

Unfinished 1131

Chapter 1131 Deny All Responsibility

Olivia patiently explained, "Your pain will slowly get worse and it will feel like ants gnawing at your bones. If you move recklessly and cause blockages in your circulation, necrosis, amputation, and even death might even be possible!"

She had made it all up, of course. That needle had been intended to cause him pain and nothing else.

However, Christoff was still in pain and believed it wholeheartedly, so he did not dare move at all though he couldn't help his temper rising. "You used acupuncture on me?"

He had already forgotten that she knew acupuncture.

She looked at him and crisply answered, "Of course!"

He was overwhelmed by anger. "You f*cking b*tch, you are going to die!"

She glared at him. "How dare you curse at me?"

She stood up abruptly and got another silver needle. "It seems that you didn't get enough of the feeling. Why don't I give you another dose of numbness?"

He knew when to surrender and settled on the floor at once. "I'm sorry! I'm sorry!"

She retracted her hand and looked at him. "For what?"

He smiled ingratiatingly at her. "I won't curse at you anymore."

Olivia threatened him with the needle. "What else?"

Christoff frowned, feeling enraged by her victorious expression though he did not dare cross her. "I suggested the idea of trapping Eugene to Sirius, but I didn't know how exactly he accomplished it. I did lend Azalea some manpower, but I didn't ask her to harm your son. It has nothing to do with me, honestly!"

She pursed her lips. "You've managed to deny all responsibility. Even if you weren't the mastermind, the people were all from Samuel Court, so—"

He completed her sentence before she could finish speaking. "Yes, it's partly my fault too. You can deal with my people however you want and if you can't bear it, I can help you. I told them to carry out their orders carelessly and even reminded them to not hurt you back then."

She cut him off fiercely. "They can't hurt my sons either!"

He acquiesced. "Fine, fine. I did miss that part. The ones I sent were the worst batch from Samuel Court and don't have any brains at all. I'm here to apologize personally, aren't I? Are our sons okay?"

His words were rapid and sounded nice which might have been due to the pain, and she didn't know what to do with that at the moment. "They're my sons."

"Fine, they're yours. I won't fight with you over them. Are they okay?"

Olivia settled back into her seat and raised her eyebrows. "Of course. Your people aren't so okay though. Why didn't you go looking for them when they've disappeared for so long?"

He was puzzled by her victorious expression. "What? Did all three of my assassins end up being caught by them too?"

"Yup. They are in bad shape," she informed him seriously. "I heard that your assassins had to be carried out of the place. Ah!"

She shook her head as she spoke as if she couldn't bear recalling it.

Christoff didn't believe that naturally, especially after seeing how exaggerated her reaction was. "Are you playing around with me?"

He might be distracted now and didn't get enough details, but he would've believed it if Eugene had caught them. However, three children had captured them. Even an assassin of the lowest level wouldn't lose to three children in a fight, right? How were they in bad shape and had to be carried out? Was she joking?

Olivia glared at him. "Do you think I care enough to do so? Why else do you think you are still unharmed?"

Christoff looked down at his legs, which looked so stiff and straight that they didn't look real. "Do I look unharmed?"

Chapter 1132 You've Worn Me Out

Olivia agreed. "Yup, that's right. You don't have to come to see me since I'm going to find you anyway!"

Christoff had no words. How could she say there was nothing wrong and tortured him like this? If something did go wrong, she might have killed him.

"Are you done? Is my apology sincere enough? Eugene is okay, your sons are okay, and I've been tormented by you badly. Let me go at once. I'm in immense pain."

She smiled at him challengingly. "Call me big sis and I'll release you."

He glared at her. "You wish. You're 28 and I'm 30. How shameless you have to be to make me call you that?"

She waved the needle in her hand. "Are you going to do it?"

Well, that was the best course of action right now. "Alright, I'll call you big sis."

Olivia eventually took pity on him and used yet another needle on a spot on Christoff's wrist. His pain slowly faded, while his legs which were stiff from him not daring to move finally had some feeling in them.

He got up and eyed her in mock anger. "Is it my turn to take revenge now?"

She didn't panic and crossed her arms as she looked at him. "You can take revenge however you like if you want me dead. If you aren't planning to kill me, it's better not to invite such trouble because when you might end up being at my mercy again, I'll—"

She smiled warmly and moved close to his ear. "I'll make you pay multiple times the price!"

