

## **My Wife is a beautiful Officer Chapter 996 - Chapter 995: Leena's Concerns (part two)**

### **Chapter 996: Chapter 995: Leena's Concerns (part two)**

"Oh? Leena can cook too?" It was obvious Shannon was taken aback by this. She understood that Leena was from a rich family. Nathan had told her that. But rich girls had everything done for them, so how did she learn to cook? Shannon was impressed that she didn't act spoiled at all. In fact, she was polite, humble, and sweet. On the other hand, Claire, who was also from a wealthy family, behaved totally differently. In comparison, Shannon liked Leena even more.

"I'm sorry, mom. I'm not a good cook and I've turned the kitchen into a mess." Leena tried to give a smile, but for the first time she found it hard. Her conversation with Kevin was still fresh in her mind. She felt like a big rock was pressing down on her chest.

"It's good enough. Claire can't even cook half as well as you." Most parents thought their kids were the best, no matter what. However, in Shannon's eyes, her daughter-in-law was much better than her kids. Leena could have acted like a princess, but she didn't. Shannon felt lucky to have her as a daughter-in-law, because she was convinced that Leena could do better.

"Mom! Seriously?" Claire shouted angrily. Not only did her mom trash talk her, but she did it in front of Leena. She believed that Leena must have told something to her mom. Hence, her resentment towards Leena grew deeper. She'd teach that little bitch a good lesson!

"What? It's the truth. You should try what she's cooked up here. It's really good. I'll reckon with you later about something else." Shannon looked at Claire, full of disappointment. She didn't understand why Claire and Leena were so different. On the surface, they were both young, beautiful and from rich families, but on the inside, Leena was much better cultivated than Claire. Maybe it was her fault how she was raised. Leena's family obviously did a better job bringing her up.

Humph! Somebody must have said something about me when I wasn't around." Claire cast a contemptuous glance at Leena. She thought Leena must have talked about her behind her back to her mom. That was enough for her to start holding a huge grudge against her.

"Don't be silly. Nobody said anything about you. Learn from Leena. Be polite and humble." As a mother, Shannon didn't want to scold Claire in front of others, but she was too angry about what she said. She was being very rude.

"Mom, I'm your daughter. How could you talk about me to an outsider like that?" Claire stomped her feet in anger. She rolled her eyes at Leena resentfully, thinking that she had started it and that she turned her mom against her.

"I wouldn't have said anything if you had acted like a grown-up. Now leave the kitchen. Stay out of the way." Shannon treated her daughter-in-law and daughter equally. She wouldn't be biased in favor of her daughter.

"No problem. I don't want to be here anyway!" Claire glared at Leena and turned on her heel. Ever since Kevin's wife got here, Claire did everything wrong. Her mom wouldn't stop harping on her. This had never happened before. It must be because of Leena. She would get back at her if it was the last thing she did.

"Mom, maybe you were a little harsh. I think Claire's feeling a little upset," Leena said hesitantly, a little worried. She didn't mind Claire's hostility. She just bore it with grace. She felt better knowing her mom-in-law didn't hate her, at least.

"Don't worry. She is always like this. She'll forget it in a while." Shannon let out an exasperated sigh. The one thing that soothed her was that her son turned out to be a wonderful man, although her daughter's behavior still bugged her. She was always proud of him.

"That's right. I can prove it. Everything's okay. Now scoot, both of you! I'm good here." Knowing that Leena didn't like kitchen chores, Kevin booted his mom and Leena out of there so he could work on cleaning up.

"Leena, let's go. Since he wants to do all the work, let him. That doesn't happen every day, believe me." Kevin seemed to be quite familiar with the work, so Shannon had no worries there. He'd get that mess cleaned up in typical orderly military fashion. She left the kitchen hand in hand with Leena.

