

KINDA SWEET 651

Chapter 651 An Unpleasant Argument

Chad Nixon lapsed into silence. He didn't talk to his angry wife anymore.

He no longer persuaded her to eat, but looked away from her and kept eating.

However, his complete silence infuriated Christine even more.

She lunged at him and swept all the food on the floor with her hand.

All the plates on the table were smashed.

Chad's clothes were splashed with greasy oil.

He paused for a moment, then his face darkened.

He looked calmly at Christine, who was flushed with anger, saying in a low voice, "What do you want?"

Christine snapped, "eating is all you can do? Can you do something more useful?"

Chad's frown deepened, feeling that his wife was getting more and more irrational.

He rubbed his eyebrows warily and bit back his anger. "Christine, I don't wanna pick a fight with you."

Christine froze.

A sort of undefined grievance and sorrow struck through her, bringing tears to her eyes.

She sneered, "Of course, you don't. You don't even bother to talk to me. You don't love me at all, do

you? I guess I can't count on you at the end of the day! You still want to have dinner? Fine! Let them

clean up the mess and cook for you again! And I'll leave you alone! GOODBYE!"

Then she left.

Tears fell from her eyes as she turned around.

Chad frowned as his wife walked away disappointed. "Who pissed her off?"

He thought for a moment, frowning. Then he asked the servants to clean up the dining room and he left the house.

Outside, he called his assistant with his cell phone.

"Bedell, find out where Mrs. Nixon went and who she met today. I want every little detail."

His assistant immediately sprang into action.

And beyond that, Christine's schedule today had been monotonous.

So it was easy to find out what she did.

Chad frowned deeply when he heard his assistant's report.

Laura Davis...

Max's wife?

She met Christine?

He sighed with profound resignation, seeming to think of something.

Even an upright official found it hard to settle a family quarrel. Although he was the chairman of the

Nixon Group, he was not good at handling household affairs at all.

Now that he knew the whole story, he couldn't shut his eyes to the problems.

Then he made a phone call to Max.

"Max, come home for dinner this weekend with your wife. You're married now. You should introduce

your wife to the family. I'll see you then."

...

So on the weekend, Max took Laura to the Nixon's mansion.

They were not allowed to come home according to the deal he made with his mother.

But Chad personally invited them over and promised over the phone that everything would be OK, Max

then agreed, thinking that it would indeed be disrespectful not to visit his parents with Laura now that

they were married.

Max also asked Laura's opinions in advance.

She thought it was no big deal. She could go, or not. She didn't seem to care.

She decided not to please her in-laws or try to gain their recognition. Instead, she would just be herself.

After all, she couldn't make every one like her.

Her marriage was between her and Max.

Certainly, she would be happy if people were willing to accept and wish them happiness.

But if she couldn't get Christine's approval no matter what she did, she wouldn't bother to keep trying.

Her mother raised her better than this. She would not do something so degrading just to please

anyone.

So they went home that afternoon with some gifts.

Laura prepared those gifts. Although she was not trying to please Christine, it was her first visit to

Max's parents and it would be rude to see them empty-handed.

Chad had told Christine in advance about this.

Chad had a relatively high EQ, or he couldn't have been so successful on business.

He told his wife that he hadn't seen Max in a long time, so he asked him to come home for dinner.

Since he was married now, and Christine approved it, he should bring his wife with him.

And Chad could tell Christine also missed Max, and she just refused to admit it.

Now she could finally see her son.

As for Laura, Christine could turn a blind eye to her.

He hoped that she would never lose her temper at the dinner table.

He didn't want to embarrass his son or spoil the occasion.

So Christine agreed.

She didn't greet her when Laura came in, but she didn't pull a long face or try to embarrass her.

Laura and Max all breathed a sigh of relief.

Rowan happened to be there. When she saw Laura, her face lit up with joy.

But she didn't say hello to Laura in front of Christine.

She just smiled at Laura in the distance.

Laura knew Rowan and she thought Rowan was a lovely girl the last time she saw her at the coffee shop.

But at that time, she didn't know who Rowan was. Only later did she hear from Max that the girl was

Christine's niece.

Laura said to Chad with a smile, "Mr. Nixon, nice to meet you. We picked out a few things and thought they might come in handy."

Chad laughed and told the servants to put those things away. "You guys are married now. Why are you still calling me Mr. Nixon?"

However, hearing his words, Christine gave him an icy glare.

And obviously, everyone noticed it.

Chad was a little awkward.

Laura kept an impeccable manner and smiled, "I'll call you whatever you want me to, but what it really matters is that we're family now."

Chad had to take her words as an out and smiled, "Right. You've got a point."

The servants also heard that Max was bringing his wife back home.

But they didn't expect it to be Laura Davis.

After all, Chad Nixon didn't watch TV so much, but they did.

They were overjoyed to see a big TV star in the house.

Chapter 652 You Deserve to Be Loved

They had the feeling that a dream came true.

Christine was the only one upset to see Laura, the servants were super excited at Laura's arrival and

there was a joyful atmosphere in the house.

Flowers in the vase were replaced with fresh new ones.

The floor was extra clean.

And they made a feast for their big guest.

The cook made the food taste better with her own secret ingredients.

Christine was unconscious of these changes, but Laura did.

When she and Max went to the garden, a young maid shyly asked for her autograph.

Because she was young, clean, and practical, Christine always kept her by her side.

She was responsible for some lighter tasks every day, such as cleaning Christine's room and

organizing her cloakroom.

Laura looked at her and gave her the autograph.

Then she asked, "Don't you all hate me?"

The young maid paused at her words and immediately shook her head.

"Of course not, we all like you very much. I've seen every TV show you've ever been on. And you look stunning on TV."

Laura couldn't help but laugh outright.

"So I'm not stunning in real life?"

Hearing Laura's words, the young maid shook her head for fear that Laura would misunderstand her.

"No, you even look prettier in real life. It's true!"

The young maid nodded vigorously for fear that Laura wouldn't believe her words.

Laura made a joke, but she took it seriously. So she gave a chuckle of delight.

"Well, I was kidding! Thank you for your support."

Relieved, she left happily with Laura Davies's autograph.

Seeing this, Max felt a little jealous.

"Look, before you came, I was the center of their attention. Now, everything's changed. They like you

more than me.”

