

Unfinished 691

Chapter 691

If she had just seen the information on the ID card, she wouldn't have been puzzled. However, she was shocked when she saw her picture on the card! 'What does this mean?' She signed.

'This is your new ID. From now on, you'll be Jean Louis. This is a brand-new identity. You should forget all about your horrible past and start fresh.'

The ID that Jewel carried around then didn't have her name on it either. She had her ways of making her seem like she was 'dead', and she knew that she could step forward to prove that she was alive after that. However, Double Dragon Court would be alerted if she did such a thing. She didn't want to go back to them, of course. So, she figured that she would make a fake ID just to survive. However, she still couldn't travel to places that required an ID, so she was afraid to go anywhere at all.

'Is this real?' She asked.

'Yes.' Alex replied in sign language.

'Where is this place?' She asked again.

"Do you want to go there? I can bring you there when we're back," he offered. She didn't want to have anything else to do with him. Yet, at the same time, she felt bad for rejecting him since she felt like she owed him a favor. So, she responded with a simple nod.

Alex felt like he had regained his confidence at that moment. "From now on, you can always let me know if you need anything. Although Eugene can help you out, he's a busy person, and he has to care for Olivia and North, so it might be hard for him to handle your matters as well."

'Thank you.' Jewel responded with a nod.

Alex beamed. "It's no worries at all. I wanted to give you this ID as a gift for the new year. When I heard Eugene say that you were here, I came over to find you. You don't need to feel pressured by anything."

You're Olivia and Eugene's friend, so you're my friend." Alex let out a sigh after finishing his words. Ugh. This is tough. I can't believe I have to call her my friend when she's the girl of my dreams.

Jewel felt a little better after hearing the man's words. Phew. I thought he was interested in me, she thought.

"Do you have any intentions of finding a job in this new year? Or, are you planning to stay with Olivia's production team?" he asked.

'I don't know if Olivia has any shootings after this. I'm worried about her being in the production team on her own.' Jewel replied.

"Would you like to get a job in my company?" Alex was persistent.

Jewel smiled at this. 'What sort of job can a person like me do? Forget it. I don't want to cause you any trouble.'

"You can be my assistant," he suggested.

'How am I supposed to be your assistant when I can't even talk? Thank you for your kind intentions. Don't worry. I'll be able to take care of myself. Let's go.' She signed. Alex smiled at her comment. I've never doubted your ability to care for yourself. You're a killer from Double Dragon Court, so of course you would know how to keep yourself alive. I just wanted a reason to get closer to you, he thought. "I know you can survive even without being able to talk. However, one of my trusty bodyguards just quit his job, and I can't find a suitable candidate in such a short time. I heard that you have great combat skills, so I thought I'd ask you to work with me. You can decide on your own salary."

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Before they left, Ellen hugged North tightly while kissing him. She clearly couldn't bear to see her grandson leave. Eugene promised that he would bring Ellen back to stay with them once Lara's case had been concluded.

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Alex hadn't started the conversation with high hopes, so his eyes lit up the moment he saw what she signed. "Really? That's great."

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Once they returned to Summer City, the family of three paid a visit to Merlin. They headed directly to the bedroom. The blinds were shut, making the room seem rather dark. Merlin laid on the bed alone with his eyes shut, and he looked especially worn out. If it weren't for the slight heaving of his chest, he pretty much looked like a corpse.

Eugene was shocked by the sight of this, and he practically ran over. "What happened, Grandpa?" he asked anxiously. Eugene had been worried about the old man. They had video-called each other for the past few days, and Merlin had seemed relatively lively through their calls. How did he end up in that state?

Merlin opened his eyes weakly, and he responded in a weak tone after seeing who his visitors were. "I'm fine." However, it was obvious that Merlin didn't have any energy at all. Even his voice sounded softer than usual. Eugene immediately called for Olivia. "Come over and take a look at Grandpa, Olivia. What happened to him?"

Olivia took a seat and held Merlin's wrist to check his pulse. It was weak and unsteady. She frowned before taking the sphygmometer to measure Merlin's blood pressure. It was 180/100. Judging by how high his blood pressure was, it seemed like he must have experienced something that triggered his emotions.

She spoke to the old man while checking on his condition. "You need to calm down, Grandpa. You can't get too emotional."

"What is it?" Eugene asked.

"It looks like Grandpa must have gotten worked up about something, leading to his extremely high blood pressure. It's fortunate that we came here in time," she replied. As she spoke, she retrieved a pill

bottle from her bag before producing a white pill. After contemplating for a moment, she placed the pill into Merlin's mouth. "You have to keep this pill under your tongue, Grandpa."

Merlin could still process Olivia's words, so he nodded and did as he was told. Eugene felt extremely worried, which only made him feel more helpless as there was nothing he could do. He merely watched as Olivia pulled out a silver needle before performing acupuncture on Merlin's forehead.

