

Unfinished 311

Chapter 311

However, all of them had neglected the fact that money no longer mattered much for a man at such an advanced age like his grandfather, and that how precious North's gift was for him.

Feeling a lump in his throat, Eugene reached out to caress the boy's head. "Why don't you play one for your Great-Grandpa now?"

In response to Eugene's suggestion, North spun around to face Old Man Nolan. "Great-grandpa, would you like to listen to it?"

Old Man Nolan nodded vigorously with his eyes brimming with joy and affection. Out of all his children and grandchildren which made up nearly a hundred people, none of them was able to make him this happy.

While North was teaching the old man how to use the recording pen, he pressed the 'play' button and soon, his crisp and clear voice came from the speaker: 'Great-grandpa, here's a compilation of jokes for you and today, I'm going to tell you one of them! One day, Mason's teacher was annoyed because he was restless and had not been paying attention to the class. So, the teacher scolded him angrily, "Mason, I'm not pleased to see you moving around like this. If you don't sit still and focus during the class, I'll tell your father about this." Then, Mason retorted with a frown on his head, "Sir, I'm not happy about you either but I've never wanted to tell your father about this. Since both of us are guys, we should settle this between ourselves. It's really unmanly of you to tell my father about this behind my back!'

As soon as the recording ended, there was a smile on everyone's face not because the joke was great, but mostly because the little boy looked hilarious as he alternated between Mason's role and the teacher's role.

Grabbing North's shoulder, Old Man Nolan exclaimed somewhat emotionally, "You're a good boy, North, and I love your gift very much."

Giggling, North pressed the button to pause the recording before handing it back to Old Man Nolan. "Great-grandpa, there are a lot more other jokes stored inside. Once you finish everything, I will record more for you."

The moment Old Man Nolan took the pen, he could feel his heart fill up with warmth all of a sudden. He held the boy's hands affectionately and gazed at the little boy endearingly.

"Great-grandpa, Mommy has prepared something for you too." With that, North gave Olivia a nudge toward the old man.

Staring at the little boy, Olivia complained, "My gift has been overshadowed by yours."

Then, North edged closer to the old man and whispered next to his ears, "Great-grandpa, you may secretly love my gift but on the outside, you have to pretend you love Mommy's gift too. Otherwise, she will be unhappy because she has spent many days choosing the gift!"

Old Man Nolan went along with his plan by nodding solemnly and showed him an OK gesture.

Olivia went speechless when she saw that.

Smiling with resignation, she took a step forward and opened the box she was carrying in her arms. From the inside of the box, she took out a photo frame which she handed to Old Man Nolan.

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While Old Man Nolon took over the photo frame with a look of utter surprise, everyone else too inched closer trying to take a look at it.

Feeling disturbed to see their gifts which were worth several hundred thousands or even millions of dollars in comparison to the little boy's recording pen, they were curious to see what Olivia had prepared for the old man.

There were the men and the women in the photo. The man was wearing the same suit Old Man Nolan was wearing now whereas the woman, who had the graceful demeanor and the gentle expression, was wearing the dress with the phoenix embroidered on her shoulder. Obviously, they were wearing matching outfits.

After the moment of confusion, everyone examined the photo more closely and found that it was the photo of Old Man Nolan and his wife in their younger days.

Olivia had actually gifted him the photo of him and his wife.

Then, all of them looked frustrated with themselves for failing to come up with the similar idea.

As for Old Man Nolan, he was staring at the photo with his head held low and touching his wife in the photo with his wrinkled hand. Looking so pleased as though his lifetime dream was finally fulfilled, a drop of tear trickled down his face all of a sudden.

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Old Man Nolan seemed to be taken aback when he saw his own tear landing on the photo. Hastily, he wiped it away with the back of his hand as though he was worried that it might dirty the photo.

The corners of Olivia's lips twitched twice upon seeing his reaction.

Oh, my lord. While her son's gift managed to make Old Man Nolan laugh, hers turned out to be a tear-jerker.

Because of that, she gave Eugene an apprehensive stare and received a soothing look from him. It was because he knew his grandfather was shedding tears because he was touched.

When his grandfather was a young man, he refused to have a picture taken together with his wife, let alone wearing a matching outfit because he wasn't used to expressing his feelings readily. Eugene reckoned it must be one of his grandfather's biggest regrets in life. Most people tended to postpone some of the most important things in life thinking that they still had a long way ahead to go, but more often than not, the person whom they assumed would stay by their side forever would be gone at the most unexpected time. By the time they wanted to do something to make it up to them, it was all but too late.

Old Man Nolan was very touched because through Olivia's photo, his wish which he previously thought could not be fulfilled was realized.

In fact, he was really surprised by her gift because he had no clue that this was the reason Olivia had asked for his wife's photo. At the same time, he reckoned that she must have designed his wife's dress in the photo herself as well because otherwise, the photo wouldn't have turned out to look so great.

Every time he spent time with Olivia and his son, he would always feel warmth in his heart. In fact, he really valued a gift not by how much it was worth, but how much effort one had put in to prepare it.

It took Old Man Nolan a long time to recover from the emotional wave. He looked up at Olivia with some complicated emotion surging beneath his pupils but he managed to stop it from overcoming him just in time.

