

## Unfinished 671

### Chapter 671

Eugene shot Olivia a side glare. "It's all your fault!" She gave him an exasperated look as she thought, Aren't people going to overthink your words? People who don't know the truth might think that we were busy with some nasty stuff.

"You can just sleep somewhere else. How is it my fault?" she hissed.

He lowered his gaze as he smiled grimly. She might still sound rather polite now, but her eyes look like she's ready to stab me.

"You woke up too early," he insisted. She was speechless at this point—he was the one who woke her up just now, yet he was the one blaming her for waking up too early. Can he be any more shameless?

"I'll sleep with Jewel tomorrow, then," she uttered while glaring at him. He felt himself panicking for a moment, but he didn't reveal this on his face. "No. Someone else's sleep is going to be sacrificed if you go there."

Olivia gazed in Jewel's direction. "Jewel doesn't mind!"

Jewel smiled as she signed her words. 'You can sleep on your own!' She signed to Olivia. Although Olivia couldn't understand complicated sign language, she was still able to understand basic sentences. I can't believe Jewel refuses to sleep with me! She's such an ungrateful brat.

Eugene chuckled before he addressed his mother. "I'm nearly done here, Mom. Why don't you take over?" He led Olivia out of the kitchen. Olivia looked like a cranky cat at that point. "How shameless can you get, Eugene? You're the one who couldn't sleep—what has that got to do with me?"

He quickly hugged and comforted her. "I'm sorry. It just slipped out of my mouth earlier."

She scoffed. "You were doing it on purpose! I know you well enough to know that. Anyway, I'm sleeping with Jewel tonight. You can sleep on your own!"

"It's the night before the new year, so I'm not going to sleep much," he said with a smile. After they were done with breakfast, it was nearly 10.00AM. Brian and Eugene kept themselves busy by decorating the place, while Olivia and Jewel helped Ellen with preparing the meal for that night. North, on the other hand, simply ran around the house. The atmosphere was warm and lively at home.

That night, they all prepared dumplings for their 11.00PM dinner. It was a family tradition for them to eat their dinner between 11.00PM to 1.00AM, as they held the belief that entering the new year with food on the table ensured their prosperity for the upcoming year. Furthermore, it was important that they ate dumplings during the dinner, as the shape of the dumplings was like gold bars that would ensure their wealth for the upcoming year.

Eugene, Jewel, and North were preparing dumplings in the kitchen while Ellen and Brian did the cooking. When Eugene saw the young lady lazing around on the couch, he called out to her. "Come over and help with the dumplings," he ordered.

Olivia stuck her lower lip out as she gave him an annoyed look. She genuinely enjoyed making dumplings, but the shape of her dumplings was often odd, and she didn't want to embarrass herself.

"I think I'll go help Mrs. Nolen with the food!" she said.

Eugene laughed. "They don't need your help since Brian's there. Come here and help me instead."

She rolled her eyes in her head. He just wants to see me embarrass myself, huh? "I don't want to," she said with a scoff.

However, Eugene only laughed after hearing her. "It's fine. Your dumplings are still edible. You should come over to make a lucky dumpling. The person who gets that will be the luckiest one here!"

When she heard his words, she found herself rather intrigued by the idea, so she shuffled over to the kitchen. "How should I do it?"

"I prepared some coins, so the lucky dumpling will have this coin inside it. The person who gets this will get lucky for the new year," he suggested. She was excited about this idea, so she hurried off to wash her hands before picking up the dumpling skin.

Olivia felt rather envious when she saw how swift Jewel was with her hands. So, Olivia stared at Jewel with admiration and curiosity in her eyes. Olivia had stuck her neck out, and she held her eyes open without blinking. It was as if she were using her whole body to learn some skills from the other women.

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While Jewel was at the restaurant, she would often help one of the aunts in the kitchen to prepare dumplings. Jewel had eventually developed the skill to produce dumplings in a swift and smooth manner. Olivia found Jewel's way of making dumplings much easier than the way that Eugene had taught her.

Eugene, however, felt the urge to laugh when he saw how Olivia was prepared to tackle a harder way of making dumplings before she even learned the basics. It looked easy when others were making them, but it turned ten times harder once the dumpling skin was in her own hands. He didn't want to extinguish the enthusiasm Olivia felt at that moment, as he was afraid that she would give up halfway, so he approached her with a patient tone. "Come here, Olivia. I'll teach you how to do it."

She gave him a disdainful glance. "Forget it. The method you taught me is too troublesome. I want Jewel to teach me instead." He stared at her speechlessly while Jewel let out a laugh before she picked up a piece of dumpling skin to give Olivia a slow-motion tutorial.

