Chapter 415 His Prospective Sister-in-Law

Even Eugene was eloquent when it came to dishing out sweet nothings. Afterward, the two of them went to buy some noodles. Just as Olivia had promised, she began cooking upon returning home.

"Eugene, why don't you give Brian a call and invite him over? I'll show you what I'm capable of today." Then, Eugene gave North a doubtful look, using his eyes to ask, 'Is she serious?'

North replied in a calm and easy-going manner, "Relax; the noodles my mommy makes are pretty good."

Upon hearing those words, Eugene felt relieved. "I seem to recall you saying that your mommy is good at making three dishes. One was egg-fried rice, and another was stir-fried tomato with scrambled eggs. Are these noodles her third specialty?"

North nodded in response. "I survived until now all thanks to these three specialties!" Eugene burst out laughing and ruffled North's head. "These three dishes made my son into such a smart boy."

After a while, North raised his brows delightedly. "Have you reconciled?"

Then, Eugene smiled. "Your mommy said that she wasn't angry."

Hearing those words, North shook his head precociously. "Women always say things they don't mean."

Thus, Eugene found himself at a loss for how to respond. Isn't this child a little too mature for his age? "Son, are there many girls hitting on you at the kindergarten?"

North scowled fiercely in response. "Isn't that obvious?"

Looking at North, Eugene felt speechless. Fine. My son is so excellent; it'd be weird if he didn't have any admirers!

Watching his father deep in thought for one second, and snickering to himself in the next, North couldn't resist asking, "Didn't Mommy ask you to call Uncle Brian?"

Eugene came back to his senses, saying, "That's right; it nearly slipped my mind." As he spoke, he took out his phone and called Brian.

Meanwhile, North shook his head wordlessly at Eugene. What would Daddy do if he didn't have me?

After receiving treatment from Olivia for a week, Brian was feeling much better. Even if he slept all night, his head didn't hurt as much anymore when he woke up in the morning. Moreover, despite learning that Olivia had been involved in a fight at the bar recently and threw a small tantrum because nobody stepped forward to help her, he didn't get dizzy or suffer from a headache.

Recently, he had been in constant contact with Eugene. Thus, the scales in his heart were slowly tipping in Eugene's favor, especially when he saw the sweet interactions between Eugene and Olivia. They gave him a heartwarming feeling—this was his home, and they were his elder brother and sister-in-law. For that reason, he had secretly buried the feelings he held for Olivia.

At first, he had been very unwilling to give up on her. He had been afraid of approaching her in the beginning lest he brought harm on her. Later, he learned that Eugene was courting her too. Despite his worries, he began to sink deeper in love with her. Frankly, everything he warned Eugene about was for himself too. Thus, he knew that if he really loved her, he should keep his distance from her.

Afterward, Eugene claimed that she was the woman he had been searching for—for seven whole years. At that moment, Brian felt remorseful. He should have snatched her away without hesitation before that fact came to light. After all, Eugene had had no clue at the time.

However, Brian then became aware that no matter how early he had appeared in her life, he could never meet her earlier than his brother, who had met her seven years ago. If Eugene had not fallen in love with her seven years ago, he wouldn't have spent all these years searching for her, nor remained single for so long.

Therefore, Brian understood clearly that she was his prospective sister-in-law—she was somebody he could never covet no matter how strong his feelings for her!

Brian rang the doorbell, and Eugene answered the door. "Come on in! We're waiting for you!" Then, Brian handed over two bottles of red wine that he had brought over.

Taking them from Brian, Eugene glanced at them and said disapprovingly, "Aren't you on medication right now? You're not allowed to drink!" He was now part of a traditional medicine practitioner's family, so he had learned some of the basics.

Brian glared at him in return. "It's for Olivia." Eugene was rendered speechless. Yeah, right! As if!

"Brian, you're here." Olivia greeted Brian from inside the house. Thus, Brian replied and went inside. Olivia's sesame noodles were ready.

