

Unfinished 681

Chapter 681

Once they got into the room, Nicole poured Penny a glass of water. "Stop crying. Drink some water," Nicole uttered.

Penny took the glass from her. "How did he change so quickly?" she asked while crying.

Nicole let out a sigh as she got Penny to sit down. "You shouldn't be sad over this anymore. Eugene's just too heartless. He wasn't like this in the past. He used to be so good to you and all of his friends. Now... Ah! Fine. Perhaps our sudden appearance today threw him off. I guess he had no choice but to speak his true feelings when you questioned him," Nicole replied.

Penny slammed the glass down on the table with a loud smack. "Now that he has a wife and a son, he no longer cares about anyone else. He left Old Man Nolan all alone at home during the new year, and he brought his family over on vacation here. I don't believe it when he says that it isn't because of Olivia. He wouldn't be so guarded if it weren't for Olivia!"

"He doesn't have a choice. He has to protect her since she's his girlfriend. Come to think of it, Ellen and your mother had a grudge against one another since years ago, yet he had never thought of hurting your mother as he was worried that Old Man Nolan wouldn't be able to handle it. In the end, he only got involved because your mother messed around with Olivia. Eugene was the first to jump to the rescue then. However, his response had been a little too intense. He can ignore the feelings of others, but not yours. Imagine having your family in jail and your entire home ruined for the new year celebration. No one would be able to handle such a thing," Nicole uttered.

Penny was crying harder at this point. "Who does he think of apart from Olivia? He doesn't care about anyone else. Didn't you hear him threatening to mess with my parents? Do you think he's even human?!"

"So, I don't think you should go against his wishes anymore. You may be close to him, but I don't think he'll give in when he has to protect Olivia," Nicole responded.

Penny let out an angry grunt. "It's all Olivia's fault. She ruined my family." When Nicole heard what Penny said, she couldn't help but raise an eyebrow before speaking. "You shouldn't say that in front of your brother. We can't afford to get him mad now."

Penny scoffed. "I don't think he would dare to do anything to me!" she cried.

"What are you planning?" Nicole asked.

"I want revenge, of course. Are you sure that the young kid is biologically related to my brother?" Penny asked in return.

"Who knows? Your brother claimed that he is—who would dare go against your brother's words? He also published a DNA report, right?" Nicole said.

"Who knows if it's legitimated?" Penny suggested while Nicole played along. "That's true. He'd do anything for Olivia," Nicole agreed. Upon ending her phone call, Nicole's phone began to ring. It was a call from Heyden, and both Penny and Nicole exchanged glances before looking up. "I thought it'd be your brother calling to check on you because it's so late," Nicole uttered.

Penny scoffed. "He wouldn't think of me at a time like this." But Nicole simply let out a sigh before she tapped the call button on her phone. "Heyden."

Heyden's worried voice came from the other end of the line. "Where are you? Did you find Penny?"

"I did. We're at the hotel," Nicole replied.

"I'll come over to meet you guys," Heyden suggested. After Nicole agreed and ended the call, she turned to Penny. "Alright. Stop being so sad. I understand how you feel, but there's really no point in

crying over spilled milk. Why don't you spend the money to find a good lawyer for your mother? We should reduce their sentences as much as we can. You'll get a chance to be with your parents once they're out."

However, Penny clutched onto Nicole as she began to cry again. "He's such a heartless person. Even if my parents wronged him, I never did anything, did I? How could he be so heartless to me?"

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Nicole stroked Penny's hair while advising her gently. "You shouldn't put any hopes on him—that way, you won't feel any disappointment. That's all in the past."

Penny let go of her and looked up. "With you, is he also..."

"No. I was just feeling sentimental for a while," Nicole uttered.

"Do you like my brother?" Penny asked.

Nicole let out a sigh. "I won't have much to say if he finds himself a good woman. But now, he's with a woman who has a child, and she has been causing so much trouble in the Nolan family after just being with him for a few months. I really don't know what to say."

"Just tell her to drop dead, then!" Penny uttered hatefully.

Nicole seemed rather nervous, but there was a hint of excitement in her eyes. "Hey, you shouldn't get so aggressive. Who do you think Olivia is? She isn't going to die so easily. Your brother would come in the way first."

Penny scoffed. "Is there anything that I can do if I don't get past him first?"