“Doctor Maxwell, thank you very much for your gift because I like it a lot. I bet it must have taken you much effort to prepare it, am I right?”

Doctor Maxwell? Eugene raised his brows slightly as it seemed like his grandfather was on the same page as him.

Olivia felt relieved as though a heavy load was lifted from her heart upon knowing that her gift was to Old Man Nolan’s liking. “It’s not a big deal as long as you like it!”

At that moment, all the other guests were wearing various expressions on their faces in response to the scene. They had no choice but to admit that Olivia and her son’s gifts had indeed captured Old Man Nolan’s heart despite not having much monetary value.

Narrowing her eyes, Nicole approached Aleena discreetly and said to her in a voice which was only audible to them, “Did you tell the man about this?”

Aleena answered in her frustration, “I did and I was just wondering why he wasn’t here.”

After some contemplation, Nicole pointed out, “How is he supposed to come in without an invitation card?”

Aleena looked enlightened at once. “You’re right! Let me go outside and check if there’s any sign of him.”

Just as she was about to leave the room, she was stopped by Nicole, who reminded her, “Hold on. Why do you want him here since no drama is happening?”

Surprised by what Nicole said, Aleena asked her in an undertone, "What plan do you have in mind then?"

Nicole stared at her quizzically. "Didn't you come up with a plan before this?"

After a long beat, Aleena explained, "I thought all I had to do was make sure that he sees her here."

Nicole commented ominously, "That's not enough to cause her any problem. Not only is she Old Man Nolan's doctor, but she is also the designer of the suit he is wearing now so it's more than reasonable for her to be here."

"Doctor Moxwell, thank you very much for your gift because I like it a lot. I bet it must have taken you much effort to prepare it, don't you?"

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she has really high alcohol tolerance. I think there's nothing much you can do today. We can only wait for our next opportunity."

Despite that, Aleena was secretly brewing a plan in her mind, thinking that she shouldn't let such a good chance slip. Did Nicole just say that Olivia had a high alcohol tolerance? Would it be the same if her drink was drugged?

She was lucky to end up unscathed in the cocktail party previously, but Aleene would make sure she had no such luck tonight.

Even if she failed to bring her down tonight, her plan would be considered a success if it managed to put her in enough embarrassment in the presence of the other guests.

With that thought in mind, the corners of Aleene's lips curled upward into a confident smirk.

Judging from her expression, Nicole was sure her words had worked.

Lere, who had been keeping mum, saw the need to make her presence known. "Doctor Maxwell, thank you so much for your gift. Seems like you're the one who understands him the best."

Politely Olivia nodded and then said, "Aunt Lere, you're welcome. When I was here to take Master Merlin's measurements for the suit, he told me that he had never worn a matching outfit with his wife before. So, I was inspired to create this photo, and Mr. Nolan helped me by getting the picture of his grandmother. Everything was just a coincidence!"

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Lara, who had been keeping mum, saw the need to make her presence known. "Doctor Maxwell, thank you so much for your gift. Seems like you're the one who understands him the best."

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Lara said courtly, "Obviously, you put in a lot of effort into preparing your gift and you're certainly more considerate than most of us because none of our gifts have ever managed to make him so happy."

Her remark could be interpreted as being somewhat provocative. After listening to what she said, the first thing that popped up in the rest of their minds was how bad Old Man Nolan's taste was. Other than that, they also resented Olivia for stealing their limelights because they had spent a fortune on their gifts for the old man only to see them being overshadowed by hers which might not even be worth a hundred bucks. Obviously, Lara was trying to incite the rest of her family to hate Olivia.

With a smile, Olivia explained, "Of course Master Merlin would love the gifts from all of you. As I'm not as rich as you guys, I can only make up to it by putting in more effort. I'm sure he just doesn't have the heart to criticise my shabby gift because he knows how I hate to feel embarrassed."

Edward too walked over to her and said, "There's no need to be so modest because you and your son should be proud of your gifts which are able to make Grandpa so happy."

Lara laughed along and chimed in, "Indeed, especially so for the gift from the little boy." With that, she bent down slightly and beamed at North, "Little boy, how old are you?"

North answered her confidently, "I'm six-and-a-half years old!"

Softening her tone, Lara asked the little boy what sounded like an attempt to pry for more information, "I can see you're with your Mommy. What about your Daddy?"

Upon listening to her question, Eugene's face fell immediately and he spoke in a cold tone, "We'd better not poke our noses in their private affairs!"

At the same time, Olivia pulled North to her and answered with a blank expression, "His Daddy has passed away. Aunt Lara, I don't think that's the question you should pose to a little boy."

As soon as she said that, North secretly took a peek at Eugene's face to confirm that his expression had turned bleaker.

North kept his lips pursed because he was having difficulty stopping a grin from emerging on his face.

In the meantime, Eugene was looking sullen thinking that it was the second time he was described as a dead man by Olivia.

That woman was really ruthless with her words!

Lara, who seemed to have just realized her gaffe, chuckled, "It's my bad for being curious. Doctor Maxwell, you won't mind it, will you?"

Having subdued the raging fury in her, Olivia forced a smile and responded, "I won't!"

