Married at First Sight [On-Going]

Chapter 4436

Liberty, who once seemed like the loser, rebuilt her life after the divorce. She lost weight, started her own business, and gained the support of powerful people. Now she's the head of the Farrell family in Jensburg.

What a dramatic twist of fate.

Liberty has it all now—money, power, love. She's head over heels for the fourth young master of the Lewis family. She's marrying into wealth in her second marriage. She's incredibly lucky.

Even the Lewis family accepts Sonny and treats him like their own.

"Jessica," Hank said, "let's not envy anyone. Everyone's got their own path. If you keep envying others, it turns into jealousy, and jealousy makes people do crazy things. Let's just focus on living our lives—enough to eat, enough to wear. If your sentence gets reduced and you come out early, maybe we can still have a kid. Then the three of us can live a good life."

Jessica gave a faint smile, tears sliding down her face.

"I don't even dare to dream of that anymore. I'll be in my forties by the time I get out. Why would I want to have another child then? I'll be grateful just if you don't resent me. I don't think I'll ever have another child. You should treat Sonny well. At least you still have a child. Are you still paying his child support?"

Hank nodded. "Yeah, I pay it yearly. When we divorced, we agreed on a yearly amount. I've stuck to it."

Even though Liberty's rich now and has no problem supporting Sonny-

And Sonny's got more money than Hank does-

Hank still pays what they agreed to. Liberty accepts it and saves it for Sonny, always telling him, "This is what your dad pays every month for you."

Jessica said, "Then you don't need to worry about your old age. Liberty will raise Sonny well, and he'll take care of you someday."

As a stepmom, she wasn't sure Sonny would ever give her a bowl of rice.

"Jessica, as long as I'm alive, I won't let you go hungry. Don't worry." Hank didn't dare hope Sonny would support Jessica. But if he was still around, he'd make sure they had enough with what Sonny gave him.

He'd already started saving for retirement.

Jessica didn't respond.

Her release was still a long way off. What was the point in talking about the future?

Maybe she'd get sick and die in prison before any of that happened.

That day's visit ended, and Jessica reluctantly put down the phone. As the prison guard led her away, she kept turning back to look at Hank.

Hank stood up and watched until she was out of sight.

Then he turned and walked out.

Outside, his phone rang—it was Chelsea. She asked if he'd visited Serenity and reminded him to send her some supplements.

Hank said blandly, "Sis, I'm in my thirties. I know what to do. You don't need to keep reminding me."

He didn't feel like dealing with her.

Chelsea sometimes treated him like a little brother, but more often than not, she just used him.

Chelsea asked, "Are you out driving?"

Hank replied, "No. I went to visit my wife."

Chelsea snapped, "You don't have a wife! We don't recognize that vicious woman as part of the Brown family. Hank, you should divorce her and find someone new while you're still young. Liberty found a great second husband—there's no reason you can't do the same."

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Hank hung up on her without another word.

Chapter

When Zachary got home, there were guests waiting.

Ben had brought Jane and their kids to visit Serenity.

As soon as they met, Ben greeted him with a smile and offered congratulations again, even though he had already done so over the phone.

Zachary smiled. "Thanks."

He invited them to sit down and naturally took Avah from Ben's arms. "I haven't seen your daughter in a while. She's gotten so big—and she looks more and more like you."

Avah really did resemble Ben more, not just in looks, but in personality too.

Enzo, on the other hand, resembled Jane. The siblings weren't identical, but they had about a 70% resemblance.

"Uncle," Avah said sweetly, sitting in Zachary's lap.

Zachary raised an eyebrow. "Avah can talk now?"

He knew both kids could walk and call their parents. He remembered when they first learned to say "Dad"—Ben had posted videos on social media nonstop, at least ten times a day.

Zachary had even complained privately to Serenity, saying Ben had turned into a full-time baby bragger. Serenity just laughed and teased that Zachary was jealous.

"If you had kids like Avah," she'd said, "you'd probably post every five minutes."

Zachary couldn't argue—if he had a daughter like Avah, he absolutely would.

Ben smiled. "She's just starting to talk. She knows how to call people."

Avah sat calmly on Zachary's lap, quietly watching the room with her bright, mischievous eyes. Though she looked sweet and reserved, she was actually more playful than Enzo and her two cousins.

Jane often joked that once her daughter was a little older, she'd be the queen of the family, with all the cousins wrapped around her finger.

Meanwhile, Enzo stayed nestled in Jane's arms, staring curiously at Zachary. He didn't seem to recognize him—understandable, considering how rarely they'd met.

"I wanted to visit Serenity right after the birth," Jane said. "But I was swamped and couldn't get away. Things have calmed down a bit, so I wanted to come by. How is she? How's the baby? Crying nonstop and keeping you up all night?"