Laura raised her eyebrows and snorted, “Yeah! If I were not so likable, how would you, a playboy,

marry me out of love?”

Max grinned wickedly, “Yes, you are right. No one can resist my pretty wife’s charm.

While they were goofing around, Rowan came.

“Max! Laura!”

When they turned around, they saw Rowan standing behind them.

Laura blushed at the thought of what she just said.

“Rowan, right? Why are you here?”

Rowan smiled and scratched her hair awkwardly.

She looked at Laura with a smile, “I heard you were here with Max, so I came.”

Then she paused for a moment and continued, “Laura, I love seeing you on TV! Can you take a picture

with me and give me an autograph.”

Laura was stunned.

She never thought this would happen.

Then she looked at Max in surprise.

“Of course,” said Laura.

Seeing this, Rowan excitedly took out her cell phone and asked Max to take a picture of them.

Then she took out a stack of photos from her pocket for Laura to sign.

Laura was even more surprised looking at those photos.

But at the same time, Rowan’s actions made her feel warm in her heart.

When she was signing those photos, Rowan whispered something in her ear. “Laura, my classmates

all like you. Can you sign some more for them?”

Laura agreed without hesitation.

Finally, Rowan held a stack of autographed photos happily and said, “I’ll get out of your hair now! Just

have fun!”

Laura nodded with a smile. However, after a short pause, Rowan said with her eyes narrowed, “Laura,

don’t take my aunt’s words to heart. We all like you, and we never believe those rumors online.”

Laura froze, and she didn’t expect Rowan to say this out of the blue.

She was touched with mixed feelings.

She nodded hard and said, "Well, I see. Thank you, guys."

Rowan gave her a big smile and left.

After Rowan had left, Max walked up to Laura and took her in his arms.

Seeing her red rims, his eyes darkened.

"Are you touched?"

Laura wiped her eyes and smiled sheepishly. "I'm not. There's something in my eye."

Max said after a moment of silence, "Laura, you deserve to be liked. So don't be confused and just

accept the fact that you're lovable."

Laura was surprised.

He was so smart!

He could catch every nuance on her face.

Or maybe he knew her too well.

He could read her mind even if she didn't say or do anything.

They hugged each other quietly for a long while.

Suddenly, someone gave a little cough and interrupted them.

They looked up and saw Chad standing not far away smiling at them.

Laura blushed.

“Mr. Nixon.”

Laura greeted him and let go of Max right away.

Chad smiled, “don’t be shy. We’ve all been there.”

However, his words made her more embarrassed.

Max rolled his eyes at his father. Then he took Laura in his arms and walked over.

“Dad, what’s wrong?”

Chad smiled, “Time for dinner. We’ve been waiting for you. Hurry up.”

Then he looked at Laura.

Chad deserved to be a knockout in the business circle. He detected sadness on Laura’s face with a glance.

He sighed in silence and said with a smile, “Miss. Davis, I haven’t seen your play, but I know that you’re

famous. I want to tell you, to live in this world, you must follow your heart. Don't be obsessed by what others might say."

Laura looked at Chad in mild surprise.

Chad possessed a mild and benevolent smile, which reminded Laura of her birth father.

He smiled, "your father and I had a long-standing friendship. He had done a lot for the Nixon family."

Chapter 653 It's My Duty to Serve You

"If he hadn't been desperate to protect my father, he might not have been able to survive the war and live in the south now. And you're his daughter. I like you already."

Laura finally caught on that Chad was trying to rebuild her confidence.

She forced a smile and lowered her head slightly, "I see."

Chad looked at her and sighed.

"After all, she has lost her father, so she has to keep a low profile, even when she's proud."

"She can't always have her own way without a powerful backing, or she's likely to lose everything."

He didn't say much, but led them toward the dining room.

At the moment, the servants had prepared a sumptuous dinner.

Though Christine didn't like Laura, she didn't want to ruin the good vibe.

So she was teaching the servants how to set the table nicely.

It was only when they came in that she gave Laura a quick look. Then she made a faint smile.

"Miss Davis, if you don't mind, come sit on my side."

Her words surprised everyone.

The dining table was a long marble table.

Christine and Chad were sitting on each side of the table face to face.

Max was sitting next to his father.

And as Max's wife, Laura should be sitting next to Max.

Now Christine asked Laura to sit with her, but her niece, Rowan was sitting right next to her.

Laura would have to sit next to Rowan, the farthest seat to the center of the table.

Everyone's face was changed.

Unconsciously, Rowan stood up and said, "Laura, come here..."

She was interrupted by Christine before she finished her sentence.

Christine looked up and glared at Rowan, "What are you doing? Come sit with me before you go back to Pratu in a couple of days."

Then she looked at Laura with a smile. "I heard you are a considerate woman. When your mother was in Eqitin, she was good at serving people."

"Oh, right. Your mother took care of me after I gave birth to Max. Rowan isn't here very often, and she's just a child. Would you mind sitting next to her and giving her some help?"

Laura's face darkened.

She clenched her fists under the table.

Everybody knew that Christine tried to make Laura a babysitter.

Perhaps even if she had done what Christine wanted, she would still give Laura a hard time.

And now Christine even mentioned Laura's mother.

Christine's words made everyone know that she looked down upon the Davies family. She compared Laura to a servant and thought Max deserved a better wife obviously.

Laura was trembling with anger.

Just then there was a crack.

Max threw his fork down on the table.

Chad frowned, noticing Max's anger. He said to him, "Max, calm down."

A mocking laugh was Max's answer.

Instead of looking at Christine, he asked Rowan with great seriousness, "You still need help while you eat?"

Startled by Max's sudden question, Rowan shook her head.

"Of course not."

Then Max turned to Christine, "Mom, do you?"

Christine froze.

She saw through Max's love for Laura and smiled faintly.

"Well, I can do what I want in my own house."

Max suddenly said with irony,

"Fine. I'm your son. I should be the one to help you, right? Of course, you did this for me when I was little. Now it's my chance to do the same for you."

Then he actually walked over.

He said to Rowan, who was still in a trance. "Rowan, sit next to Laura, I'm gonna sit here."

Rowan stood up, looking at Laura and then Chad.

Finally, she picked up her tableware and sat on Max's seat.

