

Unfinished 551

Chapter 551

"Look at this! Eugene even took her into his arms and escorted her into the car. Everyone on the Internet is mocking the president of the Nolan Group for being a dummy. He actually went after a woman who slept with a beggar and treats the beggar's son as his own child. Once this news was revealed, the people who bought shares in the company were worried that their interest would be affected, so they started to let go of their shares!"

Merlin's eyes roved around and he looked at Edward as the thoughts ran wild in his head. Has Edward figured out something? Or is all of this actually secretly plotted by them to force Eugene to admit to something? If they actually force Eugene, then it's either Eugene breaks up with Olivia or he has to admit that the child is his. However, either way would be beneficial to these people and there would be no harm to them! They're ruthless! All of these years, these two have never once shown mercy at all. Eugene can't admit to anything; otherwise, Olivia and the child will be exposed and this could bring danger to them!

Merlin considered the situation before saying, "It seems quite a coincidence that the beggar would suddenly turn up at the Nolan Group and at the shooting set. Obviously, someone must have arranged for all of this, so you two should hurry up and investigate who's behind all of this."

Edward exchanged looks with Lara before responding, "Dad, we don't mind investigating this matter, but Eugene needs to work with us to sort out this current situation and give the shareholders an explanation. How about you get him to make use of the Nolan Group official website to issue a statement and deny his relationship with Olivia? Olivia merely saved your life and that's why they're just friends."

Merlin naturally realized that if Eugene knew about this, he would not agree to that. However, right now, for the mother-son duo's safety, it seemed to be a good solution.

Otherwise, these two here would definitely pressure the shareholders and push for a change in the presidential candidate. After all, this was what they had been attempting to achieve all this while.

Merlin hesitated for a moment before saying, "Okay. Let's issue a statement to explain everything for the time being."

Upon hearing that, Edward responded, "Sure, Dad. We'll be on our way."

As Merlin looked at Edward's retreating back, his expression turned downcast significantly. What sort of father is he? And what kind of son, at that?

His son only had eyes for one woman. As soon as Edward walked out of the door, he turned to Lara. "Perhaps he doesn't know anything."

However, Lara mentioned, "There's also the possibility that he knows the truth and he's purposely doing this to protect the mother-son duo."

Edward wrapped his arms around Lara's shoulders. "That's fine. You should stop thinking about this. Anyway, once we issue this statement, Eugene will be cornered. If he doesn't explain himself, then he will have to separate from Olivia. If he refuses to separate with her, he would surely have to explain himself to the shareholders."

Meanwhile, Lara mentioned, "Judging by Eugene's personality, he would never run away from the situation, especially if that child is actually his."

As she spoke, she paused for a moment before continuing, "If he insists on being with Olivia, then we can get the shareholders to force him to give up the position of the company's president and re-elect a new president. By then, you would be the best candidate. Of course, we would have to convince Merlin to support you. Furthermore, after adding on the shares both of my elder brothers hold in the company,

it would be sufficient to gain a majority. By then, you'll be the rightful president of the Nolan Group. I would have then fulfilled my promise to you."

Eugene smiled. "Actually, I don't have a strong urge to be the president, but if that will make you happy, I'll go after it. By then, the two of us will be in a position of dominance."

Lara beamed widely. "Yes. Then we won't have to worry about your son attacking us randomly."

Meanwhile, Eugene had nothing else to say about that.

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As for Eugene, he brought Olivia back to the Muse Peninsula immediately. However, Olivia remained silent the entire journey.

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Suddenly, there were many things on Olivia's mind. There were some things that she chose to keep silent about, but it was a different story if things were exposed in the public eye.

She was now reconsidering her relationship with Eugene.

She knew that she was now the trending topic on social media. She didn't even have to click in there to find out.

North could indeed remove all those nasty speculations on the Internet, but that would have no effect on the public's opinion of her. He couldn't erase the public's poor opinion of her, and neither could he erase their memories.

She didn't even dare to shut her eyes because as she shut them, her thoughts would be filled with the images of those beggars holding onto her magazine and lewdly biting and licking the page. Even she found it disgusting, so what more to say Eugene.

She suddenly felt slightly regretful and thought that perhaps she shouldn't have thrown a temper and agreed to be the cover girl of the magazine. She would not have been taken advantage of then.

No, that's not right! I should pay the price for my own recklessness. If I hadn't trusted Anna's words back then or indulged in bad behavior after being cheated on by Hugo, then all of this wouldn't have happened. This is the punishment for being reckless.

Even though seven years had gone by and Olivia appeared polished and pretty on the surface, she was, in fact, broken and quite hideous on the inside. The memories were embedded within her and she couldn't help feeling the immense pain from it.

