

Unfinished 801

Chapter 801

A stern Olivia pointed at Eugene and her son. "Yeah, you two will throw tantrums when you're wasted!"

Eugene frowned. "No, I don't. And I'm not even drunk."

She eyed him in silence. 'Not even drunk,' he said. I guess it's up to me to remind them what they did when they were drunk! She pointed at North. "You cried like a little baby!"

Then, she turned her finger to Eugene. "And you called a door brother. A door! You two sit on the bed and think about what you did! I am not dealing with this." With that, she got up and went to the bathroom.

Eugene and North stared at each other in astonishment.

North laughed. "So, you called a door brother, huh?"

Eugene's face fell. I can't seem to recall doing that. I remember kissing her, but calling a door brother? Really now? "And you cried like a little baby, huh?" he retorted.

North frowned. "No, I don't. I don't even remember doing that."

"Neither do I. I think your mommy lied to us."

He said, "In any case, this stays between us."

Eugene agreed. "It's a deal."

When Olivia returned to the room, North and Eugene had agreed not to bring up the incident of them being wasted. Two pairs of eyes were on her as soon as she stepped out of the bathroom.

"What do you want?"

North huddled closer and grinned. "Can you keep what happened last night a secret?"

Olivia looked at Eugene and asked, "You want me to keep it a secret as well?"

Eugene smiled. "Well, I don't really care much about that. I'm your boyfriend, anyway."

She was rendered speechless at his response.

She brought the little episode to a close the next day as they had a case to settle and school was starting soon for North.

Eugene and Olivia had their own work to settle. They had delayed it for too long and couldn't stay on Promise Island any longer. Eugene dispatched more bodyguards to the villa to keep the patients safe. He also asked Brian to stay around for a few more days if he had time.

After he made a long to-do list for everyone, they took Nicole and Theodore back to Summer City. The first thing they did was take the two of them to the police and hand the evidence and testimonies to the cops. Lara was sued for contract killing, and the prison management was sued under the charge of lax management.

Anyone would be terrified when in the face of Eugene's fury, and it was even more so for the police as they were accused of lax management. Hence, they quickly launched an investigation and issued a warrant to recapture Rebecca, who had been released after serving her sentence.

Eugene and Olivia returned to work and handled all the documents that were waiting for their signature. North, on the other hand, prepared for school.

When school started, Olivia took North to school before meeting with Director Norris to explain why she stood him up that day. It was already noon by the time she returned to her studio.

Sophia approached her the moment she came in. "Olivia, someone wants to see you. She's been waiting the whole morning."

"Who is it?" The news came as a surprise for Olivia.

"She says she's Emerald Yliaster," whispered Sophia.

Huh? That name sounds familiar. Bluebell is Sean's mother, so this must be... Nicole's mother? Olivia raised her head sharply at the sudden realization. Why is she here? However, she had no time to ponder on it as she headed to the room Emerald was waiting at.

As soon as she entered the waiting room, Emerald immediately stood up and greeted her with a smile, "Hello, Miss. Maxwell!"

Olivia nodded. "Hello. Please take a seat."

"I'm Nicole's mother. You might not know me, but we've met once before."

Chapter 802

Olivia answered, "I know. It was back at Sean's place, wasn't it?"

Emerald smiled. "That's right. You're such a capable woman, Miss Maxwell. Not only are you a genius doctor, you are also the owner of a fashion studio."

"Just trying to put food on the table," Olivia responded.

Emerald looked a little fidgety as she continued with a smile, "You're being modest, Miss Maxwell. I know you're a brilliant woman, and I'm sure you know why I'm here. It's about Nicole."

Olivia cocked her eyebrow. "Why would you come to me if this is about her?"

Emerald responded awkwardly, "To tell you the truth, her father had tried to see Eugene many times, but he wouldn't grant him an audience. So, I have no choice but to seek you out; I know you're his girlfriend. Please, help us. Nicole's usually a good girl. I have no idea why she would do this. Please, have mercy on her. I'll keep her on a leash from now on. I..."

