

Unfinished 101

Chapter 101

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Olivia’s expression darkened, but before she could make the call, a gentle voice could be heard from behind her. “Olivia?”

Turning around, Olivia saw a man with a tall figure, wearing a knee-length trench coat that was blown by the wind, and a warm gentle smile could be seen on his fair face.

“It’s really you!”

Surprised, Olivia replied, “Brian? It’s you!”

Noticing a man near his Mommy, North immediately got out of the car and stepped up in front of his Mommy while observing the man before him.

This man seemed familiar, and the impression North had for him wasn’t a bad one either, but he just couldn’t seem to recall where they had met.

Though North had forgotten, Brian still remembered clearly. Gazing at North with gentleness in his eyes, Brian said, “You’re here too! Do you still remember me?”

Blinking his eyes, North was obviously in a daze.

“You’ve forgotten? We’ve had a meal at his place,” reminded Olivia.

After giving some thought, North asked, "You're the owner of the restaurant?"

Brian nodded and gave his little head a gentle rub. "You've got a good memory. How's your leg?"

"It has gotten better since long ago," said North.

With a grin, Brian turned and looked at the woman. "Why? Is this a set-up scam?"

Taking a few steps toward Brian, the woman said in an overbearing manner, "Who are you calling a scam? Do you know what you're saying? She was the one who was on the phone and crashed into our car!"

Darting a glance at the woman, he didn't utter a word but gazed at the man who was squatting on the floor. "Joe!" he called.

Instantly, the man jumped to his feet and smiled awkwardly as he walked toward them. "Mr. Mccarthy."

With the corner of his mouth curved up into a smirk, Brian mocked, "Pretending you didn't see me here?"

Putting a flattering smile, Joe denied it by saying, "Nope, I just saw you. Mr. Mccarthy, what brings you here?"

Scanning from one car to the other, Brian asked, "What seems to be the matter?"

"I was in a rush, so I cut in line, but I didn't expect the car behind to crash into my car," Joe replied.

"Whose fault?"

Brian didn't show any sign of bad temperament, but strangely, Joe appeared like he was sweating with nervousness. "It's... my fault," Joe confessed and turned to look at Olivia. "Sorry, my bad. How much do you need? I can pay you back."

With that, he took out a pile of cash from his pocket.

Shocked, the woman tugged on the man's sleeves and scolded, "Are you out of your mind? We are supposed to bring that money back to my parents' place!"

Shoving off the woman's hands, Joe turned to her and said softly, "You don't understand. Just don't interfere!" Then, he passed the pile of cash into Olivia's hands.

Olivia was certainly not the type that would take advantage of someone. On the contrary, if one were nice to her, she would most certainly be as nice too.

Besides, she would much prefer to discuss it over, because it would be less troublesome.

"It's okay. I don't need the money. It wasn't a big deal to begin with. You and I share the fault, so let's just keep it simple and get our own car fixed. Just go!"

There was a broad smile on Joe's face. However, he didn't go off as told. Instead, he turned to look at Brian as though he was seeking his permission on whether he could leave.

"I guess that's settled!" Brian announced.

"Great! I'll move my car right away!" said Joe as he dragged the woman with a long face into the car.

Seeing that, Olivia couldn't help but chuckle. "He seems very afraid of you."

"Well, he did owe me money." Brian smiled.

Upon realizing the whole situation, Olivia said, “No wonder! Anyhow, thank you for your help. If it weren’t for you, I think I would have wasted a lot of time here.”

“Don’t mention it. I’m happy to help. If you’re in a rush, you can just go ahead!”

“Alright. I’ll treat you to a meal when you’re free!”

“Sure thing!” said Brian as he turned and got back into his car.

Then, he dialed a number. The line was connected and the sound of Joe’s trembling voice could be heard. “Mr. Mccarthy, I’m sorry. I really didn’t know she was your friend.”

Chapter 102

“Alright, just don’t find trouble with her in future.”

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“Of course, Mr. Mccarthy. Don’t worry,” Joe replied.

In high spirits, Brian declared, “Consider the half a million debt you owe me repaid!” After he’d said that, he hung up the phone, leaving Joe dumbfounded.

Shortly after Olivia arrived at the studio, Eugene came. Olivia was rather surprised upon seeing him, so she smilingly joked, “Is this an Undercover Boss visit, President Nolan?”

Walking into the room, Eugene looked around before proclaiming with a serious expression, “I’m just here to see whether you’re slacking on the job!”

“Look how dedicated I am.” Olivia stretched her dirty hands out to him.

“Just leave the grunt work to the others. You don’t have to do it.”