Worried that Kevin might need some help, Leena turned her head to look at Kevin before she left. Sensing what she was thinking, Kevin gave her a comforting smile. Although he didn't like doing chores, especially cleaning up, he liked cleaning the mess Leena made. It made him feel manly. He enjoyed being her rock.

Claire's eyes were filled with disdain when she saw Leena come out of the kitchen with her mom hand in hand. The first thing that came to mind was that Leena was trying everything to please her mom so that she could turn her mom against her and make her life miserable. But Claire didn't think Leena would get what she wanted, because at the end of the day, she was her mom's daughter; no matter how terribly wrong she was, her mom would be on her side.

"Why are you both just sitting there? Come and eat. Aren't you hungry?" Shannon said to Nathan and Claire in a sullen tone. The doting atmosphere in the family had turned Claire into a willful and self-centered girl. Her uncles and aunts spoiled her even more.

Luckily, they didn't live together. Otherwise, Claire would think herself a queen. When Shannon said something, Nathan looked up at everyone, and set the newspaper aside, folding it back up. Not a single word came out of his mouth as he walked towards the table and finally took a seat.

"Have a taste. Leena did all this. It's cold now. Millet porridge will warm you up. It's very sweet." Shannon put a bowl of millet porridge in front of Nathan and then started to fill a second bowl. Leena looked at Nathan nervously, secretly praying that he would like the warm cereal.

"Duh. My brother helped her. She should be as honest as I am. I have never lied about the things I couldn't do, let alone taken credit for other people's work." Claire shot a disdainful look at Leena. She had expected to see how embarrassed she would be in the kitchen. However, all she had gotten was that her brother had ruined her plan and her mom had scolded her in front of Leena. Thinking of this, she made a sour face again in Leena's direction.

"I..." Claire's words humiliated Leena so much she looked at Nathan nervously, worried that he'd hate her for it, but sadly, she couldn't come up with anything to say back. She just stood there, all flushed with embarrassment.

Claire, that's your sister-in-law you're talking about. Show some respect! You are too spoiled. I haven't talked to you about Maud yet. And you're one to talk!" Shannon said sternly, eyes filled with deep disappointment.

"Don't talk with your mouth full," Nathan suddenly put in. Obviously, he couldn't stand Claire being blamed for anything. He seemed so stately and serious to Leena that she was stunned to see how much he indulged Claire.

## **Chapter 997: Chapter 996: A Wonderful Meal (part one)**

"You have spoiled her too much. You always have, and you're still doing it! Look at her. She's too stubborn. She's not nice, she's not polite." Shannon sighed and shook her head helplessly. Her husband was the most responsible for spoiling Claire. As a result, she became willful and arrogant. He always forgave her for whatever she said and did.

From where I'm standing, Claire is a good girl, and makes no mistake. She is a girl, so she is stubborn. As long as she doesn't go too far, it's fine by me." Nathan coughed a bit. Claire was always well-behaved around him. She was usually polite, but meanwhile, she was headstrong. Anyway, she was still young and she would learn better manners as time went by. She was his beloved daughter and she could do no wrong.

"Skip it. I can't expect you to see how she really is. You're a leader of men, you have soldiers at your beck and call. But why can't you see that your own daughter is haughty and rude? Honestly! I don't understand you," said Shannon unhappily and rolled her eyes at Nathan. Claire was this way because he always took her side and defended her

no matter whether she was right or wrong. So even when Shannon tried to teach Claire how to behave, Claire would always run to Nathan and ask for protection. That way, Shannon had no way to deal with her.

"Yes, I'm a leader. But a leader is just an ordinary father at home." Nathan rarely refuted Shannon. He always listened to her, even if he didn't always agree. He just remained silent, and held his tongue. But this time, he fought back. He did it deliberately because Leena was here. He wouldn't have his authority questioned in front of his daughter-in-law. That just wasn't cool. Although he complained that he was just a father at home, he still wanted to be thought of as a leader.

