

Unfinished 1331

Chapter 1331 Not Taken in by His Words

"Okay," Eugene answered. "We'll do as you say."

Meanwhile, Nathan's mind went blank for three minutes after hanging up on Olivia. He studied the screenshot she had sent him again and again, unable to believe that everything that happened last night was a setup by his family.

That explained why he was so wasted when he had barely drunk any alcohol, why his cell phone was turned off, and why they wouldn't let him leave no matter what. They even said that they would consider his relationship with Halma after he attended the party. As it turned out, all of that was just excuses.

Hmph, and here I thought that they would let me have my way. So, they merely resorted to a more despicable plan to bend me to their will. Oh, I'm so mad right now! he thought. He was so furious that he figured that if he was a cartoon character, he would have wisps of smoke shooting out his head like an overworked chimney.

Fortunately, the viral news was removed in record time. Otherwise, he truly didn't know how to defend himself and make people believe his claims. When he recalled Olivia's words, he couldn't help but break out in cold sweat. If Halma finds out about this... I can't imagine how things will turn out.

So, he hastily grabbed his phone and called Halma's number right away. Alas, she didn't pick up his call. It was a repeat of the Melanie incident all over again! Halma treated him like that too—she didn't hang up or block his number but merely refused to pick up his calls.

I'm done for! Earlier, Nathan still dared to harbor a flicker of hope, thinking that maybe Halma just hadn't noticed it was him calling, but now, he was absolutely certain that she had found out about this. If she hadn't, she would have answered his call. Frustration washed over him as he angrily ran his fingers across his scalp before getting up to change.

Half an hour later, he showed up at Helme's door. Unfortunately, no one came out to open the door for him even after he abused the poor doorbell in his haste to make things right between them.

He was utterly out of his wits as he started to explain himself at the door, "Open the door, Helme. I can explain! Things are not what you think they are! Open up. Helme, I wasn't unfaithful. Open up and let's talk face-to-face, okay? Even if you're going to give me the death sentence, you should at least give me a chance to plead my case, shouldn't you? I didn't know that my mom even looked for you, but what she said only represented herself, not me. Don't you know who I love in my heart? Helme, will you please open the door?"

He went on and on at the door for an hour, but no matter what he said and how many times he called on the phone, there was no response within the house.

Nathan could feel his brain melting at the rate he was going as he shouted at the door again, "Helme, I know you're home! It's my fault that I couldn't give you a sense of security, but I've never done anything unfaithful to you. I never spent the night with that woman. Wait and see, I'll prove to you that I'm telling the truth." After that, he spun around and left.

Meanwhile, Helme remained as still as stone as she sat on the couch, not uttering a single word. There wasn't even the slightest change in her eyes, and she couldn't really sort out her own emotions. Compared to Olivia's anger, she was sad, disappointed, and even relieved; the only thing she didn't feel was anger. Maybe she was already numb to everything.

Half an hour later, he showed up at Halma's door. Unfortunately, no one came out to open the door for him even after he abused the poor doorbell in his haste to make things right between them.

He was utterly out of his wits as he started to explain himself at the door, "Open the door, Halma. I can explain! Things are not what you think they are! Open up. Halma, I wasn't unfaithful. Open up and let's talk face-to-face, okay? Even if you're going to give me the death sentence, you should at least give me a chance to plead my case, shouldn't you? I didn't know that my mom even looked for you, but what she said only represented herself, not me. Don't you know who I love in my heart? Halma, will you please open the door?"

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unfaithful to you. I never spent the night with that woman. Wait and see, I'll prove to you that I'm telling the truth." After that, he spun around and left.

Meanwhile, Halma remained as still as stone as she sat on the couch, not uttering a single word. There wasn't even the slightest change in her eyes, and she couldn't really sort out her own emotions. Compared to Olivia's anger, she was sad, disappointed, and even relieved; the only thing she didn't feel was anger. Maybe she was already numb to everything.

Half an hour later, he showed up at Halma's door. Unfortunately, no one came out to open the door for him even after he abused the poor doorbell in his haste to make things right between them.

Nonetheless, she had the urge to slap herself to awaken her stubborn self. She knew that they were from different worlds from the very beginning, but she insisted on pursuing this relationship; she was

well aware that they were not suited for each other but went against Heaven's will, insisting that she knew better.

How could she not have known that something was amiss last night? She was aware that something had prevented Nathan from attending. Otherwise, he wouldn't have missed out on Olivia and Eugene's marriage registration party. Well, at least now I actually know whether I'm on the right path. He was getting busy with another woman because I refused to take our relationship to the next level. Fine, then!

While Halma could understand that he had decided to seek comfort from another like-minded woman, she couldn't understand why he bothered to explain himself to her after doing something like that.