Tears welled in her eyes, and a lump formed in her throat. She had to compose herself for a moment before she could continue. "She's my only daughter. If she gets jailed, it's over for her."

Olivia poured some tea for Emerald and consoled, "I know how you feel, Mrs. West. But Eugene's mother is the victim here. The assassination almost killed her. Alex—Eugene's best friend—was also badly injured when he tried to save Eugene's mother. He's still recovering as we speak. I'm just Eugene's girlfriend. I don't think it'd be appropriate of me to plead for Nicole."

Emerald grabbed Olivia's hand, and with a broken voice, she convinced, "I know, but I am left with no other choice. He likes you, so I'm sure he'll listen to you. All Nicole did was provide a map of Promise

Island. That's not serious enough to be taken to court. We're willing to settle this out of court at any price. Please, just tell him that. Please, I beg you."

Olivia looked at Emerald calmly as she said, "Calm down, Mrs. West. I'm a parent as well. I can help you, but I make no promises. You think providing a map is nothing, but that's the only reason the killers could make their way to Eugene's mother without alerting the bodyguards. This was not something they did by chance. Nicole and Lara had planned this. It's an attempted murder, which is why Eugene is livid.

"You think putting Nicole through the court is bad? Eugene only agreed to bring her in by the book for your sake. He could have gone with a far more brutal method in the first place. You weren't at the scene, so you had no idea how furious he was to see his friends get hurt from trying to save his mother. And his mother almost died. Would you let the killer and their accomplice off if you were in his shoes?"

Emerald kept crying. "S-She was just duped, that's all. I have no idea why she'd work with Lara. That woman is obviously evil. She must have tricked Nicole into this."

Olivia pulled out a tissue and handed it to her. "Here, wipe your tears!"

Emerald then stood up. "Miss Maxwell, you're a good person. Tell Eugene I can do anything as long as he doesn't sue Nicole."

Olivia answered, "Sure, I'll tell him that, but don't hold your breath."

Tears streamed down Emerald's cheeks once again as she said, "I know. Thank you for the help." With that, she exited the studio.

Chapter 803

Just as Emerald walked out of the studio, she ran into Eugene. Delighted, she hurried over and grabbed onto his arm. "Eugene!"

He broke free of her grasp calmly. There was not a hint of disgust on his face, but he did not look happy either.

Oh, what am I doing? She quickly let him go.

Eugene looked at Olivia. Good. She doesn't seem troubled. He turned his attention back to Emerald and asked, "What are you doing here?"

He knew exactly why she was here. Chester had been trying to see him, but Eugene refused to do so. He didn't want to give in, but these were the people his family was friends with. Refusing them outright would look rude, so he took a step back and stayed away from them. However, he didn't expect them to seek his girlfriend out. In all honesty, he was a tad bit mad about it. Their daughter had tried to kill my girlfriend more than once, and now they're asking for her help?

Emerald answered awkwardly, "It's about Nicole. I'd like to see you, but you've been busy, so I came to Miss Maxwell's fashion studio."

Eugene ignored her explanation. He approached Olivia and held her hand. "Are you alright?"

Olivia threw a glance at Emerald before replying, "I'm fine. She just wants me to tell you something. They're hoping that you can settle this out of court."

"And how do they want to settle it?" he asked.

Emerald answered, "Eugene, we can do anything as long as you don't sue Nicole."

Eugene then said coolly, "Tell Mr. West to come over. Since my girlfriend is helping you, I can settle this out of court."

She beamed at his response and quickly said, "I'll call him right now."

"After Olivia and I have lunch." He then held Olivia's hand and led her out of the studio.

They went to a nearby couple's restaurant. Since it was made for couples, everything came in pairs. The air itself smelled like romance. Olivia thought she had just walked through a portal that led her to the shores of the Aegean Sea.

The lighting was blue, the cutlery was blue, and even the chairs and tables were of the same color. The decoration was cute and beautiful while the food looked exquisite and delectable. A piano tune was playing in the background, making the place feel Mediterranean.

"This is beautiful!" Olivia couldn't help but exclaim.