Olivia curled her lips. “You’re still looking down on the working class?”

Throwing her a sidelong glance, he said, “Don’t simply put words in my mouth. I obviously meant that each person has his or her own forte. While you’re poor at such a task, they’re definitely not as good as you when it comes to design!”

Olivia nodded in satisfaction. Well, his explanation passed muster. “Oh yes, I’ve got something to ask you. Was it you who did that to the two people on Jordan Bridge yesterday?”

Eugene cocked an eyebrow. “What do you think?”

“It was you!” Olivia’s voice was filled with conviction.

Neither affirming nor denying it, Eugene turned and asked with a smile, “Where’s North?”

“He’s inside.” As Olivia said that, she called out in the direction of the inner room, “North, come here!” In no time, North came running out, his hands dirty as well. “Gosh, why did you get all dirty as well?” Olivia took him to the sink.

“I wanted to help them finish faster,” North explained.

While Olivia rolled up his sleeves, she chided, “Didn’t you hear your Uncle Eugene say that each person has his or her own forte? This is not our forte, so you should just focus on studying.”

When the two of them came out after washing their hands, Eugene said, “I noticed that Grandpa was in a good mood yesterday, and it was all thanks to North. I’m just thinking of going back to Nolan Residence, so I’d like to ask North whether he’d like to go and visit Grandpa.”

Knowing what he meant, North hurriedly piped up, “Sure!”

Olivia quickly tugged at him. "No, I don't think he should go. North is too rambunctious, so he'll disrupt your grandpa's rest. Just take him over when your grandpa's health has improved."

"I'm aware of your concerns, but you don't need to worry about anyone saying anything with me there. You might think that Grandpa has plenty of people keeping him company that he doesn't even have time to rest, considering the vastness of the Nolan Family and its businesses, but in reality, he's actually very lonely. There isn't even anyone to talk to him usually. I think he loves chatting with North because he always asked why North didn't come along every time I went back. As you said, keeping a

patient's spirits high is extremely crucial. If you don't have any other concerns, please allow me to take your child with me. In any case, I can even pay for the privilege."

Since he'd said as much, Olivia couldn't possibly refuse anymore. Besides, she just felt a tad distressed at the thought of that adorable old man without any company. "Will you be there as well?"

"Yes. I usually leave at noon so that I don't disrupt Grandpa's nap," Eugene replied.

"Do you want to go, North?"

Nodding, North answered, "Yes."

Only then did Olivia look at Eugene, her tone solemn. "I don't need any payment. North is going over to keep him company out of the kindness of his heart and because he enjoys a close relationship with him. Thus, it won't be good if people gossip about us, mistaking his good intentions for bad."

Eugene inhaled deeply. This little lady is truly eloquent. "Okay, I got it. I promise there will be no gossip."

Olivia then gave North a few reminders, saying, "Don't make noise there, and just visit for a short while, okay?"

"Okay, Mommy!" As North said that, he walked out with Eugene.

After the two of them had driven a fair distance away, Eugene asked, "Will your mommy think that I abducted you?"

Chapter 103

North shot him a glare. "Did you think I'd leave with just anyone?" he asked coldly.

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Inexplicably choked by this child, Eugene dissolved into laughter. "It seems that you consider me safe?"

"Of course!" North replied.

Eugene was instantly put in a good mood. "Hah, your judgment is impeccable! So, why did you ask me out?"

Without answering his question, North pointed at KFC that was right ahead of them. "I want to eat KFC!"

Eugene glanced at him but said nothing. Then, he turned his car and stopped before KFC's entrance. After entering the fast-food joint, North ordered a few items Olivia usually didn't allow him to eat before finding a table and waiting for Eugene. Meanwhile, this was the first time Eugene had ever queued in line. There were quite a number of patrons in KFC, so he only carried the food over to the table after having waited for about ten minutes.

North then kept his head lowered as he quietly ate without saying a single word. On the other hand, Eugene didn't eat since he wasn't hungry. Mainly, he was curious as to why this little fellow wanted to see him. After waiting for more than ten minutes, the little fellow was finally done eating, and he wiped his hands clean with a napkin.

At long last, he shifted his gaze to Eugene. "Who's the lady at Nolan Residence yesterday to you?" he asked seriously, his expression solemn.

Eugene's brows furrowed. "You mean, Zoe? She's no one to me. Her family and the Nolan Family are friends, so we've known each other since young."

"Do you have feelings for her?"

Eugene frowned. "Why would I have feelings for her?"

North shot daggers at him. "Then, why did you allow her to hold your arm?"