Right now, the worst thing was that it was her own doing, so it didn't matter even if she was scolded by the public. However, it was different for Eugene because his reputation would be tarnished due to having a girlfriend like that. Furthermore, all of this would have an adverse effect on the Nolan Group as well.

That was why Olivia decided that they could no longer remain in a relationship.

Meanwhile, Eugene was completely oblivious to the wild thoughts in her mind. After all, Jewel was around, so there were some things that couldn't be discussed in the presence of an outsider. As such, he didn't say much to comfort Olivia.

The car finally came to a stop and from afar, they could see that Alex was waiting by the entrance of the Muse Peninsula.

Earlier on, Eugene had sent a text to Alex and told the latter to head over when he entered the car.

Eugene got out of the car and flung a set of keys to Alex. "Unit three on the fifty-eighth floor. That's the room that I've arranged for Miss Fenton. It's close to Olivia's place. Help me take care of Miss Fenton. I've got something to discuss with Olivia."

Alex was quite grateful for Eugene's thoughtfulness, and the former instantly responded, "Sure, don't worry. Olivia needs some comfort too."

Meanwhile, Eugene no longer bothered with all the niceties and he directly went to the front passenger seat. He then leaned forward to take Olivia into his arms before carrying her out of the car.

He entered the elevator with her in his arms.

She struggled to get out of his hold and she was suddenly well aware of their current circumstances. "I can walk by myself. I'm fine."

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However, he coaxed her softly, "Stop moving. I miss you, so I just want to hold you in my arms."

Feeling rather speechless, Alex and Jewel kept their mouths shut. They had no idea how to comfort Olivia either. It seemed that Eugene was the only one who could help the woman.

Upon arrival at the fifty-eighth floor, Alex and Jewel exited the elevator. Before they left, they glanced at Olivia with concerned looks and they made phone call gestures at her.

Olivia knew that they were worried about her, but she merely nodded without saying a word.

Next, Eugene and Olivia took the elevator to the fifty-ninth floor, which was one floor above.

They opened the door but didn't hear North's voice. Eugene was slightly surprised. Where's North? He placed Olivia down and opened the door to North's room. As soon as he saw the child on the bed, he couldn't help beaming. No wonder he didn't come out to greet us. He's asleep!

Eugene tucked North under the blanket before walking out and shutting the door behind him.

As for Olivia, she didn't cry, nor did she throw a temper. She seemed to be in a slightly dazed state as she sat hugging her legs on the couch. She looked quite tiny all curled up there and somehow, it was quite unbearable to see her in such a state.

Eugene's heart ached very badly, and he felt exactly like how he felt when he just saw her today.

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He was ultimately the person to blame for all of her suffering today.

Eugene looked at her and instantly rushed forward to take her into his arms. "Olivia, don't be mad. I'm investigating this right now. Once I find the culprit, I'll definitely hand her over to you so you can vent your anger, alright?"

However, Olivia merely stared soullessly at the lights refracted from the window. The light rays felt warm on her body, but the words that came out of her mouth were cold and lifeless, "Ever since I've gotten together with you, I've been subject to all sorts of rumors and speculations. The number of times that I've trended on social media since we've gotten together have been way more than the number of times combined in the past."

Momentarily stunned, he quickly replied, "I'm sorry, Olivia. It's indeed my fault for implicating you. I've got a lot of things to tell you, but I've been riddled with my stupid family matter. I can't seem to figure things out for the time being. Could you give me some time? I'll figure out a solution soon, alright? By then, I'll tell you everything that happened."

Truth was, Eugene felt as bad as Olivia. The guilt, pain, and anxious feelings he had all this while troubled him very much. He didn't quite know what to do.

He was tempted to tell her the truth and explain to her that he was the man she had slept with back then. However, he was afraid that she would break up with him in a fit of anger, especially right now.

She coldly responded, "You're quite right. There are indeed a lot of stupid issues in your family. I just want to lead a peaceful life with North but you've forcefully barged into our lives and now, I've been implicated and subjected to all these attacks and insults. You keep mentioning that you'll settle this as soon as possible, but when are you actually going to settle it?"

Olivia had a very aggressive stance and she looked at him with an exceptionally fierce look in her eyes.

Somehow, Eugene felt guilty. What does she mean by that? Is it because of the triggers from today, so she's just trying to vent her anger at me?

"It won't take long. Please trust me. I realized that I've brought trouble for the two of you. How about you hit me to vent your anger? I promise that this will be the last time for all of this. I won't let you suffer such grievances again!"

He purposely leaned forward as he held her in his arms and he smiled happily. He had a very mild temperament.