He didn't spend the night with that woman and still likes me, eh? I'm already twenty-eight, not eighteen! I'm way past the age of being easily taken in by some sweet talk. Did he think that I'm so easy to fool? He's just another run-of-the-mill playboy, or perhaps, trash who likes to keep his d*ck wet more than staying loyal to just one woman.

Of course, there was a possibility that he had no other choice but to come here and comfort her because it didn't occur to him that the video of him and the woman would end up on the Internet. Regardless, when he saw that she remained utterly unmoved by his efforts, he naturally left just as she thought he would.

Chapter 1332 I Believe My Own Eyes

Although Halma wasn't moving an inch, she couldn't stop her mind from running wild. Hmph! Who wants such an unreliable man? I'm done with him! In truth, she already saw the news last night soon after it was released, and she sat in a meditation position quietly until daybreak without even batting an eyelid. By the time Nathan came over, she had already thought over their relationship repeatedly to the point where she couldn't remember it.

Yes, she didn't believe him. Her phone kept ringing, doing its level best to annoy her. Sure, she should have taken a look at it, but she was simply not in the mood. The news of her boyfriend checking into a hotel room with another woman went viral on the Internet, and she didn't even have the guts to walk out of her place because of this.

She didn't know how she was going to face the stares and judgment of those strangers, not to mention those who just wanted the most recent hot gossip under the pretense of concern. So, she, out of sheer spite, returned to her bedroom, crawled under the sheets, and went to sleep.

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Due to Halma's refusal to contact anyone, even Olivia had failed to get in touch with her. Thus, it was an anxious and highly concerned Olivia that demanded Eugene send her to Halma's place. To her dismay, there was no response from the inside even after she pressed the doorbell several times.

In the end, she raised her voice and exclaimed, "It's me, Halma! Open up!" Then, she turned to Eugene. "Go to work. I'll accompany her."

That was a no from Eugene because he was worried, and his wife was his highest priority right now. "I'll wait until you go in. What if she isn't home?"

Olivia shot him an annoyed stare. "Do you think she'll be in the mood to go out right now?"

Eugene scratched his nose sheepishly as he wondered, Why do I keep making my wife mad when I'm trying to clean up that bratty Nathan's mess?

Awkwardness washed over Olivia for a few seconds before she tried the doorbell again. "Open the door, Halma. Are you going to let a pregnant woman stand at your door? Open up; there's no one else besides me."

After that, the door slowly swung open, and Halma stood at the doorway with a blank look on her face. She was in the same clothes as she did at the party last night. Her hair was unbrushed and neither did she wash her face. The usual twinkle in her eyes was gone and a prominent set of eyebags hung beneath them instead, proof that she hadn't slept a wink last night.

Olivia felt her heart wrenching painfully as she stepped forward, pulling Halma into a hug. "Halma..." Then, she stroked Halma's back gently as she cooed, "It's okay. Everything is fine."

Halma didn't utter a word as the dam broke and tears flowed out of her eyes uncontrollably. She couldn't understand why she was breaking down now, especially after she had fought to keep her tears at bay the whole night. On the other hand, Olivia took this opportunity to shoot Eugene a look, gesturing at him to leave.

Eugene sighed and said to Halma, "There are more things at play here. If Nathan has truly been

unfaithful to you, I'll take care of him on your behalf." After that, he reminded Olivia, "Olivia, don't forget that you're pregnant. Control your emotions and I'll pick you up later."

Alas, Olivia simply urged impatiently, "I got it. Run along to work." Just a second ago, she had boldly claimed that she came alone, but Eugene just had to make his presence known by speaking.

Eugene frowned as he grumbled in his heart, Why is everyone else more important than me in my wife's heart?

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Halma mechanically poured a glass of water for Olivia, washed some fruits, and placed a soft pillow behind Olivia's back while doing everything in complete silence.

Olivia was distressed upon seeing her in such a state, saying, "Didn't Nathan call you?"

Halma nodded in response. "He did, and he didn't stop. He even dropped by this morning."

"What did he say? Did he explain himself?" Olivia inquired anxiously.

Suddenly, Halma looked at her gravely. "I didn't let him in."

"Why not?"

"Why should I believe his explanation instead of my own eyes?"

"You can't put it that way. What happened last night was all a setup arranged by his parents," Olivia

said. "That woman is the blind date whom he stood up the last time, and he claims that he didn't cheat on you."

Chapter 1333 There's Someone in My Heart

"Do you believe him?" Halma asked.

Olivia nodded. "I believe most of it, mainly because he didn't have a reason to spend the night with another woman. He said that he was drunk, and that the woman helped him into the hotel, but he checked into a room alone."