Staring at him, Eugene was gripped by the urge to laugh. "You were angry at me just because of this?" North didn't deny or confirm it, so Eugene then explained, "She's no different from Nathan to me."

North curled his lips. "They're absolutely different. Nathan is a man."

"But there's no difference to me," Eugene countered.

After pondering for a moment, North asked, "So, how do you find my mommy?"

All of a sudden, understanding dawned upon Eugene. Don't tell me this little fellow is so peeved because he wants to play matchmaker between me and his mommy? As this thought crossed his mind, he couldn't quite stifle his laughter. "Your mommy is quite good."

"In what way?"

The corners of Eugene's mouth curved into a mischievous arc. "Little fellow, what are you trying to do?"

North gazed at him with a disdainful look in his eyes. "You still haven't understood? I want to help you get a wife!"

Eugene doubled over. Are all kids now this precocious? “You want to recommend your mommy to me?”

North’s dainty eyebrows knitted together deeply, and his voice turned a touch frosty. “Do you not like her?”

After mulling it over for a while, Eugene answered, “It’s not that I don’t like her. I was just somewhat surprised that you’re actually recommending your mommy to be my girlfriend.”

Staring at him, North gave an adult-like sigh. “I want to recommend you a wife, not a girlfriend.” He was worried sick. These two people have known each other for so long, so why isn’t there any progress? They’re going as slow as a tortoise. If I were to wait for their relationship to blossom naturally, it’ll either be my daddy being snatched away by another woman or vice versa. “If you like my mommy, why aren’t you pursuing her?”

Eugene cracked up. “Liking someone is a matter of letting nature take its course. You’re still too young, so you don’t understand.”

Throwing him a glance, North retorted frigidly, “I only know that if you delay pursuing my mommy any longer, she’ll be snatched away by someone else!”

Eugene froze upon hearing that. “Who else is pursuing your mommy?”

“A man who’s comparable to you. My mommy even mentioned treating him to a meal. I think he’s a restaurant owner.”

Unbidden, Eugene’s heart sank a fraction. “Do you like him, too?”

Another sigh came from North. “It doesn’t matter whether I like him. I think my mommy likes him quite a bit.”

Subsequently, Eugene asked, “Do you like me, then?”

Chapter 104

North arched an eyebrow as he looked at Eugene. "I heard that you were looking for a woman a few years back?"

North arched an eyebrow as he looked at Eugene. "I heard that you were looking for a woman a few years back?"

Surprise inundated Eugene. "How did you know this?"

"Isn't this common knowledge with some investigation?" North declared, a touch disdainful.

"You investigated it?" Eugene asked incredulously.

Curling his lips, North stared at him. "Do you know how much effort I expended to get Mommy to return here and apply for a job at Nolan Group? And do you know how many of my plans you've wasted?"

Could you imagine what it'd feel like to have a six-year-old kid sitting across you, saying such creepy things to you? Eugene felt his body inexplicably going limp, his heart pounding wildly as though he'd just finished a marathon. An answer seemed to be on the verge of bursting forth, but he just felt that something didn't quite make sense. "What do you mean?"

North smiled craftily. "I'll tell you if you agree to a few of my conditions!"

Eugene nodded. "What are your conditions?"

Gazing at him, North stated solemnly, "You can't tell Mommy about our conversation today, and of course, it's best if others don't know about it, too."

Eugene nodded. "Okay!"

North then continued, "Also, you're not allowed to bully my mommy. Otherwise, I'll retaliate on her behalf."

Eugene kept his gaze pinned on North, his heartbeat speeding up incessantly. He seemed to have understood, yet it also didn't quite register in his mind. "I promise you that. Keep talking."

Feeling that he'd put his daddy through sufficient torture, North simply cut to the chase. "My mommy... is the woman you were looking for back then."

Boom! The moment Eugene heard this, he felt as though he'd been struck by a bolt of lightning. His body swayed slightly as he stared at North across him in shock. He'd harbored such a suspicion, but he was still astonished to the point that no words came when he heard such a declaration. He wanted to ask, Are you my son? How did you find me? But in reality, he couldn't even utter a single word. Never had he lost his composure so thoroughly and in front of a child at that.

North stared at him with a serious expression on his petite face. "Although I'm your child with Mommy, you can't fight Mommy for my custody rights, and I won't choose to go with you either. Mommy doesn't know that you're my daddy, so you'd better not mention it either. Otherwise, you'll just have to bear the ramifications yourself! Don't coerce her. Rather, have her fall in love with you willingly. Also, if you want to pursue my mommy, you must sever all contact with other women. Mommy is rather difficult to win over as she'd been hurt once, so you need to have some patience."