"Oh, yeah, I see! Some father, letting her grow up like that!" Shannon was really upset and annoyed when she heard what he said. She was angry, not because what he replied, but because of his attitude towards Claire.

"Stop it, please. Mom, can't you just drop it? It's Dad's birthday today. Did you forget that?" Claire spoke up to try to calm things down. She was the one they were fighting over. Although she was snobby and stubborn, she still loved her parents a lot. There was no fighting over that.

"Huh! I'll stop it for now. But this is not over. Not by a country mile." Shannon also realized that this was not the time. There would be other, better opportunities to discuss this with Nathan. She decided to let go of it for a while. If Claire hadn't said something, she'd still be at it.

Leena could not feel more awkward in that situation. She didn't think she should get involved in their conversation. Yet it made her look so stupid standing there, doing nothing. She had no idea what to do but look back and forth at Shannon and Nathan as they spoke. It was like she was watching some bizarre game of tennis, following an imaginary ball as it shuttled to and fro.

Leena, why are you still standing there? Take a seat, please! Did we scare you? Don't worry. It happens a lot. You'll get used to it." Shannon smiled at Leena and took her hand to have her sit down. Although Nathan was a powerful leader in the military, he was just a husband and father at home. Shannon was his wife, not his junior officer, so of course she argued with him.

Oh, no, Mom. I'm not scared. It was a bit sweet though," replied Leena. Such a situation would never happen in her home. So even though she was actually a bit concerned, she still felt quite interested in all this as a new member in their family.

"I'm sorry. I forgot your home life." Shannon looked at Leena with caring eyes. She very well knew how Leena might feel because she grew up without her mother around when she saw that kind of scene being played out.

"It doesn't matter. I'll go check if Kevin is done," Leena replied in a sweet tone. She tried to be close with Kevin in front of his family because she did not want them to be suspicious of her. Even though Kevin cared for her and wasn't actually in love, she still could not help herself and fell in love with him. It was her fondest wish that Kevin would return those feelings and fall in love with her too. That was simple, yet difficult.

"You don't need to! Just sit here. I taught my son well." She laughed as she said this. Shannon put a hand on Leena's shoulder to stop her from standing up and going to the kitchen. If she guessed right, Kevin would be done in a few moments. He seemed so confident in the kitchen that he would have no problem. It was a piece of cake for him. The military had changed Kevin for the better.

Mom, how could you allow Kevin to cook? He is a major general! He's not supposed to slave away in the kitchen. What's more, he's married! His wife is supposed to take care of all the kitchen stuff." The nicer Shannon was to Leena, the more hateful Claire was. She just hated it when her mother showed affection for Leena. So she would get every chance to tease or make fun of Leena. She was supposed to be her mother's princess and enjoy all of her parents' love. But why did her mother focus on Leena so much and just ignore Claire? The girl could not feel more jealous.

"So, in your opinion, a major general shouldn't do housework, right? Well if that were true, he'd be helpless and couldn't get married at all," Shannon said and chuckled. Well, yes, there was already a man who did nothing at home; Nathan, her husband and their father. Shannon did not want her son to become another Nathan who treated his family like his army.

"What are you talking about? Get married? Who's getting married?" Kevin walked out of the kitchen, holding the pancake he just made. He asked curiously as he could swear he heard something about marriage. He had no idea that they were talking about him.

"Nobody's getting married. Sit down and finish your breakfast! You can show Leena around after the meal. She's not familiar with this city." Shannon changed the subject quickly. She didn't really want to put her son on the spot.

## **Chapter 998: Chapter 997: A Wonderful Meal (part two)**

"Nobody? Really? So you're not talking about me?" Kevin sat down hesitantly. Now he was onto something. So they were talking about him just now!

We're not talking about you! What? Do you have a persecution complex or something?" Leena pinched Kevin's hand slightly under the table to get him to change the subject. It was an awkward topic for both of them.