Inexplicably, there was a wave of sadness that welled up within Olivia. She was of the opinion that it was a shame for him to have to put up with her.

She purposely turned her head in the other direction and coldly expressed, "Eugene, let's break up."

As soon as he heard that, he was startled and he stared at her incredulously. "What did you just say?"

"I said I want to break up with you. I don't want to continue with such a life any longer."

Olivia took a deep breath after saying that. It felt as if by doing so, she could then have the courage to finish off her sentence.

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"Perhaps there were just too many things back then and my emotions were too turbulent. Or perhaps, it's because you've done so many things for me and I found it awkward to reject you. Anyway, it's a combination of all of the above that resulted in me agreeing to be your girlfriend, but we're actually not compatible with each other."

Actually, Eugene had sensed this would happen, but he was still quite upset to hear that. He looked at her helplessly. "In what ways are we incompatible?"

Without any consideration, she replied, "We're incompatible in everything, including our family, background, and even our views."

However, Eugene didn't even bother to listen to her reply, which sounded quite insincere, and he persisted with his questions. "You promised to be my girlfriend because of the things that I did, so you felt awkward rejecting me? Don't you have any feelings toward me at all?"

Meanwhile, Olivia looked at his hurt expression and she pursed her lips but in the end, she didn't say those hurtful words. She merely glanced in the other direction to avoid his eyes, as she was afraid that she would inadvertently waste her efforts due to her soft-heartedness.

"I admit that I did have some feelings toward you later on but compared to the sufferings that I sustained from being with you, this is not worth mentioning."

Olivia was merciless with her words, but she didn't even dare to meet his eyes at all.

Meanwhile, Eugene had already figured out her intentions and he was angered beyond himself, to the point that he laughed. "Is it actually that bad and it's not even worth a mention?"

Olivia frowned slightly and she didn't understand what was so funny about the situation, so she responded ambiguously.

He angrily continued, "If it's not worth a mention, then why are you considering things from my perspective?"

She glanced at him in confusion. "What are you on about?."

Angered, he instantly turned her body around to face him squarely.

"I can't believe that you came up with such a silly excuse to break up with me! I was frightened by that, you know? Am I so useless in your eyes? Do you think that I'm going to abandon you as soon as I encounter difficulties? If I actually did that, would I even be worth your efforts? Don't even think of using this method of leaving to dispel those rumors. Trust me, I'll be able to settle this."

As Eugene said this, he took her hand into his and stroked the back of her hand with his thumb repeatedly. "You just have to keep this in mind—you're the most important person to me. I don't care about the Nolan Group or the position as the president. All those are not worth mentioning compared to you. I was afraid that you wouldn't be able to accept this but gosh, you've easily figured things out by yourself, huh? You've even decided to cast me aside! What did you plan to do anyway?"

Olivia glared at him and her expression was full of frustration and shame. Was it because my acting was rubbish? How could he have seen through all this so easily?

He looked at her expression and he couldn't contain his laughter as he wrapped his arms around her and comforted her, "Olivia, you and North mean the world to me. I would give up everything else just to have you, so this is something that you should never doubt. Please don't cast me aside like this again. This is not a big deal at all. I'm not afraid of them making a fuss about things. I'm much more worried about them lying in wait behind the scenes. The more they kick up a fuss, the easier it is for me to figure out their moves, so it's a good thing."

Meanwhile, Olivia took a deep breath. She felt resigned for herself, and for this man in front of her too.

"Actually, I reckon the incident today has nothing much to do with Lara. I think I know the culprit."

Eugene replied, "Yeah, I know that too."

At that point, Olivia stared at him in surprise. "You do?"

He held her hands and found that actually, her fingers were very pretty. She had long, fair fingers, and they were comparable to a hand model's hands or even much nicer.

He caressed her hand repeatedly, as if he was holding on to the most precious treasure on earth.

"Actually, there have been a lot of things going on for the past few days, but I didn't mention it to you because I noticed that filming was quite hard on you. We recently hired a new secretary at the company and her name's Samantha. She stated on her resume that she had worked for the Kanes Corporation as the chief secretary, and Curtis felt that she would be a great candidate so he mentioned her to me. I checked her resume and found that it was indeed very good, so I decided to hire her. However, I hadn't met her then. After coming back from Promise Island, we worked together and managed to gain an important project, so I was convinced of her capabilities. Back then, North was always with me and he met her too. That night itself, he had a very bad nightmare..."

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Olivia remained in his arms and listened to him mention his secretary. In fact, Anna, who had been brought out of the psychiatric hospital by someone, had undergone plastic surgery according to Samantha's looks. The resume was actually the actual person's efforts.

