

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 721

“Evan, where will you two live now? At Imperial Garden or Hillside Villa?”

“Hillside Villa!” Evan answered without any hesitation.

Susan furrowed her brows and asked, “Evan, where is Imperial Garden? It sounds like an amazing place. Could we live there instead?”

Evan barely glanced at her before replying in a firm tone that brooked no argument, “No!”

Imperial Garden belonged to Nicole and nobody but her was allowed to live there. If she were to return one day, that would still be her home.

The abnormally fierce look on his face surprised Susan. She bit her lip as tears welled up in her eyes, looking incredibly pitiful.

Clenching her fingers, she repeatedly reminded herself that everything was fine. She was his wife now, and that gave her plenty of time to make him open up to her and eventually, fall in love with her.

All she needed was time.

One year later, at K Nation.

It was a sunny day. Nicole was standing in the garden, watching as Nina and Maya played around the swings while Kyle and Juan practiced their Taekwondo nearby. Inexplicably, her heart swelled with warmth.

Time had flown by so quickly. Before she knew it, the four kids had been staying with her for a year now. Strangely enough, they still seemed to have no intention of going back to their own parents.

“Hey, you four, when are you going back home?”

The children tensed as anxious expressions appeared on their faces. They began to whisper among themselves.

“Mommy is trying to shoo us away again.”

“Sigh. It’s been a year yet we still haven’t managed to make Mommy remember us. What a failure!”

“I think this is pretty good though! At least Mommy seems happy.”

Nina rolled her eyes at her sister. Pursing her lips tightly, she explained, “That’s not true! Mommy’s not happy at all. Levant keeps bugging her and urging her to marry him! She doesn’t like him so she’s very upset about it!”

“Levant is a big, fat liar! He keeps lying to Mommy.”

“Yeah, exactly! What do we do? How can we help Mommy?”

Juan racked his brain for ideas before he suggested, “How about we bring Mommy back home? Take her far away from Levant.”

“Oh, that’s a good idea! If we take Mommy away, she won’t have to marry Levant anymore!”

John, who had been staying close by and listening to their discussion, had to agree that was a splendid plan. Another reason he approved of their decision was that he had not seen Evan in over a year. He wondered how the other man was doing.

“Nina, Maya, how about this? You two tell her that you want to go back to see your father. After that, insist that you want her to take you all back,” John proposed.

Nina snorted and retorted, “We’re not going back to see meanie Daddy!”

“Yeah! Even if we go back, we wanna stay with Mommy! I don’t want Daddy anymore!”

John thought it over before reassuring them, “It’s just an excuse to make her go back with you. After you return, you guys get to call the shots, don’t you?”

The girls pondered his words but did not immediately reply. It was only after their brothers nodded at them that they agreed.

Nicole had already been toying with ideas on how to escape her marriage to Levant. Thus, she readily agreed to the children's suggestion.

In the past couple of months, Levant had been persistently trying to find all kinds of reasons for them to get married. Every single time, she had to find a different excuse to reject him.

She was slowly running out of excuses to use. In fact, she had barely been able to refuse his most recent two advances. Temporarily leaving the country sounded like a great idea.

"Alright, I'll accompany you guys back home."

The quadruplets cheered at her agreement. They would not need to see that liar Levant again and their mother could escape his clutches. How very wonderful!

Worry clouded Stephen's mind the moment he heard that Nicole was bringing the children back to their home.

"Nicole, you really should stop pushing back your wedding date."

Although Stephen did not really approve of Levant, he had seen how well the younger man had treated Nicole in this past year.

Other than Evan, Levant was the only other man in this world who treated her so nicely.

Since Evan had already married someone else, there was no better choice than Levant.

Nicole grinned at him in response and swore, "I know, Dad. I'm just taking them back home. I'll be back in no time; you'll see."

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Stephen mulled over it before sighing. "Fine. Come back as soon as you can." He prayed nothing else would happen during this time.

After saying their goodbyes to Stephen, Nicole happily went back to her room to pack.

John watched Nicole and the four kids, his thoughts racing.

I wonder how Mr. Seet is going to react when he sees Mrs. Seet after so long. She hasn't managed to regain any of her memories in the past year. Would being back in a familiar place trigger anything? If it does, what will she do? She does have an explosive temper.

At this, John's brows creased in a worried frown.

Why is it so difficult for them to be together?

"John, what are you standing around for? C'mon!"

Seeing that John was still rooted to the spot, Nicole shouted back at him.

Her voice snapped him out of his thoughts and he hurried over to help them with their luggage.

Half an hour later, they were sitting in the private plane Stephen had arranged for them.

The moment they stepped off the plane, Nicole had John call Evan.

John took out his phone and did as told, telling Evan of their arrival. After a brief moment, he ended the call and pointed over at a nearby cafe. "Ms. Lane, it's going to be twenty minutes before Mr. Seet gets here. Let's wait for him over there."

The children instantly agreed so Nicole nodded as well.

“Okay. Let’s go.”

John went off to order a cup of coffee while Nicole sat down with the kids at a table. They started to prattle, telling her about all the fun places in the country.

When they were done, Maya mentally sighed. Mommy was the one who took us to all those places last time. But now she doesn’t remember a thing! How are we supposed to help her?

Nina grabbed Nicole’s hand and asked her earnestly, “Stay with us, please?”

Stay with them at Evan’s house? That’s not very appropriate and convenient, is it?

Just as she was thinking of how to answer, Evan arrived.

“Daddy!” Juan called out sweetly.

To his surprise, his siblings rolled their eyes at him.

Daddy is a meanie! Why are you acting so cozy with him!

Hearing the shout, Evan turned around. His gaze brushed past John and the children before fixing on Nicole.

He noted how she seemed to have lost weight since they last met one year ago. However, her face was still as beautiful as he remembered, with a pair of bright and intelligent eyes.

Their gazes locked together. Nicole could see the passion and affection in his dark orbs. Her heart pounded in her chest and she hastily ducked her head.

I must be seeing things. There’s no way Evan will look at me like that! Ugh, it’s already been a year yet I still have such crazy thoughts when I see him. Snap out of it, woman!

When Evan came to a stop before them, Nina glared at him before pointedly turning her head away.

Kyle’s expression was cold and hard as he stared at his father.

Maya had to remind herself that her father had been a bad, bad man. Remembering what he had done to their mother, she scowled at him.

Juan grinned a little nervously. He was worried if he expressed his delight at seeing his father, he would become the public enemy among his siblings. Without any other option, he lowered his head to avoid looking at Evan.

Nicole was taken aback by the children's reactions. She was tempted to ask if the man was actually their father or their enemy. They haven't seen each other in a year! Just what grudge are they holding against him to treat him like that?

Sensing the tense atmosphere, John chatted with Evan briefly before excusing himself.

Nicole shifted uncomfortably at the awkward silence that surrounded them. She opened her mouth and said, "I've brought your four children back. However, what kind of a father are you? How could you not worry about letting them live with a stranger for a year!" She was clearly complaining on behalf of the kids.

Your four children. A stranger.

From these words, Evan could tell Nicole had not regained her memories.

Pinning her with a loving look, he expressed from the bottom of his heart, "Thank you for what you've done. It must have been hard!"

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Evan's gratitude made Nicole feel a lot better. Things really had been hard in the past year.

“Your children are incredibly mischievous and cunning. It truly has been rather difficult to look after them. If you want to repay me then arrange for me to stay in a good hotel for the next few days.”

This isn't an outrageous request at all for taking care of your kids for a year!

At this, Nina instantly piped up that she wanted to stay with Nicole. Beside her, Maya nodded as well.

Having always been a boy of few words, Kyle used his actions to express his intentions as he moved to stand beside Nicole.

Grinning slyly, Juan suggested, “It's not comfortable to stay in a hotel at all! Daddy, is anyone living at Imperial Garden? Why don't we all stay together at Imperial Garden?”

Of course there was no one staying at Imperial Garden.

That place was Nicole's.

Evan did not even need to think about it as he nodded. “Okay, I'll take all of you there.”

Nicole was honestly perplexed by the man. How can he agree to let them continue living with me? Isn't he going to bring them home to enjoy a luxurious life?

After that, the children stuck like glue to her sides, escorting her into Imperial Garden.

The moment she stepped foot inside the yard, a wave of hazy images flashed through her mind. The images seemed connected to this yard somehow but she could not be sure.

Suspicion rose in her and she wondered if she had been to a similar yard before she lost her memories.

In the living room, she had barely taken a seat when Nina sped upstairs. A few seconds later, the little girl zoomed over to her before tugging her into the master bedroom.

Although Sylphiette had trashed the room, the family photo of Nicole, Evan and the four kids on a family outing was still fine. All of her clothes were also untouched.

Nina pointed the photo out to Nicole, who was shocked to see who was in it.

“That woman in the photo looks exactly like me!”

The little girl looked her right in the eyes as she replied, “That’s because it is you!”

“It’s me?”

Doubt surfaced in her mind. If that woman really was her, why had Stephen never mentioned anything before? What about her engagement to Levant? How did that happen?

“Mommy, look! All the clothes in the closet are your favorite styles and colors!”

Glancing at the clothes, Nicole was amazed to see that it was indeed her preferred styles and colors. What was even stranger was the sense of familiarity that niggled at her as she stared at them.

She reached out a hand to stroke a pink skirt that caught her attention. The instant her fingers brushed against the fabric, another jumbled series of images appeared in her mind.