"Why did he check into a hotel instead of going home when he's drunk?" Halma retorted. "And why was a woman who was interested in him the one helping him out? Even if this was a setup by his parents, if Nathan hadn't given them the opportunity, a piece of news like this wouldn't have made it into the headlines."

"That's why you have to listen to his clarification," Olivia explained. "If he gives a reasonable explanation, you can forgive him, but if he gives an unclear answer, I'll take care of him before you do. All in all, you can't just cut off communication with him without getting closure."

"Olivia, I'm exhausted. Maybe we're people from different worlds and forcing ourselves together is against Heaven's will, which is why our relationship is so turbulent. Or, perhaps I'm too timid. It's also possible that my love for him has been depleted after all these obstacles," Halma confided.

Olivia took her into her arms. "Don't be sad anymore, okay? You did nothing wrong and it's all that rascal's fault. I gave him a good scolding today on your behalf, and if he can't settle this matter properly, you can send him away as far as you want."

Halma didn't say anything and merely returned Olivia's hug as tears rolled down her face silently.

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Meanwhile, Nathan returned home and found Ace and Jade at home. Frankly, Ace was getting impatient and was more than ready to leave. Alas, he received a call from the Snow Family, who informed him that the viral news had been removed by someone. He couldn't help but find it odd. So, he was in the midst of a discussion with Jade, trying to figure out just who the culprit was when Nathan made his appearance.

Nathan's face was grim, as though he was there to settle scores, and he approached his parents in large strides. "Why?"

Even though it was a question that popped out of nowhere, Ace knew exactly what he meant. Still, he feigned ignorance and asked, "What do you mean? You didn't even greet us after coming home and showed us such disrespect. Is this how you speak with me, your father?"

Nathan laughed yet there wasn't even a hint of mirth in that laughter. "Oh, so you still remember that you're my father. What a shock! It seems like you conveniently forgot that I'm your son when you set me up."

Ace slammed his palm on the table heavily upon hearing such impudence. "Watch your attitude!"

Nathan merely snorted disdainfully. "Compared to the things you guys did, I think I'm already treating you with more respect than you deserve. I came home today to tell you that I won't marry Lexie Snow and we didn't spend the night together last night. I'm sorry to disappoint you," he announced and turned to leave.

Ace couldn't help but choke on his rising fury and he almost suffocated under his ire. By the time he came back to his senses, he immediately sprang to his feet. "Hold it right there!"

Nathan stopped in his tracks, tilted his head in Ace's direction, and gave him a look of indifference. "I already told you that I have a girlfriend, and it's none of my concern who you're collaborating with."

"What nonsense are you spouting?" Ace snapped impatiently. "Why do you think your mother and I are so anxious to plan ahead? It's all because we want to build an empire for you. Nathan, you're already twenty-three. Will you please grow up? It doesn't matter who you like, but Lexie is the only one who can be your wife. Do you understand what I mean?"

"No, I don't understand!" Nathan snarled loudly. "Why can't I marry someone I love? You guys are the ones who are interested in climbing the social ladder just for profit! Why bother packaging it with a pretty bow and claim that you're doing this for my sake? I'm not like you, I can't separate my wants and needs! I will never be capable of sharing my love with different women!"

Right after the words left his lips, a harsh slap landed on his face.

Chapter 1334 It's Just a Small Contribution

Nathan's face jerked to the side from the force of the slap. He held his face as he glared ferociously at the man before him. Suddenly, the edges of his lips twisted into a sarcastic smirk as he snarked, "What now? Are you mad because you're embarrassed?"

Ace returned his son's glare with one of his own. "You were abroad for almost eight years and never contributed anything to this family. Now, you're calling me out for doing what's right for our future but take a look at yourself. Everything that you're enjoying now is the fruits of my labor!"

Nathan's eyes turned bloodshot as he took a couple of steps toward Ace and confronted him, growling, "I was abroad for almost eight years, but you guys didn't care about me when I was gone. You have no idea how pathetic I was when people chased after me for money. You certainly have no idea how unbearable it was for me when I had to worry whether I'd have enough money to place food on the table. The cheeks of you to mention that I'm enjoying the fruits of your labor. You just mean the car and house, don't you? Here, take it!" Then, he unceremoniously tossed the keys he was holding in his hand at Ace. "I'll move out of Muse Peninsula tomorrow. I have no interest in you interfering in my life nor do I want you to be in my life! So, you can forget it! Disown me if you're so worried I'd leech off you."

Ace became dumbstruck by Nathan's actions as he stood on the same spot in stunned silence. In contrast, Jade was terrified as she hastily rushed over and grabbed Nathan, whimpering, "Nathan, what are you doing? Are you breaking all ties with us?"

