TMBA 641

Chapter 641 Niles Took A Knock

"Then what should I get Niles?" Blair asked.

"Nothing," answered Wesley.

"Wesley, that's a little rude, don't you think? Giving him rent money would seem a little off. I honestly think I should at least give him a gift." Blair planned on buying Niles a gift while they were picking out gifts for Wesley's parents and his grandfather, but he was very much against it.

He was still very insistent Blair should buy nothing for his brother. "I was the one who let you live in his apartment. If there's anyone you need to pay, it's me. You've already gotten me a razor, so we're even now. Stop worrying about Niles, will you? He doesn't need anything. You taking over his apartment is none of his business," Wesley said sternly.

'That doesn't even make any sense!' Blair thought. She knew well enough there was no winning this argument, so she just dropped it.

She and Wesley then went to the cinema and saw a New Year's movie. Blair was still thinking about the movie as they were leaving the theater. She was so into it, and was pretty upset about how the movie ended. "I just wish the male lead didn't die. The female lead would have left the city for the countryside, and they could still have lived happily ever after."

"I beg to disagree. Living together is different from dating. Soon enough, they'll grow tired of each other. If they're not the perfect cut for each other, they soon will have to end things between them," Wesley replied.

That took her by surprise. 'Who would have thought that remark came from someone who had never been in a relationship and loathed women?' she mused.

Wesley's family had gone to their respective bedrooms by the time he and Blair got home. The lights in the living room were left on for them.

Wesley took Blair upstairs. "This one, this one, and that one are all available. You can choose whichever room you want," he said as he pointed at the rooms.

"Which one is yours?" she asked.

He jutted his chin to indicate where his bedroom was. "I'll stay in the room next to yours," Blair decided.

"The room next to mine is the storage room," he said. He wasn't home most of the time, so he chose to stay in a quiet room, somewhere far from the stairs.

"Oh, okay. Then I choose this one." She picked another room.

She chose the one next to Niles'. Wesley pushed the door open and turned the lights on for her. "Go brush your teeth and wash your face. I'll prepare the bed for you," he said. That room was the one Cecelia hoped Blair would stay in. Fresh bed sheets were already placed inside the closet. The only thing she needed to do was to make the bed.

ugged on his arm a little too hard and lost her balance. She dropped prone on the bed and hit Niles' elbow.

He was so worried he would lose his winning streak and was about to shove Blair away when they heard the door open.

Wesley stood in the doorway with a grim look on his face. He was looking sternly at the two on the bed: Niles on his back and Blair on her stomach.

Niles' arm was still under her.

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When Niles heard the door open, he had to lean closer towards Blair to see who it was. Needless to say, they were caught in a compromising position. That was not at all helping them, especially Niles.

"What are you two doing?" Wesley asked coldly.

Blair firmly shook her head. She wanted to explain it was all a big misunderstanding, but she was so scared her words failed her.

Niles, on the other hand, was on a different page. He tossed his phone aside and reached for Blair's arm. He then proceeded to ask her tenderly, "B Love, are you alright? Were you hurt?"

Blair's eyes widened in confusion. 'Why on earth is he calling me "B Love"?'

Wesley hastily made his way to the bed and grabbed Niles by the collar and off the bed. He was fuming. "What the hell are you doing here? It's the middle of the night!" he growled.

"Wesley, listen to me. It's all just a misunderstanding! It's not what it looks like," Niles tried to explain.

Diagonally opposite Blair's room was Wesley's parents' room. Wesley left the door behind him wide open. All the commotion caused by the trio caused the older couple to wake up. When Cecelia turned the lights on to check what was happening, the sight of her older son holding his younger brother by the collar welcomed her. "Somebody explain to me what is going on," she said wide-eyed.

Chapter 642 Not In The Face

Baldwin followed Cecelia and walked out of the bedroom as well. But he didn't enter Blair's bedroom. Instead, he just stood at the door.

Spotting Cecelia, Blair got off the bed quickly and stood respectfully. "It's nothing, Aunt Cecelia. Niles and I were just talking," she explained.

"Mom, help! My brother's trying to strangle me! Just because I talked to Blair!" Niles cried, his face red from not being able to breathe.

Cecelia rushed over to stop Wesley. "What are you doing? Let go of your brother!"

But Wesley decided to disobey. "He's sleeping in my room tonight!" he declared coldly.