I get it. I won't keep asking anymore. Let's eat! After that, I'll show you around so you can see what this city has to offer. It's really beautiful this time of year." Kevin had planned to take her out even if his mother hadn't made the suggestion. He wasn't

around her much after their marriage because he was either in the office or gone for training. Now they had the time. He was on vacation, and of course wanted to spend more time with her to develop a deeper bond. And there was nothing like a little sightseeing to do just that.

"Pfftt! Mr. Good Husband will do whatever his wife says," Claire sneered. The more Kevin acted tenderly with his wife, the more uncomfortable Claire became. She was the real princess in this family, not Leena! But now there was nobody else in her brother's eyes except Leena.

"Claire, focus on your breakfast, please. Why are you always so rude?" Shannon shot a stare at Claire. How impolite she was! Kevin and Leena were a couple and they were close to each other. But why did Claire always try to get in between them?

"I get it, Mom. I was just talking out of my butt. I didn't mean it. You're being unfair. You constantly get on to me for every little thing. Why don't you concentrate on Kevin? He hasn't been home long. Enjoy it!" Claire pursed her lips unhappily. She felt that her mother was constantly harping on her, all because of Leena. That was not fair.

"I don't need to worry about Kevin. He does well enough on his own. And he's polite. But you? You don't listen to me at all no matter how many times I tell you." Shannon felt like giving up on her daughter. It seemed like all of this was in vain if there was only one person trying to teach Claire manners while her father defended her.

"Anyway, you're constantly on my back. Why are you always bitching at me?" Claire shouted. She stared straight at Leena as she said this. Yes, this woman was the reason why she was unpopular in this family all of a sudden. Claire wished desperately that Leena would just disappear.

"If you behaved yourself, there wouldn't be any reason for me to get onto you." Shannon cast a sidelong look at Claire. She did not want to scold Claire either. It was just that what Claire did and said were really impolite and offensive in her eyes. Shannon was really unhappy with the way her daughter acted.

"Mom, no one's perfect, okay? That includes me," Claire lowered her head and murmured. Obviously, her voice was not as loud as it was before. She did not want to be harangued by her mother again.

"This is a wonderful meal, Leena. Did you make all the dishes?" Shannon could tell right from wrong. If someone acted nicely, she would be lavish with her praise. If someone acted poorly, she would jump on them and tell them how wrong they were. She did what any rational person would do.

"Yes! I'm glad you like them. I was afraid they wouldn't taste very good." Leena smiled shyly and took a look at Nathan anxiously to check whether he showed any dissatisfaction. She did not want to leave a bad impression on him.

"They were really good. You are so young but you can cook. That's rare nowadays," Shannon sighed. Leena was indeed a good example, whether as a wife or a daughter-in-law. Shannon couldn't help feeling disappointed and frustrated when she thought of Claire. She and Nathan did not teach their daughter well so that she became such a pigheaded girl now.

"That's why I married her!" Obviously, Kevin was just teasing. He had a grin on his face that told you that. However, different people had different interpretations. Claire gloated at his words while Leena got her feelings hurt. He married her because of her cooking? She could not help feeling sad and bitter because of it. Were there no more feelings in Kevin's heart for her? Poor Leena. She was stuck again.

Leena felt extremely uncomfortable the whole morning after they finished breakfast. So she did not go upstairs to return to her room. Instead, she went to the garden outside alone to take a walk. It was a small garden compared with the one in Leng House. Yet it was big enough to walk around in.

She raised her eyes to look past the garden at the grass and small trees. She felt much better at the sight of the lively scene. She didn't expect to see such a place full of natural green here. It refreshed her a bit.

"Leena, there's a car in the garage. Did you drive it back here?" Claire asked in an arrogant tone. She was dressed in some trendy threads. She must be ready to go out.

"You mean the Quattro?" Leena replied, after pausing for a second. She decided not to pay any attention to Claire's attitude towards her.

"Yes, the Quattro. Where is the key?" Still, Claire kept her arrogant airs. In her eyes, that car must be Kevin's car.