The images were of her hanging up these clothing, yet they seemed hazy and unreal. When she tried to focus on those images, her head felt like it was splitting open. She stumbled a little at the pain.

“Mommy, what’s wrong!”

“I’m fine.”

Now she finally understood why the children kept calling her “Mommy.” She looked exactly like the woman in the photos.

However, the fact that the clothing and design of the room matched her tastes was an incredible coincidence—too coincidental. Suspicion rippled through her.

She headed back downstairs. Evan had not left yet but was lounging on the couch. The casual posture did not diminish his noble and elegant air though.

Nicole sat down opposite him, twisting her fingers together uneasily. After a while, she focused her attention on Evan and asked, “Err... Mr. Seet? That woman in the photo upstairs that looks a lot like me... Is she your ex-wife?”

Evan felt a lump lodged in his throat. How was he supposed to describe their relationship?

“Ex-wife” did not sound like the right term because they had never actually gotten their marriage certificate.

His eyes darkened slightly and he replied solemnly, “She’s my only wife!”

She knitted her brows at his strange wording. Only wife? Then what about the woman he married, Susan?

Right then, she was certain that him running into her at K Nation and becoming her bodyguard most definitely had something to do with this mysterious woman.

“Daddy, hurry up and tell Mommy that the woman in the photo is her!”

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Evan’s expression was blank while his emotions raged in him. He was feeling extremely conflicted. He wanted to tell Nicole the truth yet he was worried she would remember her past.

If he said anything that might make her regain her memories, she would be utterly heartbroken at their current predicament. Especially since he was now married to Susan.

A moment later, he spoke in an icy voice, “That’s not her!”

His children had obviously not expected he would say that. Their loud protests rang out simultaneously.

“Daddy, you’re lying!”

“You liar, Daddy!”

So it really was not her. His answer caused an inexplicable sense of disappointment sweeping through Nicole.

“Thank you for arranging this wonderful place for me to stay, Mr. Seet.”

“You’re welcome.” This place belongs to you in the first place.

“Daddy, maybe you should stay here with us?”

Juan’s suggestion caught Evan off guard.

Nicole frowned, thinking that it was a bad idea. Evan was already a married man. It would not be appropriate for him to stay with them.

Noticing her expression, Evan replied, "I have to go back to Hillside Villa."

Seeing as his first plan failed, Juan tried again. "Daddy, the roses at Rose Garden are blooming, right? Could you bring us there tomorrow?"

If we bring Mommy to all the places we've stayed in before, maybe she might recall something!

After some thought, Evan nodded.

Juan then asked Nicole for her opinion. She mulled over it before questioning, "Is Rose Garden fun?"

The young boy nodded. "Very! The flowers there are so colorful and beautiful!"

Well, I came here so I could escape Levant and get my mind off of him. As long as it's fun, I guess it doesn't really matter where we go.

Thus, she agreed.

Although Maya begrudged her father for marrying another woman, in the end, he was still her father. After a couple of hours of playing with him, she tugged on Evan's arm, not wanting him to leave.

"Daddy, could you eat dinner with us?"

Evan took in the hopeful glint in her eyes. It had been a year since he had eaten with his four children, so he was reluctant to deny her this. Besides, he wanted to stay with them too. He nodded to show his agreement.

He made a call to have his chef and maids come over. After a mad scramble, a feast was spread out on the table.

They had only just sat down when a maid hurried over to inform, "Mr. Seet, Ms. Susan is here."

Evan's eyes darkened. Before he could do anything, Susan sauntered over. In an overly sweet and affectionate voice, she greeted, "Evan."

Then, she sat herself down at the table.

The quadruplets looked at her before scoffing as hostile expressions appeared on their faces.

To them, any woman who dared to snatch their mother's place was an enemy.

Nicole swept an assessing gaze across Susan. Dressed in a pale pink dress, the latter looked a lot more feminine now than she had at the wedding. Her silky hair draped across her shoulders loosely while her eyes shone brightly. There was a sheen to them that almost looked like tears, giving her a pitiful look. She was like a fragile flower that screamed for someone to protect her.

At that moment, she had to admit that Evan had a good taste to marry a woman as beautiful as Susan.

"Evan, I couldn't stop worrying about you when you didn't come back. So I decided to come over and have a look."

"Yeah," Evan muttered.

"Evan, when are you going back?"

"After dinner."

"Can I stay here to eat with you? We can go home together after we finish."

Evan did not get a chance to reply as Nicole spoke up warmly, "Sure you can, Mrs. Seet."

Both Susan and Evan were stunned at the address.

In Evan's heart, the position of Mrs. Seet would always belong to Nicole. He did not expect she would address someone else as that.

His heart felt like a fist was squeezing it tightly and he found it hard to breathe.

Immense pleasure shone in Susan's eyes.

She snuck a glance at Evan, noting his tension. It was clear he did not like Nicole addressing Susan as Mrs. Seet.

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Since the children were repulsed by Susan's presence, they rushed through their dinner before disappearing upstairs.

Susan did not care about what they thought of her. All she cared about was how Evan was treating Nicole.

The way he looked at Nicole was different—a realization that had Susan feeling distinctly uncomfortable.

After they finished dinner, Susan told Nicole she wanted to have a look upstairs. This was the first time she had been here and she wanted to see how Imperial Garden differed from Hillside Villa.

Nicole did not even think twice before agreeing to her request.

The two women headed to the second floor. When Susan caught sight of the photo in the master bedroom, her fingers curled into fists by her sides.

She purposely let out a loud sigh before commenting, "You really do look a lot like Evan's ex-girlfriend."

“That’s Evan’s ex-girlfriend?”

Susan turned to look at Nicole with teary eyes, nodding. “Yeah. Unfortunately, she was involved in a car accident a few years ago and died tragically. Evan felt the kids were too young to lose their mother so he’s been trying his very best to find someone who looks a lot like her. He’s hoping to find a substitute who would be willing to look after the kids.”

So Evan has been treating me as a substitute all along. No wonder he looks at me with such affection! He’s taking me for someone else!

Nicole subconsciously clenched her fingers as an inexplicable sense of disappointment coiled in her.

Noticing how Nicole’s face had fallen, Susan grabbed one of her hands in both of her own. “Ms. Lane, maybe you could stay here and be her substitute? You could look after the children while also helping Evan deal with his regret. As long as you’re willing to do this and do it well, I’ll definitely make it worth your while.”

Stay here to be a substitute? I’m the daughter of a duke! I have my own feelings—my own path to walk. Why should I stay here and be the substitute for a dead person? I would have to be crazy to do something so humiliating to myself!

“I’m sorry. I can’t agree to that because I’ll be going back to K Nation in a few days.”

Susan’s eyes flashed and she tightened her grip on Nicole’s hand. “Evan is a man who places a lot of value in his relationships. He’s always felt regretful of his ex’s death. Please don’t take it to heart if he does anything untoward to you in the next few days!”

In other words, any affection he shows me is not specifically aimed at me. I’m just a substitute to him.

Nicole smiled blandly and replied, "I trust that he won't cross the line. Don't worry, I won't think too much of his actions either."

"That's great."

Susan's words had successfully planted the idea of being a substitute in Nicole's mind.

Now, Nicole knew that she wasn't hallucinating when she saw the affection in Evan's gaze. The truth was that he had been looking at someone else instead.

Just the thought of this had anger rising in her.

Damn you! How dare you think of me as a substitute for your ex? You b*****d!

She tossed and turned in the bed, her mind going a mile per minute as she planned her return to K Nation. She wanted to end her life as a substitute as soon as possible!

While she really did like the children a lot, she was entitled to living her own life. She was not obligated to be their substitute mother!

She woke up in the middle of the night feeling parched. Blinking her eyes blearily, she crawled out of bed and made her way to the small pantry. To her displeasure, there was no water in the water boiler.

She exited the pantry grumpily and made her way to the stairs. Just as she was about to head downstairs, she abruptly stopped in her tracks.

This was the first day she was living here in this house. There was no way she would be familiar enough with the layout of the second floor to know there was a pantry just around the corner. Not to mention that she clearly knew where the water boiler was.

Confusion and suspicion swirled inside her.

But no matter how hard she racked her brains, her mind came up blank on the reason why.

A long while later, it clicked. Maybe she had noted it subconsciously when she came upstairs earlier!

That sounded like a flimsy excuse and she knew it. However, she could not think of any other explanation.

Shrugging, she continued her way downstairs to get a glass of water. When she was done, she returned to her room and flopped back on her bed. She pulled the blankets up over her head and was soon deep in slumberland.

The next morning.

She was awoken by a loud knocking on her door before the voices of the kids drifted in.

“Mommy, Daddy promised to take us to Rose Garden today! You have to wake up!”

“Mommy, wake up! It’s time to eat breakfast!”

“Mommy!”

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“Mommy!”

Hearing their persistent cries, Nicole sighed. The word “Mommy” was particularly irritating today, as if reminding her that she was just a substitute.

They’re thinking of me as a substitute—Evan too!

But as she thought it over, she decided that was unfair. The children just wanted a mother’s love. There was nothing wrong with that.

Perhaps it was fate that she and the kids met each other.

I’m going to be leaving in a few days anyway. I might as well act as their mother’s replacement for now.

With this thought in mind, she curled her lips up in a happy smile and got out of bed.