Eugene was a touch moved, and his nose burned, so he covered his face with both hands, but his emotions just remained roiling after a long while. He truly didn't want to lose his composure before a kid, but this huge surprise had him feeling at a loss. It turns out that Olivia is the woman that night, while this smart and mischievous fellow in front of me is my very own son! Never in my wildest dreams had I ever imagined that the woman I like is the woman I'd looked for laboriously.

After a long time, he finally stretched out a hand and caressed North's head. "Don't worry, I won't hurt her. You should've told me earlier!"

North curled his lips. "I've got to gain an understanding of you first to ascertain whether you're worthy of my mommy."

"What about now? You think I'll do?" Eugene asked with a chuckle.

“Passable.”

As Eugene gazed at North’s standoffish expression, joy imbued him. “You’re exactly like your mommy!”

Looking at the corners of his lips that remained lifted, North reminded, “Don’t scare my mommy. You should just continue with your method of letting nature take its course. I’m just playing it safe in telling you the truth. After all, I’ll prioritize my biological daddy, but if you don’t perform well, I don’t mind asking Mommy to find me a stepfather!”

Eugene was overjoyed, so much so that he didn’t take offense to the threat in North’s remark. “Okay,” he agreed.

Chapter 105

North shook his leg smugly. He could feel his father’s delight going off the charts. “Are we going to visit Great-grandpa then?”

North shook his leg smugly. He could feel his father’s delight going off the charts. “Are we going to visit Great-grandpa then?”

Eugene nodded. “Yes.” They exited the KFC restaurant and went into the car. Eugene kept looking at his son through the rear-view mirror, and the more he looked, the cuter North became. No wonder I like him so much. There were already clues that told him this though. When North went to Nolan Residence last time, he called Merlin ‘Great-grandpa,’ and the first time Eugene went to his house, North gave him an apple. Both of them eschewed spicy hot pot, and when Olivia said North’s father had passed, the boy spewed his water out. Eugene never expected the woman he wanted to find was right around the corner, and she had his kid. North’s right. I let too many clues pass by me too easily.

North grinned, and he thought Eugene would have a hard time sleeping tonight. Once they came to Nolan Residence, they went straight to Merlin’s bedroom.

Merlin was shocked, for he didn’t expect North to come again today, so he called out happily, “Come here, North.”

North went over, smiling. "Great-grandpa."

Merlin's beard was twitching with delight. "How come you're together with Eugene?"

North looked at Eugene. "Uncle Eugene came to pick me up."

Merlin looked at Eugene too, and he noticed Eugene looked unusually happy today. Eugene was usually inscrutable, but he was all smiles today. "Something good happened?"

Eugene wanted to tell him, but because he promised North to keep this a secret, he bit his tongue. "Nothing. North told me a good joke."

Merlin looked at North. "Oh? And what might it be?"

A joke? Yeah right. Just great, Daddy. Luckily, he had a treasure trove of jokes, so he pulled one out. "There's this one time someone asked the Internet which summer camp she should send her child to. Everyone gave her good ideas, but she refused them. Well, that's confusing, but then she added that she's an anti-vaxxer, so her son wasn't vaccinated. Then get this: someone gave the perfect answer. You know what he said?" North paused for dramatic effect, and Eugene and Merlin shook their heads. "He said, 'Yeah, there's a perfect summer camp for your kid. It's called the cemetery.'"

Both of them guffawed at the punchline. "Oh my god, he killed her!" Merlin's beard was almost dancing with delight, and North grinned. "One more game, North. I'm going to win this time."

"Sure." North nodded.

They set the chess board, and Eugene stayed with them, though he didn't feel bored. Instead, he felt content, like he was reliving his childhood. When he played chess with Merlin, Merlin would always hold back, though sometimes he would let loose so Eugene would want to get even. Now, Merlin was doing the same thing to North. The scene almost made him tear up. Grandpa, he's my son and your great-grandson. Eugene and North stayed at the residence until one before they left.

Merlin stopped Eugene and whispered, “Did you read the file I sent you, Rocky?”

“I did.” Eugene was surprised.

“Read it closely.” Merlin frowned.

That caught Eugene by surprise, so he grunted, though he was perplexed. On the way home, he still thought about that cryptic message his grandfather left him.

“What’s your plan?” North quipped.

Eugene was surprised, and his mind lagged for a bit. “What?”

Chapter 106

North was obviously disgruntled even as he reluctantly blurted out three words—“To pursue Mommy!”

