

Adorable 571

[Chapter 571 The Future](#)

Was Maurice talking about the fact that Harriet came and picked on her today?

But how did he know about it?

Eliana frowned and suddenly became vigilant. "Have you also sent someone to keep an eye on me?"

When Maurice saw the suspicion in her eyes, he said frustratedly, "Don't doubt me. I didn't do that. When I moved in this morning, I overheard everyone in the community talking about it."

But Eliana didn't buy his alibi. "Really?"

Maurice laughed angrily. "Use your brain and think about it carefully. If I had sent people to keep an eye on you, they would have helped you and Harriet couldn't have run away."

His words made sense.

Eliana breathed a sigh of relief. Then she explained, "It's nothing serious. But I don't know how Harriet got my address. She came to pick on me. Don't worry. I didn't suffer any loss. She just scolded me for being a mistress. I'm used to it already."

Her seemingly relaxed words revealed a strong hint of self-deprecation.

Maurice was silent for a while.

He stepped forward, reached out, and raised her chin, forcing her to look into his eyes.

"Listen, you are not a mistress. Don't ever consider yourself as that. Because you are the only woman in my life."

In his deep eyes, there was only Eliana's figure at the moment. It was as if nothing could be reflected in his eyes except her.

Just by looking into his eyes, Eliana felt like she was obsessed with him.

But there was a voice in her mind constantly reminding her that even though they loved each other, they couldn't be together because there were many obstacles between them.

"How can you say that? Aren't you going to marry Harriet for your family interests?"

Maurice's grip on Eliana's chin tightened, and his eyes darkened. He said harshly, "Eliana, listen carefully. I'll say it once again. That marriage is only Grandpa's wishful thinking. But I'm still the one to decide, and

I will never agree to it. Understand?"

He thought this silly woman was too stubborn. He had already promised her many times, but she seemed to never take his words seriously.

But actually, his domineering words made Eliana's heart beat faster.

It was just that every time she thought of Earle, she felt like a basin of cold water was poured down on her, quenching all her enthusiasm.

Their agreement was like a time bomb that would explode at any time.

For a moment, Maurice and Eliana remained silent.

Maurice was thinking about what to do to make Eliana believe him.

Eliana, on the other hand, was worried about how to explain everything to Earle.

The more she thought about it, the more depressed she became. Even her mouth tasted bitter. At this moment, she lowered her head and saw the apple pie on the table. She thought of eating something sweet to ease her mood.

So when Maurice was not paying attention, she quickly picked up the last slice of apple pie and put it into her mouth.

However, as soon as she chewed the pie, she spat it out.

"Eww! Why does it taste so bad?"

The indescribable taste of the apple pie made Eliana's face crumple. Fortunately, Maurice was quick enough to give her a glass of water.

Eliana finally felt better after gulping a few mouthfuls of water.

She looked at Maurice in astonishment. "How did you eat such unpalatable food just now?"

Maurice poured himself a glass of water. After drinking it, he teased, "Didn't your children eat the pie too? Did they say it tasted bad?"

Eliana was stunned for a moment. Her expression became helpless. She suddenly realized that the two children deliberately didn't tell her the truth in order not to frustrate her.

"The twins didn't tell you the truth to protect your self-esteem. Are you not happy about it?" Maurice was a little confused.

Eliana sighed, "I know my children are considerate of me. But if they don't tell me that it tastes bad, I will never make progress."

"Well, do you still want to make progress in baking?" Maurice couldn't help making sarcastic comments. "I advise you to just give up. You have no talent in it. If you do it again in the future, Grandpa may misunderstand that you are trying to poison me."

In the future?

Was he thinking about spending the future with her?

Eliana was stunned for a while. Suddenly, her heart had an urge to be with Maurice forever. But the sad reality immediately brought her back to her senses.

Of course, she wished to spend a lifetime with him. But she still had to face the harsh reality.

Did they have a future?

Eliana didn't answer Maurice's question. Instead, she turned around and threw the unpalatable apple pie into the trash can.

Then she picked up the empty plate, went into the kitchen, and turned on the faucet, intending to wash it.

Suddenly, a pair of solid and powerful arms hugged her tightly from behind.

"Let's wash it together," Maurice whispered in Eliana's ear. His voice sounded sexy and hoarse.

[Chapter 572 Open The Door](#)

Eliana reflexively wanted to break free from Maurice, so she tried to get rid of his arms. But the more she struggled, the tighter he hugged her. Obviously, he didn't intend to let her go.

He leaned closer to her and whispered in her ear, "Is something wrong?"

His warm breath made her hair stand on end. But he didn't seem to notice it. He held her hands that were holding the plate, not giving her any chance to refuse.

Eliana felt so weak that she leaned against Maurice's broad and warm embrace. His unique and pleasant masculine scent penetrated her nostrils, making her intoxicated and a bit dizzy.

At this moment, the two pairs of hands were intertwined under the running water. It didn't look like they were washing the plate. Instead, it looked more like they were flirting. It was such a romantic scene!

The truth was, Eliana had imagined this scene countless times. She couldn't believe it was happening now.

It felt so great that she didn't want to think about anything unpleasant anymore. The tenderness of the moment made her wish everything wouldn't end. All she wanted was to indulge herself in the pleasure of being with Maurice.

This simple washing of the plate created a spark between them, igniting their desire.

Soon, they didn't resist the temptation and kissed violently. Their young bodies quickly entangled together, and they ended up lying on bed.