Opening the door, she was greeted by four excited faces staring up at her.

“Mommy, hurry! We have to eat breakfast! We’re going to Rose Garden today.”

“I got it.”

Breakfast was all of Nicole’s favorite foods. Evan had left specific instructions for the maids about what the old Nicole used to love to eat. Since everything was suited to her tastes, she did not hesitate in eating more.

Maya stared at her mother with a pout on her lips. “Mommy, you passed on your shameless genes to Nina and gave me your gluttonous genes!”

Nicole blinked, staring at the small mountain of shrimp shells and empty plates in front of her. She stopped eating and shot the girl a sheepish smile. "The food here is just too good."

"Then you should stay here forever! That way you'll be able to eat all this delicious food every day!"

Nicole was rendered speechless.

This chubby little girl has the most interesting ideas! Does she seriously think I'll be won over by some tasty food—that I'll be willing to be their substitute mother just like that? No way! I still plan on having a few adorable babies of my own!

"So will you?"

Seeing that Nicole was lost in her thoughts, Maya reached out to tug on her mother's sleeve. A pair of earnest and bright eyes gazed up at her.

Pulling her lips up into a smile, Nicole's eyes glinted as she replied, "We'll see. I'll think about it."

Maya pouted and declared, "I'll go wherever you go!"

Nicole sighed. She's really become dependent on me as her mother!

"Daddy's here!"

The words had barely left Juan's mouth when Evan strode over.

Upon noticing the empty plates before Nicole, a small, amused smile curved his lips.

Nicole ducked her head in embarrassment. He doesn't think I'm as gluttonous as Maya, does he?

He did not bring the topic up. Instead, he said, "If you're done, go get ready. We're going to Rose Garden."

She stood up and rushed to her room.

Evan watched her retreating back, adoration shining in his eyes.

Turning his head to look at the maid who came to clear away the table, he ordered, "Take note of what she likes to eat. Prepare the same for her tonight."

"Yes, Mr. Seet!"

The maid glanced at the table, mentally taking note of the empty plates. After that, she continued cleaning up the table.

Nicole changed into some casual clothing before exiting her room. The four kids instantly surrounded her, complimenting her attire and saying how pretty she looked.

Delighted, she smiled down at them. Sensing a gaze on her, she lifted her head to lock eyes with Evan. His eyes were filled with affection.

Her heart skipped a beat. He's thinking of me as her replacement again, isn't he? Jerk! I'm no substitute!

She mentally rolled her eyes at him. Taking the two little girls' hands, she led them toward the living room and out the house.

Evan held the boys hands and followed them.

The Maybach exited Imperial Garden and headed in the direction of Rose Garden.

The entire way there, the four children chattered happily and the atmosphere in the car was cheerful.

At Hillside Villa.

Susan's frail form stood in the yard, staring at the vegetation glumly.

The first thing Evan did after waking up today was to hurry over to meet with Nicole and the children. He had not even eaten breakfast before he left!

It's obvious they all hold important places in his heart!

“Ms. Susan, breakfast is ready. You should come in and eat while the food’s hot.”

Susan smiled and answered, “Have the butler prepare some children’s toys. I’ll be visiting the children later.”

“Understood. You’re really nice to them, Ms. Susan.”

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“It’s nothing. I should be doing this anyway.”

Susan’s lips twitched upward slightly.

At Rose Garden.

A myriad of colorful roses bloomed across the entire place. The scene was absolutely stunning.

Pointing at the rose trellises, the kids asked, “Mommy, do you remember this?”

“Mommy, we used to live here.”

“We stayed at the rear house while Daddy stayed in the main house!”

Nicole took in the beautifully designed courtyard. However, she did not feel a single speck of recognition. No memories came rushing at her.

As they continued to pester her, she smiled and shook her head wordlessly.

They sighed miserably at her response.

Evan had been following them at a distance. His emotions churned inside him chaotically. At that moment, he thought that Nicole not remembering anything might be for the best.

He hoped that she would be able to live out the rest of her life happily and without worry—free from her past.

That way, she would not need to remember him nor deal with his current marriage to Susan.

Maya twisted her head around to look back at Evan. “Daddy, could you make a flower wreath for me?”

Evan stared at his daughter’s chubby face and innocent eyes. Grinning slightly, he nodded.

Since her sister was getting a flower wreath, Nina piped up saying she wanted one too. Evan readily agreed to weave two—one for each of them.

Something occurred to Nina and she said, “Daddy, how could you be so petty? Why don’t you make another one for Mommy?”

Evan turned to look at Nicole, the adoration and affection practically overflowing from his gaze. She stiffened uncomfortably.

That jerk has that look in his eyes again! He’s thinking of me as his ex-girlfriend again, isn’t he? The flower wreath he’ll make is probably for her and not truly for me! If that’s the case...

She stared him straight in the eyes as she refused sharply, “I don’t want one!”

The disdain was clear in those words.

Evan’s heart clenched in his chest. If this had been the old Nicole, she would have pestered him relentlessly until he made one for her.

The Nicole before him now was not the same Nicole he knew. She did not care for him and did not want nor like anything from him.

This is all normal. I shouldn't treat her the same as the old Nicole. She has her own path to walk now. A path that will never cross with mine again...

At this thought, desolation and grief swelled in him.

Bowing his head, he focused his attention on making flower wreaths for his daughter.

A short while later, he abruptly questioned, "Ms. Lane, are you married?"

There was a slight tremble in his deep voice.

He wanted to know the answer, but at the same time, he was afraid.

Nicole's chest felt tight at the question as she suddenly remembered that Levant was waiting for her back at K Nation.

Her heart stuttered while her emotions were all over the place.

Deep down inside, she was well aware that her rejection to Levant's proposal had something to do with Evan.

However, she could not bring herself to face the reason why. She was in denial herself.

She would always fantasize about Evan returning to the estate someday. He would become her bodyguard again and accompany her on strolls through the garden. He would help her do so many things...

Even though she knew he was already married, and that she had witnessed it herself, she still...

She did not know why she still hoped that he would suddenly appear by her side one day—that he would stay with her.

I really must be crazy!

She pushed such dangerous notions aside, burying them deep within her subconscious. She did not dare tell anyone of these thoughts. How could she? Every time such thoughts haunted her in the middle of the night, even she could not help mocking herself.

Since Nicole was being quiet, Nina answered for her, “Daddy, Mommy hasn’t married yet. That Levant keeps bugging Mommy though! Mommy found him too annoying, which is why she’s trying to avoid him...”

“Nina!” Nicole cut the little girl off.

Anxiety had her heart beating a little faster. She was worried Evan would be able to tell her reluctance in marrying Levant was because of him—that she was having impure thoughts and feelings for him.

With his head still lowered, Evan allowed his delight to flash through his eyes.

The news that Nicole had not yet married Levant made him immensely happy.

But in the next second, he began to feel conflicted. She was still so young! She should not be alone all the time.

He did not want her to marry Levant, but he did not want to see her alone either.

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Star-crossed lovers really have it the worst! All these outside forces are forcing us apart but yet I can’t bear to let her go!

Pushing aside his heartbreak, Evan squeezed out through gritted teeth, “Levant seems to love you very much. You should consider accepting him.”

Nicole was incredibly uncomfortable hearing those words coming from his mouth.

She snapped, "Whether I marry him or not is my business! What does that have to do with you?"

With that, she shot him one last glare before stalking toward the rear house.

Evan watched her storm off, his eyes reddening.

She said it was none of his business, yet her happiness was the most important thing to him right then. For the rest of his life, he would worry about whether she was happy or not.

How did we become like this? How...

"Daddy, have you finished the flower wreaths?"

Evan nodded and handed them to his daughters. They eagerly placed the wreaths on their heads, making them look like fairy princesses.

"Let's show Mommy!"

"Yeah! We have to show her how pretty we are!"

The two girls skipped to the rear house to look for Nicole.

"Mommy, look! Aren't our wreaths pretty?"

"Mommy, how do we look?"

As Nicole spotted the flower wreaths on their heads, several images flashed through her mind.

A young girl who was a little older than Nina and Maya was skipping along happily. On her head was a flower wreath similar to the one the girls were wearing now. The flower wreath had been given to her by a boy.

The images refused to leave her mind, making her believe it was real.

She suspected the little girl was her, but who was that boy?

Whoever it was, she was certain it was not Evan!

Perhaps it's one of my relatives' kids at the estate!

"Yes, they're really beautiful."

"Mommy, why won't you let Daddy make you one?"

Nicole sighed and replied, "It's not like he truly wants to make it for me!" I couldn't care less about it anyway!

Evan, who had been standing nearby, heard her words and frowned.

What does she mean? If I'm not truly making it for her then who does she think I am making it for?

Feeling envious, Nicole plucked Nina's wreath and placed it on her own head. However, it was too small so she returned it to the young girl.

Noting the crestfallen look on her face, Evan turned and headed for the front again.

It did not take him much effort to weave another flower wreath. He handed it to Nicole.

Nicole was stunned at the wreath being offered to her. It was obvious a lot more care had been put into making it compared to the ones Nina and Maya had.

"For you!"

She shot him a suspicious look. "You're really giving this to me?"

"Of course!"

She stared at the beautiful flower wreath. Although she suspected he was still treating her as his ex-girlfriend's replacement, her hand reached out to take it like she had been possessed.

Watching the delight that crossed her features, Evan smiled too.