Nicole 'kindly' revealed more information to the other girl. "You shouldn't do anything rash. Olivia isn't someone you should underestimate—the regular person can't even get close to her!"

"What do you mean? Does she have really good combat skills?" Penny asked.

"I heard she's pretty good," Nicole replied.

"I got it," Penny said.

Nicole spoke in a rather annoyed tone. "Did you understand what I meant? What did you get?" Right then, someone rang the doorbell to their room. Penny gave Nicole a look before she went to open the door.

"You're here, Hayden. Hurry up and help me speak some sense into Penny. She's still crying," Nicole said as she opened the door. Hayden walked in and gazed at Penny, whose eyes were red from crying. "Stop crying. This is between your parents and Eugene. Now that Eugene's mother is alive, your parents' sentence might be lessened. Perhaps they'll only be in there for a few years. You shouldn't meddle with anything now!"

Penny scoffed. "It's all because Olivia got involved in this. Otherwise, my brother wouldn't be so heartless."

"This doesn't have much to do with Olivia. Didn't you visit your mother? Your mother tried to poison Eugene and North—Eugene isn't going to let things slip so easily because of this. Furthermore, with all the grudges that had been accumulated throughout the years... Eugene only held back in the past because of Old Man Nolan. Didn't he tell you this? This whole thing is too complicated, and you don't understand the full truth. All you have to do is find a good lawyer that can defend your parents!"

"Yeah. Since you have been expanding your work in Mastar, you should just stay outside the country," Nicole added.

"Why should I do that? I'm part of the Nolan family, so why can't I come back? If anyone's leaving, it should be Olivia! Alright. Stop trying to convince me to do anything. I know what to do," Penny hissed before she returned to her room.

Nicole threw her hands up in the air helplessly. "Did you see that? My mouth is going to fall off my face by the time I convince her to do anything." Nicole let out a sigh. "It's my fault as well. I shouldn't have

gotten her to join us. She cried for the whole of last night, so my intention was just to bring her out. At first, I thought I would bring her to go skiing, but they ended up insisting that we should visit Eugene once they heard that Eugene was here. I guess they wanted to beg Eugene, but look at how this turned out."

"We should leave this all to fate. We'll just do our best," Hayden said.

"I bet Eugene is mad now, right? How did Alex explain himself?" Nicole asked.

"He didn't say much. He just claimed that they had come over to have fun and that they didn't know it would turn out like this. Alright. Stop overthinking this. Do you want to go back to take a look? Or do you want to stay here with her?"

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"I think it'd look bad if I don't go back to pay them a visit, right? Should I go back and explain myself to them?" Nicole asked.

"Let's go then. I'll go with you," Hayden uttered.

Meanwhile, at the villa, Olivia and the rest of them had already had their meal along with some alcohol. The three men at the table could already feel the effects of alcohol in their bloodstream. Olivia and Jewel, on the other hand, couldn't feel much.

Alex knew how high Olivia's tolerance was, but he hadn't expected Jewel's tolerance to be so high as well. He used sign language to speak to her. 'Why is your tolerance so high?'

Jewel was surprised to see him using sign language. 'How do you know sign language?' She signed back.

'I wanted to talk to you, so I learned a few things.' Alex explained. However, it seemed like he learned more than just a few things—his movements were so smooth that it seemed like he could hold a full conversation with her. She was shocked. Did he learn sign language just to talk to me?

She smiled. 'I used to train my tolerance intentionally.' Alex quickly recalled how Eugene once told him about their stay at Double Dragon Court. He figured that she must have trained it back then. It wasn't easy to become a contract killer—she couldn't have any weaknesses as she would definitely get injured or die. Alex could only imagine how much she had struggled in the past.

All of a sudden, Alex felt rather frustrated. It felt like there was a rock weighing down on his chest, making it hard for him to breathe. His gaze was filled with agony as he looked at her. "Have you gotten drunk before?"

'Of course. There was once when I passed out after getting drunk. Olivia was the one who sent me back.' Jewel signed.

Olivia gazed at both of them before teasing them. "Can you guys communicate through speaking?"

"We don't want you eavesdropping," Alex uttered with a smile.

"Do you think I won't understand if you use sign language? I've been spending a lot of time with Jewel, so I understand some of it, okay?" Olivia said.

"I'm so jealous!" Alex replied. He didn't make things clear with his words, but Olivia understood that he was jealous because she could show up in front of her anytime while he couldn't do the same. He didn't get to spend much time with her, so he could only learn sign language on his own. He simply didn't want to waste time typing things on the phone when he wanted to talk to her.