When North saw Merlin getting tired and shutting his eyes, North started feeling afraid. He shuffled over to the edge of the bed. "You can't sleep, Great-Grandpa! Let me tell you a joke." When Merlin heard North's voice, he forced himself to open his eyes. "North... Sure. Tell me a joke."

North thought about it for a moment. "Once upon a time, the teacher asked Mike: who was the one who bombed Pearl Harbor? 'Not me,' Mike told the teacher. The teacher was furious, so she told Mike to bring his parents in the next day. When Mike's father came over the next day, the teacher told his father about what happened in class the day before. Mike's father was confused for a moment. 'Well, my son doesn't lie. If he says that it wasn't him, then it wasn't him,' Mike's father said."

Merlin beamed after North finished speaking. "Do you know who bombed Pearl Harbor, then?"

"The Japanese, of course!" North replied. Merlin chuckled. "That's right. You're so smart, North."

"Do you want to hear more jokes, Great-Grandpa?" North asked. Merlin nodded, so North went on with his jokes. The kid's innocent voice filled the room along with Eugene's anxious footsteps while Olivia treated him. While the three of them were kept busy, Merlin finally started to feel better.

When Olivia checked his blood pressure again, it was starting to lower, and his pulse was returning to normal. She prescribed more medication and got people to prepare the ingredients so that she could cook some medication for the old man. All of this was done within 30 minutes.

After that, Eugene felt a little less worried. He left the room after telling Olivia about it. When he was outside, he realized that there were no visitors from the Nolan Family that day. Typically, someone from the Nolan Family would camp outside their living area. These people would take turns and show up every day without fail.

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"Connor," Eugene shouted.

"Yes, Mr. Nolan," Connor responded almost immediately.

"Who's on duty today?" Eugene asked.

"It should be Young Lady Penny."

Eugene frowned. "Well, where is she?"

"She came in the morning, but she left after that," Connor explained.

"I told you guys to take care of Grandpa. Did you guys even know that Grandpa is ill?" Eugene asked. Connor was shocked to hear this. "He's ill? What happened?"

"Are you asking me?" Eugene's face was stone cold.

Connor felt his legs turning to jelly as he tried his best to explain himself. "I was busy this morning, and I bumped into Young Lady Penny when I came back. Chris told me that Young Lady Penny had a fight with Master Merlin. I was worried about Master Merlin, and I went up to take a look, but he still seemed fine then. I stepped out after he said that he wanted to take a nap."

Eugene wore a grim expression on his face. "What were they fighting about?"

"I'm not too sure about this. I'll get Chris to come over," Connor replied. "Chris!" he shouted in the direction of the house.

"Yes, Connor?" Chris replied immediately.

"Did you hear what Young Lady Penny and Master Merlin were fighting about this morning?" Connor asked.

"I-I didn't pay that much attention," Chris replied. Eugene was starting to lose his patience at this point, and he was about to rage. "Spit it out!" He was stingy with his words. Eugene was a man who had sharp and defined features, so he looked scary even when he wasn't mad. One could only imagine how terrifying he looked when he was angry.

Chris was so scared that he nearly fell onto his knees. "I-I overheard Young Lady Penny telling Master Merlin that if he agreed for Doctor Maxwell to get married to you, then Young Lady Penny would kill herself. And... and..." Chris stuttered. For some reason, his brain couldn't seem to work while under pressure.

Anyone in the hall could tell how furious Eugene was right then—the dark cloud that loomed over his head was too obvious to be ignored. Everyone hung their heads low, and no one dared to speak up in fear that they would be targeted next. Eugene's patience was running low, but he had to stop himself from losing his temper. "What else?" he uttered in the calmest tone he could manage.

Chris was shaking as hard as a sieve. "Young Lady Penny also claimed that Master Merlin was biased toward you and that he didn't care about her. She said that your mother is well and alive and that you were trying to harm her parents after being brainwashed by Doctor Maxwell. Young Lady Penny also said that... that North might be an illegitimate child from another man and that Doctor Maxwell had tricked you into thinking he's your son. I was cleaning the room upstairs when this happened, so I couldn't hear some parts of the conversation—"

Greet. Just greet. Eugene felt a fire spreading across his entire body at that moment. "Give Penny a cell," he growled. It was the first time Connor had ever seen Eugene acting in such a manner, and he had no choice but to dial Penny's number fearfully. However, she didn't pick up her phone even after a few tries.

When Connor saw Eugene sitting on the couch, obviously waiting to deal with Penny, Connor decided to continue calling without saying anything else. Fortunately, Penny picked the ninth cell up. However,

Connor wasn't greeted by Penny's voice. Instead, it was the sound of loud music that first struck his ears.