Although Nathan's eyes were so bloodshot that it seemed as though he had burst a vein during the argument, his voice sounded a little weak when he spoke to her. He even sounded a little aggrieved. "You guys forced me into this. I told you that I love Halma. I'm serious about her and intend to marry

her, but you want me to marry Lexie instead. Even if I were to dismiss the fact that you're forcing me, you even resorted to such despicable methods to set us up. Do you have any idea how terrible Halma feels? The news of her boyfriend spending the night in a hotel with another woman became viral on the Internet! How do you expect her to go to work and continue on with her life? Is money that important? Is it more important than your son's happiness? How could you bring yourself to say that this is all for my own good? Also, what did you tell Halma? Do you know how much time and effort I spent before I finally won her heart? Because of you, she's ignoring me. Mom, as a woman, why do you have to make things difficult for another woman? Do you want me to turn out like Dad?" he said, looking at the woman who had tears streaming down her face.

Finally, Ace snapped out of his shock and marched to him with a frown. "You're a member of the Baker Family. Don't make things sound more terrible than they are. Cease with your dramatics. Besides, you'll only be doing your duty to your family, as you should. You said you love her and she's the only one for you, huh? You gave her your heart, but has she done the same? Don't you know that she only likes you for your money and status? Do you think that she'll still like you after you leave this family? Don't be so naive."

Anger rushed to Nathan's head as he glared at Ace. Frankly, Jade wouldn't have to suffer any injustice because she was from the Nolan Family. Alas, Ace kept brainwashing her with his seemingly reasonable logic.

Don't worry, my heart remains in this family and I'm only doing this for show. It's nothing serious. I didn't like her and didn't even see what she looked like. I'm just like a kite, and you're the person holding my string. I'll never slip out of your hands. You're worried whether a man is treating his woman well? I can tell you right now that a man values the woman to whom he passes his earnings. I'm working extra hours and attending business gatherings all because I want to give you and our son a better life.

Just like that, Ace managed to assure Jade for years, until the day when that woman came to their door to provoke them.

Chapter 1335 Who Have You Not Let Down?

His mother finally discovered that Ace had been keeping a mistress on the side and that the woman was already pregnant with his child.

Jade couldn't bear such grievances, and, in her distress, she pushed the woman.

The woman, seizing the opportunity, fell to the ground, and his father slapped his mother without hesitation. He even questioned her intentions and said that the child in the woman's belly was still his.

Later, his uncle had to intervene and arrange for them to get a divorce as the situation became uncontrollable.

However, at the time of the divorce, Ace was at fault and wouldn't be able to get a pretty sum out of the failed marriage. Moreover, the Baker Enterprise was finally on the right track due to his uncle's support. How could Ace be foolish enough to give up everything he had gained with the divorce?

Afterward, no one knew how Ace sweet-talked his mother into compliance. Regardless, the two of them continued to live together peacefully.

His uncle couldn't interfere in their relationship, so in the end, he worked to transfer most of the company's shares to his mother.

Many years have passed, and Ace hadn't changed his ways in the slightest. Rather, he had taken steps to ensure that everything was more discreet. He couldn't rock the boat and be so brazen with his indulgence as he didn't want a divorce.

Nonetheless, it was an open secret that he still had a mistress or perhaps mistresses. Nathan didn't know whether his mother had become numb over time or simply hadn't learned about them, as the two of them hadn't had any quarrels regarding Ace's infidelity.

Of course, Nathan could understand that as a man, there were some unavoidable social obligations. Yet, he felt utterly aghast when he learned about his father's shameful lack of loyalty to his mother. However, he didn't want to hurt his mother, so he had been suppressing every insult he wanted to utter and tried to play happy family as long as his mother remained unharmed.

Now, Ace dared to enforce his own set of principles to lecture Nathan on how to conduct himself. It was worth noting that the person he least respected was Ace. Yet, this repulsive little man dared to claim that Halma was only with him for money and status. How laughable! It was as though he and his bedmates weren't guilty of the same!

So, Nathan felt his lips twitch into an ugly sneer before retorting, "Do you know how long I've known Halma? Do you know that when she first met me, I was a worthless pauper? Don't compare my woman to your flings. She has never cared about my money. Furthermore, don't compare me to the likes of you. I'm not greedy like you. I don't need you to teach me how to live. You didn't fulfill your responsibilities as a father, and now... Congratulations, you don't need to worry about that little problem. Take some time to reflect on yourself. You've been alive for over forty years but who have you not let down? Your wife, your son, or your mistress?"

After that, he didn't even wait for a response as he turned around decisively, leaving in a decidedly carefree manner. Finally, all the venom in his heart had hit his victim and the air felt even sweeter for it.