She listened to him describe North's nightmare and how Eugene kept North company by telling the kid tales about his childhood. Ultimately, North grew up and learned to fight back, and he even held Anna captive.

Olivia was slightly surprised that Eugene had actually taken quite good care of North.

However, she couldn't contain her anger as she thought of Anna, who persistently refused to leave them alone. "Who was the one that got her out of the psychiatric hospital?" she growled. "As long as she's alive, she's going to be trouble for us."

Eugene looked at her and at that moment, he was quite worried whether she would be sad if she found that it was her father who had gotten Anna out of the hospital.

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Eugene hesitated for a moment before replying, "It was your father and Amy who did that, but I believe there is another mastermind behind this. Back then, when Brian sent her to the hospital, he had specifically given instructions so your dad and Amy wouldn't be able to set her free so easily. I'm guessing that it must be Lara. She would resort to anything to kill me."

Olivia narrowed her eyes and there was a flash of doubt in her mind. "Why do I feel like something's amiss? If Amy's main target was me, then she could have just done something similar to today's actions and she didn't have to put in so much effort to join your company. Don't tell me that she didn't take any action all these while at your company?"

Eugene nodded. "This is also what I find strange. Frankly, she should have a motive for joining the Nolan Group, but I didn't notice her behaving out of the norm. I was wondering if it was because North had exposed her identity too soon so she didn't have the chance to take action."

This sounded much more plausible and Olivia was convinced by his words. "That's possible. She thought that she had everything well thought out but unexpectedly, North saw through her."

At that moment, Eugene was quite smug. "Our son's very smart."

Olivia looked at him as she heard him lovingly address North as his son. Somehow, she couldn't help feeling guilty.

"Eugene, would today's incident affect you?"

He looked at her and replied solemnly, "There would be some slight effect."

She continued to stare at him as her heart suddenly felt quite uneasy.

However, he replied, "Next time, don't agree to be on a magazine cover. Don't you know that I'm quite worried about others hitting on you?"

He said this with a slight pout and there was a resentful look on his face.

Meanwhile, Olivia lowered her eyes, but her lips were slightly curved. "Is that the effect you meant?"

"This is a serious matter here. Actually, I wanted to stop Kate from publishing it back then, but Alex nagged me about it; He said that I shouldn't keep you under lock and key and turn you into a caged bird. North also asked me whether I wanted an actual person or just a pet. Well, I thought, of course I would want an actual human girlfriend. Look, that guy's words can't be trusted at all. If only I knew that it would make you so unhappy right now, I would have stood my stance and chosen a pet."

As soon as Olivia heard his words, she couldn't quite suppress her laughter and she could even imagine his torn look back then.

"Well, the actress who agreed to shoot the cover photo for Kate was being very picky, and she even purposely found fault with Kate over the clothes that Kate had specifically taken from me. That actress flung them on the ground and stepped on them so, in a fit of anger, Kate terminated their contract. I wanted to stand up for Kate and I also wanted to showcase the clothes, so I agreed to the photoshoot."

However, Eugene's brows gradually became furrowed. "Why didn't you tell me all this?"

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However, Eugene's brows gradually became furrowed. "Why didn't you tell me all this?"

Olivia was quite nonchalant about it. "It's such a small matter so I didn't mention it. It's not like I couldn't handle it anyway."

He pouted slightly in response. "Yeah, my girlfriend's too awesome and she can handle everything by herself. I'm always feeling like I'm quite useless."

She smiled at that. "You're one of the most famous people in Summer City, so no one would dare to say that you're useless."

"Well, I find that I am," Eugene muttered. "Earlier on, when you mentioned that I caused trouble in your life, I actually did reflect on myself seriously and I realized that I did bring a lot of trouble to you."

At that point, Olivia looked at him. "So?"

In response, he smiled at her. "So you have to endure this for slightly longer. Things will improve soon."

Olivia was exasperated and yet, she found the situation quite amusing. "You've basically just mentioned something pointless."

Meanwhile, Eugene commented, "It won't take too long. North has already found out that Lara's one of the shareholders of the Kanes Corporation. According to the person that Brian interrogated, he claimed that Lara had been in an illicit relationship with Gerald, who is the boss of Kanes Corporation, but his wife ended up finding out about it. Hence, he chose to return to his family and he severed ties with Lara. As compensation, he gave her one percent of shares in the company."

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At that moment, Olivia was quite surprised. "Lara was Gerald's mistress in the past?!"

"I think so," Eugene quipped.

Olivia then made a wild guess. "Do you think that she was with Gerald during those two years when your parents were still married to each other? Then Gerald decided to break up with her, so perhaps she had no choice but to go back to your father?"

In response, Eugene nodded. "That's quite possible. I think that we'll be able to find out the truth fairly soon."