Who cared about the plate anymore? It was left in the sink, waiting for someone to wash it later.

The next day, the morning sunlight seeped through the curtains and shone inside the room, sprinkling on the faces of the man and woman sleeping soundly in the bed.

Eliana felt the light, so she groaned and slowly opened her eyes. Then she asked in a daze, "Adrian, Aileen, what time is it?"

She waited but didn't hear any answer. Instead, she was suddenly held in a warm embrace.

The man sleeping behind her frowned when he felt her movements. So he stretched out his long arms and held her tight to stop her from moving and disturbing his sleep.

He only fell asleep again when she didn't make noise anymore.

Eliana leaned against Maurice's naked chest, feeling the warmth of his embrace. Then what had happened last night flashed through her mind, and it completely sobered her up.

The entire scene was so vivid in her memory.

Someone moved into the house below hers yesterday and became her new neighbor, so she thought of coming over to say hello and welcome him to be their neighborhood. It turned out to be Maurice and he even seduced her. Besides, she failed to resist the temptation. As a result, they ended up having sex and sleeping together in the same bed.

At this moment, Eliana felt so regretful and embarrassed. If only she could find a hole and bury herself. How could she let Maurice seduce her so effortlessly?

While thinking of this, she quietly raised her head and looked at him, only to find that he was still fast asleep with his eyes closed.

Eliana thought of taking advantage of the situation. Now that Maurice was still asleep, it was a great opportunity for her to run away.

She gently held his arm around her waist, carefully lifted it, and slowly moved out of his embrace.

Eliana had to make sure she didn't wake Maurice up, so it wasn't that easy for her to get out of bed. After a while, she finally breathed a sigh of relief when her feet touched the floor. She quickly picked up her clothes and ran out of the room in a hurry.

When she got home, she immediately ran into the bathroom and washed up, fearing that Adrian and Aileen would notice something. After all, her children were keen observers.

By the time she got dressed and went to the kitchen, Adrian and Aileen were already awake and making breakfast for themselves.

Watching them made her realize that they were not her babies anymore. They had grown up and could even take care of themselves now.

At this moment, Eliana couldn't help feeling emotional.

Aileen saw her, and the little girl waved at her with a smile and said, "Mommy, come and have breakfast with us. Adrian and I made it by ourselves. It's delicious."

Upon hearing this, Eliana suddenly remembered the failed apple pie yesterday. She couldn't help asking, "Kids, why didn't you tell me that the apple pie tasted so bad yesterday?"

"Actually, it was not that bad, Mommy," Adrian responded. But he was obviously lying.

"Oh, really?" Eliana couldn't help smiling, amused by her two children. So she thought of teasing them. "I thought you made breakfast for yourselves today because I was a bad cook."

The twins hurriedly shook their heads.

Aileen was honeymouthed and was good at coaxing people, so she spoke first. "Mommy, you must be too tired from work yesterday, so the apple pie you made didn't taste good."

Adrian immediately followed suit. "I think so too, Mommy. So it's our turn to make breakfast today."

Eliana was so amused that she reached out and touched their heads. Then she said gently, "Next time, if the food I cook tastes bad, be honest with me, okay? It can help me improve my cooking skills."

"Okay!" Adrian and Aileen answered in unison, looked at each other, and smiled.

Eliana pulled a chair and sat down to have breakfast with them. But her brows furrowed when she

noticed an extra breakfast on the table.

She asked, "Who's this for?"

"We made this for our new neighbor, Mommy. Didn't you see him yesterday? Can you invite him over for breakfast?"

As she spoke, Aileen's big round eyes were wide open. She was obviously interested in their new neighbor.

Eliana was dumbstruck. She sensed trouble now.

But she had no choice, so she took out her phone and called Maurice, their "new neighbor."

Of course, she didn't want him to come over for breakfast. So after the phone call, she would just tell the two children that their new neighbor refused their invitation.

It was just a pity that things didn't go according to her plans. Her call connected at once. But before she could even speak, there was a sudden knock on the door.

Then Maurice's voice came from the other end of the line, saying, "Open the door."

[Chapter 573 A Warm Breakfast](#)

Maurice was already standing outside the door of Eliana's house when he received her call. He knocked first before answering it and telling her to open the door.

When Adrian and Aileen heard the knock on the door, they both turned their heads and looked at Eliana.

Then Aileen asked excitedly, "Mommy, is that our new neighbor outside?"

Eliana couldn't think of an excuse anymore. Maurice was already standing outside their door, so she had no choice but to open it.

She stood up to go to the door with Aileen and Adrian behind her.

Then the three of them saw Maurice standing outside leisurely. The two children were obviously surprised.

Aileen was the first to react. She asked, "Mr. Moran, why are you here?"

On the other hand, Adrian immediately frowned without saying anything.

Maurice smiled faintly, looked at Aileen, and answered her question, "I'm your new neighbor. From now

on, we will be often seeing each other."

When he said this, Eliana inexplicably felt a chill all over her body for some unknown reason.

She didn't know why she felt that she would have a hard time in the future.

Aileen was only shocked for a short time. Soon, she accepted the fact that Maurice had become their new neighbor, and she even welcomed him warmly into their house.

As soon as Maurice came in, she said, "Mr. Moran, you came just in time. We've actually made breakfast for you."

As she spoke, she put the extra bowl of cereal in front of him and invited him to eat with them.

Adrian was the total opposite of Aileen. Since Maurice sat down at the table, he pulled a long face and never said a word.