He looked at the cunning look in her eyes and the adorable curve of her smile. Her expressions were so charming and lively that his heart was filled with a strange feeling.

Well, I can't really bear to do anything to her after all. Forget it.

He eventually just hit the crown of her head gently. "Do you think I can't do it?"

She laughed. "Of course not. You are Christoff Stevenson after all. Who would've thought that? I just think your decision is a wise and intelligent one."

"You're just taking something you don't deserve for granted." He rolled his eyes at her. Even though he was able to take the pain from before, he had exerted a lot of effort in doing so and now felt completely drained of energy. "Fine, you're good at convincing others. You don't have to treat me to a meal later."

She pursed her lips. "It's not even noon yet."

His expression became stormy. "I'm hungry now. You've worn me out so much that I don't have much energy left."

She was speechless since his words sounded somewhat indecent. "Just talk properly. What did you mean when you said I've worn you out?"

He laughed. "What? You're already a mother, so why can't you accept phrases like this? I merely said that you've worn me out. Where did you think I was talking about? Sleeping together or f*cking?"

She sounded frigid. "It seems that you haven't learned your lesson from before. Do you want to go through it again?"

He glared at her and eventually shut up. "Treat me to a meal. You owe me, you know."

"Let's go then," she muttered in annoyance. "Why've you come from so far away to remind me of that as if I owe you my life?"

He got up. "Don't you have a consciousness? Who was the one that made me hungry by tormenting me? Besides, I just wanted you to vent your anger on me. Did I make you accountable for tormenting me? If I did, you would've—"

Olivia asked, "What is it about me? Have you forgotten who sat on the floor and couldn't move just now? And allowing me to unleash my temper at you too! Do you want me to die from anger?"

Chapter 1133 The Men Who Wanted the Necklace

The two of them quarreled as they left the studio.

Sophia who had witnessed everything couldn't find the words to describe her feelings and could only give a secret thumbs-up to Olivia to express her overwhelming admiration for the latter.

Miss Olivia is truly amazing! That man was extremely terrifying with his glare and scowling eyebrows. His stormy expression and growl had nearly scared Sophia to death too. However, Olivia did not give him any leeway, torturing him badly by choking him and even doing acupuncture on him.

Ivanna appeared and asked Sophia, "Sophia, has that man who came looking for trouble gone away?"

The corners of Sophia's mouth twitched. "He didn't come looking for trouble."

Ivanna enquired, "Eh? What did he come here for then?"

"To be tortured!"

Ivanna was more confused. "Didn't you say that he asked for Olivia with a fierce expression as soon as he came in?"

Sophia corrected her. "Yes, but that was before he met her. He became so obedient after seeing her. See this rope and these needles? She used them on him."

Ivanna's eyes widened in shock. There were only three less-than-polite words left in her mind which described her emotions. What the f*ck.

"But do you know what Miss Olivia is best at?"

"What?"

Sophia replied conspiratorially, "Using her beauty. Why else would such a fierce man not retaliate? There's probably an 80% chance he fancies her."

The two were still chatting when the door to the studio opened. Sophia looked toward it to see Henry as well as three other men behind him and she quickly approached them. "Mr. Maxwell, do you want anything?"

Henry didn't look too well. "I-I'm looking for Olivia."

Sophia looked up at the three men and carefully answered, "She's not here. She has gone out."

Henry turned to the men. "See, I told you that she isn't here. Why don't we come back another time?"

However, the men refused to give up and told Sophia, "Call her and say that someone is looking for her."

Sophia was hesitant and glanced anxiously at Henry. After meeting his gaze, she quickly realized what was happening and thought of something. "She forgot to bring her phone."

The young man leading the trio smiled warmly. "Really? Where is it then? Bring it to me."

She was speechless and began to stutter since she hadn't thought about how to answer it. However, one of the men behind the leader came forward and grabbed her. "Just do as you've been told. Why are you so chatty?"

She screamed out in fear. "Fine, I'll call!"

She hated herself at the moment for not having Olivia's courage.

She called Olivia, and Olivia's voice soon came over the line. "Sophia?"

"Miss Olivia, someone wants to see you in the shop."

"Who?"

"I-it's someone your father brought with him."