Eugene smiled. "I found this place by chance, so I wanted to bring you here."

A waiter led them to their seats and handed a menu to them.

Olivia took the menu over and instantly fell in love with it upon noticing it. It was also blue in color. How romantic. The food even had unique names that held special meanings behind it. How cute!

Love at First Sight, My Only One, An Oath of Love, Sweet Dreams. Olivia grinned from ear to ear as she read through the menu silently. "I would have no idea what the food is without the illustration."

Eugene smiled as well. "Creative, isn't it?"

She agreed, "Yeah. Makes you wanna order a lot of food. I'll have one Love at First Sight and Sweet Dreams." She then handed the menu to him. "Here, your turn."

He pointed at the menu. "Together Forever, Eternal Companionship, Rose's Kiss, and Eternity." After ordering the food, he handed the menu back to the waiter.

Olivia was laughing uncontrollably. "If others didn't know better, they'd have thought we're talking in code."

Chapter 804

Eugene said, "We can start a restaurant if you'd like."

"Forget it. Do we look like we have time to run a restaurant?" asked Olivia.

"We don't, but my mom does."

Olivia nodded at that. "True. We shouldn't let her stay on Promise Island any longer. After all, we can't take care of her well if she's too far from us."

Eugene responded, "Yeah. I'm wondering if I should let her run a restaurant or help Brian with his."

"You can ask her when she comes back."

"Yeah."

Olivia then asked, "Do you really wanna settle this out of court with Nicole's parents?"

"If they'd like me to."

"You don't have to give in just because of me. I'm only trying to help because I pity Mrs. West, but I have told her that you've been merciful enough to even give Nicole a chance to go through the judicial process. And I have explained to her the severity of this matter. I think she will understand even if you refuse to settle this out of court."

Eugene responded, "I know. I just want them to know settling this out of court isn't as good an idea as they think. Some people need to be knocked hard on the head to see the truth."

Olivia then said, "You're friends with Nicole, so your family must be good friends with Chester and Emerald as well. Don't make this hard for any of you."

"Alright. Stop worrying about it."

The food was served fast. Ten minutes later, the things they ordered were already on the table.

In truth, they were just regular food given a special name and beautiful decoration. And just like that, the food magically looked prettier.

They were having their lunch when a host announced, "Hello, everyone. Thanks for coming to Mi Amor. Now it's time for our lucky draw. Our winner can ask for a song they want to be played. And also, they can get a bottle of Rose's Kiss, courtesy of the house."

A round of applause soon filled the dining area. The patrons at the restaurant wouldn't want to embarrass the host, after all.

It was only then Olivia turned her attention to the stage and she was surprised to see the pianist, who was but a mere boy. "Oh my gosh. Was he the one who played the piano just now?"

Eugene shifted his gaze toward the stage as well. The boy was in a black tailcoat, and a red bowtie hung from his neck. He wasn't fond of children, but since he had a son, he took a liking to the boy. "He must be a prodigy. Not many children can play piano that well at his age."

Right then, the host announced, "Now, let's see who our lucky winner will be today." He pulled a slip of paper out of the box and laid it out. And then, he announced, "Table twenty-eight. Congratulations to table twenty-eight!"

Olivia froze for a moment and looked at their own table number. Oh, it's twenty-eight! With excitement in her voice, she said, "Oh, that's us!"

Eugene was pleased to see her happy, and a smile tugged on his lips. "We're lucky."

A waiter approached them. "Congratulations. You're our six hundredth lucky couple. What would you like your song to be?"

Olivia chuckled. "Six hundredth, huh? Sounds lucky."

The waiter smiled. "Indeed."

"We can request any song we like, right?"

"Yes, any song. The pianist has been working with us for about two weeks. Hasn't run into anything he can't play yet."

That surprised Olivia, after which looked at the boy again. The boy looked relaxed as confidence twinkled in his eyes.

Chapter 805

"Wow, he's awesome. How old is he?"

"Six years old."

"My, isn't he a genius? Well, I'd like Mariage d'Amour, please."