Olivia got the idea of it almost immediately, but her hands didn't seem to agree with her brain. Her brain could comprehend Jewel's motions, yet her hands couldn't do the same thing. Olivia tried her best to copy Jewel's actions by pinching the top of the dumpling skin after rolling it up. However, it didn't seem to work—she would end up either tearing her dumpling skin or having the filling drop out of the dumplings. She tried it a few times, but it didn't seem to work at all.

On top of that, the smart child, North, seemed to be there only to further annoy Olivia. North copied Jewel's way of making dumplings for a few rounds, and he got the hang of it almost immediately. His dumplings might not be aesthetically pleasing, but at least he could do it without having its filling fall out of it. In comparison, he was much better than Olivia.

Olivia scrunched her face up while feeling sorry for herself. She sneakily threw a few of her spoiled dumplings into the bin. Eugene noticed this, and he felt his heart melting for the woman. How could someone be as adorable as my girlfriend? He reached out to hold her hand. "I know this method of making dumplings too. Let me teach you."

This time, Olivia was much more obedient. "My dumplings keep tearing!" she whined humbly. He picked up a dumpling skin and taught her how to do it. "You have to pull it in a gentler manner, and you can't apply strength here. The skin would tear if you used too much force, right? You can start off by putting a little less filling," he suggested.

She worked according to his methods, and she copied his actions step by step, ending with a final pinch on the top. Eventually, she managed to make a dumpling. It didn't look too appetizing, but at least there wasn't any filling falling out of it.

Olivia was exhilarated to see her product. "Woah! I did it! Look! Look!" She showed her dumpling to Eugene while pinching its sides to make it look better. He beamed. "Yeah. If you continue practicing, you're going to make some fine dumplings." This gave Olivia a confidence boost, and she picked up another piece of the dumpling skin.

When Ellen heard Olivia's cheers from the kitchen, she turned around in the direction of the voices. Brien smiled as he explained the situation. "Olivia can't cook, and she can't make dumplings. When I first made dumplings at her place, she was just as excited as she is now. I bet she found a new way of making dumplings."

Brien headed to the kitchen from the dining area. "What is it?" he asked.

Olivia immediately produced her distorted, messy-looking dumpling. "Look! I made this!" Brien wanted to laugh, but he knew that both his brother and Olivia would beat him up if he did so. Brien had no choice but to contain his laughter as he questioned Olivia in a serious tone. "Did you make this?"

Olivia was proud of herself. "Yeah. I'm the best learner, aren't I?"

Brien chuckled. "You are pretty fast. I don't even know how to make dumplings with the new method you learned."

She was more than pleased to hear what he said. "I'm going to make a lucky dumpling," she announced as she stuffed a coin into the dumpling. "I'll put two into the dumplings to see who the lucky winners are!"

"You should make a mark so that it's easier for you to find it later," Brian suggested.

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Olivia was proud of herself. "Yeah. I'm a fast learner, aren't I?"

Brian chuckled. "You are pretty fast. I don't even know how to make dumplings with the new method you learned."

She was more than pleased to hear what he said. "I'm going to make a lucky dumpling," she announced as she stuffed a clean coin into the dumpling. "I'll put two into the dumplings to see who the lucky winners are!"

"You should make a mark so that it's easier for you to find it later," Brian suggested.

Olivia protested. "That's not fair. It won't be a lucky dumpling anymore, then." The few of them chattered and laughed for another two hours before dinner was finally ready to be served. Eugene poured a glass of wine for everyone at the table. Ellen, meanwhile, pulled out red packets that she had prepared earlier. She picked out one of the largest red packets before handing it to North. "Here you go, North. This is my red packet for you," she said.

North glanced in his parents' direction.

"Take it. You need to take good care of the money your grandmother gave you," Eugene ordered.

"Thank you, Grandma," North uttered as he took the red packet from Ellen.

Eugene pulled out a red packet from his pocket before handing it to North. "This one's from Daddy." Then, North continued to take red packets from Olivia, Brian, and Jewel. The young boy was elated to receive all the red packets. "It's so fun to spend the new year here! I got so many red packets!" North cried excitedly.

"I'll give you a red packet each year if you come back every year," Ellen uttered while beaming.

"Okay!" North gave her a firm nod. After everyone handed their red packets to the youngest of the family, Ellen took out more red packets before handing them to Jewel, Olivia, Eugene, and Brian. Everyone had a red packet of their own.

However, Jewel refused Ellen's red packet by pushing it away. Olivia quickly spoke up for Jewel. "We're all grown-ups, Mrs. Nolan. You don't have to give us red packets."

