

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 771

It was then that Susan came to realize why Evan never visited her. He was busy keeping Nicole company.

They were in the same hospital. I was just upstairs. Why couldn't he come to visit me?

When she returned to her ward, Sheila was already back with her lunch. Staring at Susan's disappointed expression, Sheila asked, "Where did you go? I couldn't find you."

"I was too bored in the room. I had gone out for a walk."

"Hurry up and eat. Today's lunch is rather sumptuous. You'll like it."

Susan was visibly unfocused. She merely took a few mouthfuls before she announced to Sheila that she had no appetite.

Fearing that it was an effect of her head injury, Sheila quickly called for a doctor to give Susan a check-up. She only felt relieved after the doctor had reassured her that Susan was fine.

This is such a delicious meal! It's a pity that she's not eating it. She can't possibly be scheming again, can she?

Sheila ignored her, choosing to enjoy her own meal instead.

In the afternoon, while Sheila was away, Susan sneaked her way out into Nicole's ward.

When Nicole saw her, she stiffened slightly before asking, "Are you feeling better?"

Susan shook her head as tears brimmed in her eyes. "My head hurts! Ms. Lane, wouldn't you allow Evan to accompany me?"

Nicole was speechless at the pitiful sight before her.

Evan had finally begun a relationship with her again, and their relationship did not have room for another woman. With that thought in mind, she glanced at Susan, her expression stern.

“I’m sure that Evan has already given you the necessary clarification on this matter. I hope that you’ll halt your efforts in pestering him.”

“Ms. Lane, I’ve already had a wedding with Evan. He’s my husband. You should be the one who would have to stop pestering him,” Susan voiced out confidently, her tone both upset and furious.

“Nonetheless, you didn’t register with him. Without registration, you’re not his wife. It’s true that you’ve had a wedding with him, but I’ve given birth to his four children. The overseas wedding that you’d forced him into is incomparable to my four kids and our feelings. Moreover, if not for me losing my memories, I would never have allowed him to have that wedding with you. I’m sure that even if you threaten him with death, he’ll refuse to do it.”

Susan clenched her hands and plastered on a cool smile. “He will. He won’t allow me to die just like that. He wouldn’t be able to bring himself to do as such! Even if you hadn’t lost your memories, he still would have married me. I know Evan well!”

“If I didn’t lose my memories, we would have found another way to solve it. Marrying you was the outcome that was the least likely to happen. Forget it. It’s pointless to talk about it now. I hope that you’ll stop yourself from threatening anyone with death in the future. It’s not worth it to die for a man who doesn’t love you.”

“Everything that I do for him is worth it. Ms. Lane, we still have a long future to go. Don’t assume that he’ll definitely be yours until the very end.”

Nicole was speechless.

So she’s going to keep up in this fight with me?

Fine. Try me.

Now that I’ve gotten my memories back, I’m not afraid of you. Nicole believed that no one would be able to take what was hers.

Susan shot her a glare at her before she turned to leave.

When she reached the door, she bumped into Evan. “Why are you here?”

Evan looked at her with furrowed brows, utterly bewildered.

“Evan, I’m here to visit Ms. Lane.” As she spoke, tears escaped her eyes. She looked like the prime example of a pitiful woman.

Annoyed, Evan asked, “What’s wrong?”

As though someone had been mean to her, Susan wiped her tears and whispered to him, “Evan, my head is spinning.” With that said, she tumbled into Evan’s arms.

“Allow me to take care of this.”

Sheila abruptly appeared, catching Susan in her arms.

“I was wondering where you’d ventured off to. Why are you here?”

When Sheila returned to Susan’s ward, she was alarmed to see that Susan was gone. Fearing that she had left to stir up trouble, Sheila headed straight to Nicole’s ward. Unsurprisingly, Susan had indeed gone there.

Susan had not thought that Sheila would appear out of nowhere to ruin her plans. However, she refused to admit defeat. Instead, she whined, “Evan, can you please send me back?”

“There’s no need for Mr. Seet to do such things. I’ll send you back.”

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04/08/2021 by Novel Heart

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"No. I want Evan to send me back. Evan-" Taking note that Evan was ignoring her, Susan reached out to grab his clothes anxiously.

Sheila immediately laid a firm hand on Susan's arm as she hurriedly dragged her away.

"Let's go back and rest."

"Evan! Evan!"

With tears in her eyes, Susan cried out Evan's name as Sheila dragged her back to her ward.

"Sheila, you hold no grudges against me! Why are you doing this to me?"

"I'm doing you a favor; I'm stopping you from diving off of the cliff."

Susan kept silent.

Susan's disgruntled gaze on Sheila was like a dagger coated in poison; it caused Sheila's heart to skip a beat.

Whenever Sheila's attention was turned to something else, Susan would rush over to Nicole's ward. Her constant visits irritated Nicole.

Furthermore, she always appeared with a miserable expression, looking as though she believed that Nicole was a homewrecker.

Every time she appeared, she would gaze at Evan lovingly. She was a third wheel that had stood out, making the atmosphere awkward all the time.

"Susan, I have been honest with you, and I've already arranged for your accommodation. You can discharge yourself from the hospital and move in immediately. In addition to that, I'll assign two maids to tend to you."

Discharge myself from the hospital?

Why should I do so?

"Evan, are you not going to allow me to stay in the hospital because of Ms. Lane?" With a deep frown, she instantly appeared weaker. "Evan, my head is spinning. I feel rather dizzy." At that, she held her forehead, leaning toward Evan again.

Nicole was swift to reach out and grab her. "Susan, since you seem to be rather fond of this room, I'll allow you to stay here."

Then, she turned to look at Evan. "Evan, can we head back to Imperial Garden?"

"Of course."

At a loss for words, Susan was confounded. They're leaving so soon?

Doesn't that mean that it'll be difficult for me to run into Evan from now on?

What should I do?

"Evan, take me back to Imperial Garden too, won't you?"

Nicole never expected her to voice a suggestion like that. Thus, she instantly rejected, "Imperial Garden is mine, so Evan can't give you an answer to that. I'm not going to allow you to step foot into Imperial Garden."

Her recent days in the hospital had been frustrating due to Susan's appearance. If she were to allow Susan to enter Imperial Garden, that would signify the end of her peaceful days.

Evan ignored Susan's pleas too. Packing up, he soon made his leave with Nicole.

Susan stared at the empty ward, her rationality having long fled from her body.

What should I do now?

Does this mean that I'll be unable to see Evan from now on?

If Evan registers for marriage with Nicole, I won't get a shot with him anymore!

At such a thought, she took her phone out, hurriedly making a call.

"What's the matter?"

"Nicole is about to marry Evan. Shouldn't you be doing something to show her your sincerity?"

There was silence on the other end of the line.

When the call ended, Susan heaved a sigh of relief.

At Imperial Garden.

When the maids saw that Evan had returned with Nicole, they all had similar joyful smiles.

Ms. Lane is back together with Mr. Seet again. This is great!

Evan then accompanied Nicole upstairs to her bedroom. On the bed, he placed a pillow behind her for support.

“Here. Do you feel better?”

“Yup. Evan, you haven’t gone to the office for quite a few days. You should head there now. If Seet Group is fine, head over to Lane Corporation and my clinic. Please assist me in settling the important matters.”

Evan handed her a glass of milk. “Rest well. I’ll deal with the affairs of Lane Corporation.”

Trusting his capability, Nicole nodded as she took the glass from him.

After Evan left, she lay on the bed, surfing through the net on her phone as she drank her milk. Now that she was away from Susan’s harassment, she felt that she was as free as a bird.

At that moment, her phone rang.

It was a call from Levant. After a few seconds of hesitation, she accepted the call.

“Hello.”

“Nicole, when shall we have our wedding?”

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His abrupt question startled Nicole.

“Levant, I shall not marry you.”

“Nicole, you will. You definitely will.”

Saying his piece with utmost confidence, Levant soon ended the call.

Staring at the screen that was gradually dimming, worry started to creep its way into Nicole's mind. What does he mean by that? He's not planning to do something, is he?

Evan drove over to Seet Group. Just as he entered the president's office, John rushed toward him with a stack of documents.

"Mr. Seet!"

Evan raised his head to meet John's gaze. "Yes?"

With a grave expression, John responded, "Something has gone terribly wrong with the K Nation project."

At that, he handed the stack of documents to Evan.

Evan took it and slowly read through them. The further he read, the darker his expression grew.

Amongst the eight major projects that Seet Group had in K Nation, four had been stolen. Moreover, the other party had taken them away at an absurdly low price. Evidently, the other party had something against Seet Group.

"Who did this?" Evan tossed the documents onto the table.

Having expected such a reaction from Mr. Seet, John eventually replied, "We haven't discovered who it is yet. However, I'm afraid that the other party might be rather powerful, seeing as they've had the courage to go up against Seet Group."

The first person who came to Evan's mind was Levant. He's the only one who would have the capability to do as such!

However, even Levant was unable to steal four projects in one go.

Levant's biological father was Murphy, an arrogant and fearless man. In K Nation, he was a prominent figure, and this seemed to be an awful lot like his doing.

With that thought in mind, Evan promptly instructed John, "Make Murphy the focus of your investigations."

"Of course, Mr. Seet."

John then exited the president's office and immediately assigned his subordinates to carry out the task.

In the office, Evan was seated on his chair as his slender fingers slowly tapped the surface of the table. His sharp eyes were narrowed as he ruminated on the matter.

He had a strong feeling that this was related to Levant.

Although Levant had arrived at the country after Nicole had regained her memories, he seemed to have yet to do anything; he had kept an exceptionally low profile.

With how devoted he was to Nicole, and with how he had gotten Nicole to lose her memories, Evan was sure that he would not have easily given up.

So, does this mean that he's finally making a move?

Levant, no matter what you do, I'll look forward to it.

You'd better not think of laying a finger on Nicole.

After settling Seet Group's matters, Evan then drove toward Lane Corporation.

The situation at the Lane Corporation was as he had expected. Nicole's absence from the office meant that the company was in a mess. Most of the core problems had yet to be solved, and there were a handful of minor issues.

After reading the reports of Lane Corporation's recent situation, Evan realized that it direly needed talented people for its management level. Hence, he immediately called John, telling the latter to transfer a few capable employees over.

Upon receiving his instructions, John was stumped.

“Mr. Seet, we’re not of the same level as Lane Corporation. No one will give up their job in a major company like Seet Group to go over to Lane Corporation.”

“Well then. Make the wages for the positions in Lane Corporation higher than in Seet Group. I’m sure that they’ll agree then.”

“Mr. Seet, that solves the problem. I’ll work on it right away.”

Upon ending the call, John instantly carried out Evan’s instructions, emphasizing that the pay in Lane Corporation was much higher than that in Seet Group. In the blink of an eye, John transferred over four employees who had expressed their interests.

Meanwhile, John was sighing to himself. Evan has done everything for Lane Corporation, and now, he’s even taking out his own employees for the other company. Why can’t he merge the two companies together?

In any case, the two companies will become one after Mr. Seet gets married to Ms. Lane.

John nodded to himself. I think that I can make this suggestion to Mr. Seet when he’s in a good mood. Perhaps he’ll work on it earlier.

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After settling Lane Corporation’s matters, Evan drove to Nicole’s clinic.

Business at the clinic was still as miserable as ever. The two acupuncturists who Nicole had hired had spent most of their time chatting during the daytime.

When they saw Evan, they thought that he was one of their potential patients. With a half-hearted tone, they soon uttered, "Are you feeling unwell? Where should I take a look at?"

Evan glanced at the two lazy-looking acupuncturists and asked, "Is there no one at the clinic most of the time?"

Irritated, they responded, "Can't you see it for yourself? Why are you still asking us about it?"

"That's right. Do you want an acupuncture session or not? If not, buzz off."

Evan was momentarily speechless.

Has Nicole really hired two acupuncturists? It seems as though she's hired two troublemakers instead!

It's impossible for the clinic to have any business with these two around!

Hearing his silence, one of them urged, "Hey, I'm talking to you! Are you ignoring us? You don't look as though you're short of money. I'm sure that you're a wealthy man. You must want to have a healthy body. Shall we introduce a better place to you? I'll guarantee you that it's a hundred times better than the service that you'll receive here."

Evan was shocked by their words.

The two troublemakers that Nicole has hired are even stealing clients from her clinic!

"A hundred times better than here? Where is it?"

"Walk ahead for five hundred meters. Then, make a turn at the corner! Continue for another two hundred meters, and you'll see a very obvious sign. That's the place that you'll be looking for."

Upon hearing their words, Evan felt that there was a need for him to check it out. He had to uncover the identity of the person who was "taking care" of Nicole.

"You're working as acupuncturists here, yet you're introducing another clinic to your patients! They must have given you quite the benefits, am I right?"

Upon hearing Evan's question, the two immediately sought to reveal their impatient expressions.

"Make your way there if you want to! Shut up if you don't! No one's forcing you to take any action! Stop with the interrogation, will you?"

"That's right!"

Evan turned away, ignoring them. It was a waste of his time if he continued his conversation with them.

Walking out of the clinic, he made haste to call Davin.

"Evan, do you really need my help in investigating such a matter? Just throw them a bank card, and they'll talk instantly."

"I'll never give my money to people like them. Ask around and get me some clear answers. Find out who's behind that clinic and inform me when you've discovered who's behind all of this."

"No worries, Evan. Leave this to me."

After ending the call, Evan drove back to Imperial Garden.

Meanwhile, Davin headed toward Nicole's clinic in his sports car.

A rich man has just left only for another arrive. What's going on in this clinic today?

The two acupuncturists sized Davin up before asking, "Where are you hurting?"

Since Davin was here to make them talk, he thought that he ought to spend some time here, toying around with them.

"Your place isn't that great. You barely have anyone around! Why don't you give me a free acupuncture session? I'll be sure to promote the clinic for you!"

At his words, the two shared a glance and some quiet words.

“We can give you a free acupuncture session, but don’t promote this clinic! You can assist us in promoting another clinic.”

“Another clinic? Does that clinic have the same owner as this one?”

“Of course not. The service at the other clinic is a hundred times better than here! You won’t regret introducing your friends there!”

Davin fell silent as he mulled over their words. “Shall we do this instead? The two of you shall resume your work at the clinic that you’ve promoted, introducing their clients to this clinic instead. What kind of benefits are they giving you there? I’ll give you just as much! Does that sound good to you?”

Hearing his words, the two acupuncturists shared a nervous look.

“Y-You have relations with the owner of this clinic?”

“What do you think?”

The two looked at each other again before one of them tentatively replied, “I assume not.”

“That’s right. The owner of this clinic is an unfortunate idiot. A rich man has ditched her. I don’t think that she would’ve been acquainted with someone like you.”

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Davin snorted before he smacked his palm on the table. “Here’s some terrible news for you! You’ve got the wrong guess! I am one of the relatives of the owner of this clinic.”

Both acupuncturists were dumbfounded.

A family member!

Is this man the rich man who we were talking about?

“Are you really a family member of the clinic’s owner?”

“Don’t question me any further! Let’s talk about what you’ve done.”