So Christine's plan failed.

Her face was dark with rage.

Max acted like nothing ever happened and served Christine some food on her plate with a smile.

"Mom, try this! It is said that women would have tender skin eating this."

Christine thought, she should deal Laura a head-on blow and let her know it was not so easy to be part of the family.

Laura didn't come here at will.

However, Christine didn't expect that her elaborate plan was spoiled by her son.

She was upset and not in the mood for food.

She put down her fork, she said in anger, "Go ahead and enjoy your meal! I've had enough!"

She got up, shot Laura an icy glance, and walked away.

Chad frowned.

On the contrary, Max made light of the fact that his mother left the table in anger.

However, Rowan was a little worried.

She looked at Max and whispered apprehensively, "Max, she..."

"Leave her alone," Max said tonelessly.

He put the food that Christine didn't eat on her plate and ate it. Then said to Rowan as he ladled a bowl

of soup for Laura. "Rowan, the kinder you're, the more people would like you. Don't learn from your

aunt. Mean and petty..."

A sudden interruption stopped Max in mid-sentence.

"Max!" Chad thundered.

Max put the soup bowl in front of Laura and looked at his father, lips tight shut.

Chad's expression grew solemn. He frowned and looked at Max disapprovingly. "She's your mother!

How can you think of her like that?"

Max grinned.

"It's because she's my mother so that I would tell the truth."

"You!"

Laura said suddenly, "Mr. Nixon"

She stood up and looked at Chad without flinching, "I'm the reason for this. I thought she'd accept me after some time."

Chapter 654 Helpless

"I didn't know until I came here today that prejudice is deeply ingrained and it's hard to get rid of for some people."

She paused for a moment. Suddenly she raised her glass and solemnly said to Chad, "Well, I guess I don't have to try harder. Thank you for saying those nice things about my father. I'm sure he'll be happy to hear that. As for the other things, well... Time will tell."

Then she finished her wine in one gulp.

Chad's frown deepened.

Finally, he sighed deeply.

He also took the glass in front of him and drank it up.

Then he raved, "I know, you're a good person. Christine...she..."

A mixed feeling came into his eyes as if he had just remembered something. Then he shook his head and said.

“Well, forget it. Enjoy yourselves. I should go check on her. “

Then he got up and leave the table.

The good vibe was ruined. Everyone was in no mood to eat anymore.

Max felt a little regretful that he had listened to Chad’s words and brought Laura here. He thought

Laura was shabbily treated today.

He knew Laura said that was not only because of the embarrassment his mother brought her,

but also the mentioning of her mother.

Nothing was more intolerable for children than to see their parents being insulted.

Although what Christine had said today didn’t come straight to the point,

everyone could feel the repugnance and contempt she expressed for Laura’s family.

No dignified person would be able to put up with words and attitudes like that.

After eating in silence, they all left.

Instead of staying at home much longer, Max left with Laura.

On the way home, Max held Laura's hand as he was driving.

They remained speechless at first.

A quiet atmosphere pervaded the car.

Laura rested one of her hands on the window, with her other hand tucked at her chin.

The cold wind of the winter ruffled the hair on her forehead, which made her look stunningly beautiful.

After a while, Max could no longer resist the temptation.

He said lightly, "It's cold at night."

Then he closed the window.

Laura's hands and face were cold because of the wind, but she seemed to enjoy the chilliness.

Because it kept her awake and made her less susceptible to her emotions.

She looked at Max.

"Tell me, why does she hate me?"

It was a doubt which really puzzled her.

Was it because her family was inferior to his? She didn't deserve to marry him?

She was an A-list actress in the entertainment industry through her own efforts.

Her value, income, or influence was very considerable.

Even if she was not as good as those ladies from rich families, she was definitely qualified to marry

Max.

After all, she was only 23.

The future was a long way off. As long as she worked hard, her future would be beyond measure.

Why did Christine hate her? Why didn't she even give her a chance?

Hearing her words, Max fell silent.

In fact, he was confused, too.

Christine's malice towards her seemed to spring from nothing.

Suddenly, he realized something, frowning.

Then he said to her, "Everyone has their own preferences, and we don't need to change ourselves for others."

He paused for a moment, "I don't care what she thinks as long as we're happy," he continued.

Laura looked at him quietly and noticed his furrowed brows.

She smiled, "but I'm gonna put you in a tough spot."

Max's eyebrows raised.

Laura smiled again with a tinge of bitterness.

She turned her head and stared ahead. However, her wandering and aimless gaze were not fixed in one place.

"I always thought that if I worked hard, I could win everyone's respect. But I now know it's impossible.

Max, if your mother forces you to make a choice between me and her or your family one day, I won't blame you if you don't choose me. Really. I won't."

As soon as she finished, Max's face darkened.

He held her hand and said in an emphatic tone, "It will never happen. I won't allow it to happen."

Laura could feel the seriousness in his eyes. She said after a few seconds of silence, "OK. I trust you."

Before long, they arrived home.

They got out of the car and walked home hand in hand.

The servants had prepared some hot tea for them. After they had warmed up, they went upstairs to

rest.

Mrs. Davies kept an early hour. It was ten and she had already gone to bed.

Laura rubbed her sore shoulders and asked suddenly, "The New Year is half a month away, right?"

Max thought about it and then looked at the date on his phone, realizing it was true.

He came over smiling, sat down with her in his arms, on his lap.

Then he asked, "How would you like to spend the New Year?"

Laura thought about it, then shook her head.

Max smiled and touched her nose tightly with his finger.

"Anyway, Mrs. Davies is here. Let's go travel then?"

Laura's eyes brightened.

"Really!?"

However, Laura thought of something all at once and her mood darkened.

"Don't you need to be with your parents?"

Max shook his head.

He held Laura's hand and said, "my brother will stay with them."

Right, they would be accompanied by Kevin Nixon. Even if Max were not at home, they still had Kevin.

The difference was, he meant everything to Laura.

She would be lonely and upset without him.

Laura knew what he was thinking and felt really warm and moved. Then she threw her arms around his

neck and kissed him on the cheek.

"Thank you."

Max smiled.

"Is that it?" He raised a brow. "You should try harder."

Laura asked in bewilderment, "What do you mean?"

Max said primly, "Laura, I've never heard you call me honey since we were married."

