

Unfinished 141

Chapter 141

A man in his fifties walked in with a fruit basket in his hand. His handsome face looked somewhat haggard, and his gaze appeared to be apologetic. Seeing the apologetic-looking man, Nathan asked in shock, "Who are you looking for?"

"I-I'm looking for Olivia." The man raised his chin and pointed at Olivia, who was on the bed.

The moment Olivia saw Henry, her expression turned dark. "Nathan, I don't know him. Get him out of this room!"

Startled, Nathan gazed at Henry and asked doubtfully, "You are?"

"I'm her father."

Nathan finally understood the reason behind Olivia's reaction. He was her father who trusted what Anna said and sent her to a foreign country. In that instant, Nathan's expression turned gloomy as well. "Olivia doesn't want to see you. Please leave!"

Henry looked at Nathan in a fawning manner and said, "Please let me say something to her. I'll leave after finishing my words."

Lying down, Olivia closed her eyes and said coldly, "I don't want to listen to it. I'm tired and have to sleep now!"

Taking a deep breath, her father directly walked into the room and placed the fruit basket on the bedside table. Nathan didn't try to stop him since the latter was Olivia's father. Taking a seat by the bed, Henry said sincerely, "Olivia, I know that you're still resentful of me. I have been lied to all these years and done many things that have hurt you. However, you should have told me about it earlier."

Olivia wanted to ignore him initially, but she realized that she couldn't take it anymore as she opened her eyes suddenly and reprimanded, "Are you sure I didn't tell you about it? You never listened to me!"

Do you care about me or even Mom at all? Your explanation and apology are like a fan in the winter and a quilt in the summer—they're totally useless to me!"

"I know you still blame me. I didn't come here to ask for your forgiveness, but—"

Before he could finish his words, Olivia interrupted, "You just want to have peace of mind, don't you? You want to shift all the blame to someone else, huh? Well, dream on!" Deeply hurt, she drew a deep breath and stared at him. "You had an affair with Amy Davis when you were still married. You're biased toward Anna, so you sent me to another country. Right after I returned to the country and met you, you slapped me without a second thought. You were as unreasonable as before and have told me things a father shouldn't have said to his daughter. I can forget all of that, but you never paid a visit to my mom for the past seven years. To make your wife and daughter happy, you threw a grand party on my mom's death anniversary. You were not sorrowful at all. Were you so happy on my mom's death anniversary? Hmph, Henry Maxwell, I will never forgive you!" She said those words with reddened eyes and gritted teeth.

Henry opened his mouth slightly as he didn't expect that the party on the death anniversary of Olivia's mother to be the deepest pain in her heart. Taking a deep breath, he explained, "I forgot that it was your mom's death anniversary. Since they had set a date for the wedding, I could only agree to it."

"Stop coming up with excuses!" Olivia glared at him and snarled, "Get out!"

Noticing the resolution behind her gaze, Henry rose from the chair and said, "D-Don't be angry with me. Please rest well. I'll take my leave now." With that, he turned around and walked out of the room.

Staring at his figure, Olivia suddenly realized that his originally sturdy body became somewhat frail now as he tottered out of the room. She retracted her gaze and closed her eyes. All of a sudden, she felt

like she had been drained of all her energy.

As the door was closed and opened again, someone walked in. Thinking that it was Nathan, Olivia covered her eyes with her arm and remained silent. Standing by the bed, Eugene lowered his gaze and stared at her. Hearing her conversation with her father from outside the room a moment ago, he felt sorry for her and could empathize with her feelings.

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It was no wonder that Olivia was so cold and resolute on the stage that day. How disappointed must she be to burst into a rage?

In that instant, Eugene felt guilty for failing in his attempt to find out the culprit as he remained silent and looked at her.

Olivia frowned and wondered why the garrulous Nathan never asked her any question.

When she doubtfully lowered her arm and saw the tall man by the bed, she was stunned. It's no wonder that Nathan never said a word. He isn't here at all!

"Shouldn't you be busy today? Why are you here?"

Without saying a word, Eugene directly took a seat beside the bed. "I'm done with work."

Gazing at him, Olivia questioned doubtfully, "Have you found the driver?"

Eugene took a deep breath helplessly and answered, "Yes, the driver confessed that it was Luca who told him to do that. However, when I got to Luca, he was found dead in his house."

Hearing that, Olivia was flabbergasted. "He's dead? Who did it?"