The two instantly understood what Davin was referring to. They quickly shut their mouths, determined not to speak another word about the other clinic.

Seeing their silence, Davin soon took out the ace that was in his sleeve.

Smack! He slammed a bank card onto the table.

“Here’s five hundred thousand. Answer my questions, okay?”

Five hundred thousand?

The two acupuncturists’ interests were piqued. Five hundred thousand was a tempting amount to them.

It was an opportunity for the two greedy acupuncturists and they were not about to let it slip past them.

“The money isn’t enough to be split between the both of us.”

“That’s right. You’re giving us only one card to share amongst the both of us! You don’t look like someone who is short of money. I’m sure you that you wouldn’t mind giving us another?”

Davin grinned as he slammed a second card onto the table. Then, he looked at them sincerely. “One for each of you. Is that enough?”

With bright eyes, the two immediately agreed, “Ask away. We’ll be certain to answer every question that you ask of us.”

“Why are you stealing clients from this clinic for the other one? What benefits are you receiving?”

“We’re receiving ten thousand a month.”

“I won’t have to do anything.”

Both acupuncturists gave him different answers.

Davin pondered on their words before he nodded. “That sounds about right. You’ll get ten thousand for doing that, and since all the clients have left this place, you wouldn’t need to do anything here too. Meanwhile, Ms. Lane is still paying your wages. The two of you are quite witty.”

“This isn’t our plan. It’s the plan of the one who is giving us money.”

“What’s the name of the person who is paying you?”

“We don’t know the person’s name.”

“We only know his address.”

“Yes. Walk ahead for five hundred meters, then make a turn at the corner. Walk for another two hundred meters, and you’ll spot an obvious large sign. That’s the place.”

Davin shot the two acupuncturists a satisfied grin. Then, he reached out to take the two cards on the table.

“Alright. I understand. You can leave now.”

The two acupuncturists were shocked.

“You’d promised to give us five hundred thousand each. How can you go back on your words?” the two protested when they saw Davin retrieving his cards.

“You’re still thinking about money? Alright. I’ve recorded what you’ve said earlier. If you want the money, you’ll have to follow me to the clinic that you were talking about for a confrontation first.”

Confrontation.

The two hesitated.

What if we refuse to admit to doing it?

Davin seemed like an unreliable man, and his demeanor made the two acupuncturists feel rather unconfident in his suggestion.

“Will you give us the money if we come with you?”

“It depends on how clear your explanations are. It’ll depend on my mood too.”

It was then that they realized that Davin had never planned on giving them any money.

They had been fooled, but voicing out Davin’s trickery would mean that they were merely voicing out their misdeeds. Hence, they could only take their leave resentfully.

After locking up the clinic, Davin drove toward the other clinic that the two had told him about.

After a long period of investigation, Davin finally discovered the identity of the person who was targeting Nicole.

Thus, he took out his phone to call Evan.

Evan, who was making a fruit platter for Nicole, immediately answered Davin’s call.

“Evan, I have the results of the investigation. The one who is targeting Nicole is someone who you’re acquainted with.”

“Who is it?”

“Levant.”

“It’s him?”

“Yes. I’m guessing that he’s trying to force Nicole back to K Nation by making it tough for her to survive here. Or maybe he’s afraid that she’ll be too tired. He has stolen all of her clients from her clinic!”

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“Well he seems rather dedicated about such a matter,” Evan remarked in a glacial tone.

“Evan, I don’t think that he’s going to let Nicole off that easily. Be careful! If he was able to cause Nicole to lose her memories, he’ll certainly come up with other ways! You should assign more guards to keep watch around Nicole to ensure her safety at all times.”

“I’m fully aware of that.”

After the call ended, Evan realized that he had the wrong impression of Levant.

He had once thought that Levant was not making any moves. Now, it seemed like Levant had been working in the shadows.

It was impossible to guard against people with ill intentions.

It seemed like the best option available was to assign people to guard Nicole at all times.

With that thought in mind, he called Darius and Damien, telling them to halt their work and to make their way over to Imperial Garden to secretly protect Nicole instead.

Just as the call ended, Nicole’s voice resounded from upstairs.

“Evan, are you done with the fruit platter?”

“Coming!”

Evan placed the sliced fruits into a heart shape before placing some of Nicole’s favorite cheese onto the plate. He then proceeded to bring the plate upstairs.

Wow! It’s heart-shaped! Nicole’s eyes widened at the sight of the fruit platter.

“When did you learn how to do this?”

Evan responded after a pause, “While I was studying overseas.”

At the mention of his overseas studies, Nicole was reminded of Susan.

Susan was Evan’s classmate. Nicole wondered if Susan had received the chance to try Evan’s fruit platter in the past.

At that, the straightforward Nicole asked him about it.

“You couldn’t have possibly learned it because a pretty girl liked it, could you?”

Evan was stunned into silence.

He was stupefied by her question.

However, upon regaining his senses, Evan decided to tease her. Therefore, he nodded fervently.

Nicole then continued, “That pretty girl can’t be Susan, right?”

Her second question not only stupefied him again, rather, it even brought him a headache.

He shot Nicole an odd look. “Do you miss Susan? Is that why you’ve suddenly mentioned her?”

Nicole was stunned by his question.

Me? Missing Susan?

That’s disgusting!

Every time she thought about the miserable face that Susan had put on whenever she clung to Evan, Nicole felt frustration thrum in her veins.

“I’ll never miss her. If anyone were to miss her, it’d be you.”

Right then, Evan's phone rang. A glance at the screen was enough to tell him that it was Susan.

Immediately, Evan rejected the call.

His swift reaction pleased Nicole. After ending her calls twice, the maid abruptly called out, "Mr. Seet, Susan has arrived. She's said that she wants to meet you."

F*ck.

Speak of the devil!

Nicole had to resist the urge to smack the mouth that had just jinxed her.

"Tell her to leave. I'm not free to meet with her."

Just as the words had escaped his mouth, the maid had a troubled expression on her face.

She replied, "Mr. Seet, I'm afraid that Ms. Susan has already thought about that in advance. She has said that she has something important to talk to you about. If you're not going to meet her, she's decided to wait at the entrance of Imperial Garden until you've agreed to meet her."

I didn't think that she would have come prepared.

Instead of allowing her to remain a statue at the entrance, I might as well get rid of her by meeting her!

Before Evan could say anything, Nicole voiced out, "Let her come in."

The maid glanced at Evan, who did not refute Nicole's order.

"Yes, Mr. Seet."

When Susan entered the living room, she saw Nicole and Evan walking down the stairs, hand in hand.

The moment Susan caught sight of Evan, she straightened her back in excitement. However, upon remembering her aim for today's visit, she quickly restrained herself.

Politely, she greeted, "Evan. Ms. Lane."

"What is the reason for your visit?" Evan questioned.

Susan froze for a second. "Evan, may I speak to you privately?"

Nicole was at a loss for words.

Susan's request had surprised Nicole, and her face soon fell.

Susan was like a jack-in-the-box to Nicole; she was full of unpleasant surprises. She did not want to interact with Susan any more than what was necessary, and she did not want Evan to interact much with her either.

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With an indifferent tone, Evan muttered, "You can be straightforward. There's no need for us to speak privately."

Susan shot a glimpse at Nicole and hesitated. A while later, she turned to gaze at Evan with sincerity in her eyes.

"Evan, when I was burnt while saving you, you'd promised me that you would give me something in return. Back then, I'd asked you to marry me. I'm aware that you like Ms. Lane, so we'll dismiss the wedding. Can you promise me something else?"

Susan was aware that threatening Evan with death was no longer useful, in terms of getting Evan to fall in love with her. Thus, she chose to take a strategic retreat in order to advance in her plan.

Evan remained silent.

Nicole carefully mulled over Susan's words. Does this mean that she doesn't want to marry Evan anymore? Or does she have something else lying in store for us?

Similar to Nicole, Evan was bewildered. He stared at Susan with apathetic eyes. "What is it?"

"Evan, I know that your company invests in the film industry. Your company is about to purchase Border Films. Since I can't get your love, I want to have my chance at becoming a popular actress. That way, I'll be able to have a better life. Can you fulfill this wish for me?"

She wants to act in a show and become a star?

When did Susan have thoughts like that?

Her request stunned Nicole.

Evan looked at Susan as a hint of worry flitted across his eyes. It was true that Susan was a student of the performing arts, and it was not as if he could not agree to her request. However, to save him back then, Susan's face, body, and arms had burn marks. Although her face had undergone skin grafting and had recovered, her arms and body still had scars. That was why she was unsuitable to become an actress.

Sensing his worry, Susan pulled up her sleeves to show him the horrifying scars that were wrapped around her arm like a centipede.

Instantly, Evan was struck with guilt. Her scars are because of me.

"Evan, look. My arms and body are littered with scars, so I won't be able to take on many kinds of films. I'm only suitable for period dramas, where such body parts would be hidden. Seeing as such, can you please invest in a period drama?"

Investing in a period drama was nothing to Evan.

Evan was more than willing to fulfill this wish of Susan's if it meant that she would stop harassing him.

However, he did not know what Nicole had thought about this.

Turning to Nicole, he saw her nodding at him; it was a silent agreement from her.

Nicole had thought over this. If Susan were to be busied by her shows, that means that she won't have the time to harass Evan or to destroy our relationship! That's a good thing.

Moreover, for Susan to have suggested this meant that she was giving Evan an opportunity to return the favor that she had given him. Nicole was certain that Evan was already interested in helping her, and hence, she saw that she should show him her support for his decision.

Solemnly, Evan uttered to Susan, "I'll agree to your request. It'll be me fulfilling the promise that I'd made to you back then."

Susan abruptly smiled in delight. "Thank you, Evan. I'll go home to prepare myself for the audition. Do call and inform me when you've set the time for me to attend the auditions."

"My assistant will be in charge of this. He will notify you when the time comes."

Susan froze before she nodded. "Alright. I'll take my leave now."

With that said, she turned around to leave. However, the further she walked, the icier her expression became. By the time she left the living room, the joy on her face was nowhere to be found.

That's it? She's left just like that?

Nicole was still surprised by the entire incident.

She had thought that Susan would put on a show whining that she could not bear to live without Evan.

She could barely believe that the other woman had left in such a manner.

“Evan, have you decided to make her famous?”

“I’m only giving her this one opportunity. Whether or not she’ll make it big is up to her.”

“To be honest, I think that she’s good at acting! Look, she’s always seemed to be rather fragile, but something about her today felt seemingly different.”

There was something different about Susan today, but Nicole could not pinpoint what it was.

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The sudden change in Susan took her by surprise, but it also instilled worry in her.

Evan smiled. “Is that so? It’s rare to see you being this interested in someone else. Are you that interested in Susan?”

Nicole shot him a glare. “Which part of her should I be interested in? Don’t utter such nonsense.”

Evan grinned and reached out to tidy the hair that was hanging around her shoulders. “Alright. Let’s head back to Seet Residence now. We’ll bring the kids back with us. I’m sure that they’ve missed you badly.”

Nicole nodded.

It had been merely a few days, yet she already missed the children.

She wondered how they were progressing with their plan of letting Davin court Sheila. It was the perfect time to find out about it herself.

At Seet Residence.

The children were crowding around Davin, refusing to let him go. They were determined to force him to continue giving Sheila gifts.

With a troubled expression, Davin muttered, "You can't do this. Uncle Davin has helped you in giving her gifts for many days. Sheep keeps looking at me with stars in her eyes. I have to stop giving her gifts."

Juan hugged Davin's leg and whined, "Uncle Davin, one last time."

"My dear Juan, that's what you'd said to me the last time too."

"No, it isn't! Uncle Davin, you've remembered it wrongly. I didn't say that the last time. It was Maya who'd said that."

Beside him, Maya nodded vigorously. "Uncle Davin, Juan's right. I was the one who'd said it the last time."

Davin gave their words a thought. "Are you taking turns in saying it? You'll say that it's the last time today, and she'll say that it's the last time tomorrow. It'll never end, will it?"

"Uncle Davin, just three more days! Maya was the first. I'll be the second. Then, it'll be Nina and Kyle. Does that sound good to you?"

Davin thought about it for a while. "I don't think so. I won't give her any gifts anymore."

With that said, he shook his head. Recalling the way that Sheila had looked at him, he was worried that Sheila would lose control of herself, possibly forcing herself upon him. It was too dangerous, and he could not possibly keep this up.

"Uncle Davin, come on!"

"Uncle Davin, you're the best uncle in the world."

“Uncle Davin, just say yes to it!”

Juan, Maya, and Nina took turns in trying to convince him in their cute voices. Meanwhile, Kyle stared at him icily as he tried to use reverse psychology on Davin.

“Coward. You’re so scared of giving a woman some flowers.”

The way that Kyle was looking down on him made anger burn, bright within Davin.

“Kyle, I’m your uncle. Can you stop acting in such a manner? It hurts my naïve, kind heart.”

Naïve? Kind?

Kyle could see just how shameless Davin was by the way that he had just described himself.

“Alright. Give Ms. Sheila a few more days of roses, and I’ll consider being a little nicer to you.”

Davin scoffed. He found it pointless to have risked having Sheila force herself upon him in order to get Kyle to be a little nicer to him.

“Move aside, kids. Uncle Davin has something important to do. Don’t stand in my way.”

Kyle rolled his eyes at him. “Coward. You’re scared of women.”

When Juan saw Davin’s expression turning grim, he quickly added, “Uncle Davin’s a coward who’s scared of women.”

“Oh my, Uncle Davin’s a coward who’s scared of women!” Nina folded her arms and rolled her eyes as well.

Blinking her big, bright eyes, Maya repeated, “Uncle Davin, you’re a coward who is scared of women!”

Davin pursed his lips as the children continued to hurl their verbal accusations at him.

“Don’t spout nonsense, kids. Your daddy is the one who is afraid of women. If you don’t believe in my words, think about it. Isn’t your daddy afraid of your mommy? That’s why you should diss your daddy-”

“Is that so?”

Before Davin could finish his words, a cold, familiar voice sounded out behind him.

F*ck. How unlucky can I be? Speak of the devil.

The children stared at him with mischief in their eyes.

Juan quickly voiced out, “Daddy, Uncle Davin has said that you’re a coward.”

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“I—” Davin was about to explain himself, yet Nina got ahead of him as she complained, “Daddy, Uncle Davin says that you’re afraid of women and that includes Mommy.”

“I didn’t mean it—” Before Davin could explain himself, Maya interrupted once again and added in a sheepish manner, “Daddy, Uncle Davin wants us to scold you.”

Davin was rendered speechless by the little girls’ words because he was certain that it would be tough to get himself out of the nasty situation.

He was about to explain himself, but Kyle nodded and asserted with a determined look, “Yes! Those were his exact words!”

Davin was at a loss for words because no matter what he said, he wouldn’t be able to convince the others anymore.

Evan stared at Davin and asked, "Are they telling me the truth? Do you want me to teach you a lesson instead?"

"No! I—"

Out of the blue, Evan launched a kick in Davin's direction. The observant man had been keeping an eye on his brother. Therefore, in spite of his brother's swift kick, Davin managed to evade it in the nick of time.