"It doesn't matter how old you guys are; you guys will always be kids to me. Take it and keep it," Ellen uttered flatly.

However, Jewel continued to reject the red packet. Everyone else there were Ellen's family members, but she wasn't a part of the family, so she felt embarrassed to take anything from Ellen.

Ellen pushed the red packet back to Jewel. "Take it, Jewel. You saved Olivia once, so that equals to you saving the whole family. I've never had a daughter, but I've always wanted one. If you don't mind, I could be your godmother. This could be your home, and you could drop by and visit whenever you want to," she elaborated.

All of a sudden, Jewel felt a stinging sensation in her nose. I've been alone for so many years, and I've never had a family or relatives to be with. It feels like no one has ever cared about my feelings. I've never even had a chance to receive red packets! This is the first time anyone's telling me to treat their house as a home and to treat them as my mother! How can I say no to that? Jewel stood up and knelt down in front of Ellen before kowtowing to her.

Then, Jewel parted her lips and tried her best to generate some noise with her throat. "Mom..."

Although her voice was hoarse and croaky, everyone heard the sound that she made. Olivia stood up in shock. She couldn't make any noise when I was teaching her to do it yesterday, but it seems like she's able to do it today!

"Can you talk now, Jewel?" Ellen was just as excited, and she helped Jewel to get to her feet as she spoke. "Oh... You poor child. Hurry and get up. That's great! You know how to talk now!"

Jewel was just as shocked as everyone else because she couldn't believe that she was the one who had made that noise. Eugene, Brian, and North were all staring at her while Olivia tried to get her to speak again. "Try talking again, Jewel. Ah..."

Although Jewel tried her best to open her mouth, no sound came out anymore. Olivia was puzzled. "Is Mom the only word you can say? Try it, then. Mom..."

Jewel felt rather nervous. The more she tried to speak, the harder it seemed to get. It felt almost as if the rest of them just shared an auditory hallucination when they heard her voice earlier.

"Stop forcing her. You can take your time, Jewel," Ellen uttered. Then, she gazed at Jewel and held Jewel's hand while comforting her and reminding, "Since you were able to make that sound, it shows that Olivia's treatment is helpful for your voice. Don't rush it. You've had this condition for some time, so you can't expect yourself to recover overnight."



Jewel beamed while nodding at Ellen.

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North voiced out his question in a curious tone. "Then, should I call her Miss Fenton, or should I call her Aunt Jewel?"

Ellen chuckled. "You can call her whatever you want to."

"I'll call her Aunt Jewel, then! I don't have a lot of aunts, anyway," North commented before turning to look at Jewel. "Aunt Jewel!" he greeted her.

Jewel gave North a playful wink before she stroked his hair. "It doesn't matter if you're Olivia's good friend or my good friend; we're all one big family. You can always come to Olivia or me for help, and you don't have to feel ashamed for doing so, okay?" Eugene said.

Jewel was extremely happy, and she thanked them with sign language. "This is your home from now on, so you won't be lonely anymore," Brian added.

Jewel's vision turned blurry as tears formed in her eyes. She gave them a firm nod. "Alright, that's enough. Let's eat our dumplings! They are going to turn cold otherwise," Ellen uttered. North immediately gazed at the plate of dumplings to find the ugliest looking one, which he knew belonged to his mother. North knew that his mother had prepared the one with the lucky coin inside.

Eugene, on the other hand, wasn't in a rush to eat. He lifted his glass of wine. "Let's drink to our first new year's reunion!" Everyone raised their glasses upon hearing this. "Happy New Year!" Everyone cheered unanimously. They all took sips of alcohol from their glasses, and they had just lowered their drinks when North had already placed the lucky dumpling into his mouth. "I got it!" he cried happily before spitting the coin out of his mouth. Ellen grinned at the sight of this. "Oh, my grandson sure is a lucky boy."

"There's one more lucky dumpling in there," Olivia stated. "I made two."

"I want the other one," North uttered as he began to hunt for dumplings on the plate. Eugene calmly picked a dumpling up and placed it on Olivia's plate. "Try some. It's going to turn cold otherwise." Olivia gazed at Eugene and nodded before eating the dumpling on her plate.

However, she had only taken one bite when she felt something hard strike against her tooth. "Ah...!" Indeed... "I got the other lucky dumpling," Olivia announced.

Ellen chuckled. "Great. Both you and your son are the luckiest people here." Olivia shot Eugene a glance and found him staring right back at her. He even gave her a wink when no one was looking, which made her smile.

Olivia knew that he had intentionally placed the dumpling on her plate. After the meal, everyone began sending wishes to their close friends and family. Then, they all gathered by the couch, where they chit-chatted with one another. Since they had the tradition of staying up for a whole night, they tried not to sleep until dawn.