Eugene replied, "On the surface, his death was caused by an overdose of stimulants."

Olivia finished his words for him, "But in reality, someone killed him and shifted the blame to him."

He flashed a smile at her. As an intelligent woman, she could figure it out even if he never said it clearly.

Olivia laughed in self-mockery. "Who is so resentful of me to the point where the person wants me dead?"

Her inadvertent words stunned Eugene as he suddenly recalled what Brian said to him. If you want her to be safe, stay away from her.

But... will she really be safe if I stay away from her?

Since the culprit wasn't arrested yet, there was still hidden danger. Olivia was exposed, while the culprit was still hidden. It wasn't certain when the person would harm Olivia again.

Could I really protect her?

"It's because of me that you've fallen into danger!"

Olivia didn't know how to respond to his sudden self-blame. Why does he start blaming himself when I'm not harmed yet?

"Do you know who did it?"

Eugene shook his head. Although he was suspicious of a few people, it was pointless since he had no concrete evidence.

Olivia consoled, "Don't blame yourself yet since we don't know who the culprit is. In fact, I have many enemies as well. Since the person is afraid of our investigation, I don't think he is very bold, so you don't have to be worried!"

Worried? I suppose he's worried about me, hence his apologetic gaze.

Eugene flashed a smile at her. Why is she such a good person?

“Aren’t you afraid?”

Olivia snorted fearlessly, “Why should I be afraid? I’m not a pushover, okay?”

Eugene nodded and replied seriously, “No, you’re not a pushover. Don’t worry. I’ll stand by your side.”

Olivia burst into laughter. “Are you sure?”

“Yes, I’m sure.”

Eugene smiled at her and remarked, “Please smile more. You look great when you smile.”

Olivia pursed her lips in embarrassment. What does he mean by this? Why does he keep saying such intimate-sounding words to me?

“Where’s Nathan?”

Eugene replied, “I told him to go back as he has to fetch the kid later.”

Olivia mumbled and fell into silence, which caused the conversation to end just like this.

A while later, she said, “Mr. Nolan, please go back as Kate will arrive shortly. Moreover, I’m fine now, so you don’t have to be worried.”

Eugene took a deep breath. Why does she always chase me away?

“It’s fine. I will leave when she arrives.”

Olivia thought to herself that if he stayed there any longer, she would be utterly embarrassed.

“Do you want to eat an apple? I will peel it for you,” Eugene held an apple in his hand and inquired.

Hearing that, Olivia’s lips curved into a smile as she recalled the first time Eugene peeled an apple for her kid at her home. The apple turned out to be a mess.

Does he seriously want to peel an apple for me now?

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Reading Olivia’s mind, Eugene shot her a look and protested, “My peeling skill has improved.”

Since he had figured out what was on her mind, Olivia stopped holding it back and burst into laughter.

Ignoring her mockery, Eugene focused on peeling the apple with a knife. Although he was still inept at peeling apples, his skill had improved significantly since the last time he did it. Moreover, it was impressive that he never broke up the apple skin.

After peeling the apple, he passed it to her and looked as proud as a child who was waiting for a praise. “How is it?”

Olivia’s lips curved into a smile. “Alright, you’re amazing.”

Eugene thought to himself that he had peeled more than tens of apples at home before he achieved this level of skill. However, those apples were left rotten and wasted.

A while later, Kate pressed down the door handle and walked in with take-aways. Seeing Eugene by the bed, she smiled in embarrassment. “Did I come too early?”

Eugene didn’t respond to her. Of course you’ve come too early. You shouldn’t even have come!

Olivia heaved a sigh of relief and said, "You've come at the right time. I'm starving. What did you buy for me?"

Kate replied with a smile, "I've bought some dumplings for you and a poke bowl from another shop. Oh, there's also a bowl of soup."

Olivia was overjoyed. "How did you know that I wanted to eat dumplings?"

"Well, I know you very well!"

With that, she put down the food.

Eugene placed a cushion behind Olivia's back, raised the bed a little, and placed a bed tray on her bed. After that, he opened the take-aways for her and passed her a spoon. He did all these smoothly and naturally.

Olivia took over the spoon and said thanks.

Kate said, "Mr. Nolan, please have a taste as well. These dumplings are delicious. I've bought different fillings."

Olivia quickly chimed in, "That's right. The shop has been around for years, and their dumplings are wonderful."

With that, she reflexively extended the dumpling she had just scooped up to him.