Olivia became quiet for a moment before she instantly realized what it was about. "Ask him to wait for me."

Sophia answered, "Okay."

She hung up as she finished talking and explained to the others, "Miss Olivia has gone out for a meal and asked you to wait for a moment."

One of the men behind the leader became irritated and his voice became louder. "You want our master to wait?"

The man leading the trio glanced at him silently before smiling. "Alright."

He found a chair and sat down. Henry did not dare leave either and remained with them in the lobby.

Sophia tentatively served them tea. "I-I'll be right over there. Call me if you need anything."

Olivia and Christoff returned after more than an hour. When she saw the men sitting in the lobby, Olivia immediately understood the situation. It was as she had guessed. They had to be the men whom her father said wanted the necklace. However, she had told him that she no longer wanted to find it and she didn't want to allow anyone to see the necklace either, so why had her father led them here?

"Olivia..." Henry felt uncertain as he frantically approached her. "Why did you come back so late?"

Chapter 1134 Sapphire Necklace

Olivia asked, "What happened? Who are they?"

Henry gave her a meaningful glance. "They're looking for a sapphire necklace. Didn't I give you one like that? You can show it to them whenever it's convenient for you."

She immediately understood his implication. "Oh, do you mean that necklace? I lost it. I brought it along when we went on vacation a few months back and it got lost."

"How did you manage to lose it, Olivia?" He sounded regretful as he looked toward the men. "I'm afraid we can't help you."

She followed his gaze toward the men. Their leader looked noble and gentlemanly, with an extraordinary aura and handsome features. His eyes were clear and his skin was flawless, while a sapphire stud was embedded in one ear. It was like what her father had said—they didn't look like crooks.

Albert Bleu got up and moved toward Olivia. "Can you describe your necklace? You can also show me a picture if you have it."

She studied the man curiously. He can't possibly be linked to my background, right?

"Where are you from? Why are you looking for the necklace?"

He did not answer her question and asked her instead, "How about you tell me where and when you lost it?"

She made up a lie on the spot. "I lost it a few months ago on a vacation to Promise Island."

The man made a noise of assent and took out his phone to find a picture of the necklace. "Can you see if your necklace looks like this?"

She moved nearer to look. It was a dark blue necklace with a large sapphire at the center which was surrounded by embedded white diamonds. It was obvious that it was highly valuable and looked exactly like hers.

However, she wasn't sure who the man was. Was he someone linked to her lineage, or was he just a jewelry merchant or even a swindler? Besides, the necklace resembled the one they had stolen back in Eurosia. If they couldn't explain it away, everyone would assume she had stolen it. That would cause a lot of trouble.

She only murmured indistinctly, "Almost. It's not as pretty as yours though."

The man seemed to have sensed Olivia's worry and kindly replied, "The necklace is very important to me. You have to contact me if you manage to find it. I am willing to pay a good price for it."

She smiled and concurred. "Alright. Are you from a jewelry company?"

"No."

"An antique collector then?"

He seemed extremely patient and replied again. "No."

She laughed softly. "Well, you aren't either of these. The necklace can't possibly be some sort of souvenir, right?"

The leader didn't have the chance to answer since one of his subordinates had become impatient. "Are you doing a background check? Why do you have so many questions? Just tell us whether you can

find it or not."

Christoff, who hadn't spoken since he came in, leaned against the front counter and murmured lazily, "Why are you talking like that? You are the ones who came here, so what's wrong with asking you a few questions?"

His demeanor didn't seem challenging and he hadn't moved at all, but Olivia knew that he had become irritated. Worried that he couldn't control himself and make a move, she quickly sent him a placating look.

"It's okay, everyone has the right to their own privacy. I have been too rude, but I was just curious."

He didn't care about that at all. Even though he seemed to be replying to her, he directed his answer to the men instead. "How were you being rude? If they don't allow it, then they should get out!"

The subordinate's eyes narrowed as he approached Christoff directly. "What did you say?"

Christoff straightened up and his gaze turned sharp. "I said, you are the ones asking for help, so you should behave in that manner!"

Chapter 1135 The Whereabouts of the Necklace

The two glared at each other. Both refused to back down.

The scene gave Olivia a headache. Picking up a fight right now isn't a good idea.

She grabbed Christoff's arm. "What are you doing?"