"Where are you, Young Lady Penny?" Connor asked.

"Why do you care? Spit it out!" she hissed.

"Mr. Nolen is back, and he's asking for you!" Connor said.

She didn't seem to care. "He can come back whenever he wants. Why does he need to see me?" she asked.

Connor gave Eugene a hesitant glance.

Great. Just great. Eugene felt a fire spreading across his entire body at that moment. "Give Penny a call," he growled. It was the first time Connor had ever seen Eugene acting in such a manner, and he had no choice but to dial Penny's number fearfully. However, she didn't pick up her phone even after a few tries.

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Eugene stood up and snatched the phone over. "I want you back home immediately!" he shouted.

Penny scoffed. "Who are you to tell me what to do? Should I go home just because you want me to?"

"30 minutes. If I don't see you here, I'll terminate all your credit cards!" He ended the call right after that. He could hear Penny's protests just before ending the call. Time continued to tick, and the 30 minutes felt longer than usual. Eugene sat on the couch like an ice statue.

It was rare to see Eugene losing his temper and this furious. It hadn't happened in recent years ever since he took over the role as the head of the family. He was famous for his skills and tactics, and no one in the whole of Summer City dared to mess with him. They all showed him respect.

Even Lara and Edward would appear nice and polite in front of him no matter how much they disliked him. They couldn't afford to let him gain any leverage over them, or things would end up like they just did with Penny. He was like a predator waiting for its prey—he was good at hiding around and waiting for her, but he also did it with a fierce aura.

When Eugene wanted to achieve something, he made sure that he did it all in one shot. He wouldn't even allow the other party a chance to gasp for their last breath. The people in the hall were too afraid to even breathe. Even Connor hung his head low as he felt a looming sense of doom in the room. It was petrifying to see Eugene angry.

Meanwhile, there was a strong medicinal scent coming from the kitchen. It seemed like the medicine was fully prepared. Eugene spoke to the nurse as she headed upstairs. "Tell Doctor Maxwell and North to stay upstairs with Grandpa," he ordered.

"I got it, Mr. Nolan," the maid replied. Nolan then glanced at his wristwatch. It had been 30 minutes. He was just about to pull his phone out to make a call when he saw a white car entering the front porch. It was Penny's car.

The car came to a halt, but it wasn't Penny who got out first, but a man. He then walked to the passenger's side of the car before helping Penny out of the car. The man held her waist, and he had to half-drag her into the hall.

Eugene's face was darker than ever. She knew she made Old Man Nolan mad. Is she trying to get out of this by using alcohol and having parties? Eugene sat as still as stone on the couch, and he remained in the same position until the two people walked in.

The man hadn't expected to see Eugene there. "She drank a little too much, and she insisted on me sending her home. I-it's none of my business, right?" The man left her on the couch. Eugene still didn't say anything and merely looked at the drunk Penny before glancing in the man's direction. He didn't look at the man with a threatening glare, yet something about his eyes reminded Penny of a lion who had just woken up.

"I'll leave now," the man uttered hurriedly. He turned to leave even before he finished his sentence. When Penny saw the man leaving, she quickly grabbed his arm. "Where are you going? I'll go to meet you guys later so that we can continue drinking. We're getting drunk tonight!" she cried.

The man was speechless. Doesn't she realize how furious her brother is? He was too shocked to say anything else, so he simply wrestled his arm out of her grip before heading out.

Penny hurried over in a wobbly manner when she saw the man leaving. "W-Why are you leaving?"

"Are you done messing around?" Eugene hissed.

She was so stunned that she shuddered before steadying herself and turning around to look at him. "How am I messing around?" she protested. "I was just having some fun with my friends. Why did you call?"

Eugene's face was grim. "Do you know that it's your turn to care for Grandpa today?"

Penny responded in a haughty tone, "I came here, but Grandpa told me to get lost. What am I supposed to do?" As she spoke, she lazily flung herself onto the couch. However, the moment her bottom touched the couch, Eugene barked, "Stand up!"

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Penny instinctively got to her feet again. "What do you want from me? If you don't like me, you can send me to the detention center. Stop fussing around here!"

"Do you think I want to do this? You made Grandpa angry and heightened his blood pressure. He nearly fainted to his death. He would've been in danger if we hadn't rushed over in time," Eugene growled.

Penny frowned upon hearing this. High blood pressure? I guess I did talk quite a lot this morning. I was too angry.

Right when she felt a little guilty, she realized that Eugene had referred to himself as 'we'. Does that mean that Olivia is here too?

She glanced upstairs as she felt hatred building up inside her. "Isn't your darling Olivia here? Tell her to save Grandpa!"

He slowly narrowed his eyes when he heard her words, and he slowly stood up from his seat on the couch. There was a sinister aura that surrounded him. "Say that again."