The porcelain bowl in front of Maurice had a small pink pig printed on it. Looking at it, he was somewhat absent-minded.

This lovely bowl reminded him of the warm scenes when he was with his sister and mother in the past. Those were the good memories he cherished in his heart.

A surging wave of emotions hit him, and he suddenly didn't know what to do. He just sat there in a daze for a while.

But Adrian misunderstood Maurice's silence, thinking that Maurice didn't want to eat the breakfast they had prepared. He already loathed Maurice, and now, he disliked Maurice even more.

He snapped, "If you don't think it tastes good, don't eat it."

Adrian's voice seemed to have awakened Maurice from his reminiscence. He raised his head and looked at the twins. He saw an expectant look in Aileen's eyes while a look of disgust in Adrian's. Then he picked up the spoon, took a spoonful of cereal, and stuffed it into his mouth.

The mixed taste of milk and cereal burst into his mouth, once again reminding him of the memories of the past.

After chewing and swallowing the cereal in his mouth, he commented, "It tastes good."

Aileen was obviously happy to hear his compliment. She said proudly, "I knew you would like it. Adrian and I made it ourselves."

Maurice's mood lightened up at once. He smiled and praised, "You two are sensible children. It's good

that you know how to help your mother with house chores. At least you share the burden."

As he said this, Maurice couldn't help feeling sorry in his heart. It was a pity that the biological father of these two sensible and obedient children didn't cherish them.

Maurice had always believed that Jonathan was the biological father of the twins. And when he thought of this, he felt unhappy. He hated that Jonathan was ignoring his children these years.

He thought that if Jonathan didn't cherish his children, someone had to replace Jonathan as their father.

Eliana just sat there quietly and watched the interaction between Maurice and the two children. The scene was so beautiful to look at that she couldn't help but be moved.

At this time, she could say that Maurice was playing the role of a very good father. But sadly, his attitude towards the two children was always changeable.

This was also why she didn't want the two children to have too much attachment to him.

At the thought of this, Eliana suddenly felt upset. Her mood changed, so she said to Maurice, "Eat quickly and go to work."

Maurice turned to look at her, wondering why she was so eager to drive him away.

His expression changed slightly, and he said unhappily, "What work? Today is the weekend, so I'll stay here."

Eliana was rendered speechless. It seemed that he was really determined to stay at their house. She could only pat her own forehead. She could do nothing to stop his overbearing and childish behavior.

Since she couldn't drive him away, what else could she do but agree?

Obviously, Aileen was the happiest one. "Yeah, that's great! Mr. Moran is going to stay and play with Adrian and me. This will be so much fun!"

She jumped off the chair happily, held Maurice's arm, and said coquettishly, "Mr. Moran, my brother and I need to do our homework first. We have to draw a picture. Can you and Mommy be our models?"

Upon hearing this, Eliana and Maurice looked at each other. Eliana was the first to speak up.

"Aileen, Mr. Moran is always busy. We can't occupy his time, okay? He..."

But before she could finish her words, Maurice interrupted at once, "It's okay, I can do it. As I have said, it's the weekend, so I'm free. I am happy to help."

Eliana felt helpless. She couldn't find any excuses anymore. So eventually, she and Maurice began to pose under Aileen's command.

"No, Mommy, it's not like that. Please sit closer to Mr. Moran. And Mr. Moran, don't always look ahead. You should look at each other. Yes, that's it. That's perfect! Mommy, stay like that. Adrian and I are going to start drawing now."

In this way, Eliana and Maurice sat still on the sofa. They couldn't move, and they were forced to look at each other until the two children finished their drawings.

The atmosphere gradually became subtle, and Eliana felt awkward.

When she looked at him, she blushed. She couldn't stand his gaze, so she looked away.

But Maurice suddenly reminded her, "Don't be distracted. Just look at me."

He stared straight at her blushing face, thinking she looked so charming. It was as if he couldn't see enough at all.

[Chapter 574 The Similar Father And Son](#)

"Don't move. This is the last stroke... And, we're done!"

Finally, after a long while, Aileen and Adrian finished drawing the pictures.

Eliana flew off the sofa the moment she could. After looking at Maurice affectionately for such a long time, she felt she was about to lose control of herself!

"Come on, let me see it. What are your paintings like?"

She moved to Adrian with a smile and picked his painting up. On the paper, Adrian drew a gentle and affectionate image of Eliana in effortless strokes.

Eliana smiled in satisfaction, but her smile soon faded very quickly. Adrian's drawing style took a dramatic turn all of a sudden. Maurice, who sat next to her in the painting, appeared particularly horrible. There were, in fact, two devil horns on his head. It looked like a painting depicting Beauty and the Beast.

If Maurice saw this painting, he would be definitely pissed off!

In order to stop the tragedy from happening, she hurriedly hid the painting behind her back. Unfortunately, Maurice still noticed it.

"Why are you hiding the painting? Give it to me and let me see." Maurice felt something was off and reached for the painting.

There was no way Eliana could hand him the painting. She began to take steps back with every step he took forward.

"Children's paintings are just so-so. What's the point of looking at it?" She tried dissuading him. However, the more she hid it from him, the more curious Maurice became.

"I'm going to count to three. One, two..."

"I'll show you! Here you go!" She didn't dare upset him, so she grudgingly handed over the painting and silently waited for him to lose his temper.

Maurice didn't lose his temper after seeing the painting. He chuckled instead. "This painting is pretty good."

What? Had she heard wrong?

Eliana and Adrian were both shocked by his words.