"Huh? What? Noooooo!" Niles howled desperately.

"Niles has his own bedroom. He can sleep there," Cecelia said, shooting Wesley an odd look. Thinking of what Niles did, Wesley wanted to use him for target practice.

"I need to watch him like a hawk! If I don't, he'll climb onto Blair's bed again!"

Baldwin and Cecelia were shocked to hear that.

"Blair, help me! Tell him nothing happened. I was just playing with my phone on your bed," Niles pleaded.

Blair nodded. The key point she wanted to stress was, "Nothing happened between us."

But all Cecelia heard was, 'Niles was on Blair's bed!' Flaring up, she slapped Niles' arm and snarled, "Why were you on Blair's bed? Your own room too small?"

"No, Mom, we were just talking," Niles explained, gasping for air.

Wesley was tired of listening to him. He hauled him out of Blair's room by the collar. "Wait! My phone! It's still on Blair's bed!" Niles shouted as he was dragged out.

On Blair's bed... that didn't go over well.

His parents rolled their eyes at him.

They both were pushing for Blair to be Wesley's girlfriend. They didn't want anything going wrong. What Niles did was inappropriate. So they wouldn't stand in Wesley's way.

Niles' screams reverberated across the hallway. "Come on man, you're my brother. Cut it out! She's not even my type. You know I like thin chick

before Wesley finally let him off.

But Niles never learned his lesson. Wesley released him and was going to march him into the bathroom, but the younger brother spoke again. "You're always beating me up. How about you let up and I'll teach you how to chase girls? Come on! Don't stare at me like that. I can help you net Blair. Eh? What's with the fist? Ah!"

The older brother landed a punch on Niles' jaw. But Wesley wasn't done. He raised his fist to hit him again. To save his life, Niles threatened, "If you hit me again, I'll send this video to Blair!"

He lifted his phone to show Wesley what he was talking about.

But Wesley ignored him. He continued raining blows on him, this time on his back. Niles clicked on the video and shoved his phone close to Wesley's face.

The video he was playing made Wesley stop. It was set in a hospital ward. Blair lay in the hospital bed unconscious. The soldier sat by the bed, stroking her hand.

Seeing the video, Wesley snatched Niles' phone away from him and bellowed, "How could you record this, you creep!"

Niles cringed into a corner as Wesley deleted the video. "I have another copy. Unless you beat me to death tonight, I'll send this to Blair even if I have to use my last breath. I'll let her know what a hypocrite my big brother is. Humph!"

Chapter 643 Get Lost

After deleting the video, Wesley threw Niles' phone back to him. As Wesley approached, Niles could hear the knuckles of his brother's hands cracking. "You threatened me. Know what happened to the last guy who did that?" Wesley said.

"No. What happened to him?" Niles asked. His heart was hammering in his chest. He knew what awaited him if his threat didn't work—another round of Wesley's fists. Niles was anxious. He could only think of one person who could save him. Curling up in a corner, he secretly dialed Blair's number.

When Wesley was close enough, he dragged Niles to the edge of the bed and told him in a menacing tone, "I cracked his skull open. He's probably been reincarnated by now. Want what he got?"

Blair picked up the phone. To make sure Wesley wouldn't find out, Niles quickly put his phone down on the bed and pleaded apologetically, "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have threatened you. But come on! I'm your little brother. Can't you just let up? Just for one second?"

He was so nervous he kept glancing at his phone. Wesley couldn't miss that and followed his gaze. He reached to grab for the phone. Niles wasn't quick enough to stop him. The screen was on, and the call to Blair was displayed, along with how long the call had lasted.

"Hi, Niles. What's up?" Both of them could hear her on the other end. Niles sensed that Wesley was going to hang up the phone, so he yelled quickly into his phone, "Blair, help!"

No sooner had he shouted these words than Wesley cut the call short.

Niles wasn't sure if Blair heard him.

"Wesley, please. Just let me up. I'll go back to my room," he pleaded again, wistfully; but there was never a single tear on his face.

As if he heard nothing, Wesley sent him sprawling on the bed again and punched him.

Just then, "Knock, knock." Someone was knocking at the door.

Niles guessed it must be Blair. His eyes widened, shining with hope. "Blair, ah! Help! Help! He's killing me!" he wailed.

"Shut up, idiot!" Wesley warned him and covered his mouth with one hand.

