## Chapter 501 Fakeout

A message played clearly from the sound recorder pen after North pressed play. "You think I, Alex Road, won't be able to pay you? How much money do you want? Tell me, 20 million? Perhaps 200 million?" There was a moment of silence before the voice continued, "Getting the money? The more famous you are, the more money you rake in. I'm just that rich. So, how about it? Wanna do it with me? How about a fifty-fifty split, if you join hands with me?"

Alex was completely gobsmacked after listening to the entire recording. He thought that he had been playing him, but in the end, he was the one being played.

As though he already knew all about it beforehand, Eugene spoke up, uncaring that Alex was still there. "Although he isn't some famous person, the content is shocking enough. It should be able to bring in some money. Think of a headline that'll grab eyeballs."

North also ignored Alex as he tilted his head and carefully thought it over. "How about 'Road Enterprises' CEO's Unique Fetish'?" But then he frowned. "That doesn't sound clickbait enough. Why don't we put out 'Watch A Business Mogul/Part-Time Paparazzo Earn Road Enterprises For Themselves'?"

Eugene nodded. "That works!"

North grinned. "Then, I'll post it now." With that, he ran over to the desk with his short legs and turned on the tablet.

"Alright, give me a heads-up once that post is up. I'll promote it!" Eugene said.

Alex stared at North before turning to stare at Eugene. They were talking like it didn't involve him, making him angry enough to blow a gasket. "Don't you guys have some humanity in you?" As he said that, he chased after North, only to realize

that he hadn't uploaded the recording. Instead, he was playing games on the tablet. He let out a sigh of relief. "You little jerk!"

He wondered where North inherited this mean streak from. So young, yet already so evil.

Eugene couldn't stop himself from shooting Alex a glare. "You were willing to even trick a child, and you're talking about humanity?"

"Yeah, you said it yourself. We didn't force you," North added.

Alex snorted. "I was just kidding. You guys thought I was being serious?"

"No, but if that recording does actually get uploaded, someone's gonna think it's real."

"My foot. Hurry up and delete that recording, or I'm going to tail you tonight," he threatened.

North grinned. "Sure. Since you're Uncle Eugene's buddy, let's go with ten million!"

Alex pursed his lips and glanced at Eugene. "Your status as my buddy isn't really worth anything. Still trying to cheat me of ten million because of that?"

"If it wasn't for us going way back, he would've asked for a hundred million!" Eugene commented with a straight face.

"Talk about daylight robbery."

North snickered. "You can also choose not to pony up."

Alex was rendered speechless. The child was going to upload the recording if he didn't cough up the money, huh? In the end, all he could do was give up. "You're Olivia's kid, alright. You're really shrewd!"

Then, they chatted jovially for a while. At last, Alex directed the conversation to the topic he had in mind. "Where did you see Jean?"

"In a hotel room with Olivia," Eugene replied.

Alex's brows furrowed. "What did you mean when you said she couldn't talk?"

"What else could it possibly be?" Eugene looked at him in irritation. "What on earth are you thinking?"

Alex lapsed into silence. When he received Eugene's photos last night, his first instinct was to look for her and interrogate her. Why did she leave with another man? Why did she cheat on him? Had he treated her awfully?

He nearly had a falling-out with his own mother because of her. Was that still not enough?

She, on the other hand, had gotten off easily, leaving for seven years at the drop of a hat without caring about how he felt.

As night went on, however, and Alex gradually regained reason, the waves of nostalgia completely overtook him. He kept making excuses for her. He thought that she must have had her own difficulties too. The girl that Alex knew wouldn't have been so cruel. They had spent so many happy days together—how could they have been faked?

Chapter 502 To See Her Again

"We had been in a relationship for a long time. If she is back, I naturally want to be with her," Alex said somewhat awkwardly.

Eugene sighed. On the surface, it seemed that Alex was a playboy, but in actual fact, he had never had a girlfriend. The women around him would only stay with him for a week at most. Even when his family urged him to marry, he would just nod and smile and agree to it. Meanwhile, he would discreetly send the potential fiancées away.

Everyone knew about Alex's playboy ways, but no one knew that deep down in this philanderer's heart was a woman who could never be replaced. That was why he didn't want to date anyone!

Eugene looked at Alex. "Even if she cannot speak anymore?" he asked solemnly.

Alex nodded. "Yes, even if that's the case."

"But your mother won't agree!" Eugene stated.