The other man also yelled at his angry servant. "Back off, River."

The servant paused for a moment. Even though he was still angry, he had to obey his master's words. At last, he shot Christoff a warning look.

Christoff scoffed at his attitude. How dare he disrespect me? He's just a lowly servant.

Olivia put on an apologetic smile. "I'm sorry. People usually seek me out for costume design. It's a habit to ask questions. I didn't mean to invade your privacy, so I apologize for offending you. May I ask for a business card, so I can call you if I come across the necklace or a similar one?"

"Sure." The man agreed to her suggestion before taking out a business card from his wallet. "I'm Albert Bleu. Please call me if you found the necklace. As long as it's the necklace I'm looking for, I'm willing to pay any price."

Fiddling with the business card, Olivia began with an innocent expression, "Bleu? There aren't many Bleus in Criccia. Are you perhaps from Eurosia?"

Albert nodded. "Yes, you're right. We're Euroasian. However, I would like you to keep it a secret."

River turned to Albert with a shocked expression. His cracked voice revealed his surprise. "Sir!"

How could he tell her about that?

Olivia glanced at River before turning her attention back to Albert. Her voice came out softly. "Don't worry. It's a secret between us."

Albert decided to take his leave. "Thank you. I'm looking forward to your call."

Olivia nodded. "All right. I won't keep you any longer."

The group turned on their heel to leave. Henry followed suit.

Olivia called out to him. "Wait a minute, Dad. I've got something to tell you."

River sought an order from Albert. Once Albert approved, River said nothing as he left with Albert without Henry.

Once the men were out of earshot, Henry sighed in relief. He looked at his daughter and lamented, "Thank you, Olivia. You can't trust those men. They had been following me the whole time. They reached out to me because they saw me leaving your place. I didn't want to tell them, so I changed the topic to buy time. However, they had guns, and they forced me to come here with the guns. I had no choice, Olivia. I'm sorry."

Olivia pondered for a moment. "They had guns?"

Henry nodded. "That's right, Olivia. We have to call the police."

She exchanged a glance with Christoff. "We don't have to. They won't bother you anymore."

"What makes you so sure?" Christoff spoke up with his arms crossed.

She explained, "Their goal is the necklace. Now that they knew I have the necklace, they won't bother somebody else."

He coldly asked with the same posture, "And you lost the necklace?"

She didn't want to share the information with him, so she decided to hide the truth from him. She answered without hesitation, "I did."

He winced at her obvious lie. "You wouldn't have asked the questions if you lost it. You were lying about the necklace because you were unsure of their identities. Am I right?"

She watched him in disbelief.

He's unbelievable! How did he guess everything right? Was my lie full of flaws?

Glaring at him, she denied the statement. "You're imagining things."

He leaned against the counter as a smile broke on his face. "You're agitated, which means my guess is right."

She didn't bother to answer him. He's getting on my nerves.

However, Christoff wasn't finished yet. He elaborated on the topic, "I caught you in a lie. That man can do the same. What makes you think he isn't up to something when he left?"

The words put a frown between her brows. "What do you mean?"

Chapter 1136 A Banter

Christoff scratched his chin with a smug grin on his face. "Easy. If it were me, I'll kidnap someone and blackmail you to give me the necklace."

Olivia coldly remarked, "Not all people are as bad as you."

He pushed, "And what makes you think they aren't bad people?"

She emphasized, "They aren't bad people. The leader of the group isn't like you."

"How are we different?"

"Your vibes are just not the same."

He gasped in disbelief. "Hold it right there! What's wrong with my vibe? Do I look like a bad guy to you?"

She giggled at his antics. "The words 'bad guy' are written all over you from head to toe."

A shadow fell on Christoff's face. However, the frustration inside his chest vanished in the blink of an eye at the sight of her smile.

"You wouldn't survive this long if I was a bad guy... I would've made—" A move on you. He didn't finish the sentence.

He almost told her the truth. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw Henry, and the realization hit him. Her father is here. I shouldn't say anything inappropriate. Therefore, he bit his tongue, forcing the sentence to a stop.

Olivia had no idea about his dilemma. She burst into laughter. "That means my friendliness has made you more humane."

He watched as she smirked. She got on his nerves, but he couldn't do anything with her.