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At this moment, Eugene was in high spirits. He was actually gripped by the urge to hug North, but he was afraid that he’d scare him. “Didn’t you tell me to let nature take its course?”

North was rendered speechless. So, he really intends to just let nature take its course? “You can invite my mommy for a meal or a movie when you’re free. This is all part and parcel of wooing a woman from what I see on television.”

Eugene guffawed. “What about you, then?”

North had long since thought of a place for himself. “You two don’t need to worry about me. I can go to Nathan’s house!”

Eugene flashed him a reassuring gaze. "Don't worry, I won't allow someone else to snatch away your mommy."

Staring at him, North reminded him once again as though he was the father here, saying, "Mommy detests men who are fickle in their affections, so you must watch yourself. If Mommy catches you with another woman, she definitely won't forgive you!"

"I know," Eugene answered. He knew that from the moment she talked to him about Ben.

"It's all your fault for offending Mommy. Otherwise, there wouldn't be so many problems when you two are in the same company. Now, you even have to find an excuse just to meet her." North stared at him from the back, wishing that he could stare a hole in the back of his head.

Conscience-stricken at having ruined his child's meticulous plan for him, he explained, "I just misunderstood your mommy. But I have a way to remedy it."

North's eyes lit up. "What is it?"

Eugene smiled mysteriously. "Don't be so impatient. I'll give the two of you a surprise." Since he'd said as much, North didn't pursue the matter further.

At night, North sat in the back of the car while humming softly, seemingly in a good mood. The corners of Olivia's mouth curved. "What are you so happy about?"

North feigned calmness. "Nothing."

Olivia curled her lips. He doesn't want to tell me, huh? She'd actually noticed it a long time ago. Ever since he came back with Eugene, his mood has seemed rather good, and he has even been giggling from time to time. Now, he's shaking his legs and humming. What else could it be if not happiness? "Do you like Uncle Eugene that much?"

North ceased shaking his legs and leaned forward to the front seat. "Mommy, do you like Uncle Eugene?"

"Are you thinking of playing matchmaker again?"

North naturally didn't dare admit to it. "No, I just want to know whether you like him."

"No," Olivia answered.

North turned a tad anxious. "I think Uncle Eugene is quite good."

"There are plenty of good men. Am I supposed to like them all?" Olivia remained unfazed.

North wanted to say, There are indeed quite a number of good men, but there's only one biological daddy! However, he changed his words when he spoke, saying, "Indeed, there are plenty of good men, but it's only Uncle Eugene who's good to you!"

Olivia looked at him through the rear-view mirror. "Who said that? There are plenty of men who are good to me. Aren't you good to me? Isn't your Uncle Nathan good to me? Isn't my senior good to me?"

A touch discouraged, North slipped back to his seat. There's a long way to go for my daddy to win over my mommy.

Upon seeing his dejected expression, Olivia couldn't help expounding, "Since your Uncle Eugene is very nice, women pursue him one after another. So, let's not join them. Don't you like it with just the two of us?"

"Uncle Eugene doesn't like those women."

"How would you know that?"

“I asked him.”

Trepidation swamped Olivia. “You asked him? How did you ask him? And why did you ask him this?” North was actually planning to explain himself, but upon seeing that his mommy seemed peeved, he pursed his lips and dared not say a single word.

Olivia then panicked. Why is this boy not saying anything? Will Eugene think that it was me who told my child to ask him that? “Spit it out!”

North cautiously replied, “I saw a woman holding Uncle Eugene’s arm yesterday, so I asked him whether she’s his girlfriend today, but he said no.”

Chapter 107

“Was that all you said?”

“Was that all you said?”

North nodded his head timidly. Upon realizing that she could have frightened her own son, Olivia gradually softened her voice as she continued to speak, “Don’t ask such questions in the future, North. Others might think that we have ulterior intentions otherwise. Uncle Eugene isn’t just a regular guy. He gains a lot of public attention; he has many wealthy enemies and he’s a little more distant with his own family members. I don’t like this, and I don’t want to be part of this. Do you understand?”

North nodded with a rather confused expression on his face.

There were certain things that Olivia simply couldn’t explain to a young child—she heard that after Eugene chose to betray his mother and younger brother for the sake of attaining wealth, his younger brother chose to change his own name after that; his father plotted a scheme to enable him to divorce his wife and be married to his mistress without him having to pay a divorce settlement at all; and someone had attempted to murder Eugene’s grandfather just days ago. All of those incidents—one after another—were utterly shocking. She only wanted a stable and secure life with her son; she didn’t want to be part of their wealthy family feud.