Eugene was stunned and gazed at her eyes. As the spoon came closer, he slowly slurped it into his mouth.

Olivia's face blushed in an instant. She had wanted to pass him the spoon, but she had forgotten that there was already a dumpling on the spoon. Unexpectedly, he directly slurped the dumpling into his mouth.

What should I do? There's no way I should continue using this spoon. Keep calm!

Flustered, she pretended to be calm and directly passed him the spoon. "Take it. We'll eat the dumplings together."

Eugene flashed a smile at her as he chewed on the dumpling. "I'm good. Please eat it."

Olivia was on the brink of bursting into tears as she forcefully passed the spoon to him. "Take it!"

If he doesn't take it, how am I going to take a new spoon?

After he took over the spoon, she continued nonchalantly, "I can't finish so much food."

Eugene smiled without saying a word. Although he could read her mind, he decided not to expose her. He was more than content to see her blushing.

Kate felt like she was the extra one between the lovey-dovey couple, wondering why they had become so close to each other after she had left for only a few hours.

After Eugene ate a few more dumplings with Olivia, he reluctantly left the place.

After that, Kate gazed at Olivia with a stealthy look and teased, "You said you didn't like him, but look what you did with him!"

At that moment, Olivia just wanted to get a place to go into hiding. "Shut up, and don't ask me!"

Looking at her upset expression, Kate was torn between laughter and tears. "Did you act weirdly because Eugene was around?"

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Olivia shot Kate a glance. Although she didn't want to admit it, Kate seemed to have pointed out the truth. Rather than being afraid of Eugene, she was just nervous, her heart leaping to her throat whenever he spoke to her.

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Olivia's condition was fairly stable during her one-week stay at the hospital. Eugene had stopped staying overnight to take care of her, but he would pay her a visit every day. Meanwhile, Olivia started doing things she never thought she would do in the past.

For example, she would stay in the hospital garden for a while every day. To make it easier for her, Eugene got her a wheelchair and would even help her with getting in and out of the wheelchair.

Olivia found it awkward initially, but she got used to it later on.

Eventually, she came to the conclusion that she must have read too much into it. I guess that's why I felt that Eugene was acting weird.

Would she find it awkward if Nathan hugged her? No! She would even make him get into a more comfortable position.

So why would she reject it when it was Eugene who did it?

Her embarrassment suggested that she had some unnecessary thoughts.

Instead, she should be forthright and treated him like how she treated Nathan.

Upon some convincing, she eventually accepted it.

After being discharged from the hospital, she spent two days working at her studio and finally had some free time.

All of a sudden, she felt that she should treat Eugene to a meal. Be it thanking him for taking care of her during her hospitalization, or fulfilling her promise, she should prepare a meal for him.

On the same day, she put on some makeup to get ready to go to the supermarket. Just when she entered the elevator, she bumped into Eugene, who was going to work.

Flashing a smile at him, she greeted, "Hi, Mr. Nolan. I wanted to call you and tell you that I'm going to treat you to a meal tonight."

A hint of surprise flashed across Eugene's gaze as his lips curved into a smile uncontrollably. I knew she's going to treat me to a meal!

Smiling, he said, "Alright, where are you..."

"I'm going to the supermarket. What are your favorite dishes?" Olivia inquired.

Eugene couldn't help smiling and sized her up. She was wearing a white coat and a pair of stilettos, while the makeup looked perfect on her beautiful face.

Eventually, he couldn't help but tease, "Aren't you worried that you might twist your ankle if you go to the supermarket in this outfit?"

Olivia was rendered speechless. What is wrong with my outfit? I'm not going to a wet market anyway. After I'm done with grocery shopping at the supermarket, I don't even need to carry the groceries myself as I will tell the delivery guy to send them to my home. Why can't I go to the supermarket in this outfit?

So, she snorted, "I'm not worried at all!"

The elevator doors opened after she finished her words. Once she stepped out of the elevator, her left foot stamped on her right foot as she fell down directly.

In that instant, she closed her eyes and waited for her imminent fall as she blamed Eugene for jinxing her.

However, to her surprise, she fell into a pair of strong arms.

Subconsciously opening her eyes, what fell into her gaze was Eugene's shocked expression.

He inquired, "Are you alright?"

At that moment, Olivia's heart pounded against her chest. Just like a soap opera, the male lead managed to save the falling female lead. Seeing such scenes on television when she was younger, she would urge the characters to hug and kiss.