The waiter nodded. "Just a minute, Miss. And your bottle of Rose's Kiss will arrive soon." With that, he left.

Olivia kept her eyes on the stage the whole time, but never once did she see the waiter go up the stage. Right then, she noticed the boy starting to prepare for the performance. The waiter probably relays my request to the host through a walkie-talkie, she figured.

The pianist placed his hands on the keys, and a moment later, that familiar tune started singing in the air. He played well. Not even a moment of pause happened. The tune was hauntingly beautiful, and Olivia's eyes never moved from the boy. She had even forgotten to eat. For some reason, she was drawn into the sad love story behind the tune, and tears filled her eyes.

Eugene reached out to hold her hand. "Alright, you can listen to it while you eat."

Olivia remarked, "The boy is amazing. He plays well."

"Our son isn't bad either."

"Yeah."

Before they paid the bill, Olivia waved at the waiter, and he approached them. "What would you like, Miss?"

She handed him all the money she had in her purse. "I'd like the boy to have this. He played well. I loved it."

The waiter smiled. "Thank you. I'm sure he'll be delighted."

"It's alright," she replied.

The waiter left. Then, Olivia watched as he gave the money to the boy, who nodded at her.

She gave him a smile and waved goodbye. He must have it hard. No child should be working at this age.

She's still as kind as ever, Eugene thought to himself. Then, he said, "If you'd like, we can come here often."

Olivia answered, "The owner knows how to do business. I wonder where he got the boy. He's a great musician. I think a lot of people would come here again just for the boy."

"You like him?"

"Don't you?"

Eugene shot her a look. "Don't say I didn't remind you. If North knows you have a liking for someone else's kid, he's gonna get jealous."

Olivia went speechless at his words. I suppose I can't deny that.

Chester and Emerald were already waiting when they returned to the studio.

"Eugene, Miss Maxwell," Chester greeted.

"Hi, Mr. and Mrs. West. I hope you had lunch," Eugene replied.

Chester hesitated for a moment before he said, "We had a few bites." It was a lie. There was no way they had the mood to eat, especially not when their daughter was detained.

Eugene didn't care, however. He only asked out of courtesy. After he and Olivia entered the studio, he said, "Let's go to your office, Olivia."

"Sure," Olivia agreed.

She slowed down when they approached her office—she wanted to let Nicole's parents enter first. No matter what Nicole did, she still thought her parents deserved some respect. They seemed reasonable, and Olivia could understand how they felt.

Though, Eugene didn't share that opinion. Even if Nicole's parents weren't here to ask for his help, he wouldn't even bat an eye just because he went into the office first. He took the seat behind the desk like he owned the place.

Both Chester and Emerald stood around awkwardly.

Eugene then pulled a chair to his side before beckoning Olivia over. "Come over here and sit."

Chapter 806

Olivia nodded in acknowledgment and went over. "Please take a seat, Mr. and Mrs. West."

Chester and Emerald both agreed, but they waited until Olivia sat down before sitting.

However, no one started the conversation, and an awkward silence took over.

At last, Chester spoke up. "Eugene, it's our fault for failing to do a good job in raising Nicole. Our failure resulted in her making such a terrible mistake. Since you and Nicole have been friends since you were children, can you please be merciful just this once? Her mother and I will both be eternally grateful to you!"

"Mr. and Mrs. West, do you know what your daughter did?" Eugene asked.

Chester and Emerald glanced at each other. "We do. She gave Lara Roberts the map to your mother's villa, which allowed the killers to get in, and your mother nearly lost her life. Even so, she's still not the mastermind behind the plot, and I don't think she meant to do it, either. Eugene, we're begging you. Her life would be ruined if she goes to prison."

Despite his plea, Eugene continued evenly, "She nearly caused my mother's death. Alex had a concussion after fighting off those men and is still recuperating now. On the other hand, Jewel is still unable to move after getting stabbed when she was shielding my mother from the attack. Go on. Tell me what you think I should do to your daughter."

"Eugene, I'll make sure Nicole apologizes to you in person. And, of course, to your mother, Alex, and Miss Fenton as well. Would that be enough? I'll give you as much money as you want in compensation too." Chester ventured hesitantly.