"How much can you drink?" Alex asked Jewel. Jewel held one finger out as she eyed him playfully. He raised an eyebrow. "One bottle? Is it one bottle of white wine?" He gazed at the bottle in front of her. One bottle of white wine was a lot.

"You don't understand, do you?" Olivia asked.

Alex suddenly understood what she meant. "Do you mean that you can keep drinking?" Jewel let out a laugh. "You're afraid now, aren't you?" Olivia asked. All of the men knew that they couldn't mess with Jewel then. The atmosphere at the table was rather lively. All of them were chatting with each other when Hayden and Nicole suddenly showed up.

Eugene didn't seem too surprised, and he greeted them calmly. "Sit down and join us!" Hayden greeted Nicole. "Okay," Nicole replied with a smile.

Once they set down, Nicole raised her glass. "I'm so sorry about today, Eugene. I was the one who told Penny to come. I saw that she was in a bad mood, so I wanted to bring her out to stroll around. When she heard that you guys were here, she insisted on coming, so I changed our plans and came over. I didn't know things would turn out like this, so I'm drinking an apology to you. Cheers!"

"It's fine." Eugene held his glass up. Hayden raised his glass as he added to the conversation. "I was the one who suggested having the trip. It's my fault too."

"What's this? Why are you guys taking turns to apologize? I'm not blaming you guys. There's no difference whether you guys find out now or later—I'm planning to bring my mom home soon, anyway. Even if you guys didn't come, they would find out about it eventually. You guys don't need this as a reason to drink," Eugene teased.

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When everyone saw Eugene's expression soften, they all smiled along with him, and the atmosphere was lightened once more. Nicole took a mouthful of the food before complimenting it. "Did you prepare all of this, Mrs. Nolan? It tastes so good."

"Jewel was the one who made this!" Ellen said.

Only then did Nicole notice Jewel. "Oh. This is..."

Ellen was excited to introduce Jewel. "This is my goddaughter, Jewel." Jewel beamed at Ellen. Alex was surprised to hear this, and he signed a few words to Jewel. 'What does that mean? How did you end up as Mrs. Nolan's goddaughter?'

'We just happened to get along well, so Mrs. Nolan took me as her granddaughter.' Jewel signed. Alex was glad to hear that. Since Jewel's biological mother wasn't around, at least Jewel had someone who cared about her. Jewel could really use some love in her life. "Congratulations!" he uttered.

Jewel beamed at him. Nicole noticed how odd Alex and Jewel's interactions seemed, so she gave Hayden a puzzled stare. Hayden gave her a subtle shake of his head to indicate that he didn't know what was going on. However, Nicole didn't think about this for long, and she stood up with her wine glass before she turned to Olivia. "This is to you, Olivia. Thank you for helping my aunt treat her illness. You're truly a genius doctor."

"No worries. It's all part of my job," Olivia replied.

"Sean told me that you donated the fees to the orphanage. So, that's how you do charity! I'm really impressed," Nicole said.

Olivia curled her lips into a smile. "Some people like it while others don't. It doesn't matter to me—I'm just doing whatever I think is right." Nicole felt awkward for a moment. "Yeah. I seem to know you a little better now after hearing about this. I hope that we can be friends."

Olivia smiled. Does she know how high my standards are when selecting friends? Does she want to be my friend? She's just someone who puts on an act in front of me and says something else behind my back. Olivia raised her glass to finish the alcohol in it. She didn't agree with Nicole's words, but she finished her drinks.

It was clear that Olivia didn't want Nicole as a friend, but that she also didn't want to create an awkward atmosphere at the table. Most of them didn't realize any tension between the two women, but Eugene knitted his brows together slightly. "What is it? Is she causing trouble?" Eugene asked.

"No." Olivia shook her head as she whispered.

"But you don't like her, do you?" he asked.

"How did you conclude that?"

"You didn't agree to be her friend," he explained.

"I drank with her, didn't I?" Olivia asked.

"But you didn't agree to be her friend," he stated. "This is different from making friends," he pointed out.

Olivie let out a giggle before giving him a sweet smile. "I'll tell you about it later." Both of them were extremely close—their heads were practically stuck together. Alex teased them for this. "That's about enough for today. How could you guys do this when there are so many single people here?"