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Once Eugene returned home, he immediately looked for the will that his grandfather had left for him. He flipped through the document—page after page—but could not look for anything interesting, even when he was at the last page. However, he then noticed something at the compartment in the last page of the document. It wasn't obvious and was even made to look like it was hidden; he couldn't have found it if he hadn't been looking for it. He dug in and pulled out a stack of papers.

Surprised by his grandfather's precise and meticulous acts, he quickly flipped the papers open to learn that it was a DNA test report. He skimmed through the words until the last sentence caught his eye. 'Based on authorized appraisals of the genetic testing of the two individuals, it can be concluded that there is a 99.99% probability of them being biologically related!'

After the initial shock, he was then filled with a surge of joy. It explains why Grandpa seems to like North so much—he had always known that the boy is his biological great-grandson. Now that he was alone in the room, he wasn't concerned about being seen by others and he finally wore a joyful expression that reflected his feelings. Warm tears began to form in his eyes as he laughed, looking at the woman in the picture frame on the bedside cabinet as he said, "Mom, you have a grandson now!"

Following this, he made a call to the moving company in the middle of the night. It wasn't merely any moving company—it was the one that Olivia hired. The movers were dazed and their voices muffled as they picked the call up late at night. "Sir, if there's no rush, we should start moving tomorrow. It's a little inconvenient to do it at night as we're afraid we might knock over or smash some of your items!"

Eugene couldn't wait any longer—his wife and children were over there; how could he bear to stay in his current place any longer? Although he hadn't successfully asked her out, he already thought of her as his woman. "It's fine; most of it are merely daily necessities. I'll pay you double if you don't break anything; I want to move over now!" The Nolan Residence was therefore bright and well-lit in the middle of the night as men walked in and out of.

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Olivia bumped into a group of people who moved things into the elevator as she returned to her lot after throwing the trash. She offered to allow them to enter first before stepping into the elevator once she saw the extra space. "What floor is it? Let me help you," she said as she looked at the movers.

“The 60th floor.”

She was a little surprised to hear that someone had already purchased the 60th floor. She had once considered how nice it would have been to move into the highest floor when she first moved to the 59th floor—it would have provided her with the panoramic view of the city. “Why are you guys moving at such a late hour?”

“Um, the owner’s in a bit of a rush.”

“I noticed that you’re working for Swift Movers Company, but why haven’t I seen you guys around? I just hired the same company to help me to move in a few days ago.”

“We’re casual workers who are here to fill in for the rest. The full time workers aren’t willing to work overtime,” a mover explained.

Olivia understood and continued by asking, “What’s the last name of this house owner?”

“Nolan!”

“Nolan?” She was astonished to hear this.

Chapter 108

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When the elevator door opened with a 'ding', Olivia stepped out of it and continued to eye the indicator panel with suspicion. She had a hunch that it was Eugene yet she was a tad bit afraid that it was really him. Sigh, what an indescribable sensation.

The door was opened—it was North standing by the entrance, asking, "What are you looking at, Mommy?"

"I bumped into the workers from the moving company earlier; they were moving things to the floor above us and said that the owner's last name is Nolan!" she explained.

There was a spark in his gaze in that moment. She was not fully certain about the house owner's identity, but her son knew from the moment he heard it and thought, This was what he meant he said that he'll fix things. It seems like Daddy's a pretty reliable man. The young child smirked—it was one that seemed a tad bit mature for his age.

Olivia noticed the sneaky grin on North's face and walked over to ask, "What are you smiling at?"

"Nothing much." North tried his best to stop his smile from widening.

Olivia feigned anger as she stomped toward him, saying, "Hurry up and tell. Otherwise, I'm going to tickle you." He was frightened by her words that he immediately rushed into the house.

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A loud smack reverberated in the Roberts Residence as a slap landed on Ben's cheek.

Evan was extremely furious as he pointed a finger at Ben, saying, "What did I tell you? I don't care how you want to fool around, but you have to make sure that you're in Jessica's good books. That was smart of you to hit her for the sake of some useless lady. You were even caught on video and I had to deal with it on your behalf. My dignity has been trampled on, no thanks to you."

That incident had caught Ben by surprise as well. Although Jessica had stopped him in his room that morning, Anna was already wearing her clothes, so he could've merely lied that they were in a business

discussion. Why would it have mattered when Jessica hadn't seen them being intimate together? Even if she did, she would not have any proof.

He had to have a convincing explanation for the slap that he gave her downstairs—she kicked up a fuss and he laid a hand on her impulsively after being embarrassed by her. However, that was not a big deal—he could simply apologize to her and it did not matter much for them to cancel their wedding. However, what he never expected was Jessica to have a video footage of him kissing and hugging Anna, replaying the entire scene that happened earlier that morning. He only lowered his head, responding, “I don't know where she obtained that video from.”