However, there were only a few of them who could keep their eyes open until the end. Back at the Nolan Residence, it was usually Eugene and Old Man Nolan who stayed up until dawn. Olivia thought she could do it at first, but she began to doze off on Eugene's shoulder after a while. North didn't even bother to stay awake—he had snuggled up into a ball and fallen asleep on the couch.

"You guys should all go to sleep. I'll stay up and keep watch here," Ellen uttered. Eugene gazed in her direction. "I'll send Olivia to bed before I come back here to stay up with you."

Ellen rejected this idea. "It's fine. You guys had to travel all the way here and help out with the preparation, so you guys didn't get a chance to rest. You should go to bed. I'll stay up on my own."

Eugene finally gave in before he bent down to pick Olivia up. Then, he turned around to give orders to Brian. "Send North back to his room," Eugene said.

Brian clicked his tongue. He would've sent North back even if Eugene hadn't told him to, so he felt annoyed after hearing Eugene's orders. Is he ignoring his son because he wants to take care of his girlfriend? Brian shot Eugene a glare before he lifted North up from the couch and brought North back to his room.

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Jewel got up and sat down beside Ellen.

'I'll sit here with you!' She signed before she wrapped her arms around Ellen's.

Ellen giggled. "Go to bed. I'm a light sleeper, so I'm used to staying up."

However, Jewel shook her head and insisted on staying by Ellen's side. After a while, Jewel got up and pulled out a chessboard before typing some words into her phone. 'Let's play chess', she typed.

"Sure. Let's play chess." Ellen beamed.

...

Since everyone went to bed late the night before, they all woke up late the next day and only had breakfast during noontime. After lunch, North requested to go to the playground as he was hoping that

he could bump into the young girl again. But, nope... The few of them played in the hot sun and went on all sorts of rides, but they didn't see the young girl anywhere.

North grew rather dejected after a while, and he hung his head low once he arrived home. Eugene knew what had happened, so he went over to comfort his son. "It's rare for others to come out and play during the new year. Look at how empty the park is!"

"Are you saying that Dora is spending her new year at home?" North asked.

"Yeah. We only came here because Grandma's here, right? We would've spent our new year at home otherwise!" Eugene explained. North figured that this explanation made sense, so his spirits were lifted after a while. While they were on the way back home, they bumped into a doll-like boy on the road. The

boy was doll-like not just because of his fair skin and flawless face, but also because of his extremely well-groomed hair.

He was dressed in a white shirt and pants that didn't have a speck of dust on it. There was a rather gloomy look on the boy's face as he held a brush up to paint the view of the sunset in front of him. He took a look at the view before he dipped his brush into some mustard yellow paint. Then, he began to draw whatever he saw.

Perhaps it was because the boy was too clean and neat, or perhaps it was because he was standing in an eye-catching spot, the boy seemed rather out of place. Olivia and the rest of them couldn't help but slow their footsteps down. Why isn't there an adult by this kid's side? Olivia wondered to herself.

She walked over before giving him a generous compliment. "Your drawing is wonderful!" The boy lifted his icy gaze and glanced at the people around him for a moment before he looked away and continued drawing. The corner of Olivia's lips twitched as she thought, Fine. This kid is an arrogant brat.

"Are you here alone?" She wasn't ready to give up yet, but the boy didn't look up and continued painting. "Get them to leave. I need peace!" he ordered in a flat tone. Olivia was just wondering who the boy was talking to when two men approached them from afar. They didn't look like the boy's parents, but his bodyguards.

The two men were relatively polite. "Please leave. You don't want to disturb our young master," one uttered. Olivia finally understood that the boy did have other people by his side. She felt a little less worried about the boy after that.

When she took a glance at the boy's painting, she was shocked to see that there was now a clear image as compared to the random shapes on the canvas a while ago. Although she didn't know much about drawing, she found the painting extremely beautiful.

After looking up at the view in front of her and glancing back at the boy's painting, she was shocked as it seemed like the boy had created a replica of the view in front of him. This kid's artwork is so good. Is he an artist?

As much as she liked the drawing, they still left in order to respect the boy's privacy. None of them thought much of this random encounter with the boy. While they were on the way back, Olivia turned to look at North. "Do you want to learn to draw, North?"

North stuck his hands into his pocket as he spoke in an icy tone, "No!"

He even increased his walking speed after that. Olivia looked toward Eugene as she questioned him with her eyes. What's up with North?

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## Chapter 676

Eugene shook his head exasperatedly. North had already been jealous when he saw his mother having so much fun with another young boy, so he was naturally crankier when his mom came over to ask him if he enjoyed drawing. When Eugene noticed how confused Olivia seemed, he leaned closer and whispered in her ear. "North's jealous."

