

## Unfinished 781

### Chapter 781

Jewel waved her hand casually and pointed to the signature on the page before saying, "Mr. Amos White."

Ellen was shocked once again as she asked excitedly, "Is this a portrait done by Old Mr. White? How did you manage to commission a portrait of me from him?"

Yet, Jewel merely revealed a smile.

The happiest thing on earth was having one's efforts recognized by the other party.

It was not much about the price of the portrait nor the sentiment behind it, but the fact that the drawing was done by Amos White; in other words, it was a priceless possession. Moreover, this was his final production before retirement.

Ellen was very excited about the gift and she could not help checking out the portrait repeatedly. "I heard of this master in calligraphy and drawing before, and he's very famous. Jewel, I can't believe you managed to commission a portrait of me from Old Mr. White. This is such a nice surprise!"

Jewel shot a look at Olivia, indicating to her to explain the situation as it would take Jewel too long to explain.

As such, Olivia smiled and said, "Jewel did Old Mr. White a huge favor before, so he promised that he would grant her a single wish. That's why she requested for him to draw you a portrait."

Ellen responded, "Gosh, you've used up such a precious request on me. I love it so much. It's such a great painting and I look stunning."

On the morning of the third day, Kyle brought Theodore over.

As soon as Theodore saw Eugene, he was dumbfounded and clearly did not expect that Eugene would have figured out he was involved within such a short timeframe.

Although he did not receive any update regarding the assassin that night, he did hear through the grapevine that Eugene had set off to Promise Island.

As such, Theodore had assumed that it was a successful attempt and Eugene had gone to the island to pay his final respect.

Besides, if worse came to worst, even if the attempt was a failure, Theodore was sure that Eugene would not be able to link this matter to him. He knew that the assassin syndicate had their own unspoken rules and they would never ever reveal the identity of the person who employed them.

As such, even when Kyle had come for him, he maintained some shred of confidence that perhaps Lara was the suspect, so Kyle had come after him to probe for some information.

Presently, Theodore was trussed up and left on the ground. Meanwhile, Eugene sat on the chair opposite him and maintained a lazy stance before speaking casually, "You're quite loyal, huh? Lara has already been taken into custody and yet you're still out here taking risks for her. What exactly did she promise you?"

Theodore had a plan in mind and he intended to deny it vehemently, so he replied indifferently, "I don't even know what you're on about."

Eugene responded, "You posted on the Will-o'-Wisp HQ website seeking to hire an assassin. Do you really think that I would not find that out?"

Lifting his head in surprise, Theodore wore a stunned expression on his face. He actually managed to find out the identity of the person who posted on the website? How can that be possible? Their official

website maintains the highest level of confidentiality, so an ordinary person would not be able to hack into the system. How did he do that?

Eugene bent forward and moved closer to him. "Are you going to reveal everything willingly, or should I force it out of you?"

Apprehended, Theodore felt for a moment there that he was doomed. He knew that the matter would be exposed sooner or later, but he did not expect that it would occur so soon. However, there was nothing much that he could say about it since Lara had treated him very well and he would never betray her.

"What do you want me to say?"

Eugene replied, "Who instructed you to do this?"

Theodore answered defiantly, "No one. I didn't like you and your mom suffered thanks to you."

As soon as he said that, Kyle instantly grabbed him by the hair and slammed his head on the ground several times. "Mr. Nolan is asking you a question, so you'd better answer that properly if you don't wanna crack open your skull."

After the bashing, Theodore saw stars while he bled on the forehead as blood trickled down from his face.

Despite that, he revealed a smile. "Just kill me if you're so great."

Yet, there was a sinister, cold smile that appeared on Eugene's lips. "I can do that, but let me think about who I should start from. How about your son, first? Next, it will be your wife and finally, you'd be the last. By then, your family of three would be reunited..."

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As Eugene spoke, he tapped on his phone and connected it to the projector. Soon, a woman and a young boy about three to four years old appeared on the screen on the other side.

The boy spoke sweetly, "My daddy's gone out to work and make money."

Theodore's countenance went pale instantly. "Eugene!"

How did he find them? Theodore knew that he was basically doomed, so he sent his wife and son to the outskirts of town earlier on. How did Eugene find out about my son?

Eugene glanced at him and spoke calmly, "Your son must be quite precious to you. After all, at your age, you must have found it difficult to conceive. Too bad, he's still young."

Theodore spoke up in fright, "W-What are you trying to do?"

Eugene responded coldly, "If anything bad happens to your son, it would be all thanks to you."

At that point, the tables had turned and Eugene responded to Theodore by saying the exact same words Theodore had mentioned earlier.

Significantly stunned, Theodore could not bear to see his precious son, who he only managed to have at the age of forty something, suffering through all this.

"Don't do anything to him. Please."

Eugene replied, "That is entirely up to you. Is your master more important than your son? I reckon this is an easy choice, right?"