At that juncture, Old Man Nolan spoke calmly, "Rocky and Doctor Maxwell, I think it's about time the two of you bring the kid downstairs to grab something to eat instead of staying here with me."

Knowing well that his grandfather was trying to protect them, Eugene replied quickly, "Okay!"

Olivia then nodded at the rest of them in the room politely before leaving the room together with Eugene and North.

Still looking glum even after they left the room, Eugene eyed Olivia somewhat apologetically when he said to her, "You don't have to put up with any person or anything that annoys you."

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Eugene stopped in his tracks abruptly and turned to face her with his eyes glinting with consternation. "Do you think I should behave more intimately with you in public? Are you blaming Grandpa for not addressing you as his granddaughter-in-law?"

Olivia went speechless at first before she doubted, "As the president of Nolen Group, I'm surprised you can't even comprehend the meaning behind my words."

Eugene let out a chuckle because he could sense the sarcasm in her words. Putting on a more solemn look, he explained, "It's true that I am not ready yet to introduce you and North to everyone because I don't want to put the two of you in danger. However, it still pains me to see you getting bullied by them and I don't mind teaching them a lesson when they behave like that!"

He looked so earnest when he spoke that Olivia found it impossible to tease him.

Instead, she glared at him flirtatiously and criticized, "Teach them a lesson? What about your grandfather and your younger brother? Will you ignore them too?"

Before Eugene could respond to her, the door to Old Man Nolen's room was opened once again from which Nicole and Aleene walked out.

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The moment their eyes met, both parties appeared somewhat awkward. Aleena, who felt somewhat guilty apart from awkwardness, blurted out a question, "Why are you guys still here?"

Eugene cast a glimpse at her to remind her that it was none of her business before he turned to face Olivia and said, "Let's go downstairs."

Ignoring the two women too, Olivia held North's hand and took the stairs together with Eugene.

Just barely after they reached the first floor, they were greeted by the sound of wine glasses being broken into pieces on the floor which was then followed by Nathan's yelling, "I can't believe you're shameless enough to cause a scene here!"

Just as Olivia was wondering who Nathan was shouting at, a familiar male's voice came shortly after that, "Nathan, are you crazy? What gives you the right to attack my girl?"

Olivia and Eugene first exchanged a confused glance before making their way to them. However, they could not see what was taking place at all because they were blocked by a crowd of onlookers.

Thanks to Eugene's menacing aura, his presence had long been noticed even before he spoke and the crowd automatically cleared out a path for him as soon as he reached there.

Hand in hand, Olivia and North followed behind Eugene and almost immediately, they spotted a girl wailing miserably on the floor with half her face covered with her hands; she was none other than Melanie Hopper.

Frowning slightly, it dawned upon Olivia all at once as to the reason behind Nathan's sudden outburst because that girl was the reason why Nathan broke up with Kate. At the same time, she was also

impressed by how fast the girl had managed to find herself a new guy and most importantly, she actually had the face to bring him along to the Nolan Residence. Other than trying to instigate a fight, Olivia could not come up with another reason to explain her presence.

In the meantime, Nathan, who was blowing his top, yelled, "You're the crazy one to bring such a sickening woman here! Are you trying to ruin the event tonight by bringing her here?"

With that, he shouted his instruction to one of the bodyguards, "Throw this woman out!"

At that time, Ben, who had already helped Melanie to her feet, growled, "Are you sure you have the guts to do it? I dare you to lay a finger on my girl!"

Snuggling in Ben's arms, Melanie put on a look of utter misery but at the same time, she kept her eyes glued to Nathan cockily as though she was trying to tell him that she had plenty of suitors. She was here to show off her new boyfriend and there was nothing he could do about it.

Not going to let her get away with that, Nathan made a dash forward and tried to seize her but his outstretched arm was shoved away by Ben.

"What are you trying to do?" Ben landed a punch directly on his face. In fact, he had long thought that Nathan was an eyesore, and since he was asking for some punishment now, he wouldn't mind teaching him a lesson.

As Nathan was still sober because he had yet to consume any booze, he would not allow himself to be bullied without fighting back despite not being good at fighting.

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Both Nethen and Ben looked in the direction of the voice and they only stopped fighting when they saw it was Eugene.

With a sullen face, Eugene walked closer to them at a slow pace and chided, "What are you guys fighting about? Just get out of here if the two of you are not interested to attend the birthday celebration!"

Nethen was too embarrassed to explain the matter.

On the contrary, Ben did not hesitate to voice his complaint, "Eugene, you're here at the right time. Nethen hit my girlfriend for no reason at all and he even asked the bodyguard to chase her out. Are you going to do something about this?"

Nethen gritted his teeth in fury when he heard Ben. "Ben Roberts, it's you who brought that woman here just to annoy me!"

"It's none of your business who I went to attend the celebration with!"

Olivie felt it hard to suppress the rage in her too at the sight of Melenie. If it weren't because they were here to attend Old Man Nolen's birthday celebration, she might have slapped her as what Nethen had done.

But at that moment, she only looked at Ben and offered him a piece of advice, "Nathan has a grudge against your girlfriend because she's an unfaithful woman, and she's just been dumped by him a week ago. So, out of kindness, I think I must remind Mr. Roberts to keep a watchful eye on your girlfriend!"