Adrian couldn't refrain from asking, "You're not mad that I drew you like this?"

"Why would I be mad?" Glancing at him nonchalantly, Maurice then turned around and picked up Aileen's painting.

Aileen's painting was a lot more normal than Adrian's. On the white paper, two adorable little people sat side by side on the sofa, looking at each other lovingly, with lots of pink hearts floating around them.

Gently touching the faces of the two people on the paper with his fingers, Maurice couldn't help smiling. In this painting, he and Eliana truly looked like a loving couple.

However, the warm moments were always short. His phone rang the next second, interrupting him.

It was Earle calling.

"Where have you been, Maurice? We have important guests visiting. You have to come back quickly." Earle sounded very angry on the phone.

Maurice's smile disappeared in an instant.

Eliana's heart skipped a beat as she heard that. She hesitantly asked, "Is it a call from your grandfather? Did he ask you to go home?"

As if nothing had happened, Maurice hung up the phone and calmly said, "Don't worry. I'll go back first to handle it."

Eliana's heart became heavier at his words. She had broken her promise to Earle and gone back to Maurice. No one could tell what would happen to them.

As Maurice was about to leave, Aileen pouted with tears in her big eyes. She escorted him to the door and reluctantly said, "Can you give me a hug, Mr. Moran? I don't want you to go..."

Maurice's heart nearly melted at her gaze. There was no way he could refuse her. He squatted to her level immediately and gave Aileen a big hug.

He then hesitated as he turned to Adrian beside her. The two stared at each other blankly. After some time, Adrian turned around and ran back to his room.

Was Adrian finally getting nice to Maurice? Was he going to get Maurice a surprise gift? Eliana suddenly began to look forward to it.

However, Adrian then soon returned with a bag of trash in his hand!

Under Eliana's shocked gaze, he handed Maurice the bag of trash.

"As you're leaving, why don't you get rid of the trash for us?"

Eliana couldn't help it, and burst into laughter. She sighed. They really were father and son.

Maurice didn't know how to react as he stared at the bag of trash in his hand.

If it was someone else who dared to give him a bag of garbage and ask him to throw it out shamelessly, he would have thrown that person away as garbage instead. However, when this little boy did it, for some reason, he wasn't angry. He simply felt helpless instead.

Finally, he picked up the bag of trash peacefully and accepted it. He bargained, "I'll help you throw the trash out. You have to reward me, right?"

Eliana was amused, so she humored him. "What do you want then?"

Raising his eyebrows, Maurice naturally stretched out his arms to hold Eliana. "A hug. That's not too much, is it?"

[Chapter 575 We Can Have Dinner Together](#)

"Don't! Just go! You're taking the garbage in your hand."

As she spoke, Eliana pushed Maurice away. Her face flushed.

She was not as shameless as he was. How dare she be so intimate with him in front of the two children!

Maurice knew that she was a sensitive person, so he didn't insist. He wouldn't force her to do it. When he said those words to Eliana, he was like a husband who had to leave home for work in the morning.

"Then I'll go ahead now."

Eliana was stunned. Suddenly, she felt like they were really a family.

A sudden impulse surged in her heart. She blurted out, "Then you... You come back early, so we can have dinner together. I'll cook something. You can also bring Silas along."

Maurice was in a trance for a moment. He didn't expect this kind of response from Eliana, so he was a little surprised.

No one had waited for him at home for many years. And the Moran family would only have dinner together on special occasions or if something important happened.

His childhood experiences had cast a pall over him. And he thought he would never be able to build his own family all his life.

But now, there were Eliana and the twins in front of him, looking at him. They had breakfast together just now. And later, they would wait for him to come back to have dinner together.

It was as if he really had a family. He had a wife and children he could spend time with.

After leaving Eliana's house, Maurice went straight to the Moran family's house.

Earle, Nancy, Harriet, and Harriet's mother Bonita were already in the living room, waiting for his arrival.

As soon as he entered the door, his eyes fell on Bonita, the legendary ruler of Stone Group.

She and Harriet sat next to each other, so Maurice couldn't help comparing them. Their appearance and temperament were surprisingly similar.

Bonita was a successful businesswoman as famous as Rosamond. She was not young anymore, but time did not leave too many traces on her. Instead, the years had added charm to her beautiful face.

It was just that she and Rosamond were the total opposite. Rosamond had overflowing aggressiveness and arrogance while she was more like a well-off and elegant lady. But despite Bonita's charming face, there was a hint of cunning in her seemingly gentle eyes.

Nancy was the first to greet Maurice. She waved at him happily and said, "Maurice, you're here. Come sit here."

Bonita looked at Maurice up and down as if scrutinizing him. Then a satisfied smile crept across his face.

"Maurice, you are indeed a handsome man. No wonder Harriet is fascinated by you."

Upon hearing this, Harriet grabbed Bonita's hand at once. "Mom!"

She was so shy that she lowered her head and just looked down for a while.

"What is there to be shy about?" Bonita asked Harriet.

Then she turned to Nancy, smiled, and said, "Mrs. Moran, I'm afraid my daughter has been in love with Maurice for a long time. So since the Stone family and the Moran family know each other well, and we have a business partnership now, why don't we discuss the engagement early? Maybe they will be able to give us a grandchild next year,"

Bonita sounded warmly. From the tone of her voice, it was as if she was already eager to marry Harriet to Maurice.

"Well, let's just leave this matter to them. Let them make their own decisions. We are old and can't interfere anymore."