She continued, "Well, if that's the case, then your father's quite pitiful. He's been so protective of Lara and yet, she merely sees him as a second option."

Just then, Eugene snorted. "Is he pitiful? Even if he was duped by her, he still enjoyed twenty years of a happy life. My mother's the one who suffered the most."

Olivia agreed upon hearing his words but she no longer wanted to comment about his parents behind their backs, so she chose to remain silent.

She turned to look at the tightly shut door of North's room and spoke casually. "Is North fast asleep? I've been back for ages but he hasn't come out to greet me at all. I think he doesn't miss me at all."

Eugene ruffled her hair and asked, "Why are you being so petty with a child? It's alright. I'll go and wake him up." He got up as he spoke and went into North's room.

Meanwhile, Olivia continued to browse on her cell phone and planned to check the comments of the people on the Internet. Somehow, she didn't feel confident enough, so she didn't dare to click on them.

Just as she was debating whether to take a look or not, Eugene suddenly came out of North's room with a frantic expression. "Olivia, hurry up and go inside to take a look at North. Something's wrong with him and I can't wake him up!"

She got a fright and stood up abruptly, thereafter quickly rushing toward the direction of North's room. While walking toward the room, she asked, "What's wrong? Is he running a fever?"

Eugene responded, "I felt his temperature and he doesn't feel warm. Take a look."

At that moment, she had already entered the room. She saw the little fellow with his eyes shut as he lay there quietly. Anyone would have assumed that he was merely fast asleep.

Out of instinct, she called out to him, "Baby, Mommy's back. It's time to wake up."

"Baby? North?" She called out his name while gently pushing him, but the child gave no response at all.

At that point, she was completely terrified. She took a seat and lifted his arm to place it over her thigh as she carefully examined him.

She noticed that his heart rate was unusually fast and it was irregular too, so she pulled up his eyelid to check his pupil. Indeed, she found that his pupil had shrunk.

She quickly lifted his shirt to examine him. His body temperature wasn't warm as usual, but it felt quite cold to the touch.

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It felt as if he had broken out in a sweat and then the sweat had been evaporated by the cool breeze, so his skin felt clammy and cold to the touch.

At that point, Eugene was quite frantic as he stood there looking on. "How is it? How's North?"

Meanwhile, Olivia had a solemn look on her face. "Did he eat something wrong?"

Instantly, Eugene's heart raced and he said, "He didn't eat anything today. I made breakfast for him this morning and then I sent him back before I went to pick you. He hasn't even had lunch yet!"

Olivia responded, "His current condition looks like he's been poisoned, and it looks like the slow- release kind. Try and recall whether you had anything special recently?"

Eugene was significantly startled. "Poison? How could he have been poisoned? I was worried for his safety, so I stayed by his side the whole time all this while and we ate the same food so he can't have been poisoned, right?"

As soon as Eugene mentioned this, he suddenly realized that when he interrogated those beggars, he had entrusted North to Curtis. Could it be that Curtis gave North something to eat then?

Instantly, Eugene took out his phone and called Curtis as soon as he thought of this. The former went straight to the point, "Today when you took care of North, did you give him anything to eat?"

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At that moment, Curtis was dumbfounded too. "Give him something to eat? No, he didn't eat anything. What's wrong?"

Eugene repeated his question, "He didn't have anything to eat at all?"

"No," Curtis responded. "There was nothing to eat out there either. He was busy playing games the whole time."

Subsequently, Eugene hung up. In fact, he found it quite impossible too. Disregarding the fact that Curtis had worked for him for so many years and he could be trusted, North wasn't a child that could be easily duped by anyone.

At that moment, Olivia sniffed hard around North's room.

"What's that smell?"

Eugene was confused by her words, so he did the same thing and sniffed the place. "What's wrong? I don't smell anything."

She replied, "There is definitely something. The smell doesn't come from North's room. It's a specific fragrance. Let's go and find the source of it."

As soon as Eugene heard that, he quickly searched the place.

Both of them suspected that North's sudden unconscious state was perhaps related to this peculiar fragrance.

As such, they ransacked the place to locate the source of the fragrance.

Suddenly, they found an exquisite candy wrapper in the pocket of the shirt that North had changed out of.

Olivia took a sniff of it and she instantly frowned. "It's this scent!"

However, Eugene was quite perplexed, so he took it from her and sniffed it. "What's wrong with this?"

She instantly stopped him. "Stop sniffing it. This is a lethal poison. There is lead oxide in this. If someone accidentally ingests this, then the person would end up dead. Even if the person inhales this continuously, in less than half a month, they would end up being poisoned to death too. Where did this come from?"