"I don't have the key. Check with Lee. He might have it. Or Kevin. I'm not sure," Leena answered honestly. She had no clue where the key was. She just walked into the house as soon as they got out yesterday. As for who pocketed the key, she did not know.

"Why do you know nothing at all? Well, forget it, I'll go and find him myself." Claire rolled her eyes at Leena and then looked askance at her. But soon, she concluded that it was understandable that Leena knew nothing about a key. Anyway, the car was not hers. Claire thought so.

"What are you looking for? Leena, are you done? Let's go!" Kevin had no time to take a shower because he went to the kitchen to prepare the breakfast as soon as he finished his morning exercise. So he was cleaning himself off just now after they finished the breakfast. He went downstairs as soon as he was finished.

"Really? We're going out?" Leena asked, confused at Kevin's suggestion. It wasn't really appropriate, right? Wasn't it his dad's birthday today? There must be tons of things to be prepared later. As the daughter-in-law, it wasn't right for her to go out.

Yes, it's Dad's birthday today! But we can still go out, as long as we come back around noon or so." Kevin very well knew why Leena was puzzled and what she was worried about. So he explained to her carefully.

## **Chapter 999: Chapter 998: A Wonderful Meal (part three)**

"Yeah! Okay! I'll go upstairs to get my bag." Leena said and tried to turn around to go upstairs. Unexpectedly, Kevin grasped her wrist to stop her.

Hey, you don't need to. I have enough money, no matter what you want to buy," Kevin promised decisively. How could he allow his wife to spend her own money? No way! He was the husband and she was supposed to spend his money. They were a couple. Otherwise, he would feel kind of useless. If a man could not buy his wife nice things, what good was him?

But what about my phone? I left it in the bag." Leena had no problem if he insisted on spending his own money. She considered it to be natural and reasonable because she was his wife. A wife had the right to spend her husband's money as long as he did not object to it. She really didn't need his money before -- she had her own. She didn't care much about money.

Don't worry! I have it here. Here you go!" Kevin said and handed her the phone. He also helped Leena with her coat, slipping it gracefully onto her shoulders once she had her arms in the sleeves. He felt like a god. That was his purpose! He had anticipated everything Leena might need and reacted accordingly. This way, she had no excuse to get her purse anymore.

"Come on, Kevin. You don't say hi to your sis anymore? I've been here this whole time and you didn't even look at me. Am I invisible or something?" Claire complained unhappily. When she saw her brother give Leena so much tender loving care, she was about to go ballistic.

"Why are you still here? I saw you march off in a hurry." Kevin stared at her, confused. He thought she had left.

"Glad you noticed. At least I know I'm not invisible now. I'm going out now, so could you hand me the key?" Claire decided not to continue harassing him as long as he gave the key to her.

Don't you know where your key is? That's your car, not mine. I don't have your key." Kevin stared at her angrily. She was really a careless girl who always lost things. Now she lost her key and even tried to get him to find it. Why would he know where her key was?

I mean your key! The one to the Quattro. Can I drive it for a while? Please!" Claire said and reached her hand out. Her car was a VW. How could a normal VW and a Quattro S1 be mentioned in the same breath?

"Take your own car! We're going out. We need the car." Kevin shot down her proposal without thinking twice. That Audi was not his car after all. Even if it were his car, he would not allow her to show it off everywhere.

"Fine, I didn't want to drive anyway. Can I go out with you?" Claire asked tentatively. If they were going shopping, she could probably get Kevin to buy that dress she had wanted for a long time. She saw nothing wrong with this.

"No. You're just going to be a third wheel if you go out with us." Again, Kevin refused her suggestion outright. This was supposed to be their time alone, just him and Leena. He had been waiting a long time for this and did not want Claire to disrupt them.

"Kevin, please! Let me in! Please!" Claire begged. She took Kevin's arm and started tugging on it.