## Chapter 417 Fighting Over a Bowl of Noodles

Brian glanced at his bowl, which was more than half-filled with noodles. Then, he glanced at Eugene's bowl, which had a little less than half left. No matter how he looked at it, there was no way he could finish his food before Eugene. Thus, he stood up and brought his bowl with him into the kitchen after brief consideration.

Eugene immediately frowned in response. Picking up his bowl, he followed Brian into the kitchen. This was his battlefield. Therefore, he walked into the kitchen, picked up the lid of the pot, and covered the pot with it. At the same time, Brian reached his chopsticks into the pot. He wasn't happy about being able to see the noodles but not being able to eat them. Thus, they were in a stalemate—one wanted to snatch and one wasn't giving in.

"What are you playing at? Have you finished your food?"

"Why do you care? This isn't enough for me to eat."

In the dining room, both mother and son widened their eyes in surprise. This display had left them speechless. Olivia had wanted to stop them from squabbling. However, their fight had escalated instead. Why are two men in their thirties standing in the kitchen on the verge of exchanging blows over a bowl of noodles? Who would believe me if I told them about this? Where is the cold and ruthless president? Where is the warm and caring man?

North had a worried look on his face too. "Mommy, you should make more next time."

Then, Olivia answered tiredly, "Sure."

After that, he frowned. Glancing worriedly in the direction of the kitchen, he said, "Why don't you go and stop them?"

She propped her face in her hands, looking dejected. "How do I stop them? Who am I supposed to give that bowl of noodles to?"

Mulling over it for a moment, he suggested, "Why don't you give them half each?"

"Hmm, that's a good idea," Olivia said as she stood up. When she arrived at the kitchen door, the two men suddenly became open to discussion.

Eugene said, "Do you want to go first?"

Then, Brian replied, "It's okay; you first."

Olivia stared at them wordlessly. "I'll serve you both." Walking over, she took the lid off the pot and filled up their bowls. A small amount was leftover. Seeing that, she smiled gently. "Eat slowly. If it isn't enough, there's still some left."

Upon hearing that, both Eugene and Brian were rendered speechless.

After dinner, Olivia performed acupuncture on Brian as usual. This was the quietest both brothers had been all night.

For that reason, Brian had the leisure of asking about the incident at the bar today. "Who came to pick a fight with you today?"

The corners of her mouth twitched slightly. "Who told you that somebody came to pick a fight with me?"

Suspicious, Brian asked, "Huh? Was that not the case?"

She snorted. "Of course, not."

On the other hand, Eugene asked, "Did you pick a fight with somebody?"

Lifting her gaze, she met his gaze and nodded. "That's right. I picked a fight with somebody. Do you still remember Melanie Hopper? She slandered Nathan behind

his back and said a lot of offensive things about him. Not only that, but she also claimed that she had the highest chance of seducing you. Anyway, I find her very irritating and slapped her more than 20 times in a fit of rage!"

Eugene smiled in response. "Serves her right."

Brian smiled too. "Joe called me and told me that it was you. Moreover, he ordered his men to suppress the news. Nobody will dare to post this up online nor make it viral."

Olivia glanced at Brian in confusion. "Who is Joe?"

Then, Brian smiled warmly. "Do you remember hitching a ride on the overpass? I was there too."

North immediately raised his hand and exclaimed, "I remember! I was there too."

Suddenly, Olivia recalled the incident. "Yeah, I remember now. So, that man is Joe?"

Brian affirmed, "The bar belongs to him. Coincidentally, he recognized you that night. After the incident, he gave me a call!"

Following that call, she threw a tantrum, asking why he didn't step up to help. As a result, Joe claimed that there was no need for him to help. Olivia was one-sidedly exacting her revenge on the other party. Besides, there were security guards around too!

However, Eugene frowned. He was unaware of the incident they were talking about. This feeling of alienation and being excluded was making him very uncomfortable. "When did you hitch a ride in somebody's car?"

Olivia looked at him and coyly replied, "Before I became your girlfriend."