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Melenie stared at Olivie resentfully with her brows knitted and snipped, "Hey, watch your words! When have I ever been unfaithful? Why would I detest Ben if I was eyeing another guy?!"

Olivie chuckled, "He! Isn't Ben just your backup plan because the men you really wanted isn't interested in you?"

Her face reddened with fury, Melenie fumed, "Olivie Maxwell, stop spouting nonsense!"

Ben, who finally had a clearer idea of the situation, heeled Melenie over and glared at her. "Don't tell me Nethen was the one who left you behind in the suburb," he confronted.

Staring at Ben with her eyes brimming with anxiety and distress, Melenie tried her best to explain, "Ben, don't listen to them! I was the victim of their plot! You're the one I like!"

Ben's eyes turned menacing in an instant. "I'm asking you again—was Nethen the one who left you behind in the suburb?"

Melenie nodded vigorously at him and emphasized, "Yes he was, but I have never been unfaithful to him."

Yet, Olivie sniggered in response to her statement. "Oh, really? I have a voice recording with me and if you don't mind embarrassing yourself, I can play it for everyone to hear!"

Ben was glaring at Melenie with a mixture of rage and humiliation because he had never thought that the women whom he was vehemently protecting was actually someone even Nethen didn't want. How should he describe his feelings at the moment? He felt as though he had just been slept by someone and it left a burning sensation on his face.

Frenziedly, Melenie tried to clarify, "Ben, I've never detested Nethen before and I swear it's true! He likes another woman and he only took me to the suburb because I had accidentally offended his girl! Please believe me!"

Melanie stared at Olivia resentfully with her brows knitted and snapped, “Hey, watch your words! When have I ever been unfaithful? Why would I date Ben if I was eyeing another guy?!”

Olivia chuckled, “Ha! Isn’t Ben just your backup plan because the man you really wanted isn’t interested in you?”

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Ben was glaring at Melanie with a mixture of rage and humiliation because he had never thought that the woman whom he was vehemently protecting was actually someone even Nathan didn’t want. How

should he describe his feelings at the moment? He felt as though he had just been slapped by someone and it left a burning sensation on his face.

Frantically, Melanie tried to clarify, “Ben, I’ve never dated Nathan before and I swear it’s true! He likes another woman and he only took me to the suburb because I had accidentally offended his girl! Please believe me!”

As Melanie's voice resounded in the entire living room, Eugene, who had been keeping mum all the while, finally spoke as he instructed the bodyguards, "Haul her out."

Ben frowned when he heard what Eugene said. It seemed like the matter did not just concern whether Melanie was being chased out of the place anymore as it had escalated into something that involved the dignity of the Nolan Family and the Roberts Family. Drawing Melanie into his arms, Ben confronted, "Eugene, what do you mean by that?"

Eugene cast him a fleeting stare before responding airily, "You will have to leave with her if I hear any more complaints from you!"

Ben countered in a disbelieving tone, "Didn't you see it was Nathan who started the whole thing?"

Eugene decided to ignore him. Just as he was about to walk away, he heard Lara's voice. "What's going on? What's this drama about?"

"Aunt Lara—" Ben, who finally found his pillar of support, quickly walked over to Lara and grumbled, "Aunt Lara, you have to do justice for us because Eugene wants to chase my girlfriend out!"

A barely noticeable crease emerged on Lara's forehead. After glancing at Melanie who was seized by the bodyguard, she turned to face Ben and shot him a frustrated glare. It was only then did she turn to face Eugene. "Eugene, what's this all about?"

Eugene answered casually, "Nothing!"

Putting on the air of Madam Nolan, Lara remarked, "No matter what, we should treat all our guests courteously. How could you chase one of our guests out?"

Eugene looked up at Lara and spoke in a level but cocky tone, "I just find her to be an eyesore!"

As soon as he said that, Lara took a breath in a barely noticeable manner to keep herself calm.

It was Ben who failed to control his temper. "Is that even a proper excuse for you to chase anyone out? All of us are here to celebrate the old man's birthday so what makes you think you have the right to drive us out?"

All of a sudden, Eugene threw a flinty stare at Ben which made him feel as though someone was pressing a knife threateningly close to his neck. "I can do that because this place belongs to the Nolan Family!" As soon as he said that, both Ben and Lara were left stumped.

In the meantime, Nathan was ecstatic deep down inside to see this. Serves them right for behaving so cockily and assuming they're one of the Nolans! Did Ben just ask Uncle Eugene why he was chasing Melanie out? Does Uncle Eugene even need a reason to do anything he wants? Finding Melanie an eyesore is more than enough reason for him to get her out of this place!

Worrying that this trivial matter might escalate into something big, Olivia explained to Lara with a smile, "Aunt Lara, let me tell you what this is all about. Miss Hopper is Nathan's ex-girlfriend and during the time they were dating each other, not only was she unfaithful, she even plotted against Nathan's friend and sabotaged her. So, she was dumped by Nathan a week ago. In my opinion, she must have lied to Mr. Roberts in order to be here so that she could show off to Nathan how good her life is now. That's the reason why Eugene decided to get rid of her."