Theodore was full of anguish and he could not seem to make up his mind. "Just kill me!"

However, Eugene casually took out a cigarette from his pocket and lit it while speaking with a lazy drawl, "Don't worry. As you beg for your life to be ended, your son will keep you company right next to you."

Theodore considered the situation repeatedly in his mind and he knew that Eugene was a ruthless person, so he would definitely execute what he said.

What should I do? On one hand, it was his master who had treated him like family. He had gained a family—a wife and a child—because of Lara's intervention, which contributed to his familial life now.

However, he had to consider his son too. His son was less than three years old at the moment, so he could not possibly watch on as Eugene took his son's life. Is this the end of our family lineage?

Eugene piped up once again, "You don't have much time left to consider. Ten minutes is the maximum. If you don't make up your mind by then, I'll get my men to take action."

He glanced at his watch as he spoke, "It's 8.10AM right now. At 8.20AM, your son will be dead!"

Undeniably, Eugene was great at seeing through one's true feelings and he knew that the feeling of having a stipulated doomsday was basically something that one would not be able to handle unless they had a strong heart.

As for Theodore, he found Eugene to be scarier than the devil.

The ten minutes he was given was the most tormenting period in his life. He sweated profusely out of anxiety as the blood and sweat trickled down his forehead.

He never would have expected that someday, the life of his son would gradually end as time ticked by. The choice of whether his son got to live or ended up dead depended solely on his words. His heart thudded frantically and he found his mind quite woozy.

As a result, Eugene instantly signaled to Kyle. "Make him come to his senses."

Kyle affirmed and released Theodore. Subsequently, he went to get a pail of water and tipped it over Theodore's head as it made a splashing sound.

The pail of water came to good use and Theodore, who was about to fall unconscious, suddenly came back to his senses.

The shocking sensation from the cold water made Theodore regain his logical-self instantly and he realized that Lara would not be able to be released from police custody even if he refused to reveal that she was the mastermind. As such, there was essentially no point in struggling unnecessarily. The imperative thing right now was to safeguard his son's life. After all, his son was too young and he could not bear subjecting his son to death.

After quite some time, Theodore finally relented resignedly, "Okay, I'll talk. I'll tell you everything."

"The other day, a woman approached me out of the blue and she was Madam's ex-prison mate. Madam wanted her to pass on a message to me and I was told to kill Ellen to exact revenge for Madam. Madam also provided a password to me and I knew that it was the password to the safe. I unlocked the safe and there was information on how to access the Will-o'-Wisp HQ website to hire an assassin. There was also a bank card inside the safe, so I entered the web address and looked up the information. Indeed, I found an assassin to take up the job."

## Chapter 783

Eugene asked, "What's the woman's name?"

Theodore replied, "Her name is Rebecca Walter. She claimed to be Madam's ex-prison mate and she had just been released a few days ago after finishing serving her sentence. I gave her one hundred thousand to keep this a secret."

Eugene nodded and continued to ask, "How did you find out about the layout of Promise Island? Who gave you the map?"

Theodore responded, "It was Nicole. A few days ago, Nicole went to visit Madam in prison and Madam got me to meet Nicole."

At that point, Eugene frowned at the revelation. Never once did he expect that Nicole was the one who had revealed the layout; he assumed that it was Penny's doing.

"Why did Nicole harbor a grudge against my mom? Is it to seek revenge on me?"

Theodore replied, "The only condition that Nicole wanted to be fulfilled before she provided the map was for me to help her kill Olivia. She said that Madam had promised to do that for her. Subsequently, she gave me an extra one million as a reward for completing her mission."

Instantly, it dawned upon Eugene and he realized that in fact, this was not too far from the usual trick. All she had to do was use someone else to do the dirty trick for her. I knew it didn't make sense for Nicole to target my mom.

"President Nolan, please let my son go."

Eugene shot Theodore a look. "I will, but it won't be right now." As soon as Eugene came out of the interview room, he exuded a savage air all over. There was also a cold expression on his face. All of them seem to have a death wish!

Suddenly, his phone went off and he took it in his hands to check the caller ID. At a glance, he saw that it was Brian on the line and he realized that the secret was out.

He slid the screen to answer the call and Brian's voice rang out from the other end. "You guys went to Promise Island again, huh?"

Eugene replied, "Who told you that?"

Meanwhile, Brian snorted. "My men are great at their jobs, alright? How's Mom doing? I've been having bad dreams for the past few days and in my dreams, Mom was being pursued by thugs. Is she alright?"

Eugene heaved a sigh and replied, "Your dreams are quite accurate. Mom encountered an assassination attempt and she was lucky enough to have Alex and Jewel saved her."

Brian jumped up in fright. "Seriously? Did something actually happen to Mom? How is she? Did you go over two days ago? Why didn't you inform me?"