Susan arrived just in time to see this touching scene. At first, she was surprised. When she realized what she was seeing, her fingers tightened into fists. She called out in an infinitely sweet voice, "Evan!"

Her shout effectively broke the intimate moment.

Nicole's heart thumped harder as she wondered what she was doing.

Evan's smile seemed to have some sort of a devilish power, drawing her in. She also found it incredibly familiar, like she had seen it a long time ago.

Ugh, what happened to keeping your distance from him!

Susan made her way over to them, her curvaceous hips swaying alluringly as she walked. There was a warm smile on her face when she spoke, "I came to see the kids. I went to Imperial Garden but nobody was there. The maids told me you guys came here, so here I am! I even prepared some gifts for them. I wonder if they'll like them?"

"That's very thoughtful of you, Susan."

"Evan, we're husband and wife. There's no need to be so courteous with me."

The mention of their marriage made Evan extremely uncomfortable.

Susan glanced over at Nicole before walking toward the rockery, a clear invitation for Nicole to follow her.

Susan's eyes glimmered with tears as she surveyed the garden. Sighing mournfully, she stated, "Evan's ex used to live here. He's probably back here to relive his memories."

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 729

He's here to relive his memories? With his ex? I should've known...

Nicole's initial joyful expression slipped away, and it was replaced with a dull look as she stared down at the wreath in her hands.

Wiping the tears from the corner of her eyes, Susan suggested, "Ms. Lane, let's go see the children."

"Yeah." Nicole nodded and followed the other woman toward the rockery.

There was a pond beside the rockery. Susan watched the children playing gleefully with an intent expression on her face.

After a moment, Nina suddenly tripped on a pebble that seemed to have appeared out of nowhere. She staggered a few steps before falling into the pond with a loud splash.

"Nina!" Susan screamed.

In the next instant, she leaped into the pond.

Evan came running over at the shout. When he saw the two struggling figures in the pond, he immediately jumped in to save them.

"Evan, save Nina first!"

The words had barely left Susan's lips when Evan scooped Nina into his arms. He quickly swam toward the shoreline and placed his daughter down.

By the time he turned back to rescue Susan, she had already fallen unconscious from ingesting too much water.

He swiftly put her on the ground and started to perform CPR on her. Nicole and the children watched on worriedly from the sidelines. After several tries, water dribbled from Susan's lips as she coughed violently.

Her eyelids fluttered open. The first thing out of her mouth was, "Evan, is Nina okay?" Her voice was very weak and her words were barely audible.

Evan's expression was serious while confusion swirled in his gaze.

"Nina's fine. Susan, why did you jump in when you don't know how to swim?"

A wan smile curved her lips. "I was so worried I didn't think about that. Nina is your child, which means she's mine as well. When I saw her in danger, the only thing I could think of was rescuing her immediately!"

"Susan..."

Evan took off his own jacket and draped it across her drenched form. Then, he made a call to have someone bring over some clothes.

Susan leaned against his chest, a blissful smile on her face.

Standing off to the side, a bitter feeling encompassed Nicole.

The children are so lucky to have a stepmother who loves them so much. Evan is fortunate to have such a loving wife as well. They're a true family in all the ways that matter; I'm just an outsider looking in. It's about time I go my own way. Evan belongs to Susan so I shouldn't be having such feelings for him... Nicole Lane, it's time for you to wake up and accept reality. Go back and get married to Levant. You have your own life to live now.

Tears pricked at her eyes and she quickly lowered her face to hide them.

From where she was lying on the ground in Evan's embrace, Susan saw all the emotions that flickered across Nicole's face. A victorious grin bloomed on her pale face.

...

When they returned to Imperial Garden, Nicole began to plan her departure.

The children seemed incredibly reliant and attached to her, so outright bidding them goodbye would not work. She would have to leave stealthily.

After some thought, she decided the best time would be in the middle of the night while they were in deep slumber.

By the time they woke up in the morning, she would have been back in K Nation already.

“Mommy, what are you thinking about?”

Nina’s childish voice dragged Nicole out of her somber thoughts. She shook her head at the girl in response.

“Nothing much. Nina, your miniature mannequins are very pretty. Can I have one?” She wanted to keep it as a souvenir.

Nina thought about it for a few seconds before saying, “Those are all old ones. I’ll make a new one for you!”

“Okay!”

Nicole watched as Nina focused her attention on putting makeup on a new mannequin. Her lips turned upward in a small smile.

What a talented child. I wonder if she inherited it from Evan or her poor departed Mommy.

Noting how Nicole was staring off into space, Maya made up her mind. She would bring out some of her secret stash of snacks and share them with her mother.

“Thank you, Maya, but it’s okay. You should leave them for yourself to enjoy.”

Maya giggled and opened up her coat, revealing a huge hidden pocket sewn inside.

“I have a lot more snacks in here! You should have some!”

Nicole stared at the hidden pocket, dumbfounded. “Maya, when did you sew this hidden pocket?”

“When I was about to turn six years old. You sew it for me, Mommy! Now I’m seven!”

As she spoke, Maya lifted six of her chubby fingers before adding one more to make it seven.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 730

Nicole was bewildered at Maya’s words.

Maya stayed with me for a year at the estate. Since she’s seven now, that means she was six when she was with me. She said their mother sewn it for her when she was about to turn six years old, which was about a year before she stayed with me. But didn’t Susan tell me their mother died several years ago in a car crash?

Mulling over that question, she concluded that someone must have deliberately told a white lie to Maya. They must have someone else sew it and tricked Maya into thinking her mother had done it.

Poor, poor child. It really must suck to lose their mother at such a young age. I’m sure Susan will treat them as her own.

Nicole pulled out a small packet of cheese from the hidden pocket. Tearing it open, she popped the snack into her mouth. Maya beamed at her brightly.

She reached out to pinch Maya's plump cheeks playfully, her heart clenching in her chest.

Will she be very sad when she discovers I've left without saying goodbye? Well, might as well rip off the Band-Aid now instead of dragging things out. I am bound to leave anyway.

From the room next door came the sounds of Juan and Kyle playing games together.

She entered their room curiously and Juan stuck his tongue out at her. "Mommy, I'll practice my Taekwondo after this round!"

Kyle smirked and added, "I'll try to improve on my hacking skills after this round!"

"Sure."

Once again, Nicole lamented the fact that their mother passed away so young. It was such a pity.

Evan had said that the woman in the photo was his only wife.

Maybe it's because of these outstanding children that he can't seem to forget about her. That woman must be absolutely irreplaceable in his heart.

"Mommy, could you bring us to the amusement park tomorrow? It's a Sunday tomorrow and we'll have to go back to class on Monday!"

"That's right, Mommy! You used to bring us to the amusement park all the time."

Nicole mulled over the idea for a moment, finally agreeing. She would just think of it as fulfilling one last wish for the children before she left.

"Alright."

“Should we ask Daddy to come with us?”

Honestly, she was getting tired of being treated as a substitute by Evan. Besides, he was a married man. She should be keeping her distance from him.

She shook her head, replying, “No need. I can take all of you myself. Actually, there are maids here, aren’t there? We can just bring one of them along with us.”

The kids glanced at each other, remembering all the times their mother used to bring them to the amusement park alone. Their father was probably too busy with work to come with them anyway.

The next day.

The children woke up very early due to their excitement. After breakfast, they changed into their favorite clothes and stood outside Nicole’s bedroom door, waiting.

Their father was displeased with how they shouted and banged on Nicole’s door to wake her up the day before. He told them that she was very tired and that they should let her rest. They were not allowed to make a commotion.

Heeding his instructions, they stood outside her door and waited in silence obediently.

By the time Nicole woke up, it was well into the day.

Checking the time, she bolted upright in bed. Were the children too tired from their outing yesterday? It was strange that they were not knocking her door down to wake her up.

She took her time changing into a clean set of clothing before she opened the door. To her surprise, the four kids were lined in a neat row in front of her door.

“Mommy!”

“Good morning, Mommy!”

“Mommy, time to eat breakfast!”

“Mommy, we’ve already eaten!”

She frowned when she took in how they were already dressed and ready to go.

“Why didn’t you wake me up?”

They looked at each other, grinning but not replying. At last, one of them spoke up, “Maya, you tell her!”

Maya was the most straightforward and honest of them all.

Giggling, Maya explained, “Daddy said he would give us a spanking if we woke you up by banging on your door!”

Evan threatened them? Is it because he wants to let me sleep in? That’s very thoughtful of him. Too bad he’s about to disappear from my life forever. We’re just not fated to be together.

At the thought, her heart trembled and ached terribly. Curling her fingers into fists, she mentally berated herself.

Nicole Lane! Such is your life! Accept it and move on. Stop thinking about him and focus on enjoying your last day with the kids!

“Mommy, is there something wrong?”

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 731

“Mommy isn’t really hungry. How about we go to the amusement park now?”

“No! Mommy, you should drink a glass of milk and eat a piece of cheese at least!”

“That’s right! Otherwise you won’t have the energy to bring us around!”

Nicole chuckled at the serious expressions on Juan and Kyle’s face. She sped toward the dining room and gulped down a glass of milk. After that, she wolfed down some cheese.

“Alright, let’s go!”

She got four excited nods in response.

The amusement park was like the children’s playground.

The moment they entered, the kids charged straight for the Ferris wheel.