"If she won't agree, she won't be just losing a daughter-in-law—she will be losing me as well," Alex said.

"You've thought it over already?" Eugene asked.

"Yes, even if she will be the only woman I will ever have a relationship with!"

"That's wishful thinking from you. She still has to actually want to meet you."

"Tell me, where is she? Don't make this out to be like an interrogation from my cousin Marcus."

Eugene shot him a look. "I'm screening you for my girlfriend's sake. How am I supposed to look her in the eye when you mess up and leave?"

"Relax, I won't get you involved. I'll personally talk to Olivia myself. So tell me, where is she?"

Seeing how anxious Alex was, Eugene couldn't hold back his laughter. "You should psych yourself up before you meet them!"

"What?" Alex asked.

"She was once a killer for the Double Dragon Court, but she is already dead. You know what it means to die and be reborn there, right?"

Alex was startled. "The Double Dragon Court? Why would she be there?"

"I'm not sure about that, but she met Olivia there," Eugene answered.

"You mean, Olivia is also..."

"She no longer is."

Alex was frantic. He dragged Eugene with him. "Come on, hurry up and take me to her!"

Eugene broke from Alex's grip. "Hold your horses. What's with the rush? You won't be able to see her even if you go now."

"Why not?"

"They're currently in the middle of a film shoot. They'll only be free once work has wrapped up for the night. Don't get your hopes up too high; I have the feeling that she doesn't even remember you."

"How do you know?" Alex asked.

"She didn't even recognize me. In fact, she was pretty surprised when she saw me!" Eugene said.

"Because it's you. You guys are just kinda acquainted with each other. How is that on the same level as my relationship with her?" Alex asked, unwilling to back down.

Eugene had no words. Fine, sometimes one has to experience that rude awakening themselves.

Right then, someone suddenly knocked on the door.

"Come in!" Eugene called out.

Samantha walked in with a pile of documents. "President Nolan, these need to be signed."

When Eugene saw Samantha, his expression darkened. He instinctively glanced at North, only to see the boy lower his head.

A stormy look flashed across Eugene's eyes. "Get out! From now on, do not enter this office without my permission."

Samantha instantly froze on the spot and looked at him with fearful eyes. Her voice sounded hurt. "But, President Nolan, I'm just here to get the signatures for these!"

"All you need to do is finish the task I gave you!" Eugene stated coldly.

"All right. I'll take my leave, then," Samantha answered. With that, she left the office.

Alex looked at Eugene in confusion. Why did this guy lose his temper so badly?

"What's up? You don't like that secretary?"

"No," Eugene said blandly. He glanced at North by his side. Looking at the boy lifted Eugene's mood a little, and he reached down to pat North's head.

Eugene hadn't said anything, but North felt incredibly safe.

Chapter 503 Magazine Cover

In order to see Jewel as soon as possible, Alex simply waited inside the office at the Nolan Group.

Eugene was rather busy that afternoon too. He had just extricated himself from a pile of documents when he received a phone call from Kate.

"Hello there, Mr. Nolan!" Eugene was surprised that Kate would call him. "Hello," he greeted with a smile. Kate paused. "Mr. Nolan, there's a little matter I'd like your help with."

Eugene was quick to answer. "Go ahead."

"Uh... In a few more days, the next issue of my magazine will hit the shelves. I'm thinking of borrowing some of that precious real estate under the Nolan Group's name. I'll pay the fees. Just leave a spot for me," Kate said slowly.

Eugene wondered why she made a big deal out of it when he heard her proposal, and he immediately agreed to it. "Alright, no problem. You won't even need to pay to rent the space. I'll get someone to iron out the details with you tomorrow. Explain what you need to him."

Kate hadn't expected that this problem that she had been ruminating on while walking in circles would be resolved so quickly.

In truth, she should be avoiding her best friend's boyfriend, but she had no other choice. Sales at her magazine publishing house had been miserably low. If it weren't for the sake of her dozen or so workers, she didn't want to bother Eugene at all.

"Thank you, Mr. Nolan. Still, I insist on paying the rental fees. I'm already thankful enough that you're sparing the space for me!"

Eugene burst into laughter. "You really don't have to. You're the reason why Olivia and I are able to have the future we do now. You should give me a chance to repay you."

Kate smiled. "Treating Olivia well is payment enough."

"Olivia will be angry if she finds out that I accepted rent from you," Eugene said.

"No, she won't. This is a separate matter, after all! I'll give you a present in a bit in order to express my gratitude for this."

