rachel, I didn’t drive and took Shawn’s car here. It’d be great if you could arrange for the chauffeur to drive me back to the shop.”

Holding back her anger, Mrs. Lowe summoned a maid to arrange the ride for Jasmine with the chauffeur.

Once Jasmine was gone, Mrs. Lowe slapped her son and lashed out, “Shawn, are you trying to infuriate me? Serenity is three years older than you. She doesn’t come from a good family. Are you blind to fall for her?”

“Aren’t you fond of Serenity, Mom?”

“So what if she’s older? It’s not like she’s thirty years older than I am. How is it that she doesn’t come from a good family? Her family isn’t involved in the mafia. She comes from a family of farmers, not criminals.”

Mrs. Lowe grimaced. “I like her and see her as another niece of mine because of Jasmine. I’m only fond of her on the condition that she doesn’t get involved with you.

“I wouldn’t have allowed you two to spend time together had I known what was going on in your head.

“You better give up on your feelings, Shawn. Even if Serenity wasn’t married, I wouldn’t let anything develop between you two. Serenity’s relatives are bloodsuckers. Anybody would be unlucky to be acquainted with that family.

“Serenity lost her parents early in life. I admit that she’s a nice girl, but she’s not for you. She doesn’t deserve you. You’re the heir of the Lowe family and the successor of Lowe Enterprise. Your wife must be someone who is born into privilege.

“What can Serenity help you with? Nothing. I won’t allow you to marry someone without social standing. We might ignore her relatives and refuse to see them as in-laws, but it won’t stop her relatives from using our family name to get around and ride on our coattails. It’ll only give our family a bad name.”

Shawn refuted, “I like Serenity, Mom. I’m not asking her for anything, nor do I need her to help me with anything. Everybody knows that she doesn’t get along with her relatives. Those people can’t possibly claim to be our in-laws and destroy our family’s reputation.

“Mom, I really, really love Serenity. Can you...”

“No! Don’t ask me for anything! I won’t ever give my blessing so long as it involves Serenity! Besides, Serenity’s married. She has a husband. Your harassment makes you a homewrecker!

“I’m warning you, Shawn! Don’t blame me for going after Serenity if you continue to pester her.”

Color drained from Shawn’s face. “This has nothing to do with Serenity, Mom.”

“I don’t care. Her presence alone has distracted my son and made a homewrecker out of my son. I want to make her pay. I’ll make sure she has to skip town if you’re not going to grow up!”

Shawn stared at his cruel and heartless mother in shock.

Not too long ago, his mother said that she was fond of Serenity.

His mother sang a different tune now that she found out about his love for Serenity.

“From now on, I’ll have security with you 24/7. I’ll get her shop trashed if I catch you sneaking off to the shop to see Serenity. I’ll force her out of Wiltspoon, together with her sister, her nephew, and her husband.

“You better get over your feelings if you really love her and want the best for her, Shawn. Don’t do anything to come in between her marriage, or I’ll have to keep my word!”

Shawn was as white as a sheet.

He stared blankly at his mother, harking back to Jasmine’s words. Jasmine mentioned that despite his mother’s adoration for Serenity, his mother would turn against Serenity the moment the truth was out about his feelings for Serenity.

It was true.

So, no one was on his side about his thing for Serenity?

“Mom...”

Shawn struggled as he said, “Don’t give Serenity a hard time. Please don’t do anything to hurt Serenity. I’ll try... I’ll try to let go of my feelings for her.”

It did not matter to him to be called a homewrecker for interfering with Serenity's marriage. Shawn believed he and Serenity were meant to be together since he knew Serenity early in life. The timing was the only thing that held them back. However, he could not bear to watch his mother harm Serenity.

### **Chapter 626 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

There were certain things that although Shawn was unwilling to face, he was aware of them.

Serenity did not have an influential figure to lean on, but her mother was Mrs. Lowe. The Lowes were considerably wealthier and more powerful than Serenity. There was no way Serenity could survive against his mother's tactics. The only thing left to do would be to leave Wiltspoon.

"I don't want you to try. You must let go of your feelings for her!" Mrs. Lowe ordered.

Keeping to her word, Mrs. Lowe summoned two bodyguards and instructed them, "You are to follow Shawn wherever he goes from now on. Report to me if he ever goes near Wiltspoon School."

Shawn turned ashen.

Meanwhile, the Lowes' chauffeur drove Jasmine to the shop.

Serenity had moved all the display racks into the shops and packed up her crafting tools and materials. She even cleared the unfinished groceries out of the fridge and bagged them along with the snacks.

She was ready to bring them all back to her house.

The shop would stay closed from tomorrow onward and reopen when the term break was over next year.

"Are you all packed up, Seren?"