Initially, Eugene had been concerned that Brian would be frantic with worry since Brian had just recovered from his illness not long ago. Now that the investigation results were pretty much sorted and their Mom was fine too, Eugene finally revealed the details to him.

"Don't panic. Mom's fine. Bring Nicole along when you come over." Subsequently, he added, "Inform Hayden and Penny to come over too."

"What's going on with them? Are they involved in this matter?"

Eugene responded ambiguously, "Yeah. Don't worry, I've sorted out things, so you shouldn't stress too much."

He continued to give further instructions before returning to the villa. He saw that Olivia and North were downstairs, which was a rare thing to see, so he asked, "Why are the two of you downstairs?"

Olivia responded, "We're waiting for you. What happened?"

He took a deep breath and managed to let go of the savage emotions he harbored before heading over to the mother and son duo. He ruffled North's little head and took Olivia into his arms. Subsequently, he replied calmly, "Everything's fine."

She glanced at him, slightly perplexed. "If everything is fine, then why are you so grumpy?"

Eugene replied, "I was thinking that if I had stopped my mom from returning to Summer City, then all of this wouldn't have happened."

At that moment, Olivia realized that she had been too concerned about the injured couple as well as comforting Ellen, whom she was regretful to not tag along with. Yet, she forgot about the immense pressure that Eugene was carrying. After all, Ellen was his mother and evidently, he was filled with anger, regret, and guilt.



Olivia ruffled his hair like how she usually comforted North and she asked softly, "Have you found out who the perpetrator is?"

Eugene nodded. "It was an assassin hired by Lara."

Olivia comforted him, "Don't blame yourself for this. They are the ones who committed the mistake and we can't possibly remain in hiding for the rest of our lives. Even if Lara didn't encounter your mom during the hearing day, she knew that your mom's alive, so she would definitely find a way to seek

revenge. The reason for Lara's discontentment and persistence is all because she knew that she will be able to get away with things eventually. However, if we make sure that the incriminating evidence gets submitted in court for the case to be retried, then we could send her to prison for the rest of her life. By then, she would have nothing else to look forward to! Lara's too scheming and conniving, so a lot of effort would be required to gain enough evidence to put her behind bars. You've done great by going along with her plot and then making a move by surprise. In the end, you've managed to put her behind bars. Eugene, you've done a great job!"

Chapter 784

North was significantly speechless. Is this how a girlfriend coaxes her boyfriend? Mommy's treating Daddy the same way that she treats me, isn't she? A great job?

Suddenly, Eugene smiled and his gloomy mood from the morning dissipated. Instantly, his spirits were lifted and he felt cheerful. He grabbed her hand and said, "Thanks, Olivia. I feel much better now."

She responded, "It wasn't your fault anyway. You've done your best, so stop beating yourself up. Life never goes as planned."

He replied, "Yes. Brian should be arriving tonight and there are some things that should be settled once and for all."

She asked, "Who was the one that revealed the layout of Promise Island?"

Eugene's expression instantly darkened as he mentioned coldly, "Nicole."

Olivia was significantly stunned by that. "Nicole? How can it be her? Why does she have against your mom?"

There was a ferocious look on Eugene's face. "Nicole struck a deal with Lara. She would provide the map and Lara would first go after my mom, then you."

At that point, Olivia caught on to the situation. That makes much more sense, then.

It was nearly 6.00PM when Brian and the gang arrived at the island.

It did not take much effort to apprehend Nicole; perhaps because she was caught off guard. The other possibility was that she wanted to avoid struggling so as to not rouse more suspicions, so she came

along meekly to the island.

Brian specifically assigned his bodyguards to keep a close eye on her and this move was realized by Hayden and Penny.

They sensed that the bodyguards treated them differently compared to Nicole as the bodyguards seemed to be taking precautions to prevent her from escaping.

Eugene sat on the lower floor of the villa and waited for them. He maintained an undisturbed expression upon seeing them and did not bother to greet them either.

Hayden seemed slightly anxious, though, as he was not sure what was going on.

Along the way, he had asked Brian what was going on, but Brian's responses had been vague. He merely mentioned that there had been an assassination attempt on his mom's life.

However, Hayden could not seem to comprehend why Brian had captured Nicole when it was Eugene's mom who had nearly been assassinated.

As soon as they arrived, Hayden instantly asked anxiously upon seeing Eugene, "How's everything, Eugene?"

Eugene took a look at Nicole, who currently had a wig on, and his expression remained neutral. "Why don't you ask her?"

Hayden anxiously replied, "I've asked Nicole, but she doesn't know what's going on too. Is there a misunderstanding here? Eugene, we've known each other for so long, so you've got to investigate this matter properly."

Eugene directed his dark gaze to Hayden before standing up. "Everyone, come with me."

Although Hayden was unsure of what was going on, he went along up the stairs accordingly.

The gang trooped up the stairs and trailed after Eugene to arrive at a room on the second floor, where Alex was staying for the time being.