"Whatever. You should continue your efforts. Just don't turn me into something in between."

Henry's eyes darted between Olivia and Christoff. What's the relationship between them?

Why does he keep staring at my daughter?

"Olivia, you haven't introduced us. Who is this?"

Olivia vaguely answered, "He's a friend."

Christoff turned to Henry immediately. "Nice to meet you, Mr. Maxwell."

"Nice to meet you too. Where are you from? How did you know each other?"

Christoff smiled at the second question. "It all started that day..."

Olivia didn't want Henry to ask more questions, so she interrupted, "Dad, you should go. Send the group to me if they dare to reach out to you again. Just agree with their terms and do as told if they ever threaten you. They are coming after the necklace, so they won't hurt you at all."

Henry hummed a response. "All right. Look out for yourself too. Remember to tell Eugene too. His men can keep an eye on you in secret."

She was surprised to hear his suggestion. Ever since her mother passed away, it was the first time he expressed concern for her.

She was touched by his gesture. She croaked, "I will."

Olivia returned to the main hall after she saw Henry off. Not long after she found a seat, Christoff approached her. "I'm staying in Summer City for a few more days. I can be your bodyguard within this period if you want."

"Thanks, but no thanks. I'm capable of self-defense."

"Your loss."

"You better head back to your secret stronghold. Eugene won't let you go once he finds out about your existence."

His face leaned closer to hers. A mischievous spark gleamed in his eyes. "Aren't you touched by me risking my safety all the way to apologize to you?"

"Not at all."

A disappointed frown pulled at the corners of his lips. "You're a heartless monster."

She let the statement slip. "Whatever. Just go. I can't save you if Eugene got you."

He shot her a smile. "Will you ever betray me?"

She refused to give him the answer he wanted. "I'm not sure. Maybe? Probably? Perhaps?"

He crossed his arms. "I thought we were friends. How could you backstab a friend?"

"But Eugene is my boyfriend," answered Olivia.

"You're a heartless monster. I need to tell you that."

"I can't help it. I learned it from you."

He chuckled. "I bet you would become my own kind if we spend more days together."

She smirked. "You wish! We're walking on different paths!"

"Watch your mouth!" Christoff reached out a hand and ruffled her hair with force.

Olivia swatted his hand away. "Stop messing up my hair, or I'll stick you with needles."

Chapter 1137 Albert's Motives

Christoff glared at Olivia and took a seat opposite her. "I have a feeling that the man is an important figure in Eurosia, which explains the guns they have."

"I understand."

"I was told that the Queen of Eurosia must own the necklace, which is an heirloom, to ensure her position. Do you think they're looking for the same necklace?"

Olivia panicked at his words, and she immediately denied the claim, "That's impossible! The current Queen's reign hasn't ended. Why would they look for the necklace at this point?"

Her denial convinced him, so he agreed with her, "You're right. However, they're making quite a fuss over it if they're searching for a normal necklace."

I can't let him dwell on this matter!

Olivia tried to change the topic. "Enough about this talk. Stop worrying. It's their national affair. Don't tell me you covet the Queen's throne."

He sneered at her joke. "No thanks. And I would like to stay as a male for now."

Meanwhile, Albert got in the car.

River could no longer contain his confusion. "Sir, why did you tell her the truth? The Queen asked us to make a secret investigation."

Albert explained, "I have a feeling that the woman had the necklace, but she won't give it to us if we don't show sincerity."

River exclaimed, "That's easy! We know her father! We can kidnap him and force her to give us the necklace."

Albert watched River with a stern look. "Your hot temper won't do you good in this mission, you know? I wish everything could be resolved that easily."

River prompted, "Are you worrying about something?"

Hugh in the back seat chimed in, "He should be. What if she deceives us with a counterfeit?"

Albert added, "She looks like she knows something, which explains the questions she asked."

River asked, "What are we supposed to do now? Since she said it was lost, she probably won't give it to us. We can't possibly sit around and wait for something to happen."

At that, his eyes shone in excitement. "We can steal it! Since you've found her lying about the necklace, it means she still has it. We can ask somebody to rob her house. They can find the necklace there."

Albert shot daggers at River. "Enough talk. I'm ashamed to hear you speak. Get the car going."

River stuck out his tongue. "You and your principles... Then how are we supposed to retrieve the necklace? It's been two months since we left Eurosia, and we've made no progress so far."