Avah had taken a liking to Zachary's watch and was playing with it as he answered, "Seren's doing great. She had a natural delivery and bounced back quickly. The baby's been easy so far—eats and sleeps on a good cycle. No crying yet."

Though he wasn't sure how long that would last.

His grandmother had warned him that all babies get fussy eventually—even he had been a handful as a child.

Just then, a voice called out cheerfully, "Come here, Avah! Let Grandma hold you!"

Zachary's grandma had rushed over from the other room when she heard Ben and Jane were here. The three daughters-in-law followed close behind.

The old lady came in smiling and immediately scooped Avah out of Zachary's lap.

Zachary pursed his lips.

He'd only held her for two minutes.

Who gave Grandma the heads-up to come grab the baby so fast?

"Grandma York," Avah chirped, clearly more affectionate with the old lady than she was with Zachary.

Grandma York had spent a lot of time at FC Manor before Serenity gave birth and was always playing with Avah when she lived there. Naturally, the little girl was attached to her.

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Grandma York was far more entertaining than Old Lady Johnson. The little ones loved hanging out with her.

Old Lady Johnson often joked in a jealous tone that all her great-grandkids seemed more like York kids than Johnsons.

"Aww, Avah, you remember Grandma York!" the old lady cooed, kissing her soft cheek.

Avah wrapped her arms around the old woman's neck and gave her a kiss back, which melted her heart on the spot.

She sat down next to Jane with Avah in her arms and reached out to pat Enzo's head with her free hand. "What about you, Enzo? You don't want to fight for Grandma's attention?"

"Grandma York!" Enzo called, stretching out his little arms toward her.

Jane chuckled. "Your grandma's already holding your sister."

But the old lady waved her off and happily took Enzo, too. "It's fine, Jane. They're not heavy. I can hold both of them."

She was beaming from ear to ear.

Zachary looked at Ben and shrugged. "This is how Grandma is—once the kids show up, she forgets she even has grandkids."

His own grandmother hadn't even looked at him since walking in.

Ben just laughed. "I'm used to it."

Before becoming a dad, Ben used to be the golden grandson. But once the kids came, his ranking in the family dropped like a rock—not just with his grandma, but with his parents too.

The same thing happened at Jane's side of the family. If they brought the kids over, her parents were thrilled. But if it was just Ben and Jane? The enthusiasm dropped considerably.

Even Jane's mom had said once, "What's the point of you two coming if you didn't bring the kids?"

It was the same story everywhere—once you have kids, you're second-string.

Tania and the two sisters-in-law also gathered around, doting on the kids and chatting with Jane.

"Aunt Tania," Jane said, "I'm going to go upstairs and see Serenity. Can I leave the kids with you for a bit?"

"Of course," Tania said with a smile.

Jane followed Zachary upstairs.

He knocked gently and said, "Babe, are you sleeping? Jane's here to see you."

Serenity had already gotten Jane's message and knew she was coming.

"I'm awake," she answered.

When she heard the knock, she'd thought it was Grandma again. She quickly hid her phone under the pillow and lay back.

But when she heard Zachary's voice, she sat up, grabbed her phone, and placed it back on the bedside table.

She got ready to open the door—but Zachary had already come in with Jane.

They were close, so he didn't think twice about bringing her into the bedroom.

"Seren!" Jane greeted her warmly and walked over.

Serenity started to get up, but Jane quickly stopped her. "Stay put—rest. Don't worry about being polite with me."

Jane sat on the edge of the bed, and Zachary handed her a glass of warm water before saying, "You two chat. I'll leave you alone—Ben's downstairs."

Then he left them to talk.

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"Okay, take care of him. Jane, stay at my place for a few days. We can talk. This confinement period is so boring."

Although Jasmine and Elisa dropped by often, and Liberty would call or video chat at night, Serenity still felt bored most of the time.

She slept a lot—so much that she felt wide awake and couldn't fall asleep anymore.

And if she slept too much during the day and couldn't sleep at night, Zachary would take over caring for the baby.

Other than breastfeeding, Serenity barely had to lift a finger. It was just eat, sleep, repeat—like she was being raised like a pig during confinement.

Jane chuckled. "You don't even need to ask. We're planning to stay at your place for a few days anyway."

"You're bored because you've got Zachary taking care of everything—the baby, the house, you. All you have to do is eat, sleep, and recover. That kind of life every day would bore anyone."

Serenity smiled. "You're right."

Jane said, "When I was doing confinement, Ben was just like Zachary. But we had two kids. Avah wasn't too fussy, but Enzo cried a lot. If Avah cried from hunger, I had to feed both at once. I didn't want to leave them with a sitter, so I did everything myself. I stayed busy and the days flew by."