As soon as Eugene heard this, he broke out in cold sweat and he couldn't control the fear within him. "I've smelled this scent before. Samantha placed a decorative hourglass on my work desk and it gives out this smell. She told me that it would calm my emotions and I saw that it looked quite pretty. Besides, the smell wasn't too pungent, so I left it there. After I found out that Samantha was Anna, I threw the hourglass away. That means North and I have been exposed to poison all this while?" Olivia also broke out in cold sweat upon hearing that. She grabbed Eugene's wrist and examined him carefully.

After nearly five minutes, she finally released his hand.

"You're fine so far. Perhaps it's because you're fit and healthy, or perhaps you were not exposed to it for too long, so the poison within your body isn't that strong. However, North's just a kid, so obviously he's not as strong in health. Besides, the content of lead oxide in this candy is very potent. He placed it into his pocket, so he basically had it on him the whole time. That's why he's in a much more serious condition. You mentioned that the hourglass was given by Anna. Do you think that she also placed this into North's pocket when he wasn't paying attention?"

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At that moment, Eugene tried hard to recall the situation, but he didn't recall Anna ever spending time with North by herself. When could she have placed the candy into North's pocket?

"Ah—I remember now! If this is Anna's doing, then she must have done it when North locked her into the toilet. Usually, they don't interact with each other. This damned woman! She started off by placing

the spices into the room so that we would get used to the smell. That's why even though North carried it on him, we didn't sense anything too. If it wasn't because you came back, we wouldn't even have realized it. What should we do now? Do you have a solution?"

Olivia went to take another look at North and found that his lips had started to turn ashen. Frightened, she yelled, "Hurry up and send him to the hospital. North's condition needs immediate medical treatment."

Eugene saw that too, and even someone from a non-medical background like him could tell that North's condition was critical. The man was in utter shock but he didn't dare to delay things, so he wrapped North up in a blanket before carrying the boy out of the door.

As for Olivia, she tried to race after them while holding onto her jacket. Before she walked out, however, she put on a face mask.

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She was quite likely to be mobbed if she went out in public right now.

Olivia had realized this and naturally, Eugene thought of the same thing too. He called Curtis while he drove and he instructed the latter to bring some men to the hospital to guard against the crowd, just in case they laid hands on Olivia when tempers ran high.

Next, he instructed Curtis, "Send some men to find Samantha as soon as possible. Also, get them to take Henry and Amy captive."

At that point, Curtis was in shock. What's wrong with President Nolan today? His instructions today are quite perplexing.

However, Curtis affirmed quite obediently. "Sure, President Nolan."

...

On the other hand, as soon as Eugene arrived at the hospital, the bodyguards had arrived as well. They managed to check into the hospital successfully under the protection of the bodyguards.

The first thing that Olivia did was to run a blood sample analysis for North and Eugene.

The report indicated that Eugene was indeed fine. Perhaps it was according to what Olivia had said, and that he was fit and healthy. Besides, the scent from the hourglass was less potent than the candy after all.

However, the blood analysis report on North showed that there was an accumulation of poison in North's bloodstream.

Eugene felt very guilty and he instructed the hospital to come up with a suitable treatment plan as soon as possible.

Therefore, in less than ten minutes, the doctors gathered and had a multi-disciplinary specialist meeting.

Olivia also joined the meeting.

Although Eugene had no medical knowledge, he maintained his position in the center of the room.

He listened to the supposed specialists' suggestions. One mentioned proceeding with a conservative treatment, while the other suggested getting rid of the poison as soon as possible.

Their discussion went back and forth. Nearly half an hour had gone by, but they hadn't yet come up with a concrete treatment plan.

Finally, Eugene lost his patience and he banged on the table. "That's enough! If I continue waiting for you guys to discuss this then by the time you come up with a plan, my child would be in grave danger!"

Olivia was also quite frantic as she waited for an outcome, so she voiced out, "I know that what each of you is saying makes perfect sense. I'm a TCM doctor as well. According to therapeutic Chinese medicine,

the focus would be on the nourishment of the body. As for Western medicine, the focus would be on efficiency and efficacy. However, North's condition is critical and he needs immediate treatment, so we'll proceed with the Western treatment and then follow that up with Chinese medicine.

Everyone nodded upon hearing that and soon enough, they came up with a treatment plan. The fastest way to get rid of the poison from the body was to do a blood exchange transfusion. As such, fresh blood would be introduced into the body to integrate with the poisonous blood to reduce the symptoms, then the plan was to proceed with nourishing the body using therapeutic Chinese medicine.

With the treatment plan in place, one of the doctors suddenly brought up a different issue.