Penny felt goosebumps forming on her skin when she saw the way Eugene was acting. However, she still held her head up high as she spoke. "What is it? Did I say anything wrong? Isn't Olivia really impressive? Tell her to save Grandpa then!"

The moment she finished her sentence, Eugene gave her a tight slap.

She already had a feeling that he might lay a hand on her, but when he actually did it, she still felt dazed for a moment. Furthermore, his slap wasn't a light one as she immediately fell to the ground

after being hit.

Eugene glared at her with his dagger-like gaze. "I thought you were just stubborn, but it seems like you are purely heartless. Grandpa nearly lost his life after losing his temper at you. How dare you say that he can just be saved after that! Are you still human?"

As she glared at Eugene hatefully, Penny clutched her face. Then, she let out a scoff. "Are you hitting me because of Grandpa? Or, is it because I touched your sensitive spot? You recklessly protect Olivia whenever anyone talks bad about her. I'm your younger sister, and I've always respected and loved you as my older brother. How dare you hit me for the sake of an outsider!"

His face was as cold as ice, and there was an eerie look in his eyes. "Hit you? If you ever say such things again, I will do more than just hit you. I told you to take care of Grandpa, and you didn't just fail to do so. You even made him fall ill. You got so drunk that you wouldn't come back even after I told you to, and you didn't show any care when you heard that Grandpa fell sick. Instead, all you do is start a fight. Have you lost your basic sense of filial piety after being out of the country for a few days?"

"What do you mean when you say that I'm not filial? Have you given me a chance to explain myself? I gave your girlfriend the opportunity to flaunt her skills right after I came back. You said that it's fortunate that you guys came back in time, or Grandpa might have died otherwise. Aren't you trying to say that your girlfriend was the one who saved Grandpa? Aren't I helping you to show her off? What's there for you to be unhappy about?" she uttered.

He stared at her with a look of disbelief. He was furious. "Bring me a bucket of water!" he told Connor.

Connor didn't understand what was going on, but he followed his orders dutifully. "Sure, Mr. Nolen." He headed to the toilet to get a bucket of water, and he wasn't the only one who didn't understand what Eugene meant.

Even Penny herself was just as confused. She only understood what was going on when the bucket of water was splashed all over her face. Then, she understood that the bucket had been prepared for her.

"Are you awake now?" Eugene glared at Penny, who looked like she had just woken under heavy rain.

It took her a while to regain her senses before she screamed at him in fury.. "What are you doing, Eugene?"

He growled, "What am I doing? You are the one who doesn't know what you are doing. You've been targeting the wrong person. I am the one who is going against your parents, and this has nothing to do with anyone else. You should stop telling Grandpa about these things as it will only trouble him even more. If this happens again, I will chase you out of the Nolan Family, Penny!"

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Eugene then paused. "Also, Olivia and North are my wife and son. If you don't like them, you can stay away from them, but I don't want to hear you talking bad about them. Otherwise, whatever happened today will repeat itself again."

Tears welled up in Penny's eyes as she began to wail. "How dare you treat me like this, Eugene? You sent my parents into the detention center, and you're even going against me now... If you think that I'm a nuisance to you, I can just die in front of you right now." As she spoke, she bent down to hit her head against the coffee table. She didn't actually want to hit herself, but only to scare Eugene. She figured that he would hold her back before screaming at her and telling her that she was losing her mind.

However, in reality, the man simply stood in his spot with a cold look on his face as he watched her slamming her head against the coffee table. Since she had no intention of actually hitting herself, she didn't injure herself in any way. However, she did feel a sharp pain on her forehead.

After that, she fell to the ground and glared at the man above her. She seemed to understand something right then. All along, she had felt so emotional with Eugene because she held high hopes and expectations toward him. Alternatively, it could have been because she had always believed that Eugene wouldn't be so heartless. One way or another, she suddenly gained some clarity after their earlier conversation. It was a fact that her mother had stolen his mother's position and forced his mother out of the company.

Ultimately, Penny and Eugene could never become actual siblings. The best that they could do was to remain civil to each other and to act as if they were siblings. But now, he had already sent her parents into the detention center. Did he even need to be nice to her anymore?

I can't believe I was dumb enough to think that Eugene would set my parents free for my sake. How could that be possible? I should be grateful that he didn't send me in with them. It seems like he has been tolerating us in silence all this while. Perhaps it is like what he had said—he only tolerated us because he cared about Grandpa's wellbeing. He probably figured that Grandpa wouldn't be able to bear seeing his son hate his grandson. In the past, perhaps he had never found a perfect opportunity to deal with my parents while also not facing the consequences of being seen as a bad person. His perfect opportunity showed up after Olivia and North came! He sent my parents into the detention center, but not a single person thought that there was anything wrong. Furthermore, he got everyone to witness all the nasty things that my parents did. This is the most embarrassing way of throwing them into jail. He must have been a cold-blooded boy all along—everyone else wouldn't think of him as harsh and cruel otherwise. Perhaps he never truly cared for everyone except Olivia, Penny thought.