"Mmph...mmmm..." Niles struggled, still trying to utter some words, but Wesley's "gag" was too strong.

Wesley assumed if no one answered the door, the person outside would leave, but Blair wasn't going to give up so easily. She was worried about Niles,

mself off the bed and ran towards the door as quickly as his slippers could take him.

"Stop!" Wesley demanded as Niles passed him.

"But Blair said I could leave," Niles said, freezing in his tracks.

Blair walked up to Wesley and pointed out, "I told you nothing happened between Niles and me. I told you to leave him alone. Why did you beat him up? You're impossible!"

Wesley looked at her and countered, "He's fine. He's a guy. A few punches won't kill him." To Wesley, the beating was fully justified. Niles had not only gotten too close to Blair but also threatened him. He should have known better.

The bruises on Niles' face made Blair feel terrible. She wished Wesley would treat his brother better. "There are lots of ways to solve problems. Why do you always use your fists? Why not use your head once in awhile?"

Niles, who was too afraid to leave without his brother's permission, nodded violently when he heard Blair's words. As far back as Niles could remember, Wesley always solved his problems with violence.

Wesley closed his eyes and leaned back on the sofa. "Get lost!" he said coldly.

'Get lost?' Niles and Blair exchanged a look. The expressions on their faces were in sharp contrast.

Niles dashed out of Wesley's room excitedly.

Blair looked at Wesley in disbelief. It was a while before she asked uncertainly, "You told me to get lost?"

Realizing she had misunderstood, Wesley opened his eyes. "Not you, him," he explained. He was conflicted about whether to ask her to leave or not.

Chapter 644 I'm Gonna Get Lost

"That's exactly what you meant. You told me to get lost," Blair remarked sadly. 'How could he say that to me? If he didn't want me around, he could have just said that. Why did he have to be so rude and harsh?' she thought to herself.

Wesley panicked when he spotted the sadness in her eyes. He stood up and explained, "I wasn't saying it to you. That was meant for Niles."

Bam! That was the sound of a door closing. Niles fled to his bedroom and slammed his door shut—hard. You could hear it from anywhere in the house.

His explanation didn't make Blair feel any better. She gnawed at her lower lip and uttered dejectedly, "I should have left well enough alone. It's none of my business. I'm sorry. I'll get lost now."

She turned to leave. Wesley grabbed her wrist and said, "Blair."

"What!" She glared at him with red eyes.

"Cut it out!" Wesley said. The woman always had new tricks to play on him. He wouldn't be taken in this time.

Blair sighed, pouting. 'Fine. He's good. He got me. But how did I fall for it again?' She didn't dwell on her failure, though. "You're the older one. You're supposed to protect him. Why are you so mean to him? And you knew he did nothing wrong," she told him. Her voice returned to normal.

'He lay on your bed. He was asking for it. My only regret is that I didn't beat him hard enough, 'Wesley thought to himself.

He had been silent. Too silent. Blair sighed, "You're quiet. I suppose I can't convince you to go easier on Niles, huh? Never mind. Forget what I said. I'm going back to my room. Good night."

She wrenched free of his grip and continued to walk to the door.

"It's not like that," he said, looking at her receding figure. Blair giggled without turning around.

"All right. Go to sleep. We shouldn't disturb the others," she said.

Wesley leaned on the door and watched her leave. When she reached Niles' room, she lifted her hand like she was going to knock. But then something dawned on her. She put her hand down and continued to her own room.

Actually, she wanted to say something to make Niles feel better. But considering what happened tonight, she decided against it.

When everyone had retired to their own rooms,

shower and let's eat breakfast," she reminded him with a smile.

"Okay." Wesley greeted his grandpa and went upstairs to his bedroom.

While Wesley and Blair talked, Keith observed them with a satisfied smile. But he pretended not to notice. It was best not to push the boy.

Near noon, a group of guests visited the Li family. Wesley was sitting on the couch, playing on his phone while Blair was watching TV with Cecelia. A bowl of sunflower seeds sat on the table in front of the sofa.

"Wesley!" Garnet called out. She was crushing so hard that all she saw was him. Shortly after, she realized that she had gotten too excited. So she greeted Keith first before walking up to Wesley.

It was not until then that she noticed Blair. But her glance didn't linger.

Garnet's parents were with her too. They had brought some gifts to say happy New Year to the family.

Wesley and Niles greeted her parents politely.