Hayden was shocked to see Alex in bed with his head all bandaged. "What the heck? What happened to you?"

Alex replied, "I wanted to be a hero and save a damsel in distress, but I ended up nearly dying in the process."

Hayden smiled and approached Alex. "Well, I wanna know who the lucky damsel in distress was!"

Meanwhile, Alex shot a furtive look at Jewel.

The porcelain-white skin on her face flushed red instantly and she suddenly felt shy for some reason, so she pursed her lips slightly.

Subsequently, Alex turned to Hayden and chided him, "Stop being so nosy."

Hayden gleefully took a seat next to Alex's side. "You don't have to say her name for us to know." Subsequently, Hayden glanced at Jewel. "It must be this pretty lady here, right?"

At that moment, Jewel blushed redder than before. She had intended to deny it, but seeing that it was too much effort to speak, she ended up remaining silent.

Alex glared at Hayden in response. "Go away. Stop bullying us patients."

Hayden was surprised to hear that as he turned to look at Jewel once again. "Who's the other patient? Are you hurt as well?"

Alex glared at Hayden once again. "Who else can it be? Her injuries are much more serious than mine!"

## Chapter 785

Hayden frowned upon hearing that. "What happened to the two of you?"

Alex glanced at Eugene. "Didn't Eugene explain the situation to you guys? Mrs. Nolan was nearly assassinated, and Jewel and I were on the scene coincidentally, so we fought off the assassins. The three of us have varying degrees of wounds."

As soon as Hayden heard that, he gasped loudly before turning to look at Ellen. "Mrs. Nolan, are you hurt too? How are you feeling?"

Ellen was busy explaining to Brian about the incident that day and as soon as she heard Hayden, she hurriedly replied, "I'm fine. Alex and Jewel sustained much more serious injuries than I did. One of them had a concussion and the other was slashed on the back. This was all because they wanted to save me..."

Meanwhile, Nicole pursed her lips and studied Eugene's expression furtively. What is he trying to do right now?

Penny's brows were also furrowed tightly. What does this mean? Don't tell me that I'm a suspect?

Eugene spoke to Olivia as soon as he came up the stairs before greeting the others, "That's enough, let them have a rest. We can talk downstairs."

As such, Hayden followed Eugene down the stairs while still in confusion. For some reason, he felt anxious. Evidently, Eugene had wanted him to see for his own eyes the wounds of the three of them before seeking justice for them afterward.

At that moment, Nicole seemed dispirited and she had been in turmoil ever since Brian had sent his men to come and get her.

On one hand, she tried to comfort herself that Eugene had also sent for Penny and Hayden too, so perhaps he had some suspicions but without any concrete evidence. However, there was another nagging voice in her mind that said, Eugene hasn't sent any men to keep an eye on Hayden and Penny. He held me captive only. This is proof that Eugene already knows that I'm involved in this.

This doesn't make any sense at all because the assassins would never disclose information so easily. Even if the assassins did disclose the information, they would not be able to access information about their employers too. As such, if they didn't know anything about their employer, then how can they possibly link my involvement? What went wrong exactly?

She was busy trying to figure out how much Eugene knew and she was unsure whether to admit or deny it vehemently.

Meanwhile, Penny was stunned the entire time as she did not grasp why she was told to come over. She was unsure about how Nicole was involved in the assassination attempt on Ellen somehow. As such, she remained silent and followed the group up and down the stairs without questioning.

As they arrived downstairs, Hayden could not help asking, "What's wrong? Eugene, who sent the assassin?"

However, Eugene merely turned to look at Nicole and spoke coldly, "Do you still intend to keep denying things?"

At that moment, Hayden instantly turned to look at Nicole apprehensively.

Yet, she piped up indignantly, "Eugene, what do you mean by that? Do you suspect me?"

If this exact same conversation had happened yesterday, then perhaps Eugene would not be as unperturbed as he was right now. Now that he knew that everyone was fine, he wanted to see her final, desperate look as she struggled. He also wanted Hayden to witness this and give up on her.

Hayden persistently stands up for this woman, so I want him to see for his own eyes her true colors!

Eugene maintained a smile. "Are you saying that I'm mistaken and this has nothing to do with you?"

Nicole instantly argued, "I have nothing to do with this, of course! I don't even know why you've captured me."

He scoffed, "You never seem to learn your lesson, huh? I warned you before to behave yourself, otherwise, you'll end up losing more than just your hair!"

Despite her anxiety, Nicole could only continue to deny things vehemently since she did not know how much Eugene was aware about the truth.

She purposely put on a flustered and angry front. "You're being such a big bully! What did I do wrong? You accused me wrongfully the last time and I didn't mention it to my parents because of our ongoing friendship. What else do you want from me?"

Yet, Eugene sneered coldly, "You're quite bold with your words, huh? You must be so adept at lying that you've even fallen for your own lies. Hayden's the only one who would be fooled by your cheap acting."