He fled immediately and put a distance between his brother and himself. "Evan, we're not supposed to fight in front of them! Why are you trying to kick me? They are the ones who have teased me! Why am I not allowed to comment on you when you have failed to educate them as their father?"

Evan did not expect Davin to have the guts to rebuke his words. Without a second thought, he dashed over to his brother's side once more.

Meanwhile, the children allowed their imaginations to run wild; they couldn't wait to figure out the outcome of the fight.

Juan yelled, "Kick him in the butt!"

Maya urged, "Go for his ears!"

Nina cheered, "Get him to keep his mouth shut, Daddy! How dare he badmouth you in front of us?"

Meanwhile, Kyle cast a stern gaze at his uncle. Thrill was written all over his face. Never had he once gotten along with Davin. Thus, he was delighted to have his father teach his uncle a lesson.

Since Evan was about to reach him, Davin yelled, "I've got to go because I need to deliver Sheila her bouquet of roses! Once I'm back, I'll deal with you and your children! You'd better stay put and wait for me to return!"

As soon as he finished his sentence, he dashed all the way out of the house with all of his might.

“Hmph! Uncle Davin is a coward! How dare he tell us to wait for him when he’s the one who has fled?”

Nina rolled her eyes contemptuously and made her way back to the living room. She had caught a glimpse of her mother and noticed that she was in the living room. Therefore, she couldn’t wait to return to her mother’s side.

Meanwhile, Maya went after her sister and dashed toward the direction of the living room.

Upon detecting her beloved daughters’ presence, Nicole greeted, “Maya, Nina! Come over and give me a hug!”

Nina returned to her mother’s side and asked impatiently, “Mommy, I have fully recovered! May I return to Imperial Garden? I want to practice my make-up skills!”

“Of course! I dropped by to pick you guys up!”

Juan and Evan showed up in the living room the moment Nicole finished her sentence.

Staring at the children with her abysmal pair of eyes, Sophia uttered, “Once you bring them back with you, Seet Residence will turn into a deserted place once again. I can’t believe that they are going to leave so soon.”

“Grandma, we’ll drop by and keep you company over the weekend, okay?”

Nodding, Sophia said, “Sure. I can’t possibly keep all of you to myself when you have to take care of your family. All of you have gone through a series of events prior to your reunion. Evan, you have to keep Nicole and my grandchildren company, okay?”

“I will, Mom.”

Leaning on her mother’s lap, Maya blinked her glistening pair of eyes and murmured with a pitiable front, “Has the gourmet specialist arrived yet?”

“She will be arriving in Y City tomorrow. We’ll bring you over and you can pay her a visit once she arrives, okay?”

Maya nodded fervently in response. Her imagination ran wild as thoughts of all the different existing cuisines ran through her mind.

Currently, she had but one wish; she wanted to prepare her parents and siblings their favorite dishes that would put smiles on their faces.

Apart from her loved ones, she wanted to grant every single child an opportunity to savor affordable delicacies. Her ultimate goal was to become the owner of a food plaza.

Evan denoted, “Mom, we’ll be leaving then.”

“Alright, make sure to drop by and visit us whenever you’re free!”

Nicole expressed her gratitude towards Sophia, “Thank you so much for taking care of the children on my behalf, Sophia.”

“Nicole, are you sure that’s the proper way to address me?” Sophia asked rhetorically.

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Nicole responded with a sheepish grin because she had yet to become Evan’s legal spouse; they had yet to hold a wedding ceremony as neither of them had gotten the paperwork done. Therefore, she was unsure as to whether or not she should address Sophia as her mother-in-law.

“Mom, once we get the paperwork done, I’ll get her to address you accordingly,” said Evan.

Sophia thought about it and suggested, “Evan, is it fine for me to organize the wedding ceremony on your behalf? I’ll contact the priest and I’ll get him to conduct the wedding ceremony!”

“Sure!” Evan was delighted.

Similarly, Nicole nodded as she expressed her acknowledgment of Sophia’s suggestion.

The children were on cloud nine. They insisted on dressing up properly for their parent’s wedding.

As soon as they returned to Imperial Garden, the children began to tend to the different things that they had on their plates. As per usual, Kyle had his eyes glued to the computer, working on his hacking skills.

Occasionally, a little boy’s voice could be heard, yelling the slogan of a Taekwondo practitioner. He was none other than Juan, who had begun to practice Taekwondo again.

As one of their daughters had started dolling the mannequin up with bridal make-up, Evan asked Nicole with a bright grin, “Shall we get Nina to doll you up during our wedding ceremony?”

Nicole nodded because she had faith in their daughter’s make-up skills. After all, she had been receiving guidance from a top-notch professional make-up artist all this while.

In the meantime, Maya showed up with another bag of cookies. She placed a few of her animal dolls in front of her and gave each of the dolls two pieces of cookies, all except for the monkey.

Eventually, she stuffed the remaining three pieces of cookies into her mouth.

Staring at the monkey that wasn’t given a piece of cookie, she announced, “There’s nothing left! Why don’t you get Mr. Puppy to share his cookies with you?”

She reached for the cookies she had placed on the puppy, but before she could hand them over to the monkey, she moved her hand in another direction, swooping the cookies toward her mouth. In the end, she said apologetically, “Mr. Puppy wants me to have the cookies instead because he doesn’t like you!”

Next, she went on and finished the cookies that she had placed on the bear.

After a few minutes, Maya had devoured the entire bag of cookies. Staring at the dolls with a pleased look on her face, she complimented, "Great job! All of you are much easier to deceive than Nina and Juan!"

She chuckled and caressed the dolls that had been bullied by her merely a few minutes ago.

Nicole was at a loss for words.

Heaving a sigh of despair, Nicole observed that Maya could only deceive the dolls that didn't possess any form of intelligence whatsoever.

She was certain that her daughter's siblings could easily deceive her in a similar manner.

Smirking, Evan asked, "Shall we get Maya a few more younger siblings? Do you think that they'll be cuter than Maya?"

"What do you mean? Are you indicating that Maya isn't cute? Have you lost your mind? Maya is the cutest and the most kind-hearted little girl on Earth!"

Evan was taken aback by Nicole's words. He leaned over and whispered, "Are you sure that you haven't misperceived my words? Truthfully, I'm suggesting that we get Maya a few more younger siblings."

Nicole was wordless.

Another few younger siblings? Excuse me? Isn't four enough for us? I'm having a hard time dealing with the four of them simultaneously!

Truth be told, she deemed the existence of her four children to be perfect. She didn't want to go through the tormenting experience that she had once gone through, during her previous labor.

"Let's set that idea aside for the time being. It's a topic for another day!"

As soon as she made herself clear, she brought herself out of Maya's bedroom, leaving the man behind.

As she reached the entrance, she heaved a sigh of relief and murmured to herself, "You want me to give birth again? Hmph! No way!"

Once she finished her sentence, a hoarse voice could be heard, asking rhetorically in return, "Really?"

Turning around, Nicole was shocked to notice that Evan had shown up behind her.

"H-Huh? Shall we pretend as though I'd never said such words? Please don't take me seriously!"

A vicious grin could be seen on Evan's face as he dragged Nicole back toward their bedroom. He shut the door and locked it once they had entered the bedroom, behaving as though he was up to no good.

"Evan, what do you want?"

"I'm trying to see if it's possible to get you pregnant again!"

Nicole blamed herself for her careless words. As a result, she had failed to notice Evan's presence behind her. She regretted blurting out the things that she had in mind without giving it much thought.

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As she had lost herself in the process of her thoughts, Evan had her pinned to the bed, rendering her incapable of motion.

Nicole replied with a sheepish grin in a thick-skinned manner, "Truthfully, it is possible! You don't have to verify it at all!"

"Really? If that's the case, we shouldn't delay it any longer than we have!"

"No! Not now, Evan!" Nicole was afraid that their children would knock on their door since they were in the house.

"What? Why not?" Evan ripped her clothes off with all of his might, causing the buttons on her clothes to scatter all around them.

Nicole was baffled because Evan seemed to be determined to get the things that he had in his mind.

Her eyes gleamed. She thought of something and yelled, "Evan, I'm hungry!"

"I'll make you your favorite dish once we're done. Just play along with me for the time being."

Nevertheless, Nicole refused to give up. She came up with an excuse again as she complained, "Evan, I'm exhausted and my body is aching!"

"You don't have to do anything! Just stay still and I'll have everything under control!"

Nicole was at a loss for words.

You're a rather shameless man, Evan!

As she refused to give in to his request, Evan smirked and ran his fingers across her porcelain-like cheeks. "You should stay still and stop retaliating. Otherwise, don't blame me when you come to discover what's in store for you!"

Nicole was speechless because she knew that it would be futile to retaliate against him. Since she had been rendered defenseless by the man, she decided to close her eyes and enjoy their session together.

...

Half an hour later, they heard someone shrieking hysterically.

Instantly, Nicole sat upright and exclaimed, "It's Nina! What's wrong with Nina?"

Consecutively, she heard her daughter yelling, "Juan, you have ruined the make-up that I have been putting on the mannequin! I'll fight you to death!"

"Nina, I'm your brother! Are you really going to fight with me over a mannequin? Can you please return to your senses?"

"The mannequin is far more important than you! Even though you're my brother, you're not supposed to get your hands on it! I'll try my best to avenge my mannequin!"

Nina was determined to get her revenge. Therefore, she had gone after her brother as she had prewarned.

They ran up and down, wreaking havoc upon everything that they had passed upon.

Maya showed up and stood in Nina's way. She tried to talk some sense into her sister, yet Nina reprimanded her, "Are you going to help Juan or me?"

"I-I..."

Maya could never get her way around Nina. Truthfully, rather than taking sides, she had wanted them to make peace with one another.

Since Maya had remained silent, Nina pushed her sister away and bellowed, "If you're not going to help me, stay out of my way!"

Consequently, the chubby little girl fell onto the couch. Sighing, Maya muttered to herself, “Nina should learn how to behave herself! Since I can’t seem to talk any sense into her, I’ll just let them remain as they are. As Juan has been practicing his Taekwondo as of late, Nina can’t possibly defeat him.”

To her surprise, as soon as she finished her sentence, she heard Juan shrieking, “O-Ouch! I-It hurts!”

Maya sprang up and jumped off the couch immediately. She headed over to check on their conditions and noticed that Nina had managed to beat Juan up.

Her jaw dropped open because she couldn’t believe that her sister possessed the capability of outmatching her brother in terms of combat. Juan has been practicing Taekwondo! How did Nina manage to defeat him?

Staring at her chubby fists, she began to think that the “Maya Punch”, the one that her father had taught her, the one that she had been taking pride in, wouldn’t allow her to defend herself against Nina anymore. Thus, she was determined to come up with something new.

“Nina, I’m allowing you to beat me up to vent out your anger, but you shouldn’t go overboard!”

Juan took hold of the toy that Nina had been using to beat him up with all of his might, breaking it in half.

Nina panted as she pointed at Juan, warning him to express her frustration, “You’d better stay put until I return with another thing to beat you up!”

“If you continue to beat me up, I shall stop myself from holding back against you!”

Nina gritted her teeth and warned, “Don’t you dare!”

“Try me!” Juan held his head high, assuring his sister that it wasn’t a joke.

“We shall see!”

...

Meanwhile, Evan and Nicole, who were in the bedroom, overheard the commotion and the contents of the conversation that their children had. They tried to work something out to prevent a similar situation from arising again in the future.

Nicole thought about it as she soon came to a conclusion, saying, "It's normal for them to get into a conflict every now and then. Let's just turn a blind eye to it and pretend that it's not a big deal. I'm pretty sure that they'll patch things up before going to bed."

"Seriously? We're their parents. How can we allow them to engage in endless rounds of fights?" Evan asked in a serious manner.

"What should we do to resolve it once and for all then?"

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It was a genuine question because Nicole had tried several things in the past. Unfortunately, her efforts were to no avail. Therefore, she couldn't wait to figure out the things that Evan had in mind.

In the end, Evan, who was in a set of pajamas, brought himself out of the bedroom in an intimidating manner. Five minutes later, he returned to the bedroom and behaved as though he had everything under control.

Nicole was shocked because she thought that he had sorted out the conflict between their children. However, when she was about to question him, she heard the voice of Nina and Juan. They had resumed in their fighting next door.

"Juan, stop running and take me on like a man!"

"Nina, I have never once beaten a girl up! Stop challenging my limits! Otherwise, you'll have to bear the consequences of your actions!"

Immediately after he warned his sister, he yelled, “H-Hey, Nina! Stop beating me! Are you sure that you’re my sister?”

“Nope! I’m pretty sure that I’m not, as of now!” Nina answered her brother’s query without a second thought.

“Fine! I’ll stop holding back against you as well!”

“Arghhhh!”

Squinting her eyes, Nicole cast a skeptical gaze at Evan.

He replied nonchalantly, “We’ll confine them to a room and we’ll get them to sort things out as soon as possible.”

Nicole was stunned.

Initially, she thought that he had headed out to be the mediator amongst the conflicting parties. It turned out that he had gotten them to start another round of intense fighting.

He’s their father, isn’t he?

Nicole rolled her eyes and brought herself out of the bedroom once she put on her clothes. She rushed over next door. Barging her way into the room, she noticed that there were scratch marks all over Juan’s arms.

Taking in Nina’s unkempt hair, Nicole was certain that her children had gone through another round of intense fighting.

“Are the both of you alright?”

“Mommy! Daddy has such a great idea! At long last, I have finally avenged my mannequin!”

Nina snorted scornfully and made her way back to her room with an arrogant look on her face.

Juan, who had been scratched on his arm, started sighing and explained himself, “I shall never lay a finger on a girl! Mommy, I didn’t beat her! I’d merely pulled her hair! It didn’t even hurt!”

Appearing out of nowhere, Evan replied, "Do you really think that it makes any difference when you have gone after her hair? Nina has always prioritized her looks over everything else."

Juan started to complain upon spotting his father's presence. "Daddy, you're biased! It's all your fault! You have deceived me! I shouldn't have let my guard down and followed you into the room! The only surprise that was in the room was an unpleasant one!"

After surveying the surroundings of the room for some time, Evan gathered his children around and warned them, "From today onwards, this room will be known as the combat room. If anyone wishes to resolve the conflict that they have with another person, they'll have to sort things out in the combat room. They'll be imprisoned to the room until they have everything sorted out."

Their children exchanged glances, remaining silent because they were confused; they were clueless about the things that their father was up to.

Juan muttered, "Daddy is trying to help Nina and Maya! We will never beat our sisters up for real! In short, the boys are the only ones who will get beaten up! Daddy is spoiling the girls in disguise!"

Meanwhile, Maya was thrilled yet concerned at the same time. She wanted to figure out who amongst her and her sister was the superior one, in terms of combat.

Nina shared the same thought. Staring at her chubby sister, she thought that Maya might not have been a match for her seeing that she was relatively skinny. In the end, she assured her father sincerely, "Daddy, I will never fight with Maya!"