Garnet's father was a serious and proud man. But when he saw Wesley, he was all smiles. "Long time no see. Glad you came!"

"I have more available time now. I can come home for Spring Festival each year from now on," Wesley replied.

Garnet's mom, Lauren, said with a smile, "We heard Wesley got promoted again. He is so successful. You must be very proud."

Cecelia grinned happily as if there were a hanger in her mouth. She was always proud of Wesley. Still, she said modestly, "He's a great guy, but believe me, he's not perfect."

Chapter 645 Do You Have A Girlfriend

Lauren disagreed, "Your expectations are too high. Wesley is awesome. And Niles is no slouch either. He's a doctor, and stands to make a ton of cash. Cecelia, you've done an amazing job raising your kids."

"Thank you. You're too kind. You make it sound like I should be on cloud nine because of my kids," Cecelia said with a smile.

"Of course," responded Lauren.

Then she noticed Niles' bruised face. "Niles, what happened to your face? Did you get in a fight? Did your brother beat you again?" Everyone in the Jiang family knew very well where Niles had gotten those bruises.

Niles gave an embarrassed smile and said, "I messed with my brother again."

"Hahaha, he's beaten you up ever since you were little boys. Wesley's pretty hard on you for a brother," Garnet's father remarked as he patted Niles on the head.

Niles sighed and wore a self-effacing smile. "It's been going on for so long, I'm used to it. Besides, it's New Year's. I don't want to spoil the happy mood, so I'll let it slide."

His family knew him well. They also knew why Wesley pounded on him this time. Hearing that, they all rolled their eyes at him. The Jiang family laughed out loud.

Then Garnet's parents noticed the girl in the living room who sat quietly eating sunflower seeds. "Who's this?" asked Lauren.

All of a sudden, all eyes were on Blair. Garnet hadn't really noticed, as she was focused on Wesley. But her mother's words made her notice the girl. Garnet had seen her before, but she couldn't remember where.

Blair put down the sunflower seeds in her hand, stood up and straightened her clothes. She was a bit stunned when she saw Garnet. This was the woman on the video chat. The one who had threatened her. But she shook it off and remembered her manners. "Nice to meet you. I'm Blair Jing," she said.

"Blair?" Finally Garnet figured out why she was so familiar. The video chat! Of course! 'But I told her to stay away, ' she thought.

With a nod, Lauren commented cordially, "So pretty." Then she turned to Cecelia. "She a relative? Why haven't we met bef

relatives always discussed. No one made any bones about it. But if you looked carefully, you'd see that Cecelia's gaze constantly strayed to Blair after the question was raised.

"No," Wesley replied after a moment's hesitation.

Lauren was happy to hear it. "Wesley, tell me, what kind of girl do you like? I can fix you up. If you get married, your wife can keep your mom company when you're not around."

Everyone fell silent when they heard that, because they all liked Blair and hoped she could marry Wesley. Blair tried to make herself smaller, blushing furiously.

"Thanks, Aunt Lauren. But I don't want a girlfriend. Too busy. You can fix Niles up, though. He has time." She wasn't surprised to hear that.

Niles was munching on macadamia nuts. Hearing his name mentioned, he lifted his head in confusion and asked, "What? What did I do now?"

Lauren smiled, "Nothing. I was going to find a girlfriend for your brother. But he says he's too busy. What about you, Niles? Do you have a girlfriend?"

"Don't need one. I'm fresh out of college and I haven't had any fun yet. I want some alone time before I find someone to spend time with," Niles announced.

Cecelia got mad at the two brothers' words. She said to Lauren, "Listen to these two! One is 26 and doesn't want a girlfriend. The other is in his twenties but acts like a child. This is so infuriating!"

Chapter 646 Time Will Tell

Lauren chuckled in response. She patted Cecelia's hand and assured her, "It's only because those two haven't met the right girls yet. When they do meet the perfect soul-mates, they will bring them over to meet you even if you don't ask them to. Boys like to show off!"

Lauren's remark triggered a kind of bitterness inside Blair's heart. Her thoughts became melancholic instantly. She knew that the older woman did have a point. There was a very high chance that Wesley might indeed not care for her. Otherwise, they should already have been together by now, without her having to put so much effort into the non-existent relationship. If he liked her at all, he should have been chasing her. Moreover, with everything she had done for him, he should have been moved by now.