Eugene was taken aback. "What?"

"I'll send it over shortly. That'll be all for now then. Bye, Mr. Nolan," Kate said mysteriously.

Eugene hung up, not quite comprehending what just happened. Not long after that, he received... dozens of pictures on his phone. They were all pictures of Olivia. Some were sweet, and some were flirty. They were pictures of her in different poses and at different angles. Although the pictures hadn't been edited, Olivia's beauty was absolutely flawless.

Accompanying the pictures was a message from Kate, sent a few seconds after.

'Your wife will be on the cover of our next issue. These are all the pictures that we took during the photoshoot. Here's a sneak peek.'

Eugene had to admit that Kate was someone who was good with words. Just the mention of the word 'wife' was enough to have Eugene in an inexplicably bright mood. His expression was soft as he scrolled through the photos, all while suppressing the smile threatening to break out.

Alex could see all this from his position on the couch in the distance. What's he looking at? His smile is threatening to split his cheeks open. He curiously got up and pressed in close to take a look. When he saw that Eugene was looking at photos of Olivia, he instantly understood why Eugene was in this silly state.

Oh, he's looking at his girlfriend's photos.

"Gotta admit, Olivia is really beautiful."

Alex's sudden statement startled Eugene. "When did you get here?"

Alex was stunned. "I've already looked at more than ten photos, and you never noticed me?"

Eugene didn't speak.

North pressed in as well. When he saw Olivia's photos, his eyes curved up with his smile. "Mommy's so pretty."

Alex looked at Eugene, who hadn't scrolled to a new photo during this time. "Aren't you gonna keep looking at those photos?"

Eugene's brows knitted even more tightly together. Suddenly, he thought of a question. "If Olivia is going to be on the cover of that magazine, doesn't that mean everyone is going to see her photos?"

Alex couldn't stop himself from laughing at that. "What? You want to keep all those photos for yourself?"

## Chapter 504 A Caged Bird

"Can't I do that?" Eugene asked like it was perfectly justified. Alex laughed. "I'm not roasting you or anything, but we're living in modern times now—why the chauvinism? If the rest of the world is as narrow-minded as you, society will never progress!"

"What does my relationship have to do with society's progression? I just don't want my girlfriend to show her face to the entire world. Is that unacceptable?" Eugene asked.

"Then why did you let Olivia shoot that film? Won't you get your wish if you just lock her up like a nightingale?" Alex retorted.

Eugene regarded Alex with a hurt look. That thought did cross his mind before. He didn't want anyone else to know just how beautiful she was. But he also knew that this rebellious woman would not take kindly to being locked up in a cage!

Alex grinned, seemingly having seen through Eugene's thoughts. "You're that petty, huh? If you're thinking 'this woman beloved by the masses is mine,' that's just plain arrogant and prideful of you. Locking her up will just destroy her. A woman dolls herself up for the ones she loves. No one dislikes being loved by others! Some people are just fated to have millions of eyes on them!"

Eugene pursed his lips. "But I don't want everyone to look at her!"

"Well, that depends on whether you want a girlfriend, or a pet bird," North said placidly.

Alex guffawed as he flashed a thumbs-up of approval at North. "Finally, I know why your daddy's so whipped by you and your mom. Both of you aren't to be crossed!"

Eugene rolled his eyes at Alex. He wondered if Alex only just realized that now.

"Looks like that lesson earlier hadn't made deep enough of an impression on you."

Alex's face stiffened, and he immediately shot a glare in Eugene's way. "Why can't you read the room?"

Eugene was in no mood to banter with him. During the next hour, the CEO of the Nolan Group, the one favored by fortune kept sighing inside his office. He kept wondering whether he wanted a girlfriend or a caged bird. Naturally, he didn't like his girlfriend to blatantly show herself off to the public, but his son was right—if he forcefully stopped her, Olivia might not want him anymore.

Might not want him anymore, anymore...

When he caught sight of Eugene spacing out, Alex couldn't stand it anymore. "Being able to get on the cover of a magazine shows that she's got her own skills and following backing her up. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to make those magazines sell. You should think of ways to help Olivia boost those magazine sales. The cover's already been shot. If you force her to stop, Olivia's definitely not going to be happy, and she will have to break her promise with Kate. She must have her own reasons for agreeing to the magazine shoot since the photos have already been taken, so you should stop overthinking it. Isn't the point of being together with her supposed to be happiness?"