However, when that happened to her in real life, she was utterly embarrassed as her face flushed. Apart from her fall, she had also asserted that she would never fall down again.

How embarrassing!

She didn't even dare look at Eugene, for he must be laughing at her.

Lowering her head, she replied in embarrassment, "I-I'm fine."

Eugene's lips curved into a smile, not because he was laughing at her but because he simply found her adorable.

Olivia couldn't be described as adorable as she never acted coquettishly, nor was her face the cute type. In fact, she didn't need all of those to get what she wanted.

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Nevertheless, Eugene simply found Olivia utterly adorable.

After she got out of his embrace, he could still feel the lingering warmth in his arms. All of a sudden, he regretted the fact that he was too gentlemanly as he should have hugged her a little longer. He should even have carried her out of the place and sent her to the hospital. This way, he could have spent two more hours with her.

However, he knew that Olivia wasn't such a pretentious woman.

If he really did that, she would have gotten angry with him. In that case, it would do more harm than good.

"Is your leg alright? Do you want me to send you to the hospital?"

Olivia swung her leg and replied, "I'm fine. Thanks for helping me."

Staring at her leg, Eugene suggested worriedly, "Why don't you go back and change into another pair of shoes?"

Upon composing herself, Olivia replied, "There's no need. I'll change to another pair of stilettos anyway if I have to get changed." Then, she thought to herself that she had no flats at all.

Parting with Eugene, she directly went to the supermarket and bought many groceries. After that, she hailed a taxi and went to an alley where there was a shop that sold candies. Reaching there, the shop owner told her that there was only one box left.

Frowning, Olivia said, "Then give it to me. When are you going to restock?"

The owner answered, "In a few days. Come back by then."

“Alright, save one box for me!”

Then, she paid the money for the other box of candies in advance and went home with the one she already bought. Although she wanted to pass the candies to Brian, she had to rush home to learn to cook.

Since she was lousy at cooking, she had to hire a cook to teach her in the hope that her cooking skill would improve quickly.

At 9 pm, Kate was summoned to Olivia’s home. Before she managed to stabilize her breath, Olivia lugged her to the kitchen and passed her an apron. “I want to make eight delicate and delicious dishes. Help me!”

Looking at the unopened plastic bags, Kate directly threw the apron back at her. “I can’t help you!” With that, she turned to leave.

Upon taking a few steps forward, she was pulled back by Olivia. “You just have to teach me and won’t have to do it yourself.”

Hearing that, Kate turned around and remarked, “That’s worse. You have zero skill in cooking. I’d rather do it myself than teach you!”

Without trying to grab Kate’s arm, Olivia crossed her arms and stared at her coldly.

In that instant, Kate could feel someone glaring at her back with a sharp gaze. After taking a few steps forward, she turned around and returned helplessly.

“Alright, since you’re a good student, I will teach you for free.”

Without saying a word, Olivia kept glaring at her, which caused Kate to stare back at her. “Stop looking at me and tell me the truth. Who are you making the dishes for? You even want to cook delicate meals.”

In that instant, Olivia retracted her gaze. "Why do you ask so many questions? Just teach me how to cook eight dishes."

"I know who the man is." Gazing at her, Kate guessed cheekily, "He's Mr. Nolan, right?"

Olivia shot her a look from the corner of her eye. "How did you know?"

Raising an eyebrow, Kate replied, "I know that you guys are on good terms."

Olivia crossed her arms and questioned, "And?"

Flashing a cheeky smile at her, Kate continued, "And you like him."

"Why don't you say that he likes me as well?"

"Yes, he also likes you!"

Hearing that, Olivia directly landed a slap on her head. "That's ridiculous!"

Kate dodged it with a smile. "Why did you make out with him if you don't like him? Why do you cook for him if you don't like him?"

Olivia snorted, "I'm just trying to thank him for saving me. Moreover, North made his company suffer a loss of 100 million, so he insisted that I had to cook for him. I have no choice!"

"Oh..." Kate questioned meaningfully, "Does your meal cost 100 million? It's worth a lot of money!"

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Olivia was rendered speechless. "Are you going to teach me or not?"

Kate nodded. "Alright, I'll teach you, since this is for President Nolan. I still need his support in many ways!"

Shooting her a contemptuous look, Olivia teased, "I should let Eugene see how you're fawning over him."