Olivia was confused. Jealous? Who's he jealous of? Then, she came to a sudden realization. "Does he think that I'll stop liking him because I like that other kid?"

Eugene gave her a look as if to say, 'Duh.'

She didn't know whether to laugh or cry at that point. I didn't even say anything. I just really liked the boy's drawing, that's all! Is this necessary? "Wait for me, darling!" She called for North.

Although North didn't turn around, his footsteps clearly slowed down a little. This made Olivia feel better, and she quickly chased after him before holding his small hand. "What is it?"

"Nothing much!" North pretended as if everything was fine.

"Then why do I feel like you seem rather unhappy?" she asked.

"I'm not."

"I just thought that the young boy's drawing was really nice, but that doesn't mean anything else. Everyone's special in their own way, and we shouldn't allow our jealousy to stop us from recognizing other people's talent! We all have our own strengths, just like how you're so great with numbers, and how I'm talented at designing outfits. Other people recognize our skills as well!" she uttered.

North's tiny lips finally curled into a smile as he lowered his head and chuckled. "My mommy's also a genius doctor, and she's good at racing. She's even talented in acting..."

Olivia beamed. "We don't have to announce that to the world. It's good enough for us to know about our own talents."

North looked up at her then. "Do you want me to learn drawing, Mommy?"

"No. You can learn it if you want to, but you don't have to do it if you don't want to. Everyone has their own strengths that can allow them to shine, and you don't have to be good at everything. You should allow some space for other people to flaunt their skills too, don't you think? It's just like how I'm terrible at cooking. You still survived under my care, didn't you?" she chuckled.

Eugene was right behind them, so he could hear their entire conversation. A fond smile spread across his face as he thought, I have to say that Olivia's really good at teaching her son. It's no wonder my son's such a talented boy. He was just about to join in on their conversation when his phone began to ring. He pulled it out to see that it was a call from Alex.

"Where are you guys? I'm on Promise Island now," Alex said through the call.

"That's really quick!" Eugene laughed.



"It's not. My heart already flew over a few days ago," Alex replied.

"You're so cheesy," Eugene commented.

"Aren't you the same?" Alex asked.

"I'll send you an address, and you can head over there now. We're just walking around outside the place."

"Okay," Alex replied. After they ended the call, Eugene sent an address to Alex. Then, Olivia took a glance at Jewel. "Guess who just called, Jewel."

Jewel shook her head. She knew that Alex was visiting since he had told her through text the night before. However, she hadn't replied to him yet. For some reason, she had a feeling that Olivia and Eugene were trying to get her to hate him.

'Stop trying to mess with me and me once we get home. I don't like him at all.' She typed into her phone.

"Did you guys fight?" Olivia eyed her friend puzzledly.

Jewel started to get impatient. 'I'm not related to him at all—what's there to fight about? I'm nice to him only because he's your husband's friend.'

"I know. It's fine. We don't expect you guys to do anything. You can like him if you want to, or you guys can just be friends otherwise," Olivia stated.

Jewel nodded. Although Eugene was walking in front the whole time, he could guess what the situation was like between Jewel and Alex. I bet Alex lost control of himself and got too aggressive with Jewel. That's why she's so disgusted by him.

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Jewel started to get impatient. 'I'm not related to him at all—what's there to fight about? I'm nice to him only because he's your husband's friend.'

"I know. It's fine. We don't expect you guys to do anything. You can like him if you want to, or you guys can just be friends otherwise," Olivia stated.

Jewel nodded. Although Eugene was walking in front the whole time, he could guess what the situation was like between Jewel and Alex. I bet Alex lost control of himself and got too aggressive with Jewel. That's why she's so disgusted by him.

## Chapter 677

Alex probably thought that she's still the old Jean. Well, Jewel will definitely teach him a thing or two. The few of them took a long stroll home while they enjoyed the view around them. By the time they got back, Alex had already arrived, but he wasn't alone—he had come with Hayden, Nicole, and Penny! This combination came as a surprise to Eugene.

Eugene hadn't intended to reveal his mother to the Nolan Family so soon, especially since Lara and Edward hadn't received their sentence. However, there was nothing he could do since they were already there. The whole group wore looks of disbelief as they stared at Ellen, who was standing in the middle of the hall. They didn't know what to say at all.

Even though Ellen looked a little older since the last time they had met ten years ago, they could still clearly recognize who she was, especially since Eugene was living in the same house as her. Alex was filled with regret the moment they bumped into each other. He realized that he shouldn't have brought so many people along with him. Alternatively, Alex could've informed Eugene about his plans first. He hadn't expected Eugene's mother to be alive after so long!