Chapter 655 Received Her Thanks

His words made her blush.

She was so flustered, not knowing what to say.

Max continued, "Come on. I will take it as a token of your gratitude."

Max, after a great deal of coaxing, made Laura's heart beat faster.

She was a little shy, "It's a bit awkward..."

Before Laura had finished her last sentence, Max called, "honey!"

Laura was speechless.

Max looked at her with his puppy eyes, "look, I did it easily. Tell me, don't you love me? Or are you in

love with someone else?"

He tickled her as he spoke.

He didn't know Laura was ticklish.

As soon as he touched her, she started giggling.

She laughed and tried to disengage herself from his arms. However, she was held so tight that she

could not escape.

Max grinned impishly, "Call me honey, come on!"

Laura, "hahaha...please stop it... itchy...hahaha..."

She was almost crying, but Max did not let her go.

Max went on tickling her., "You know how to make me stop! Come on!"

Laura had no choice but to beg for mercy.

“Okay...okay...I’ll do that. Stop it, please....hahaha...”

Max stopped immediately.

Laura wiped her tears and wanted to laugh and weep all at once.

“What are you doing? How can you force me?”

Max snorted without the slightest feeling that he had done anything wrong.

“Don’t blame me, it’s not my fault. Honey, I have my own pride, but you frustrate me. Just call me

honey, and I’ll be pleased.”

His words were too sweet, which made Laura can’t help but shiver.

She gave a light cough and said quite seriously, “Now it’s not a good time. I can’t do it, it’s weird just to say it.”

Max’s eyes narrowed thoughtfully at her words.

“So you wanna go somewhere else?”

Laura waved her hand quickly.

“No, I mean...”

She forced a smile, finding her excuse unconvincing. "I mean, we'd better let nature takes its course."

Max gave her a wry smile.

"I doubt it. I want you to do it now."

Laura was speechless.

She didn't know what to do.

She would really like to post a question online if she could.

What if my husband is too needy? He keeps asking me to call him honey, what should I do? I'm waiting
for your help!

However, she didn't stand a chance at that moment.

Finally, under pressure from him, she had to do what he said reluctantly.

"H...Honey."

But her tone was strained as if she were speaking to an enemy.

Cold shivers ran down Max's back.

He said boldly and gulped, "maybe you can soften your tone?"

Laura sneered at him.

“Max, you’re getting far too cheeky!”

Max was speechless.

Did he do anything out of line? He just wants to hear her call him honey.

But he now knew he seemed to have crossed her line.

Though he was a little disappointed, he did not dare to go too far.

So he just gave a regretful smile.

“I...I see it. Well, it’s getting late. Let’s take a bath and rest.”

Laura snorted and said nothing.

She spent the next days at home with her mother and occasionally went out for a walk. They had

visited almost all the scenic spots around Eqitin.

Instead, Max had been busy at work.

It was almost the end of the year so she was very busy. Laura only had a few days off.

Until near the end of the month, her vacation was over and she began to work again.

Soon it would be New Year.

Maria set her up with a gig. She had to show up at a New Year's Eve party, so she couldn't spend the

New Year with her family,

But the good news was that the party would be over before 12. After the performance, she could go

home and count down with her mother.

Mrs. Davies thought it didn't matter whether her daughter was at home or not. Because she was happy

to take this chance to see her daughter perform on TV.

And the venue for the party was at Eqitin, just over half an hour's drive from her home.

As long as Laura drove home in time, she would be able to celebrate the New Year with her mother.

So that night, Max waited outside the venue.

When Laura finished her performance, Max took her home.

On New Year's Eve, it snowed heavily.

The Nixon family's mansion was also bustling.

Christine was unhappy when she learned that Max would not come home for the New Year.

But she was relieved by the thought of her son's temper.

Anyway, she couldn't do anything with her son, and they had nothing to say to each other but to quarrel, so she gave in.

As for Kevin, he was a bit puzzled because he hadn't seen Max.

He had been very busy recently, so he didn't know much about what happened in his family.

At first, he wondered why Max didn't come back. He then learned that Max did it for Laura.

The rest of the Nixon family did not know Laura well. But he knew something about her and Max, so he was familiar with her.

He knew Christine had set her face against their marriage, but he didn't expect things to get this bad.

It reminded him of Ally.

Christine had already met Ally. And Ally didn't come back because she was preoccupied.

Ally's family background was no better than Laura's. But Christine had no prejudice against Ally.

She even expressed sympathy and pity for her.

It showed that his mother was not a snob.

So why on earth did she hate Laura so much?

Kevin texted Max at the thought.

But if Max knew the reason, things wouldn't be like this.

So they found that there was nothing they could do about it.

At the same time, the mood in the McCarthy family was resolutely up.

Oliver was almost 2 years old and he was talking and everything.

He was able to stagger on his own.

Chapter 656 Ease the Tension

The whole family couldn't be happier to see that.

Some time ago, news came from abroad that the murderer who had killed Mr. K was found.

He was from the Zircon Association.

Since the killer was found, that made things easier.

Admittedly, the conflicts of interest between the Dragon Club and the Zircon Association were obvious

in the process of resolving this issue, but both parties made a compromise because they didn't want

the feud to continue anymore. In this case, it was easier to handle this situation.

Besides, Pierre, the head of the Violet Group, had been a great help in the course of solving the

problem.

Therefore, the tension between Natalia and him had relieved a lot.

Now Archie was happy to see that both of them had given up the silent treatment and started to talk to each other again.

After all, Natalia didn't come from a big family.

But sometimes, one needed some emotional support from their family.

For instance, during the holiday season, the more the merrier.

Since the tension between them had been eased, Pierre said he would pay a New Year visit on the McCarthy family, and Natalia didn't turn him down, which meant, she had tacitly acknowledged the relationship between them.

Pierre could clearly feel her change, and he was happy about that.

The New Year's holiday had passed in a lively atmosphere.

Victoria, however, didn't celebrate New Year in Eqitin this year, nor did she go to Othua with Charlie.

Instead, she went back to her family in Julio.

Brandon had almost cut all ties with her because of Charlie before.

Over time, though, the relationship between them had become less tense. After all, they were father

and daughter, and moreover, Joy was growing up day by day.

Now, Joy was two years old.