Ace could hardly believe it. He pointed at Nathan and was unable to utter a word. His son had thrown

everything right at his face. Nathan's just being rebellious. That's definitely it. He'll see that I'm right!

Nathan had just barely grown into his power, yet the boy dared his father like that!

After a while, he finally reacted and chased after Nathan, shouting, "Nathan, how dare you?! Get back here! How can you speak to me like that?"

Unfortunately, Nathan could care less for a man with a personality as enchanting as plankton.

Ace then turned to Jade and said, "Look at the disobedient son you raised. He's ignorant and unreasonable! How dare he speak to me like that?"

On the other hand, Jade had finally calmed down after Nathan's outburst. So, she simply sat gracefully on the couch and raised her eyes to look at him. "What's wrong? Did he say something incorrect?"

Ace froze in place as he furrowed his brows tightly. "What do you mean by that? Are you also trying to bring up the past?"

She remained silent as her gaze grew increasingly cold.

He said wearily, "Jade, is there a need for this? Can't we just let the past go?"

Alas, she remained non-committal as a faint arc formed at the corner of her mouth. "I just want to ask the same question as our son posed. After living for over forty years, who have you not let down? How can you shamelessly use your experiences and lord it over Nathan? Do you want him to be like you? Do you expect him to casually walk down the aisle with someone and indulge in a life of debauchery without constraints?"

Chapter 1336 Let's Divorce

Ace stood still for a while, and it took him a long time to realize that Jade was genuinely angry. He quickly leaned over and tried to coax her, saying, "Didn't I realize my mistake and change? It's been so long since that incident. Why do you have to bring up the past?"

Jade simply allowed a cold chuckle to fall from her lips before replying, "Do you really think I know nothing? Who lives in Unit 802, Building A in Park Windsor? The college girl from Merton Royale is still

studying, isn't she? The seven hundred thousand you took from the account a few days ago was the breakup fee for Dana Simpton, am I right?"

Ace's face turned pale in an instant, and his eyes were filled with shock as he stared at Jade in disbelief, stammering, "H-How do you know about it?"

Jade's lips deepened into a mocking smile. "Ace, did you really think you could fool me so easily? Did you think you could appease me with a few sweet words after hurting me? I was worried that it would make Nathan worry and bring shame to him if we made a scene, so I didn't bother to argue with you. I've tried my best to portray you as a good father in front of him and tried to maintain a united front with you, but you truly have no shame! I could let it slide when you exaggerated the situation by claiming that the company would face a financial crisis without a merger with the Snow Group and arranged for me to talk to Halma. Yet, you dared to conspire with the Snow Group to manipulate your own son! Do you even have a shred of humanity left in that shriveled black heart of yours? I used to think that our son was still young and naive. I have to admit, I miscalculated and didn't expect him to see through everything. He definitely has a far better handle on his faculties than I did. His evaluation of you is fair and accurate and he was more than right when he said that since you have never once fulfilled your responsibilities as a father, then you should keep your hands off his life in the future!"

Ace looked at Jade in astonishment; it was as though he didn't recognize the person before him. This person was cold and unfeeling, which was completely unlike his docile wife.

She wasn't angry nor did she cry or make a fuss. If it weren't for the clear disdain in her gaze, something he had never once seen on her person, she looked exactly like his wife.

Only now did he realize that he hadn't seen the infatuation she used to have for him in her eyes for a long, long time.

This gaze represented calmness, unfamiliarity, and even a sense of emotional detachment.

Suddenly, he felt the hairs on the back of his neck raise one after another as an inexplicable sense of fear and unease welled up inside him.

He anxiously pleaded, blabbering, "Sweetheart, I was wrong. Please forgive me one more time. This time, I promise to get rid of them all and wholeheartedly live my life with you..."

Jade's eyes remained impassive. "Can a dog change its nature? Ace, I've always thought that as our son grew older, I needed to pay attention to certain influences in order to keep our family united. So, I turned a blind eye to your actions as long as they weren't too excessive. I was willing to endure such humiliation for the sake of our child. Today... Well, I realized that I have been foolish and shortsighted. It was my indulgence that allowed you to take advantage of the situation. Let's get a divorce. If Nathan can utter such words today, I believe he can understand the decision I'm making."

Her words struck the fear of God within Ace as he started begging. "No. I don't want a divorce, Jade. I know I was wrong. Give me another chance."

She remained unmoved by his false reassurances and calmly replied, "Stop making promises to me. Your promises are as useless as an old man's fart. Let's separate amicably for the sake of our son."

"Don't blow things out of proportion. If you don't, I'll promise that I won't sue you and you'll get your fair share. From now on, you can have as many mistresses as you want and have as many children as you desire. All those things are finally none of my business."

