

Unfinished 1341

Chapter 1341 Seek Reassurance

Halma looked at Olivia and asked, "Do you believe what he said?"

In contrast to her highly resolute and disdainful demeanor when she asked the same question this morning, she seemed a little swayed. Perhaps, it was because she was slightly more perplexed at the moment.

Olivia simply gave her a reassuring look as she nodded and elaborated, "Yes. Frankly speaking, I believed more than half of his statement when I heard his explanation for the first time. And now, it's 100%. Let's analyze it rationally. He would rather risk offending the Snow Family than not speak out the truth. Why would he do that if he didn't care about you? In addition, he had just woken up when I first called him. At that time, he was completely confused as to why I was scolding him. He had no idea what had happened at all. In fact, he didn't even know that his mother had looked for you. Of course, I'm merely an outsider. I may feel angry, but I won't be affected by what he did. You, on the other hand, are different. As his girlfriend, it's normal for you to have all these negative emotions. You have the right to feel sad, doubtful, and insecure. After all, Nathan was the one who failed to be vigilant and allowed Lexie to take advantage of him."

Halma only sobbed harder and harder instead of replying to Olivia.

"Why are you crying? Don't you know many are envious of you? You haven't looked through the comments, right? Hold on. I'll search them up for you. You have a boyfriend who loves and cares for you despite everything, so what's there to be sad about?"

Then, Olivia pulled Halma to sit on the couch and began to browse the comments.

Indeed, the comment section was full of netizens' envy and curiosity toward Halma, but concurrently, a new comment gradually rose to the top. 'Am I the only one who finds it odd? Why was it stated that

Lexie and Nathan checked into the hotel at 11.07PM while Nathan's check-in time afterward was at 12.10AM? What were they doing in the room during that approximately one-hour gap?'

Olivia was utterly speechless. Netizens these days sure do have an eagle eye and plenty of free time. I can't believe they would pay attention to the check-in times of the two rooms!

Suddenly, she couldn't help but regret her actions of showing Halma the comments. She was worried Halma, who had just calmed down, might once again let her imaginations run wild, especially after looking through the series of speculations made by the netizens.

'Hahaha! They can do a lot of stuff in that hour.'

'Yeah! It's enough for them to have a round of sex! Hahaha!'

'So, does this mean he checked into a separate room just to put on a show for his girlfriend after he did it with Lexie? Is he trying to sell his public persona as a loving boyfriend?'

'Dear ladies, please keep your wits. Actions speak louder than words! Why would Nathan stay with Lexie in a room for an hour if he truly didn't want to be with her?'

Halma suddenly shifted her focus back on Olivia after skimming through the comments. Her eyes were full of hope. It was as though she really wanted Olivia to say something to reassure her once more.

Olivia sighed upon noticing the look on Halma's face. Right now, Halma is just like a panic-stricken person. A slight sign of uproar can make her feel anxious about this situation. So, I need to be careful with my words. It was precisely with that thought that she once again stated, "I can tell this is a group of keyboard warriors who are only interested in stirring the pot as they blindly meddle in someone else's affairs without knowing the truth. Think about it. Nathan used to change partners frequently, but he

certainly didn't have the habit of two-timing his girlfriend, right? Besides, didn't he explain to you that he was drunk at the time of the event?"

Halma nodded, seemingly trying to convince herself as she mumbled, "You're right. He even told me that Lexie took advantage of the situation to undress him, but he refused to give in."

Even though she was saying those things, her eyes were closed, and her hands had unconsciously clenched into fists. Olivia's heart deeply ached for Halma when she saw her in such a state. Hence, she reached out, hugged her tightly, and consoled her, saying, "Don't force yourself."

Still, she knew that Halma didn't believe Nathan at all. Poor Halma. She is simply trying to force herself to have faith in Nathan. It's true that she had always trusted him regardless of how unreliable he was in the past. However, ever since the incident with Melanie, she no longer had unequivocal trust in him any longer. To all men out there, this is why you shouldn't hurt your woman if you truly love her, for women are like cats. They are good at learning their lessons, and once they get hurt after seeking solace for the first time, they won't do the same the second time.

Chapter 1342 Mothers Are Strong

As for the Snow Family, there was no way they would leave the matter to rest after Nathan caused such an uproar across the Internet. Besides, Nathan even publicly humiliated Lexie at the cafe. Hence, they immediately went to seek Ace and Jade that very evening. Judging from their unfriendly tone and attitude, the termination of the cooperation between the two families was inevitable. At the same time, they demanded Nathan publicly apologize to Lexie and compensate for the financial losses caused by the unsuccessful cooperation. Otherwise, they were more than willing to bring this matter to court.

Compared to Ace, who still attempted to dissuade the Snow Family, Jade didn't hold back her horses. She had an attitude filled with ferocity and passion as she countered hotly, "In my opinion, my son did quite well in the interview. He knew when to take advantage of the situation and when to yield. He dared to act and bear the consequences, and he wasn't acting against anyone. It was you who conspired with Ace and set my son up! Yet, you still have the nerve to get even with him?! Besides, none of this would have happened if Lexie didn't give Nathan that glass of wine!"