Nicole gave them a gentle smile as she spoke up. "Yeah. You guys should tell us about your secret," she added. Olivie looked into Nicole's eyes, which seemed threatening despite her gentle gaze.

Olivie quickly gave an excuse. "We're a couple, so we can't share all our secrets. I'm afraid you guys would have an overload of information if we did tell you," she uttered. All the rest of the people began to laugh.

Although both Eugene and Olivie were trying their best to maintain the atmosphere at the table, it still felt rather odd! After their dinner, Nicole announced that she was returning to the hotel. "You can stay wherever you want to. There are rooms here too," Eugene offered.

"It's fine," Nicole said. "Penny's the only one in the hotel, so I should go spend time with her. She's rather unstable, so I'm worried that something might happen."

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Hayden quickly helped Nicole with her bag. "Let me go with you, then. I'm worried since you both are girls."

"I'm sure that's not the only reason, but I assure you that Promise Island is definitely a safe place to be," Eugene said.

Hayden and Nicole both chuckled before leaving.

"Are you not leaving?" Eugene turned to look at Alex.

"I'm drunk. I can't walk," Alex said as he leaned against the couch lazily. As he spoke, he turned to Ellen and smiled at her. "Can I stay at your house tonight, Mrs. Nolan?"

Ellen beamed. "Of course you can. Hold on; let me prepare a room for you."

"I'll help you, Mrs. Nolan." Alex stood up immediately.

She rejected his offer. "It's fine. There isn't much to do. I tidied the place up when my classmates came over recently, so I just have to change the bedsheets for you."

"I can do it with you," he offered before he tagged along behind Ellen.

Eugene stared at Olivia before questioning her. "Did you bump into Nicole when you went to treat Sean's mother?" he asked.

Olivia nodded. "Yeah. I didn't know they were biologically related."

"What did she say?" he asked.

"She didn't say much," she answered while looking him in his eyes. "She was standing up for you."

"For me?" He was puzzled.

She continued to stare at him without blinking. "What? Don't you understand?"

"I don't. What do you mean when you say that she was standing up for me?" He nodded.

Olivia stretched on the couch in a lazy manner as her gaze turned dark. "She thought that I was scamming you by charging 50 million for your grandfather's illness."

Eugene still didn't understand it. "What was her issue then?"

"Yeah. Why was she speaking up for you?" she asked in return.

He looked at her before trying to explain himself.

"I'm not related to her in any way," he claimed.

"I didn't say anything," she pointed out. Despite this, she continued to stare at him without looking away at all. She glared at him for so long that he began to wonder whether he ever crossed any boundaries with Nicole.

He thought about it for a long time, only to conclude that there hadn't been such an issue. Then, he edged closer to her before speaking in a flattering tone. "Don't stare at me like that. Tell me—what did you say to her?"

Olivia looked at him with a wild expression. "I told her that it wasn't just the 50 million that I received. Even you belong to me!"

Eugene let out a chuckle. "That sounds just like my domineering girlfriend!"

Both North and Brien, who had been listening, stuck their thumbs out. "That's impressive."

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That night, everyone returned to their own rooms. Eugene and Olivia lay on the bed. This was his favorite time of the day—when he got to cuddle up and sleep with his pleasant-smelling women. He wished he could spend the rest of his life doing just that.

At first, he just placed his arm around her waist, but he slowly grew hungrier for her. He felt like there was still some distance between their bodies, so he pulled her in closer.

She stared at him exasperatedly before scaring him off with her glare. "Do you want me to use some needles on you again?"

"What is it?" Eugene gave her an innocent look.

"Don't you feel hot when you're sleeping so close to me?" she asked.

"No. I'm cold," he replied.

She reached her hand over to wipe off the sweat on the tip of his nose. "Do you... have a kidney issue, then?"

His expression darkened upon hearing her words. "Do you want to give me a chance to show you whether my kidneys are functioning?"

"If you're sweating while claiming that you're cold, this may be classified as night sweats. Night sweats only occur when you have kidney issues," she stated in a matter-of-fact tone.

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Eugene was speechless for a moment. "I'd like to write a research paper," he finally said.

"What about?" she replied.

"I'd like to discuss the experience of having a genius doctor as my wife," he replied. She laughed at his statement. "Why don't you start with a 500-word essay? I'd like to hear about it."

"I can't fake an illness in front of my wife because she'd definitely see through my lies," he started.