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Somewhere not far away from them, Melenie tried to plead her case by shouting in their direction at the top of her lungs, "Medem Nolen, that's not true! I'm dating Ben because I really like him!"

Lere cast a glance at the women to find her a looker and the type that could easily attract men. However, she was not the right one for her nephew regardless of how she really felt for him because it would be too much of an embarrassment for him to date Nethen's ex-girlfriend.

Knowing what was in Lere's mind, Ben secretly cursed Olivia for meddling in his business and he had no choice but to say something. "Aunt Lere, I had no idea because that girl has been lying to me too."

Lere, who stared at him icily, snapped, "Keep your mouth shut or I will have you chased out of this place too!"

Looking embarrassed, Ben kept his mouth shut obediently.

Next, Melenie was hauled out of the villa by the bodyguards.

It was only then did Eugene turn to face Nethen and rebuked, "You should have known better than to create a scene at your great-grandpa's birthday dinner. Now, it's about time you go upstairs and send him your wishes!"

Intimidated by Eugene's threats, Nethen quickly replied, "Yes, Uncle Eugene!" With that, he made his way upstairs at a hurried pace.

Lara too criticized Ben, "Why are you standing here doing nothing? Clean up the mess now!"

Then, she started explaining to the guests who had watched the entire drama unfold. "Everything is just a misunderstanding and it's been solved now. Guys, please make yourself at home!"

Somewhere not far away from them, Melanie tried to plead her case by shouting in their direction at the top of her lungs, "Madam Nolan, that's not true! I'm dating Ben because I really like him!"

Lara cast a glance at that woman to find her a looker and the type that could easily attract men. However, she was not the right one for her nephew regardless of how she really felt for him because it would be too much of an embarrassment for him to date Nathan's ex-girlfriend.

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Looking embarrassed, Ben kept his mouth shut obediently.

Next, Melanie was hauled out of the villa by the bodyguards.

It was only then did Eugene turn to face Nathan and rebuked, "You should have known better than to create a scene at your great-grandpa's birthday dinner. Now, it's about time you go upstairs and send him your wishes!"

Intimidated by Eugene's aura as always, Nathan quickly replied, "Yes, Uncle Eugene!" With that, he made his way upstairs at a hurried pace.

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It was only then did the group of guests slowly disperse while discussing the drama in whispers at the same time.

Somewhere nearby, Aleena exchanged a glance with Nicole, secretly hatching up plans to lure Olivia into drinking. When she happened to notice Alex and Hayden from the corner of her eyes, she pulled Nicole along as she approached them.

She was sure Eugene would bring Olivia to have a drink with the two later because they were close friends. Therefore, all she needed to do was make sure Olivia got the glass of wine which was drugged.

Just like what she expected, Eugene indeed approached them together with Olivia not too long after that.

Alex was a talkative person with a great sense of humor. However, he didn't talk much during the event but he could convey a lot of stuff through his eyes.

He was the person who understood Eugene the best in the world.

Throughout the many years they had been friends, they had criticized each other because of the huge difference in their personalities, but they had never allowed it to affect their friendship.

“Tsk, tsk! I must say Old Man Nolan’s birthday dinner is really a very prestigious event because it’s graced with Doctor Maxwell’s attendance. Since you will be here for hours, how much will you charge for your consultation fee? Shouldn’t you give them a discount?”

Olivia chuckled, “Won’t I be humiliating big shots like you guys if I give a discount?”

Laughing, Alex quipped, “Just feel free to humiliate me because I don’t really care!”

Eugene, who couldn’t stand him, gave him a kick on his calf and criticized, “Do you actually realize how shameless you sound?”

Alex looked unruffled and he glared at him while snapping back, “Look at how unappreciative you are. Can’t you see that I’m trying to help you save some money?”

Eugene shot him a supercilious glance and countered, “Did I even ask for your help?”

Alex grunted in displeasure and lamented, “You’re just being ungrateful!”

Sniggering, Hayden patted Alex’s shoulder and consoled, “You’re really wrong to think that Eugene even needs your help to cut costs! I suggest that you help him spend his money instead!”

Nicole chimed in with a gentle smile, “It won’t be your turn anytime soon to spend his money! I think you guys should help him take care of Doctor Maxwell instead.”

Alex snorted in response and eyed Eugene provocatively. “Do you need our help to take care of her?” Yet, from the threatening way he was staring at Eugene, he seemed to be telling Eugene that his girl was now in his hands.

Eugene, who ignored him, turned to face Olivia and said, “This patient isn’t in his right mind. You need to do everything you can to treat him and I’ll pay for his consultation fees!”

Olivia couldn't suppress the urge to laugh.

It was only after some time did Alex realize he was alluding to him just now. "Damn it! You're the one who isn't in your right mind!"

Eugene couldn't help but break into a grin. As he reached out to caress North's head, he said, "Please wait for me here and I'll be right back!"

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North nodded at him in acknowledgment.

Eugene then glanced at his gang of friends and urged, "Please be friendlier to Olivia!"

Aleene responded instantly by shifting to one side to make space for Olivia. "Come sit here!"