He was learning to speak, and would call Brandon "grandpa" every time Victoria talked to him on the phone.

Brandon's heart melted as Joy called him.

At first, Brandon pretended he didn't care, but in fact, he was deeply touched.

Later, Joy called him a few more times, and gradually, Brandon softened and began to talk with Joy on the phone.

Little by little, he had grown attached.

James was married, but he never had children, which disappointed Brandon so much because he had always longed for a grandchild.

Finally, he had a sweet grandson now, so how could he not love him?

But just as Brandon got emotionally attached to Joy, Joy suddenly stopped calling him.

He learned from Victoria that Joy had caught a cold recently, and that was why he stopped calling.

Brandon was upset to hear that.

He wanted to go to Eqitin to see Joy, but he was too proud to do so.

After all, he was giving Victoria the silent treatment.

But meanwhile, he was so eager to see his grandson.

To make it easier on Brandon, James came up with an idea.

Since Victoria hadn't come home to celebrate New Year for two years straight, James would come back to Julio with her this year, because he happened to be in Eqitin too.

Hearing that, Brandon said nothing but gave a soft snort, which meant, he gave tacit consent to it.

James couldn't help but laugh. His proud father was just like a kid sometimes.

Fortunately, Victoria was a reasonable person, and she decided immediately to take Joy back to Julio with her while talking on the phone with James.

Charlie, naturally, didn't feel easy about Victoria going back with Joy without him, so he joined them.

James was OK with that.

After all, it had been long since they had got married, and they had always had a solid relationship. As

Victoria's husband, Charlie had to meet Brandon someday.

Therefore, now was the right time for them to meet each other.

They could also use this opportunity to clarify the misunderstanding between them, so that they wouldn't hold grudges against each other in the future.

So, before New Year's Eve, Victoria went back to Julio with Charlie and Joy.

Brandon wasn't hard on them when they got back to Julio.

He was standoffish to Victoria, and one could easily tell he was still angry at her.

Meanwhile, he simply ignored Charlie.

Charlie, nonetheless, couldn't care less, because, in his view, the one he married was Victoria, not her father.

So he didn't care if Brandon paid any attention to him.

The only person Brandon showed affection for was Joy.

As a kid of two, Joy was an adorable baby with chubby cheeks and fair skin.

He looked so cute.

Brandon held and played with him every day, and never put him down.

He was almost in his sixties, but he acted like a kid and played all kinds of childish games with Joy happily.

Victoria was moved by the scene she saw.

However, Brandon remained indifferent to her, and she never had the chance to get close to him or break the ice.

The good thing was, Joy was smart. Maybe he had sensed something was wrong, and he would always drag Victoria along with him while going for Brandon.

Thus, Brandon would have a word with her for the sake of Joy, even if he didn't really want to.

After all, they were father and daughter, and blood is always thicker than water.

Therefore, the tension between Victoria and Brandon had been eased a lot over time.

Furthermore, Brandon could also tell that Victoria had become more sophisticated and steady than she had been two years ago.

Now she was stable and reserved. As a mother, she had also become more thoughtful at the same time.

Victoria had changed a lot.

In fact, Brandon was amazed by her, but he didn't feel comfortable talking about it.

But someone had to be comfortable enough to start a conversation. Since Brandon wasn't that person, it could only be Victoria.

That night, the family just finished dinner. Brandon was going to hang out with Joy in the courtyard.

Suddenly, Victoria said, "Dad, I wanna talk to you."

Brandon paused, threw a look at her, and surprisingly, didn't refuse her.

Instead, he asked with an air of perfect nonchalance, "What do you wanna talk about?"

Victoria compressed her lips and shot a glance at Charlie, who was not far away from them.

His arms crossed, Charlie was lolling back in the chair, his face hard to read.

But he was staring at Victoria in an encouraging way.

Victoria replied in a whisper, "Let's go to the study first."

Brandon went silent, but still didn't refuse her.

He passed Joy to James and then walked ahead to the second floor.

Victoria followed him. Just as she passed by James, he raised his fist at her, making a "cheer-up"

gesture.

She couldn't help but chuckle.

In the study, Brandon started to make tea as he sat down on the couch, saying, "Go

ahead."

Chapter 657 Fatherly Love

Victoria stood there, hesitating.

After a few seconds, she said, "Dad, I haven't been home for two years. How have you been?"

Brandon cast a look at her and replied flatly, "Why do you ask me when you can see how I am now?"

Victoria was lost for words.

If only he didn't have such a short fuse.

It had taken Victoria some time to get mentally prepared before she came to his father to have an in-

depth conversation.

But the warm atmosphere was ruined once Brandon said that.

She heaved a sigh helplessly, upset.

Victoria thought for a moment and sat down on the chair aside.

Apparently, Brandon couldn't care less about the soft stuff, so she decided to talk to him in the same

old way.

With that in mind, Victoria came straight to the point.

She looked into Brandon's eyes and said, "Dad, to be honest, I must marry Charlie. Now Joy is two years old, and it's been two years since we got registered. Can't you change your mind and give your consent to our marriage?"

Brandon snorted as he made some tea for himself.

"You're already married, no matter I give my consent or not. Does my opinion matter to you?"

Victoria was lost for words again.

Maybe Brandon was not in the mood for a conversation. He was easy on the trigger now.

So Victoria decided to give up the fight.

Now she didn't care about Brandon's feelings anymore and cut to the chase.

"You obviously know how much your opinion matters to me, so why bother asking? If I didn't care, I wouldn't have called you so many times to ask for your forgiveness!"

Brandon paused.

It was true that Victoria had often called him during the last two years.

However, Brandon had answered her calls for the sake of Joy, and hardly talked to her.

Therefore, it was impossible for Victoria to fix her relationship with Brandon since he refused to communicate with her.

Victoria had no choice, so she could only choose to talk to Brandon face to face today.

Brandon put down the teacup in his hand and met Victoria's gaze.

It was rare for him to look so seriously at her.

For a moment, Victoria felt as if they came back to her childhood when Brandon sat there and told her off with a straight face.

It had been such a long time since that scene had happened.

When Brandon was giving her the silent treatment, he wouldn't tell her off like this.

He didn't even bother talking to her, not to mention scolding her.