Finley Snow, Lexie's father, narrowed his eyes at her upon hearing her caustic remarks. The hostility surged as he demanded in disbelief, "What do you mean by that, Mrs. Baker? You knew very well that both our families had agreed to ally through this marriage in the first place. So, why are you trying to push the blame on us now? Or, is it possible that you think my daughter is eager to curry favor with you and only has Nathan as her choice of spouse?"

"That's not my point. Your daughter is a true beauty, so I'm sure that she has her pick of men. I do not doubt that there are countless outstanding young men who desperately want to marry her. My point stands: there is truly no need for you to sink your claws into Nathan. What I meant to say was that Ace and I have already divorced, and since he was the one who plotted against Nathan, you should ask him to apologize and compensate for your loss instead of my son. Yes, he would do anything to seal the

deal, but you guys were far from blameless. As for me, I simply muddled through without taking any actions against your methods. Technically, all of us are to be held accountable for what has happened. Our family has decided to let it go, so you absolutely have no right to fuss about this matter as we are also the victims here!" Jade said flatly.

Finley's face darkened and a storm brewed in his piercing eyes. "Divorce, huh? So, you think you can gloss over this matter easily using that flimsy excuse? I have to say—you two are pretty good at this game. Are you trying to make a fool out of me?!"

After that, he threw the teacup in his hand. It fell to the ground with a crisp sound of shattering, shocking everyone in attendance.

Given that Jade wasn't Eugene, she didn't actually have the intent to go against Finley. The only reason why she dared to argue with him was because she was thoroughly infuriated by his attitude and words. Hence, she would be lying if she said she wasn't fearful in the face of his viciousness. Nevertheless, being a mother made her strong. Due to her desire to protect her son, she could be fearless when the occasion called for it. Thus, she forcefully maintained her composure as she continued, "There is no way I will make my son apologize to your daughter. After all, he has nothing to do with this matter. As for the financial loss of your company, we can—" The doorbell rang before she could finish saying that they could compensate the Snow Family for it. The servant scurried over to open the door, desperate to flee from the tense atmosphere.

The servant breathed a sigh of relief after seeing Eugene and Nathan, who stood at the door. "President Nolan! Mr. Nathan!" the servant greeted respectfully while escorting the two into the house.

At the same time, everyone also looked in the direction of the door. Logically speaking, given his well-known reputation, Eugene should be an often-seen and well-known figure. However, that wasn't the case. In reality, only a few had such an opportunity.

Lexie belonged to the group of people who had heard of his great name but had yet to meet him in person. Still, with all the talks about Eugene's achievements, even a photo of him could make her involuntarily fall into a reverie. That was especially so when she was aware of how he constantly spoke out for Olivia on Twitter every so often. As a lady in her youth, she firmly believed every woman would yearn for such sweet love.

As a result, the moment Lexie saw Eugene, her heart fluttered, and she involuntarily parted her lips. Initially, I thought Nathan was handsome enough. Still, if I am to compare him to this man in front of me, he is still slightly inferior. Maybe it's not the looks but the aura Eugene exudes. This man exudes a powerful yet aloof aura from head to toe. At last, I have finally seen the legendary Eugene Nolan!

Chapter 1343 Are You Planning to Be the One Getting Married?

In an instant, Lexie's body turned weak, as if all the strength had been drained from her. It was undeniable that exceptional men possessed charm, capability, and the ability to captivate anyone in an instant.

For years, Lexie had been abroad. Just as she began developing feelings for Eugene, she discovered that he was already in a committed relationship. Deep inside, she understood her own unworthiness for him, leading her to explore every possible avenue to forge a marriage alliance with Nathan. She hoped to find a way to get closer to Eugene, the man who had captured her heart.

To her surprise, news reached her that Eugene and Olivia had already registered their marriage before she could pursue a connection with Nathan.

This revelation drove her to madness the previous night. Denied the possibility of being with Eugene, she yearned for a relationship with his nephew.

Ironically, she found herself somewhat relieved by Nathan's rejection. It saved her from feeling even more unworthy of him.

Initially, she had contemplated giving up, yet here she was, standing face-to-face with him. Is this encounter signifying our destined union?

Lexie's heart pounded with excitement. She couldn't tear her eyes away from him, not even for a fleeting second.

Finley's arrogance in Ace's presence stemmed from their equal strength and his conviction of being right. However, when facing Eugene, he seemed minuscule and insignificant.

Despite his anger, he suppressed it and mustered the courage to greet Eugene. "President Nolan, what brings you here today?"

Eugene's expression remained stoic as he casually responded, "Isn't it normal for me to visit my sister's place?"

Finley mustered a forced smile and shot Nathan a stern look, but Nathan paid him no attention.

Meanwhile, Jade quickly prepared a seat for Eugene on the couch. "Please have a seat, Eugene."

He sat down and casually remarked, "Seems like quite a gathering today."

Jade hummed in agreement.

Meanwhile, Ace remained silent. However, he was the one who had welcomed Eugene at the door, bowing and nodding with an ingratiating attitude.

Truth be told, he wasn't afraid of Jade. Rather, he was afraid of Eugene.