Eugene snorted. "Do you think I need money? Or do you think Alex needs money?"

"I know neither one of you need money, of course," Chester replied frantically. "It's just a gesture from us to make it up to you."

"You can forget about giving us money. I have more than enough! And not everything can be settled with money," Eugene retorted.

Emerald rushed to add, "Eugene, Nicole likes you, you know. Why would she do such a thing?"

However, as soon as she said those words, she saw Eugene's expression darkening and she quickly realized her mistake. She turned to Olivia and immediately started explaining, "Please don't take it the wrong way, Miss Maxwell. I know Nicole has no chance of ending up with Eugene, no matter how much she likes him. What I meant is that Nicole has always been an innocent girl who isn't scheming. Perhaps Lara promised her something to trick her into doing this, or else, why would she have given the map to Lara for no reason?"

His expression was stormy as he refuted, "She didn't do it for no reason, of course. She and Lara had an agreement. Getting rid of my mother was the first step, and her next step would be to get rid of my girlfriend. Lara wasn't the one who promised her anything. Your daughter's the one who suggested it. Is this what you mean by her so-called affection for me? Does she like me so much that she won't be satisfied until she gets rid of my girlfriend too?!"

Both Chester and Emerald stared at each other in shock when they heard Eugene's outburst.

Much, much later, Chester finally mustered up the strength to speak. "T-That can't be."

"Your daughter, who seems so artless and innocent to you, has already done a lot of things. I kept giving her chances for your sakes, Mr. and Mrs. West, but what do you know? Give her an inch and

she will take a mile. Do you know who Andy Yard is?" Eugene asked.

Chester looked at Emerald. "Who's that?"

"I think that's Nicole's friend. I've heard her mentioning that name on the phone before," Emerald muttered back.

Eugene filled them in. "Eight years ago, Andy Yard was just a beggar who lived in that area under the city's two major bridges. Somehow, he ended up getting involved with Nicole, and ever since then, he had been obeying her command without protest.

"Just recently, right after the new year, Nicole ordered Andy to make a move against Olivia. Not only did they trick Olivia into drinking a spiked drink that sedated her, they also even prepared over a dozen feral dogs. By the time I got there, the dogs were howling like mad, and Andy had already beaten Olivia to

within an inch of her life. Can you imagine how I felt at the time? Nothing could settle the rage that I felt, not even if I killed them with my bare hands.

"Yet, your daughter was cunning enough to push all of the blame onto Penny instead. Although I gave Nicole a warning and taught her a lesson, in the end, I still let her off easier than she deserved. This time, she leveled up her game. She started working with Lara and even hired a bunch of hitmen. Do you still think she's an innocent girl who doesn't scheme? She's plotted two murders now. She targeted my girlfriend once and now my mother. How can you expect me to let you settle this out of court?"

Chapter 807

Emerald was dumbstruck. "T-That's impossible. She's always been such an obedient girl," she stammered.

Chester looked at Eugene. "Are you sure about all of this, Eugene?"

"I wouldn't need to come up with such stories to trick you. Your daughter is indeed brilliant. She knows how to play mind games and take advantage of others. She creates conflict between two people with just a few words. People who don't know her well will think she's gentle and well-behaved, but those who truly understand her will know that no one else matters to her. She's willing to make use of anyone, be it Penny, Aleena, or even Andy, who was willing to die on her behalf. These people are all supposed to be her friends!" Eugene fired back.

By now, Chester realized what was happening. Eugene had no intention of settling this matter in private and merely wanted to hold them accountable. "Eugene, does this mean you won't accept our apology?"

"I am willing to sit here and listen to your so-called settlement right now only because you went to my girlfriend, and she's too kind-hearted. I did this for her sake. I can accept your apology, but do you even know what an apology is? An apology only counts when the person who's apologizing has suffered the same pain the victim endured. What's the point of just saying a few words of apology?"

Chester was floored. Suffering the same pain that the victim had experienced? Didn't that mean Eugene wanted to push them to the brink as well?