Ace hastily grabbed her hand and implored, "No. Jade, don't be so ruthless. I won't have any mistresses after this. Can't we continue living our lives together as a family?"

Jade mercilessly withdrew her hand, and her eyes became piercing as she stared into his very soul. "Ace, you shouldn't dawdle and force my hand. You won't get anything the moment I decide to follow through with my threat."

Chapter 1337 Halma Isn't Worthy of You

Meanwhile, at a coffee shop, Nathan looked at the woman in front of him. She was wearing a floral dress and her makeup was done tastefully to enhance her delicate features. Her chin was slightly raised as she gazed at Nathan while sizing him up. "What do you want with me?"

Frankly, he felt a strong aversion to Lexie Snow's sense of superiority.

Had she forgotten how she climbed into his bed last night?

He had no memory of the part where she helped him back to her room, but when he woke up midway, she was there, undressing him while wearing a revealing outfit.

He stared at her in utter confusion before frantically grabbing his own shirt and asking her just what she was doing.

Yet, she showed no signs of panic and said that she had tasks assigned by both sets of parents to complete.

She even pounced on him when he told her to leave.

At that moment, he was completely sobered up by the woman's brazenness. So, he pushed her away and practically fled from the room.

Unfortunately, he was too wasted, and the thought of spending an hour just to return home drove him to rent another room in the hotel.

Now that he thought about it, she might have succeeded last night if he hadn't had enough self-control.

Nonetheless, Nathan had no choice but to rely on her at the moment. So, he swallowed his revulsion and tried his best to endure her presence near his vicinity.

He gathered his thoughts and looked at her once more. "You saw the trending search on the internet, didn't you?"

Lexie responded, "I don't mind!"

Nathan furrowed his brow. "Well, I do mind. My girlfriend has misunderstood me, and I'm here today to ask you to help me provide proof that we slept separately last night and that nothing happened."

A frown marred her forehead as a hint of anger appeared on her face. It was as if the beautiful image she had in her mind had suddenly shattered like an illusion.

So, he wasn't here to date her or to improve their relationship, but to explain the misunderstanding to his girlfriend?

Hah! What a joke!

Lexie looked at him and said in a cold tone, "Do you know that our collaboration is based on our marriage alliance?"

Nathan's frown deepened at her words. "What are you trying to say?"

Lexie leisurely took a sip of her coffee. "It means exactly as it sounds."

He was somewhat puzzled as he stared at her and inquired, "We don't even know each other, let alone have any feelings for one another. Do you really want to gamble a lifetime on someone like me who doesn't understand you?"

She smiled. "Why wouldn't I? Although you're two years younger than me, you're handsome, have a good personality, and have recently been involved in the field of artificial intelligence, which has great prospects. Besides, you also have the backing of the Baker Enterprise. We're a good match, and there's nothing wrong with a marriage alliance. As for feelings, we can develop them slowly after our marriage. It's not a big deal."

Nathan had the feeling that they were having completely different conversations. "We only met for the second time last night. How could you possibly know whether I have a good personality? Have you seen me lose my temper? Have you seen me in a desperate situation? Don't you think you're being rather one-sided by relying solely on some information that can be found online? How could you claim to understand me just based on information like that?"

Lexie simply continued, saying, "That's enough for me. As long as the external qualities meet my requirements, I don't attach a great deal of importance to the person's internal qualities. Marriage is just marriage, and it's up to you to decide who you want to spend your life with. You don't understand

me, so it's difficult for you to continue down this path. However, we have ample time, and we can adapt to our circumstances. I believe you will grow to like me."

He was thunderstruck by her confidence!

Did she think that marriage was akin to shopping for a pretty bag?

"I see. Then, I suppose you have no intentions of helping me out?"

She smiled at his naivety. "Why should I help my love rival? In fact, it's a good thing for me if you break up with her. Nathan, we are meant to be together. Halma isn't worthy of you."

Chapter 1338 Confrontation

Nathan frowned. This woman even knew Halma, so it seemed she had truly done her research. "You should know that I really like her, right?"

Lexie raised an eyebrow at him. "What does that have to do with anything? People change. Who can guarantee that they will only like one person for their entire life? Even you can't do that, Nathan."

His frown deepened and the lines on his face were so severe that it looked as though his face was carved in stone. "Do you know that you're ruining someone else's relationship?"

Her lips curled into a nonchalant smile. "You're not engaged or married, so how am I ruining your relationship?"

Nathan took a deep breath as he attempted and failed to restrain his anger. Eventually, an uncontrollable aura of rage erupted from him.