It was very obvious that Nancy's attitude was perfunctory. She couldn't refuse Bonita directly, so she could only fob Bonita off.

When Maurice heard Nancy and Bonita's conversation, he immediately refused without hesitation.

"Mrs. Stone, please don't bother about it. It's absolutely impossible for me and your daughter to be together."

As soon as he said this, everyone's expression drastically changed.

Earle's face darkened. He was the first to react. He snapped, "You brat! What nonsense are you talking about? Have you lost even your basic manners now? How could you say such things in front of many people?"

Earle reprimanded Maurice in public, but his attitude was not as tough as before. He was just dissatisfied with Maurice's direct refusal. He felt embarrassed for the Moran family.

Actually, he was also a little hesitant about letting Harriet marry into the Moran family. Some things that happened before had made him dissatisfied with her. So he was not one hundred percent sure that he wanted her to be his granddaughter-in-law.

Maurice's direct refusal was like a bolt of lightning that struck Harriet. She looked at him in disbelief, and her eyes were already red. It was as if she had suffered great grievance.

"Maurice, you know that I love you so much. How can you be so ruthless to me?" she said sadly.

Seeing her daughter being bullied, Bonita was also angry. She scolded, "Maurice, are you humiliating my daughter? She almost lost her life for you. How can you be so ungrateful?"

"Mrs. Stone, are you referring to Harriet's allergic reaction to the flowers sent by Moran Group's employees during the last press conference?"

Maurice had already rejected Harriet many times, but she was very persistent. This time, he wanted to stop her from acting and playing like she was always the innocent victim. It was time to put an end to all of this.

He didn't intend to make the Stone family lose face in front of his family, but they seemed to ask for it. So there was no need for him to cover up for them anymore.

He turned around and ordered Corbin, "Show them."

Under everyone's confused gazes, Corbin took out his mobile phone and showed the surveillance video of Harriet asking Lillian to change the flowers.

[Chapter 576 Spill The Beans](#)

"Miss Stone, do you have anything else to say?" Maurice asked.

"I... Well, I..."

The evidence was irrefutable. How else could Harriet deny it?

At this moment, Bonita's face darkened too.

Maurice stared at Harriet expressionlessly for a while. Then he asked coldly, "Did you pick on Eliana yesterday?"

Harriet was so frightened that she shuddered and grabbed Bonita's arm tightly.

Maurice didn't wait for her to answer. He continued, "This is not the first time, right? Last time you deliberately made yourself have an allergic reaction to frame Eliana with your own life. You have completely crossed the bottom line of the Moran family this time."

Every word he said made Harriet's face grow paler and paler.

Earle and Nancy were shocked by the truth.

Seeing their reaction, Bonita felt heartbroken. She turned to Harriet and said aloud, "Harriet, tell me the

truth. Did you really do it?"

Harriet replied stubbornly, "Mom, I just didn't want to give up just like that. I..."

"That's enough!"

Before she could finish her words, Bonita interrupted her with a grim face. Bonita took her hand, stood up, and apologized to Earle, "Mr. Moran, I apologize to you on behalf of Harriet. I didn't expect that she would do so many wrong things behind my back. I hope you will forgive her today."

Bonita apologized so sincerely that Earle didn't know what to say.

In the end, Bonita and Harriet didn't have the face to stay in the Moran family's house longer, so they immediately left.

After they left, the atmosphere in the Moran family's house became even more depressing.

Nancy looked at Maurice, and then at Earle. She was caught between her grandson and her husband. She was in a dilemma now.

She knew that Earle wanted Maurice to marry Harriet because she was also from a wealthy and influential family.

But with Maurice's stubborn character, he would never allow anyone to make the decision for him, not even his own grandfather. He would never marry someone he didn't like.

Maurice and Earle always clashed because of many differences. Nancy didn't know who to side with, so she could only try her best to balance.

"Earle, don't lose your temper now. Honestly, I'm not satisfied with Harriet. So it was good that Maurice cut the Gordian knot quickly. Fortunately, Bonita had a clear mind. I don't think what happened today will affect the relationship between the Stone family and the Moran family."

Maurice couldn't help but sneer, "Grandma, you think too highly of her. Mrs. Stone is not as simple as you think."

When he said this, Earle snorted coldly but didn't contradict him.

"I've been investigating them. Mrs. Stone's husband and first daughter died in an avalanche. So she doted on Harriet, her only daughter. Now she is a mother and the head of Stone Group at the same time. She is a ruthless and resourceful person who can run the entire company by herself. She won't let her daughter do anything recklessly."

Earle and Nancy thought that Maurice's analysis was very reasonable. Nancy stared at Maurice as if she

was seeing the energetic Blair.

The little boy who didn't know anything back then had grown into an independent and capable man.

If Blair and Brenda could see him now, they would feel happy and proud.

With tears in her eyes, Nancy said, "You're right, Maurice. Since this is the case, there's no need for you to marry Harriet. You can choose your future wife by yourself."

"Choose? I think he has already chosen," Earle chimed in grimly.

"Maurice, let me ask you a question. Are you with that Eliana again?"

Eliana's name was taboo in the Moran family. As long as any of them mentioned it, the atmosphere would instantly become tense.

"Yes," Maurice answered without hesitation. He didn't want to hide the truth anymore.

When Earle saw Maurice look so calm admitting it, he fumed with rage. But he was angry not only at Maurice but more at Eliana.

He was a wise old man. But in the end, he was fooled by a young woman.