Her sister felt as though a boulder had been lifted off her shoulders. Nina certainly seemed to be her great and loving sister.

"That's it for today. All of you are dismissed."

Looking at their children's departing figures as they made their way back to their room, Nicole noticed that Evan was overly biased toward their daughters.

Kyle and Juan had always taken great care of Nina and Maya. They were afraid they would accidentally hurt their beloved sisters. Therefore, they ended up being the ones who would possibly get beaten to a pulp.

“Let’s go, Maya!” Nina announced and snorted contemptuously before making her way back to her room with her sister arrogantly.

Juan moved aside and stayed out of their way in a humble manner.

Maya was overjoyed; it was written all over her face as she had never experienced being the superior one amongst her siblings.

Juan and Kyle stared at one another in the eyes and turned around, casting a skeptical gaze at their father.

In the end, they let out a long sigh as they finally realized that they had been living in a matriarch’s household.

The next day, Nicole made her way back to Lane Corporation after she dropped the children off at the school.

She reached for her phone as she received a call.

Taking a peek, she noticed that it was a call from Levant.

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“Nothing good has ever come from him.”

Murmuring to herself, she hung up the call without any hesitation because she didn’t want Levant to get in the way of her blissful life anymore.

Initially, she thought that he would call her again, but to her surprise, she didn’t receive any calls from him anymore. Nicole was shocked because Levant had behaved rather differently from what she had expected.

As soon as she reached her office, her assistant placed a mug of coffee and a stack of documents on her table. "Ms. Lane, here's an update of the progress of the company's latest projects."

"Alright."

Nicole started focusing intently on her work. She perused the report, page by page, and spent the entire morning working in her office.

In the afternoon, she received a call out of the blue. It was a call from the maid that had been serving her when she stayed in the estate at K Nation.

The moment she picked it up, she heard the voice of the anxious maid.

"Miss, Sir Musgrave is nowhere to be seen, after he had been invited to head over to Murphy's Wicked Palace last night. Lady Musgrave had sent someone to inquire about Sir Musgrave's whereabouts, but those from the palace have told us that he has long departed. He's nowhere to be found, and we can't reach him! Can you please make a trip back to ensure that everything's fine?"

He has gone missing since his visit to Murphy's Wicked Palace?

Nicole's heart skipped a beat as soon as she linked the missing puzzle pieces together. She turned the words of the maid in her mind and was certain that Murphy was the one behind everything. I'm pretty sure that he's still inside Murphy's Wicked Palace!

"Alright! Get in touch with me as soon as you receive any updates!"

"Yes!"

Leaning against her chair, Nicole's mind was all over the place. Suddenly, she remembered the earlier call that she had received from Levant a few hours prior to this.

Perhaps he didn't bother to call her again because he was certain that she would return his call and get in touch with him.

Is this all part of a bigger scheme?

Immediately, Nicole called Levant. Within a few seconds, her call was answered.

A man's voice could be heard, asking in a contemptuous manner, "Nicole, what brings you to have called me today?"

Nicole was about to bring up the incident that had occurred revolving around her father, but she changed her mind and asked, "I had received a call from you in the morning. Do you need anything from me?"

"Actually, there is something that I'd like to ask of you. May I have the pleasure of buying you dinner?"

She was taken aback by his suggestion that came out of the blue. Losing herself in the process of thought for a few seconds, she thought that it would be a great opportunity for her to inquire about her father's whereabouts over the meal. Thus, she decided to join him for a meal because she was concerned about her father's wellbeing.

"Sure. When and where are we heading over?"

"I'll see you at Amazon Hotel at seven o'clock in the evening."

"Alright."

After she hung up on him, she decided to call Evan. She wanted to inform him of the things that had occurred. However, she couldn't reach him because he hadn't picked up any of his calls. Therefore, she called John.

"Mrs. Seet, how may I help you?"

"John, where's Evan? Why didn't he pick up my call?"

"Mrs. Seet, Mr. Seet is currently in the middle of a board meeting because a few of the company's projects have encountered several issues. Perhaps his phone is in silent mode. Why don't you tell me about what you've called to ask him? I'll deliver the message on your behalf."

"What's wrong with the projects?"

Nicole found it odd because Evan would usually pick up her call in a timely manner. If it weren't due to emergencies that required his attention, he wouldn't have put his phone on silent mode.

"Mrs. Seet, the projects in K Nation have been brought to a halt. In fact, a few domestic projects have headed south as well. You may have to tolerate Mr. Seet because he could potentially have a foul mood later today."

Eventually, through John's explanation in a serious tone, Nicole figured out that Evan must have been having it tough due to the issues that he encountered at work.

"Alright. It's not a big deal. Please keep this conversation between us because I don't want to get in his way."

"Yes, Mrs. Seet."

Nicole let out a long sigh after she wrapped up the conversation. Since Evan had a lot of things on his plate, she decided to keep him in the dark for the time being.

After she got off of work, Nicole headed over to Amazon Hotel for a dinner with Levant.

As soon as she arrived at the hotel, she was informed that Levant had reached. He greeted her with a faint smile as she made her way into the reserved suite, "Nicole, welcome!"

Nicole took a seat across from Levant. She took a breather before asking, "Levant, may I know of the reason that you've asked me out for dinner?"

"I just wanted to buy you a meal," Levant replied in a casual manner.

"Is that it?" Nicole probed further; she thought that he had an ulterior motive.

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Chapter 784

“What else could it be?”

Nicole gave it a thought and decided to bring up her father’s disappearance in front of Levant.

“I’ve heard that my father has gone missing after he’d made a trip over to Wicked Palace. May I know what’s going on?”

Levant giggled and queried in return, “Nicole! I’m afraid that the information that you’ve received isn’t complete! My father had asked your father over for a few glasses of drinks, but your father had long made his way back after that. He’s no longer in Wicked Palace. Why? Has he not made his way home yet?”

“Levant, are you sure that my father has left Wicked Palace? Why am I unable to reach him?”

Levant picked up the glass of wine that had been served and gulped it down within a few seconds. He ignored her question and directed another question at her. “Nicole, are you asking me for a favor to search for your father?”

Nicole was speechless at his words.

Stop with your acting! I’m pretty sure that my father is somewhere in Wicked Palace! It’s not a request because it’s a demand! I want you to send my father back immediately!

Nicole had her eyes glued to the man in front of her, casting a stern gaze at Levant.

Similarly, Levant was aware of the things that she would possibly have in mind.

Nevertheless, he couldn’t be bothered by it at all. Instead, he stated, “Nicole, I’ll be sure to help you! However, I think that we should keep this between us to ensure your father’s safety. Evan can’t be of much help since he has limited influence in K Nation. I’m afraid that something bad may happen to your father. Do you see where I’m coming from?”

What the heck? Is he threatening me with my father's safety to keep Evan in the dark? Is he going to put my father's safety at stake if I defy his words?

Coincidentally, she had no intention to get Evan involved because he had a lot of things on his plate as well. She didn't want to cause him any more trouble.

As she made her way over to the restaurant, she had made up her mind. Levant could have possibly abducted her father for the reason that he had wanted to have a meal with her. Thus, she could be sure that he wouldn't hurt him since her father had brought him up and had educated him, back in the day.

"Levant, although he's my father, he has brought you up and he's taken care of you over the past two decades. I hope that you won't go overboard."

Smirking, Levant served Nicole a glass of wine as he assured her, "Of course, Nicole! As long as we're on good terms, I'm sure that he'll be fine!"

As long as we're on good terms? Hell no! I don't even consider us friends! Since Dad has been taken into custody by him, I don't think that I should offend him. Rather, I'll play along with him for the time being and think of a way to save Dad.

"Nicole, why don't you give it a try? I have ordered your favorite dishes!"

The waiter served the dishes that he had ordered, but Nicole wasn't in the mood to savor them. She savored a serving of steak and noticed that it had tasted different. It wasn't as delicious as the ones that she had whenever she dined with Evan.

"What about this, Nicole?"

Levant served her all sorts of dishes enthusiastically. Nicole moved her plates away from him and told him, "I'll help myself to the dishes that I enjoy eating."

"O-Okay..."

Levant gave in to her request and allowed her to have it her way.

She could barely enjoy the delicacies that had been served. It felt as though she had been savoring dishes of stale food.

On the other hand, Evan, who had arrived home, noticed that Nicole was nowhere to be seen while their children were engaged in different things. He asked, "Have you guys had your meals yet? Where's Mommy?"

Juan, the busybody, uttered, "Yes, Daddy! Mommy has told us that she would be home late because she would be caught up by something!"

Instantly, Evan glanced at his watch. It was almost nine o'clock in the night. He couldn't fathom the things that could keep her in the office until such an odd hour.

Therefore, he reached for his phone and called Nicole.

"Where are you?"

"I had a meal with a friend of mine. Currently, I'm on my way home. I'm merely a short distance away from home."

"You should hang up and drive safe."

"Okay."

After hanging up the call, Nicole checked on the time. Since Evan had just called her, she was pretty sure that he had reached home merely a few minutes ago.

Judging by the extended period of time that Evan had spent in his office to have sorted things out, Nicole thought that he must have been caught up in a nasty situation.

All of a sudden, she recalled that John had told her that the projects in K Nation had encountered all sorts of issues and were brought to a halt.

Why? What's wrong with the projects in K Nation? Could it be Levant again? Is he the one behind the nasty situations that Seet Group has encountered?

She turned the idea in her mind, praying she had misperceived things.

As soon as she reached Imperial Garden, she parked the car and sprinted over to the living room.

“Which friend of yours have you dined with? Where did you head over to have your meal at?” Evan asked the moment she showed up in the living room.

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Nicole knew that Evan would want her to fill him in with the details. However, she couldn't tell him the truth since Levant had threatened her with her father's safety. Fortunately, she had come prepared.

“Lately, things have been great on my end. I have headed out for a meal with my assistant for a simple celebration. What about you? Why do you seem to be having a hard time lately? Is it because of your company?”

Evan nodded and denoted, “It's not a big deal. I have everything under control.”

Nicole was silent at this.

Liar!

Even though Nicole had seen right through his lie, she was conscious that it was a white lie because he was worried that she would be concerned. Hence, she decided to stop poking her nose into his business. “Where are the little ones?”

“They have tucked themselves in. You should head over and take a shower immediately. It's almost time for bed.”

“Sure.”

Nicole walked past Evan and headed upstairs, returning to their bedroom.

Staring at her departing figure, a sense of uncertainty flickered in his eyes; he was confused by the scent of tobacco on her dress. It didn't make any sense since she had merely dined with her assistant.

Albeit faintly, Evan, who had always been sensitive toward scents, could detect the scent of tobacco that was exclusive to a certain someone.

It must have been a coincidence, right? Stop overthinking things, Evan! She's the last person on Earth that you should suspect.

He chuckled and found that his thoughts were absurd.

Once he sorted out the things that he had in his mind, he brought himself upstairs and switched on his computer. Typing, he focused intently on his work.

Meanwhile, Nicole indulged herself in a hot bath. Trying to procure the aid of someone who would be familiar with the structure of Wicked Palace, she wanted someone to infiltrate the Palace and locate her father on her behalf.

Nevertheless, the only candidate that she could think of was herself. As she had stayed in Wicked Palace for some time back then, she was familiar with its structure. However, Levant would definitely take notice of the things that she was up to, the moment she made her trip to K Nation. If he took him somewhere else, it would be increasingly difficult to locate her father's whereabouts.

Soon, she reached for her phone and called the maid, urging her, "Tell Lady Musgrave that he's still in Wicked Palace. Get her to send someone who's familiar with the structure of the Palace to infiltrate the place and locate him."

"Lady Musgrave has already sent someone over to infiltrate the wicked palace. We'll get in touch with you as soon as we have any updates on the situation."

"Okay."

After she hung up the call, Nicole let out another long sigh. She was pretty sure that she was the reason that her father had been imprisoned in Wicked Palace.

Levant would never let her off the hook easily. She was afraid that it would take more than a few meals with him to save her father.

With that being said, there wasn't anything that she could do about it either. Therefore, she decided to take it one step at a time.

After taking her shower, she walked out of the bathroom, but Evan was nowhere to be seen in the room. She knew that he must have been spending his time in his study room again. Hence, she walked over to his study room immediately.

As she reached the study room, she heard that he was in the middle of a conversation through the phone.

Nicole kept silent.

"These projects are of utmost importance. If they go wrong, Seet Group will suffer huge losses."

"I knew it! Murphy was the one behind all the project issues in K Nation!"

Nicole couldn't believe her ears. She was right all along because it wasn't a mere coincidence.

Caught up in her train of thought once more, she couldn't figure out the reason that Levant had imprisoned her father and had made a move against Seet Group.

What on Earth does he want? Levant and Murphy are equally as nasty as each other! Can Evan handle the issues that his company has encountered?

She stole a peek at Evan and noticed that he was in the middle of something in a serious manner after hanging up the call. Thus, she decided not to get in his way as she strode her way back to the bedroom instead.

Feeling a strong sense of insecurity, she reached out for her phone and called Levant.

"Nicole, what brings you to call in the middle of the night?"

"Why are you picking on Evan and Seet Group?"

"Nicole, Evan is a competitor of mine. It's merely a fair competition. I'm not picking on anyone in particular."

“Levant, what are you up to in particular?”

“I’m afraid that I don’t understand what you’re talking about, Nicole.”

Damn it! Stop acting in front of me! I’ll be sure to reveal your true colors soon!

She decided to hang up because it would be impossible for her to get to the bottom of the entire issue if she had run it by him.

Lying on the bed, she tossed and turned due to the unsolved mysteries.

In the middle of the night, the drowsy woman, who had been sleeping soundly, was roused from her sleep the moment she detected a pair of gigantic arms around her waist.

Feeling the man’s sturdy chest, Nicole was aware that Evan had returned to their bedroom. She leaned against him and asked, “What time is it?”

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“It’s two o’clock.”

“Have you spent the entire night working again?”

“Mhm.”

“Make sure that you get plenty of sleep, okay?”

Although Evan had said something in return, she didn’t hear him because she had fallen asleep again after she had made herself clear.

Waking up the next morning, Nicole found herself running her hand across Evan’s position. To her utter surprise, she detected a frigid sensation on the empty space beside her.

Thus, she knew that he must have had roused himself from sleep ahead of her.

She brought herself out of the bed immediately. Once she put on her clothes, she dashed out of their bedroom and saw Evan by the children’s side, making their way out of the house.

Maya stared at her mother with her glistening pair of eyes and teased, “Mommy, you have overslept again!”

Juan told his mother, “Mommy, Daddy had forbidden us from passing by your room because he was afraid that we would wake you up.”

Similarly, Nina stated, “Mommy, I want to get myself a husband like Daddy. Otherwise, I won’t get to spend my time in bed like you.”

Nicole was speechless.

Excuse me, Nina? You're at least two decades away from that! Why would such a thought cross a little girl's mind?

"Nina, why don't you set an achievable target? You do realize that you're quite some time away from the things that you have just mentioned, don't you?"

"Is there anything wrong with it? Let's just think of it as a life goal."

F-Fine...