But alas! To hide her embarrassment, Blair took out her phone and pretended to search for something by firing up her browser. Meanwhile, she was secretly considering whether she should leave the room or stay.

Her dejection did not escape Cecelia's keen eyes, which were mostly focused on her these days. It pained the motherly Cecelia to see this young girl sad and she understood why. Therefore, she deliberately remarked, "That's true with Niles. But Wesley is quite introverted by nature. He might be too shy to act on his impulses. This makes him vulnerable. You know, he often lets his opportunities slip away even if he does like someone."

She wanted Blair to hear those words and she succeeded in her efforts. As for Lauren, she didn't have a clue what was going on and urged the topic of their discussion, "Wesley, your parents are worried about you. It's time to get a girlfriend."

Wesley nodded without saying a word. He did not feel comfortable discussing his love-life with these women.

Lauren had been persuading him to start seeing someone only because she wanted to fix him up with her daughter. Wesley was quite a desirable groom! By that time, the topic became too much for Blair to handle. Holding her phone in one hand, she quietly got up and left the living room.

She made a pit stop inside the bathroom on her way upstairs and then proceeded to lock herself up in her bedroom.

Niles also left the living room shortly after she did. By the time Blair had closed her door, he had already reached the second floor.

Wesley, who had seen them leave one after the other, had a look in his eyes that clearly wasn't a happy one.

Niles hesitated for a second and then knocked on her door. Blair answered. After Wesley had punched him, he didn't dare enter Blair's room anymore. So he talked with her in the doorway. "Were you bored too down there?" he asked.

Blair smiled with embarrassment and leaned on the door. "I wasn't actually bored. I just don't know them that well, so I had no idea what to talk about with them.

sten to her. It's nothing like that. I'm going to my room now," he explained hastily.

After that, he ran towards his room. Full pelt!

Bam! The door to his room was shut in fear.

Slam! The door to Blair's room was slammed closed too. But in fury! Wesley was left standing alone in the hallway.

Leaning against the door, Blair put her ear to it and listened carefully to find out what Wesley was doing now.

However, she couldn't tell. Even if he began to walk, his steps were always too quiet to make any sound. So Blair wasn't sure whether he was still outside the door.

In less than a minute, she heard Garnet's voice float in. "Wesley, what are you doing here? I was looking for you..." she asked.

Wesley looked at her and replied, "Nothing. I'm on my way to my room."

"Oh. Listen, do you have time this afternoon? I'm leaving tomorrow. Can you please come to the shooting gallery with me?" Garnet looked around as she asked.

"Sorry. I'm going to visit a former superior of mine about your transfer this afternoon, so I can't go with you," Wesley replied. When she heard that he was going to tend to something that concerned herself, Garnet didn't insist on her request.

"All right. I saw Blair and Niles come up just now. Where are they?" she enquired.

"In their rooms." With that short reply, Wesley made his way towards his own room.

Blair wasn't sure whether Garnet followed him into his bedroom or not. The hallway was quiet afterwards and she couldn't hear anything.

Near noon, Cecelia climbed to the second floor and asked her to come downstairs for lunch. "Blair, lunch is ready."

Blair nodded and began to tidy her bed. Then, as she was about to go downstairs with Cecelia, she was stopped by the older woman and told, "Blair, I get Lauren's point. She wants her daughter to be Wesley's girlfriend. But I like you. So I'm on your side."

Chapter 647 She Wont Be Your Daughter-in-law

Before Blair could answer Cecelia's question, Wesley popped in without warning.

The two women were both surprised.

Cecelia rolled her eyes at him. "Are you spying on us? Women only!"

Wesley glanced at the door. "You didn't close your door. I was just passing by."

"Humph! Just get out," the angry mother snorted and glared at him.

He didn't move. Instead, he looked at the two women standing hand-in-hand, and told his mother, "You don't need to be so nice to her. She won't be your daughter-in-law."

His words pained Blair's heart.

Cecelia was shocked. She didn't expect her son to speak so bluntly in front of Blair, not worrying about sparing her feelings. Irked by her stupid son, the mother ranted, "Who said anything about that? Niles likes Blair. I like Blair. I can spoil anyone I like. Why do I need your permission, huh?"

"Whatever." With that, he turned and went downstairs.

Cecelia knew how Blair felt about Wesley, so she tried to comfort the heartbroken girl. "He's an idiot when it comes to love. He doesn't understand his heart yet. Trust me. I know he has feelings for you. Just give him time."