"Then?"

"Then, I'd like to ask you a question," he said.

"What is it?" she asked.

"How is it possible for logic to overcome one's physical needs?" he asked. She eyed him speechlessly. This nasty man always brings our topic back to this. "What would you define as logical? What do you mean by physical needs?" she asked.

Eugene let go of Olivia a little before moving about 15 inches away. "Logically, I should be about this distance away from you. But physically, I crave to be this close to you!" He moved closer to her and pulled her in for a hug. "Even then, I feel like it's not enough!" he cried.

Olivia felt annoyed and amused at the same time. He's just too adorable! "There's an easy way to resolve this," she finally said.

"What is the solution?" he asked.

She gave him a sly look. "I'll just use my needle, and I'll make sure that it gets rid of all your maladies! Let me do it now."

He quickly hugged her before coaxing her. "Forget it. I think I can still control myself for now!"

"Can you do it?" she asked him icily.

He nodded like a woman who couldn't speak up for herself. "Sure." He moved away as he spoke.

"More," Olivia said with a stiff expression. He moved a little farther away from her. She stared at him. It wouldn't be right to say that he hadn't moved, but he had only moved an inch or two at most. In the end, she decided not to fool around with him, and she moved away on her own.

He quickly edged closer to her. She pressed her hand against him to stop him from coming close. "How shameless can you get, Eugene?"

Eugene revealed all of his shamelessness in front of her—he grabbed her hand and pulled her directly toward his chest. He pressed his palm against her face and moved close toward her red lips. She was both annoyed and speechless. It was just as he had described it—going to bed without doing anything was somewhat going against a man's physical needs.

What could she do? Since she was the one who had chosen her boyfriend, she would have to spoil him.

Meanwhile, Jewel didn't feel the same way. Alex texted Jewel the moment he got back to his room. 'What are your plans tomorrow, Jewel?'

She responded in a cold tone. 'That depends on Olivia.'

'I'll pay for all your expenses. You guys can go wherever you wish to,' he replied.

'You don't have to worry about me. I don't mind going anywhere,' she replied. Alex scratched the back of his head as he wondered, How am I supposed to chase after this woman? In the past, Jewel and I used to be classmates, so we got together naturally. Back then, I don't recall doing much. We just took walks in the park and watched some movies. Would Jewel be willing to do that with me now? I don't think so, right?

He didn't seem to know what she liked or didn't like. In the past, he had always been proud of his understanding of women, but that skill seemed to have disappeared with Jewel. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't seem to understand her. She responded whenever he spoke to her, but her responses were always cold.

Perhaps Eugene is right. She's different from those women who went to get in bed with me. I don't need to chase after those women; they come whenever I hold my arms out to them. That's why all my tricks

don't work with Jewel. People like Jewel and Olivia don't need men to support them; they survive fine on their own. It's almost as if they don't need men at all.

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How was he supposed to chase after women like them? 'Would you like to watch a movie, Jewel?' After he texted her, she didn't respond for a long time. He grew anxious as he waited. Right when he was contemplating whether to provide her with another option, Jewel responded. 'You should ask Eugene and Olivia about this, not me.'

Alex felt like persisting for a while longer, but he also felt eager to get closer to her. If Olivia was a tough one to get, Jewel was probably the ultimate challenge. At least North had managed to pull Olivia and

Eugene a little closer to each other. There was nothing that tied Alex to Jewel. If Alex continued on with his stubborn, traditional approach, when would he ever be able to get the girl's heart?

All of a sudden, he felt the urge to reveal his feelings toward her. He no longer wanted to be secretly in love with her, as there had been no progress in their relationship throughout this period. 'Don't you know that I only came here because of you, Jewel?' This time, after he sent the text, he received a response extremely quickly. It wasn't a short response either.

'I'm not that close to you, Mr. Road. You're Eugene and Olivia's friend, so I speak to you a little more just out of respect for them. I apologize if I've ever given you any mixed signals. You don't need to do anything for me, and you don't need to waste your time here.'

Was that clear enough? Was that straightforward enough? Upon reading that she wasn't close to him, he felt like he was back at square one. All of the progress he thought he had was actually just her being nice out of common courtesy.

Alex regretted his rash decision —he shouldn't have revealed his feelings toward her so soon. Will this scare her away? He stared at her text and went through every sentence, word by word. I don't get it.