## Chapter 786

Nicole frowned and rebuked with an aggrieved expression, "Eugene! Do you really need to behave so heartlessly? The only thing that I did was fall for you, but is that considered a sin? Why do you have to hurt me this way?"

Hearing that, there was a disgusted look that flashed across Eugene's face out of instinct. "That's enough. Keep your precious feelings for me all to yourself. I don't need that."

Hayden kept his eyes on Nicole and thought, So, she's finally admitted to having feelings for Eugene, huh?

Lowering his eyes, Hayden masked the misery that welled up within him. Subsequently, he graciously tried to break the fight. "Eugene, regardless of the issue, you should speak nicely. All of us are friends here, so don't make the situation awkward."

Hayden had just finished his words when Eugene retorted instantly, "Friends? I don't have a friend who behaves like that! I told you from the start to stay away from her, and she's not worth your time and efforts!"

Confused, Hayden asked agitatedly, "Stop talking in riddles here. What's going on exactly?"

Eugene shot a look at Nicole, who continued to maintain her silence. "Okay. I guess you won't tell the truth until you've been taught a lesson, will you?"

As he spoke, he instructed Kyle, "Bring Theodore over."

As soon as Nicole heard that, she swayed slightly and nearly fell to the ground. Eugene has found out about Theodore! Then, that means I...

The blood instantly drained from her face and there was a terrified look in her eyes as she looked at him.

Meanwhile, Penny was startled by that too. Theodore? Is that Theodore, who worked as Mom's butler?

Soon, Theodore was led into the room.

It is him... Penny furrowed her brows tightly. What does this mean? Am I a suspect?

Theodore froze slightly upon seeing Nicole. As he lamented Eugene's extraordinary speed at carrying out an investigation, he also caught on to what Eugene meant by 'I will, but not now'.

Evidently, if Theodore refused to reveal the truth, then his son might not live to see tomorrow.

Eugene glanced at Theodore and said, "Repeat what you told me the other day. Who was the one that provided you with the map of Promise Island?"

At that point, Nicole had her eyes glued on Theodore the whole time. Despite knowing that he would bow down to Eugene's interrogation and reveal her as the perpetrator, she could not help remaining hopeful that Theodore would take into account the one million she had provided and not reveal her as the mastermind.

Unexpectedly, Theodore had no hesitations at all as he confessed, "It was Nicole."

Instantly, the exposed mastermind flared up and denied out of instinct, "That's nonsense! You're rambling nonsense!" As she spoke, she rushed over to hit him. "Tell me, who instructed you to say that?" She whacked him so hard that the wounds he sustained from before led him to wince in pain. "Ah! Miss West, I had to tell the truth. I had no other option!"

"Stop it!" Eugene's low and cold voice rang out and there was a forceful note in his voice that clearly indicated his insistence.

Kyle managed to pull her aside soon enough. At that moment, Nicole hurriedly explained herself to the man, "Eugene, don't listen to his nonsensical words. I will never do that! I have no reason to target your mother!"



Eugene glanced at her and the smirk on his face deepened, but it was a cold and mocking smile that he revealed. "Only a few of us came here before. Other than the injured ones upstairs, there are only three of you left. If it isn't you, then tell me, who else could have revealed the location of the villa?"

In panic mode, Nicole tried to put on a calm front. She glanced at Penny and Hayden before turning around to say to Eugene, "Penny's the prime suspect! Lara hired the assassin while Penny provided the geographical location. The mother and daughter duo must have plotted to kill your mom. This has nothing to do with me!"

As soon as Penny heard that, she flared up and instantly rebuked loudly, "Nicole, what sort of nonsense are you on about? I didn't do that!"

"Your mom has always been jealous that Mrs. Nolan is still alive. You harbored a grudge against Eugene because Olivia picked on you. That's why you've got the motive. You're the one who must have revealed the layout of the island for your mom to send an assassin and kill Mrs. Nolan!"

## Chapter 787

Nicole looked at Eugene as she spoke and she appeared fanatical while repeating, "Eugene, Penny's the culprit! It's her! She mentioned before that she wanted to kill Olivia. She was the insider who collaborated with Lara to plot the assassination!"

At that moment, Eugene reached out and grabbed Nicole around her neck before suddenly pulling her toward him. There was a cold sneer on his lips then.

"I'm glad you've maintained your conscience and didn't frame Hayden for this. Penny did come here before and she was the only one with the strongest motive, but who told you that Lara was the one who hired the assassin?" After Eugene said that, he suddenly shoved her as she fell back to the ground involuntarily.

Hayden was shocked by that and he quickly rushed over to take her into his arms. "Nicole, are you alright?"

At that point, she trembled uncontrollably and she started to consider the situation slowly in her dazed state. Yes, I've jumped ahead of myself! Otherwise, I wouldn't have made such a careless mistake.