After the tumultuous divorce incident, he had already witnessed Eugene's tactics. All he knew was that the woman and child vanished when Eugene took them away, and he suspected they might not even be alive anymore.

However, his fear at that time was nothing compared to what he felt now. With Eugene involved in this matter, perhaps it could help him confront Finley, but he knew he would also have to pay a price.

He then instructed the helper, "Take away this tea and bring the one Eugene prefers from my study."

"Do you honestly think I'm in the mood for tea right now?" Eugene questioned, raising his gaze to look at Ace with a solemn expression. Does he seriously think that I neglect my wife and children just to have tea with him?

Ace was momentarily taken aback but quickly grasped Eugene's intention. Awkwardly, he tried to clarify the matter. "It's just a small matter. I didn't mean to trouble you by making you come all this way."

Eugene furrowed his eyebrows slightly and nonchalantly asked, "Do you think you can handle it alone?"

How on earth am I supposed to handle this mess? There's no way I can make Nathan apologize. My stubborn and rebellious son won't even pay the slightest attention to my words! Ace thought to himself.

"N-No, it's just that I didn't want to trouble you," he stammered, trying to explain himself.

"You're giving yourself too much credit. I'm not someone who willingly deals with other people's troubles," Eugene retorted, giving Ace a disdainful glance. I didn't come here for you. Who do you think you are, shamelessly claiming that you're causing me trouble?

Ace understood Eugene's underlying message and he felt a blow to his pride. However, he dared not offend him. He discreetly glanced at Jade, who sat calmly not far from Eugene with her head down and eyes closed, no longer protecting him as she once did.

Realizing he had to salvage the situation on his own, Ace explained, "I simply wanted the company to progress further by forming a partnership with the Snow Group through this marriage."

As he spoke, he casually took a seat on the couch opposite Eugene and inadvertently aligned himself with the Snow Family.

An unsettling feeling washed over them as if they were helpless lambs awaiting their fate and subdued by the overwhelming power of Eugene's aura.

Growing increasingly irritated by Ace's words, Eugene locked eyes with the older man. "So, you've made this partnership decision without consulting me. Are you planning to marry yourself off?"

Chapter 1344 The Only Unmarried Member of the Baker Family

Ace's mouth gaped awkwardly and he looked as if someone slapped him in the face. He was left dumbfounded for a while and too afraid to say a word in response.

He could already anticipate the words that would follow from Eugene. "You're not the one getting married, and yet you're making decisions on your own?"

To spare himself from further humiliation, Ace chose to remain silent.

Observing the tense exchange, Finley furrowed his brow. While somewhat wary of Eugene, he had never truly witnessed his tactics. Eugene's words struck him as impolite, sounding as if he were scolding his own son.

Deep down, Finley secretly looked down on Ace for his lack of assertiveness. After all, Ace was Eugene's brother-in-law. How could he allow himself to be silenced by Eugene?

Seizing the opportunity to assert himself, Finley felt a newfound sense of superiority over Ace and naturally interjected into the conversation. "President Nolan, you must be joking. How can Ace get married when he's your brother-in-law?"

As Eugene reached for the box of cigarettes on the table, Finley's words reached his ears. He slowly lifted his gaze and glanced at Finley.

In that casual glance, Finley could feel the immense pressure emanating from the man seated across from him.

Eugene didn't utter a word, but his presence alone conveyed an unspoken power.

The room fell into a chilling stillness, and the silence was so thick that even the faintest sound would echo.

Eugene calmly extracted a cigarette from the pack and placed it between his lips before igniting it with a flick of his lighter. He inhaled deeply, his cheeks hollowing, and then slowly uttered, "Didn't he already divorce?"

Finley was momentarily stunned, struggling to process Eugene's words. As he contemplated Eugene's previous statement, the realization slowly dawned on him—either Eugene believed that Ace harbored intentions of forming a marriage alliance with his family, or Eugene himself wanted Ace to take Nathan's place in establishing a marital connection with his family.

As these thoughts filled his mind, Finley felt his anger surging. His face flushed with suppressed frustration as he questioned, "President Nolan, what do you mean by all this?"

Lexie, who had been observing Eugene intently, was also taken aback. She gazed at Eugene with a perplexed expression.

Looking at Finley, Eugene maintained an impassive expression and replied, "Given that the foundation of your families' cooperation lies in a marriage alliance, Ace is the only unmarried member of the Baker Family. Nathan, don't you have a girlfriend?"

Nathan fought back a burst of laughter upon hearing Eugene's words. However, mindful of the peculiar yet serious atmosphere in the room, he managed to restrain himself and swiftly replied, "Yes, Uncle. I

do have a girlfriend."

He was already aware of his parents' divorce.

Perhaps due to growing up amid their tumultuous and mismatched marriage, Nathan had become exhausted, both emotionally and superficially. He had always felt that his mother had been unfairly treated in the relationship. Therefore, upon learning about the divorce, he surprisingly felt calm and even relieved for his mother.

Since Finley was enthusiastic in the conversation, Nathan couldn't help but anticipate the coming storm of his uncle's scathing remarks.