Kate protested, "Don't provoke me. Otherwise, I might tie you up and send you to Eugene!"

"Are you going to betray me?"

"I'm just trying to do the right thing!"

"Alright, stop it. Hurry up and start cooking."

Kate said, "I'll teach you some simple stuff first."

"Alright."

As Kate taught her on the side, they managed to get eight dishes ready after busying themselves for the entire afternoon.

These dishes look... good!

Kate's forehead was beaded with sweat as she asked helplessly, "When are you going to invite Eugene over?"

Looking at the dishes on the table, Olivia was proud of her achievements. "Tonight."

Speechless, Kate questioned, "Why did you prepare all these when you're cooking for him tonight?"

Olivia replied matter-of-factly, "That's why I told you to teach me in the afternoon so that I'll be able to cook the same dishes in the evening."

Helpless, Kate asked, "Girl, why are you so confident?"

Speechless, Olivia protested, "Are you looking down on my cooking skill?"

Kate directly lugged her to the table and said, "Come on, have a taste."

Picking up a spoon, Olivia said, "Why? They look okay. Stop thinking that I'm not good at anything. My dishes may not be delicious, but they are edible. Ah... Puke! Why is it so salty?"

Already knowing the outcome, Kate continued, "Alright, it's edible. Just drink more water. Come on, have a taste of this."

With that, she picked up a fried garlic rib for Olivia.

After getting it into her mouth and chewing it for a while, Olivia directly spat it out. "It's undercooked!"

Kate nodded. "How is it? Do you understand your cooking skill now?"

Frowning, Olivia questioned, "How did you teach me? How is it edible when it's undercooked?"

Kate shot her a look. "Take a good look at them. They're made by you!"

Staring at the dishes, Olivia didn't believe that they were made by her.

Gazing at her disbelieving expression, Kate burst into laughter. "I feel sorry for North now."

Olivia rolled her eyes at Kate. "At least he's not starved. Without you, I still have my senior and Nathan."

Kate nodded. "Do you still want to cook yourself? I think you should just order take-aways. Just place them on the plates and tell him that you made them yourself."

Pondering over the feasibility of her idea, Olivia replied, "That may work. Although I didn't make them, I bought them personally."

Kate was speechless. "Stop it. That's insincere. Eugene won't mind it even if your dishes are horrible. He will love your cooking as well since he likes you."

"Stop spouting nonsense. Why would he love my cooking? I have nothing to do with him."

Kate pursed her lips. "Why would he visit you at the hospital every day if you had nothing to do with him? Did he have nothing else to do?"

Olivia refuted, "It was he who sent me to the hospital. As a friend, it was normal that he would visit me. Didn't you and Nathan pay me a visit every day as well? Does it mean both of you like me? You have no idea how many secret admirers he has. Stop it, or his admirers may find fault with me!"

Kate stopped trying to argue with her. "Alright, there's nothing between you guys. What should we do about these dishes?"

"Finish them all!" Olivia declared.

Kate replied, "There are only the two of us. Can we finish eight dishes?"

Olivia suggested, "Don't forget about Nathan. I'll call him now. He must have spent the entire night playing video games."

With that, she directly made a call.

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“Yes, Olivia?”

Olivia was surprised that Nathan didn't sound tired at all. “Well, someone's up early. Where are you?”

Upon placing the phone on the countertop, she turned on the loudspeaker as she was busy cleaning up the kitchen.

“I'm out. Why are you looking for me?”

Before Olivia could reply to him, a soft female voice was heard over the phone, asking, “Who is it? Why do I hear a woman's voice?”

In that instant, Olivia abruptly halted what she was doing.

Impatient, Nathan quickly explained to that woman, “Stop being jealous. That's my best friend, Olivia.”

Olivia shot a glance at Kate, who appeared to be unperturbed. However, she could make out the fluster behind the latter's gaze.

Tensing up, Kate mechanically kept cleaning the same area.

Seeing that, Olivia heaved a sigh helplessly.

Nathan and Kate were too close to each other to the point where even if they slept on the same bed, he wouldn't believe that she liked him.

Pretending to be nonchalant, Olivia replied, “Please come to my house to help me finish the eight dishes for me. It's too much for us.”

“Eight dishes? Who made them?”

“I made them.”

In an instant, Nathan’s voice turned solemn. “Forget it. Let’s go out to have a meal together.”

Olivia was speechless. “How could you say such a thing? You’ve made me feel embarrassed. Come here quickly!”