Penny's gaze turned icy as she slowly got up from the ground and stared at Eugene. "Throughout the years, I always thought I didn't know the real you. I acknowledged the cruel and harsh methods you use when it comes to business, but I believed that you wouldn't treat your family the same way. However, I just realized something—you've never treated me as your sister, although I've always treated you as a brother."

Eugene gazed at her. "You can continue acting, Penny. I'm the same person—it doesn't matter whether you know me or not. You're 24 this year, Penny. You should be able to make some of your own judgments. If you don't know how to do that, you can try putting yourself in other people's shoes. What would you do if you were in my shoes?" he asked.

She let out a cold sneer. "You can stop talking now, Eugene. From now on, I no longer see you as my brother. You're just my enemy now."

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Eugene spoke with a blank expression. "Everyone has their bottom line, Penny. I only attacked your mother for the things that she did, and I've never once got you involved in this. However, I can't say much if we share different viewpoints now. I've always treated you like family, but it's fine if you hate me. I just hope that you choose to attack those who are involved and not hurt those who are innocent."

Penny let out a hearty laugh. "I can't believe you're still worried about Olivia at this point."

"No! I'm worried about you. If you do anything to my wife and son, I'm not sure what they might do to you!" Eugene said with a straight face.

As Penny glared at him, she couldn't stop her tears from trickling down her face. She left the Nolan Residence without saying anything else. Eugene let out a long sigh before he turned to glare at Connor. "Go punish yourself!" Eugene ordered.

"Got it, Mr. Nolan," Connor replied.

"You'll be done if such a thing ever happens again!" Eugene growled.

"Got it!" Connor replied once more. Eugene headed upstairs only to find a slim figure standing on the third step from the bottom of the stairs. "Why did you come down?" Eugene asked.

Olivia wrapped her arms around him as she gazed at him with a rather amused smile on her face. "I came down to take a look because you were taking so long," she explained. He chuckled as he stepped forward to stop in front of her. "Were you worried about me?" He slipped his hands into hers.

She heartlessly pulled her hands away before staring down at him for a few seconds. "You shameless man," she hissed. "Why would I be worried about you?"

"Why don't you say something sweet to please me for once?" he chuckled. "Would you believe it if I said it?" she asked in return.

"Why not? I believe everything that you say," he replied.

Olivia was speechless for a moment. "...But between you and Penny, Penny's the only one who would get hurt. She's no match for you. I would be a hypocrite if I said that I was worried about you," she uttered honestly.

Eugene gazed at her seriously while engaging in a debate with her. "Do you think it only hurts when one is physically attacked? Do you know that words can do more harm than knives sometimes?"

She gave him a suspicious look as if to check whether he was fooling around. "What did she say?" Olivia finally asked.

He sighed. "She said that I never treated her as my sister."

"What did you do?" she asked again.

"I slapped her. She tried to knock her head against the coffee table, and she was acting as if she could kill herself right there and then, but I didn't stop her. That was when she said those words," Eugene explained.

"You're probably sad to hear that," Olivia replied.

"I really didn't want to get her involved in this, but I can't allow Lara to roam around freely out there. I understand how Penny feels. She will no longer have a home since her parents are in the detention center. Even though they deserve what they got, I still feel rather bad about it. So, I was able to accept anything that Penny did to me. However, I couldn't stand it when she got others involved," Eugene explained.

Sha heartlessly pulled her hands away before staring down at him for a few seconds. "You shameless man," she hissed. "Why would I be worried about you?"

"Why don't you say something sweet to please me for once?" he chuckled. "Would you believe it if I said it?" she asked in return.

"Why not? I believe anything that you say," he replied.

Olivia was speechless for a moment. "...But between you and Penny, Penny's the only one who would get hurt. She's no match for you. I would be a hypocrite if I said that I was worried about you," she uttered honestly.

Eugene glared at her seriously while engaging in a debate with her. "Do you think it only hurts when one is physically attacked? Do you know that words can do more harm than knives sometimes?"

She gave him a suspicious look as if to check whether he was fooling around. "What did she say?" Olivia finally asked.

He sighed. "She said that I never treated her as my sister."

"What did you do?" she asked again.

"I slapped her. She tried to knock her head against the coffee table, and she was acting as if she could kill herself right there and then, but I didn't stop her. That was when she said those words," Eugene explained.

"You're probably sad to hear that," Olivia replied.