She recollected herself and continued to argue, "Everyone knows that Theodore is Lara's butler, so who else could it be, other than Lara? This is just a logical deduction."

However, Eugene coldly responded, "How could you logically deduce that someone serving a sentence in prison masterminded this? You went to see Lara on the second day of last month and transferred one million to Theodore. Do you need me to bring out all of the evidence and lay them in front of you?"

At that point, Nicole fell to the ground in a heap and she felt as if her heart had sunken into a darkened abyss. She could not seem to control the tears from streaming down her face.

Naturally, she was not entirely upset because of Eugene's ruthlessness, but she was terrified more than anything else. Eugene has indeed uncovered the truth. I'm doomed! Things are no longer possible between me and Eugene, but most importantly, he's not going to let me off the hook. I targeted his mom!

Suddenly, there was a tapping sound of footsteps coming from the staircase and everyone turned to look in that direction. It was Olivia and she was dressed in a white hoodie and black leggings with her hair pulled back into a ponytail. She looked quite casual, but her beauty shone through.

As soon as Eugene saw her, the originally angry expression he had dissipated and there was a surprised look in his eyes. He could not seem to contain his upturned lips. Subsequently, he got up and walked over in a few strides to take her hand to lead her down the stairs. "Why did you come downstairs?" Olivia glanced at him and answered, "I came to see how things went with you guys. Am I bothering you?"

"No." As Eugene spoke, he took her hand into his and led her to the couch to take a seat. He chatted with her without any regard for the others. "Where's North?"

"He's playing chess with Brian."

"Is Brian still not admitting defeat?"

Olivia smiled and said, "Yeah, Brian's not letting go anytime soon. They played for three rounds and he lost all of them."

Eugene could not contain his laughter. "He asked for it."

She nodded and agreed, "Yes. He seems quite happy despite losing, though."

Everyone downstairs looked at the two of them with stunned expressions. Neither of them exchanged lovey-dovey words with each other, but their intimate relationship was one that no one could ever intrude upon.

At that moment, Nicole's heart ached badly. So, this is how Eugene behaves when he's in love, huh?

He was no longer cold and distant but a considerate and soft-spoken man. It was evident as he looked at Olivia with tenderness and affection in his eyes.

It would be such a blessing to be his woman, but... Why can't it be me? Why doesn't he like me?

Meanwhile, Hayden helped Nicole up from the ground as he piped up, "Eugene, have you investigated everything clearly? There is no reason for Nicole to go after Mrs. Nolan. She is in love with you, so she wouldn't bear to hurt your mom."

Eugene held Olivia's hand and sneered coldly, "Who does she love? She only loves herself. You're right. She has no reason to target my mom. That's why she made use of this point 'cause she's so great at seeing through one's thoughts. She wanted to use Lara and get rid of Olivia on her behalf. That was why she worked together with her and supplied the map to Lara so that Lara could hire assassins to get rid of my mom first. The next step would be for the assassins to get rid of Olivia. She plotted everything perfectly. Since she didn't have any motive to target my mom, I would never have suspected her. By then, once I realized that the people who went after my mom were the same bunch of people who went after Olivia, I would naturally eliminate her from my list of suspects."

As Eugene explained, he turned to look at Hayden. "Don't you find her scary? She has no boundaries or morals at all. She would make use of anyone just to achieve her goal. She's such a vicious woman. How could you still stand up for her? That guy, Andy, from before? He's a man who had willingly sacrificed his life for her. Ask her! Ask her once whether she felt any hint of remorse as she pushed all the blame on him!"

Hayden hurriedly explained, "That was entirely a misunderstanding. Nicole wasn't aware of the situation and he made the decision on his own accord."

Eugene replied, "You just believe blindly whatever that she said, but how do you know that she's telling the truth? How can you be sure that my words aren't true? Hayden, I must say that you're too full of yourself."

Hayden shook his head and refused to believe Eugene's words. "It cannot be her. Nicole is a timid person."

Eugene frowned. "Timid? Her? How can someone who would cold-bloodedly kill another person be considered timid? You've only seen the pitiful and weak front she put up. If it wasn't because of her instigations, why would Andy go after Olivia? He held no grudge against Olivia at all."

At that stage, Hayden felt apprehensive as he started to trust Eugene's words. However, he refused to admit all this because of the long-existing crush he had on Nicole.

In fact, it was not because he refused to believe Nicole was a ruthless person, but more accurately, he refused to believe that he had fallen for the wrong person.

"Andy had always had a crush on Nicole and he knew that she loved you, so that's why he went after Olivia because he wanted to help match you and Nicole up."

Olivia revealed a slight scoff. "Do you seriously believe that? Would someone in love with a girl help to kill her love rival? On top of that, match them up together? Are you hearing yourself?"