Albert comforted him, "It can't be helped. For now, what matters the most is to gain her favors."

"Sir, are you sure she has the necklace we want?"

Albert explained, "All I know is she didn't tell us the truth just now. There are two possibilities for her lies. First, she didn't want anything to do with us, so she tried to turn us away. However, she had many questions, which means she wanted to learn more about our background. Thus, it leads to the last

possibility, which is that she lied due to a lack of trust in us or she's holding back her opinion before she learns our motives."

"Maybe she's just curious?"

"But she immediately thought about Eurosia when she learned my surname. It's not a coincidence. She's testing us. She's either a knowledgeable woman or familiar with Eurosia."

River hesitated. "So, we're going to waste our time and energy on her? Are you sure it's worth it?"

Albert soothed him, "In the meantime, you'll carry on the secret investigation. We're taking a two-track approach."

River studied Albert's expression from the rear-view mirror. "Sir, are you sure it's not because she's a pretty woman, and you fell in love with her at first sight?"

Albert denied the claim. "That's ridiculous. However, having a friend as beautiful as her is not bad."

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At night, Eugene brought the children home and found Olivia in the living room. He smiled at her. "You're early."

She hummed a response and explained, "I need North's help to look up a man."

Her statement took him aback. "Who is it?"

"Here." At that, she took out the business card from her purse and showed it to him.

He glanced at the card before asking, "Albert Bleu? Who is this guy?"

Seeing no point in hiding the truth from him, she told him what happened this afternoon.

Chapter 1138 Who Is Doreen?

Eugen's expression turned more serious after he learned the story. "He's a Euroasian? Did they lose their necklace again?"

Olivia solemnly announced, "I'm thinking about the same thing, or else they don't have to make a fuss over the search for the necklace."

He asked, "What are you going to do? Will you show them the necklace?"

She shook her head. "I don't want to. It's best if the necklaces aren't the same. It would be just a little waste of time in the end. What scares me most is that they're coming after my necklace. When the time comes, how am I supposed to explain where I got the necklace? Moreover, I might get dragged into their politics. It won't do me good."

He agreed with her, "Fair enough. I'd rather us live a peaceful life instead of getting involved with politics."

A while later, North came out of the room. "Mommy."

Olivia turned to him. "Did you find anything, baby?"

"Of course." He smiled proudly. "You can count on me. Nothing can stop me from getting what I want."

She couldn't wait to hear the answer. "All right. I'm listening."

"He's the older brother of the Queen of Eurosia."

Olivia had a feeling that Albert might be an important figure, but she didn't expect him to be a royal. "He's the older brother of Queen Alice?"

"That's right. He's twenty-five. Three years older than the Queen."

Olivia nodded and mumbled to herself, "The Queen ascended the throne at eighteen. Now four years have passed. She was just a little girl at that time."

Eugene was confused. "Why is her brother looking for the necklace? Does he plan to take the throne?"

She shook her head. "I don't think so. Only women can rule the country. Even if Albert is looking for the necklace, he does it for Alice."

It confused Eugene even more. "But she's still in power. What's the point of looking for the necklace? Perhaps somebody stole the necklace intending to strike a coup d'état?"

Olivia had no idea. She turned to North and requested, "North, keep looking into this matter. I want to know if anything has happened to Eurosia lately."

North answered, "I did the research. There's nothing abnormal. Follow me."

Olivia, Eugene, and the other kids followed him into his room.

North showed them the major events in Eurosia over the past year.

Olivia ruled out the unrelated ones. As North said, the situation in Eurosia seemed normal.

The information showed them the development within the country in the past year. It started trading with Nambahd, and even struck a deal with Goldiyya.

Diamonds and petroleum abounded in Eurosia. It was a small but wealthy country. Besides, they had Decrane to back them. Therefore, the Queen had been ruling in peace for years.

There was one thing worth mentioning, which was that the former secretary of the Queen, Doreen Bleu, passed out once half a year ago. The press covered the incident at length.

Getting sick should've been a normal thing. However, the press in Eurosia reported her story once in a while as if they were keeping an eye on her condition. Every article was attached with her photo. When the photo was taken, she was either watering the plants, relaxing under the sun, or working at her table. It was as if they intended to tell the Euroasian that she was healthy.