Blair flashed a self-mocking smile. "Time? How long do I need to wait? Aunt Cecelia, I've been into him since I was a university student. He's had a few years."

"And maybe he needs a little more time. Don't be sad, Blair. I have your back."

Blair nodded, "I know. Thank you, Aunt Cecelia." After a pause, she added, "But you don't know Wesley. He never liked me. I know you want him to, but it wasn't meant to be. Know what? He told me that he was nice to me because you liked me. He wanted to make you happy."

She had almost believed that Wesley was a mama's boy who would do anything his mom told him to.

Unconvinced, Cecelia pursed her lips. "Make me happy? He always pisses me off. He couldn't admit his true feelings for you and found a bullshit excuse."

Blair smiled bitterly without uttering a word. The kind mother's comforting words couldn't chase away the sadness in her heart.

Hearing no response from the girl, Cecelia advised worriedly, "Trust me. It's not to make me happy. Don't believe me? Try this: Say he liked a girl, and I didn't. If he liked her

nd. He's been taking care of me..." Cecelia was excited to hear that. "See? I knew it! Wesley never knew much about women. He loves you too much so he knows what to do on instinct."

Blair nodded with a sob. "Yeah. Thank you for your support, Aunt."

"Okay. Stop crying now. If Wesley sees you, he might think I'm being mean to you." Deep inside, Cecelia sympathized with this orphaned girl.

"He won't. He knows you like me. He even took care of me to make you happy," she joked, a complicated feeling in her heart.

"Whatever. As long as he's good to you. Okay, good night. Sleep tight."

"Good night, Aunt Cecelia."

After returning to her bedroom, Cecelia told Baldwin in a chirpy voice, "Honey, you'll never guess what Blair and Wesley were up to. Turns out your older son took her out for snacks and drinks yesterday!"

Baldwin pushed his spectacles up the bridge of his nose while saying, "I guess he's not that clueless after all. It's just that he hadn't met the right girl yet. See how he treats Blair? He went out and bought her lipstick and perfume, went to an amusement park with her, took her out for snacks, and he even drove her here. That's not a short drive! He took care of her while she was here. Did you raise him like that? No. He did all that because he wanted to."

"I agree. But he's still saying hurtful things. I get so angry every time I think about it. I try to help him out, but he always disobeys me! Huh!" Cecelia remarked angrily.

Chapter 648 Born For The Country

"Don't meddle with his business. Let him be. If he continues acting like this, he'll regret it sooner or later," Baldwin told Cecelia. He knew this enough. With his wisdom, he was well aware that when it came to love, only the two people involved could solve their problems. Whether Wesley and Blair would end up together was entirely up to the two.

The following day, Blair had finished packing her things and was ready to set out. Wesley was still in his grandfather's room, so she carried her bag on her own, brought it downstairs, and waited for him.

Meanwhile, in Keith's room, the old man and Wesley were still talking. He took out a cash card from his drawer and placed it in front of Wesley. "I feel sorry for Blair. She has no parents. Although it's fortunate that the Ji family treats her well, I heard she rarely goes there to trouble her aunt and uncle. I also knew that she broke up with her fiance. There's no one taking care of her now. You should give her more attention." He pointed at the card and continued, "Here's five million. This should have more in it, but I was cheated into buying Niles an apartment. That's all I have right now. I don't need this at the moment. I want you to take it."

Wesley stayed still as he looked at the card. "She doesn't like Niles. She won't be your granddaughter-inlaw." He tried softening the blow; he knew it was pointless for his grandfather to treat Blair so kindly if she wouldn't end up as Keith's granddaughter-in-law. The old man took a deep breath. His lips trembled in annoyance. He glared at his stubborn grandson and rambled, "It's my money. I can give it to anyone I like. I look at Blair as my own granddaughter. I don't see anything wrong with me supporting her financially. So, cut the crap and take it!"

Wesley stood up from his chair and politely asked, "Grandpa, is there anything else you'd like to tell me?"

"Yes." Keith's face grew more somber as he thought of what he was going to say to Wesley. "You're a high-ranking officer now. You don't have to do anything yourself anymore. Our country has a lot of talented soldiers; you're not the only one. You see where I'm going here?" Keith knew how big of an asset his grandson was to the army. He spared no effort in accomplishing any of his missions. Wesley was a force to be reckoned with. With him leading, victory was certain.