“But your cooking skill...” Nathan didn’t finish his words to show some respect.

Gritting her teeth, Olivia snarled, “Stop being picky. It’s a free meal!”

Unafraid, Nathan replied, “I am not picky at all, but none of your dishes are delicious.”

Olivia took a deep breath in anger. “I made them with Katie so come here immediately. We shouldn't waste any food.”

Nathan replied over the phone, “That’s better. Can I bring a person with me?”

“Sure.”

Upon finishing her words, Olivia hung up the call. She was curious about Nathan’s new girlfriend.

Ten minutes later, Nathan and his girlfriend arrived.

Gazing at the woman before her eyes, Olivia saw that the latter wasn’t tall. The woman was very clingy as she draped her arms around Nathan’s body. She looked more like Nathan’s child than his girlfriend.

The woman flashed a smile at Olivia and said, "Hi, sorry for bothering you."

Olivia's mouth twitched as she felt that the woman wasn't comparable to Kate at all in terms of height and beauty. However, love wasn't a formula, and it couldn't be purchased with money.

"Hi."

"Olivia, this is my girlfriend, Melanie. Mel, she's Olivia, and that's Kate. They're all my best friends," Nathan pointed at Kate and said.

Pursing her lips, Kate greeted, "Come in. Don't stand outside."

Olivia took a deep breath and said, "That's right. Please come in."

Gazing at the dishes on the table, Nathan questioned, "Is today a special date? Why did you make so many dishes? Kate is here to help as well."

Without looking at them, Kate remained silent.

Olivia mumbled, "I just wanted to learn how to cook. Please sit down."

After they were all seated, Olivia inquired, "Do you want some wine?"

Turning to Melanie, Nathan asked, "Mel, do you want some?"

Shaking her head, Melanie lowered her head and whispered, "I can't. Just one glass of wine will make me drunk. Will you drink it on my behalf?"

Pinching her face, Nathan said lovingly, "You're so coquettish. You don't want to drink any wine, but you want me to drink it on your behalf."

Olivia could clearly hear that Kate took a deep breath. At that instant, she wasn't certain if she had made the right decision by inviting them over.

"Eat the dishes if you can't drink alcohol. Most of the dishes are made by Katie. Don't eat these two. I made them."

With that, Olivia pushed her dishes to the side in embarrassment.

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"So what if these dishes are made by Olivia?" Melanie asked naively.

Pressing his lips together, Nathan replied, "Her dishes are no different from poison."

With a grave expression, Kate stared at Nathan and snarled, "Stop criticizing her dishes!"

Embarrassed, Nathan retorted, "You always criticize her cooking skill as well."

"I can say that, but you can't!" Kate said in an unreasonable manner.

Afraid that they might fall out and make Melanie feel embarrassed, Olivia quickly stopped them, saying, "Alright, I admit that my cooking skill is horrible, otherwise I wouldn't have sought Kate's help. How dare you criticize my cooking skill? You're no better when it comes to cooking."

With a smile, Nathan replied, "I can cook a little better."

Melanie said smilingly, "It's fine." With that, she picked up a piece of fried eggplant made by Olivia and commented, "It's okay. I think it's quite delicious. Your cooking skill is already much better than mine because I can't cook anything."

Upon finishing her words, she also picked up a piece of fried garlic rib.

Seeing that, Olivia fell into silence. Since she wants to put on a show, then go ahead.

Realizing that the rib was too hard to chew, Melanie put it back on the plate.

“Stop eating that. Let’s try this,” Nathan said as he peeled the skin of a fried shrimp for Melanie. “This should be okay.”

Cocking her head, Melanie flashed a smile at him. “Thanks, Nate.”

Nathan replied lovingly, “Come on, try this.”

The moment Melanie put the shrimp into her mouth, she directly nodded and praised, “Oh, this is delicious. I envy those who can cook well.”

Kate was forced to give a response and put on a smile, since Melanie’s words were directed at her.

Like a child, Melanie clung to Nathan’s arm and pouted her lips, saying, “Nate, I’m worried about our future. Both of us can’t cook, so what are we going to eat?”

Nathan said lovingly, “Don’t worry, I will learn to cook. There’s no way I’ll make you starve.”

Staring at Nathan, Olivia’s expression turned dark. However, she couldn’t give him a reminder in public, so she said implicitly, “Stop the public display of affection. Don’t you know that Kate and I are single?”