Meanwhile, Eugene arched an eyebrow at Finley, silently conveying the message. See that? Ace is the only one left who is single.

Finley seethed with anger and nearly lost his temper. However, under Eugene's intimidating presence, he forcefully suppressed his anger and responded, "President Nolan, the collaboration between the Snow Group and Baker Enterprise was initially discussed between Ace and me, with Nathan being the intended party. However, circumstances have changed. Nathan is now in a committed relationship, and we have no intention of separating them either. Nevertheless, the contract has already been signed, and if Nathan openly violates it, he will naturally have to compensate us for any financial losses. This is also the purpose of my visit over the past few days."

Eugene furrowed his brows and turned to look at Nathan, knowingly asking, "Have you violated the contract?"

Having spent enough time with his uncle to understand his intentions, Nathan promptly replied, "I have no idea. I have never signed any contract with the Snow Family."

Eugene redirected his gaze back to Finley and firmly questioned, "Where is this contract? Who signed it with you? How did Nathan violate it? I expect a proper explanation."

Chapter 1345 An Unexpected Twist

Finley inwardly cursed Eugene for posing a question he already knew the answer to. Hasn't he come across the viral interview video featuring Nathan?

However, his frustration was carefully hidden beneath a composed facade.

After two rounds of confrontation, Finley did not intend to harbor any further intentions of opposing Eugene.

To him, Eugene's behavior was nothing short of unreasonable.

As such, he shifted his gaze to Ace and urged, "Ace, you should be well aware of this. Speak up."

Ace thought Eugene had finally let him off the hook, yet here he was being dragged back into the conversation again.

He couldn't reveal the truth either—it would be odd if he did. After all, Eugene wouldn't spare him if he spoke up.

That being said, remaining silent under Eugene's penetrating gaze was not an option. After some hesitation, he muttered, "This is the contract." As he spoke, he handed the document signed by both families to Eugene.

Eugene swiftly skimmed through the contract, which primarily outlined the terms of the collaboration. However, his attention was immediately drawn to the final small line at the bottom, marked with a

crucial note. 'To establish long-term strategic cooperation through marriage, any violation of the contract will result in double compensation for breach of contract and all ensuing financial losses!'

Having absorbed the contents, Eugene threw the contract onto the table and turned his gaze toward the family of three seated across from him, including Ace. "How does this contract relate to Nathan?" he questioned.

Finley furrowed his brows and pointed to the concluding section of the contract, explaining, "It clearly states here that the basis of the collaboration is marriage. However, Nathan's viral interview not only terminated the collaboration between our families but also subjected my daughter to public criticism. As he seems to revel in the limelight, I demand that Nathan publicly apologize to my daughter on all platforms."

Feeling frightened, Lexie anxiously tugged at Finley's sleeve. Worried that Eugene might discover she had slept with Nathan the previous night, she dreaded the thought of him looking down on her.

Therefore, she wanted nothing to do with pursuing this matter any further.

However, Finley interpreted her actions as mere worry and fear. He tenderly patted her hand and comforted her, "Don't worry, child. I will ensure that justice is served for what you have endured."

Eugene, seeming to strongly agree, nodded. As confusion filled the room, he slowly spoke up. "That's a good idea. Let's have a public apology on all platforms."

A flicker of hope ignited within Finley's eyes as if he had glimpsed a temporary victory. Once the matter of the apology had been resolved, only the matter of financial compensation would be left to address.

In truth, as long as Nathan was willing to apologize, all other aspects could be negotiated.

Lexie was also surprised by Eugene's easy agreement.

Jade was equally dumbfounded. How can Eugene allow Nathan to apologize?

As each person grappled with their own bewildered thoughts, Eugene spoke once again. "Let's schedule it for tomorrow. Your entire family, along with Ace, will apologize to Nathan across all platforms!"

As his words sank in, the four individuals seated opposite Eugene were frozen in disbelief. They exchanged perplexed glances, seeking confirmation in each other's eyes.

It wasn't Nathan who was expected to apologize to them. Instead, they were asked to apologize to Nathan.

The reasoning behind this demand remained elusive.

Finley's simmering temper finally reached its boiling point. "President Nolan, you are taking this too far, don't you think?"

Eugene maintained his composure, his expression displaying an air of indifference. As he turned his gaze towards Finley, he appeared surprisingly accommodating. "What seems to be the issue, Mr. Snow? Are you dissatisfied with the proposed resolution?"

Suppressing his anger, Finley retorted, "Nathan was the one who violated the contract first and insulted my daughter. Why should we be the ones to apologize?"

Eugene gestured toward Nathan and calmly stated, "Show the contract to Mr. Snow. Does it contain any statement or signature from Nathan? Where is the evidence of violation?"

Nathan, ever composed, promptly opened the contract and handed it to Finley. "Mr. Snow, please take a look. The contract bears your signature and that of Mr. Baker. It solely emphasizes the necessity of a marriage alliance between the Snow and Baker families. If you are insistent on pursuing a marriage alliance with the Baker Family, why not consider my uncle's suggestion? My father is currently single!"