We've known each other for nearly a month, and we've been texting almost every day. Why is she still so cautious with me? What should I do now? How do I resolve this?

Alex shut his eyes to calm his racing mind down. 'You misunderstood me. I meant that I was here to pass you something,' he texted in the end. However, his text was like a rock thrown into the deep ocean—he didn't receive a response from her after that. He sent another text a while later. 'I'll find time to pass it to you the next day!'

The next day, Brian and North stayed home to spend time with Ellen. Olivia, Eugene, Alex, and Jewel headed out together. Jewel didn't want to go along with them, but she couldn't say no due to Olivia's persistence. They ended up going to a hot springs resort.

It didn't take long for Olivia to sense that something was going on between Alex and Jewel. Throughout their trip to the hot springs, Alex kept looking at Jewel, while Jewel seemed like she was avoiding him. She wasn't just avoiding him; she was even avoiding his gaze. The few of them stayed in the hot springs for about 20 minutes before Olivia suggested going to the rest area.

Jewel quickly agreed to this idea—she felt like she was suffocated when she was there with Alex. Both Jewel and Olivia ordered a pot of tea. After a while, Olivia gave in to the urge to question Jewel. "What's up with you and Alex?" Both of them hadn't spoken to each other in the pool, and they didn't even make eye contact with one another.

What good was it for them to spend time together if they weren't even interacting? 'Nothing much.' Jewel signed.

"There's an odd tension between you guys. What did he say to you?" Olivia asked.

'He said he came here for me. Don't you think there's something wrong with him?' Jewel asked.

"He's just trying to go after you. What's wrong with that?" Olivia laughed.

'Why would anyone be interested in someone like me?' Jewel asked again.

"What's wrong with you? You're cute, pretty, capable... Tons of men would love to go for you! If you don't like him, I'll find you some other guy," Olivia offered.

Jewel quickly agreed to this idea—she felt like she was suffocated when she was there with Alex. Both Jewel and Olivia ordered a pot of tea. After a while, Olivia gave in to the urge to question Jewel. "What's up with you and Alex?" Both of them hadn't spoken to each other in the pool, and they didn't even make eye contact with one another.

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"What's wrong with you? You're cute, pretty, capable... Tons of men would love to go for you! If you don't like him, I'll find you some other guy," Olivia offered.

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'Sure, sure. I'm a 'dead' person, so I have no rights at all.' Jewel signed to Olivia. "We're not in Double Dragon Court, and we'll never go back to that place, so you're a whole new person now. You should forget about the past and start a new life," Olivia said.

Jewel laughed without responding after that.

On the other side of the resort, Eugene was questioning Alex as well. "What's up with the both of you? Are you telling me that you didn't make any progress at all?"

Alex let out a weak sigh before he relaxed his body and leaned against the edge of the pool. He wore a troubled expression as he tilted his head backward. "I wouldn't be as sad if there was just no progress," Alex uttered.

"What happened?"

"We're back to square one," Alex replied.

"What do you mean?" Eugene didn't understand the other man. Alex didn't bother to keep anything a secret, and he told Eugene all about what happened the day before. "I was too impatient," Alex added at the end.

Eugene let out a sigh. He could relate to what Alex was going through. When Eugene first decided that Olivia was the woman he wanted, he was just as eager to confess to Olivia. After that, Olivia ignored him for a few days.

However, Eugene's case was better off than Alex's as Eugene was already friends with Olivia at that point. Olivia wasn't too cautious around him. Furthermore, they had been through a few major incidents

together, and Olivia was indebted to him, so she wasn't too harsh whenever she spoke to him. On top of that, Eugene received all the support from his son and grandfather, so he was much luckier than Alex was.

Although Eugene had struggled because his senior had gotten involved, he still had to admit that the whole incident had brought his relationship with Olivia to a higher level. They went from their probation period into an official relationship. Even all the bad things that occurred with Lara and Anna seemed to have pulled them closer to one another.

Alex, on the contrary, was inhibited by many factors. Firstly, Jewel was mute, so it took time and effort for them to communicate. Furthermore, she was a killer who had 'died' in Double Dragon Court, so she couldn't use her actual identity to get married. This entire thing was a troublesome mess.

"I'm wondering... I taught you so many tricks to win Olivia over. Why don't these tricks work on Jewel?" Alex asked.