Was Chester supposed to give Nicole a concussion and stab her too?

"Eugene, even if Nicole provided the map, she wasn't the mastermind. Lara's the real mastermind. Can't you just take into account that she's our only daughter and—"

Eugene didn't even bother to let him finish before snapping impatiently, "That's why I allowed her to go through the justice system instead. My initial plan was to pay her back by making her experience everything she did to Olivia and the others. Mr. and Mrs. West, I've already compromised for your sake and Hayden's sake as well. I need to do what's right for the victims too. Alex and Jewel got hurt while trying to save my mother, and my girlfriend still hasn't fully recovered from her injuries yet! How can you think that you can just resolve this with money? Are you trying to humiliate me?!"

Chester and Emerald exchanged looks again. Knowing that it was futile to make any further attempts, they both sighed and stood up. "We understand. She needs to take responsibility for her mistakes."

"Olivia's been busy with work lately. I don't like people coming up with all sorts of excuses and ways to disrupt her life," Eugene commented.

"I understand. I won't be coming again," Emerald said awkwardly before the two left the studio.

Olivia got up to see them off before heading back to Eugene. "Didn't I tell you not to make things too difficult?"

"I did go easy on them, just like you told me to," he replied innocently.

She was speechless. "Is this how you go easy on someone? What would you have done if you didn't, then?"

"I would've filled them in on all of Nicole and Andy's dirty deeds. I'm pretty sure they wouldn't even dare to step out onto the streets to get into their car if I did," he answered.

Olivia thought about it in silence. In that case, he did go easy on them, after all. "Still, I pity her parents."

Eugene took her hand. "Don't waste your time pitying others. There are tons of pitiful people in the world. You're not a saint. You can't save the world."

She sighed but didn't say anything.

"You had a meeting with Director Norris about the plot today, right? How did it go?" he asked.

"It went pretty well. I quite like the story. It's a spin-off set in the same world as Nine-Tailed Fox No. 7 and I think this one will do even better. But if I take it on, I'll have to spend all my time on set. I won't be able to take care of the household."

Chapter 808

It was obvious that Eugene would've preferred having Olivia with him all the time instead of her being on set for months at a time, but he also showed full support for whatever she wanted to do.

"It's fine. I'll be here to take care of everything."

Olivia chuckled. "Do you support me?"

"Of course. I won't stop my girlfriend from becoming even more amazing than she already is."

She laughed. "You're so wise, Mr. Nolan."

Eugene pulled her into his lap and looked at her. "Do I get a reward?"

"Sure." She leaned in and pecked him on the lips before pulling away.

His expression darkened. "That's all?"

"There are cameras in here," Olivia reminded.

Eugene checked where all the security cameras were pointing before pulling Olivia into the cameras' blind spot and kissing her ferociously.

"You perv!" Her eyes flashed angrily.

He chuckled. "You're not at all sincere about giving me a reward."

"Look at you behaving like you're in the right. I was just a teeny, tiny bit touched by you earlier, but that's all gone now," she declared.

He smiled. "Does this mean I get to retract what I said, too?"

"Don't even think about it!"

She was glaring at him menacingly, but in Eugene's eyes, she looked nothing but adorable.

He pulled her into his arms. "I feel so at odds, you know. I don't really want everyone to be staring at my girlfriend, but at the same time, I feel like showing off to the world that you're my girlfriend. Nevertheless, you'll always have my support to do whatever it is that you like doing."

Olivia leaned against his chest. The sound of his heart thumping steadily gave her a sense of security.

"I accepted the role not just because I like the plot but also because I want to make up for the past. After everything that happened during the filming of Nine-Tailed Fox No. 7, everyone was very critical of me, and Summer Monroe was blacklisted from the industry because of me, too. The project should've achieved excellent results, but it was beset by the negative publicity all because of me. I feel rather guilty toward Director Norris. Also, when that incident happened, he was one of the first people to stand by me in public. After all that, I couldn't bring myself to turn him down. I promise I won't take on any more projects after this!"