He was very proud of his grandson. However, the fact that his life was al

e sunlight. She looked very wealthy and very graceful, although her skin was a little bit tanned.

Garnet glanced at Wesley's car. Hers and Blair's eyes met, but the emotions they were filled with went unnoticed.

Wesley looked towards his car too. Blair knew Garnet and her mother had seen her already. It would be inappropriate if Blair stayed in there, so she unbuckled, opened the car door, and got out of it. She stood by the car and waved at them as she smiled politely.

But to her surprise, Garnet's mother went to her. "Please, come and visit us whenever you're free. I know your aunt. You're a little bit younger than Garnet, so she should take care of you. Call her when you need help," Lauren said with enthusiasm. As a matter of fact, Lauren knew her mother too. She just didn't want to mention Blair's late mother and make the girl sad.

Blair realized Lauren was a nice and caring woman. She felt a little touched. "Thank you, Auntie and Garnet. I'll make sure to pay you a visit sometime soon."

Garnet stayed silent the whole time. Her face remained emotionless. Nevertheless, it was so much better than the angry look she wore the day she answered Blair's call. When Blair looked at her, Garnet smiled widely and said, "I'll be working in Y City very soon. Mind if I swing by your place?"

Blair smiled. "Sure. I really admire female soldiers. I've always wanted a friend like you. We should hang out and go shopping together when you're in Y City," she answered genuinely. Blair was not trying to butter her up. She was a weak girl, so she genuinely admired those strong female heroes like Garnet.

Chapter 649 Even a Rose Can Grow Through Concrete

"Hang out? Sorry, not interested in shopping. How about a gun range? Or an honorable person CS game? Maybe horseback riding? Still want to do something?" Garnet stared at Blair, a provocative look in her eyes.

Blair straightened up and replied without hesitation, "Sure! Let's do all of it. I'll just wait for you in Y City." The young translator looked Garnet straight in the eye without the slightest trace of fear. Her grandpa and uncle were both brave soldiers. Could she be any less? She couldn't chicken out and bring shame to the Ji family. It was crystal clear to the two women that they both loved the same guy. But they weren't going to play any dirty tricks, or yell at each other. Blair didn't think Garnet was a hypocritical rival, or even a cunning one. Maybe it was because she was a soldier as virtuous as Wesley.

Garnet watched Wesley drive his Hummer away, a complicated feeling stirring in her heart. She was confused by Blair's behavior. 'She should know very well I love Wesley too. We're love rivals, but why was she so blunt? She looked like she didn't care if I loved him or not, 'Garnet mused.

She wondered if Blair was just pretending to be kind and innocent. Of course, she'd eventually slip up and the truth would come out. 'But if Blair really doesn't care about my love for Wesley and has a fair competition with me, then... I'll try to make friends with her, ' Garnet thought further.

Seeing her daughter's contemplative look, Lauren felt sorry for her and tried to comfort her. "Garnet, just give up. Any man would be lucky to have you. You'll meet another guy, maybe even better than Wesley."

As an experienced woman, Lauren could see that there was something going on between Wesley and Blair. The affection in their eyes was evident when they looked at each other.

Garnet smiled and said casually, "Mom, I always get what I want. Maybe Wesley doesn't love Blair at all. Otherwise, why won't he say she's his girlfriend? I still have a chance!"

Lauren smoothed her short hair and said lovingly, "Good luck then."

Wesley stopped at a few more houses and said his goodbyes. Blair didn't get out of the car because these people were strangers to her.

Some of them were Wesley's relatives and some were higher-ups in the military.

Aft

sked earnestly, "He took you home for Spring Festival. Did sparks fly?"

Blair shrugged. "Hardly. He even told his mom not to be too nice to me, because I'd never be her daughter-in-law." She didn't feel sad when she talked about it, because she remembered that Wesley's mom was only an excuse.

Wesley wouldn't confess his true feelings for her. He was brave at everything except love.

"What? He said that? What a jerk!" Joslyn felt her heart ache for Blair. Why did she have to go through so much for one guy?

Blair smiled. "I'm not gonna quit, though. I'm young, so there's lots of time to win his love. He has a thing for me. I know it! You know what they say, 'Even a rose can grow through concrete.' I'll melt his cold heart. I'll win. I have to."