Nicole and the accompanying maid followed along behind them. The adults did not take their eyes off the children as they called out for the kids to be careful.

Despite their vigilance, something unfortunate still happened!

The kids got off the Ferris wheel and were about to head for the pirate ship when they noticed Maya was missing.

“Where’s Maya?” Nicole asked as she looked down at the three remaining children.

“She was just behind us!”

“Yeah! I swear she was still giggling behind me a moment ago!”

“Mommy, do you think she could have gone off to buy something to eat? She’s very gluttonous.”

“C’mon, we have to find her! Keep close to us and don’t stray!” Nicole ordered as she searched frantically for Maya.

Yet even after searching through the entire amusement park, there was still no sign of the little girl.

Nicole was way beyond panic now. She prayed that nothing had happened to Maya.

She kept imagining Maya’s chubby, adorable face, smiling innocently.

Her fingers were clenched so tightly her nails were digging into her sweaty palms. Worry and anxiety set her heart racing.

“Mommy, call Daddy.”

“Daddy will be able to find Maya!”

“Okay, okay.”

She hurriedly fished out her phone and scrolled through her contacts for Evan’s number, tapping on it. She wondered how she was going to break the news to him.

How is he going to react to the news I lost his precious daughter? Will he blame me for it?

The call connected and Evan’s deep voice drifted out, “Hello...”

“E-Evan, Maya is missing! I lost Maya!” Nicole cried out in a quavering voice.

“What?”

Evan was taken aback by her words. However, he could tell from her tone of voice that she was absolutely terrified.

“Calm down. Tell me where you are right now. I’ll head over immediately!”

“We’re at the amusement park. I’ll send you the address.”

“Okay. Don’t panic, okay? I’ll be there in a moment!”

After he hung up the call, Evan rushed out of his office. He bumped into Susan the moment he stepped out of the elevator.

“Evan, what’s wrong? Where are you going in such a hurry?”

“The amusement park!”

“I’ll go with you!”

Evan did not even stop to answer her as he strode out of the building. Susan hastily followed him.

The noise and bustle of the amusement park seemed to have been put on mute. Nicole could not hear a single thing as her head spun wildly. Only one thought was running through her mind right then.

I have to find Maya!

“Maya!”

She kept screaming Maya’s name as she continued forward numbly.

Suddenly, she tripped and stumbled a few steps. Unfortunately, she was unable to regain her balance and went crashing to the ground.

“Mommy!” Juan yelled anxiously.

She sat on the ground, staring at Juan’s small figure sprinting toward her. Out of nowhere, there was a sharp pain in her head. Time seemed to come to a halt as images flashed through her mind. She saw Juan when he was still a toddler, learning how to walk. Then, another image flashed in her mind—Juan had only just learned how to run...

Next, her head began to throb dully and she cradled it gingerly. Like a broken dam, wave after wave of images crashed upon her relentlessly. They played out in her mind like a video that was hastily patched together.

It started out with her giving birth to several babies. Then, it was the children crying, smiling, feeling cold and feeling hungry.

Next, it was images of her returning to the country and meeting Evan again—using her identity as Dr. Tussaud to cure Kyle’s illness. There was the time when Evan tried to fight for the custody of their children, and when Evan was in a plane crash. Finally, she remembered when Evan followed her to K Nation to discover her real identity as the daughter of a duke.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 732

The pain in her head was agonizing. Nicole felt like her head was about to explode with the intensity of the pain as her whole body trembled violently.

“Mommy, what’s wrong with you?”

“Mommy, are you hurt somewhere?”

It was a good long while later before Nicole lifted her head to look into the worried faces of Juan and Nina. Raising a shaky hand, she stroked their heads gently. Tears welled up in her eyes before slipping down her cheeks.

“Mommy, don’t cry. We’ll definitely find Maya!”

“Don’t be sad, Mommy! Daddy will find Maya for sure!”

The emotions playing across Nicole’s face was too complicated to describe as she stared at her children quietly.

She remembered everything.

She had regained all her memories.

Evan married another woman!

When Evan and Susan arrived at the amusement park, they spotted Nicole crouching on the floor with her head buried in her hands.

All three children and the maid surrounded Nicole as they kept comforting the distraught woman, "Mr. Seet will definitely find Maya. She'll be brought back safe and sound, you'll see."

Susan instantly squatted down beside Nicole. "Ms. Lane, how did this happen? How could you lose Maya? She's still so young! She..."

At this, tears squeezed their way out of Susan's eyes.

Nicole did not even lift her head as she remained silent.

"Ms. Lane, I'm not trying to blame you. I'm just so worried about Maya!" Then, she turned her teary eyes on Evan. "Evan, it must be exhausting for Ms. Lane to take care of four children on her own. Maybe we should bring them back to live with us at Hillside Villa!"

Although he had noted the state Nicole was in, Evan was not in the mood to think of anything else. He said, "What's more important now is to find Maya."

With that said, he started to make some calls.

Nicole slowly stood up. Grabbing Nina and Kyle's hands, she called Juan to her side and turned to leave.

Realizing she was leaving, Susan instantly moved to block their way.

"Ms. Lane, Maya is still missing so I think these three should return with Evan and me to Hillside Villa."

At last, Nicole raised her head to pin the other woman with a hard stare.

Susan hastily clarified, "Please don't misunderstand. I'm not blaming you or anything. I know you must be incredibly upset that something like this has happened as well. They're Evan's children, which means they're my children too. I really don't want anything to happen to them. I..."

She trailed off before turning to look at Evan anxiously, clearly expecting him to say something.

Nina scowled at her viciously and spat, "We're not your children! We want to be with Mommy!"

"Yeah! We don't want to return to Hillside Villa! We wanna be with our Mommy!" Juan chimed in.

Kyle stared at the sheer despair and grief on his mother's face before tightening his grip on her hand. He declared, "I want to be with Mommy too!"

Susan did not expect the children to be so obstinate. Then, she turned to face Evan with a pleading look.

Evan was silent for several moments before he walked toward Nicole. Coming to a stop before her, the sadness on her face sent daggers of pain stabbing into his heart.

"Don't worry. I'll definitely find Maya no matter what! Go back to Imperial Garden and have a good rest. Let Susan bring the kids back to Hillside Villa for now."

"You don't have to worry about a thing, Evan. I'll take good care of them."

Susan took several steps forward and reached out to grab Juan and Nina's hands. However, Nicole immediately stepped in front of them to block her.

"Ms. Lane, what are you doing?"

A troubled expression appeared on Susan's face. Biting her lip gently, she turned to look at Evan. Her voice was sickly sweet when she called out to the man, "Evan..."

The man knitted his brows slightly at Nicole's refusal to hand the kids over.

He was allowing Susan to bring the kids to Hillside Villa because he wanted to let Nicole rest. She was obviously not in a good shape right then.

Since she was unwilling, he would not force the matter.

He was about to open his mouth to say so when he noticed the glare Nicole was sending him. Her eyes were dark with anger as she said in a frosty tone, "Why should I let you take away my children?"

Evan froze at her words.

Did she just say "my children?"

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 733

Has she regained her memories?

Evan's heart skipped a beat before beating faster.

Susan was staring at the other woman in shock as her heart jumped into her throat. By her sides, her fingers slowly curled into fists.

Don't tell me Nicole remembers everything?

Without speaking another word, Nicole led her children in the direction of the parking lot.

Evan watched her go. Recalling the look in her eyes and the tone she used, he felt like he had plunged into ice-cold waters. Like a statue, he stood there unmoving.

She remembers everything.

“Evan, I don’t think Ms. Lane is in her right mind currently. Shall I head over to Imperial Garden to help her look after the kids?”

It was several seconds later before Evan replied coldly, “No need.”

With that, he spun around and stalked toward the Maybach. The color drained from Susan’s face before she hurried after him.

Back at Imperial Garden, the three kids were watching their mother, who was staring off into space blankly. They sighed silently.

“Mommy, do you remember everything now?” Juan asked in a soft voice.

His words dragged her back to the present and Nicole nodded.

Nina exclaimed in delight, “Really, Mommy?” After a beat, she huffed angrily and continued, “Mommy, since you’ve remembered everything, you should take revenge on Daddy! He married another woman when you lost your memories! He’s such a big, bad meanie!”

“Mommy, Daddy... He...” Kyle was lost for words, not knowing how to defend Evan.

He could tell his father still loved his mother and most likely had his own reasons for marrying that woman.

But that did not change the fact that he did marry another woman.

Nicole was quiet. Her mind was in turmoil at the fact that Evan had married another woman. She did not know what she was feeling right then. All she knew was that she did not want to think about her feelings. She wanted to avoid and escape from them.

“What’s most important now is that we find Maya! Don’t worry, Mommy is still able to take care of all of you alone. Are you all willing to stay with Mommy?”

The three kids did not hesitate in nodding.

Daddy’s already abandoned Mommy so we can’t do the same! We’ll stay with Mommy forever!

At Hillside Villa.

Evan made call after call while Susan lingered nearby, her heart thumping furiously in her chest.

“Find out who kidnapped Maya. I want them to pay a hundred times over for what they did to her!”

His voice was as sharp as a blade, a blade that Susan felt was hovering over her own head. Her breathing was erratic while her fingers kept twitching. At last, she excused herself by saying she needed to change clothes.

Slipping into the room, she swiftly locked the door and sent out a message.