Eugene eyed the other man exasperatedly. "Those cheap tricks of yours don't work at all." Alex's face turned glum immediately. "What should I do, then? Do you have any ideas?"

Eugene felt the urge to laugh while he teased Alex. "Didn't you claim that you were the most stunning man who could win any woman's heart? Why are you asking me for help now?"

"F*ck! Hurry up and answer me!" Alex hissed.

Eugene put on a cocky look as if to say that this was none of his business. "You're asking me for a favor, but you're not doing it nicely."

"I'm sorry, Eugene. That was my mistake. Hurry up and help me come up with a plan. What should I do now that she's so vigilant around me?" Alex asked.

Eugene let out another laugh. "Isn't this normal? She's like Olivia—both of them are really insecure. They've been on their own for years, and they've gotten used to being independent. That was how she met Olivia, and their shared background is how they got close to each other. You wouldn't even have gotten the chance to know Jewel otherwise," Eugene said.

"I'm not telling you to dissect her personality," Alex uttered in an urgent tone. "I'm asking you to help me go after her. She doesn't even want to talk to me now."

Eugene responded in a relaxed tone, "There's no use in rushing this. I told you—Jewel's an even harder target than Olivia. People like her are used to transactional relationships. If you try to help or care for her, she's going to think that you have ulterior motives, and this will scare her away."

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Alex kept quiet. He understood whatever Eugene was saying, but he hadn't expected things to take such a bad turn after his indirect confession. When Eugene noticed how quiet Alex was, Eugene decided not to make things hard for the other man. "I'm bad at chasing after girls too. But being in a relationship is sort of like a negotiation. It all depends on how badly you wish to sign this agreement. If you want it badly, then you should compromise a bit more in order to get it done, right?"

"I don't mind compromising, but she has to give me a chance to do it first!" Alex protested.

"Sometimes, it takes up to years to form a good business partnership. It's the same with women! Do you think you'd cooperate with every person who comes to Road Enterprise in search of a partnership? Life partners aren't just about money and effort; it's also about sincerity!" Eugene uttered.

The other man chuckled at Eugene's words. "Great. You're truly a love guru now, huh?"

Eugene felt rather impressed by himself. "I'm just giving you some advice based on my own experiences. You shouldn't brag about your experience with women, and you shouldn't think that it's always a strength for you to be good with your words. Women like them have gone after too many other men—they're considered to be experienced in this field, and the way they perceive men is just like the way you perceive women. They can easily see through any of your tricks. So, I'll leave you with these words of

wisdom—you should play fewer games and approach her with more sincerity. It will make things easier for you."

Alex felt the sudden urge to laugh. "Are you saying that they prefer men who are dumb and simple like you?"

Eugene shot Alex a glare. Although Eugene didn't think of himself as an idiot, he decided to give in just so that he could convince his good friend. "It's really not that bad to be simple-minded, you know."

Alex frowned as he eyed his friend suspiciously. "Are you sure? Don't all women enjoy being sweet-talked? Why would they prefer a dumb guy?"

Eugene sighed. "Everyone enjoys being sweet-talked, but flaunting your flirting skills also shows them that you've done this a lot of times. Perhaps you can brag about this among your male friends, but I don't think females would appreciate this. Would you like it if your girl has dated a lot of other men?"

A lightbulb seemed to light up in Alex's head right then. "I wouldn't."

"Well, women don't like it either. Isn't it the same logic? How did you get so good at talking to girls? Do you think she would like it if she knew that you had practiced your skills with tons of other girls?" Eugene asked.

Alex nodded. "You're right."

"You should interact with her more, and you should create opportunities for the both of you to bump into each other. You want her to get used to having you around every day so that she'll miss you when you're gone," Eugene suggested.

"But what should I do now? She isn't even talking to me," Alex whined.

"She's ignoring you because she wants you to take a step back. So, that's what you should do. You guys can be friends first, and once the relationship has been developed, then you can confess a little later.

You wouldn't just lay all your cards out when you first start discussing a partnership with another businessperson, would you?" Eugene said.

"You've definitely turned into a sneaky guy after getting into this relationship!" Alex exclaimed.

"How is this being sneaky? This is just me studying my target before I conquer her!" Eugene claimed.

Alex laughed heartily. "That's cool. I learned a lot from you today."

"I can't believe you were looking down on me before this!" Eugene replied playfully.

"Sigh. She's nothing like the girl she used to be. I really don't know what to do with her," Alex said.