"I really didn't want to get her involved in this, but I can't allow Lara to roam around freely out there. I understand how Penny feels. She will no longer have a home since her parents are in the detention

center. Even though they deserve what they got, I still feel rather bad about it. So, I was able to accept anything that Penny did to me. However, I couldn't stand it when she got others involved," Eugene explained.

"Is that why you said those things?" Olivia asked.

"Yeah. Previously, Penny left for Master and claimed that she wouldn't come back during the new year. I don't know how she ended up returning, but she made it just in time during this critical period of the

court case. Perhaps she wouldn't have done all of this if the sentence had already been concluded!" he replied.

"Alright. You should stop thinking about this. Since you can understand things from her point of view, you should just let it go," Olivia uttered.

"Is Grandpa feeling better?' he asked.

"Yeah. I gave him some soup, and he's listening to North's jokes now," she replied.

"I'm so thankful that North is here," he mumbled. Olivia nodded before she turned to head upstairs. Eugene followed closely behind her.

...

Meanwhile, Penny headed directly to meet Evan after leaving the Nolan Residence. When she was there, she bumped into Ben. Ben looked like he had just woken up as his hair was messy and his gaze was blank and lifeless. He shuffled across the ground lazily and walked down the stairs.

Chapter 698

Penny couldn't help but look down at the other man for a moment. However, she didn't have much of a choice—her uncle was the only person who could help her right then. She couldn't just watch her mother being sent to jail without doing anything about it!

Ben was rather shocked to see Penny. She was soaking wet, her face was swollen, and her eyes looked like she had just been crying. Judging by the mess she was in, it was clear that she had just been bullied by someone. Penny wouldn't show up at his house otherwise. She used to be the high and mighty young lady who walked around with her nose high up in the air. She never once showed humility in front of others, and she never thought much of her cousin. The only person she ever bowed down to was Eugene.

Ben scoffed. "What a rare sight! What brings you here, Penny?"

"Hey, Ben," she said in a polite tone.

He scoffed. It seems like she really needs help. She wouldn't be so nice otherwise. "Yeah. What's up?" he asked.

Penny was too embarrassed to tell him that she had just been slapped by Eugene, so she lowered her head without saying much. "Who hit you? Come on. I'll take revenge on behalf of you," Ben offered.

"Eugene!" she cried. For some reason, Ben was pleased to hear this, and he smiled. "Isn't he your favorite brother? Why would he hit you?"

She felt even sadder upon hearing Ben's words. She stuck her lips out to form a pitiful pout as she thought, I no longer see him as my brother anymore. "He's not my brother anymore!" she claimed.

With a single, relaxed motion, Ben threw himself onto the couch. "That's right. Both of you are Nolans, but it's just not possible for both of you to be associated. You guys aren't biologically related, so you were never fated to be a part of his family in the first place. You might see him as your brother, but that doesn't mean that he sees you as his sister!" Ben uttered.

Tears nearly trickled down Penny's eyes upon hearing the other man's words. Evan shot Ben a glare. "You should talk a little less," Evan mumbled. Then, Evan spoke up in a sweet tone as he addressed his wife. "Why don't you get her a change of clothes, Mandy? She's going to catch a cold in this wet outfit," he said.

"Come with me," Mandy said to Penny. "It's fine, Aunt Mandy. Just let me be," Penny mumbled. Then, she turned to look at Evan. "Look, I'm here to ask you for something, Uncle Evan. My mother is going on trial in a few days, and I'd like your help to reduce the chances of my mother being sent to prison."

Evan put on a troubled expression. "It's not that I don't want to help you, Penny, but Eugene's the one on the other end of this case. Who would dare to mess with him? Furthermore, with all the evidence he has, how is your mother going to walk away as a free woman?"

Sha falt avan saddar upon haaring Ban's words. Sha stuck har lips out to form a pitiful pout as sha thought, I no longar saa him as my brothar anymora. "Ha's not my brothar anymora!" sha claimad.

With a singla, relaxad motion, Ban thraw himself onto tha couch. "That's right. Both of you ara Nolans, but it's just not possibla for both of you to ba associatad. You guys aran't biologically ralatatad, so you wara navar fatad to ba a part of his family in tha first placa. You might saa him as your brothar, but that doasn't maan that ha saas you as his sistar!" Ban uttarad.

Taars naarly tricklad down Panny's ayas upon haaring tha othar man's words. Evan shot Ban a glara. "You should talk a littla lass," Evan mumblad. Than, Evan spok a up in a swaat tona as ha addressad

his wifa. "Why don't you gat har a changa of clothas, Mandy? Sha's going to catch a cold in this wat outfit," ha said.