Hayden was slightly stunned. Yes. I am in love with Nicole, so would I actually do that? No! Of course not. I would pray hard for the couple to be deeply in love with each other so that I would be able to gain a chance with Nicole!

Were there really men who could be so selfless as to help their crush get together with the man she loved? Perhaps the men weren't too infatuated, then. Ah, I don't know! All I know is that I'll never be them.

He explained with apprehension, "P-Perhaps Andy is slightly different than the others because he knows that he's not good enough for Nicole."

At that point, Olivia smiled in response. "If Miss West felt that Andy wasn't a good match for her, then she should have ceased contact with him ages ago. However, she maintained a connection with him for so many years. Furthermore, Miss West fawned over him the day before the incident and kept him company till the wee hours of dawn. She clearly did that as final compensation for him so that she could feel better about herself. Am I right?"

As Olivia spoke, she glanced at Nicole and revealed a harmless smile.

Nicole felt ashamed as her dirty linen was aired in public and she suddenly shot a vicious look in return. "To hell with you, Olivia Maxwell!"

As Nicole voiced out, she rushed toward Olivia in a frenzied state. Meanwhile, Olivia stood there without moving an inch. No one would be able to stir up trouble in Promise Island, be it Nicole, who

was such a feeble weakling, or even someone who was much better at fighting.

Indeed, Nicole had only managed to take two steps forward when a bodyguard with no hesitation delivered a flying kick that sent her into the air.

However, her actions triggered Eugene's anger.

He had initially taken into account that she was a woman, so he did not plan on hurting her personally. Yet, he could not tolerate someone going after his girlfriend.

He stood up abruptly and strode over to stand in front of her. Subsequently, he reached out and lifted her from the ground by gripping her neck tightly. His eyes were flushed red out of anger. "You have a death wish, huh?"

Frightened, Hayden hurriedly rushed over to stop him. "Calm down, Eugene. She behaved badly in a fit of anger and she was just being foolish."

Eugene looked at Hayden. "She's angered because her dirty deeds are revealed. She took advantage of someone else and managed to free herself from being implicated, so are you seriously telling me that she's a foolish woman? She just never expected that I would have found out the personal details of the person who hired the assassin!"

At that moment, Nicole was extremely aggrieved as she voiced out with much difficulty, "Why didn't you mention the part where you bullied me? You knew that Andy wasn't the mastermind and yet you killed him. I wouldn't have given the map to Lara for the sake of avenging Andy! You pushed me into doing all this!"

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Eugene looked at Hayden. "Did you hear that?"

Then, he looked back at Nicole. "Was I the one who forced you to instigate Andy into killing my girlfriend and then framing Penny for it? Did I force you to sleep with him for the past seven years? Was I the one who forced you to blame everything on Andy? You're quite good at throwing the blame to someone else, huh? Well, someone has to bear the consequences since you refuse to, so at least Andy's brave enough to face the music for his own mistakes. You're useless compared to him!"

After Eugene said that, he instantly cast her aside. Subsequently, he took out a handkerchief from his pocket and carefully wiped the hand that he had just used to hold Nicole by the neck.

As soon as Hayden heard that, his brows became tightly furrowed. "Eugene, what are you on about?"

Eugene angrily glared at Hayden. If it was not for Hayden, Eugene would not have bothered to speak to her at all.

"To save you from being disgusted and hurt by her actions, I told you to stay away from her back then. I didn't wanna reveal her deeds, but I don't think she cares anymore now." As he spoke, he turned around and took a seat on the couch.

Suddenly, Nicole felt terrified as she scrambled to get up from the ground. She glanced at Eugene flusteredly. "Eugene—"

After he took his seat, he naturally draped his arm on the back of the couch and it looked like he had his arms wrapped around Olivia.

However, the look he shot Nicole was exceptionally cold and indifferent as there was a sinister sneer on his lips. "It's rare to see you in a terrified state."

Then, Eugene looked at Hayden. "Eight years ago, when I was drugged, the wine that Nathan poured me came from Nicole and she made use of Nathan to hand the wine to me. You guys were drinking downstairs, but she came up the stairs. I reckon she must have intended to come into my room, but somehow, she was dragged into her room by Andy. Back then, Andy was the ringleader for a gang of beggars and he was somewhat skilled in martial arts. After this incident, the two became entangled with each other. Andy was very loyal to her and the night before he attempted to kill Olivia, Nicole spent the night with him at Loveshore Guesthouse. Why do you think that she spent the night with him? Olivia's right. That is her compensation for him to make her feel better about herself. After all, Andy steadfastly kept her involvement a secret, but as soon as she came over, she had no hesitation and blamed everything on him. Hayden, how can you still harbor an interest for such a woman? Aren't you afraid that someday you'll end up losing your life after being her pawn?"

Hayden's eyes reddened all of a sudden. He had convinced himself all this while to trust this woman, but he knew that Eugene would never kick up a fuss and drag in everyone unless he had actually found concrete evidence.