Chapter 1346 A Stormy Confrontation

Ace's face grew pale. While he could tolerate Eugene's remarks, Nathan's words directed at him stirred an overwhelming urge to deliver a stinging slap to his son's face. "Nathan, keep your mouth shut!" he reprimanded.

Nathan looked at him and countered, "What's wrong? I'm also thinking of the best interests of the Baker Enterprise."

"It's not your place to meddle in my affairs," Ace retorted.

Wearing a cold smile, Nathan taunted, "Mr. Baker, you're well acquainted with the golden rule of treating others as you wish to be treated. Did you even bother to listen to a single word I said when you entrusted me with all the planning?"

Embarrassment filled Ace's eyes as he glared at Nathan. Through clenched teeth, he spat out, "You ungrateful child!"

Lexie's face flushed with anger and she couldn't contain herself any longer. "Nathan, you've crossed the line!" she exclaimed.

Nathan cast a glance at Lexie and calmly remarked, "I simply made a modest suggestion. If you find it unsuitable, you're welcome to explore other families willing to engage in a marriage alliance with you."

Although his words were composed, they struck the core of her pride. It was as if she were an undesirable woman persistently seeking a marriage alliance with him.

Lexie, who had initially wanted to preserve a good image before Eugene, now burned with fury. "Who do you think you are, Nathan Baker? A marriage alliance with you is an act out of respect!"

Nathan, however, responded with indifference, "There's no need for you to hold me in such high regard. I'm not a good person."

Lexie felt as though she was hitting a wall. Her breath was stuck in her throat, and she was unable to speak her mind.

Lexie wasn't the only one experiencing frustration. Finley, who held himself in high regard, shared a similar sentiment. He had underestimated Eugene, unaware that the true game had yet to unfold.

Right from the start, he was caught off guard.

The signing of the contract had initially been treated as a secondary matter. It was merely an agreement between both parties. They believed that attaching names would transform the marriage into a mere business partnership. Thus, no specific names were mentioned.

Nonetheless, both families knew all too well that the marriage alliance referred to their respective children. While Finley felt a sense of righteousness, Ace could only manage a forced smile.

However, Eugene exploited this loophole shamelessly and left him no means to retaliate.

Finley turned his gaze directly toward Ace and demanded, "Tell me, Ace—who exactly are we referring to in this marriage alliance?"

Ace glanced at Eugene and then turned his gaze toward Finley. After stammering for a moment, he mustered the courage to speak. "Finley, even if I were to admit it's my son, the fact remains that it's not explicitly stated in the contract. The law doesn't recognize it either, so here's the deal. If you wish to proceed with this collaboration, feel free to do so. However, if you don't, let's consider this contract null and void, and each party will assume their own responsibilities."

Finley was on the verge of exploding. The failure to establish a marriage alliance with the Baker Family was not the issue, but rather the fact that, since the other party wasn't technically in violation of the contract now, there was no way they could ask for compensation.

"Nonsense! Ace, is this how your Baker Family conducts business?" Finley exclaimed, seething with anger.

Uninterested in their argument, Eugene interjected, "And you mentioned that Nathan had insulted your daughter. Was it at the cafe?"

As he spoke, he pulled out his phone and presented it to everyone.

The footage appeared to be recorded by a customer and captured the conversation between Nathan and Lexie.

Lexie muttered, "You two aren't engaged or married, so how did I ruin your relationship?"

"Haven't your parents taught you any moral standards?" Nathan replied. "I've made it clear that I have a girlfriend whom I genuinely care for. Yet, you persistently pester me, and that's a serious lack of morals. I initially tried to avoid any conflict due to our families' relationship, but now I see it's unnecessary. There's a complete lack of shame in your actions."

At that, Lexie stated, "Nathan, stop right there. What do you mean? Do you realize the implications of what you've just said to me?"

Nathan growled, "That's the problem, Lexie. You don't understand me at all. No one can force me to compromise on what I want. Even if you offered yourself to me, I wouldn't even bother to give you a second look."

"Are you out of your mind, Nathan?" Lexie shouted.

Then, the tension escalated, and the scene unfolded with her raising her hand to hit Nathan. However, Nathan promptly seized her wrist and warned her in a cold tone, "I don't resort to violence against women, but I'll have you know that I haven't settled the score with you for last night. You better calm down! If you don't, I'll take legal action against you for intentional harm and malicious intent."

Chapter 1347 Exposing the Plot

As the short video came to an end, an eerie silence enveloped the room.

Finley seethed with anger, but alongside the anger was an unsettling sense of panic. He couldn't shake the feeling that Eugene had a purpose in revealing the video. What is Eugene planning to do?

Finley looked up at Eugene, but to his dismay, the latter didn't even spare him a glance. Leisurely seated on the couch, Eugene sipped his tea and appeared indifferent.

Meanwhile, Lexie was consumed with embarrassment. Initially, only she and Nathan were privy to the events of the previous night. Now that the video was exposed, she felt like her private life was laid bare for everyone to see.

Regardless of the video's accuracy, its mere presence would lead others to jump to conclusions about her actions.