Eugene glanced at Alex. All of a sudden, he thought that Alex had a point. So, he picked up his phone and called Curtis. "Get both our offline and online departments ready to receive copies of the Bourgeoisie Life magazine, stat!"

Alex burst into laughter. "Looks like you're able to learn!"

. . .

That night, Olivia and Jewel returned to their rooms after finishing their movie shoot. Before she could change into her pajamas, Olivia heard the doorbell ring.

She was surprised. Who could be here at this hour? Suspicious, she opened the door, only to see Eugene and North standing by the door—no, Alex was there as well.

The corners of Olivia's lips twitched uncontrollably. Does this man have to come visit me once a day?

"What brings you here?"

Eugene was delighted, his eyes remaining fixed on Olivia before him. "Let us in first. I'll explain everything gradually."

Only then did Olivia realize she had blocked the entrance, so she stepped aside and let them in.

After they were all inside, North stretched his arms out, asking for a hug. "Mommy—"

Chapter 505 Meeting Jewel

Olivia pulled her son into her arms. "Have you been a good boy while you were with Uncle Eugene?" she asked, smiling.

North gave it some thought. "I guess. Uncle Eugene made the spaghetti you cooked for me. It was disgusting."

Olivia shot a look at North. "How could you say that about your Uncle Eugene? His cooking skills are so good. How could the meal have been bad?" she grumbled good-naturedly.

"It really was. Even Uncle Eugene said it tasted gross."

Upon hearing that, Eugene nodded in agreement. "Yeah, it tasted really nasty. It tasted completely different from your recipe."

Olivia failed to stifle a giggle. "Once I'm done with this project, I'll make some more for you two."

Alex kept staring at Jewel after he went inside. She had gotten a lot skinnier, and she had her hair cut as well. Her gaze was no longer as warm as before, and it had an inexplicable aggressiveness in it.

Jewel's brows knitted together slowly. If this man hadn't come with Olivia's boyfriend, she might have already exploded at him for staring at her like that.

After Olivia had placated North, she realized that Alex had been staring at Jewel all this while. She eyed Eugene suspiciously. 'Why's he staring at her?' she asked through her gaze.

Eugene inched closer to Olivia and whispered into her ear, "They used to date."

Olivia's eyes widened in shock, and she looked at them in disbelief. They used to date each other?

The way they looked did not indicate that they were lovers. In fact, enemies would have been more apt of a description, especially with how Jewel's gaze grew more and more irritated.

"Do they look like a couple?"

"I think that she lost her memory," Eugene said.

Olivia was taken aback. Amnesia? "But that can't be right; she recognized me!"

"I'm talking about her memories before she met you," Eugene whispered.

Now Olivia was well and truly startled. They had already suffered enough when they were still in Double Dragon Court. She hadn't thought that something else had happened to Jewel even before then. Otherwise, Jewel wouldn't have suffered from amnesia, and she certainly wouldn't have entered Double Dragon Court.

In a few steps, Olivia was by Jewel's side. She pointed at Alex and asked, "Jewel, do you know him?"

It was then that Jewel withdrew her gaze from Alex and shook her head.

Olivia glanced at Alex before she introduced him. "This is Eugene's friend, Alex Road." She then introduced Jewel to Alex. "This is my friend, Jewel."

Alex regarded the woman before him. It felt like his heart was being ripped apart. It was clearly the same face, but why didn't she recognize him? And why couldn't she speak anymore?

He wanted to go over and hug her. He wanted to tell her that he was wrong, and that he would no longer let her leave him. But in reality, he remained rooted to the

spot, like his feet had been glued down, unable to move. His eyes never once left Jewel.

After what felt like half a day, Alex managed to control his body with the reasonable part of his mind and offered Jewel a hand. "Hi."

Jewel glanced at Olivia before slowly stretching her own hand out.

At last, Alex shook her hand. Her hand wasn't soft, and there were even hard calluses on her palm. It felt like night and day compared to seven years ago.

His heart ached. Just what had Jewel experienced?

Before he could properly process his emotions, Jewel retracted her hand.

Alex awkwardly withdrew his hand as well. He looked at Olivia. "Can I have a word with your friend in private?"

Olivia frowned slightly. She shifted her gaze to Jewel. "Jewel, do you want to talk to him?"

Jewel shook her head.

Olivia looked back at Alex. "She's not acquainted with you guys yet. You can have that talk with her once she's gotten to know you better!"