"As expected, you are together behind my back. I thought that although that woman is poor, at least she knows how to keep her words. I didn't expect that she would go back on her promise now. She is really from a lowly family."

Earle was so overwhelmed by anger that he unexpectedly revealed the secret agreement between him and Eliana.

This made Maurice's head buzz. All the clues he had ignored were suddenly connected, allowing him to draw an astonishing conclusion.

It turned out that Eliana's disappearance had something to do with Earle.

[Chapter 577 The Confrontation Between Grandfather And Grandson](#)

"Grandpa, why did Eliana suddenly leave? Did you do something to her?"

Although Maurice already had an answer in his heart, he still asked this question.

Earle didn't admit or deny it. But with a sullen face, he threatened, "It seems that you still haven't learned your lesson last time. Isn't it enough to experience losing the power in your hands? I can actually give everything to Gerald. Are you really forcing me to do it?"

Because of Earle's words, Maurice was also provoked. "If you want to do it, give it a try. I actually don't mind. Don't forget that the power my uncle has been dreaming of is still in my hands."

As Maurice spoke, he defiantly touched the ring on his right hand.

This ruby ring was lost but was found again. It represented the supreme power of the Mason family. And this was also giving him the confidence to fight back against Earle. Because even if he lost the Moran Group, he had other choices.

What Maurice said had completely angered Earle. The Mason family was his Achilles heel. And over the years, no one had dared to mention it.

Back then, Earle's son Blair fell in love with Brenda, the daughter of the Mason family. But he opposed the relationship between the two and disagreed with their marriage. However, who would have thought Blair would be so stubborn? The more he hindered their relationship, the more determined Blair was. One day, Blair and Brenda eloped despite the formidable obstacles and later gave birth to a son and a daughter.

Then a tragedy happened later. Blair and Brenda were both killed in a car accident. This disaster was a heavy blow to the Moran family. The situation was so serious to the point that the members of the Moran family almost broke up.

And now, Maurice wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and repeat the same mistake. How could Earle not get angry?

"Damn you! You're such an asshole!"

Earle was so angry that he trembled all over, and blue veins stood out on the back of his hand holding the cane. It was as if he was going to smash it towards Maurice the next second.

Listening to their exchange of hurtful words, Nancy knew she could not stop them.

The atmosphere between the grandfather and grandson was too tense for her to intervene.

Just as the battle was about to break out, Silas ran downstairs with his drawing board on his back. He sandwiched himself between Maurice and Earle, looked at each of them, and asked, "Great-grandpa, Uncle, are you free now? Can you help me with my homework?"

Since the little boy was between them, Earle and Maurice subconsciously restrained themselves.

Then Earle said gently, "Silas, go play in your room first. Your uncle and I have something to talk about."

But actually, Silas didn't just come here to ask the two men to help him with his homework. He looked up and winked at Nancy beside him.

Nancy immediately understood what he meant. So she also cooperated with him.

"Silas, what homework is that? Is it very important?"

Silas deliberately emphasized, "Of course! Our teacher told us that we must finish it. We have to submit it on Monday. If I'm the only one who failed to do it, what would I do?"

"If they don't want to help you, then let me do it. What's your homework today?" Nancy continued to act with Silas in front of Maurice and Earle.

"Great-grandma, it's about family," Silas replied, deliberately raising his voice. "I want to draw Uncle and Great-grandpa. But..."

He didn't finish his words. Instead, he lowered his head in disappointment.

"You two, why don't you help Silas finish his homework? Look at how sad he is now."

In the end, Earle and Maurice compromised. They posed according to Silas' instructions. It seemed that Silas and Nancy's efforts were not in vain.

In the process, the two people who were not on good terms suddenly had to be close and intimate with each other. Obviously, both of them felt awkward.

Silas looked at Earle's and Maurice's poses with satisfaction and started to draw. Nancy stood beside him, supervising the poses of the two big men.

As time went on, Earle's and Maurice's anger gradually subsided.

When Earle looked at Maurice, he was reminded of Blair.

They were both stubborn and intelligent. Did this mean Maurice would also be like Blair in the future? Would Maurice leave his family because of a woman?

[Chapter 578 Eliana's Background](#)

Harriet found it hard to accept that she was just dragged by Bonita out of the Moran family's house.

Finally, she broke out.

She shook off Bonita's hand and asked unwillingly, "Mom, why didn't you help me deal with the Moran family just now? Why did you even protect that bitch Eliana?"

Bonita felt Harriet was really being unreasonable. She always made trouble out of nothing. So Bonita

warned her again, "Didn't I tell you not to mess with Eliana? You don't know her that much. Her background is not as simple as you think."

"Then tell me! How will I know if you don't tell me? Who the hell is that bitch? How come we can't afford to offend her? We are the Stone family, after all."

Was Eliana born into a noble family? How could it be possible? For Harriet, this was the most doubtful and unacceptable thing.

"Stop talking nonsense!" At this time, Bonita was already very angry at her rebellious daughter. "I haven't taught you a lesson yet. Have you gone out of your mind? How could you risk your own life to frame your rival in love just because of a man? Have you ever thought if it's worth it or not?"

"Mom, it's worth it. I want Maurice. And I'll get him at all costs."

As she said this, Harriet had a ferocious look on her face. It was as if she was being possessed.

Bonita looked at Harriet in disbelief. She couldn't believe that the daughter she had always been proud of was now desperate for a man. What had happened?

She was so furious that she raised her hand and gave Harriet a hard slap in the face.