It was about time for them to leave. Thus, Nicole bade farewell to her children and her husband, "Alright! All of you should get going and head over to school! Have a good day!"

Nicole felt bad because she caught a glimpse of Evan's worn-out expression. She blamed herself for being such a lazy bum. Ironically, she was the one who had told him to get plenty of sleep last night, yet she was the one who had received sleep instead of him.

Shooting Evan an apologetic look, she asked, "Why don't you get the driver to drop them off? He's on duty, right?"

"It's fine. I'll make my way to the office after I drop them off. You should get yourself ready and finish your breakfast."

Soon, Evan departed with their children.

After he dropped them off at school, he returned to the company.

Susan greeted him the moment he entered his office, "Evan!"

"Why are you here?"

She had a relatively casual look. Her current look reminded Evan of the innocent-looking Susan that he had known, back in the day.

"Evan, I have dropped by to express my gratitude because I have gotten everything regarding the production sorted out. Apart from that, I have something for you. It's about time for me to return this to you."

Susan reached out for a delicate glass bottle that had been filled with origami stars and showed it to Evan.

“You were the one who had folded these stars for me. Do you still remember your promise? You told me that you would bring me to go stargazing around the globe.”

Evan’s expression turned gloomy; he was confused by her words as she had brought up the things that he had once told her, back in the day.

Susan smirked and enunciated, “I think that you have misperceived my words, Evan. I am not being hopeful because I know that we won’t get to go stargazing anymore. I have been keeping this for six years. I think that it’s about time for me to return this to you.”

She placed the bottle of stars on Evan’s table and made her way out of his office.

Evan reached for the bottle of stars, going through a trip down memory lane as he stared at the stars.

He could vividly recall the time that he had spent folding the stars because he had folded them when he was by Susan’s side in the ward.

Previously, Susan was hospitalized; she had sustained serious burn injuries in order to save him.

He told her, “As long as you make a wish, the stars will grant your wish! I’m pretty sure that your wish will come true if you hold on to these stars that I have folded you! Trust me, Susan! You will be fine!”

Susan, who had completely lost the will to survive back then, turned around, asking as though she had seen the light at the end of the tunnel, “Really? Are you going to join me and go stargazing with me once I have recovered?”

“Of course! I will always be by your side, Susan! You have to go through the therapy, okay? I’m sure that you’ll be fine!”

Evan’s mind was all over the place as the things that had occurred in the past flashed through his mind once more.

Never would he have expected Susan to have held on to the bottle of stars for the past six years. She did a great job at preserving the bottle of stars.

Although he was aware that he was the one in Susan's mind, he couldn't possibly reciprocate the affection that she had for him because Nicole was the one whom he loved.

"I'm sure that you will find a better man out there."

Murmuring to himself, Evan put the bottle of stars aside as he kept it inside one of his drawers. He locked the drawer as though he had moved on from the past.

Meanwhile, Susan walked out of Seet Group with a wicked grin on her face.

I'm sure that it won't take long now! Soon, Nicole will discover the secret that's hidden inside the bottle of stars!

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Grinning in a vicious manner, Susan departed as she made her way over to the set.

Evan, who was caught up with work, received a call from Sophia.

"Mom, what's wrong?"

"Evan, the Muir family wants Sheila and Davin to get married as soon as possible. Can you and Nicole get married ahead of them? Perhaps the both of you can get married on the same day? I need to get your opinion, as well as Nicole's on this matter. Is it alright for you to make a trip back so that we can discuss this in person?"

“Why is the Muir family in such a hurry?” Evan was surprised.

Heaving out a sigh, Sophia explained, “Patrick was the one who had shown up with a bunch of rose bouquets. He had said that since Davin couldn’t wait to get married to Sheila, he had decided to do them a favor and fulfill his wishes. Thus, we can’t delay the wedding ceremony anymore.”

Evan was momentarily stunned by her words.

Evan’s children were the ones who had come up with the idea of presenting Sheila the rose bouquets.

He didn’t expect their plan to have worked out at the end of the day. They had contributed to the success of their uncle’s marriage.

“Mom, has Davin reverted back to you?”

Sophia started sighing again, the moment Evan brought up his brother.

“I need you to bring Nicole back with you as soon as possible because I need to sort out the arrangements for your wedding ceremony. Apart from that, I need you to persuade your brother; he has a lot to say about his wedding. He had lied and told me that he wasn’t the one who had delivered her the bouquets of roses. Thankfully, Sheila had recorded the footage of him delivering her the bouquets. Otherwise, he definitely wouldn’t have admitted it.”

Sophia was utterly confused. “What’s wrong with him? Why is he delivering her flowers, yet denying that he has been delivering them all this while?”

“Alright, Mom. I’ll make a trip home with Nicole soon.”

The moment Evan returned to Seet Residence with Nicole, he heard Davin insisting on confronting their children.

“Mom! I’m not the one who has delivered the bouquets to Sheila! If you don’t believe me, why don’t you ask the children once they’ve returned from school? They were the ones who had asked me to deliver the bouquets!”

“Davin, have you no shame at all? I can’t believe that you’re trying to make use of the children to get yourself off the hook! Do you think that you can get away with it by blaming the children? Never!”

“I-I’m not blaming them! I’m telling you the truth, Mom!”

Nicole was shocked. Staring at Evan, she asked, “Why is Davin against the idea of getting married to Sheila?”

Sighing, Evan denoted, “He couldn’t move on from a certain incident that had occurred.”

Speaking of the incident, Nicole recalled a certain conversation that had occurred, prior to her reunion with Evan. Previously, Nicole had begged Davin to keep their identities confidential since he had tailed Kyle and had found them. He had once brought up the subject of the woman whom he loved wholeheartedly in front of her and told her that the woman was pregnant with his child. Unfortunately, she had undergone a miscarriage due to the fight that he had with someone else after he had gotten drunk.

However, before he could finish relaying the entire incident to her, three of her children interrupted their conversation.

Does that mean that the woman that he’s mentioned is the reason that he can’t move on?

“Why can’t he move on? Is it necessary for him to spend his time punishing himself for the sins that he had committed? Can he win the woman, whom he loves wholeheartedly, over again?”

Shaking his head in response, Evan explained, “It has been a long time since we’d last heard of the woman. We can’t be sure of her current whereabouts. Perhaps she has gotten married and has given birth to another man’s child. Davin can’t move on from her because he feels guilty. He wanted to atone for his sins as he thinks that she might make her way back to him someday.”

Nicole was surprised; she didn’t expect Davin, who had always behaved like a playboy, to have been such a loyal man beneath his disguise.

“If that’s the case, do you think that we should still continue to match-make Sheila and Davin?”

Evan nodded and asserted, “Of course! Davin should have long moved on from the past! In fact, the thing that has been holding him back is the feeling of guilt, instead of the affection that he has for the woman.”

Nicole fell silent because she had her fair share of doubts.

Once they showed up in the living room, Davin behaved as if he had seen the light at the end of the tunnel. He yelled, “Evan, Nicole! You guys are the only ones who can prove me innocent! I wasn’t the one who had delivered the bouquets of roses! Your children were the ones who had insisted on me delivering the bouquets, right?”

Evan put on a stern front and replied in a serious manner, “What are you talking about? Why are you trying to get our children involved in this?”

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Davin couldn’t believe his ears. Immediately, he turned around and looked at Nicole. “Nicole, you know that he’s lying, right? The roses—”

“The bouquets of roses that you’ve delivered to Sheila are gorgeous! It suits her perfectly!”

What’s wrong with this lovey-dovey duo? I can’t believe that they’re playing along with one another! It seems like I can’t rely on them to prove my innocence! I’ll have to confront the children once they’re back!

He was caught up in his thoughts, but Sophia’s warning snapped him out of a state of reverie. “Davin, it doesn’t matter who’s the one behind the bouquets or roses! What matters the most is the wedding ceremony! We need to revert back to the Muir family!”

“Mom! How can you proceed to hold a wedding ceremony when I have no intention to get married? Aren’t you afraid that I will run away?”

Sophia sized her son up and warned him, "I'll announce that you're no longer a member of the Seet family and my son if you'd dare to run away! I'm pretty sure that none of your so-called friends will help you if you're a nobody!"

Laughing, Davin replied nonchalantly, "Mom, do you think I'm afraid of what's in store for me?"

His mother was taken aback by his response because he seemed to have meant his words.

"Since you're not afraid, shall we give it a try?"

Davin tapped on his chest and held his head high, replying with a determined look, "Sure! How shall we go about this?"

"I'll ban you from accessing the family's wealth from now onwards. How many days do you think you can survive without the family's aid?"

I don't need the family's aid at all! I have always been envious of the entrepreneurs who have built their own empires from scratch!

"Deal! If I am able to sustain my lifestyle and build an empire of my own, paving out a path of success, are you going to stay out of my marriage in the future?"

Staring at her son wide-eyed, Sophia behaved as though she had stumbled upon the eighth wonder of the world. She had thought that he would never achieve the things that he had mentioned.

Some time ago, Davin was tasked to be in charge of the company, as Evan was caught up in an aviation accident. In the end, he turned the company upside down. Therefore, it was evident that he didn't possess the capability of leading a company.

He'd dare to make such arrogant remarks? Paving a path of success? His own empire? He's imagining things again, isn't he?

Sophia ridiculed her son after she thought of the possibilities. "Ha! Davin, stop kidding me! My son has never been regarded as such a capable man!"

Mom, I think that you're the only mother who will perceive her son in such a manner. Can you have some faith in your son? Do you think that you're incapable of giving birth to an exceptional son?

Pursing his lips to express his irritation, Davin rebuked, "Mom, you shouldn't be so sure about this. Do I take that as a yes from you?"

After some consideration, Sophia announced, "As long as you're able to survive for three months, I'll turn down the proposal from the Muir family! If you manage to make it, I shall stop myself from poking my nose into your marriage in the future. What do you think?"

"Mom! You're not going to go back on your words, right?" Davin was pumped up upon hearing his mother's words.

"No! I will definitely uphold my promise!" Sophia nodded and assured her son.

"Evan, Nicole, you guys have to be my witnesses! Both of you have heard mom, loud and clear, right?" Davin got full of himself.

Before Evan and Nicole could respond to Davin's query, Sophia showed them a photo of a stray dog and denoted, "Look! I've found a picture of the homeless Davin!"

Davin had a hard time comprehending the truth because his mother had compared her own son to a dog. He thought that she had gone overboard with her actions.

A few seconds later, she showed them a photo of a beggar who was begging on the streets. "Look! I've found another photo of the starving Davin!"

He was at a loss for words, but his mother showed no signs of stopping at all.

She continued searching for different photos and showed them to Davin. "This is you! After three months of living alone without the family's aid, you'll end up being a sloppy man on the brink of death!"

Davin was dumbstruck.

What the hell? Mom, can you have a little faith in me? The photos that you have shown me are getting progressively worse by the second!

“What do you think? Do you still want to give it a try?” Sophia caught a glimpse of her son’s dejected look. She decided to ride the wave as she pursued it further.

Nevertheless, Davin replied with a determined look and announced, “Yes! I’ll move out tonight! I’ll see you in three months!”

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Chapter 789

As he showed no signs of conceding defeat, Sophia made herself clear and forbade him from procuring the aid of others, including Evan. As long as she was conscious of the presence of a third party, she would void her promise.

Without a second thought, Davin nodded and handed over the things that had been bestowed upon him by the family. Staring at Sophia and Evan, he asked rhetorically, “I don’t have anything else with me. Is it necessary for me to leave my phone behind?”

“You’re allowed to keep your phone and I’ll let you spend another night at home. You will be banished from home tomorrow.”

“Alright! That’s a deal!”

After they came to a unanimous agreement, Davin dashed upstairs, rushing into the study room, as he started to plan his ambitious scheme for the upcoming three months.

Sophia warned Evan and Nicole to stay out of Davin’s way. She forbade them from helping her insolent son because she had wanted to teach him a lesson.

No one gets to get their way around others in life for an eternity! It’s time for him to learn his lesson!

Evan and Nicole nodded.

Evan uttered, "Mom, I think that this is a great opportunity to train Davin."

"You're right. It's time for him to encounter some hardships in life. I can't possibly allow him to live a carefree life as the heir of a wealthy family for his entire life."

As soon as they wrapped up the conversation revolving around Davin, Sophia asked Evan and Nicole, "When are you guys going to get married?"

Nicole was stunned by her soon-to-be mother-in-law's words. She had intended to discuss their marriage with her father, but her father was imprisoned by Levant and Murphy. Therefore, she had no choice but to put it on hold for the time being.

Taking the current condition of Seet Group into consideration, Evan thought that it would be better to put their wedding ceremony on hold for the time being, for the Seet family's sake.

As soon as he made it through the hardships that the company had encountered, he would conduct a lavish and one-of-a-kind wedding ceremony.

Even though he had everything sorted out in his mind, he decided to acquire Nicole's consent, instead of making the call on her behalf.

"Nicole, what do you think?"

After a few seconds, Nicole suggested, "Shall we put the wedding ceremony on hold for the time being? The clinic and Lane Corporation are about to get on the right track. I believe that I should focus on my career as of now."

She dared not tell Evan that her father had been taken into custody by Levant and Murphy.

To be precise, she was afraid of getting him involved because Levant had warned her of the consequences beforehand. He would put her father's life at stake should she have gotten Evan involved.

Nicole's suggestion was spot on. Thus, Evan nodded in return because he had the same thing on his mind.

He assured, "Let's put it on hold for the time being. Once we're ready to take our relationship to the next level, I'll definitely hold a one-of-a-kind wedding ceremony for our marriage!"

She responded with a bright grin on her face, yet she had mixed feelings deep down because there were a lot of uncertainties awaiting her. Nicole couldn't be sure if she could rescue her father soon. Even if she managed to rescue her father, she was afraid that Levant would resort to other brutal acts in the future.

There wasn't anything that Sophia could do about it since the duo had already made up their minds. Sighing, she prayed that things would turn out just fine at the end of the day.

She decided to take their opinions into consideration since they were talking about their wedding ceremony.

"Sure. We'll do as both of you have suggested."

"Thanks, Mom."

"Thanks, Sophia."

In the afternoon, Evan and Nicole headed over to their children's school to pick them up. Their children were surprised and found it odd that their parents had shown up together.

Nina asked curiously, "Mommy, aren't you busy today?"

Similarly, Maya cast a confused gaze at Evan and asked, "Daddy, what about you?"

Looking up and down with his abysmal pair of eyes, Juan queried, "What a surprise! Why are the both of you here to pick us up together?"

Evan told them, "The gourmet specialist that we have hired has arrived. We'll head over to pay her a visit together."

Maya jumped for joy at the mention of the great news. Consequently, she got careless as she staggered to her feet and fell to the ground.

Rushing over to help her daughter up, Nicole asked concernedly, "Maya, are you okay?"

Maya stuck her tongue out in a sheepish manner as she shook her head, indicating that she was fine.

“I think that Maya is too happy. Look at her pair of gleaming eyes. She’s behaving as though she has spotted a box of her favorite sweets.”