After thanking her, Olivia took the seat with some doubts in her mind, thinking that it was abnormal for Aleene to behave so amiably toward her.

Eugene only left after leaving some reminders to them.

Alex adopted a more serious attitude once he left. "I suppose he will be too occupied tonight to have time for you, so the two of you can join us. Feel free to tell me anything you guys would like to have and I will get the food here."

Swinging the wine glass in her hand, Aleene teunted, "Do you even need to be so attentive while she might be even more familiar with this place than you?"

Alex retorted, "I'm just trying to be a gentleman."

Aleena teased him, "For other guys, that might be a very gentlemanly gesture but your current level of attentiveness makes you seem like you're harboring some ulterior motive. You'd better be careful or Eugene might teach you a lesson!"

Alex knitted his brows slightly and protested, "Hey, watch your words because we have a kid here with us! I don't have anything else in mind other than the pure intention of taking care of Olivia and his son. Whoever thinks otherwise will be deemed the villain!"

While he was explaining himself, he turned to look at Olivia, who was glancing at North's lips which were shining with a layer of oil from the food he was wolfing up. "I don't think there is any issue with that at all!" she chuckled.

North nodded at him in acknowledgment.

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"Seems like you guys are trying to say that I'm a villain!" Aleena huffed.

Alex snorted, "What do you think? You should punish yourself by downing your glass!"

Aleena summoned a housekeeper over and took a glass of wine which she handed to Olivia. "Well, let me drink a round with you guys as my punishment!"

Olivia had long been keeping her guard up after noticing Aleena's abnormal behavior. However, since she was treating her in such a friendly manner, she had no reason to pull a long face at her considering the occasion.

"You really don't have to punish yourself and I don't need you to apologize to me either."

Holding the glass of wine, Aleena stared at her and suggested, "Can I offer you a toast then?"

Deep down inside, Olivia felt amused as she wondered whether Aleena was really this forgetful.

She was actually offering a toast to her despite the fact that they had just had a row with each other several days ago.

Something was definitely fishy!

Moving her nose closer to the wine glass, she managed to catch a whiff of a barely noticeable smell apart from the smell of wine, which was similar to the one she caught in her wine glass during the cocktail party last time.

For some reason, she felt slightly pissed as she wondered if Aleena thought that she would be stupid enough to fall for the same trick again.

Prior to this, she would have just poured the wine down the drain or pretended to spill it accidentally to avoid drinking it. Either way was fine.

But this time, she felt the need to teach Aleena a lesson and let her have a taste of her own medicine.

Therefore, she turned her body to another side and using her arm, she pushed the plate in front of her onto the floor. The loud sound of the plate breaking into pieces caught everyone's attention.

As Aleena saw the broken ceramic pieces just next to her feet, she bent down to make sure she was not injured.

Feigning shock, Olivia quickly put the wine glass down and bent down looking like she intended to clean up the mess.

Alex frantically stopped her from doing so. "Don't touch it because you might get a cut! I'll get someone here to clean it."

He then summoned two housekeepers over who settled the mess within several minutes.

The night went on and Olivia successfully swapped her glass with Aleena's during the mess

However, she didn't try to egg her on to drink it because she wanted to give her another chance. As long as Aleena didn't try to sabotage her, she wouldn't suffer the backlash herself.

To her disappointment, Aleena was so keen to see her embarrass herself that she once again lifted her wine glass not too long after that. "Come on, let's finally have this drink!"

Olivia was amused by her eagerness deep down inside.

"You're right. You weren't injured by the shards, are you?"

"Nope." With that, Aleena tipped her glass of wine slightly in her direction before downing its content.

At the same time, Olivia inched her glass closer to her nose to make sure no one had tampered with its content before drinking it.

The moment Aleena saw her drink it, a sense of relief swept over her.

Therefore, she turned her body to another side and using her arm, she pushed the plate in front of her onto the floor. The loud sound of the plate breaking into pieces caught everyone's attention.

Chapter 318

At that juncture, Aleena stared out of the window and spotted a taxi which was parked by the gate of the villa. She was sure it was him who was sitting inside the taxi after sending someone to check out the car.

She decided she would let him in after a while.

When he was here, she had to make sure he realized how much of a slut the women he loved really were!

After offering the toast to Olivia, Aleena stopped with the drinks while Nicole, Alex and Hayden continued to drink with Olivia while having a friendly chat.

Staring at Olivia who was happily having a chat with the rest of the group, Aleena felt her vision getting fuzzy as she wondered why the drugs had yet to have any effect on Olivia.

At the same time, she was feeling a surge of heat wave coursing through her entire body which set her skin on fire as though she was inside a sauna room. She took a look at the air-conditioner in confusion but found it was still on.

What was wrong with her? Was her alcohol tolerance this low?

Nonetheless, she felt better after washing her face in the bathroom.

By the time she returned to her seat, she found Eugene at their table whispering something to Olivia with his head held low. The two were behaving so intimately as though there was no one else around them.

At that instant, she blew her top. All she wanted was to let the men in to put Olivia in an embarrassing situation. She couldn't stand how everyone loved Olivia and she wanted everybody to see that Olivia was no different from Melenie who had been chased out of the place because she was also flirting with two guys at the same time.