Her reply left him speechless.

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Meanwhile, at Edward Nolan's residence...

## Chapter 418 Searching For a Boyfriend for You

Penny usually lived in her own house. However, Lara called her today and told her to come home for dinner. Hence, she was quite surprised. After all, her mother didn't seem like the type to call her back for dinner without reason. Rather, she was a workaholic—the kind of strong, independent woman who poured her entire soul into her career—who normally showed very little concern for Penny.

Naturally, Penny did not rely much on her mother either. Thus, the relationship between mother and daughter was rather estranged. I depend on Eugene more than I depend on my mom. No! We are more like strangers to each other!

As soon as Penny arrived home, she had the feeling that Lara probably had something to talk to her about. Her mother had only ever had three serious discussions with her throughout her life. The first time was during her high school entrance examinations. She had failed to obtain her mother's ideal score.

For that reason, her mother had told her to repeat the examinations. Thus, she obeyed. The second time was during her university entrance examinations. She wanted to enter art school, but her mother had forced her to change her aspirations and apply to study medicine.

Thus, she obeyed again. The third time was when she had gotten herself a boyfriend in university. Her mother claimed that her boyfriend did not come from a good family and instructed her to break up with him. Thus, she obeyed again.

What does she want me to do today? This is why I don't like returning home. Every time I come home, my mom has a new order for me. That's right; they are orders! Other people had warm memories of spending time with their mothers, but she was the only one with a cold and unfeeling mother who did not allow her to disobey her orders!

She greeted her parents, "Dad! Mom!"

In response, Lara said, "Come and take a seat! Let's eat!"

Penny grunted in reply. Then, she picked up her chopsticks and looked at the dishes set out on the table. There were eight dishes, but more than half of them were dishes that she disliked.

Edward noticed that she was hesitating to eat. Thus, he placed a pork rib in her bowl while asking, "Penny, how's work recently? Is it tiring?"

She replied, "It's okay."

He asked again, "Did you visit your grandfather at the Nolan Residence recently?"

Lowering her head to eat, she murmured, "I haven't gone there in a few days."

He said, "If you're free, do visit him more often. Your grandfather is getting on with his years. He wishes to have people around to keep him company."

She said, "I know."

"Quickly finish your food. I have something to say after dinner," Lara piped up.

Upon hearing that, Penny sighed weakly in her heart. "Okay."

After dinner, Lara instructed, "Go sit on the sofa and wait for me."

Hence, Penny did not leave. Instead, she sat down on the sofa.

Not long after, Lara came over with an envelope in her hand. "Have you gotten yourself a new boyfriend recently?"

Those words made Penny instinctively put up her guard. She was afraid that her mother had found out about something. So, she hurriedly denied, "No."

Then, Lara said, "You're not young anymore. It's time for you to get a boyfriend now."

Hearing those words, Penny felt relief washing over her. It looks like she doesn't know that I like George Parsons. Thus, she obediently replied, "I know, but I haven't met any suitable candidates!"

"I have a few for you to choose from. Tell me who you fancy and I'll help you arrange a meeting." As Lara spoke, she took out a stack of photos from the envelope and placed them on the table.

Penny glanced dumbfoundedly at Lara, then glanced at the photos on the table. There were at least seven or eight of them, if not ten. Moreover, there were various types of men. She knew some of them too. Still, what kind of people were they? They were similar to Ben Roberts in personality—they changed girlfriends as often as they changed clothes.

What was most incomprehensible to her was that some of them were not young anymore. However, they all had one common characteristic—they came from wealthy families. Although they couldn't compare with the Nolan family, they were not to be looked down upon. Shocked, she looked at Lara again. "Mom, what is the meaning of this?"

Lara frowned in response. "What do you mean by that? I'm searching for a boyfriend for you!"

Penny smiled, but the smile did not reach her eyes. "Mom, are you looking for a boyfriend for me? Or, are you looking for in-laws for yourself?"