However, Hayden refused to accept this as he looked at Nicole with a devastated expression. In his mind, he remembered her as a gentle and elegant woman. So, how could he possibly accept that she was an extremely despicable person?

He wrapped his hand around Nicole's neck and his eyes were flushed red. "I thought that you were just in love with Eugene, but I can't believe that you're such a lowly person. You drugged someone and then offered yourself to the person. The most ridiculous thing is that you'd rather give yourself to a beggar instead of f\*cking accepting me! I've wasted so much effort to care for you gingerly and I was worried that you would be disgusted by my enthusiasm, so I held back. I went against Eugene each

time to stand up for you because I always thought that you were not a vicious woman, but I've finally realized today that I was f\*cking blind!"

Tears streamed down Nicole's face as she shook her head while muttering, "No, that's impossible. How did he find out? How did he find out?" All of this had happened several years ago and I'd also deleted the security footage back then, so how did Eugene find out?

Gazing at her, Eugene sneered coldly, "It's inevitable for your misdeeds to become known, so even if you look well-dressed and pretty on the surface, your ugly personality will slowly surface to the world!"

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At this point, Hayden was utterly disappointed. He initially harbored any sort of hope that everything might be just a fluke, but right now, he suddenly found himself coming back to his senses.

Some people were just better than others when it came to putting up a facade; what one could see was only the version they presented to the outside world. In reality, no one knew what was actually going on in their mind. After all, a human heart was the hardest thing to read. Perhaps she did not realize what she was doing or knew what she wanted. As such, how could anyone else know then?

He could accept the fact that she did not like him and he was fine knowing that she loved Eugene. After all, Eugene was far more superior than him and he was irresistible to every woman. However, Eugene was taken and he had Olivia by his side, so Hayden had always harbored hopes that someday, Nicole would have a change of mind and realize that he was a great guy too.

Nonetheless, Hayden could not accept that the woman who had occupied an exalted position in his heart had actually been entangled with a beggar for so many years. Perhaps to her, Hayden was incomparable to a beggar.



She had ruthlessly plotted and killed an innocent person in order to achieve her goal. This was all because she wanted to free herself from her involvement in the matter.

He gradually rose from the ground and the disappointment on his face was evident. Instinctively, he wanted to run away.

Subsequently, he looked at Eugene. "Deal with this matter however you wish to and you don't have to consider me."

After Hayden said that, he got up and turned around to leave. Yet unexpectedly, Nicole clung to his thigh as soon as he stood up.

Clinging onto him, she sobbed and begged, "Hayden, save me. I'm a victim too. I didn't want to be with Andy, but I couldn't get away from him despite my struggles.... The only person that I've harbored feelings for all this while is Eugene..."

Hayden sneered and bent down to grab her chin. "You're so great at denying things. You claim to have feelings for Eugene, but you didn't realize that your actions would harm his mom? This isn't love. You're just a selfish and ruthless person. You deserve all this!" He shoved her aside as soon as he finished saying that.

Speechless, Olivia turned around to look at Eugene. "Do you have anything else to say?"

Yet, he merely wore a disgusted expression. "I want her to disappear from the face of the earth."

"She's someone who loves you, though," Olivia responded with a jealous note.

Eugene kept his eyes on her and suddenly zoomed closer to put his lips by her ear. "I will only enjoy being loved by you."

His warm breath hit the side of her ears and she dodged instinctively. Subsequently, she glared at him with her pair of animated eyes. "You're so annoying!"

Eugene chuckled in a low voice and glanced at the two entangled people. "Alright. It's good enough to know that I haven't been framed for anything. There is no need to continue the conversation!"

Subsequently, he instructed his men, "Take her to the interrogation room and do the usual."

The usual? Nicole instantly felt a chill run down her spine. As soon as she saw the bodyguards approach her, she screamed loudly in fright, "Eugene, I've learned my mistake... I was just too jealous of Olivia and I didn't mean to harm your mother. Eugene..."

Her mind went blank upon realizing that Eugene remained unperturbed, so she turned around and pleaded with Hayden, "Hayden. Hayden, please save me. I promise I'll get together with you. Hayden, please save me. Ah—"

However, Kyle did not give her any time to say another word as he dragged her away.

The words she spoke made everyone present feel uneasy. Just as Kyle was about to pull her out of the room, Hayden piped up, "Hold on—"

Seeing that Eugene did not object, Kyle stopped upon taking a look at him.

As such, Hayden walked over to stand in front of Nicole and lowered his eyes to look at her. "What am I to you?" Nicole clung to his thigh and sobbed as she pleaded, "Hayden, please save me. Eugene will kill me. I promise you that I'll be your girlfriend from today onward and I'll only love you."

Hearing that, Hayden sneered and grabbed her chin again. "You're not worthy at all! How dare you assume that I would accept a woman who actually slept with a beggar, huh?"