About an hour later, Evan received news about Maya’s whereabouts.

Maya was standing outside the doors of a dessert store like an abandoned child. Her face was filthy as she blinked her bright eyes, staring at the passers-by.

How did I get here?

Stars swam in her vision and she rubbed her eyes blearily. There was an utterly lost look on her face.

Glancing around, she did not see her mother or siblings anywhere. Scared about getting lost, she did not dare move from that spot. Thus, all she did was stand there, all the while crying out softly for her parents. Tears welled up in her eyes before spilling over.

When Evan finally arrived, she immediately burst into tears and wailed loudly, “Daddy!”

He pulled her into a tight hug, wiping away her tears as he shushed her gently. “It’s alright. Everything’s okay now, Maya.”

When they were seated in the car, he asked her, “How did you get here?”

This dessert store was quite a distance away from the amusement park.

Still a little misty-eyed, Maya shook her little head. "I don't know. When we were at the amusement park, a lady called me over to her. She smiled at me a-and I don't remember anything after that. Then when I opened my eyes, I was already at that dessert store."

Did she run into some human traffickers? But why would they abduct her then drop her off at that dessert store?

Bewildered, Evan had his men investigate the matter further. Whatever the case, he was extremely glad that nothing had happened to Maya.

"Daddy, I want to see Mommy. Can you take me to Mommy please?"

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 734

"Alright, Daddy will take you back to Imperial Garden."

Nicole must still be incredibly worried.

The Maybach sped like a bullet down the roads, heading in the direction of Imperial Garden.

When they arrived there, the other three kids were elated at seeing their sister.

"Maya! Daddy found you!"

"Maya, are you alright?"

"Maya, it's so great that you're back!"

Back with her siblings and mother, Maya could feel tears threatening to roll down her cheeks again. She sprinted over and threw herself into Nicole's arms.

"Mommy!"

"Maya, just what exactly happened?"

"Mommy, I-I ran into some bad people!"

"Bad people?" Nicole's heart jumped into her throat.

"Yeah!" Maya nodded before launching into her story again.

Someone took her away on purpose? Was it human traffickers?

Questions swirled around Nicole's mind.

Evan was standing off to the side, his eyes glued on Nicole. He wanted to talk to her but did not know what to say.

Even if he did, he was sure the words would not leave his lips.

"Daddy, sit down! Why are you standing?" Maya questioned while blinking her eyes innocently.

Juan and Kyle snuck a glance at their mother. Her expression was hard and distant. She was clearly furious at their father. The atmosphere was so tense that they did not dare speak up.

Nina hesitated slightly before running off to the utility room. After a while, she returned with a feather duster and handed it to Nicole. She then announced, "Mommy, you can get your revenge now!"

Nicole did not even glance at her daughter. All she did was sit there silently.

Maya stared at Nina like she was crazy. “Nina, have you gone nuts? How could you tell Mommy to hit Daddy?”

“He dared to marry another woman when Mommy lost her memories! Shouldn’t Mommy get her revenge for that?”

Maya’s fingers flexed as she turned to look at Nicole with surprise. Has Mommy remembered everything?

Since Nicole did not make a move to take the feather duster nor speak, Evan paced toward her with heavy steps.

“Don’t bottled up your anger. Take it out on me if it makes you feel better!”

His words instantly set her off.

Her head whipped around and she focused her infuriated gaze on him. “Mr. Seet, why should I hit you? You’re someone else’s husband now. What right do I have to beat you?”

Her words were like daggers that stabbed him in the heart.

His fingers twitched reflexively but he could not refute her statement.

“Mr. Seet, please don’t come to Imperial Garden in the future! From now on, you and I shall go our own ways. In fact, let’s just pretend we don’t know each other!”

Grief and hurt filled Evan’s eyes at her harsh words. Is she cutting off all ties with me?

At that moment, it was like somebody was carving at his heart with a knife. He could not breathe.

So this is what it feels like to have your heart broken.

“Mr. Seet, please go home!”

Then, Nicole turned and walked toward the stairs without another word or glance in his direction.

Evan did not know how he managed to walk out of Imperial Garden. His mind was blank as he plodded on—every step felt like he was stepping on cotton. Before he knew it, he was back at Hillside Villa.

Susan ran over to support him the moment she spotted how terrible he looked.

“Evan, what happened to you?”

“Don’t touch me!” He deftly avoided her hands and headed for the stairs.

The cloud of pain and sadness that surrounded him was nearly visible. Susan watched as he stumbled his way up the stairs, tears welling up in her eyes.

One year.

It had been one year since they had their wedding ceremony in K Nation and returned here. Evan had not even touched her once.

Nicole only just regained her memories and she’s taken his heart again. Heh! The depth of their feelings for each other is truly remarkable!

Liquid trailed down her cheeks even as those frail-looking fingers curled into tight fists. It almost looked like she was squeezing something to death.

Evan remained in his study till the early hours of the morning. His face was so cold and hard it was like he was carved out of marble.

At dinnertime, a maid came in to call him down for dinner. He did not bother replying as he sat there with red-rimmed eyes. A terrifyingly cold aura emanated

from him. Gulping, the maid did not dare linger long, scurrying out as quickly as she could.

When Susan herself came in, he still did not make a sound. Hence, she ordered the maids to bring in the food. Crying and pleading, she tried to coax him into eating. His only reply then was, "Get out!"

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 735

The menacing growl sounded like something a demon from Hell would make. Shocked, Susan instantly stopped crying and shivered. She sniffled slightly while wiping her tears away. After that, she had the maids leave the room with the food.

She was intensely curious about what had happened between Evan and Nicole for him to be in so much despair.

Back at Imperial Garden.

Nicole tossed and turned in bed, unable to fall asleep. Images of what happened during the time she had amnesia kept flashing in her mind—especially Evan and Susan's wedding.

No wonder she felt a sense of familiarity with Evan and was so attracted to him.

All those perverted thoughts about him made a lot of sense too.

That would also explain the tight feeling in her chest and the tears that had trickled down her face at his wedding.

Turns out the groom was my man, the father of my children, and the bride was another woman, not me. Nicole, you stupid woman! You even gave them such a generous wedding gift!

Everyone must have been laughing their asses off at me! Nina was right. How could Evan do this to me when I lost my memories? It's unforgivable!

However, at that point, she had to snort at her own idiocy. He was already married to someone else. He did not need her forgiveness anymore.

She gave herself a slap across the face. From now on, he can do whatever he wants! I don't want anything to do with him anymore! Stay the hell away from him, Nicole!

With that mental warning, she shut her eyes, trying to keep her out-of-control brain in check. Half an hour later, she finally fell into a deep sleep.

The next day, she was woken up by her alarm. The children needed to go to school so she had to get them ready. She needed to make sure they had their breakfast and dressed warmly before heading to school.

The four kids were utterly dumbfounded when they saw her up so early.

They were planning on getting the chauffeur to send them to school if she did not wake up in time. Yet to their surprise, she was already up even before they started to eat breakfast!

Nicole scrutinized them closely, taking in their appearance and attire. Kyle and Nina were the best dressed and the neatest in appearance. Juan had buttoned up his shirt wrongly so she helped him rebutton it. Maya's hair was not brushed properly and looked like a bird's nest.

"Maya, Mommy needs to brush your hair."

Maya stared at her with her big doe eyes. A second later, she nodded slowly.

"Mommy, Maya is obviously not fully awake. She's definitely going to fall asleep later in class!"

Not really in the mood to fight with Nina, Maya lowered her head tiredly. She had a dream about Evan last night. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to sleep after waking up from that dream. It was only close to dawn that she fell into an exhausted sleep.

In truth, she really wanted her parents to be together again. She was even dreaming about it in her sleep.

“Okay, I’m done with your hair! Go have your breakfast!”

When they were done eating, Nicole sent them off to kindergarten.

On her way back home, she received a call from Rocky.

“Rocky, what’s up?”

“Nicole, I heard that you are back. You should probably drop by the clinic if you have the time.”

“Okay, I’ll head over right now. Sorry for troubling you, Rocky. Thank you for all that you’ve done for me.”

“There’s no need for that. I’m ashamed to receive your gratitude. I’m afraid I have been busy with my company matters and staying at M Nation for a while. I haven’t been to the clinic at all. It’s already been shut down. Are you planning on reopening it?”

“Of course! I’ll go take a look now.”

She needed to earn a living to look after the four kids now. A lot of companies had clamored to work with Lane Corporation due to her relationship with Evan. However, now that he had married another woman, the company was bound to be affected.

She had no idea what the future would hold.

That was why she had to reopen the clinic. It would serve as an alternative source of income for her.

Arriving at the clinic, she checked over everything carefully. With a bit of cleaning up, she was certain she could reopen the business.

After going through the necessary procedures, she sent out news about the clinic’s reopening.

Juan and Kyle were overjoyed when they heard about this piece of news.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 736

Nina thought the clinic needed a nice name. After a moment of thought, she suggested, "Mommy, why don't you call the clinic Nina's Clinic! That has a nice ring to it!"

Maya blinked before sticking out her tongue at her sister. "Mommy, you should call it Maya's Clinic! That sounds way better than Nina's Clinic!"

Juan mulled over both names before commenting seriously, "They're both not nice nor suitable."

Feeling annoyed, Nina rolled her eyes at her siblings. She was quiet for several seconds before suddenly snorting. Then, she giggled.