"All done. Should I put these in your car or collect them tomorrow?"

"Put them in my car. I'm driving you home anyway."

Serenity started to move the stuff into Jasmine's car while saying with a smile, "We're going drinking. How are you going to drive me home? I won't take a ride in yours if you're going to drink and drive."

"I'll get a designated driver."

With Jim in mind, Serenity said, "Jim is a designated driver. That man's pretty reliable. My petty husband even says so. I'll give him a call once we're ready to head home, so he can drive us."

Jasmine replied, "It's okay. I got a designated driver on speed dial."

"Who?"

"My younger brother. I'll get him to wait for us at Neon Nights. He has alcohol intolerance, so he won't be drinking. He won't abandon us even if we become a drunken mess."

“We girls must learn to protect ourselves when drinking at places like that. Anything can happen when we’re intoxicated.”

Jasmine rarely went to bars or that sort.

She would call her brother or cousins to come along when she wanted to drink her problems away.

That way, Jasmine could let her inhibition go as she drank. There was no worry that someone would take advantage of her during her drunken state.

“That’s some good thinking.”

Serenity complimented her best friend.

She had no brothers, but her cousins would probably sell her off if she ever drank and got wasted with them.

If Zachary was around...

Why did she have to think about him? That petty guy was the cause of her irritability!

### **Chapter 627 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Zachary, who was dubbed the petty guy by Serenity, took a few hours of sleep at the office before waking

up.

He opened his eyes and found a thick jacket draped over him. Removing the jacket, he looked at the time.

“It’s nine at night,” Zachary cried, unable to believe that he slept that long.

There were a few thermal lunch boxes on his desk. It must be the dinner brought by the manager of the subsidiary company. The manager must have seen him asleep and did not want to wake him. The thick jacket over Zachary must be from the manager too..

Straightening his back, Zachary sat in silence for a while before heading to the bathroom to freshen himself up with a good splash of cold water to his face.

He walked out of the bathroom several minutes later.

Having returned to his seat, he opened the food containers. The food was still warm.

He sat behind his desk and dug in. Zachary pulled out his phone and checked his messages. Other than the messages from his senior executives about work, his brothers and cousins sent him a few text

messages too.

After reading all the messages, Zachary pulled a long face as he received nothing from Serenity.

Mrs. Lane said that she was no longer angry.

Serenity was either making her crafts at the shop or chatting away with her sister at her sister's place. She probably forgot who he was.

Zachary was down in the dumps.

It was then Zachary noticed an unread text message. He tapped on it.

The message was from Mrs. Lane.

Mrs. Lane had texted him in the afternoon, but he was too caught up in slumberland to hear the notification.

"Mr. Zachary, Ms. Hunt is going drinking at a bar tonight."

The message was only a short sentence, but Zachary scowled and had to ditch food to give Mrs. Lane a call right away.

It took a while before Mrs. Lane picked up the call.

"I made an excuse to bring out the trash so I could take your call, Mr. Zachary."

Mrs. Lane added, "Why did you only reply to me now, Mr. Zachary? The missus is probably at the bar right.

now."

Zachary solemnly asked, "Which bar is she at? I worked all of last night and couldn't keep awake by the time afternoon rolled around. I took a nap. I only saw the message now that I woke up."

Mrs. Lane thought to herself, 'No wonder Mr. Zachary went quiet after I sent the message. It turned out he was asleep.'

"Where is Serenity drinking?"

Zachary knew that he was the reason Serenity went drinking at a bar.

He kind of regretted his action.

Why did he have to be petty? He made a fuss because she did not tell him about Liberty being harassed by her former mother-in-law. Come to think of it, Zachary was indeed acting petty.

Serenity was a rather independent woman. She could not possibly rely on him for every little thing.

"I don't know which bar she has gone to. I overheard she was going for drinks with Ms. Sox to vent their pent-up emotions at a bar."

Following a brief silence, Zachary said, "Okay. I got it."

After ending the call with Mrs. Lane, Zachary immediately gave Josh a call. Once the call was connected, he jumped right to the matter at hand. "Josh, I need to look into the bar that Jasmine and Serenity went drinking at, and how long they've been there."

"Jasmine went drinking? Why didn't she invite me?"

“Josh!”

“Alright, alright. I’ll get right to it. I’ll go there and drive them home once I receive word, okay?”

Josh added, “Why did they go drinking out of the blue? They could’ve told me if they wanted to enjoy a good drink. I can bring out my dad’s treasured wine collection. They didn’t have to go all the way to a bar.” Zachary bit his tongue for a moment before uttering, “I had a fight with Serenity.”