“Let's see how you're going to explain yourself to your aunt!” Evan cursed with anger.

With a palm being pressed on his cheek, Ben spoke through gritted teeth. “It's all because of that woman, who was being a busybody, this morning. Otherwise, Jessica wouldn't have been certain of her decision to break up with me. I can feel that she's still into me.”

“What's the point of saying this? I think you should focus on mending your relationship with her. Although both she and her mother wish to cancel the marriage, you're lucky that her dad still wants to proceed with it. I don't care how you settle it, but I want you to reconcile with Jessica.”

“Okay, I got it,” Ben replied. His phone rang immediately after he finished speaking and he panicked when he saw the caller ID. “I-It's my aunt.”

Evan also tensed up upon hearing that as he quickly ordered, “Hurry up and pick it up! What are you waiting for?”

After taking a deep breath, Ben answered, “Aunt Lara!”

Lara's gentle voice sounded from the other end of the call as she said, “Ben, how are things going with Jessica recently?”

Ben's eyes darted toward Evan, as if he was asking the man for advice to respond to her question. Evan shot him a look that read, Pacify the caller. “N-Not too bad.”

She sounded satisfied with Ben's response, saying, "Alright. Make sure that you get along with her. The Roberts will only be able to go against Eugene if we're able to unite with the Smiths."

Chapter 109

"Yes, I know."

"I'm quite fond of Jessica as she's smart, thoughtful and considerate toward you. You should flatter her a little more. Trust me, girls love it when you do that."

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"I understand, Aunt Lara."

"Is your dad asleep? Pass the phone to him."

"Okay." Ben quickly handed the phone over to Evan, as if he was trying to drop a hot potato that burnt his fingers into someone else's hands.

Aunt Lara had always been a greedy and ambitious woman—the Roberts were only able to achieve their current status because of her efforts. Although his father was the one who temporarily managed the Roberts Company, the largest shareholder was still Aunt Lara—she was a good leader to her workers while being both kind and strict to the entire family. However, she was never satisfied by what she had—even after Edward had obediently bowed to her. She always looked for more, especially a higher status in society. If she ever learned of how Ben had ruined her plan, he couldn't imagine how much she'd lecture him. More importantly, he had no idea on how he would be able to continue living his rich and luxurious life.

...

Edward had stepped out of the bathroom with a sour expression just as Lara ended her phone call. "What is it?" she asked, walking toward the man and reaching out to cling onto his neck. Her body was soft and flexible as it curled up against his body like a snake.

He leaned over and kissed her on the lips before he said, "I just received a call from Maria, who told me that Eugene brought the little brat over again today."

"Olivia's son?"

"Yeah, I wonder what the old man is thinking, becoming so close to an outsider. Doesn't he have many great-grandsons? He's never been close to any one of them."

Lara narrowed her eyes as she answered, "Do you think that the old man knows something? Otherwise, why would he have researched the little brat's origins? Could that kid have some sort of relationship with Eugene? Could it be his son?"

Edward asked, "How could that be possible? Eugene did not have any woman around him for years, so how could he have a son?"

She lowered her head and remained silent for a while before suddenly raising her head and saying, "I heard that Olivia has returned from Mastar and Eugene used to head there on business trips all the time a few years ago! If they had known each other from then, it would be possible for them to have had a child together."

After moments of pondering in silence, Edward asked, "If that's Eugene's child, wouldn't he already know about it?"

"Perhaps he's only putting on a show for us. It isn't entirely impossible for him not to be aware of it either. Regardless, we have to investigate this—we can't keep the kid around if he's truly Eugene's son!" A hint of cruelty flickered across Lara's gaze.

He seemed to have gotten used to seeing Lara in that way as he simply leaned forward in a teasing manner. Then, he planted kisses from her eyebrows before moving down her face as he said, "Alright,

stop worrying about this. It's not as if you don't have money for your daily needs. Why do you need so much money?"

Lara started to pant a little as her voice came in between breaths. "I told you... I want to reclaim what's yours... Don't stop me from doing it."

"I don't care about anything else—as long as I have you with me."

At the Nolan Group the next day, Eugene was in an especially elated mood. Even when his secretary made a mistake with the quotation, he simply reminded her to be more careful the next time before forgiving her for the errors.

All of the workers had discussed it amongst themselves. "What's up with our president?"

"I don't know, but he's in an exceptionally good mood and even smiled at me earlier."