Jane had twins. Ben felt bad for her, so he insisted she rest for two full months.

She didn't return to work until the twins were six months old. Before that, she could drop by the office, but she wasn't allowed to actually work.

"Let me see the baby."

Jane hadn't seen the baby since she came in.

She leaned over to check and smiled when she saw the baby was waking up. "Looks like the baby knows Aunt Jane is here."

She pulled out a red brocade box and handed it to Serenity. "Here's my gift for the baby."

Then she took out a red envelope and tucked it beside the baby. "This is your meet-and-greet red envelope from Auntie. Be a good baby, okay? Play lots during the day and sleep well at night."

Serenity didn't hesitate to accept the gift and red envelope.

Jane gently picked up the baby, studied his little face, and said to Serenity, "He looks more like Zachary, but I see you in him too. It's like he got the best of both of you. He's going to be so handsome when he grows up. Both of my kids look a lot like Ben. I carried them for months, and they come out looking just like their dad. Doesn't seem fair."

Serenity laughed. "That's just how it feels. They look like both of you, but yes, Avah does resemble Ben a bit more."

Jane replied, "Their looks aren't settled yet. It might change as they grow."

"True. Where are your two kids? Weren't you all coming together?" Serenity asked.

"They're still downstairs. Grandma York came home and immediately scooped Avah up. If my grandma had come too, she'd be on edge, worried Grandma York would take Avah."

Old Lady Johnson was always worried Grandma York would steal away her great-granddaughter.

The two older ladies usually got along—they were good friends—but when it came to Avah, Old Lady Johnson guarded her like treasure.

When Grandma York returned, she joked about how her old friends treated her like a thief.

"Your grandma loves girls," Serenity said with a laugh. "Avah is seriously adorable. Who wouldn't love her? Her eyes are bright and playful, her features are delicate—she's gorgeous. I dream of having a daughter like her. Jane, I'm so envious that you got both a son and daughter in one go."

Jane smiled. "My brother and I are twins too—boy and girl. Twins run in the family. It's genetics, so you can't be too jealous."

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"It's okay. You'll have a daughter in a few years, then you won't have to envy me anymore," Jane said with a smile, gazing at the baby. "Your little guy is wonderful too. Whether it's a son or daughter, all kids are precious."

Nowadays, most families only have one or two children, and they're cherished regardless of gender.

Some only-child daughters have one child after marriage, and that child becomes the grandchild of two entire families. Whether it's a boy or girl, they're doted on by everyone—totally different from the old days when boys were preferred.

The baby needed a diaper change, and Jane helped take care of it.

Once she was done, she handed the baby back to Serenity and said, "Let's lie him down."

Jane said, "Sonny's in kindergarten now."

Serenity nodded. "He's counting the days to summer break. He keeps saying he's going to your place to see Titus. How's Titus doing, by the way?"

Jane smiled. "He's doing great. His master takes good care of him, so we don't worry. I videocalled him a few days ago, and he mentioned Sonny. Said they should play together during summer break. He even asked me which park Sonny's sister was at so he could go too. He wanted to swing on the swings with Sonny and pick up girls. I laughed so hard my stomach hurt. His master tried to explain it to him, but he didn't get it. He whispered to me that he didn't mind how many sisters they picked up—he just wanted to bring some home. But he made it clear that Avah is still his favorite."

Serenity burst out laughing.

Sonny had asked Liberty the same thing, and when Liberty told Serenity, she couldn't stop laughing either.

When Serenity was a kid, she once asked her mom why she wasn't in a family photo with Liberty. Her mom joked that Serenity was picked up from a park while swinging on a swing.

Back then, parents didn't explain where babies came from. They'd say things like the baby was found on the roadside or by the river.

Her mom's version was that she was brought home from the park.

And she believed it.

It wasn't until she got older that she realized her mom was just teasing her.

So when Sonny asked where he came from, she told him the same story.

One generation teasing the next—classic.

"Has Titus gotten taller?" Serenity asked. "His parents must be tall."

Jane nodded. "He's at least half a head taller than kids his age. He's been learning martial arts, and his master makes sure he eats well and stays healthy. It's no surprise he's taller than the others."

They'd never seen Titus's biological parents, but it was obvious he got strong genes and a good upbringing.

"Sonny's taller too. He used to look a little chubby, but now he's grown into it."

Jane smiled. "Kids are cutest with a little baby fat. I love chubby babies-they're so squeezable."

As they were chatting, there was another knock at the door.

It was Zachary, and he had the two kids with him.

Enzo had started crying downstairs when he couldn't find his mom. Avah didn't cry, but once she saw her brother being taken upstairs, she squirmed out of Grandma York's arms and toddled after him, asking Uncle York to carry her too.

It was clear—Avah was on a mission to find her mom.