If Wesley really didn't have a shred of love for her, Blair wouldn't bother him anymore. But she could see that he cared about her. She wouldn't give up so easily.

"You're lucky that his family is on your side. Just keep them happy and your chances will be better," Joslyn suggested.

"I think so. I've tried to make the Li family like me. You know what? Sometimes I think if Wesley's grandpa forces us into a shotgun wedding, I'd still say yes! I love that stubborn soldier. I want to stay by his side forever! He doesn't love anyone else. But I don't think his grandpa likes me enough to force the issue. At least, not now. I have to try harder." Every time Blair was around Joslyn, she couldn't help but pour her heart out, sharing almost every secret.

Chapter 650 You Need To Sort Them Out

Joslyn had always been very supportive of Blair. She wanted her friend to pursue her one true love, but she was not a fan of her going to the extremes. She looked at her friend with sympathy in her eyes and tried to persuade her, "Bless, don't be silly. You can't marry him if he is only coerced by his grandpa! You have a lot of options. He's not the only man there is."

Blair sighed. "But he's the only one I want for the rest of my life. I once told Wesley I was done loving him. Look at me now, Joslyn. I can't quit him. That same night I told him I was done with him, I saw him only wearing a bath towel. I immediately regretted the thing I told him." Being a soldier, Wesley's body was not surprisingly in a good shape. Blair almost drooled at the thought of his chiseled abs, as if gods sculpted it themselves.

Joslyn found amusement in her best friend's words. "So, you like him 'cause of his bod?"

"Well, duh?" Blair admitted. "We live under the same roof, and he's been treating me nicely. The only catch is that he's unwilling to make me his girlfriend." She let out a sigh of defeat.

"He cares so much for you and he keeps you around him, but he is unwilling to make you his girlfriend. I think Wesley is a giant weasel!" Joslyn spat, quite more angrily than she had intended.

Blair was not a fan of how her friend was talking shit about Wesley. "Please don't speak ill of him. He's made everything between us clear. He drew the line. It's me who keeps on pestering him."

"Tsk, tsk. Listen to what you're saying. Why are you defending him? Technically, I'm not speaking ill of him because everything I said is true," Joslyn retorted.

Blair's face turned red. "Excuse me, it is not! We are on good terms. If for some kind of miracle, I find another man in the future, and Wesley and I go our separate ways, only then you can talk shit about him."

"Okay, Miss Jing. I hear you. Let's just drop it, okay? By the way, you should stay here tonight! We haven't had a night together in such a long time," Joslyn suggested.

Blair made a crying face. "I want to! But you're a married woman now. My cousin may return any time tonight. How about you go to my place?"

"Don't worry. He won't be coming home tonight. He's not in Y City. Your cousin's out of town for an important meeting. We're having a sleepover! There won't be any problem."

Blair hesitated for a moment but this was her uncle's house anyway. She nodded. "Okay, I'll just go give Wesley a heads up."

"Yay!" Joslyn's face was filled with excitement.

Blair fou

e else in my heart." The scent of the lilies brought a smile on her face. Just the thought of Wesley made her feel all giddy.

With a sad look, Orion handed her the car keys and said, "You don't have a car for work. I bought you one that is suitable for girls. It doesn't matter if you don't accept my love for now, but can you at least accept my gift?"

Blair looked at the car keys. She was familiar with the brand. It was a luxury car model popular among many female celebrities. She smiled politely. "Thank you for this. I live very close to the office. You see, I travel on foot. Sorry, Orion, but I can't accept this. This is too much."

Orion grew flustered. He'd been rejected twice consecutively. "You don't like the car? What do you want then? I can give you anything, just name it. Blair, I fell in love with you the very first time we met. Do you remember the collaboration between this company and the Jin Group? I asked my grandfather for that to happen. I knew you were working for the Jin Group." He wanted more chances of seeing her.

He slowly approached Blair.

Blair was in awe, but she shook her head at once. "You're a good guy, Orion. But we're not meant for each other. Please, stop. You'll always be a friend to me."

Orion grew a bit more emotional. He didn't know what else to do but embrace her. "Blair, I don't want us to be just friends. I want you to be mine. I'll love you, spoil you, and take care of you until we're old and grey. Please?"

Blair broke free from his hug and graciously smiled at him. "Thank you, Orion, but I'm sorry. I'm heading out now. See you tomorrow." She already had someone taking care of her; she didn't need another man's protection.