The impact made Harriet turn her head to the side. And she was totally stunned. Bonita always doted on her. She didn't understand why Bonita would beat her now because of someone else.

"Are you sober now?" Bonita asked, her hand still trembling. Then she added angrily, "When I wanted you to be engaged with Maurice, I asked you to help me get the Moran Group, not to make you infatuated with him."

Bonita's words were like a sharp blade that pierced through Harriet's heart. She couldn't bear it anymore, so she broke into tears and ran away, covering her face.

Bonita could do nothing but just watch Harriet's back helplessly, feeling a dull pain in her temples.

She told herself, "Forget it. Give her some time, and she'll figure it out one day."

Bonita was still lost in thought when a mysterious black car stopped in front of her.

She pondered for a moment and got in the car.

It turned out that Gerald was also in the back seat. He smiled at her and said sincerely, "Mrs. Stone, are you interested in talking to me now?"

"I don't know what you want to talk about." Bonita played dumb.

"Don't play dumb in front of me." Gerald turned his head and looked at her with eyes full of madness, "As long as you help me bring Maurice down, I will help you carve up the Moran Group."

Now Gerald didn't care about the Moran Group anymore. All he wanted was to defeat Maurice and make him doomed forever.

Bonita looked at the crazy Gerald with a gloomy expression.

Before, she wanted to get the Moran Group. But now, her ambition was more than that. She wanted more.

"Gerald, I'll tell you the truth. What I want is more than just the Moran Group."

"What do you mean? Aside from Moran Group, what else do you want?"

Gerald was stunned. He didn't know what else could be more valuable than the Moran Group.

Bonita sneered, "I'm afraid you still don't know the background of Maurice's girlfriend."

"Do you mean Eliana Pierce?" Now, Gerald was more confused. "Isn't she the daughter of the Pierce family? What else can she have?"

"The problem is... Her mother's maiden name is White," Bonita said slowly. "Ingrid was a well-known beauty in the past, and she came from an even more prominent family. But later, the White family fell into decline. It was at that time that she left the White family and married into the Pierce family. But later, the White family rebuilt their business and made a comeback. Their situation has been even greater in recent years. If the White family knows that Ingrid's daughter has been out there, they will definitely take her back."

As Bonita explained Eliana's background to Gerald, there was a hint of fear and imperceptible jealousy in her tone.

When Gerald heard this familiar name, his mind traveled back in time.

Ingrid's voice and appearance appeared in his mind again. All these years, he wanted to forget her, but he just couldn't.

And every time he thought that such a beautiful woman committed suicide for Lemuel, he could not accept it.

But somehow, he couldn't help but feel a little fortunate. Ingrid did not completely disappear. Because Eliana, who had inherited her beautiful face, appeared.

Maybe he still had a chance.

[Chapter 579 Nowhere To Go](#)

As night fell, Eliana thought of her promise to Maurice this morning. So she went to the kitchen and unwittingly prepared a sumptuous dinner. After setting up the table, she looked at it only to realize that tonight there seemed to be a feast.

Time quietly passed as Eliana kept track of the time. She patiently watched as the clock's hour hand slowly ran from six o'clock to eight o'clock. Now it was almost nine o'clock, but there was no sign of Maurice coming home yet.

"Mommy, when is Mr. Moran coming? I'm starving," Aileen complained, sitting on the sofa and rubbing her belly with her little hands. When she stared at the big meal on the table, her mouth watered, and she almost drooled.

"I think that bad guy doesn't want to come, so he stands us up."

Adrian had always disliked Maurice. And now that Maurice was late, he disdained Maurice even more.

Eliana looked at the door disappointedly. Then she gradually stopped looking forward to Maurice's coming.

It was too late now. She didn't want to wait any longer and starve her children.

"Okay, kids. Since you're hungry, let's eat first."

As soon as Adrian and Aileen sat at the table, they devoured the food. Eliana, on the other hand, lost her appetite when she looked at the table full of food.

Her mind was obviously not on eating but on something else. She glanced at her phone on the table every now and then as if waiting for a call or text from someone.

When Aileen noticed Eliana's abnormality, she put down her fork and knife, looked at Eliana with concern, and asked, "Mommy, are you thinking of Mr. Moran?"

Eliana only came back to her senses after Aileen called her out several times. She answered Aileen's question guiltily, "Of course not. I am not thinking of him."

However, Aileen had already seen through her lie. The little girl secretly forked a piece of pepper and put it on Eliana's plate.

Eliana was in a trance, totally unaware of what Aileen was doing. So she naturally forked the pepper and put it into her mouth.

As soon as she bit it, the spicy taste exploded in her mouth.

"Ahhh! It's so spicy!"

She grimaced and hurriedly spat out the pepper. It was so spicy that tears welled up in her eyes. Her face flushed at once.

Since Aileen's prank was successful, she covered her mouth and snickered.

Instead of getting angry, Eliana was amused. "You... You are such a naughty girl. Good thing you are cute."

She smiled helplessly, and stroke Aileen's hair.

Adrian couldn't stand Eliana's distracted look too. He hesitated for a while before he finally said, "Mommy, if you are really worried about that bad guy, why don't you call him and ask?"

Eliana thought Adrian's idea made sense. So she plucked up her courage, picked up her phone, and called Maurice.

Maurice was still in the Moran family's house. When he saw Eliana's name flashing on the screen of his phone, it was only then that he remembered their agreement this morning.

He couldn't help smiling when he answered the phone. He asked, "Are you still waiting for me to come home for dinner?"