"The kid has an RH negative blood group and that's the rarest blood group ever, so we need to find a source to supply this blood before we can proceed with the blood exchange transfusion process. We don't have any of this blood group in our blood bank so we'd have to contact the other hospitals, but I'm afraid that we don't have much time for that!"

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Eugene spoke up anxiously. "I have the same RH negative blood group so you can use mine."

One of the doctors replied, "Frankly, you're the child's father, so you'd be the best candidate. But you were poisoned as well, right? Although the blood analysis report showed that you're fine, it's quite hard to guarantee that the child would be fine if we transfuse your blood into his system." At that point, Olivia was speechless. Father?! He's not North's biological father, alright?!

However, she didn't expect Eugene to actually have the same blood group as North. She didn't even notice this when she took a look at the blood analysis report earlier. She had been too focused on the outcome of the report. He also has an RH negative blood group!

Meanwhile, Eugene was frantic with worry and sweat dripped down his forehead. Yeah, I'm fine, but it doesn't mean that my blood's suitable for North.

"Hold on while I make a phone call."

As he spoke, he instantly took his cell phone and rang Brian's number. "Hurry up and come to the hospital. North's sick and he needs a transfusion."

Meanwhile, Olivia stared at him with a surprised look. "Who did you just call?"

Eugene hung up the phone and said, "Brian."

At that point, Olivia was even more surprised than before. "Does Brian also have an RH negative blood group?"

Eugene nodded. "Yes, our whole family has the same blood group."

As Olivia continued to look at the man, she attempted to say something but she couldn't quite come up with the words to say. There was a thought that flashed across her mind, but it happened too quickly that she didn't even manage to grasp it.

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The notion flashed past and disappeared.

Meanwhile, the doctors started to make preparations for the surgery, and they also contacted the blood bank to arrange for an urgent transfer of RH negative blood.

Despite having Brian as a donor, the amount of blood needed was much more than he could supply.

Brian arrived quite soon and it was quite obvious that he had made his way here in a hurry. His hair was a mess upon arrival, and the first thing that he asked was, "How's North doing?"

Olivia remained quite downcast and she had gone to see North while they waited for Brian to get here. After that, she went to the washroom and hid there to cry, but she didn't let Eugene know about that as she didn't want him to blame himself.

However, Eugene had actually noticed and definitely blamed himself for all this of course. The guilt and regret hit him like a wave and he had a strong urge to bash himself.

North had only been with him for about ten days in total, and he had taken care of North carefully because he didn't want any accidents at all. However, he didn't expect that they would resort to such underhanded tactics and he couldn't even have guarded against this.

Right now, North was inside and in a critical condition. There was no knowing how things would turn out. At that moment, Eugene was broken-hearted.

As soon as Eugene saw Brian arrive, he rushed Brian ahead while saying, "Don't ask any questions for now. I'll explain everything to you once you come out. Hurry up and go and complete the checkups."

Without any delay, Brian followed one of the doctors and he went through several tests to ensure that his blood was suitable. Finally, he was pushed into the operating theater after going through all of the processes.

Naturally, he saw North lying lifelessly on the hospital bed and the little fellow's lips were purplish. North's tiny face was as pale as a sheet and devoid of any color. If Brian didn't see the slight heave on North's chest, then he would definitely have thought that...

His heart ached badly at this point. After all, this was his little nephew here and Olivia's precious child. How could the kid have ended up in such a bad state?

"What happened to the child?"

The doctor replied, "He was poisoned. We need to proceed with a blood exchange transfusion to integrate your fresh blood into his poisonous one and dilute the effect. Are you ready? We'll start now."

Brian couldn't contain his shock, but he didn't dare to hold things up so he quickly responded, "I'm ready. Let's proceed."

The doctor inserted the apparatus, and Brian's bright red blood came out from the transparent tube slowly.

Meanwhile, Brian shut his eyes and thought, Once the little fellow's fine, the first thing that I'm going to make him do is thank me. To think that he keeps going against me too!

Meanwhile, outside the operating theater, Eugene and Olivia waited impatiently.

"Don't worry, North will be fine."

Eugene looked at Olivia, who suddenly looked quite weak, and he could feel his heart clench. If he was able to leave right now, he would definitely tear those people to pieces.

However, she remained silent as she kept her eyes fixated on the tightly shut doors to the operating theater. What am I going to do if anything happens to North?

Naturally, he saw North lying lifelessly on the hospital bed and the little fellow's lips were purplish. North's tiny face was as pale as the sheet and devoid of any color. If Brien didn't see the slight heave on North's chest, then he would definitely have thought that...

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Suddenly, his cell phone rang loudly and it interrupted both of their thoughts. He took the phone in his hands and glanced at it. It was Curtis on the line.