What were they going to do now? It would've been fine if it were only Alex and Hayden who had visited the house, but the issue was that Nicole and Penny had come along with them. Penny, in particular, was shocked to see Ellen. "Are you Ellen? Are you still alive?"

Nicole regretted her actions as well. She had brought Penny over to annoy Olivia, but she hadn't expected Eugene's mother to still be alive. Nicole was worried that Eugene would be turned off by all of them. However, it was too late for them to change anything. No one had expected such a thing to happen.

On the other hand, Ellen couldn't properly recognize all of them. They had changed a lot throughout their teenage years, so she couldn't tell who they were. She was caught in an awkward position where she didn't know how to respond to her visitors when Eugene and the rest of them walked up to her. "It's fine, Mom. Let's take a seat first," Eugene uttered.

Alex wore a sorry look as he gazed at Eugene. He wanted to explain himself, but Eugene's expression was dark. What was more, Eugene wasn't looking at him at all. Alex let out a sigh in his heart. "You guys should take a seat since all of you are here," Eugene uttered.

Penny glared at Eugene with a furious look on her face. "Isn't your mother well and alive, Eugene? Why would you claim that my mother sent someone to hit your mother?!"

Eugene shot Penny an icy glare. "My mother's only alive because she's lucky. The fact that my mother is alive doesn't cancel out the fact that your mother tried to kill her."

"But you sued my mother for hitting and killing your mother!" Penny screamed. "Do you know how different the sentence is for murdering someone in comparison to harming someone?!"

Nicole immediately held Penny back. "Stop talking," Nicole whispered. But Penny wrestled her way out of Nicole's arms. "I went to talk! You're providing fake evidence in court! This is perjury!"

Eugene's face was as cold as ice. "I want you to take a good look at the indictment when you get home. I filed the court case because your mother hired someone to murder others more than once. Do you think this is the only thing she did? Do you think there's anything wrong with the other sentences? I have witnesses and physical evidence of the fact that your mother sent someone to hit my mother. Her main intention was to murder my mother. My mother didn't die, but that doesn't change your mother's sentence for her wrongdoings!" he uttered in a stern voice.

Tears began to stream down Penny's face as she glared at Eugene. "How could you be so heartless? Your mother didn't die, so why would you send my mother to jail? Why are you putting me through this?"

"Why can't we just spend time as a family like we used to? I'm begging you, Eugene..."

Eugene replied in the same icy voice, "We will never be able to live together as a family again!"

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Eugene replied in the same icy voice, "We will never be able to live together as a family again!"

## Chapter 678

"Why?" Penny glared at Olivia angrily. "It's all because of her. If she didn't show up, we would have still been the way we were in the past. Even though my mother always scolds me, and even though my father doesn't have much of an opinion, they're still doing fine. Now that they're both in the detention center, my whole family is gone! It's all her fault! All because of her..." She pointed at Olivia.

Olivia was speechless. She felt like she was attacked even though she didn't do anything. Eugene knitted his brows together as he refuted Penny's words. "As I said, this has got nothing to do with anyone else. Even if Olivia wasn't here, I still wouldn't be able to remain like a family with your mother. I'll never forget what your mother tried to do to mine."

"Why did you only start targeting my mother now? It's all because of her." Penny was still pointing at Olivia.

Eugene's eyes were filled with a deadly hatred for the other woman. "Do you think I didn't want to do it earlier? I was afraid that Grandpa wouldn't be able to accept it if I, his grandson, killed his son. You should be glad that your mother's still in the detention center. That only happened because Grandpa begged us to show some mercy to your parents. Otherwise, she wouldn't be there at all."

Upon hearing his words, Penny was too shocked to even cry. Her tears stayed at the corners of her eyes as she spoke. "What do you mean?" But Eugene couldn't be bothered to explain things to her. "I can't talk to you when you're being so emotional. You shouldn't blame others for any of this. Your mom deserves what she got! If you feel like there's anything wrong, you can hire a lawyer to defend your mom. Now, I want you to get lost!" he growled.

Penny took one look at Eugene's determined gaze before she turned and ran off. Nicole glanced at Eugene before she, too, chased after Penny. Alex, on the other hand, parted his lips to apologize. "I'm

sorry, Eugene. It's all my fault. I didn't know about this whole situation, and I... I thought it'd just be the few of you on the island."

Eugene leaned against his chair lazily. He didn't feel like talking for a while. Even though he knew that Alex hadn't done it intentionally, he'd be lying if he said that he wasn't angry. At the start, Eugene only got Alex to come over because he wanted to help with Alex's love life. However, Eugene hadn't expected Alex to bring Hayden, Nicole, and even Penny along with him! The more people there were, the more Eugene's mother would be harassed by these individuals' words.