Covering her mouth, Melanie giggled. “Sorry, we’re used to it.”

“How long have you guys been together?” Olivia questioned.

Tilting her head, Melanie looked at Nathan and asked, "How long have we known each other?"

"I think it's been half a month."

Shooting him a coquettish look, Melanie looked at her wristwatch and announced, "We've been together for thirteen days, three hours, twenty-three minutes, and fifty-seven seconds."

Delighted, Nathan directly pulled her into his arms. "Wow, you do care about our relationship. You've even counted it down to the seconds."

Shrugging, Melanie gazed at Olivia and Kate across the table and said shyly, "Nate, stop it. There are other people around."

Nonchalant, Nathan replied, "They aren't other people. They're my best friends who are as important as you."

Feeling a lump in her throat, Kate breathed deeply for a few times to cast away her unease.

"Olivia, are there wines in your house?"

Taking a look at Kate, Olivia knew that the latter was in a bad mood, so she quickly answered, "There are. I have only one can of beer left, but there are white wines."

Kate replied, "Alright."

Rising from the chair, Olivia took out a bottle of white wine from the cabinet and poured it into four glasses.

Looking at Melanie, she asked, "Why don't you drink beer?"

"Olivia, I really can't drink alcohol one bit."

With that, Melanie turned to Nathan and pouted her lips.

Understanding what she meant, Nathan replied, "Olivia, stop forcing her. I'll drink it on her behalf."

Hearing that, Olivia couldn't help but take a deep breath and replied, "Alright."

Gazing at Melanie, Kate said, "Actually, we all want to drink wine with you. Since you can't drink it, Nathan will take your place."

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With that, Kate gulped down the wine and looked at Nathan. Pretending to be nonchalant, she said with a smile, "Don't forget to drink your own glass of wine as well."

Nathan replied, "Of course, I'm not afraid of it."

Upon finishing his words, he picked up the glass and gulped down the wine.

Before they could eat anything, Kate continued, "Olivia, don't you want to drink with our new friend?"

Olivia understood that Kate was just trying to forget her sadness by consuming alcohol. At that instant, she didn't want the latter to put herself in a difficult situation or make her face the harsh reality.

As the owner of the house, no matter how much she disliked Melanie, she had to remain polite. Lifting her glass, she proposed, "Come on. Since this is our first meeting, we definitely have to drink together. I'll drink this glass of wine for both of you. Miss Hopper, are you okay with a soft drink?"

"Sure, Olivia. Just call me Mel," Melanie said as she picked up the glass from the table.

Lifting her glass, Kate said, "I will drink with you guys." With that, she finished the wine in the glass.

Finishing the wine as well, Nathan gazed at Kate and said, "Why did you come up with an excuse when you just wanted to consume alcohol? No one will carry you on the back and send you home later."

Laughing, Kate replied, "Stop spouting nonsense. You never carried me on your back before. Your words might make your girlfriend misunderstand."

Gazing at Kate, Olivia felt helpless. Kate might appear to be alright, but she must be utterly heartbroken at the moment.

Thoughtless, Nathan replied, "Why do you refuse to admit it? When that jerk cheated on you some time ago, you drank lots of wine and became wasted. I carried you on my back and sent you home."

"I dumped him, okay?" Kate refuted.

Relentless, Nathan pursued, "Just say whether it happened."

"I don't remember it."

Turning to Olivia, Nathan questioned, "Olivia, it happened, right?"

Smiling faintly, Olivia replied, "Both of you, stop it. Why do you talk about this topic in front of your girlfriend? Aren't you afraid that she'll be jealous?"

Hearing that, Melanie magnanimously waved her hands. "It's fine. I know that both of you are Nate's best friends."

The dinner lasted for two hours as they kept drinking wine and did nothing else.

Two bottles of white wine were finished by three people. As light drinkers, Nathan and Kate became intoxicated.

While Kate was lying on the table, Nathan managed to get up and said goodbye. Although he also drank on behalf of Melanie, he could drink much more than Kate, so he appeared to be okay.

“I’ll take my leave. Olivia, please take care of Kate and make sure she’s alright.”

Olivia glared at him. “Just take care of yourself.”

Smiling, Nathan gazed at Melanie and said, “With Mel here, I’ll be alright.”

With that, he draped his arms around Melanie’s shoulders and tottered out of the house.

The moment the door was closed, Olivia felt as though she had been drained of all her energy. Maybe she shouldn’t have made that call, otherwise things wouldn’t have come to such a point.