"What's wrong with you? You're acting so weird. Just say what you have in mind."

"What do you guys think about Evan's Clinic?"

"If that's the only name you can come up with then I might as well not open the clinic!"

Nicole eyed her daughter coldly before rising up to head for the kitchen.

Juan berated, "Why did you have to bring Daddy up? This isn't the right time for that!"

Nina pouted and muttered sullenly, "I was only joking. I didn't expect Mommy to get angry."

"Mommy's not angry. She's just sad. We should probably avoid mentioning Daddy at all these few days."

"Mommy is definitely not going to forgive Daddy for this." Maya sighed loudly.

"I don't think Daddy is going to leave that bad woman either." Juan's face was filled with disappointment at his father.

“Adults are so complicated! How do we even help them?”

This time, all four of them sighed simultaneously. Their heads drooped sadly as they went back to their own rooms.

At Hillside Villa.

The moment Evan returned from work, Susan rushed forward to welcome him home warmly. Affection was writ large upon her face as she stared at the man. When she parted her pink lips to speak, her voice was gentle and sweet, “Evan, dinner will be ready shortly. Is there anything in particular that you want to eat? I can have the kitchen staff prepare it for you.”

“Anything is fine!”

Tossing those words over his shoulder, he did not even glance at her as he walked upstairs to his study.

Susan watched him go silently before informing the kitchen staff to whip up several of Evan’s favorite dishes.

When they were seated at the dining table, she asked in a careful tone, “Evan, it’s been a year since we had our wedding ceremony. Don’t you think it’s about time we get our marriage certificates? Are you free tomorrow? We could go to the Civil Affairs Bureau...”

“I don’t have the time. I have an important meeting tomorrow.”

Susan’s expression fell and she was quiet for a few seconds. Tears welled up in her eyes as she persisted, “Evan, every time I bring up the topic of getting our marriage certificates, you either say we should wait a while longer or that you’re not free. It’s only getting our marriage certificates at the Civil Affairs Bureau! At most, it’ll take an hour. Can’t you even set aside one hour for me?”

“Susan, I’m really busy with work. I’m sorry.”

Evan had a grim look on his face as he barely flicked a glance in her direction. Standing up, he left for his study again.

Uneasiness swirled inside Susan. They had not gotten their marriage certificate nor had he touched her so far. In other words, she was technically only Mrs. Seet in name.

How am I supposed to be his wife in all the ways that matter? How do I ensure I won't be dethroned?

Her brows furrowed deeply in thought.

Evan turned on his laptop and saw the news about Nicole's clinic reopening for business. His eyes narrowed while he stared at his screen intently.

He still remembered how he had helped her with her failing business back then. Now...

Pulling out his phone, he made a call.

"John, have someone keep an eye on Nicole's clinic."

"Mr. Seet, may I ask why?"

"I want to know how well her clinic does—whether she profits or loses money."

"Got it, Mr. Seet!"

After hanging up, John sighed. He could already guess the other man's intentions. Evan was doing this so he would be able to help out again if Nicole's business were not good.

Oh, Mr. Seet. You're already married to another woman. I seriously doubt Ms. Lane will appreciate you doing this for her.

For a week straight, John sent some men to keep an eye on Nicole's clinic.

On the very first day of the clinic's opening, Nicole prayed fervently that her business would only continue to grow and flourish.

In the blink of an eye, it was the weekend again. Maya was craving some desserts but was too shy to speak up. Hence, Kyle brought the idea up for her.

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Chapter 737

Despite being a reserved boy, Kyle doted on his sister excessively.

Maya stared at Kyle with shining eyes, unsure of how to express her gratitude. In the end, she settled with a sweet, "Thank you, Kyle!"

"Go with Mommy. Remember not to eat too much."

"Don't worry! I'm not a three-year-old anymore. I know how to hold back!"

Nina rolled her eyes at her gluttonous sister. You're already seven years old yet you still don't know how to keep a leash on that greed of yours! Your self-control is terrible when it comes to food!

"The three of you aren't coming?" Nicole asked the other three kids curiously.

"My makeup teacher wants me to practice the latest makeup trends." "I have to practice my Taekwondo." "I don't like eating desserts."

Thus, Nicole took Maya to the dessert store alone.

They entered the store while Maya's chubby hand holding on to Nicole's hand tightly. She uttered, "Mommy, I'll only eat a little bit. The main reason I wanna come here is because I really like the buttery smell here."

Nicole glanced down at her daughter. "Okay. Then Mommy will keep an eye on you so you don't eat too much. Breathe in as much of this buttery smell as you want."

Maya nodded before sighing heavily. Nicole questioned worriedly, "What's wrong, Maya?"

“Daddy promised me he would hire a gourmet specialist to teach me. I guess there’s no hope for that now.”

Nicole kept quiet as she mentally calculated how much it would cost to hire a gourmet specialist. The number she came up with was rather daunting. When she added up how much she had in her bank accounts, an apologetic grimace appeared on her face.

“Maya, give Mommy two months, okay? I’ll hire a gourmet specialist for you then.”

Once Lane Corporation began to earn a profit and business for her clinic grew, she would have enough to hire one for Maya.

Knowing how hard her mother was working to earn money for them, Maya shook her head. She said in a thoughtful tone, “Mommy, I’m still young. I can always learn when I’m older.”

Nicole stroked her daughter’s head gently, her heart aching for the child.

Unfortunately, things are a little dire right now. How depressing is it that I can’t even fulfill my own child’s dream? If Evan were here, he would have agreed in a heartbeat! Ah, damn it! What happened to not thinking about that jerk?

She sucked in a deep breath to calm herself. After that, she led Maya over to select a few desserts before sitting down at a table.

Unlike all the other times before, Maya did not instantly wolf everything down today. She took her time observing the shapes of the desserts and the distribution of the chocolate and cream. Then, she shut her eyes and inhaled deeply, enjoying the fragrant aroma.

“Mommy, you should eat first!”

Nicole leveled a surprised look on her daughter.

Previously, whenever Maya had dessert, she would stuff them down her gullet without a care for anything else. Yet this time, she was actually letting her mother eat first. Growing up by a year really makes a difference, huh.

Taking a bite of the slice of cake, Nicole pushed it toward her daughter. “It’s too sweet. Mommy doesn’t like it so you can have it all, Maya.”

Maya cut herself a morsel of cake and ate it. “Mommy, since you don’t like sweet stuff, I’ll be sure to make you non-sweet desserts in the future!”

Nicole watched the way her daughter’s eyes glimmered brightly. She beamed at the child. “Alright. Mommy can’t wait to try it!”

Maya nodded vigorously. “I’ll definitely be able to make you anything you want to eat, Mommy!”

“I believe in you. You’re definitely going to be a world-famous gourmet specialist someday!”

An ecstatic grin spread across Maya’s face at her mother’s words. Warmth suffused Nicole at seeing how happy her daughter was. So what if I lost that man? I still have my four precious children! Having such understanding and thoughtful kids really is a blessing!

Turning her head slightly, she spotted a man who had a similar build as Evan standing nearby. A woman dressed in extremely sexy clothing was clinging to his arm as they browsed the cakes. A bolt of pain shot through her heart sharply.

Heh! Giving up on someone you love with all your heart feels like a burden in one instant and a terrible loss in the next.

Her breath gusted out heavily.

She was reaching out to wipe away the cream on Maya’s face when a shrill voice rang out.

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Chapter 738

“Well, well, well. If it isn’t Mr. Seet’s ex-girlfriend, Nicole Lane.”

Nicole raised her head to see a woman standing before her with her arms crossed in front of her chest. The other woman's face was filled with disdain as she looked down her nose at Nicole.

She was the director of a small company that Nicole had refused to work with in the past—Sheryl.

Nicole barely glanced at Sheryl before ignoring the latter entirely. She continued to wipe the cream away from Maya's face as if there was no one there.

Annoyed at being ignored, Sheryl scoffed and mocked, "What's with the arrogant attitude? I thought Mr. Seet has already abandoned you? Do you seriously still think you'll be able to marry into an influential family? Only in your dreams!"

"Is there something you want?" Nicole demanded impatiently.

"Can't I just have a little chat with you? I heard Lane Corporation isn't doing too well without Mr. Seet's support. Luckily, you didn't agree to work with us back then. Otherwise, it would be difficult to extricate ourselves from you now."

Nicole gave her an amused look. "Extricate yourselves? Stop kidding yourself! Even if Lane Corporation is doing terribly, and lost all our business partners, there's no way I'll work with someone like you!"

"Stubborn b****!" Sheryl glanced at Maya before she sneered scornfully. "Hmph! So what if you gave birth to several bastards? Evan Seet still doesn't want you! You're just a worthless b****! Stop acting so haughty when you're nothing!"

Maya's head snapped around as she glared at Sheryl furiously. This bad woman actually called me a bastard and scolded Mommy! What a horrible person! She curled her fists tightly, gathering energy for her Maya Punch.

A few seconds later, her fists flew out and smashed into Sheryl.

She only got two hits in before Sheryl grabbed her by the collar. "You little bastard, how dare you hit me!"

Sheryl scowled at the little girl and shook her several times. After that, she shoved the girl away from her.

“Maya!”

Thankfully, Nicole’s quick reflexes allowed her to catch Maya before she fell down. Terrified and shocked, tears welled up in Maya’s eyes.