Suddenly, tears misted Victoria's eyes, and she heard Brandon say in a low voice, "Since you care, I'll just spit it out."

Victoria nodded, "Go ahead."

Brandon sounded grim, and Victoria could tell he genuinely meant what he said.

"I disapprove of your marriage because he's from the Stevenson family, and I'm sure you know what they do for a living."

"Victoria, the world is dark and complicated. It's beyond your imagination and you've never experienced it. I hope you won't get involved in those bitter struggles."

"If you stay in Julio, I'm able to support you for the rest of your life, no matter who you marry, or even you never get married. But if you really marry him and go to Othua with him, have you ever thought that..."

"... If you're bullied, or run into danger, or he's mean to you and you regret your choice... What will you do? There's no turning back for you."

"Victoria, marriage is a life event, and I hope you'll think twice before you make a decision, but I'm also aware that what I said doesn't make any difference now."

"Since you've decided to be with him, I have nothing else to say. I only hope you can be happy. I also hope you won't turn to me for help, or regret your choice in the future."

Hearing that, Victoria stood there, stunned.

She was overwhelmed by Brandon's words.

Brandon, nevertheless, remained calm, because it had been a long time since he had wanted to tell her what he thought.

Now he felt relieved to have spoken out freely.

So he went on making tea after finishing his words.

However, Victoria suddenly rushed up to him and took him in her arms at this moment.

She sobbed, "Dad..."

Brandon froze.

How long had it been?

How long had it been since Victoria had last held him like this?

Victoria's mother had passed away a long time ago, and it was Brandon who had worked hard bringing up James and her all these years.

So Victoria had always been the apple of his eye.

He had used to support whatever she did, as long as she was happy and safe.

Even though he thought little of the entertainment industry, he still allowed Victoria to work as an actress because she loved acting.

He invested in entertainment companies and video platforms to support and protect her.

No matter how hard times were, he had kept her from danger.

Meanwhile, Victoria had behaved herself all the time.

Occasionally, she would be naughty and did something outrageous, but she knew where the bottom line lay and would never cross the line.

However, Charlie's appearance changed everything.

Victoria fell in love with a man, who Brandon found hard to understand thoroughly.

Charlie came from a complex and distant world. Brandon had looked into his background before, and found out what he had gone through all these years, and also knew that Charlie was no longer that poor guy who had kept chasing Victoria back then.

But that worried Brandon.

Brandon had gone through numerous hardships and built the Kaur Group from nothing. Only God knew

what he had been through.

So how wouldn't he know what it meant for Victoria to marry Charlie, a bastard of the Stevenson family?

As a father, Brandon didn't like Charlie, nor did he like the power behind him.

True, businessmen were more interested in getting the money, and the business world had its dark side as well, but generally, things worked in obedience to the law here.

But the case was different with the Stevenson family.

As far as Brandon knew, the Stevenson family was into a lot of illegal business in Othua, and the money they had earned was stained with blood. Any upright businessman would find their business too horrible to look at, let alone to get involved in.

Therefore, Brandon was very much against Victoria being with Charlie.

But now, it seemed to be too late for him to tell her about it.

Brandon breathed a sigh as at the thought so.

He reached out and patted gently on Victoria's back, whispering, "I promised you mom before she passed away that I would take good care of you two, especially you."

"But in fact, I failed to live up to my words. I can't change your mind."

Chapter 658 Go back to the South

"Such being the case, I'll just let you do whatever you want. You're an adult now, and you're entitled to make life choices for yourself."

"I only hope you'll remember that, whatever happens in the future, your father and your brother will always support you, you get it?"

Tears streamed down Victoria's cheeks silently.

She buried her head in Brandon's arms, nodding and weeping.

"I get it."

Now Brandon felt a little relieved. He patted Victoria gently on the back to calm her down, as if she was a child.

He said, "Cry it out loud if it makes you feel better."

The two had talked for a long time in the study.

It was after half an hour later that the conversation was over.

Victoria's eyes were still red when she went downstairs, but obviously, she was in a better mood now.

Charlie had been waiting for her downstairs. He greeted her immediately at the sight of her.

"How's it going?"

Charlie grabbed Victoria's hand and pulled her into their room.

Victoria gave a smile and nodded. "Done."

Charlie raised his eyebrows.

Victoria pressed her lips together before she smiled, "Dad loves us. Charlie, don't confront him again.

He..."

As Victoria said that, the two of them had already gone into their room.

Charlie suddenly threw Victoria in his arms as he closed the door.

"He what?"

He dropped his head to kiss her as he spoke.

Panting, Victoria stuttered, "He's getting old, and he has done all this for my own good. Don't..."

Charlie chuckled all of a sudden.

He used his body to push her to the bed as he kissed her.

"Victoria, I never confront him. It's just that he wouldn't let me go. As I said, I don't care about anything,

as long as he doesn't stop us from being together."

Now Victoria was pushed to the bed by Charlie.

Startled, she stretched out her arms subconsciously to push him away, mumbling, "What are you doing,

Charlie..."

Before she could finish her sentence, her lips were sealed by Charlie's.

It was another sleepless night.

Since Victoria still had work to do in the next few days, she wouldn't be staying long in Julio.

Now, the New Year holiday was already over. During the holiday, both Brandon and James were busy

holding or attending parties, and they had no time to keep her company, so Victoria went back to Equin

with Joy and Charlie.

Meanwhile, after the New Year holiday, Maria got Laura another modern urban drama, and Laura was

busy filming now.

She hadn't met Christine recently, so nothing had happened between the two.

At the same time, Fannie was getting better day by day.

During the filming, Laura asked for a day off to take Fannie to St. Peter's Hospital for an overall checkup.

Ordinarily, a family doctor would come to check on Fannie, but Laura still believed that it was better to have the specialist of international reputation in St. Peter's Hospital check on Fannie, and he was also the one doing her surgery back then.

Besides, the specialist wouldn't refuse for the sake of Max.

Moreover, Fannie was his patient, to begin with.

It turned out Fannie was in a good condition now, and she was no different from a healthy person, except that she couldn't get angry or do heavy physical labor.

Laura and Fannie were happy to learn that.

Laura asked the cook to prepare a big dinner for them when they got home.

Fannie, rarely, even cooked in person. She made two appetizers.