"Did your parents not teach you to have some moral boundaries as a person? When I made it clear that I already have a girlfriend and am in love with her, it is immoral to continue to pester me. I was more than

willing to maintain a good relationship between our families and avoid falling out with you prior to this conversation. Unfortunately, it seems that that is definitely unnecessary. You're shameless!"

He stood up to leave after saying his piece.

Meanwhile, Lexie, who was two years older than Nathan, remained seated at the table, even though a flicker of anger flashed in her eyes. "Nathan, stop right there. What do you mean by all this? Do you know what your words imply?"

He looked at her and responded with a light and carefree laugh. "Are you trying to threaten me? Are you suggesting that if I leave, the collaboration between our families will end?"

She responded with a resolute nod, "Yes. Nathan, you're no longer a child. Do you know the losses Baker Enterprise will suffer if we don't cooperate? Do you not care? Do your parents not care? Nathan, life is not just about Halma. There are many things you'll refuse to compromise on but will have to eventually."

Nathan sneered as his eyes were filled with a manic sort of glee at the impending destruction. "That's why I said you don't understand me at all. No one can force me to comply with their wishes if I refuse to. This is just like you offering yourself to me and me scorning you right after. If it weren't for the sake of courtesy, I wouldn't have bothered to spare you a second glance."

His voice was far from hushed, and there was quite a distance between him and Lexie. Therefore, his words sounded particularly loud in the quiet coffee shop.

Everyone's gaze instinctively turned toward them.

Then, they began whispering to each other.

"Who is this woman?"

"I don't know. She seems really high and mighty, but who would have thought she would take the initiative and throw herself at someone?"

"Why doesn't this man respect that woman?"

"She's the one humiliating herself. She deserves it!"

"Hey, do you think these two are the ones on the trending search today?"

Lexie couldn't bear such humiliation. Even though she had maintained an impassive attitude earlier, there was no way she could keep her cool now. So, she rose to her feet and hissed, "Nathan, have you gone mad?"

Nathan snorted derisively. "It's not my fault that someone like you is incapable of communicating like a human being!"

She couldn't bear the insult and stormed toward Nathan.

Before she neared him, her arm was already raised high, and just when everyone thought that slap was about to land...

He grabbed her wrist and spoke with a chilly tone, "I'm not in the habit of hitting women. Need I remind you that I have yet to settle the score with you for what happened last night? I'd advise you to calm down before you make a complete fool out of yourself. Otherwise, I'll sue you for physical assault and sexual assault." With that, he shoved her away.

She stumbled back several steps and her lower back hit the table they were sitting at, causing her to nearly tear up due to pain. Then, she looked up at him with resentful eyes. "Nathan, you will regret this!"

Nathan sneered in disdain and left the coffee shop without a backward glance.

Little did he know that after he left, someone picked up their phone and exited the coffee shop right after that.

Chapter 1339 Being Firm

Olivia finally calmed Halma down and broached the topic gently, asking, "It's lunchtime. Let's eat something. Do you want to go out for food or order delivery?"

Her suggestion merely earned her a side eye from Halma. "Can you make something for me?"

To which, Olivia answered, "Are you sure you want my cooking? I don't want to be jailed for murder. Besides, you're so frail right now. I can't in good conscience allow you to practice mithridatism at your current state."

Halma couldn't help but burst into laughter at her matter-of-fact tone. "I wonder how Eugene puts up with you."

Olivia sighed dramatically before lamenting, "He makes do with me. What else can he do? Divorce me?"

Halma shot her a look. "You just registered your marriage. Don't jinx it."

"What? I'm awesome and there are plenty of guys who want me. Maybe the next one will be even better."

"I just realized you've become more narcissistic."

Olivia replied, "It's called confidence. Now, tell me what you want to eat."

Halma sighed as she begrudgingly rose to her feet. "Alright. It's better if I cook. I don't want Eugene to come looking for me when your pregnant *ss gets 'thinner' after skipping one meal."

Olivia smiled. That's more like it. This is better than her overthinking things and wallowing in a corner.

Then, she made a show out of caressing her stomach and declaring proudly, "Darling, Mommy can finally eat your Godmother Halma's cooking because of you."

It was apparent that Halma was in a better mood as she even had the time to tease Olivia. "You always eat my food."

Olivia whined, "No! It's been a few months!"

Halma thought it over and realized that she was right. "Oh, fine, you big baby. Just wait here. I'll whip up something good for my goddaughter."

Olivia knew she would cause trouble in the kitchen if she decided to lend Halma a hand, so she stayed seated while scrolling through the phone.

Soon, she came across a new trending post that read 'The Young Master of the Baker Enterprise Says Collaboration with the Snow Group Is Nonsense and That Talks of Marriage Is Absurd.'