## **Chapter 628 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Josh had no words.

He commented, “What’s up with you two? You were getting along just fine and giving us front-row seats to your public display of affection, but now another fight broke out. No wonder Serenity went to a bar. It was all because of you.”

Zachary replied, “Look into where they are right now and how long they’ve been there. Are they drunk? Give me a reply if you hear anything back.”

“Alright. I’ll get right to it.”

Josh swiftly hung up the call and dove into investigating the girls’ whereabouts.

While waiting for an answer, Zachary contacted his private plane crew and instructed them, “Prepare to fly back. I want to return to Wiltspoon in a few minutes.”

He did not want Serenity to drop him off at the airport when he needed to go away for business. One reason was he had to return to the office, and the second was he did not have a plane ticket ready. Zachary took a private plane abroad.

Following Zachary’s last-minute notice, the crew started flight preparations.

After taking care of his arrangements, Zachary started to call Serenity.

Serenity, Jasmine, and her younger brother, Drake, were having a blast at the bar.

Since Drake could not drink, he sat in a corner and watched the two ladies take one drink after another.

Serenity, in particular, was just downing drinks.

He had to say something, “Serenity, don’t drink too much. You’re looking rather red in the face. I don’t think you can handle that much liquor. You’re going to get wasted.”

Serenity answered with a smile, “Alcohol is the answer to all your problems. I want to get drunk for a change and forget about Zachary!”

Drake looked at his sister.

Patting her brother on the shoulder, Jasmine said, “Serenity’s feeling down. I’m under orders to drink with her tonight. Just watch us. Don’t try to talk her out of it. Let her drink her problems away. Tomorrow, she’ll wake up with a horrible headache, sores, and an awful feeling in the gut. That’s her problem for drowning her sorrows.”

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Drake was speechless.

Serenity hooked her arm over her best friend's shoulder. "You know me best, Jas. Today, we drink. We'll leave the worries until tomorrow."

She did not want to think about the consequences of getting drunk.

Serenity was feeling depressed.

She could keep all her emotions under wraps during the day.

However, like many others who unleashed their madness in the bar, Serenity could not hold in the pent-up emotions and proceeded to free her hair.

Ring, ring...

Serenity's phone rang.

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"It might be my sister."

Serenity gestured for Jasmine and her brother to keep it down as she whipped out her phone. It was Zachary. Frowning her brows, she handed the phone to Jasmine and let out a hiccup before asking her best friend, "Jas, the petty guy is calling me now.

"He won't even take my calls or answer my texts. Should I even take his call?"

Although Jasmine had a couple of drinks, she was still lucid. Jasmine replied, "You decide whether you want to take or decline the call. I can't decide for you."

Zachary would blame her if he were to find out. Jasmine would not be able to talk her way out of it.

"No. He should get a taste of rejection."

Serenity rejected Zachary's call.

Nevertheless, Zachary immediately dialed her number again.

She terminated the call once more.

Zachary called, and she hung up.

After several times, Zachary appeared rather grimacing.

### **Chapter 629 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Zachary gave up on dialing Serenity's number.

A call from Josh could not come at a better time.

"Where are they drinking, Josh?"

Zachary went right to the question the moment the call was connected.

Hearing the anxiousness in his tone, Josh took the chance to tease Zachary. "Feeling desperate? Do you have ants in your pants? Can't wait to get back here?"

"Josh!"

This was the worst possible time to make fun of him.

Zachary was so desperate, he wished he had wings to fly all the way back to Wiltspoon.

Josh chuckled. "I couldn't pass up on the chance. Only Serenity can bring the anxiousness out of you."

Zachary had always remained stoic in the face of adversity.

To get Zachary restless was not something Josh could see every day.

"They're at Neon Nights. They arrived half an hour ago. Jasmine and her young brother are with Serenity."

Zachary frowned. "How old is Jasmine's brother?"

Why did Jasmine have so many brothers? Although Shawn was her cousin, they shared a sibling-like relationship. Shawn only knew Serenity and got the hots for Serenity through her best friend, Jasmine.

Zachary did not want another love rival to come along.

"About three to four years younger than Jasmine. He's at a legal age. Why do you ask? This is something I should be concerned about since I can win over her brother to accept me as his future brother-in-law.

"Oh, I get it. You asked because of Shawn. You're wary of Jasmine's younger male family members."

Zachary uttered peevishly, "You can't understand how I feel since you don't have love rivals."

Josh replied, "The way you say it..."

He was at a loss for words.

"Neon Nights? I think the owner of the bar is the head of your household."

The bar had a mixture of good and bad crowd, but it was a great place to get word on the latest.

"Yeah. It's one of my brother's businesses. That's how I was able to find out this quickly. By now, I guess Serenity must have had at least six glasses of alcohol. How's her alcohol tolerance? Can she hold her liquor?"