Maya’s chubby cheeks flushed with embarrassment. Giggling, she covered her eyes and avoided the others’ gazes.

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Chapter 790

Evan’s heart melted due to his adorable daughter’s hilarious response.

He leaned over and cradled her in his arms. “Maya, feel free to come to me whenever you want something. I’ll get you everything that you desire and I’ll make you the happiest little girl on Earth.”

“Daddy! I don’t want anything else as long as you’re by my side! I’ll always be your favorite girl!” Maya giggled in return.

Evan felt bad all of a sudden because he had failed to carry out his duty as the children’s father, back in the day.

With that being said, Nicole had done a great job of raising the three of them all by herself. Thus, he was determined to compensate them for their loss due to his negligence.

“Maya, you will always be my favorite little girl.”

Evan held Maya firmly in his arms as though he was whispering in her ears. Grinning, she caressed her father's gorgeous-looking face with her chubby pair of hands in return. It was a heartwarming interaction between the father and daughter duo.

Her siblings began to feel jealous. Juan made a sarcastic remark, ridiculing both himself and his brother, "Even though we're living in a matriarch's household, I'm pretty sure that Maya will be Daddy's favorite child instead of Nina!"

Nina, who had gotten jealous of her sister, couldn't suppress her emotions anymore.

Glaring at Juan, she snorted and made up her mind; since her beloved sister was their father's favorite child, she wanted to be their mother's favorite child, too.

Kyle knew that Nina was about to throw a tantrum. In order to calm her down, he uttered, "I think that Daddy loves Nina in a different manner because Nina is an independent girl. She doesn't require much attention from others. Frankly, she's fine on her own."

Juan pouted his lips because he didn't expect Kyle, who had always been a boy of few words, to turn the tables. Putting aside the rationale behind his words, he had already pleased Nina with his flattering compliment.

The stern look that she initially had on her face was nowhere to be seen.

Finally, they made their way to the gourmet specialist's house. As soon as they reached, Evan rang the doorbell.

Nina wondered, "Is this the place that the gourmet specialist has rented? It's such a beautiful place!"

"Nope. The gourmet specialist used to be a resident of the city. Therefore, this is her personal property," Evan explained.

Juan exclaimed, "Wow! This is such an awesome place! Look at its overall design! The gourmet specialist is quite the wealthy person!"

He continued asking, "Is she a fat woman? Since she's in the food and beverage industry, spending most of her time cooking and eating, she must be a chubby woman like Maya, right?"

Before Evan could answer his son's query, someone opened the door of the villa from within.

"Please, come on in."

"Thanks."

The family of six followed the maid and walked over to the living room of the villa.

The moment they entered the living room, they saw all sorts of furniture that had the appearance of food, including a toast-like couch, a scrambled egg-like mat, and a carrot-shaped cup. The odd-looking furniture managed to attract the children's attention.

"Wow! These are so cute!"

"It has never crossed my mind that furniture can be shaped into such odd appearances!"

Gawking at the odd-looking furniture, the chubby little girl behaved as though she wasn't aware of her siblings' conversations.

"Daddy, can you get me a bedroom of a similar design? I want a drumstick-looking bed! As soon as I'm hungry, I'll take a bite out of it and satisfy my cravings!" Maya had requested it since she had grown fond of the living room's design.

"Mr. Seet, Mrs. Seet, welcome!"

Nicole turned around the moment she heard a woman's voice.

Flabbergasted by the presence of the woman in front of her, Nicole had her doubts because she was a skinny woman, much skinnier than herself.

"Maya, this is your mentor. She's a top-notch gourmet specialist. Her name is Molly, Molly Blackwood."

Maya took a quick peek at Molly timidly. Initially, she had thought that her mentor would be a chubby lady, with a build that was similar to hers.

However, her mentor had turned out to be a gorgeous and skinny woman. Gourmet specialists are supposed to have a buff build, right? Why is she so skinny?

“Molly, why are you so skinny? Aren’t you supposed to savor delicacies every day?”

Gazing at the chubby little girl’s glistening pair of eyes, Molly seemed to have grown fond of Maya. She leaned over and pinched Maya’s chubby cheeks. “If you’re consuming your food correctly and scientifically, you’re not going to get fat easily. You’re such a chubby little girl. I’m pretty sure that you’re a huge fan of sweets. Am I right?”

Maya’s jaw dropped open, as she exclaimed in return, “Molly, you’re awesome!”

“You should address me as Ms. Blackwood because I’m around your mother’s age. I can’t get used to it if you’re addressing me in such a manner.”

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 791

Molly was a congenial woman. She sounded as though she was joking.

“Huh? Why do you look so different from my mother? You seem to be so much younger than her!”

“Really?”

Nina and Maya nodded their heads simultaneously.

In the meantime, Nicole, who was standing aside, knitted her eyebrows because her beloved daughters had complimented another woman and had said that the woman seemed so much younger than herself in front of her.

Am I turning into an old hag? Please tell me that’s not the case!

She turned around and whispered in Evan’s ear to get a second opinion.

In response, Evan looked up and down. He asserted, “You’re not supposed to compare an orange to an apple. After all, you’re a mother of four. Thus, you’re a mature woman.”

Huh? Is he indicating that I’m getting old?

Age had always been a woman’s taboo topic. Nicole couldn’t believe that her husband had set foot on the topic that he should have stayed away from.

In the meantime, Maya and Molly had a great time talking to one another. Molly had informed Maya that she would teach her the method of preparing low-calorie meals in the future, assuring her that she would lose weight while brushing up her culinary skills.

The chubby little girl was thrilled when she found out that would possibly get to lose weight. It was a pleasant surprise. Grinning, she couldn't hold back her excitement anymore as it was written all across her face.

Molly invited the family of six to join her for dinner, but Evan made an excuse and turned her down because Nicole had been gazing at Molly ever since she showed up.

He was aware that she was envious of Molly's ethereal look. Little did she know, she was the only flawless one in his mind. In short, she didn't have to be envious of others at all because he would never prefer her to be anyone else other than her usual self.

After they walked out of Molly's villa, the children wouldn't stop talking about Molly as if they had taken a liking to her.

Initially, they were worried that Maya would get chubbier after she became the mentee of a gourmet specialist. It turned out that they had been overthinking things because it would turn out to be the other way round.

Sighing, Nina stated, "Seriously? I can't believe that a gourmet specialist has outmatched a make-up artist in terms of looks!"

"Perhaps it's due to her balanced diet. Therefore, her beauty is something that stemmed upon a healthy foundation from within her system."

The moment Juan finished his sentence, his mother and sisters turned around and stared at him in disbelief.

Since when did Juan pick up such things?

"Wow! Juan! You're awesome!"

"Of course! I'm the most knowledgeable amongst all of us!"

Nicole was in a state of reverie. She thought that it would be necessary for her to get the menu of Molly's meals from her because she wanted to look as great as her.

After they returned to Imperial Garden, Evan kept the children company while Nicole made her way back to their bedroom right away.

She wouldn't stop sizing herself up in the mirror.

Have I aged? Evan has said that I'm a mature woman, but he didn't mention anything about being an adorable woman. I think that I should take good care of my looks in the future and start dolling myself up from now onwards.

Suddenly, someone showed up at their place when it was almost time for dinner.

"I have shown up uninvited. Hopefully, I'm not getting in anyone's way."

Sheila brought herself into the living room and placed the imported snacks and toys on the coffee table.

Nicole, who had made her way downstairs, recalled the deal between Sophia and Davin. She could figure out the objective of Shelia's visit almost instantly.

"No. We're about to have our meal. Why don't you join us?"

"I have already had my meal. Nicole, may I speak to you in private?"

"Sure."

Nicole showed her the way to the bedroom upstairs as she served her a glass of milk tea.

Meanwhile, the children distributed the imported snacks and toys that Sheila had brought to them within a few seconds. Thereafter, they returned to their bedrooms.

"Thanks, Nicole."

"You're welcome, Sheila. Have you dropped by because of Davin?"

Sheila nodded and explained, "Nicole, should I give up on Davin? Everyone from the Muir family wants me to stop wasting my time on him. Truth be told, they have gotten sick of Davin's behavior. He had been delaying our wedding all this while. They deem him as an untrustworthy man."

It was evident that Sheila had been having a hard time lately due to her relationship with Davin. She must have gotten herself into a conflict with her family members again.

Although her parents had been giving her a hard time, they were against her marriage with Davin because they were worried about her.

“Sheila, I believe that you’re the only one who’s aware of the affection that you have for him. Do you love him?”

Nodding vigorously in return, Sheila assured her, “I do, Nicole! However, I’m not sure if he shares the same affection that I have for him! There are times when I think that he does love me, but most of the time, it feels as though he doesn’t.”

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 792

She heaved a sigh of despair and asked, “Nicole, should I marry a man who loves me wholeheartedly or should I marry a man whom I love wholeheartedly?”

Nicole was at a loss for words.

Nicole wasn’t sure if she were in the position to poke her nose into Sheila’s relationship with others because it would indirectly impact the latter’s life for the upcoming decades.

Thus, she decided to think about it in a serious manner instead of blurting out the things that she had in her mind.

“Sheila, I have heard this advice from my friends back in the day. You should exercise your judgment and decide if it suits you. If you decide to get married to a man who loves you wholeheartedly, you have to ensure that he doesn’t mind

being the substitute of the man that you have in your mind. A man who loves you wholeheartedly will tolerate everything that may seem irrational about you. Therefore, if he isn't feeling unfair or holding a grudge against you due to the relationship that you have with another man, you should get married to him."

Nicole continued, "If you have decided to get married to a man whom you love, you need to observe if he feels guilty for not reciprocating the affection that you have for him. You should get married to him if he does because it means that he's a man capable of self-restraint."

She looked at Sheila in the eyes and advised her in a serious manner, "You should be mindful of your relationship with Davin. Since it's your marriage that we're talking about, you have to make the call on your own."

Sheila fell silent, thinking about the things that Nicole had told her.

If she were to get married to Davin, it would indicate that she had decided to choose the man whom she loved wholeheartedly. She felt as though she had given him everything that she had to offer, yet Davin didn't seem to feel guilty at all. Instead, he had always been irritated by her presence, feeling as though she had kept him grounded against his will.

Does this mean that we're not supposed to get married to one another?

"Nicole, you're right. Perhaps it's time for me to let him go. I think that we're not cut out for one another."

"Sheila, that's not it, but perhaps fate has yet to bring both of you together. I believe that you're aware of the deal that he has with Sophia that will last for three months, right? The upcoming three months are as crucial for him as it is for you. Three months later, I think that the truth will prevail."

"Three months... What am I supposed to do in the meantime? Should I help him, Nicole?"

Nicole decided to tell her the things that she had in mind sincerely. “I believe that you have already decided on your next best course of action, haven’t you? As long as you’re not defying your own will, I believe that you’re on the right track.”

“Thanks, Nicole! I think that I know just the things to do next!” Sheila expressed her gratitude as she brought herself up.

“You’re welcome, Sheila. You had been helping me back then. It’s only natural for me to return the favor and help you when you need me by your side.”

“I’ll give it a thought once I’m back.”

“Mhm.”

After seeing Sheila off, Nicole started thinking about all sorts of things. What’s going to happen in the upcoming three months? Are things going to work out between Davin and Sheila after three months? Are they going to take a different path in life?

She was clueless about the actual outcome that would be awaiting them both because no one would get a smooth ride throughout their life.

Nevertheless, she was certain that as long as Sheila stayed true to herself, she would achieve the outcome that she had longed for.

Evan showed up in the bedroom and asked, “Nicole, is something bothering you?”

Raising her head and staring at him in the eyes, she queried, “Do you think that we’ll encounter any sort of hardships in the future?”

Evan cradled her head in his arms and reassured her, “You should stop overthinking things because I’m sure that things will work out just fine between us.”

Really?

Nicole couldn't help but doubt Evan's words because she felt increasingly uneasy every time she recalled the fact that her father had been imprisoned against his will.

In the middle of the night, Nicole tossed and turned in bed because she was concerned about her father's current situation.

When is Levant going to set him free?

Evan detected Nicole tossing and turning by his side. Thus, he held her in between his arms and asked, "Is something wrong?"

She replied nonchalantly, "N-Nothing."

Suddenly, she recalled the hardships that had befallen Seet Group. "Is everything fine with the projects of Seet Group? What are you going to do next?"

Evan didn't want to get her involved in the nasty situation that had been bothering him for the past few days. He would tackle the hardships that the company had encountered by himself.

In the end, he replied in a hoarse voice, "Those are none of your concerns. I have everything under control. It's time to sleep."

Nicole decided to stop herself from poking her nose into his business. Feeling a sense of security brought about by his exclusive scent, she closed her eyes and fell asleep within a few minutes.

Through the faint illumination of the moonlight, Evan sized Nicole's side profile up and felt as though the woman in front of him seemed to be troubled by something throughout the past few days.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 793

Is something wrong with Lane Corporation? I think that I'll get John to investigate the things that are going on tomorrow.

By the time Evan roused from his sleep and opened his drowsy pair of eyes due to the sunlight that had beamed through the curtain, Nicole was nowhere to be found by his side anymore.

He sat upright abruptly and brought himself out of their bedroom after he had put on a pair of indoor sandals.

Meanwhile, Nina and Maya were in the middle of the corridor. The former offered to help her sister in combing her hair.

"Stay still!"

"I'm not even moving!"

"What about your head? You're not supposed to move your head when I'm combing your hair!"

Evan was reluctant to get in his daughters' way because they seemed to be in the middle of a serious hair-combing session.

Maya greeted her father with a heartwarming smile the moment she saw him, "Daddy, Mommy is preparing our breakfast in the kitchen! She has prepared your favorite dish!"

The moment Maya finished her sentence, Nicole made her way upstairs and asked gently, "Why don't you stay in bed longer?"

After she finished her question, she looked in Maya and Nina's direction. "Why are you guys combing your hair here? Are you guys the ones who have roused your father from his sleep?"

"No! We didn't even make any noise!" Nina refuted.

Maya shook her head fervently, staring at her mother, wide-eyed. "Mommy, we didn't! We have been whispering all this while!"

"Hey, stop moving around!" Nina yelled at Maya once again.

Consequently, the chubby little girl covered her mouth using her chubby pair of hands. She stopped moving around as she was instructed.

Evan caught sight of the serious look that Nicole had as she confronted their daughters. Smirking, he took their sides and defended, "I have woken up on my own. It has nothing to do with them."

"Oh, if that's the case, can any one of you go to get Juan and Kyle for me? It's time for breakfast."

Nina pouted her lips and made her way toward her brothers' bedroom.

Similarly, Evan returned to their bedroom to get changed into another set of clothes.

After they finished the meal that Nicole had prepared for them, the delighted children headed out and made their way to school.

Nicole asked Evan, "Aren't you returning to the company?"

"I'm about to leave. Why? Do you want to tag along with me?"

As soon as Evan finished his question, both of them received a call at the same time.

After Nicole took a peek at her phone, she hung up the call without a second thought.

Meanwhile, Evan hesitated for a few seconds before bringing himself to end the call.