Laura had grown up having these dishes. It had been long since she had last had them, and now she felt warm and nostalgic for the old days.

Max was, naturally, struck by the happy atmosphere.

The whole night went by in a cheerful mood.

Max had met some technical problems in the research institute today, but nothing like a happy family dinner to wash the frustration away.

However, just as the whole family was sitting on the couch watching TV after dinner, Fannie suddenly said that she would go back to Julio.

Both Laura and Max were shocked to hear that.

Laura objected at once.

"Mom, why do you wanna go back there all of a sudden? You have no friends or family there. You'll be lonely!"

Fannie, nevertheless, shook her head with a smile.

"I can't stay with you forever. Now you all have your priorities and your own life. I'll be a burden for you if I continue staying here."

As she said that, Laura and Max's faces darkened at the same time.

Laura said with a sullen face, "Mom, stop calling yourself a burden. You're my mom, and you'll never

be a burden to me. You're well now, and you're supposed to live happily with your family at this stage of life, but why must you go back to Julio?"

Max chimed in with her.

"Exactly. Fannie, don't think too much. Just live here in Egitin with us. If you feel lonely or bored at home, I'll introduce you to a few ladies another day so that you can hang out together."

Max meant it. He had to work every day, while Laura was busy filming, so of course, Fannie would feel lonely.

She had no one to talk to, except for the maids.

She also had no friends here, so she had no one to hang out with.

Thinking about this, Max couldn't help but feel guilty.

He blamed himself for not being thoughtful enough, even after they had lived together for so long.

If Fannie left for real this time, Laura would be devastated.

Fannie smiled with relief watching the two being upset.

"You two took me wrong."

She let out a sigh, her lips curving into a gentle and calm smile.

"I'm getting old. Eqitin is in the north part of the country and the temperature is low here, and I'm not used to it. However, I've lived in the south for over ten years, and my body has long gotten used to the weather there. Back then, I was worried about Laura, so I came here with her."

"But now, you two are happy together, and I don't worry about her anymore."

"I don't want to be kept to my daughter's side for the rest of my life. After what I've gone through, I've thought many things through."

"I don't know how many days are left for me, but even if there's only one day left, I'll live it well for myself."

"Now that you guys have tried so hard to snatch me back from the jaws of death, I want to make my life all worthwhile."

The room went silent after Fannie finished her words.

Chapter 659 Have a Baby

Laura never expected that Fannie would say something like this.

Nor had she expected that this was actually what Fannie was thinking about.

She was moved, and had mixed feelings at the same time.

Laura's biological father passed away long ago. It was Fannie who had brought her up all these years.

Fannie had always been so protective and affectionate towards her, so that Laura hadn't suffered even a bit during the most difficult times.

Thus, she was grateful to her mother, but somehow, she had a feeling that her mother's life was constrained by her.

After all, if it weren't for her, Fannie wouldn't have had to marry Diego back then.

Later, Fannie had many chances to get away from Diego. She could have run away to someplace where no one knew her. As long as Diego couldn't find her, her life would have been much better.

But for the sake of Laura, who was a child then, Fannie chose to stay because Laura needed a stable life.

She chose to put up with everything and choke back the tears, not letting everyone know how much she was suffering.

Others might have no idea about it, but how would Laura not know?

She was totally aware that Fannie had made this choice mainly because of her.

So, Laura had guilty conscience all the time. Watching her mother getting old and her hair turning gray,

she knew she was the immediate cause for them.

If possible, Laura wished that her mother could have her own hobbies, interests, life, and a person she would like to spend the rest of her life with.

That was why Laura was both moved and shocked upon hearing Fannie saying so.

She felt as if her dream came true.

Laura reached out to hold Fannie's hand, feeling a lump in her throat.

"Do you mean it, mom? Are you really going to have your own life if you go back to the south?"

Laura was a little worried.

After all, it had been two years since Fannie had come to Eqitin. Would she be able to get used to everything if she went back alone?

Fannie gave a tender smile, raised her hand, and wiped the tears off Laura's face.

She said in a soft voice, "Of course I am, silly girl. I've thought it through before I bring it up. Don't worry about me."

"But you, you're an adult now, and you act like a child anymore. You're blessed to be Max's wife, but I

hope you won't be spoiled. OK?"

Laura curled her lips and muttered, "I'm acting like a child."

Seeing that, Fannie smiled, saying nothing.

Max tried to make her stay. "If you don't like the climate in the north, you can stay in the south during winter, and come back during summer, so that you can enjoy the best climate all year around. Besides, the transportation is well developed now, and it's easy to travel."

Laura heard that and nodded immediately. "Max's right. Mom, spring has arrived, and it'll get warm very soon. You don't need to go back to the south this time of the year."

Fannie looked at them, her eyes full of love.

She patted Laura on the back of her hand gently and smiled, "No matter how good it is here, it has nothing to do with me, silly girl. This is not my hometown."

Both Laura and Max paused upon hearing that.

Now Laura remembered that her mother was originally from the south.

A long time ago during the war, Laura's father, Joris, who was serving in the army, passed by the town

Fannie lived in. The two fell in love at first sight and decided to be together.

Fannie followed Joris to Eqitin after they got married. Later Joris quit his job and the family decided to move away, and the first place that popped into their mind was also the south.

After that, Joris died, and Fannie brought Laura up in the south.

Then, Laura came to Eqitin to find a cure for her mother's heart condition, so Fannie moved to Eqitin again with her.

Having moved around for so many years, Laura found it hard to have a sense of belonging to any city.

She forgot that Fannie was different from her, though.

She had grown up moving around, but her mother had grown up in a stable and loving family.

Fannie had never talked to anyone about her childhood, but that didn't mean she had an unhappy one.

But as one got old, the place they missed the most was their hometown.

Suddenly, Laura seemed to realize why her mother must go back to the south.

Laura was touched. Even though she couldn't help worrying about her mother, if going back to the south could make her happy, there seemed to be no problem.

Laura took Fannie in her arms as she thought so.

She rested her head on Fannie's shoulder and mumbled after a long time, "Mom, I don't want you to leave."

Fannie couldn't help but smile as she heard Laura talking in a girlish tone.

She patted her on the back and smiled, "Silly girl, I'm just moving to the south. It's not like we can no longer see each other. You can visit me whenever you want. Don't be such a baby."