"Well, let her in!" Although Leena really wanted to be alone with Kevin, whether shopping or wandering the streets to explore the area, she didn't have the heart to turn down Claire. Why not let her in? This was Kevin's sister. She asked so pitifully that it hit Leena in the heart, exactly as Claire hoped it would.

"Are you sure about this?" Kevin frowned a bit. He had never imagined that Leena would agree with Claire's proposal. In his opinion, his wife should just ignore his headstrong and annoying little sister.

"It's nothing. We're just going for a drive, maybe stop and walk around, right? It won't hurt anything if she joins us, I think," said Leena considerately. She was trying to be a mature woman. That way, she would be qualified to be the daughter-in-law of the Gu family.

"You see, Kevin? Leena said yes! So please let me in, bro!" begged Claire in a poor tone. Claire never showed Leena any respect, ever. However, at least this time she didn't roll her eyes at her because Leena agreed to take her.

Well, then, let's go! I really can't stand you anymore. Why do you have to follow us around no matter where we are?" Kevin had no choice but to allow her to go out with them. She was his sister, after all, and he was not heartless enough to say no to her over and over again since she begged him so badly.

"Yeah! I knew it! You are always so nice to me, Kevin! But -- can I drive?" So now the truth came out. It turned out that going out with them was just an excuse. She wanted to drive that car. The Audi was her goal the whole time!

"You? Not even. Did you get the driver license legally? Or did you just buy a fake one somewhere?" Kevin smiled with a teasing expression and made fun of her. He wanted to see her squirm.

A fake driver license? Really, Kevin? I tried so hard to get this. It's not fake! I've been driving for 2 years. Don't you trust me?" Claire panted with rage while she stuck up for herself. Still, she gritted her teeth to hold her anger in because she didn't want to start a fight. She might lose the chance to sit in the driver's seat of that amazingly nice car!

"All right. I'll trust you just this once. So be careful. Our lives are in your hands," Kevin said and tossed the key to Claire. He knew the real reason why she insisted on going out with them. That Pikes Peak, Leena's new car, caught her attention. Well, well. It seemed that Claire was not only a stubborn girl but also a vain girl. Otherwise, she would not have offered to drive. Everything she did was in order to get behind the wheel of that car, and show off to everyone.

## **Chapter 1000: Chapter 999: The LN FASHION (part one)**

"Don't worry, just believe me when I say I'm a good driver," answered Claire proudly. She caught the key and dashed to the garage, beaming with delight.

"Let's go, babe," said Kevin, reaching out his hand. He waited for Leena to put her small hand in his, only to find that she walked past him without even looking at him. Kevin was stunned by her reaction -- he didn't expect her to turn her back on him. The surprise made him freeze and gape at the petite figure as she walked away. It was not until then that he realized that she had been distant from him recently. He tried hard but couldn't figure out the reason.

Though Leena appeared to be calm and comfortable ignoring Kevin, she felt no better than he did. But she steeled her nerve, and did it. She was afraid that she'd get too used to his tenderness until she couldn't live without it. The more she was in love, the harder it would be to let him go. That was what she was doing, trying her best to protect herself.

Hurry up, you two. What's taking you so long?" asked Claire impatiently. She had already taken her place in the driver's seat and could hardly wait to try out the new car.

"Coming," replied Leena with a smile. No matter how much Claire disliked Leena, Leena would smile brightly as a reaction. She did it not only out of politeness, but also out of

habit formed from years of education. But Claire wasn't buying it. She rolled her eyes with a sneer as a response.

"What's all the hurry?" Kevin said to Claire while he caught up with Leena. "Easy does it, Claire. The car's brand-new -- drive carefully," he added. Making sure Leena was comfortably seated in the back of the car, Kevin quickly chose a spot beside her. But he paid close attention to Claire's each and every move at the same time, and kept reminding her to be careful. After all, the car was a wedding gift for Leena given to her by her brother Duke. It must mean a lot to her, and was too precious to be damaged. And while there were a lot of words that could be used to describe Claire, reliable was not one of them.