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With that thought in mind, she headed straight out. Just as she was trying to think of a way to get him in, she saw Penny already walking into the villa together with him.

The man still looked as detached and aloof as usual which gave him an otherworldly demeanor whereas Penny appeared shy and nervous walking beside him.

All of a sudden, the corners of Aleena's lips curled upward into a smirk. She had never seen Young Lady Penny, who was an arrogant woman that never took anybody seriously, trying so hard to please a man while she didn't even treat her parents so nicely!

"Penny—"

It was only then did Penny notice her. "Aleena, why are you outside?"

"I came out for some fresh air."

Meanwhile, Aleena turned to face George without uttering a word. Judging from the way she was looking at him, it seemed like she was trying to tell him, See? I told you so.

"Who's this gentleman?" she asked, pretending that she didn't know him.

Penny first glanced at George shyly before responding, "He's my friend, George Parsons." She then introduced Aleena to George, "George, she's one of my brother's friends, Aleena Jones."

George too cast a glance at Aleena with a barely noticeable disdainful smirk on his face as though he was mocking her for the fact that she was only Eugene's friend, and not his girlfriend.

Aleena looked sullen in response and for some reason, she felt her face burning in embarrassment. With an awkward chuckle, she greeted him, "Nice to meet you!"

Without responding to her, George strode off toward the inside of the villa as though Aleena was non-existent.

Penny couldn't help but look slightly awkward because of George's reaction. He was indeed a very good-looking man but the only thing was, he treated people with indifference no matter who he was dealing with.

Stiffly, she said to Aleena, "Aleena, let's go inside! It's freezing here."

In fact, Aleena was enjoying the chilly wind outside at the moment but then again, she couldn't wait to see how Olivia was going to deal with the two guys, and she was dying to see how Olivia would look when she became a b*tch in heat after the drugs started to take effect.

Therefore, she said yes to Penny and followed them inside.

Olivia had no clue at all that George had headed to Nolan Residence instead of going back to Muse Peninsula.

The moment Penny and him approached her, she was flabbergasted and her mind went blank for a second. All the noise in her surroundings seemed to have been muted as all she could think of was the reason why George was here.

Why was he here? Was he invited by Penny or did he follow her here because he didn't trust her at all?

She stammered, "G-George, why are you here?"

George stared at her looking unshaken because he had pretty much calmed himself down after spending about an hour outside Nolan Residence. In fact, he didn't intend to go inside if it wasn't because he was spotted by Penny. He had planned to just wait for Olivia to come out so that he could tell her how long he had waited for her and demand an explanation from her.

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But since he was already inside, he was determined to bring her away with him.

Speaking in the tone as usual, he questioned, "Didn't you tell me that Marcus wanted to meet up with you for a favor? Where's he now?"

Stiffly, Olivia squeezed out a smile and answered, "A-After I parted ways with Marcus, I received a call from Mr. Nolan who invited me to attend Mester Merlin's birthday dinner. So, I came over here right after that."

Still wearing the poker-faced expression, George went along with her instead of exposing her lies. "Since you've already given him his gift, I think it's about time you go back home since North has to wake up early for school tomorrow."

Olivia didn't even make an effort to argue with him as she agreed to go immediately, "Okay."

Just as she was keeping away her belongings, her arm was grabbed by someone else of a sudden.

She spun around and found it was Eugene, who was wearing an extremely glum expression with his eyes looking frighteningly frigid. At that moment, he felt an overwhelming desire to just spill the beans to George.

Yet, when he noticed the anxiety on Olivia's face and the steres she was constantly throwing at him, he decided to suppress the raging fury in him.

Horrified to see him holding her arm, Olivia tried to wiggle out of his hold gently while speaking politely at the same time, "Mr. Nolan, we shall get going now since it's getting late."

Eugene, who refused to let her go, stared at George with hostility in his eyes.

"Mr. Persons, are you here just to pick her up?"

George met his gaze calmly. While the two men were secretly having a stare down, their voices remained calm and collected as if whoever lost it first would be deemed the loser.

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"You may think of it that way."

"So, did you actually know that she was going to be here long before this?"

"Yes I did because I followed her here." George decided to come clean.

Staring at George with a look of utter consternation, Olivia's heart sank when she heard that because it meant he knew that the explanation she offered just now was a lie. He had indeed followed her here!

Secretly, she tugged at Eugene's shirt to stop him from asking more questions because the more he asked, the more embarrassed she would be.

Curling the corners of his lips into a smile, Eugene suggested, "Seems like you really care about her safety a lot. Since you're already here, why don't you take a seat and have some drinks?"

George responded in an icy voice, "I'm not here as a guest. Olivia, let's go."

Olivia struggled to break free from Eugene but he refused to let her go. With an extremely surly face, his voice still sounded calm but deep down inside, he was so infuriated that he couldn't wait to kill George.

"I think you should say bye to Grandpa before you leave."

Slightly intimidated by Eugene's somber face, Olivia responded obediently, "Okay."

Then, she turned to face George and said good-naturedly, "George, please wait for me while I say bye to Grandpa."

As keen as George was to bring her away, he wouldn't stop her from doing the basic courtesy. Therefore, he didn't say anything to stop her albeit still maintaining a bleak expression on his face.