Laura agreed with her.

Although they would be living apart, it was convenient for Laura to fly to her mother.

Laura's face lit up as she thought so.

Now that Fannie had made up her mind, no one could ever make her stay.

So Max could only say something to comfort Laura.

"Fannie is right. If she feels better living in the south, of course, we'll respect her decision. When we miss her, we can visit her together."

Hearing that, Laura suddenly cheered up, let go of Fannie, and stared at her, saying in an injured tone,

"That's it then. I'll come back to see you as often as possible."

Fannie beamed a warm smile at Laura.

"OK. Come back anytime you want. If you're too busy, I'll come to you when you have a baby."

Laura blushed immediately as she heard that.

Max was, however, very happy. He cast a meaningful look at Laura and took her in his arms.

He promised in earnest, "Rest assured, Fannie. I'll work harder."

Now Laura was blushing furiously.

She nudged Max and grumbled, "What are you talking about?"

Of course, she nudged him gently, and it didn't hurt.

Besides, her strength was far from enough to hurt Max.

But in order to make Laura laugh, Max still howled in pain and stared at her in an injured way.

"Fannie says she'll come when we have a baby. What's wrong with that?"

Laura was now simmering with anger.

She threw a hard look at Max.

Chapter 660 Blush like a Girl in Love

"Would you stop?"

Max knew Laura was shy. If he kept pushing, she might get angry for real.

He recovered himself and held her shoulders, smiling, "Alright, I'm teasing you. Let's take our time. As long as Fannie doesn't push us, we'll just go with the flow."

Max threw the question back at Fannie secretly.

Fannie replied with a smile, "It's your business, and I won't step in. But Laura, you're not young now. If you want a baby, have one as soon as possible. Of course, it's up to you, and I'm just giving you advice based on my past experience."

Blushing, Laura didn't know what to say.

Finally, she hemmed and hawed by way of reply.

The next day, Fannie booked the flight to the south.

Since Laura didn't have time to fly with her, she could only see her off at the airport.

Of course, she was reluctant to let her mother go.

Laura booked the first-class ticket for her mother so that she could avoid the paparazzi and see Fannie off in the VIP passage.

Holding hands, they talked for a long while. It was when the plane was about to take off that they parted.

After seeing her mother off, Laura went back home, feeling depressed.

Max went to the airport with her. After coming back, he found Laura in the blue and tried his best to make her laugh.

Finally, her face brightened up a little.

The next day, Laura went back to the set to continue filming.

She had long got used to the life on the set.

Truly, she and Max had got registered, but since it was a secret marriage, no one knew about it.

Therefore, she didn't receive any preferential treatment as "Mrs. Nixon".

Everything was the same as usual.

The only thing different was Nicole's whereabouts.

Nicole, as her personal assistant, was supposed to follow her around.

But somehow, she started to take time off frequently. Even when she was with Laura, she kept drifting away.

When Laura called her, she acted as if she hadn't heard her.

This sudden change caught Laura's attention.

But Laura was also worried that Nicole would have an accident.

Thus, one afternoon, Laura asked her during the break, "Have you been hiding something from me recently?"

Nicole didn't get it at the moment.

Seeing her absent-minded, Laura knew she was right about her.

She clicked her tongue and shook her head.

"Nicole, if something happened, you have to tell me. I'll support you, no matter what."

It was now that Nicole realized Laura was talking to her and began to blush.

She waved her hands and stuttered, "Laura, I... I'm alright..."

Staring at her, Laura asked seriously, "Really? But you don't look yourself recently."

Nicole blushed even more furiously upon hearing that.

She dropped her head and mumbled after a long time, "Laura, I'll try to pull myself together as soon as possible. Don't worry. It won't happen again."

Laura paused for a moment before she realized Nicole misunderstood her.

All Laura wanted to do was ask Nicole what had made her distracted lately.

But Nicole interpreted it as Laura blaming her for not working hard recently.

Thinking of this, Nicole wanted to explain the situation to her to reassure her.

Just at this point, the assistant director came and called, "Laura, come! Your turn."

Laura paused and replied at once, "OK. I'll be right over."

She looked back at Nicole, aware that it must take her some time to explain the situation, and said, "It's

OK. I'm just asking. If you're in trouble, feel free to ask me for help."

Nicole nodded earnestly. Seeing that, Laura left.

Soon, the filming was drawing to a close.

When the crew finished filming, the weather had gradually turned warm.

At the beginning of the shooting, people were wearing down coats, but on this day, people were

wearing shirts with short sleeves.

The crew took group photos before they had a party as usual. Having arranged the following promotion

work, everyone left for home.

When Laura arrived home, Max hadn't come back yet.

During the filming, Laura had stayed in the hotel because it was closer to the set.

So it had been some time since she had been home.

Max had visited her on set occasionally during the filming.

But after all, it was a secret marriage. If Max visited her too often, people would notice that, so he came

either very early in the morning or very late at night, and the whole crew was either working or sleeping

during his visits. Since no one saw him in the hotel, the secret was kept.

After a few visits, Max got tired of it and never came again.

Laura knew Max must hate all the sneaking around, so she didn't ask him to come again after he gave

up.

But now she realized it had been one week since they had last met.

Laura missed him.

With that in mind, Laura glanced at her watch, finding that it was only 4 in the afternoon.

So she rolled up her sleeves and went into the kitchen.

The cook in Orchid Villa was called Paula. She was an expert in cooking.

Usually, she did all the work in the kitchen with the help of her three apprentices.

At this moment, they were preparing dinner.

Knowing Laura would come home today, they had bought many fresh ingredients beforehand.

But they were startled and surprised to see Laura coming into the kitchen out of the blue.

"Why are you here, Mrs. Nixon? The kitchen isn't the place you should come."

Laura chuckled as she saw them panicking.

"I'm not a princess or anything like that, and I'm good here. What will we eat for dinner?"

Paula passed the menu for tonight's dinner to Laura.

Laura ran over the menu, thought for a while, and pointed at one of the dishes, saying, "Shall we

change the steak for prawn? Let me do it."

"What?"

Everyone was astonished to hear that.

They were well-trained cooks who had passed all the professional level exams.

And they worked for the most powerful families in Eqitin.