"She's different from all the people who come up to you willingly. If you went to chase after her, you'll have to be more proactive. If you find it troublesome, then I'd advise you to just give up. You should do it before she falls for you so that you don't end up hurting her," Eugene suggested.

Alex glared at him. "Why wouldn't I go after her? I've been waiting for her for years."

"Well, since it has been years, then you can wait for a few more days, right?" Eugene said.

"I got it. I'll tolerate it for a while longer. By the way, why did your mother call Jewel her goddaughter?"

"My mother really likes her. When she found out that Jewel had once saved Olivia, and when she heard that Jewel had no other family, my mother felt bad for Jewel. So, my mother decided to take Jewel as her goddaughter during the night before the new year," Eugene explained.

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Chapter 690

Alex finally understood the situation. "I see. That's great."

"Jewel was really happy—she kowtowed to my mom and even called my mom her mother," Eugene said.

"What did you say? Did Jewel actually speak?" Alex was shocked.

"Yeah. But when Olivia got Jewel to speak again, Jewel couldn't do it anymore. Perhaps Jewel had been too happy for a moment," Eugene replied.

"That's great. It shows that there's some hope for Jewel's throat," Alex uttered.

Eugene sounded rather pleased with himself. "Yeah. Everything's curable when my girlfriend's the one doing the work."

"You're practically your girlfriend's ambassador," Alex replied.

"I know you're jealous," Eugene muttered in a calm tone.

Alex didn't bother to bicker with the other man. Instead, he turned to the two girls at the resting area some distance away. "I made her a new ID. It's troublesome for her to travel around with her fake one," Alex said.

"Yeah. That's a great idea. That gives you an opportunity to interact with her, doesn't it?" Eugene raised an eyebrow.

The few of them stayed in the hot springs resort until noon. Initially, Eugene and Olivia had brought the other two people out to hook them up, but neither of them was speaking to the other right then. The

atmosphere seemed rather awkward, so the four of them headed home after having lunch outside.

While they were on their way back, Olivia and Jewel walked in front while the two men followed behind. Alex didn't seem frustrated even after Jewel had ignored him for the whole morning. He wanted to give Jewel her the new ID, but he was afraid to do it as he was afraid of her rejection.

When he realized that they were about to arrive at the villa, he finally decided to call her. "Wait for me, Jewel. I have something that I'd like to pass to you."

Olivia and Eugene exchanged glances and beamed at each other. "We'll head home first, then." They naturally walked ahead while Jewel was left behind with Alex. Jewel was rather afraid to be alone with him, so she quickly made a few gestures. 'It's fine. I don't need it.'

Alex understood what she meant, so he responded in sign language as well. 'Are you saying that you don't need it even before you know what it is?'

She let out a sigh when she saw him responding in sign language. He learned sign language even though I didn't tell him to do so. For some reason, I feel rather guilty. It feels like I shouldn't disappoint his kind intentions. In the end, Jewel gave in. She stood silently in her spot and waited for him to approach her.

Alex quickly made his way to her. He took a glance at Olivia and Eugene, who was a distance away from them by then. 'Should we find a spot to sit?' Alex asked in sign language.

Jewel frowned slightly. 'You cen speak. I'm not deaf, you know.' She signed.

He chuckled. 'I'd like to communicete with you through sign lenuge. Doesn't it feel good to know thet no one else knows whet we're talking ebout?'

Jewel was speechless. The both of them found e bench to sit on by the side of the roed. Alex wes e thoughtful individuel, for he stopped Jewel right before she wes ebout to sit down. "Hold on." Then, he pulled out e hendkerchief end wiped the surfece of the bench before plecting his coet over it. "You cen sit now."

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She shook her heed. He wes worried that she would lose her petience, so he quickly pulled the ID cerd out of his pocket. "This is for you."

She hesitated for a moment before taking the card from him. When she saw that it was an ID card, she frowned a little. 'Jean Louis. 1st of August, 1993. Address: Summer City, Rainbow Street, Block 62-7, Room 203,' it wrote.

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pulled out a handkerchief and wiped the surface of the bench before placing his coat over it. "You can sit now."

However, Jewel felt bad after seeing what he did. It was fine if he just cleaned the bench, but he had even placed his coat on top of it. How was she supposed to sit on his clothes? So, she picked the coat up and handed it back to him before sitting down on the bench.

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