He kept one hand around Olivia's shoulder while he used the other hand to swipe on the phone to answer the call. "How's everything?"

Curtis' voice sounded quite relieved. "President Nolan, I've captured Samantha. Where do you want me to bring her?"

Eugene instructed expressionlessly, "Bring her to the underground cellar. Just keep her barely alive."

As soon as he said that, Curtis instantly knew what he meant. "Okay, President Nolan. How about the rumors on the Internet? Should we continue investigating that?"

Eugene clenched his teeth and answered, "Yes, I want you to find the person who spread the rumor, after which I'll sue that guy. Get the personal relations team on it too. I want them to release a statement on the Nolan Group official website stating that we will prosecute those who maliciously slander and spread wicked rumors about my girlfriend."

Curtis had a knowing look on his face upon hearing that. Indeed, that statement released on their official website stating that President Nolan was not related to Miss Maxwell at all wasn't of his higher up's own accord.

"President Nolan, you must not have seen the statement released on our official website."

At that point, Eugene frowned as he asked, "What statement?"

Curtis responded, "It's the statement declaring that you are not related in any way with Miss Maxwell."

As soon as Eugene heard that, he was furious. "Who arranged for that statement to be issued?"

Curtis replied, "It was your father who issued that statement, but apparently it was Master Merlin's idea."

Meanwhile, Eugene narrowed his eyes furiously. Grandpa already knows Olivia and North's identity, so how could he possibly issue such a statement?! Obviously, it must be because of Edward and Lara's constant probes so Grandpa had to make this compromise to protect North and Olivia. They're quite desperate to remove me from my position, huh? Evidently, they have a guilty conscience!

"Alright, noted. I'll issue the statement myself!" Eugene agreed and then he hung up the phone.

As for Olivia, she was by Eugene's side, so she heard their conversation quite clearly.

She heard that it was Merlin who had issued the statement but after interacting with the elderly man all this while, she naturally knew Merlin's personality and she understood that his actions were merely done in the company's best interest.

"You should follow your grandfather's way for the moment. Right now, they're still trying to find a fault of yours but they haven't succeeded, so you shouldn't court trouble. As long as North's fine, everything else doesn't matter to me."

Eugene lifted his hand to stroke her hair and he felt quite bad at that point. "You're my girlfriend and no matter who queries this, this will be my answer regardless. Grandpa has other things to consider and

he's just worried about you and North's safety. But things are already in such a state so even if I issue a statement denouncing our relationship, they won't let us get away anyway."

He spoke while reaching out to take Olivia's hand into his. "Olivia, trust me. I won't let you and North suffer any harm."

Olivia nodded her head, but she really didn't have the energy to discuss all this. Right now, her only concern was her child in the operation theater.

Eugene's heart ached and he was very regretful too. It was all because he had too many concerns, and that had resulted in his wife and kid suffering right now.

He allowed Olivia to lean on him while he took out his cell phone to log on to the official website of Nolan Group. Subsequently, he deleted the statement issued about his relationship with Olivia.

Next, he reissued another statement.

'This is Eugene Nolan here. Olivia Maxwell is my girlfriend and she's also the mother to my son. The person who purposely hired those beggars to spread lies, maliciously slandered and insulted my girlfriend is a person sick in the head; that person has also disregarded the law and ethics. I've informed the legal team of the Nolan Group to take legal action against those who spread rumors and cause trouble. I won't let anyone who uses any method to cause trouble for my girlfriend get away with things easily!!!'

Shortly after the statement had been issued, there were comments below by the people on the Internet.

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Shortly after the statement had been issued, there were comments below by the people on the Internet.

"This is great. I don't want to comment on the authenticity of this for now, but President Nolan's dominance in standing up for his wife is awesome! I like it!"

"Did you notice the three exclamation marks that President Nolan added to his sentence? He must be so angry!"

"I'm in shock! So was Olivia actually involved with those beggars? Why did the claims on the trending topic sound so realistic?"

"That's not possible! Do you think that President Nolan is stupid? If she was indeed a woman of poor character, would he have issued this statement personally to address the issue? He's even sought legal action too!"

"Yeah. We should watch our words too. Let's just keep silent and observe the situation."

After Eugene's statement, the people on the Internet were much more cautious with their comments, as they were afraid of being caught slandering and thus actually being prosecuted. Everyone maintained an interest in the situation but they all did nothing and merely observed what was going on.

Soon, Kate and Nathan got wind of things and they instantly called Olivia to check up on her. At that point, they found out that North was hospitalized.

Both of them made their way to the hospital in a rush.

Kate was closer to the hospital, so she arrived first. As soon as she got there, she didn't say anything but instantly took Olivia into her arms.