Wiping away her daughter’s tears, Nicole said, “Maya, can you stand on your own two feet?”

Then, she straightened up and turned to the smugly smirking Sheryl. Her hand darted forward to slap the other woman harshly.

Smack! The sound rang out clearly, catching the attention of the other people in the dessert store. They glanced over curiously, wondering what was going on.

Having caught off guard, Sheryl held her throbbing cheek as she glared at Nicole. “You dare hit me!”

“Of course I dare! You were spouting nonsense at me. I intend on ignoring you but you insulted my daughter! You deserved to be slapped! Say anything else and I’ll ruin that face of yours!”

Nicole was like a tigress protecting her cub. Sheryl felt apprehension rise in her. If they really did end up fighting, there was a high probability that she would lose.

Besides, she had heard that Nicole knew how to use silver needles. It was better not to get in a direct fight with her.

Another thing was that even if Lane Corporation was not doing well, Nicole was still more influential than her. She was just the director of a small company. If things went south and blew up, it would affect her significantly.

There were other opportunities and better ways to deal with Nicole.

Sheryl’s eyes narrowed before she spat out through clenched teeth, “Nicole Lane, just you wait and see!”

“Get lost!”

The menacing and commanding aura Nicole exuded was startlingly similar to Evan’s. With her heart skipping a beat, Sheryl fled out of there with her tail between her legs.

Nicole bent down to pick up Maya. “Let’s eat these at home, shall we?”

The little girl nodded.

Feeling humiliated, Sheryl’s hatred for Nicole deepened. She spent a lot of time thinking about how she would get her revenge. Finally, she decided on a course of action. She would wait for the perfect day to enact her plan.

Two days later.

Nicole was shopping with the children at a shopping mall when a crowd of people suddenly appeared out of nowhere. They began to point fingers and chatter about Nicole.

“Look, there she is! That’s the woman who tried to rise above her station! She’s Nicole Lane!”

“That’s her?”

“Yeah! She thinks that just because she gave Mr. Seet four children, he’ll marry her. Look at her now—being tossed aside like some unwanted piece of trash! She deserved it!”

“Mr. Seet doesn’t want her even though she gave him children? Wow, she really must have the most terrible of luck! Now those poor children have become bastard children. How very unfortunate!”

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Chapter 739

Nina glared at all the busybodies indignantly as she stood out with her fists clenched tightly. She roared at them, “What nonsense! My Mommy was not an abandoned woman. She is the daughter of a duke, and her status is a lot higher than Evan’s. There was absolutely no need for her to rely on him at all!”

“Say all those nonsense again, and my fist will find its way to you!” Juan glowered at the group when all he wanted to do was to beat them up.

“Hmph, look at the wild little bastards. Who are you to be so arrogant when your Daddy doesn’t even want you anymore?”

Juan sent them a flying kick which in turn sent all of them into hiding immediately.

While they avoided him, their mouths did not remain idle and continued scolding the children incessantly.

“Bastards, even your daddy doesn’t want you...”

It was as if all these harsh words were being replayed on a loop at top volume in Maya’s ears.

She was reminded of how Sheryl had scolded her that way too. As she rubbed her chubby little hands with a completely aggrieved look on her face, she failed to understand why these adults were scolding them the way Sheryl did as well.

Soon, the innocent little Maya could no longer handle all the insults that were lambasted at them. Tears were brimming in her eyes for a long time and she could not take it anymore. Hence, she cried out loud, “Wah!!!”

Juan, Kyle and Nina were chasing after the group to beat them up. Nicole knew very well that this group had received orders to come up and commit slander against them. There was no point trying to argue with them and she could not be bothered to talk to them either. Therefore, she picked up her phone to call the police.

It was only then that the group dispersed.

With her eyes on the passers-by who didn’t know any better and yet were gossiping about them, Nicole picked up Maya who was sobbing profusely, and walked out of the mall with three other little angry children in tow.

Sheryl recorded the entire incident from a dark spot nearby. With a satisfied smile, she made a phone call.

“Nicole Lane, after this, everyone will know what kind of person you are! This is the price you have to pay for slapping me! Let’s see who has the last laugh now, huh?”

Such sensational news immediately appeared in the hottest news reels, and became the most-watched news of the moment.

Over to the other side.

When she found out that Evan was going to attend Yage Group’s cocktail party, Susan put on a perfectly made up face before coming along as well.

She looked especially attractive standing next to Evan.

“This must be Mrs. Seet. You are gorgeous.”

“Thank you. You are beautiful too.”

“Mrs. Seet matches Mr. Seet perfectly.”

“Yes, it takes someone like Mrs. Seet to match Mr. Seet.”

“.....”

Susan was overjoyed to hear all those flattery. She then deliberately held onto Evan’s arm with every intention to show off their affection in public.

However, Evan looked annoyed and moved his arm away silently before walking away grimly.

Embarrassed, Susan was taken aback. She turned and saw the alluring red wine on the table. An flirtatious smile broke across her face as she poured a glass and walked towards Evan.

“Evan, is there something on your mind?”

“No,” Evan replied to her coldly. He looked down and could not even be bothered to look at her.

Susan barely paid attention to that and gently laid the wine glass before him. "Have some wine, Evan. This is quite a good one."

The ruby red liquid emanated temptation under the bright lights.

Evan remembered that Nicole liked this red wine too. Oh, how he wished that the woman before him was Nicole instead.

He looked up and greeted Susan with an icy cold face.

His silence made Susan freeze for a while as well. Then, she picked up the red wine and called out to him seductively, "Evan, I poured this myself. Come on, have some."

With narrowed pupils, Evan took over the wine and downed the entire glass.

Then, he placed the wine glass on the table and glared at her. "This is not a suitable place for you. Go home."

Susan was taken aback. Instead of whining and begging, she merely reminded him gently, "Alright, but don't drink too much, Evan. I'll head home first, and do come back early."

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Chapter 740

Evan responded without much expression on his handsome face.

As Susan stood up, a glint flashed across her eyes when she looked at the empty wine glass.

Evan, I'll be waiting for you!

After Susan left, Evan took out his phone and realized that the top headline was of Nicole and the four kids being ambushed and attacked at the mall.

His face immediately fell.

After watching the video clip, he walked out of the hotel frostily and called John at the same time.

“Go and find out the story behind that piece of news in the mall.”

He completely fuddled John.

John was having dinner with his parents and he quickly snuck a look at the top headlines of the day. When he saw that it had to do with Nicole, he immediately understood what Evan wanted.

“Yes, Sir. I’m on it right away.”

After Evan hung up, the image of Maya sobbing away with tears all over her chubby face emerged in his mind again.

The cries and sobs kept replaying themselves in his ears, causing him so much pain and discomfort.

I wonder how are Nicole and the four little ones now?

With his aching heart, he hesitated for a while before driving towards Imperial Garden.

When he arrived, he suddenly felt his body burning up. Feeling somewhat surprised, he was stunned for a while before he walked into the living room.

When the maids saw him, they greeted him respectfully.

“Where is Mrs. Seet?”

Evan’s question confused the maids. They were not sure who this Mrs. Seet was.

Technically, it should be Susan. But why would Mr. Seet come to Imperial Garden to look for Susan?

Therefore, the maids guessed that it could be Nicole.

Just to be safe, they replied, "Ms. Lane is upstairs."

Evan headed upstairs with large strides.

It was only now that the maids dared to believe what they had heard. It turned out that he was really referring to Ms. Lane when he mentioned "Mrs. Seet." To Mr. Seet, Ms. Lane was still Mrs. Seet.

Nicole had just returned to her bedroom after putting the four little ones to sleep. As she picked up her pajamas on the way to get a shower, she heard a knock on her door.

She immediately opened the door. However, when she saw that it was Evan at the door, her beautiful face fell.

"What are you doing here?" She questioned him impatiently.

"I want to see the children..." And you!

Nicole glanced at the room where the four little ones were at and said simply, "Go ahead." Then, she proceeded to slam the door with a loud bang.

Evan was taken aback. With confusion in his eyes, he turned towards the four little ones' bedroom.

The sight of them sleeping soundly made him feel more settled.

Maya's little arms wound tightly around her chubby teddy bear. It was unclear as to whether she was sound asleep or dreaming, but her cute little lips were blowing bubbles as well, making her look extra adorable. Evan reached out to pat her plump cheeks with affection and heartache in his eyes.

At the side, Nina who was fast asleep suddenly talked in her sleep, "Not a bastard! I am not a bastard child..."

This sentence cut through Evan's heart like a knife. He walked slowly to Nina and looked at her tightly knit brows before reaching out to smoothen them out.

You are Evan Seet's child. I will definitely not allow you to experience this kind of thing ever again. Definitely not!

He vowed silently. There was clearly a chill in his deep and dark eyes, as he could not help but yearn to run a knife through each of the persons who bullied the children today.

When he walked out of their bedroom, his palms were clammy while his body burned up.

What is going on?

He stopped for a while and walked towards Nicole's bedroom.

When she heard the knock, Nicole was worried for a while. It can't be Evan again right?

She did not open the door immediately, and merely asked, "Who is it?"

However, there was no answer, but the knocking never ceased.

"Evan I know it is you. I don't want to see you! Please leave immediately!"

She had wanted to say "Get lost immediately," but since she had nothing to do with Evan anymore, she felt that it would be better to be more polite.

She roared and the knocking stopped. There was no more sounds from outside the door.