"It's so rare to see an iceberg melting."

Curtis was the first to realize this as he leaned over with joy and asked, "Do you have some good news to share, President Nolan?"

"No." Eugene tried his best to remain calm and cool, but he couldn't stop his lips from curling upward—even slightly.

Curtis pouted his lips in disbelief. President Nolan was clearly happy, but he no longer seemed to favor Curtis since he refused to share the good news with him.

Right then, three soft knocks came from the door of the president's office.

Without raising his head, Eugene ordered, "Come in!"

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The secretary opened the door and walked in before announcing, "Mr. Road is here to see you, President Nolan!"

Before the secretary could say anything further, Alex squeezed through the doorway and grinned as he teased, "Your secretary said that you were busy and I shouldn't be bothering you, but I asked what the two men would be busy with in a closed room like this."

Eugene lazily looked up and glanced at him sideways. "It's definitely something more proper than you when you're locked up in a room filled with girls and busy with them."

With a chuckle, Alex replied, "But you'll never be able to experience the sort of serious business that we do in there."

"Do you think I ever want to?"

"I know, you're a man who likes other men." Alex grinned as he looked toward Curtis and continued speaking. "You shouldn't spend so much time with your president. He doesn't mind it, but aren't you afraid that you wouldn't be able to look for a girlfriend in the future?"

Curtis simply laughed, saying, "We're the same as you, Alex. We are straight men who fancy women!"

At that moment, Eugene shot him a look before saying, "Who said we're the same? We emphasize on quality whereas he simply looks at quantity."

Alex nodded in agreement. "Yeah, the number of women whom I've accumulated stretch from one end of town to the other. Yet, you haven't discovered your so-called quality."

After signing the last document, Eugene handed it over to Curtis, who then walked out while hugging the pile of documents. A smile formed on Eugene's face as he slumped against the chair and looked toward his friend.

Alex couldn't help but twitch his lips in disdain as he asked, "Can you behave a little more like a normal person?"

"A beast who only knows how to use the bottom half of his body like you will never understand this!"

"As if you aren't a beast yourself. If you're that great, why don't you try using the upper half of your body instead of your bottom half?" Alex was both annoyed and entertained by the other man's words.

Upon taking a cigarette out of its box and lighting it up, Eugene leisurely leaned against the back of his chair and slowly took a few puffs. With a hint of anger and bitterness in his voice, he continued to mock Alex. "You literally say yes to any girl. I can't do it because I'm afraid that it'd be dirty!"

Alex could tell that he was in a good mood today. "What's wrong with that? Can't I be afraid of blood?"

"I know you like used items!"

"Isn't yours a secondhand item?" Alex glared at him.

"Who do you mean?"

"Olivia."

With a huge eye roll, Eugene proudly exclaimed, "She's not a used uiem at all!" Her first time was spent with me!

Alex curled his lips in suspicion and asked, "She has children, though. Did she adopt them?"

“You might as well become a journalist since you’re such a busybody!” Eugene was close to beating him into a pulp.

The other man pointed a finger at him, saying “Tsk, tsk. How can you say that you don’t like her when you’re so protective of her? Would you have beaten Robin up if you didn’t like her? Would you have given Aleena such troubles if you didn’t like her?”

With a smirk, Eugene replied, “What does that really tell you? That pair of siblings deserved what I did to them!”

“Did Robin deserve to be at the brink of death? Although we aren’t that close to him, we still grew up together. Isn’t what you did a little too much?” Alex asked.

“The only reason why I didn’t continue further was because we grew up together,” Eugene explained as he took a drag of his cigarette and spoke with a cruel expression.

“What was it that caused it to happen? Tell me. I heard that he tried to pursue Olivia, right?” Hayden was the one who told Alex about it. However, the Eugene he knew would not have reacted over such small matters, so Alex had intentionally dropped by to learn more that day.

Eugene’s face was dark as he said, “Do you consider it as ‘pursuing Olivia’ when he brought multiple girls over and even forced them to get into bed with him?”

With a stunned expression, Alex paused for a moment before he asked, “Does Robin have that courage?”

“No, but someone else has, right?” Eugene scoffed.

Alex asked with a frown, “Are you referring to Aleena?”

When Eugene did not deny anything, Alex continued to speak, “Well, it’s too bad that she has the hots for you. You embarrassed her in front of everyone back then, so she has probably decided to take revenge by attacking Olivia instead.”

“She’s interested in me, so she attacks the people around me? What logic is that?”

Alex teased, “Yo, how can you say that you don’t have feelings for her? Would you be so angered if you didn’t feel anything?”