Eugene smiled. He held her face and kissed her forehead. "I know. You don't have to explain yourself to me. When two people are together, they're supposed to bring out the best in each other. We should become even better people for each other instead of having to compromise and give up on what we want. Go ahead. Walk down the path of your choice. I'll always be right behind you."

Olivia's nose started getting stuffy. She looked up at the man in front of her. "Why're you so amazing, Mr. Nolan?"

Eugene gave it some serious thought. "How can I measure up to my wonderful girlfriend if I don't become an amazing person, too?"

Olivia laughed. "From now on, we must always remember to shower each other with over-the-top flattery!"

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Rebecca was apprehended and questioned by the police, and she readily confessed everything she knew. Lara had indeed used her washroom break to get Rebecca to pass a message along.

One week later, the court announced its ruling. Lara's sentence of 11 years and 6 months imprisonment was now changed to a life sentence.

Nicole was to spend 3 years and 2 months in prison.

Theodore Medici received 5 years and 6 months.

Those who had been on duty at the prison were fired from their jobs while the others were also given various penalties.

Thus, the case was closed.

Life went back to normal as everyone busied themselves with their respective work.

After much convincing and cajoling from Eugene and Olivia, Ellen returned to Summer City, but she didn't choose to stay with the couple.

It was most likely because she didn't want to walk in on them during their lovey-dovey moments.

Chapter 809

Ellen moved in with Brian instead in the hopes of making up for all the years they've gone without seeing much of each other.

It was also a lot more convenient if she stayed with him as he lived alone and didn't have a girlfriend.

Worried that Ellen might feel bored, Brian arranged a job for her. Thus, whenever she had some time to spare, she would do an impromptu inspection of the hotel. All in all, life was pretty fulfilling for her.

Jewel had glued herself to Alex's side even more after he got injured because of her. Their relationship had become a lot more intimate; they were way more than friends now, though not quite lovers yet.

Even though it still took quite some effort for her to talk, she was doing a lot better than before. She could even say simple sentences in one go now.

Alex was delighted on the inside.

After being away from the office for nearly two weeks, work started piling up on Alex's desk, and although he could do a lot of things virtually, there were still documents he needed to sign in person.

By now, Jewel was making a full recovery too, so she spent the whole day with Alex. While she couldn't help with much, she could still do simple tasks such as handing him documents, pouring his coffee, and ordering lunch for him.

She ended up being busier than he was as she took on the roles of a secretary, an assistant, and a bodyguard all in one.

Alex had asked her to take a break several times, but she kept refusing.

He felt a little helpless. Although he liked being able to see her at all times, he didn't want to tire out his future girlfriend, either.

Therefore, he put away the documents in his hands and stood up.

"What do you need?" Jewel asked at once.

Alex chuckled and pulled her over. He had an affectionate smile as he said, "Take a break. Aren't you tired? You only just recovered from your injury."

She shook her head. "I don't feel tired at all!"

"Well, I'm tired, so let's get off work."

Jewel glanced at the documents on the desk that still required Alex's attention. "There's still a lot of work to do."

"It can't be finished in a day. Let's eat," Alex said.

"Isn't Eugene treating us to dinner today?" Jewel quizzed.

He was startled for a moment before he recalled why she had addressed Eugene by the first name.

Ever since that incident, Ellen became determined to take Jewel as her goddaughter. During their time at Muse Peninsula, Ellen insisted on getting Jewel to call her Godmother.

She also made sure Jewel acknowledged Eugene as her older brother and had Brian acknowledge Jewel as his older sister, too.

Eugene and Brian both formally accepted her as their god-sister as well.

While the rest of them didn't mind the change in their relationship, Alex was the one who felt a little disgruntled. Once he and Jewel officially got together, he would have to start treating Eugene like his future brother-in-law.

"I forgot about that, but it's just as well. Let's go over now," Alex said as he pulled her out of the office.

Truth be told, Jewel wasn't used to it just yet. Even though they had grown a lot closer recently, she still felt awkward when they did anything too intimate.

She kept telling herself not to be affected by the kindness and thoughtfulness that others showed her. I must remain self-aware and know my place in life.