"Coma with ma," Mandy said to Panny. "It's fina, Aunt Mandy. Just lat ma ba," Panny mumblad. Than, sha turnad to look at Evan. "Look, I'm hara to ask you for somathing, Uncla Evan. My mothar is going on trial in a faw days, and I'd lika your halp to raduca tha chancas of my mothar baing sant to prison."

Evan put on a troublad aprassion. "It's not that I don't want to halp you, Panny, but Eugana's tha ona on tha othar and of this casa. Who would dara to mass with him? Furtharmora, with all tha avidanca ha has, how is your mothar going to walk away as a fraa woman?"

Penny shook her head anxiously. "No. Ellen isn't dead. She's well and alive. My mother didn't send anyone to kill her," Penny uttered.

Evan was puzzled to hear this. "What did you say? Did you say that Ellen's alive?"

Penny nodded furiously. "Yeah. I saw her with my own eyes. Eugene spent the new year with her. Uncle Evan, you're the only one who can help me right now. For the sake of the shares that my mother left for the Roberts Group, please help us out for once."

Evan frowned. If Penny hadn't mentioned the matter of Roberts Group, he would have genuinely considered helping her. However, upon hearing the mention of his company, he lost his urge to help the woman. If Lara walks out without a sentence, then she will reclaim the company, but if she stays in jail, I

will be in charge of everything, and I will no longer need to live under her shadow. I won't have to worry that the business proposals I work hard to come up with will be wasted just because she doesn't like it. Furthermore, who would want to go against Eugene, anyway?

However, he couldn't just directly reject Penny's plea. "How do you want me to help you?" he asked in an uninterested tone.

Chapter 699

"We can sue Eugene for providing fake information and evidence. We can even sue all those people who stood as witnesses against Mom that day," Penny suggested. Evan knitted his brows together even more upon hearing what she said. How could she come up with such a ridiculous idea?

"I saw the indictment—Eugene sued your mother for multiple attempts of intentional homicide. Even if Ellen isn't dead, the court might only reduce the sentence by a few years. What your mother committed was still a crime. Didn't you see the CCTV footage and the papers that Eugene provided? Your mother even told Anna to poison both Eugene and North. On top of that, she got Tres to attack Olivia more than once. All of these factors count in the sentence as well. Furthermore, since the court hearing hasn't started, how are you sure that the evidence Eugene provided is fake? At most, he might have been a little careless with his phrasing in the indictment," Evan said.

Penny stared at him helplessly. "What do you mean, Uncle Evan? Aren't you going to help me?"

"It's not that I don't want to help you; it's that I don't have any way to offer you help. Your mother's such a smart person, but she was still defeated by Eugene in the end. This is between them, so my suggestion is that you don't get involved in it," Evan replied.

Penny's eyes were red. "That's my mother we're talking about. Are you telling me to just watch as my mother goes to prison? You're my uncle and my mother's brother. How could you be so heartless?"

Evan wasn't interested in her words any longer. "It doesn't matter what you say—I simply can't help you. It's not that I don't want to do it! At most, I can find your mother a good lawyer that might reduce your mother's sentence by a little. It's impossible for her not to be convicted. If you were the one who was the target of your mother's actions, do you think you'd be able to forgive your mother? I thought

Eugene would take revenge multiple times, and I thought he might fake an accident as your mother did. Do you think your mother would have survived that?"

Mandy added on to her husband's words. "Yeah. Eugene was kind enough to send her to prison only for a few years. It's not as if you'll never see her again. She'll be able to work and live as usual once she's out, right?"

Penny gazed at her uncle's family disappointedly. "Is this something one's brother and his wife would say to a family member? My mother spent so many years building Roberts Group, and she supported you guys so much. Yet, you guys aren't offering any help when she needs it, and you guys even think that she deserves what she's getting!"

Mandy knitted her eyebrows together firmly. "How could you say that, Penny? What do you mean when you say that your mother supported all of us? That makes it sound like we're just waiting for money to fall from the sky without doing anything. We put effort into the company too! Throughout the years, your mother has been the decision-maker of the company. Everything from the company's development to our individual actions was all under your mother's supervision. She even sticks her nose into the sort of women your cousin dates. You say it like we're villains. Ever since you came in, we've been caring for you and helping you to process this matter. What else do you want us to do? Do you expect us to do as you say and sue Eugene?"

Evan wasn't intarastad in har words any longer. "It doasn't mattar what you say—I simply can't halp you. It's not that I don't want to do it! At most, I can find your mothar a good lawyar that might raduca your mothar's santanca by a littla. It's impossibla for har not to ba convictad. If you wara tha ona who was tha targat of your mothar's actions, do you think you'd ba abla to forgiva your mothar? I thought Eugana would taka ravanga multipla timas, and I thought ha might faka an accidant as your mothar did. Do you think your mothar would hava survivad that?"