Lara asked, "Is there a difference?"

Penny's eyes became cold as she studied Lara. "Of course, there is. Have you investigated these men?"

Chapter 419 Is That Something a Mother Should Be Saying?

Lara looked at Penny with a frown. "Why wouldn't I have investigated them? Which one of them is unworthy of you?"

Penny sneered as she picked up the photo of the man she felt was old enough to be her father. "This man... Is he a candidate to become my boyfriend too?"

In the end, Lara seemed a little guilty. "I investigated them before gathering them into this envelope. This man might be a little older, but the Anderson Family is considerably influential. Besides, an older man will dote on you more. Look at your dad."

Penny's expression darkened. "My dad is only older than you by five years. This man is older than me by at least fifteen years!"

The scowl on Lara's face grew fiercer and fiercer. "Then, why don't you look at the others?!"

In response, Penny picked up another photo. "This is the youngest son of the Landry Family, right? He can't even be compared to Ben Roberts! At the very least, Ben goes home. This guy spends his days fooling around at nightclubs without even going home! Are you asking me to marry a guy like that?!"

Lara suppressed her rage. "Aren't all wealthy men like that? When it comes down to it, it's up to a woman and her means. If you can capture a man's heart, even a playboy will stop his ways. If not for that, you won't be able to stop him from fooling around even if you are given an honest and down-to-earth man!"

The expression on Penny's face became darker and angrier. "Is that something a mother should be saying?"

"What's wrong with saying that as a mother?!"

"Am I your biological child?! These are the kind of men you dredge up for me?!"

"That's why I gave you a selection to choose from! It's not like I'm asking you to marry them! Why do you have to give me that attitude?!"

"There's no need for me to choose! I don't like any of them!"

"Penny Nolan!" Lara was so furious that she stood up and pointed at her. "You get less and less considerate as you grow older!"

Edward hurriedly stopped her. "Calm down. Let's talk this out. If the child doesn't like any of them, we can just choose new ones."

"Don't bother choosing new ones. I'll find my own boyfriend. I don't need your help," Penny said as she stood up to leave.

"Stop right there!" Lara yelled at the top of her voice. "Penny, you were born into a wealthy family. You should have known that marriages among the wealthy are all about choosing a partner of equal social status. You can find one yourself, but you have to choose one from among them. You are not allowed to consider other men."

It's another one of her orders that I'm not allowed to defy. I'm sick of her giving orders here and there whenever she wants to. I'm already 23! What right does she have to decide how my life should pan out? Thus, she suppressed her fury and gritted her teeth as she said, "I said I don't like any of them!"

Lara said, "Marriages are all about business. Besides, nobody's marriage is smooth-sailing. After a long while, all sorts of issues will pop up within the marriage. The good things you thought were amazing at the start might not be good after all. Conversely, a marriage you reject might turn out to be the most perfect match for you. At the very least, these men I've gathered for you are comparable to you in terms of family background, education, and culture!"

In response, Penny gave a self-deprecating laugh. "The most important thing is that it benefits your career development, right?"

"That's right. If you marry them, it will bring the company to the next level."

"Despite how high-sounding your words were, they were ultimately still for your own selfish benefit. With how wealthy our family is, do I even need to marry anybody? I can support myself. Why do I need to live my life revolving around the feelings of a man and suffering because of him? But, my mom wants me to live like that. She claims that all men are unfaithful and constantly fool around at nightclubs. She doesn't plan to allow me to find a man who doesn't fool around in the first place. Instead, she wants me to learn how to capture the heart of a playboy. Is that what you should be saying as a mother?! All you know how to do is work! You will never be satisfied; it doesn't matter how much money you earn, you will never be satisfied! If you cared for me, you wouldn't try to force these men on me!"

Slap. As soon as she finished her rant, the sound of a slap landing across her left cheek sounded out clearly.

"Hey!" Edward jumped in fright. Grabbing Lara, he exclaimed, "We can talk this out! Why did you have to be violent? How long has it been since she came home?!"