Walking up to the dinner table, she inquired, “Katie, how are you? Are you really drunk?”

“Have they left?”

With a flushed face, Kate wasn’t completely intoxicated yet.

“A girlfriend he’s only known for more than ten days has become as important as we are. Olivia, it seems that you aren’t so important in his heart.”

Upset, Olivia hugged her and said, “You did a good job just now, as you didn’t embarrass yourself. There’s no outsider now. Just cry all you want.”

Kate was smiling, but her eyes uncontrollably welled up. Raising her hand to wipe off her tears, she replied, “Why should I cry? It’s a good thing, so there’s no reason for me to cry.”

Despite what she said, her tears streamed down her cheeks as she forced herself to smile.

Standing on the side, Olivia consoled, "Katie, stop it. Just cry it out if you're upset."

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Pouting her lips, Kate hugged Olivia tightly and wept silently.

Not knowing how to console her, Olivia could only keep running her fingers through Kate's hair.

In her embrace, Kate mumbled, "I have known him for seven years. Seven years! We became wasted together and did crazy things before. When he was hurt and fell into a coma for three days at the hospital, I never slept for three days. Why? Why doesn't he understand my feelings for him?"

Hearing that, Olivia heaved a sigh silently. Nobody understood how love worked.

Although everyone thought Nathan and Kate would end up together, fate played a joke on them.

"Since you like him so much, why don't you confess to him?"

Kate wailed, "But he doesn't like me. I already confessed to him when he carried me on his back and sent me home in the past. After he broke up with his girlfriend, I also dumped my sham boyfriend. While intoxicated, I told him that since we both became single again, we should get together. However, he told me that he only regarded me as a friend and didn't expect that I wanted to pursue him. Moreover, he said that I could only be his friend rather than his girlfriend. Olivia, how am I going to confess to him again? I'm not so shameless!"

Heaving a sigh, Olivia consoled, "Alright, there are so many good men out there. Just forget him and move on."

Acting childishly, Kate said, "But I only like him. I've liked him for seven years! What is so good about that woman? Did you see how she kept calling him Nate and clinging on to him? How disgusting!"

Olivia played along with her. "Indeed, there's nothing special about her. She's average, short, and pretentious. Katie, you're so much better than her. You're beautiful, hardworking, loyal, and good at cooking. Melanie is not comparable to you at all."

"Nathan is a fool!"

"Yes, he's blind as well."

"What is so good about him? He's just average."

"Right, there's nothing good about him. He plays video games all the time and can't even distinguish right from wrong. More importantly, he's a stingy man. Look how he always goes to your house for free meals."

Listening to Olivia, Kate cried harder. "Olivia, what should I do?"

Hugging and patting her, Olivia replied, "Don't be sad. Get yourself a man who will treasure you and make Nathan regret for the rest of his life."

Hearing that, Kate nodded forcefully.

"Take a nap in the room," Olivia suggested.

Pouting her lips, Kate replied, "Tell Eugene to come here tomorrow. I'm not in the mood to teach you today."

"Okay," Olivia said as she helped her get into the guest room. "Sleep for a while."

Kate nodded at her.

Coming out of the room, Olivia closed the door and felt sorry for her.

However, she couldn't delay the meal since she had promised Eugene in the morning. Therefore, she tried to recall what Kate taught her and started preparing the meal.

Inside The Nolan Group, Eugene was in a good mood. In the afternoon, he couldn't focus on work anymore, as he was excited about having a taste of Olivia's dishes.

Glancing at his watch for the nth time, he realized that it was 4 pm. It would be 5 pm when he reached her home, which wouldn't make him look too proactive.

Just when he wanted to turn off his computer, the screen went dark suddenly. No matter how he tried to turn it on again, the computer wasn't responsive at all.

"Curtis!"

In response to that, Curtis immediately walked into the room.

"What happened to my computer?"

Curtis answered, "President, our computers have been hacked. As the server is paralyzed, all the computer screens have turned dark. Our technicians are trying to find out the root of the problem."

"How long will it take?"

Gazing at Eugene's expression, Curtis answered carefully, "The technicians didn't give me a definitive answer. The hacker is a pro."

Eugene was upset that they were hacked on the same day as his date with Olivia. Without saying a word, he went to the computer lab where all the employees, who were responsible for monitoring the web, were busy fixing the problem.