Simultaneously, they directed the exact same question at one another with a confused look on their faces. "Why didn't you pick up the phone?"

Albeit faintly, Nicole had a grim expression as she replied, "It's a call from an anonymous person. I'm pretty sure that it's a prank call or something."

Evan nodded in return and explained, "It's a call from Susan. I'm not in the mood for a conversation with her."

Although Evan had told Nicole the truth, she had lied because it was a call from Levant. She had hung up the call because she didn't want to engage in a conversation with Levant in front of Evan.

"You should get going!"

"Okay."

The duo left Imperial Garden, one after the other.

After Nicole departed, she felt unease deep down because she was afraid that the call from Levant had something to do with her father.

Therefore, she pulled over by the road and decided to call Levant.

"Levant, what do you want?"

"Nicole! It's my birthday today! Can you join me for a meal tonight?"

Nicole's expression turned gloomy all of a sudden. She remained silent for a few seconds before blurting out the question that she had in mind. "Levant, have you gotten word on my father's whereabouts?"

"No."

Ha! You're lying!

As she harbored such thoughts to herself, she fell silent once again. In the end, she decided to confront Levant, "My father is in Wicked Palace, isn't he? Your father is the one who has taken him into custody, right? When are you going to set him free?"

"Nicole, what are you talking about? Assuming that you're right and that your father is in Wicked Palace, do you think that I'll set him free unconditionally?"

“What exactly do you want, Levant?”

“Nicole, can you please join me for a meal to celebrate my birthday? I’ll be waiting for you tonight!”

As soon as he made himself clear, Levant hung up the call.

Nicole took a deep breath because she was unsure if she should join him for a meal as he had requested.

She was afraid that he would give her father a hard time if she turned him down. Perhaps he might decide to put her father at stake as he had previously threatened her.

However, things could possibly spiral out of control if Evan figured out that she had joined Levant for a meal to celebrate his birthday.

Her mind was all over the place once more because Levant had put her in a tough position yet again.

She had been turning the idea over in her mind throughout the entire day. In the evening, after she got off of work, she decided to switch her phone off as she made her way back to Imperial Garden.

Eventually, she felt a sense of relief because Levant couldn’t reach her through her phone calls anymore. He wouldn’t be able to locate her exact whereabouts either.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 794

She reached home and got full of herself, but a maid rushed over anxiously and told her, “Ma’am someone has delivered you a gift! He says that you should check it out on your own!”

“What is it?” Staring at the box that the maid had handed her curiously, she asked, “Who has delivered this?”

“The sender refused to announce his identity, but he’d insisted on having you to check it out on your own and he’s said that it is a precious gift.”

Furrowing her brows, she couldn’t help but wonder who would have sent her a gift out of the blue.

She hesitated for a few seconds but returned to the bedroom after she took the box from the maid.

Who could it possibly be? Could this be a hazardous item?

As she was slowly engulfed by a sense of insecurity, she opened the box in a cautious manner. Her face turned pale and haggard upon catching a glimpse of the thing that was inside the box.

“Argh!” Consequently, she shrieked and cast the box aside immediately because a finger drenched in blood could be found within the box.

Apart from that, there was a ring on the amputated finger. She was certain that the ring had belonged to her father because she had seen it countless times before.

Thus, Levant must have been the one who had delivered the so-called gift.

D-Did he amputate my father’s finger? How could he do this to him? Has he lost his mind?

Nicole was utterly frustrated. She staggered her way over to the shelf and reached for her phone that had been switched off.

She switched it on immediately and noticed that there were a few missed calls and text messages, but she couldn’t be bothered by those at all. Instantly, she called Levant.

“Nicole, finally! You have switched on your phone again!”

Upon hearing the man’s composed voice, she couldn’t suppress her frustration anymore. She yelled hysterically, “Levant, what the hell do you want? How could you be such a cruel man? He was the one who had brought you up for the past two decades!”

Levant wondered aloud in a calm and collected manner, “Nicole! It’s merely a finger, isn’t it? Why have you gotten so worked up over a finger?”

It’s merely a finger? Why does he sound as though he thinks that it’s not a big deal at all? Does this mean that this isn’t a big deal to him?

All of a sudden, Nicole found Levant horrifying because she had merely switched off her phone for two hours; nonetheless, the man had already amputated her father’s fingers.

In fact, he managed to deliver it to her place within two hours. She couldn’t help but suspect that her father wasn’t in Wicked Palace. Perhaps he was in town, imprisoned by Levant.

“Nicole! I’m waiting for you to celebrate my birthday with me! If you don’t show up soon, I’ll deliver you another gift. Perhaps it’ll be an eye, a nose, an ear, or all three of them! I can’t be too sure!”

“Levant, are you sure that you want to do this?”

Nicole clenched her fists with all her might. She wouldn’t stop cursing Levant in her mind as she thought that her father shouldn’t have adopted such an ungrateful jerk in the first place.

“Nicole, as long as you do as I’ve instructed, nothing bad will happen! Please don’t be hopeful and think that Evan may get you out of this. Perhaps you’re not aware, but Evan is having a hard time as of now! A few of Seet Group’s projects have encountered different issues at the same time. I’m afraid that his company will sustain a serious loss this time! Nicole, if Evan isn’t able to get Seet Group out of the nasty situation, how do you think he will feel?”

All of a sudden, Nicole recalled the conversation that Evan had with his subordinates last night.

Indeed, he had mentioned something similar and had said that the company would possibly sustain a serious loss soon.

Never would Nicole have expected Levant to be such a ruthless man; he didn’t bother to hold back against them at all.

“Levant, you’re such a cunning man!”

“I won’t get upset because you’re right! As long as I’m able to achieve my goals, it doesn’t really matter, does it?”

She couldn’t believe her ears because Levant had the guts to make such thick-skinned remarks.

In the end, she fell silent once again; she was at a loss for better words to continue the conversation. His current deeds had overturned the impression that Nicole had of him in her mind. She felt as though he was no longer the Levant whom she had used to know.

Has he changed, or have I been deceived by his superficial disguise all along?

“Nicole, I’m still waiting for you!”

Levant hung up the call once he finished his sentence.

Staring at the screen of her phone, Nicole’s heart sank to the bottom of her stomach. She found that she couldn’t decide on her next best course of action.

Levant had threatened him with her father’s life. On top of that, he had been going after Seet Group behind the scene all this while. I’m sure that he has come prepared!

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 795

05/08/2021 by Novel Heart

What the heck does he want?

As Evan was about to reach home, she would have to leave soon. Otherwise, she would have to make something up if she were to leave the house by the time that he reached home.

After she made up her mind, she grabbed her bag and blazer with her and departed right away.

By the time she reached Levant Winery, Levant had all sorts of delicacies prepared in anticipation of her arrival.

Glaring at him furiously, Nicole confronted him, saying, "Levant, what the heck are you up to?"

Levant had long imagined that she would show up furious. Raising his head and staring at her, he served her a glass of tea casually and offered, "You must have been rushing all the way here. Why don't you have a glass of tea and calm yourself?"

Have a glass of tea and calm myself? Are you serious? Do you really think that I'm in the mood for any of this?

It would be impossible for her to calm herself down for a glass of tea with Levant when he had been plotting against the two men whom she loved wholeheartedly. She would have long returned the favor and amputated his fingers if she had shown up armed.

"Levant, are you still trying to get married to me? Is that the reason why you have taken my father into custody and have brought upon the Seet Group's misfortune?"

Smiling, Levant replied, "Have you forgotten our conversation that had taken place a few days ago? You'll definitely get married to me! It goes without a doubt!"

What the heck? I knew it!

A few days ago, Nicole couldn't be bothered by Levant's seemingly absurd statements. She would never have thought that he would walk the talk. In fact, he had resorted to such cruel methods to achieve his goals. He seemed to be pretty determined this time.

"Levant, does that mean that you're going to set my father free and stay out of Seet Group's way once I get married to you?"

"Of course! I'll stop wasting my time once I've achieved my goal!"

She felt as though she was in the middle of a negotiation with a cold-hearted demon.

In order to get his hands on her, he had induced amnesia and had kept her by his side for an entire year. A man who had once gone to such great lengths to get her would never have given up on her so easily.

Nevertheless, getting married to another man was an issue of an entirely different level. She had gone through all sorts of ups and downs with Evan prior to their reunion. Thus, she didn't want to be separated from him anymore.

What should I do? If I'm able to locate my father and resolve the issues that Seet Group has encountered, Levant won't be able to threaten me anymore! I need time! I need some time to get everything sorted out!

Looking at Levant in the eyes, she replied, "Getting married to another man isn't a trivial matter. I need a few days' time to think this through."

Levant had long expected Nicole to bring up such a request because it would be tough for her to have changed her mind to forsake Evan.

Therefore, he deemed her request reasonable because he wanted to win her over. He wanted to get his hands on a woman who would love him wholeheartedly.

Otherwise, he would feel uneasy if she returned to him with another man in her mind.

He would make use of the time that he had and sow discord between the lovey-dovey duo.

"Sure! I'll give you a few days' time!"

Nicole, I'm pretty sure that I won't have to propose again because you're the one who'll return to me! I'm aware of the ones that you care about the most! As long as they're under my control, I'm pretty sure that you'll give in to my request!

"Come! Let's celebrate my birthday!"

Levant instructed someone to bring them the delicate birthday cake that he had prepared himself. Nicole stared at the cake with a grim expression.

She would consider Levant a friend if he hadn't resorted to such brutal acts. However, she currently deemed him to be her foe since he had crossed the lines that he shouldn't have in the first place.

After all the things that he had done lately, she held a strong grudge against the cruel and cold-hearted Levant.

"Give it a try!" Levant served her a huge slice of cake.

As instructed, Nicole had a mouthful of cake. It was a fluffy cake that had been custom-made. Although it had tasted great, she could barely savor the delicious cake.

It felt as though she had been forced to gulp a bunch of stale flour down her throat because she had never intended on celebrating his birthday with him.

Instead of savoring the cake, she felt a strong urge to cast the cake in Levant's direction. Unfortunately, she couldn't because she didn't possess the capability to defy him as of now.

"I have finished your cake! Can I leave yet? My children are still waiting for me!" Nicole raised her voice and asked him indifferently.

As always, he smirked viciously as though he was up to no good and exclaimed, "You have yet to wish me a happy birthday!"

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 795

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As instructed, Nicole had a mouthful of cake. It was a fluffy cake that had been custom-made. Although it had tasted great, she could barely savor the delicious cake.

It felt as though she had been forced to gulp a bunch of stale flour down her throat because she had never intended on celebrating his birthday with him.

Instead of savoring the cake, she felt a strong urge to cast the cake in Levant’s direction. Unfortunately, she couldn’t because she didn’t possess the capability to defy him as of now.

“I have finished your cake! Can I leave yet? My children are still waiting for me!” Nicole raised her voice and asked him indifferently.

As always, he smirked viciously as though he was up to no good and exclaimed, "You have yet to wish me a happy birthday!"

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Nicole cast a stern gaze at him as she began to harbor thoughts within herself.

Ha! Happy birthday? A cruel and heartless demon like you should spend the rest of your days suffering, throughout the remainder of your life!

Since she had fallen silent for almost a minute, Levant urged, "Nicole, I'll allow you to leave once you've wished me sincerely."

Clenching her fists with all her might, Nicole pressed forth, "Happy birthday." It didn't sound like a wish in the slightest. Instead, it sounded as though it was more of a curse.

Nonetheless, Levant behaved as though he couldn't be bothered by it at all. He expressed his gratitude in a thick-skinned manner, uttering, "Thanks, Nicole!"

She had enough of playing along with him. In the end, she queried, "Can I leave yet?"

"Do you want me to get someone to send you home?" Levant gave it a thought and offered gently.

"Thanks, but no thanks!" After she finished her sentence, Nicole reached for her bag and sprinted her way out.

Levant had his eyes glued to the lit cigarette on the ashtray with a vicious smirk on his face. He couldn't help but wonder if Evan had noticed the faint scent of tobacco on Nicole's dress.

Meanwhile, after Evan reached Imperial Garden, he noticed that Nicole was nowhere to be seen again.

Thus, he summoned his children and asked, "Where's your Mommy?"

"I don't know, Daddy. By the time we'd reached home, she was nowhere to be seen."

“Yes, Daddy! Grandma was the one who had picked us up and brought us to Seet Residence for some time because she said that Grandpa missed us a lot. By the time we returned home, Mommy had long made her way out.”

“Could it be that she’s still working?”

Furrowing his brows, Evan was about to make a call, but a maid rushed over and told him, “Ms. Lane had reached home earlier than usual. However, she rushed out anxiously to a certain somewhere after she’d received a gift.”

“Gift? What sort of gift?”

“I’m not sure, but it has been delivered by a mysterious man. He insisted on having Ms. Lane check it out on her own. A few minutes after she returned to the bedroom with the gift, she made her way out again.”

Evan was shocked and confused at the same time. He couldn’t figure out the identity of the person who had delivered Nicole the gift.

He was increasingly confused as he thought about it. Immediately, he reached for his phone and called Nicole.

“Evan, I’m driving. I’ll reach home in ten minutes.”

“Okay. Drive safe.”

Evan decided to hang up the call for the time being. He decided to wait for her return because it would be better to have the conversation in person.

Meanwhile, Nicole, who was driving, stared at the dazzling illumination on the streets. She was feeling a sense of insecurity deep down.

She was certain that Evan would want her to tell him about her whereabouts, but she couldn’t possibly tell him the truth.

Otherwise, Levant would put her father at stake again. She had merely switched off her phone, yet the wicked man had already amputated her father’s finger to warn her. Nicole was afraid that

Levant would send her father's head her way the next time she ignored or defied his instructions.

After all, he was a maniac who would resort to everything and anything to achieve his goals. His cruelty knew no boundaries.

What should I tell him?

As she made her way home, countless thoughts crossed her mind, including a shopping trip with her best friend and an emergency that had arisen that required her immediate attention.

She thought of all sorts of things, yet none of them sounded convincing enough. Evan was a smart and capable man. Therefore, she would have to make something flawless up to deceive him.

She turned the idea over in her mind and finally got a few tentative excuses in her mind. In the end, she decided on the seemingly flawless one and murmured to herself, "I'll tell him this once I'm home! It's a flawless excuse! I'm pretty sure that he'll believe me!"

After she reached Imperial Garden and parked her car in the garage, she dashed over to the living room.

On the other hand, Evan sat cross-legged on the couch idly, perusing a stack of documents that he had with him. Immediately after he caught a glimpse of Nicole, he set them aside.

Staring at Nicole in the eyes, he was about to bring up the gift that she had received, yet Nicole got ahead of him and started explaining herself. "I have dropped by my assistant's place because lately, she has been zoning out at work quite frequently. After I got off work, I noticed that a man had been bothering her. I couldn't bear to leave her alone and I made my way over to her place after I'd reached home. Fortunately, everything is fine."

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Nicole blurted out the so-called flawless excuse of hers, which she had long rehearsed in her mind countless times, in a sincere and serious manner.