"Of course not! You're flattering yourself too much!" Eliana quickly retorted.

"I'm happy to know that you're waiting for me."

Maurice's voice was filled with obvious joy.

Eliana's face quickly flushed. After being seen through by Maurice, she was too embarrassed to say a word.

Before she could even recover from the embarrassment, Maurice changed the topic. "Eliana, did my grandfather force you to leave me before?"

Eliana was stunned for a moment. How did Maurice know about it?

Could it be that Earle told him?

For a moment, she didn't know what to say. She actually couldn't tell the truth.

How could she tell Maurice that she and Earle had a deal? Their agreement was simple. As long as she left, Maurice could take the Moran Group back. And to avoid getting Maurice into trouble, she ran away.

Eliana knew Maurice too well. He would go crazy if he knew.

But her silence had actually given him the answer.

And this made him furious.

He was so furious that he couldn't wait to stand in front of her and kiss her lips fiercely. Then he would tell her how stupid the decision she made was.

But at this moment, Maurice could only speak to Eliana on the phone. So he said in a tone that seemed threatening but also pleading, "Eliana, listen carefully. I won't lose everything because of my grandfather's suppression. I want you to promise me that from now on, you will never leave me for whatever reason. Do you understand?"

At this moment, Eliana felt that the wall she had built in her heart with great difficulty collapsed.

And it was Maurice's attack that made it collapse. Then those suppressed emotions in her heart poured out like a flood that was hard to contain.

Her hand holding the phone trembled slightly. No words could fully express her feelings right now. Finally, she condensed it in two sentences.

"Maurice, don't underestimate yourself. I have nowhere to go."

Both her body and her heart had nowhere to go.

[Chapter 580 Inform Jonathan](#)

Was Eliana making him a promise?

Maurice's heart skipped a beat. He seriously warned, "Eliana, remember what you said today. If you run away again..."

However, he was unable to finish his sentence.

The thing was that every time he threatened Eliana, no matter how serious he was, he would end up being softhearted and the so-called punishment would remain in abeyance.

That had happened so often that he couldn't find anything to threaten Eliana this time. Maurice never managed to get really angry with Eliana and that bothered him a bit. Could he ever make her to be scared of his threat again?

He couldn't answer that question either.

"Don't worry. I won't run away again."

When Eliana said these words, she suddenly felt like everything was settled. A sense of undisguised bitterness suddenly rose in her heart. However, she also felt a strange sweet feeling in her heart.

She was no longer alone. From now on, there was someone in the world who loved her and cared about her.

Maurice and Eliana were silent for a moment, each holding their phone to their ear. It was as if they could hear each other's heartbeat gradually quickening.

It was Maurice who broke the silence. "By the way, I was delayed by something and that is why I didn't come back for dinner," Maurice explained, feeling guilty for breaking his promise tonight.

"It's okay. I didn't really expect you to come anyway, so I just casually cooked something. You can come next time," Eliana replied calmly.

It didn't take much for Maurice and Eliana to really feel like they were a couple.

Aileen and Adrian, who were standing behind their mother, clearly saw what was going on.

Aileen put on a serious look and asked to her brother, "Adrian, do you think Mommy is in love?"

"Don't talk nonsense! Mommy spends her days with us. When did she have the time to meet someone and fall in love?" Adrian replied with a pout.

At this moment, Aileen's eyes lit up and she said excitedly, "What about Mr. Moran? I really think Mommy is in love. Nana was like this when she was in a relationship last time!"

At the mention of Maurice, Adrian immediately pulled a long face.

Although he didn't want to admit it, he also had a feeling that his mother might be in love, and the person she was dating was probably the man he hated the most.

"But... I don't like that bad guy! I don't want Mommy to be with him," Adrian protested.

Aileen pursed her lips and snorted. "Adrian, you never like any man who is too close to Mommy. In the past, it was Mr. Bowman you didn't like!"

That was right. Jonathan!

How could he forget him?

All of a sudden, an idea struck Adrian.

He remembered that before they came back, Jonathan had told him that if he and his mother were unhappy, he could call Jonathan at any time.

Now was the right time to call him!

Adrian's heart began to beat faster. However, on second thought, he felt that Jonathan also had a thing for his mother. He suddenly wasn't so sure about calling Jonathan anymore.

Adrian thought hard, trying to judge which of Maurice and Jonathan was the most hateful. After thinking for a long time, he took his smart watch and secretly texted Jonathan, telling him about their recent situation.

Adrian paid attention to his words when sending the message and didn't make his intentions clear right away. He wanted to probe Jonathan first.

After sending the message, he lay in the bed, his eyes fixed on his smart watch as he waited for Jonathan's reply.

He waited for a long time but there was no reply.

Why was Mr. Bowman so silent at this critical moment? If nothing was done, his mother would be taken away by the bad guy.

The mere thought of it made Adrian furious. He threw his smart watch aside and buried his face in the pillows. Slowly, he fell asleep.

What Adrian didn't know was that when he texted Jonathan asking him to come home, Jonathan had just got off the plane.

He was in this city.

In the wee hours of the morning, outside the empty airport, the sound of a fleet of luxury cars suddenly broke the silence of the night. The cars slowly stopped. A group of well-trained bodyguards in black got out of the cars and quickly lined up in two lines.

Moments later, a man in a gray overcoat walked out of the airport, surrounded by many people.

An assistant in a suit walked up to him, bowed and asked, "Mr. Bowman, are you going to see Miss Pierce now?"