"Alright, alright. Stop nagging me like an old woman. I don't need a backseat driver, bro," exclaimed Claire with a grimace, scarcely able to hide her impatience. She found it incredible that Kevin could be such a weenie. If they weren't brother and sister, she'd have found it impossible that he was a major general.

"Pipe down, troublemaker. I'm just making sure that we're all safe, including you. Now, if you're done arguing, just start the car," said Kevin a bit harshly, and you could see both annoyance and melancholy on his handsome face, which were caused mainly by Leena's sudden cold attitude towards him. He thought maybe things had gotten better. She was more comfortable around him, and they even made love recently. So why wasn't she happy? Why had their relationship taken a turn for the worse? Now he could sense the same kind of estrangement between them as he felt when they first met. No sparks, no nothing. It felt as though they were back where they started. Or even before that.

"No problem, I'll be careful. So, wanna swap cars? asked Claire with a flattering smile while looking back over her shoulder. She was working on a plan to make the car hers.

"Well... sorry, not this car," Leena answered hastily, fearing that Kevin might say yes. She would agree if Claire meant her Ferrari. But since this car was a present from Mr. Cold, she had to cherish it.

"Did I ask you? No, I didn't. I was asking my brother," said Claire coldly, and her mouth twitched. She hated it when Leena meddled in their affairs. It irritated her more when Leena tried to prevent her from having the car. 'It is my brother's car, not yours!' she thought to herself, 'when will you learn to keep your meddling mouth shut?' "I say no too. Your car still works well, why would you change it out?" Kevin echoed. He might have actually given in if she wanted his car. But he wouldn't give her this one! It wasn't even his to give -- it was Leena's.

"Come on, you are so stingy," Claire complained, pouting in disappointment. She now blamed Leena for all of this, thinking that Kevin said no because Leena made him. Why did she have to be so mean? Claire was thinking of a trade, she didn't want something

for nothing! And above all, she was Kevin's sister, his only sister. He should give her whatever she wanted if he could.

"I'm sorry! If you really want a new car, I can buy one for you soon," Leena suggested. She hadn't the heart to let Claire down, and offered to buy another one for her. After all, she was easily able to afford a car.

"Save it. I'll have to wait forever if I depend on you. I might as well get one myself. And just stop bragging, liar! You can't buy me a new car. No one has that kind of cash laying around!" scoffed Claire contemptuously. Not for a moment did she believe that Leena could swing such an expensive item.

"Watch your mouth, Claire! She's your sister-in-law. You need to respect her anyway. Now I want you to apologize," snapped Kevin. He shouldn't have indulged her so much, he thought. It was all his fault that she became way too snooty, and kept talking to Leena with biting sarcasm, time and again.

I am sorry. I was only shooting from the hip," Claire said with resignation. Not wanting Kevin to get angry, she made the half-hearted apology merely to cool him down. Otherwise, it would be impossible for her to use polite words around Leena, let alone apologize to her.

"Mind your manners from now on, Claire. You are a girl, you can't be so rude," said Kevin sternly, and his face darkened with displeasure. Like their mother, he was now rather disappointed in Claire, but felt that he couldn't do anything about her. 'Man, she really is a piece of work,' he thought. It seemed that the education she received these years had failed to teach her basic manners. Where could they have gone wrong?

"Okay, I know I have a problem. I'll change, happy?" answered Claire, who was pulling a long face. Being a fearless and spoiled person from her childhood, Claire had only regarded Kevin with reverence, for he was the only person who never coddled her.

"It's alright, Kevin. She's still young, just don't take it personally," comforted Leena. She meant to mediate in the quarrel between them, hoping that Kevin could be less strict with his sister. She had nothing against Claire personally, but her words were almost an insult to Claire, for she thought that Leena was showing off her sense of superiority by putting her down.