Is this Doreen woman the moral support of Eurosia? Or else nothing can explain the press' behavior.

Olivia began, "North, I need to learn more about her."

North hummed a response. His fingers flew across the keyboard as he inserted the commands. Soon, he sorted out Doreen's information.

Doreen was the former queen's personal maid. She had been serving Queen Blanchett for years. Even more, she risked herself to save Queen Blanchett and Queen Alice's lives.

Back when the people were trying to overthrow the crown, Doreen helped Queen Blanchett to make it out alive among her enemies' conspiracies.

Doreen was a bold but cautious woman, who was good at strategy. The country had become what it was today mostly due to Doreen's contribution.

After perusing the information, Olivia mused, "No wonder the press focused on her. She's a heroin who serves two queens in her life."

Eugene scratched his chin. After pondering for a moment, he began, "Doreen must be very sick."

She turned to him with a confused expression. "What makes you think so?"

Chapter 1139 Yearning for Eugene's Dishes

A shocked expression fell on Olivia's face. "Does it have anything to do with the search for the necklace?"

Eugene nodded. "It might be, or else the Queen's brother won't be looking for the necklace at this point. Besides, he's keeping a low profile during the search. The situation doesn't allow them to notify the others about the search. I think they really lost the necklace, or they lost the real one a long time ago."

She turned to him, heart heavy in her chest. "What do you mean?"

He met her eyes. "Olivia, the necklace you own might be the real one."

Olivia shook her head. "No way! I have had the necklace forever, but Alice only ascended the throne four years ago. How can my necklace suddenly be the real one?"

Eugene pressed, "Then why do they have to search for the necklace? It belongs to the royals. They can't simply lose it like that."

After that, he turned to North and said, "North, can you find the news reported when Alice first took the crown four years ago?"

North hummed in understanding. A serious expression coated his facial features as he rapidly typed commands on his computer.

The others in the room watched him in silence. All they heard was the sound of his fingers tapping the keyboard.

Soon, he found the news during the first year of her reign.

He looked up the unofficial history and some domestic news, which Eurosia wouldn't leak to the other countries.

Their goal was to see the ritual in which Alice succeeded the throne.

One needed to go through a complex process to become the Queen of Eurosia. First of all, the former queen needed to issue a letter to announce her successor. Besides, the successor must come from the royal family, the Bleu Family. Moreover, the new queen must own the necklace, which was dedicated to the Queen of Eurosia. The necklace was a sign of military power, and the new queen could give orders to the army with the necklace in her possession.

On the day of the ritual, the successor must put the queen's necklace in a slot under the queen's throne to open the hidden compartment storing the queen's letter. All of them were essential, or else the successor wasn't qualified to take over the throne.

Four years ago, people doubted that the necklace was a counterfeit. However, Alice revealed the hidden compartment under the queen's throne with ease and took out the former queen's letter.

Olivia turned to Eugene. "Did you see that? Alice has the real necklace."

He kept quiet. He couldn't quite get the idea for it, but he felt something was fishy. "Whatever. We don't have to worry about it. That's enough for today. After all, you turned them away."

She nodded. "That's right. There's no need to worry about them. Babies, it's time for dinner."

The group went downstairs where the meals were served at the dining table.

After taking a seat at the table, North asked, "Daddy, can you make spicy crayfish for us next time?"

Eugene was surprised to hear his request. "It's in our dinner tonight!"

North explained, "But it tastes different. I like the ones you make."

After that, he turned to his siblings. "Do you agree with me?"

Carter nodded. "I want to eat that too."

Blake chimed in, "Daddy! Don't forget to make the grilled fish!"

Olivia added, "I would love some dumplings."

Terry nodded his head vigorously at every suggestion. At last, he exclaimed in excitement, "I want all of them!"

Their requests overwhelmed Eugene. He studied Olivia's and the children's faces. "Are you being serious right now?"

The kids nodded in unison. Their adorable faces melted his heart.

Meanwhile, Olivia, who sat beside him, also nodded to emphasize their words.

Their faith in him softened Eugene's heart. He was used to being a decisive and resolute man during work. The people around him respected him and feared him, but now, he had his family to give him faith. The feeling of being needed by them was good. The warmth coated his heart. It was a pleasant feeling and brought a smile to his face. Striking a big deal with his business partner was nothing compared to being loved by his family.