Her face flushed with anger, and she pointed an accusatory finger at Nathan and rebuked, "Nathan, you're despicable! Did you record it?" Nathan furrowed his brow and replied, "Take a closer look. I'm talking to you in the video. How could I be recording it?"

Frustrated, she growled, "You arranged for someone to record it in advance. If I agreed, it would serve as evidence against me, and if I refused, you would use the recording as a threat. You had it all planned out. Don't you dare deny it!"

Nathan nodded. "Hmm... This is a good method indeed."

He was initially worried about how to explain things to Halma, but with this recording, any misunderstandings could be cleared up.

Lexie was left speechless.

Observing her silence, Nathan added, "Even if I could record, how could I anticipate the exact things you were going to say?"

His words further embarrassed Lexie. "Weren't those accusations against me all made by you? The cafe was your choice too. Who else could it be?"

She refused to admit to any wrongdoing.

The moment she said that, Eugene calmly set down his teacup and admitted, "It was me."

All eyes turned to Eugene. There was a mix of astonishment, anger, joy, and confusion reflected in their gazes.

Amid this array of emotions, Eugene continued to explain slowly, "I had someone film that video. Coincidentally, Nathan's girlfriend happens to be a close friend of my wife. My initial intention was to gather some evidence for my wife to appease her friend, but I didn't anticipate accidentally capturing your conversation."

As he spoke, his expression softened. It seemed as if his original intention was as innocent as he described.

Although Lexie should have been angry, she couldn't help feeling a twinge of envy toward the woman who held a special place in Eugene's heart. Being loved by him must be a joyful experience, right?

Meanwhile, Finley couldn't hold back his frustration any longer. His voice quivered with restrained anger as he confronted Eugene. "Isn't this going too far? It's a violation of my daughter's privacy. President Nolan, please delete the video!"

Eugene's response came with a veiled threat. "Well, it's not impossible to delete it, but it depends on your sincerity, Mr. Snow."

If Eugene had seemed reasonable before, he now showed his true colors with a blatant and undisguised threat.

Finley couldn't deny Eugene's intentions any longer, and years of experience in the business world had taught him to read between the lines. Eugene's demand for everyone to apologize to Nathan on the Internet turned out to be more than just empty words. "Otherwise, are you going to publish this video to the public, President Nolan? That would be infringement!" Finley pointed out.

Eugene chuckled, finding amusement in Finley's naivety. He had a plethora of methods at his disposal to prevent the police from tracing the video back to him. The idea of Finley talking about infringement with him was almost laughable. Fine, then. Let's talk about infringement.

Eugene then shifted his gaze toward Lexie and questioned, "The drink Nathan had at the cocktail party last night was served by you, right? What was in that drink? I'm sure you are well aware, Miss Snow."

Lexie's heart tightened uncontrollably as their gazes met.

For so long, she had hoped for Eugene's attention, but now when he finally spoke to her, it was solely to hold her accountable.

A sudden sense of despair engulfed her. It seemed as though he knew everything.

The saddest thing in the world was that the person she admired and liked the most had now uncovered her darkest secret, and it felt like unbearable torture.

Finley felt a sense of panic and quickly interjected, "President Nolan, Ace has been aware of this matter. The drink Lexie served at the party was with his consent. In a way, it was a joint plan between our families. While the methods used might not have been entirely honorable, Nathan had been hesitant about the marriage proposal due to his girlfriend. We were simply trying to facilitate the union of the two children."

Chapter 1348 The Blame Game

Jade, who had remained silent for a while, suddenly erupted with fury. "What do you mean by it being a joint plan between our families? You portrayed the cocktail party as a chance for the two children to get to know each other, but I never expected you to stoop so low—putting drugs in the drink, involving the paparazzi to take compromising photos, and orchestrating a viral hot search across the Internet. Did you think using such despicable methods would force Nathan to break up with his girlfriend? Who gave you permission for all this?"

Finley frowned. "Mrs. Baker—"

Jade mercilessly interrupted him, "Please address me as Madam Nolan!"

Anger visibly surfaced on Finley's face. While he hesitated to openly provoke Eugene, he couldn't bear to tolerate Jade and Ace any longer. A mocking smile curved his lips as he lashed out, "If this is how you both play the game, it's truly shameless. What's the matter? Is the Baker Enterprise not thriving anymore? Resorting to such unscrupulous tactics, are you? Don't you realize that your very husband, Ace Baker, is aware of all this? Do you both plan to make us all suffer through your divorce? Who's more despicable here?"

Eugene rubbed his temples to ease the throbbing pain. As an outsider, he deeply regretted getting involved in this family drama. This incessant quarrel is giving me a splitting headache. I should just stay at home and cuddle with my wife. Why did I come here seeking trouble?

He finally couldn't take it any longer. Raising his voice, he interjected, "Enough! Are you all seriously arguing over such embarrassing matters? Must I call the police to resolve this for you?"

After his stern intervention, the room fell silent once again.

Eugene surveyed the room, finally locking his cold gaze with Finley's. His words cut through the air like ice. "Not only do I have surveillance footage of Miss Snow drugging the drink, but we also found drug traces in Nathan's blood sample. The paparazzi who took the photos have confessed to acting under your orders, and the purchase of the viral hot search can be traced back to you. The police won't concern themselves with perceived injustices; they rely solely on evidence. If Nathan insists on holding you and Miss Snow accountable, both of you will face no less than three years in prison!"