Furthermore, the incident might cause a delay in the court sentence as the police would have to reinvestigate the case. It might even change the final sentence. I guess I'm at fault too. Maybe I should have reminded Alex about this, Eugene thought.

Olivia noticed how quiet Eugene was, and she decided that she wouldn't allow the awkwardness to continue lingering in the air. Since things had already happened the way they did, there was no reason for them to continue holding a grudge against Alex.

"It's fine. They would've found out eventually, anyway. Eugene had no intention of keeping his mother here forever," she uttered. Alex wore a look of utter remorse on his face. "I know, but I shouldn't have done this at such a time. I'm worried that it might affect the final verdict of the case!"

"Don't worry too much about it. I don't think it'll have much of an impact. Eugene sued her for intentional homicide, so it shouldn't affect anything."

Brian scoffed upon hearing their conversation. "As I said, we should've dealt with this on our own. Then, none of this would have happened!"

Ellen shot Brian a glare. "How do you plan on dealing with things? Why do you sound just like your brother? You guys keep thinking of using violence to resolve everything. It has been so many years now. I've let go of all the things that I love and hate, and I've achieved a state of inner peace within me.

I don't care about the court's sentence as that man is just a stranger to me. You guys shouldn't allow yourselves to get too worked up about this. It's the new year, and it's not worth it for our moods to be ruined by some guy like him."

After Ellen finished speaking, Jewel suddenly tugged on Ellen's arm before sticking her thumb out. "You agree, don't you, Jewel?" Ellen beamed.

Jewel responded with a nod.

"You're right, Mrs. Nolen. It's true that we shouldn't allow them to crush our high spirits," Olivia uttered with a smile.

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Jewel responded with a nod.

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## Chapter 679

Olivia then reached her arm out to tug on Eugene's arm when she saw that he still seemed rather down. "Stop putting on that glum look! This whole issue is dealt with now, and it's so rare for you, Alex, and Hayden to get together. Shouldn't you guys be partying hard tonight?" Olivia asked.

Eugene finally allowed himself to calm down a little upon hearing Olivia's gentle tone. He held her hand without saying much. "It's hard to get me drunk," he muttered after a while.

"I'll train you from now on!" Olivia offered.

"Sure. I'll drink a little more each night," Eugene replied. Olivia nodded in response. Alex wanted to explain himself a little more, but no matter how much he tried to explain himself, he wouldn't be able to change whatever just happened, so he figured that he would just keep quiet.

Hayden, on the other hand, kept his mouth shut the entire time. He wanted to go to Nicole, but he was worried that the others might think that he was straying away from the group. At the same time, he was



concerned since it was getting dark outside. "It's getting late, so I think I should go out to look for them. You guys can start drinking first!" He stood up as he spoke.

"Once you find them, you should get them to stay in a hotel first. They can head home the next day," Alex suggested. Since he was the one who brought them over, it wouldn't look good if anything happened to them.

"Okay." Hayden left after that. When Alex met Eugene's gaze, he tried to explain himself again. "Hayden asked me out to ski one day before the new year, and I told him that I was going to meet you. He asked me where you were, and I told him you were at Promise Island. I asked him if he wanted to join, and he said no. But after that, he changed his mind for some reason, and the three of them— Penny, Nicole, and Hayden—showed up at my front door the next morning. I didn't think too much and

just brought them over. I thought it'd serve as a surprise for you, but it seems like it was more of a shock." Before Eugene could say anything else, Ellen spoke up first. "It's fine. You're Alex, right?"

"Yeah. How are you doing, Mrs. Nolan?" Alex said.

"I'm good. How's your mother?" Ellen asked.

"She's doing fine too," Alex replied.

"You guys can sit around for a while, and I'll prepare some food. You can enjoy your drinks later," Ellen uttered as she stood up.

Jewel hurriedly got up before signing a few words to Ellen. 'Let me help you.'

Ellen told Jewel to take a seat, but Jewel shook her head stubbornly as she followed her over. Alex's gaze had been following Jewel the whole time—he watched her every movement.

Eugene glared at him angrily. "What are you looking at? Someone as dumb as you should stay single forever."

Alex held his hands up to signal defeat. "I got it, Eugene. I made a mistake, so I'll stay alone for my whole life. Can you calm down now?"

"That's too little! You should be single in your next life as well!" Eugene cried.

Alex stuck his bottom lip out. "That's a little too harsh. Will you still be mad at me even if I'm single for this entire lifetime? Are you trying to ruin my next life as well?"