He watched his family. He was grinning from ear to ear. "Sure. I'll be in charge of dinner the day after tomorrow."

North frowned. "Why do we have to wait for two days?"

Eugene explained, "Mommy and I were invited to a banquet tomorrow. The four of you will stay at home. Behave, okay?"

It was Olivia's first time learning about the plan. "What banquet?"

Eugene answered, "Hayden's mother is turning sixty."

Chapter 1140 Sweet Sixty

She sighed and ranted, "I don't even know how things are going between him and Jewel. I've been haunted by regret for the past few days. Had I not brought it up, they probably would've made up already."

Eugene consoled, "No need to blame yourself over that. The matter's a ticking bomb anyway since Jewel would know about it eventually. Rather than surprising her in the future, she should know about it sooner. Making up or breaking up, it's solely up to them. Besides, they wouldn't be happy if their relationship was forced. Alex's concerns aren't unreasonable at all."

With a sigh, Olivia continued, "I know, but still, I can't get over it..."

He replied, "Alright, alright. Stop sighing. I'll invite Mom with Jewel tomorrow so they'll have more chances to get along. They'll eventually move on, I believe."

The next day, Hayden planned a banquet for his mother, Prunella Sanders, for her sixtieth birthday at Fairview Hotel. After all, it was a great event in so many years. According to his mother, who was sad over having no children-in-law or grandchildren, all her birthdays were simply brushed past. Therefore, he wanted to do something nice for her sweet sixty.

After Eugene and Olivia got off work, they immediately headed to Fairview Hotel, while Ellen purposely had Jewel accompany her, which the latter naturally could not refuse.

As the party of guests arrived at the hotel, Hayden and Aubrey enthusiastically welcomed them.

"Mrs. Nolan, you're here as well!"

"You should probably head in there soon. Prunella was just talking about how she misses you."

Ellen said with a smile, "You've never changed, Aubrey. You're still as young as ever."

"What are you talking about? I can hardly walk now!" Aubrey laughingly jested. "Come. I'll walk you in. Prunella is in the resting room; Stefanie's here as well! A sisterly reunion for a sisterly catch-up, huh?"

Ellen was slightly taken aback when she was told that Stefanie was present. She turned around and held Jewel's hand. "Jewel, why don't you stay with Olivia for a bit? I'll come back in a sec."

Jewel answered, "Don't worry about me, Godmother. Take your time in there."

After talking to Olivia for a minute, Ellen then entered the resting room.

Olivia was visibly suspicious. If Stefanie's already here, where is Alex? She turned to Eugene with a confused gaze.

He assured her, "He'll come. He must be caught up in something else."

Although Jewel did not hear Eugene mention any names, she figured it had to be Alex. She had seen the evidence he showed her, and if the woman was indeed her mother, she would be utterly speechless. Though, that was merely a baseless instinct that she was unlikely—even reluctant—to believe as it pertained to her mother.

Therefore, she persistently looked into the matter with Alex by her side. She knew that he did not care about the outcome. In the man's opinion, the evidence was enough to convince him that her mother was the homewrecker, and the reason he was willing to accompany her in her investigation was that she insisted on digging further into the matter. She would not give up so easily no matter what!

Followingly, Eugene told Olivia and Jewel to grab some food for themselves. After all, as Hayden's friend, he should not intervene in the matter.

After he left, Olivia and Jewel went to help themselves with the catering. The former then asked, "How's the investigation going?"

Jewel shook her head. "No progress so far. We went to the journalists, cops, and my mother's past residences and even tried to visit our old neighbors. Sadly, they either moved or passed away. The journalists and cops couldn't find any useful information at the moment since the matter had taken place too far in the past."

"So, are you going to continue?" asked Olivia.

Jewel answered, "Of course! I can't allow my mother to be known as a homewrecker for no reason!"

Olivia softly consoled, "Don't fight or trouble yourself. You can probably see Alex's attitude by now. He's already chosen to be on your side."

Jewel replied, "And that does nothing. He chose to be on my side, but that doesn't mean he'd unconditionally accept me in the future. Should a feud arise between us, this will be a catalyst to a foreseeable disaster. Honestly, I don't have the confidence to remain steadfast as I stay by his side."