After a brief pause, he continued, "I don't care whose fault it is, but you've disrupted my peaceful life. Nathan and his girlfriend can't live without worries, and my wife has to bear the burden of their troubles. I can't stand seeing her that way. You have two choices here—either issue a public apology to Nathan on the Internet, or I hand over this evidence to the police. If I don't see the public apology before 10.00AM tomorrow, the evidence will undoubtedly be in the hands of the police!"

After making his point, Eugene picked up his phone from the table and prepared to leave.

Finley's legs weakened, and he collapsed onto the couch.

His wife hurriedly rushed to his side and comforted him, "Finley, please calm down. Please..."

Without concerning herself about her own image, Lexie anxiously stood up and hastily chased after Eugene. "President Nolan!"

Tears streamed down her face as she barely managed to utter his name. The disastrous turn of events with Eugene had caught her completely off guard. It began with hope and aspiration but now seemed to have led to utter despair. He's always been so kind and caring toward his wife. Why is he being so cruel to us?

Struggling to contain her emotions, Lexie sobbed and pleaded, "President Nolan, we are truly innocent in this matter. The union between our families and the events of last night were all discussed and

agreed upon by my father and Mr. Baker. No one coerced anyone. It was intended for the sake of better cooperation. You can't treat us like this. If we're forced to issue a public apology, how can we ever face anyone in the future?!"

Eugene halted his footsteps and looked at her tear-stained face with irritation. "This is your problem. You need to understand one thing—it was Ace who led you to this point. Whether you were manipulated by him or colluded with him, it's your misfortune. If you feel wronged, settle the score with Ace. It has nothing to do with Nathan. Do you understand?" he asserted firmly.

As he concluded his statement, the members of the Snow Family directed their hostile gazes toward Ace. Their eyes bore such intensity that it seemed like they would devour him alive.

Terrified, Ace stumbled backward and quickly intercepted Eugene. "E-Eugene, you can't treat me like this! After all, I've been your brother-in-law for over twenty years!" he stammered.

Eugene's face hardened with ruthlessness as he gripped Ace's collar. "If it hadn't been for the sake of my sister, I would have torn you apart long ago!"

Chapter 1349 The Threat of Evidence

After speaking, Eugene forcefully pushed him away.

Ace was pushed far away. As Finley and the others closed in, a surge of panic overwhelmed him, and he desperately clung to Jade. "Jade... Jade, please save me!"

However, Jade remained unmoved by his pleas and coldly responded, "You brought this upon yourself. The consequences you face today are the result of your actions." After saying that, she tried to break free from his grasp.

However, Ace stubbornly held onto her and refused to let go. "Jade, we were once bound as husband and wife. You can't simply leave me like this!"

With a fit of unusual anger burning in his eyes, Eugene walked over and delivered a swift kick to Ace. "Since your son is present today, I'll spare you some dignity. But mark my words, Ace Baker—if you ever try to harm them again, I will make sure you're done for!"

Left lying motionless on the ground after the forceful kick, Ace felt a profound sense of despair. "Nathan, are you not going to help me too?" he pleaded.

Standing not far away, Nathan remained silent and looked at his father expressionlessly.

Glancing at Nathan and noting his unwavering stance, Eugene then shifted his gaze to Jade and questioned, "To whom did you give this house when you divorced?"

Jade's response was filled with disdain as she looked at Ace. "To him," she replied.

Fully aware of Ace's persistent nature, Jade had willingly granted him control of every property he was aware of to avoid his interference.

As for herself, she had converted the company into stocks and cash, unconcerned about the possibility of him benefiting slightly from it. Her primary objective was to sever all ties completely, ensuring he wouldn't find any valuable assets to exploit.

Since ten years ago, Eugene had always wanted them to divorce, and now he could only feel a sense of relief for his sister. He nodded in agreement and added, "Pay attention to the news tomorrow before 10.00AM. If there's no public apology from the Snow Family and Ace, I'll hand over the evidence to the police."

His words were clearly directed at Ace and the Snow Family.

Jade quietly acknowledged his instruction in a soft voice.

After they departed, the room erupted with a tumultuous series of banging and crashing sounds.

"Ace Baker, you son of a b*tch! Do you think you can toy with me like a monkey?! If I don't end you today, then it will be the end of me!"

Ace's agonizing screams filled the room. "Argh! Finley, let me explain—don't hit me! Don't hit me! How much money did you lose? I promise to cover all the losses, alright?" he pleaded, desperate to save himself from further harm.

Meanwhile, Eugene, Jade, and Nathan walked out without looking back, especially Eugene, whose footsteps quickened as if he were in a hurry.

Jade observed Nathan closely as he followed Eugene. Throughout the ordeal, he never once turned to look at her. While he seemed more biased toward her than Ace, she couldn't shake the feeling that deep down, he might still hold her responsible.

In just a few swift steps, Eugene reached the car and said, "Nathan, take your mother home. I'll go first."