When she closed the door behind them, she had managed to withdraw her hand from his.

However, just as soon as she did that, Alex took her hand again.

Everyone started gossiping once they left.

"What do you think is going on inside Mr. Road's head anyway? Why is he interested in a mute?"

"She's not a mute, okay? She just doesn't like to talk. I've heard her speaking before."

"Either way, I'm sure there's something wrong with her. I just can't wrap my head around it. Look at all the different types of gorgeous women in our company. Mr. Road could've had any one of them if he wanted to. Why does he spend all of his time with her? And he seems to enjoy it too!"

"You sound so jealous right now. Is it because you have your eye on Mr. Road?"

Chapter 810

"Well, aren't you too? A girl can dream! Even if I can't become Mrs. Road, I don't mind just being his side chick!"

Alex and Jewel had no idea what the others were saying behind their backs. They walked hand-in-hand all the way to the elevator and down to the first floor.

Ding!

The elevator door opened, and the woman outside the elevator stared at them in shock.

The middle-aged woman looked elegant and well-dressed with a white fur cape around her shoulders and a pair of black pants.

She was a little plump, and her hair was styled to perfection. The emerald jewelry she wore on her neck, wrist, and ears all screamed luxury as well.

Alex was startled, too. He didn't expect to run into his mother here. "Mom, what are you doing here?"

Stefanie Mayer finally withdrew her gaze from Jewel's face. "Who's she?"

Alex's heart jolted, and he quickly replied, "Her name is Jewel Fenton. She's my friend."

Stefanie's gaze fell onto their tightly clasped hands.

Alex swiftly let go of Jewel's hand and took Stefanie by the arm. "You haven't explained why you are here so late."

"I heard that you came back, so I wanted to come and see you. They said you didn't come to the office for two weeks. Where did you go?" the middle-aged woman asked.

"I have a last-minute business trip. You could've just called me if you wanted to see me. I would've gone back to see you."

"You say that, but how long has it been since you last came home?" Stefanie huffed. "I wouldn't have seen you if I didn't come to the office today."

"Yes, you're absolutely right." Alex went along with her. "You made the wisest decision. Still, I'm supposed to have dinner with Eugene tonight, so I can't go home with you. Why don't I accompany you for dinner tomorrow instead?"

She eyed him suspiciously. "You and your glib tongue. Fine, go ahead and have your dinner with Eugene. I'll go up and take a look."

Alex's brows furrowed slightly. "What's there for you to see up there when I'm already leaving?"

"I'll help you see if anyone's slacking off," she said as she entered the elevator.

He called out exasperatedly, "Mom—"

However, Stefanie ignored him, and the elevator door closed.

Jewel gave Alex a quizzical look. "What's wrong?"

He smiled. "Nothing much. That's my mom. My dad cheated on her and abandoned us when I was about three or four. She raised me all by herself, so I always feel helpless when dealing with her."

She laughed. "Your mother had a hard time. You should treat her well."

Alex had a complicated feeling in his heart when he heard what she said. The old her had said the same thing before. At the time, he also cared a lot about his mother's opinion and wanted her blessing. Stefanie didn't approve of Jean, so they tried their best to please her.

Yet, no matter what they did, his mother still didn't like her.

When Stefanie finally relaxed her stance, Jean ended up...

Alex withdrew himself from the memories. Though things had taken an unexpected turn, he was certain that things had not been quite as simple as they seemed back then.

He truly believed that his Jean wouldn't be that kind of person. But will Mom believe that? Nope, she won't!

All of a sudden, Alex felt a little uneasy. I hope Mom didn't recognize her. After all, she has changed a lot, and I have introduced her as Jewel Fenton. But if Mom still doesn't agree this time...

His hand tightened around Jewel's. He wasn't going to compromise this time!

The two left Road Enterprises and went to Brian's Fairview Hotel.

It was their first gathering after returning from Promise Island.

They were the first to arrive, but Brian came soon after. He walked over to the two of them with a smile. "I thought I was going to be the first! Have you been waiting long?"