Following that was an interview with Nathan as he explained in detail what happened that night.

In short, both the Bakers and the Snows held a dinner party at the hotel and stayed the night because they got drunk. He mentioned that it was a normal dinner, but both families wanted to celebrate their collaboration as well. So, they decided that they needed to build stronger ties through marriage for that to happen. Then, Nathan said that he had a girlfriend and loved her to bits. So, a marriage alliance with the Snows to make a collaboration happen was impossible. Many witnesses that night could testify that he got drunk, and that Lexie merely helped him to his hotel room and slept in a different room that night.

After that, Nathan presented two room receipts to prove that he had indeed slept in the room alone.

Olivia was surprised that Nathan would be so firm. Even though he spoke politely, using the excuse of having a girlfriend that he loved dearly to refuse the marriage alliance, there was no doubt that his actions were a slap to Lexie's face. She was sure that the collaboration between the Bakers and the Snows was over after this interview.

She scrolled down further and read the sharp comments from the netizens. 'So, Nathan is saying that the Snows were forcing the marriage on him. Or, was he implying that Lexie was throwing herself at him?'

'Marriage is the best way to establish ties in the upper class. This is perhaps for the sake of the collaboration.'

'He's so handsome! He didn't even hesitate to reject the alliance for love. I'm envious. I want to know who the lucky girl is.'

'So, all the talk about marriage was nonsense. He's willing to give up the collaboration just to reject the arranged marriage. He's got guts!'

Although Olivia was worried that Nathan would upset the Snows after reading all the comments, she had to give it to him for standing up to them. She had just gotten up and was about to show Halma the post when the bell rang once more.

Chapter 1340 Love Letter

Olivia looked in the direction of the door in surprise and couldn't help but wonder if it was Nathan.

Should I open the door if it's him?

However, she let out a sigh of relief when she saw a man dressed in a delivery company uniform through the peephole. It seemed she was overthinking things again.

When she opened the door, the delivery man asked in a professional tone, "Is this Halma Jones?"

Olivia answered, "Yes." Then, she signed Halma's name and accepted the envelope package from him.

As she entered the house, Halma walked out from the kitchen as well and inquired, "Who was it?"

Olivia promptly passed her the package. "Delivery. Here you go. What did you buy?"

However, Halma stared at her in confusion. "I didn't buy anything, though," she said as she opened up the envelope.

She was stunned when she saw the receipts for two hotel rooms in the envelope. Then, she realized it was the receipts for Nathan and Lexie's stay at the hotel. Lexie's room was issued around 11.00PM while Nathan's was around 12.00AM. It seemed like this envelope was sent over by Nathan.

He was worried that she wouldn't understand and attached a letter as well.

'Halma, I know you don't want to see me, so I'm keeping my distance. I'm sorry, I didn't do a good job as your boyfriend. I didn't know you were subjected to a great deal of sadness. I'm not going to lie, but last night was indeed a celebration of the collaboration between the Snows and the Bakers. It was also a blind date for Lexie and me. I didn't know it at first and wanted to leave multiple times, but my family

kept stopping me. They said that I just needed to stay until the party was over and they'll allow us to be together. I was too naive.

I think they spiked my drink because I got drunk very quickly. I lost my memory when Lexie was leading me back to the hotel room. When I woke up, she was taking my clothes off to complete the mission that her parents gave her.

I love you. I refused to give in. So, I got another room for myself. I know you may not believe me since Lexie refused to testify for me. This is the only way I can show you my heart. You can say that I didn't do a good job, but please don't doubt my feelings for you, Halma. I love you!

Nathan.'

Tears brimmed in Halma's eyes as she finished reading the letter and her body shook with all the emotions that were crashing into her like a tidal wave.

Olivia looked at her with worry. She had seen the two hotel room receipts, but not the letter in Halma's hands.

"What's that? Is that a letter?"

Halma couldn't bring herself to say anything. So, she simply passed the letter to Olivia silently.

Olivia was moved by the letter after reading it. It felt like the young childish brat had finally grown up.

"Actually, he also did an interview online. I was about to show it to you." Then, she passed her phone to Halma.

Halma took her phone in a daze and played the video. She couldn't hold back her tears anymore when he said that he had a girlfriend that he loved dearly.

She hated being so vulnerable, but this man could always tear down her walls so easily. It wasn't fair that he could affect her so effortlessly.

Then, Olivia told her, "With this news, it's impossible for both families to continue with their partnerships. Eugene's right. We shouldn't care what his family thinks. Nathan doesn't want this marriage alliance. He also explained in the letter that he didn't do anything with Lexie. It's all out in public now after the stunt he pulled with the interview. Do you believe him now?"