Meanwhile, Eugene left an instruction to Penny, who had gone stupefied because of the scene, "Penny, please take care of Mr. Parsons!"

"Okay," Penny replied.

Then, Eugene headed straight upstairs together with Olivia and North.

He didn't say anything along the way even until they had reached the second floor, and his face was so dark that it looked like the overcast sky before a storm.

Olivia assumed that he brought her upstairs just to lash out on her and she had mentally prepared herself to face that, but to her surprise, he was silent.

Feeling bad to see him trying so hard to control his temper, she took the initiative to speak, "Please don't be angry. Isn't this kind of a good way to end this? At least people won't be suspicious of our relationship because I will be leaving together with George. Also, you won't have to be worried that people will start plotting against us to break us apart."

Without uttering a word, Eugene glanced at her with his brooding eyes which contained waves of complicated emotion. In the end, his sanity took control of the situation and made sure he kept his cool.

Olivia reached for his hands and shared her thoughts with him, "Someone must have told George beforehand that I would be here, or he wouldn't have followed me for no reason at all. In fact, I already felt that something fishy was going on at the time he went missing all of a sudden, but I just stopped

bothering about it because I was preoccupied and since nothing bad actually happened to him in the end. Come to think of it, I think it's very likely that he had already started to be suspicious of us then."

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Finally, Eugene stopped in his tracks and examined her with a penetrating stare. "So, when are you going to stop hiding me in your closet?"

Holding his hands, Olivia swayed his arms and cejoled him, "I'll explain it to George after I get home. I'm sure he will leave once he believes me."

Eugene pressed on, "What if he refuses to believe you? Are you going to break up with me because of that? Olivia, you have to make a choice between the two of us because it's inevitable that you will have to hurt one of us!"

North was so anxious when he heard that his gaze shifted back and forth between Eugene and his mother. If the two were really going to break up, all his effort in playing matchmaker for them would go down the drain.

Taking a glance at North who was looking edgy, Olivia took a deep breath before she said, "I understand that but even that's the case, I'd like to minimize the damage so that George can accept our relationship gradually. I believe he's sensible enough to figure out everything himself and accept the truth, but we have to give him some time to process the information. Eugene, please believe that I will be able to solve this!"

In a calm voice, he countered, "Is doing everything he wishes your way to solve it? Why did you agree to go back just because he asked you to? Do you still remember your promise? Olivia, if I continue to let you have your way, I'll only be torturing myself! Would you do it if he were to ask you to break up with me?"

Knitting her brows together, Olivia was eager to clarify herself, "Eugene, please don't push me into making a decision and you're making me feel guilty for some reason. I really have a valid reason why

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Eugene stared at her morosely without a word because he had no idea what to say.

In fact, he did realize that he was greedy when it came to their relationship because he was never content with what he had, and he was constantly asking for more from her. If she had not agreed to be his girlfriend at all, she would not have to be put in such a quandary and be so guilt-stricken.

To be honest, he was so eager that he had started picturing his life with her in the next ten years although he had yet to even pass his trial period as her boyfriend.

Suddenly, he heard a string of extremely light footsteps coming from the first floor. He first pulled Olivia to a more secluded corner before bending down to look in the direction of the first floor to find Ben and Penny standing there.

Looking panicked, Olivia mouthed, "Who's there?"

Eugene answered her in the same way, "George."

At first, she wanted to haul him away to hide somewhere else but she was stopped by Eugene, who deliberately raised his voice and said, "I'm sorry for asking you to be here at such a short notice. As my grandfather fancies North a great deal, I just wanted the two of you to be here to cheer him up. Perhaps your senior has gotten the wrong idea."

Olivia was sharp enough to understand what he was trying to do. Therefore, she too went along with his statement by speaking politely, "It's fine. In fact, I am the one who's supposed to say sorry for almost

going back on my promise to attend your grandfather's birthday celebration dinner. George has always been a rigid person and he has always taken care of me like his daughter over the years. North and I have already gotten used to it."

Eugene said, "It's good to have someone who cares about you. In this case, you should really explain everything to him at home then!"

"Yes, he's not being himself simply because he's too worried about us."

Eugene said, "I'd love to see you stay for the birthday cake but I don't suppose George will let you do that."

Casting him an appreciative glance, Olivia responded sleekly, "I'll visit you guys some other time!"

After she said that, they put an end to the show and continued their way to Old Man Nolan's room.

Meanwhile, George remained rooted to the spot as he wondered whether the conversation they just had was true.

Why did he have a feeling that Eugene wasn't interested in Olivia at all?

He spun around and asked Penny, "Does your brother have a girlfriend?"

Penny was thrilled to see George initiating a conversation with her considering that the man was so aloof. It was the first sentence he had spoken to her ever since he stepped foot in the villa.

"I don't think he has one but he doesn't really share his private affairs with us. I know many of his friends are women but I've never heard that he has a girlfriend. Seems like he isn't interested in any of them."

George frowned upon her statement and questioned, "Why is that so?"

Penny elaborated, “He once let a woman down several years ago and he’s been looking for her ever since. I think he’s not looking for a girlfriend because he’s still waiting for her to be back!”