Zachary solemnly uttered, "I'm heading back right now."

He then hung up on Josh.

Josh stared at the disconnected phone and mumbled to himself with a smile, "I finally get to see him squirm."

Putting his phone into his pocket, Josh picked up his car keys and headed out the door. He was going to Neon Nights.

He wanted to chance an encounter with Jasmine to see if he had the privilege to drive her home.

Serenity was still at Neon Nights.

“How many have I had?”

Serenity counted the empty glasses. “Jas, I think I can have a few more. Strange. I would usually sleep like a log after two bottles of beer, but I don’t feel anything after taking a few glasses now. I want to get wasted. At least I’ll get to sleep until morning light.

“Jas, did you order me fake alcohol?”

Jasmine replied, “Neon Nights is the biggest and most luxurious bar in Wiltspoon. The customers here are of certain social standing. Not everybody can afford this place.

“How could the place sell fake alcohol? You have a lot on your mind. You’ll only feel the kick from this sort of liquor later. You might feel nothing now, but the alcohol will hit you hard later. You’ll be knocked out until tomorrow afternoon.

“Still, you should stop now. Your sister will yell at you when she finds out.”

Although the sisters were close, Liberty would not hesitate to give Serenity a piece of her mind when the latter did something wrong.

Jasmine had the pleasure of witnessing Liberty lay it down on Serenity. The way Liberty came at Serenity was fiercer than Jasmine’s mom toward herself.

Serenity replied reluctantly, “I’ll stop after a couple more drinks.”

Jasmine sighed. “Two more drinks, and you’ll be knocked out cold.”

### **Chapter 630 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

“I’m still sober. Another couple of drinks won’t make me drunk.”

“You should quit while you’re at it.

“We came here to have a drink or two. Too much is not good for you.”

Serenity stared at her eerily.

Jasmine fell silent for a moment before getting up to leave. She reminded her brother to watch Serenity.

A while later, Jasmine returned with a pen, papers, and a glass of wine in hand.

“This is your last drink. I asked for a few sheets of paper for you to draw on.”

“Jas, Serenity’s drunk. Can she still draw?”

Serenity claimed that she was sober but the truth was, she was drunk.

Instead of answering his brother’s question, Jasmine handed the pen and papers to Serenity. Serenity took the stuff and started drawing on the paper without taking the drink.

First, she drew a ball.

Drake was speechless.

It was not hard to draw a circle in a drunken state. Drake believed it was a no-brainer.

Serenity then drew a lake with way too many wavy lines along the shore. Following that, she portrayed a person standing before the lake.

Drake watched with amazement.

“Does Serenity like to draw after she gets drunk, Jas?”

Jasmine nodded her head. “Give her a pen and paper when she wants to rant but can’t. She’ll let it all out through her doodles.”

Drake was lost for words.

Some people were plain weird.

It was a good thing Jasmine knew Serenity well because Drake would not be able to figure her out.

Serenity put a lot of thought into drawing the silhouette of a person.

Jasmine did not need to get close to guess Serenity was drawing Zachary.

Drawn by curiosity, Drake watched as Serenity doodled on the paper.

Serenity portrayed the upper half of Zachary’s body on the paper. Once she was done, she took a look and added a heart to his chest. Nevertheless, she penciled the heart rather tiny.

Putting down the pen, she grabbed her untouched wine and admired her artwork while sipping it.

Serenity believed she brought the character to life as she was not usually good at portraits.

Picking the paper up for a look, Jasmine praised, “You’ve reached a breakthrough at drawing portraits, Seren. The drawing is very lifelike. You brought out Mr. York’s callous eyes and deadpan face. It’s like I’m looking at a photograph.”

She knew that her best friend was able to breathe life into a portrait of Zachary because Serenity had  
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fallen in love with him.

“Jas, did Serenity draw a river or a lake? What’s with the wavy lines?”

Tilting her head, Jasmine looked at her brother. “Are you blind? Can’t you tell whether it’s a river or a lake? “Serenity portrayed everything well, but you can’t tell the difference. You should cut down your time on computer games. They’re not good for your eyes. Get Mom to buy you supplements.”

Drake grabbed the drawing from his sister and mumbled, “It’s too small for a lake and too short to be a river. I really can’t tell whether it’s a river or a lake.”

“Look at the ripple-like lines against the shore. What happens when you have water and dirt? What does it become?”

“You’ll get soil with a slimy texture.”

“That’s right, slime.”

“So the ball... Slimeball?”

Drake lifted his head and stared at Serenity. The latter was busy drinking her wine while Jasmine kept to herself.

He looked at Zachary’s portrait, finally getting the message hidden within. However, Drake wondered who the man was.

Serenity-called the man a slimeball.