Chapter 420 Was I Such a Failure as a Mother?

Penny instinctively covered her face with her hand, and her tears immediately rolled down her cheeks as she glared at Lara aggrievedly. Then, she yelled furiously, "How could you hit me just because I refused to obey you on this one matter?! Am I really your daughter?! I'm just your tool! You are a tyrant—domineering, selfish, cruel, and merciless! You're a modern-day version of Genghis Khan! No, you're worse than that! You're the devil himself!"

At first, Lara had felt a twinge of guilt. However, when she heard those words, her temper flared up immediately again. Thus, she struggled to break free and hit Penny again for good measure, but Edward held her back firmly. "That's enough. Don't get violent again. Why are you fighting with your child?"

Lara continued to struggle against him. "Let go of me!"

Edward stopped her with all his might whilst saying to Penny, "Penny, why don't you leave for now? Your mom is too angry right now. Don't provoke her anymore!"

Meanwhile, Lara pointed at Penny and roared, "If I'm the devil, then you're the devil's spawn! How are you any better than me?!"

On the other hand, Penny sneered, "Being born as your daughter is the greatest sorrow of my life! Who else has a mother like you?! Other people have mothers who speak to them gently and lovingly. Moreover, it's normal for them to receive hugs and kisses from their mothers! But, what about me?! How many times have you ever hugged me in my entire lifetime?!

I can count them with my fingers! I didn't put in so much effort when I was younger because I liked studying! I did it because I wanted to see you and hear you praise me! When I was sick or having a fever, the only people by my side were the

servants! When I didn't dare to sleep at night, you threw me back into my room without any hesitation at all!

You're not my mother! You're more like a slave master to me! Every time I see you, you have a new order for me to carry out. From interfering in my life's choices to determining the criteria for choosing a spouse—I've always obeyed you. I've never disobeyed any of your orders before.

But, I realized that no matter how much effort I put in or how obedient I am, you're never satisfied with me! Every single time, you only consider things from your point of view. You've never even considered what I want." She stopped for a moment. Noticing that Lara was about to say something, she added, "Perhaps I'm wronging you by saying all these.

It's not that you've never cared for me. It's just that I'm not as important as making money to you. Whether it's me or dad, your greed comes before any of us. For the sake of your never-ending desires, you're willing to sacrifice anybody! I will find my own boyfriend myself. If you think those men are so great, you can adopt a goddaughter into the family and marry her to them!"

After saying that, she turned to leave.

"You ungrateful child! Is that what I've taught you since you were young?! Didn't I do it all for your sake? The reason you can live so gloriously and enjoy such a respectable career right now; isn't it because I planned it all out for you?! What else could you possibly want?!"

Penny spun around abruptly. "You taught me?! What have you ever taught me?!"

Edward anxiously said, "Penny, please don't say anymore. Just leave quickly!"

"Dad, stay out of this. For once, I'm saying what's always been bottled up inside of me. If she's mad at me, then she can hit me!" Glaring at Lara, she continued, "Do you think I'm enjoying a respectable career? You don't know that I actually have

hematophobia. Every single time I have to perform surgery, I feel so disgusted that I get chills.

You don't know what I had to go through just to be able to stand in front of an operating table! Besides, I hate performing surgery on people! Even more than that, I hate watching their painful struggles as they die! You don't know how long it took for me to get over my boyfriend after you forced me to break up with him!

You don't know how much work and effort I had to put in to fulfill each one of your orders! It doesn't matter anymore; I'm an adult now. In the future, I will make my own life choices. You can take my words as the words of an unfilial daughter. No matter what, I'm grateful to you for giving birth to me. I'm leaving now."

When Penny finished her rant, she turned around and left the villa.

Lara stared at her back as she left. In the end, she did not stop her from leaving again. Instead, her legs gave way under her as Edward helped her over to the sofa to sit down. "Was I such a failure as a mother? I planned everything out for her... Was I not doing it for her sake?"