"If you didn't—" Eugene wanted to put the blame on Alex, but he was worried that Jewel would overhear him, so he kept his mouth shut and shot Alex a glare in the end. Olivia knew that they had

reconciled by then. Even though Eugene was furious just now, what he valued more was his relationship with his friend.

Although Eugene had forgiven Alex, Brien was still frustrated over the situation. Eugene shouldn't have been part of this from the start. He cares too much about everything—he cares about Old Men Nolen, he cares about his wife and children, and now, he even cares about his good friends. If I got my hands on the person, I would have done it the old way—eye for an eye. I wouldn't have gone through the trouble of sending them to the detention center!

North widened his eyes and tilted his head up to look at Brien. "Are you mad at drinking alcohol too?"

Brien raised his hand to rub his knuckles against North's head. "What do you know, huh?" North pushed Brien's hand away before fixing his hair. "You messed my hair up," he mumbled grumpily.

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North widened his eyes and tilted his head up to look at Brian. "Are you bad at drinking alcohol too?"

Brian raised his hand to rub his knuckles against North's head. "What do you know, huh?" North pushed Brian's hand away before fixing his hair. "You messed my hair up," he mumbled grumpily.

## Chapter 680

Brian let out a laugh. "You sure are a narcissist."

"Well, you're worse at me in gaming, and you're worse at me in chess, so with drinking..." Before North could finish his words, Brian pouted. "What is it? Do you think I'd be worse than you at drinking?" Brian uttered.

North glared at the other boy speechlessly. "Why can't you let me finish talking? I was going to say that you'd be worse than my mother. I'm a child, so I can't drink. When I grow up, then I'll be better than you!"

Brian chuckled. "How old are you? How dare you start bragging at this age?"

"How is this bragging? According to genetics, I believe my alcohol tolerance will be better than yours," North uttered.

"Have you heard of this saying which claims that most nephews grow up to be like their uncles? According to genetics, there are higher chances that you end up like me!" Brian said.

North froze for a moment before thinking about Brian's words. "Well, when I grow up, you'll be old, so I'll still be better than you."

"The older you get, the better you are at drinking. Tolerance comes through training," Brian stated.

"Are you forcing me to start training now?" North asked. Brian laughed at his comment. "I think that's a good idea. We can start tonight." North immediately stood up and leaned against the couch before shouting in Ellen's direction. "Grandma, Uncle Brian is telling me to start drinking alcohol at this age..."

Brian was so shocked that he quickly clamped his palm over the boy's mouth before dragging him away and threatening him fiercely. "Do you want me to beat you up, you little brat?"

"Grandma, Uncle Brian is trying to hit me..." North cried again. Ellen shouted a stern warning from the kitchen. "Don't you dare bully North, Brian! I'll beat you up!"

North was pleased, while Brian quickly explained himself. "I didn't do anything. This brat is framing me." He then turned to glare at North. "All you do is tell on me. Can't you do anything else?"

North spoke like a wise old man. "It's not about how many tactics you have, but how well they work." Brian figured that North's words were true—Ellen was clearly biased toward North and would even beat Brian up for the sake of the younger boy. Brian felt like he had been tricked by the young boy a few times.

"How do you feel about not getting to meet Dora today?" Brian intentionally attacked North's sensitive spot.

"I feel the same as you felt earlier, but I will be able to find her once I'm all grown up!" North narrowed his eyes as he thought about the girl longingly. Brian froze for a moment. All of a sudden, Brian realized how the young boy might have been using this method to cheer him up all along. Now, I don't feel the same urge to kill someone as I did earlier. Even though my nephew is always annoying me and talking

back to me, I'm sure that I stand third place in his heart if his parents take the first and second spot. But North is like his mother—he can be rather arrogant sometimes. He doesn't seem to reveal his true feelings at all.

Brian lowered his head to let out a chuckle. Blood ties sure are miraculous. Even though we're always arguing, I still like him a lot. Meanwhile, Olivia and Eugene, who sat a distance away, had already noticed how North was trying to distract Brian from the earlier incident. In other words, North had been trying to cheer Brian up.

Alex, on the other hand, didn't seem to realize anything. He simply thought that the young boy was as sneaky as Olivia.

On the other hand, Nicole had soon caught up with Penny. They couldn't return home at that point, so they had no choice but to stay there for the night. Nicole dragged Penny, who was sobbing badly, over to one of the hotels on Promise Island.

Earlier, Nicole personally felt like it was a bad idea to bring Penny over, but none of them had expected Ellen to be alive. Since they had gotten to that point, Nicole figured that she would just go on with her initial plan.

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