Mandy addad on to har husband's words. "Yaah. Eugana was kind enough to sand har to prison only for a faw yaars. It's not as if you'll navar saa har again. Sha'll ba abla to work and liva as usual onca sha's out, right?"

Panny gazad at har uncla's family disappointadly. "Is this somathing ona's brothar and his wifa would say to a family mambar? My mothar spant so many yaars building Robarts Group, and sha supportad you guys so much. Yat, you guys aran't offaring any halp whan sha naads it, and you guys avan think that sha dasarvas what sha's gatting!"

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"Even if you want us to do it, you'd have to wait until your mother is sentenced in accordance with the assumption that Ellen is dead. Only then can we sue them for providing false information. Now, they're not even suing your mother for killing Ellen. Even if they did so, Eugene already knows that you're aware of the fact that Ellen is alive. Do you think he'd still bring this up in court now? He's a smart man—he wouldn't allow you to gain leverage over him. I understand that you want to save your mother, but your uncle and I are just regular, powerless people. How do you expect us to go against Eugene? Furthermore, he didn't frame her for anything—it's true that your mother committed those crimes. How are you supposed to defend her?" Mandy uttered.

Penny felt her heart turning cold, then she stood up and left without saying anything else.

Chapter 700

They were right. She was rushing things since the court case hadn't actually begun. Judging by how smart Eugene was, he certainly wouldn't bring this matter up in court. Even if she found out that Ellen was alive, it was no use at all. At most, she could reduce her mother's sentence by a few years. But what else could she do? Was she just going to watch her mother being sent to prison?

Nicole warmly invited Penny over to her house after receiving Penny's call. However, when Nicole saw how much of a mess Penny was, she let out a gasp of surprise. "Oh, dear! What happened to you?"

Perhaps it was all the obstacles she had encountered that day, but Nicole's sudden warmth made Penny feel like crying. Tears welled up in her eyes, which made her look more pitiful than ever. Nicole didn't seem to mind how much of a mess Penny was right then, for she quickly pulled the other woman into a hug. "Don't cry. Let's sit down and talk," Nicole suggested.

As Nicole spoke, she quickly pulled out some clothes for Penny to get changed. "How did you end up in such a state?" Nicole asked.

"Eugene hit me," Penny said while sobbing. Nicole was shocked to hear this. Although everyone was afraid of Eugene, he wasn't the type of person who would just hit others without any reason. It was even more unlikely for him to hit Penny, who was like a younger sister to him.

"Eugene? Why did he hit you?" Nicole asked. Penny gave Nicole a summary of what had happened that morning. "Now, I know that he has never treated me like a sister. Otherwise, he wouldn't treat me that way, right?"

Nicole didn't agree. "You might be misunderstanding your brother. He used to be so nice to you, and he used to bring you out for good food all the time. What do you mean when you say that he never treated you like a sister? A relationship is a two-way street—you relied on him because he was nice to you,

right? It's just that recently, your brother... has indeed been..." Nicole didn't finish her words as she didn't know how to complete the rest of her sentence.

Penny quickly caught up to what Nicole was saying. "Well, it's because he started dating Olivia. That naturally means that I, his so-called younger sister, is now in second place. You have no idea how excited he was when Olivia managed to save Old Man Nolan. He just wanted to flaunt her skills! I was giving him a chance to show off, yet he ended up hitting me! How dare he hit me?"

The more she spoke, the sorrier she felt for herself. Big, fat tears streamed down her cheeks. Nicole let out an exasperated sigh. "I agree. He no longer contacts his friends, either. All he thinks about is Olivia. Well, I guess it can't be helped. Olivia isn't going to just disappear into thin air, so the only thing you can do is to accept it."

Penny pouted her lips sadly. "You're the best to me, Nicole. You have no idea how bad it was when I went to Uncle Evans. I wanted him to help me come up with a solution, yet he told me that he couldn't do anything. He even told me not to get involved. In other words, he was saying that my mother deserved what she got. How could he say such things? Even if my mother deserved what she got, he shouldn't say such things since he's her brother, right? Didn't my mother spend her whole life building Roberts Group? One can only see another's true colors when something bad happens."

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Nicole tugged the other girl's hand. "Alright. Don't be sad. It's normal for people to backstab and betray others, but it's rare for people to offer help during one's time of need. If you want to save your mother, you'll have to rely on yourself. Your uncle probably doesn't even want your mother to be released. Think about it. Who would want your mother to stay away from the company? Your uncle, of course! That's why he would never help you!"

Penny scoffed. "Even if my mother weren't around, he wouldn't be the one to make decisions. My mother still holds the largest number of shares in Roberts Group. Ah! If only I'm as capable as my mother. Now, I feel really helpless. I don't know what to do. It's been so many years, and I feel like I've been learning about the business for so long that I don't even know what I'm learning anymore."