Nathan nodded in response and opened the car door for Eugene. "Uncle, thank you for today."

Nathan recognized that if it hadn't been for Eugene's intervention, Finley would never have backed down so easily tonight, let alone demand an apology from them.

However, Eugene had them firmly under his control, with the threat of imprisonment if they refused to apologize.

It was truly impressive.

However, Eugene remained unaware of Nathan's thoughts, and his mind was preoccupied with the thought of leaving his wife alone at home.

He missed her dearly.

After mumbling an acknowledgment, he got into the car.

As Eugene's car drove away, Nathan hailed a cab by the side of the road. Having returned the car keys earlier, he had no other option but to take a cab.

Without talking to Jade, he opened the back door of the cab and gestured for her to get in.

Despite having her car, Jade complied and entered the cab.

Inside the cab, Jade felt the urge to speak several times before finally finding her voice. "I'm sorry, Nathan. Don't blame me. My intentions were genuinely for your own good," she mumbled, trying to explain herself.

Nathan remained silent, his gaze focused on the world outside the window.

Jade continued her explanation. "I really didn't know about the issues between your father and the Snow Family. If I had known, I wouldn't have turned a blind eye."

Releasing a deep sigh, Nathan replied, "It's fine. There's no need to explain. I already know, and I support your decision to divorce Ace. Since you've given him the property, let's stay at Muse Peninsula tonight."

Jade's eyes brightened at his words. Muse Peninsula was the residence chosen by Nathan. Is this a sign of his forgiveness?

Chapter 1350 The Threat of Evidence

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She replied happily, "Okay."

However, when they returned to Muse Peninsula, Nathan emerged from his room with a packed suitcase in hand, startling her at once. She never expected him to still hold a grudge; compared to Ace, he resented her slightly less, but he didn't forgive her. Her voice trembling, she asked, "Nathan, where are you going?"

Nathan paused without looking back at her. "Dad was right about one thing. As long as I'm living with you and spending your money, I have no right to have a say. That's why you two don't care about what I think. This house is yours, so I won't be staying here anymore. Starting from today, I won't spend a single penny of yours."

Freaking out, Jade caught up to him in a few steps and held onto his suitcase. "Nathan, don't scare me, okay? I do care about you. I know that we didn't handle this well, but your dad and I are divorced now. His theories don't affect you anymore. From now on, what's mine is yours. No one will say anything about you."

Nathan looked at her, his eyes blazing with intensity as he questioned, "Aren't you part of his theories as well? If you didn't rely on your sense of superiority, you wouldn't have gone to Halma and said so

many cruel things to her! Even if we're just friends for eight years, you shouldn't have treated her like that, not to mention that she is my girlfriend! She loved me when I was at my lowest. She didn't despise me for not being knowledgeable or having no skills whatsoever, nor did she frown on me for staying in her rented house, sitting around doing nothing. I barely had enough to eat back then, being chased by loan sharks everywhere. I even contemplated ending it all! I was unconscious for three full days, during which she took care of me 24/7. Without her, I wouldn't be who I am today! She loves me with all her heart and did not ask for anything from our family, so how could you point fingers at her?"

This was the first time Jade had heard Nathan talk about these things, and she was deeply shocked. "When did all this happen? Why don't I know about it?"

Nathan knew what he was going to say next. His heart ached with pain, and his eyes reddened instantly. "Of course, you don't know about it! Every day, you were either busy working at your office or stalking Ace Baker like catching a thief. I lived each day like a street child, drinking, gambling, fooling around with girls, and doing drugs all day with friends who were only a little older than me. Without Uncle Eugene's forced discipline, I'd most likely end up in prison! Only you think your son is precious. What's wrong with my girlfriend? She's beautiful, confident, works hard, and managed to study abroad based on her own merits. She started her own magazine without relying on anyone, and her excellence surpasses many others. And now, you've stripped away every ounce of her confidence! Isn't it just because she isn't as loaded as you are? What else is it about her that makes her not good enough for your son?"

Jade looked at him, feeling a lump in her throat. After remaining speechless for a long time, she said, "I'm sorry, I didn't know these truths, and you didn't tell me either. I-I'll apologize to her tomorrow, okay? Please don't move out."

At that, Nathan replied expressionlessly, "You should apologize indeed, but I don't want you to bother her these days. It'd seem insincere and it'll be as if I forced you to do it."

As such, Jade gave in. "Alright, then. I'll apologize to her after some time, okay? As long as you don't move out, that is."

Nathan asserted, "I'm definitely moving out of here. I don't want to live in the shadow of your influence, and I certainly don't want to be unable to stand up for myself when you meddle in my affairs!" With that, he dragged his suitcase, ready to leave.

Jade stopped him once again in a pleading voice. "Where are you going at such a late hour? I just divorced your dad. Can't you spend some time with me?"

Nathan's expression remained indifferent and even had a hint of coldness to it. "You were living alone even before the divorce. Now that you've divorced a sc*mbag like that, you should be celebrating by throwing a party. It's really nothing to be heartbroken about. I'm going to find my girl. She has been upset for so many days and needs someone by her side as well!"