Evan gazed at her with his abysmal pair of eyes. He found her odd because she wouldn't stop fidgeting with the edge of her shirt.

Knitting his brows together, he neglected the things that she had told him and asked in return because he couldn't suppress his curiosity anymore.

"I heard that someone has delivered you a gift. What is it?"

Nicole stared at Evan, wide-eyed. She couldn't figure out who had turned their back against her and told him of the things that they should have kept from him.

If I'm not able to convince Evan, the flawless excuse that I have just made up isn't going to do me any good, right?

After falling silent for a few seconds, she explained, "It's a present from my assistant. I thought that something bad might have happened to her when I received the gift. Thus, I rushed over to her place to check if everything was fine."

"What is it?" Evan decided to probe further into the matter. He thought that there was something fishy going on behind the scene because he noticed that Nicole was being anxious in an odd manner.

He couldn't figure out the reason that she would want to keep him in the dark when it was a mere gift.

She spent some time making something up in her mind once again. "It's a bracelet, but I have returned it to her because it's not meant to be a gift. It's merely something to get me to rush over to her aid."

Spotting the doubtful look that Evan shot her after she finished her sentence, Nicole felt as though she didn't manage to convince him at all.

She was about to say something to prove the authenticity of her words, but the maid beside her exclaimed, "Oh! It's a bracelet? I'd thought that it was something horrifying when I'd heard you screaming in the room back then. I'd even heard the sound of you dropping the box."

Nicole's heart skipped a beat and started to race thereafter because of the maid's words. She had never once noticed that the maids of Imperial Garden were so observant.

Her nerves were at breaking point due to the maid's words.

She looked in Evan's direction and noticed that he had narrowed his eyes in suspicion. It was evident that he was anticipating an appropriate explanation from Nicole.

"What are you talking about? Are you sure that you were not hearing things?" Nicole decided to put the blame on the maid to get herself out of the nasty situation.

Have I been hearing things? The maid stared at Nicole with an odd look in return because she wasn't aware of such a condition.

She opened her mouth and was about to rebuke Nicole's words, yet she decided to give up in the end because she was merely a maid.

Since she shouldn't have defied Nicole's words, she apologized, "I'm so sorry, Ms. Lane. I think that I must have been hearing things."

Similarly, Nicole felt a sense of guilt because she had blamed the maid for something that she hadn't done. "It's fine. You should return to your position."

After the maid left, in spite of the loopholes that he had detected, Evan decided to stop probing further because Nicole seemed to have her reasons for keeping him in the dark.

He walked over and approached Nicole. Holding her hand, he suggested, "Let's go and get something to eat."

Nicole nodded, but Evan's expression turned gloomy because he detected the scent of the tobacco that was exclusive to a certain someone.

He could vividly recall the similar scent on her dress the last time she had made her way out abruptly in the evening.

The scent belonged to Levant because it was a unique scent, exclusive to his favorite cigarillos brand. It might have been a coincidence last time, but it's too much of a coincidence for a second occurrence!

Apart from that, she had said that she had dropped by her assistant's home. In short, she shouldn't have run into Levant! Where has this scent come from?

Evan was disheartened by the doubts that he had in his mind. He was determined to get someone to tail Nicole after this.

Suddenly, he recalled that he had previously dispatched Darius and Damien to protect Nicole. He decided that he would summon them and see if they were conscious of the ongoing incidents.

Throughout their dinner, as Evan was driven by the curiosity that he had felt deep down, he would occasionally take a peek at Nicole.

Nicole's heart started pounding furiously. She couldn't get used to it either because it felt as though Evan had seen right through her plan.

She avoided his gaze and lowered her head to savor the delicacies that had been served. Her heart wrenched the moment she took a bite of the baby corn because it reminded her of the amputated finger of her father.

"I'm full. I'll return to the bedroom first." Nicole got up from her seat and scurried her way upstairs after she explained herself.

Staring at her departing figure, Evan thought that Nicole had been behaving oddly the entire night.

I'm sure that she's keeping something from me!

He returned to the study room and got in touch with Darius and Damien through the phone. "Have you guys been keeping an eye on Ms. Lane?"

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“Mr. Seet, we have been keeping an eye on Ms. Lane, protecting her ever since we’d received the instructions from you.”

Evan asked, “Where has she been in the evening?”

Damien replied, “She had dropped by Levant Winery and had stayed there for half an hour. After that, she made her way home right away.”

Levant Winery? Why has Nicole dropped by Levant Winery? Why did she lie to me?

Levant? Does that mean that she was there to meet Levant?

All of a sudden, Evan had a hard time catching his breath. He had faith in Nicole and was sure that she wasn’t in an affair with Levant, but he wanted to get to the bottom of the reason that she had paid Levant a visit, causing her to lie to him.

He hung up the call and thought to himself for some time. After a few minutes, he made another call and told John in a hoarse voice, “I want you to tail Mrs. Seet from tomorrow onwards. If she gets in touch with Levant again, I want you to figure out the reason behind their meet-up.”

John thought that he had been hearing things because it sounded as though Evan wanted him to keep an eye on Nicole when they were in the midst of hardships due to external threats.

Oh, God! We’re in the middle of a nasty situation, yet he wants me to keep an eye on his wife? Seriously? Are we going to have another internal conflict when we’re being threatened by external foes?

“Mr. Seet, are you sure that you’re not overthinking things due to the stress that you have to endure lately? I swear that Mrs. Seet isn’t serious about Levant! When she’d lost her memory—”

“Just shut up and follow my instructions!” Evan hung up right after he made himself clear.

John was taken aback by Evan’s wrathful tone. Staring at the screen of his phone, it took him some time before he could return to his senses.

Mr. Seet and Mrs. Seet are having a fight because of Levant? No! I’m pretty sure that Mrs. Seet would never have gotten herself in an affair with Levant!

Although he had faith in Nicole, he couldn’t possibly defy Evan’s words.

Thus, the next day, John didn’t return to the company. Instead, he did as instructed and started tailing Nicole after she departed from Imperial Garden.

As usual, she spent the entire morning in Lane Corporation.

John couldn’t help but think that it was a waste of time because there wasn’t anything odd about Nicole.

Similarly, she spent the entire afternoon in her office. In the evening, John followed Nicole as she made her way back to Imperial Garden. After she reached home, he got in touch with Evan and summarized her entire day’s agenda for him.

“Mr. Seet, I believe that you’re overthinking things. Mrs. Seet will never—”

“I want you to keep an eye on her for another day!” Evan replied determinedly and hung up on the call once more.

John heaved a long sigh.

He was pretty sure that Evan had been overthinking things once again because Nicole would never turn her back against him and get into an affair with Levant. Thus, tailing her would be a futile effort.

John had faith in Nicole, yet the incident that would occur in the upcoming few days would cause his faith to waver.

Meanwhile, Nicole caught a glimpse of Evan's gloomy look as he made his way to the study room. It was evident that he had yet to resolve the hardship that had befallen Seet Group. Perhaps it was nastier than she had perceived it to be.

She couldn't help but start to feel uneasy because she couldn't locate her father's whereabouts just yet. Perhaps she would have to get married to Levant if Evan weren't able to get Seet Group out of the nasty situation.

Nicole couldn't bear to let her loved ones suffer. As Evan was the one behind Seet Group's current success, he would definitely be dejected if the company couldn't make it through the crisis.

Meanwhile, Stephen was her biological father. She couldn't bear to forsake his wellbeing for her own sake.

Levant had, undeniably, gotten the better of her since he had the fate of her loved ones under his control. There wasn't anything that she could do to retaliate against him.

Nicole pondered over the matter and decided to go after her father's whereabouts. She called her assistant and asked her to send more people over to locate her father.

Although it might have been a mission that was deemed impossible due to Levant's detail-oriented characteristics, she wanted to give it a try.

She was being hopeful and thought that a miracle might occur at the end of the day. Perhaps it wasn't the end of their relationship yet.

Once she thought about it, she took a deep breath and decided to appreciate their time together since they would venture into a future full of uncertainties soon.

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We'll spend the remaining time together and create as many memories as possible! Even if we have to be separated in the future, I'll hold on to the precious memories we have!

Nicole felt a strong urge to figure out the thing that Evan was up to at the very moment that the particular thought had crossed her mind. Thus, she sneaked her way over to the study room.

Inside the study room, Evan was in the middle of something; he had his eyes glued to the computer in front of him.

I suppose that he's still having a hard time because of Seet Group's crisis.

She contemplated for a few seconds. In the end, she made her way in and asked, "Evan, are you busy? When are you getting off of work?"

"It's going to take me some time to have everything sorted out! You should go to bed ahead of me." Evan raised his head and stared at her, finishing his sentence in a callous tone.

Out of the blue, Nicole rushed over and wrapped her arms around him from behind. "I'll keep you company!"

He recalled the scent of tobacco that he had detected again as soon as he saw her pair of skinny arms.

Furrowing his brows, he thought of something and asked, "Nicole, have you encountered Levant these past few days?"

Evan found his question somewhat abrupt. He couldn't predict the sort of answer that Nicole had in store for him.

Holding his breath, he focused intently in anticipation of Nicole's reply.

On the other hand, Nicole was dumbstruck for a few seconds. She hesitated for a short while but replied determinedly in the end, "Nope!"

Why is she trying to keep me in the dark? What is it about? Why can't she tell me about it?

He got frustrated and shrugged her off, telling her callously, "You should go to bed."

Nicole was at sixes and sevens because of Evan's sudden change of attitude.

She gave it a thought and ruled out the possibility of him bringing Levant up in front of her.

Frowning, she felt a sense of despair because he sounded as though he had figured out something.

Nevertheless, she was determined to keep him in the dark because she couldn't afford to let him know of the things that had been going on behind the scene these days.

If it weren't for her father's safety, she would have long told him everything that she had been going through because she needed someone to share the burden with her.

She could use another pair of eyes to get to the bottom of the entire incident and rescue her father, but she had put her father at stake and had caused him to have one of his fingers amputated. Therefore, she couldn't possibly afford to offend and defy Levant's words anymore. Otherwise, her father's life could possibly be at stake next. If anything were to happen to her father, she would blame herself for the rest of her life.

I-I'm so sorry for lying to you, Evan. T-There's nothing much I can do about it.

If Evan turned around, he would be able to detect the heartbreaking look that Nicole had; her eyes had brimmed with tears as she resisted the torrents of grief that was about to stream down her cheeks.

The occupied man who had been focusing on his work wasn't aware that his loved one had been suppressing her emotions.

Eventually, she couldn't hold it back anymore. As a few drops of tears streamed down her cheeks unwittingly, she lowered her head and dashed out of the study room.

By the time she returned to their bedroom, she started scolding herself in her mind.

Fortunately, he didn't catch a glimpse of you crying! If he manages to figure it out, you will be the one who has indirectly brought upon Dad's undoing! Nicole! How could you cry in front of him? Can't you even pull yourself together?

She took a deep breath and calmed herself down. After she regained her composure, she brought a set of pajamas with her as she walked into the bathroom.

Indulging herself in the bath, she felt as though she had been caught up in a dream due to the steam in the bathroom. In fact, she wished that it were indeed a dream that she could snap out of immediately. She hoped that her father wasn't imprisoned by Levant and that Seet Group hadn't been seriously affected by the crisis that they had been going through lately.

Closing her eyes to collect her thoughts, Nicole tried to think of an alternative that would allow her to stay away from Levant.

She had a great time in the bathtub; halfway through her bath in the dreamlike bathroom, she fell asleep.

By the time she woke up, the water that she had been submerging in had turned frigid. She rubbed her drowsy pair of eyes and frowned as she stared at herself.

Did Evan ignore me? Why didn't he bring me back to the bed? How could he do this to me?

Feeling aggrieved, the frustrated woman brought herself out of the bathtub and put on her set of pajamas before walking out of the bathroom.

The moment she returned to their bedroom, she was shocked because Evan wasn't in bed yet. Does that mean that he's still in the study room? Is he still working in the middle of the night?

Suddenly, she shuddered and started to sneeze consecutively. It was at that moment that she figured out that she must have caught a cold after submerging in the cold bath for so long.

Immediately, she searched for a thick jacket and put it on before heading over to the study room. Indeed, she was right; Evan was still in the middle of his work.

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Chapter 800

“You should take a break. It’s getting late.”

Evan raised his head and stared at Nicole silently. What’s wrong with him? He’s not behaving like his usual self. She felt uncomfortable due to his odd behavior. Suddenly, she started sneezing again.

Eventually, she got increasingly cold and decided to neglect Evan’s odd attitude for the time being because she needed to tuck herself in and get herself warm.

Once she had made up her mind, she brought herself back to their bedroom. As soon as she tucked herself in, Evan opened the door and made his way into the room.

He brought a set of pajamas into the bathroom and took a bath. After he walked out of the bathroom, he joined her in bed, sleeping by her side. Within a few minutes, he started sleeping soundly.

Listening to his steady breath, she turned around and took a peek at the man by her side. Engulfed by her emotions, she started weeping in the middle of the night. Evan! How could you do this to me? Perhaps we won’t get to sleep with one another anymore after a few days! Do you know how I’m feeling as of now? I’m cold, Evan! It’s freezing!

...

Nicole covered herself using the blanket and started weeping in silence.

She disliked others crying in front of her the most. Previously, she had always been irritated by Susan’s presence because she would always weep in front of them.

However, she couldn’t resist the urge to weep because she was heartbroken. She was concerned about her father’s wellbeing. Feeling aggrieved and exhausted, there wasn’t anything that the dejected woman could do about it.

By the time that she had arisen the next day, Evan was no longer by her side because it was almost noon.

She knew that something was wrong with her because she started having a fever before falling asleep last night. Nicole felt as though she had caught a high fever.

Since Nicole had yet to show up for breakfast when it was about time for lunch, one of the maids, Josephine, knocked on the door and asked, "Mrs. Seet, are you awake yet?"

"Come in!"

Nicole felt weak from head to toe. She decided to get Josephine to enter the room because she could barely carry on with the conversation.

Josephine grew anxious as soon as she entered the room because she noticed that Nicole's face had turned pale and haggard. "Mrs. Seet, what's wrong with you?"

"I think that I have caught a fever. Can you please call the doctor over on my behalf? I need him to check on my condition."

"Alright, Mrs. Seet. Should I get in touch with Mr. Seet as well?"

Nicole recalled the fact that Evan had spent his entire night working again last night. Thus, things must have had been tough for Seet Group.

As she didn't want to get in his way, she instructed, "No! Just get the doctor over!"

"Yes, Mrs. Seet."

After the doctor arrived, he took her temperature and told her, "Mrs. Seet, you're having a high fever. I believe that it's best for you to carry out intravenous therapy."

"Okay!"

After setting up the apparatus required to carry out the intravenous therapy, the doctor prescribed all sorts of medicine and instructed the maid to get Nicole to finish the medicine promptly prior to his departure.

Lying on the bed, the drowsy woman fell asleep once again. By the time she had woken up once more, it was already evening. The therapy had been exhausting for her.

Staring at the needle that had been pricked through her skin, she sighed because she didn't want her children and Evan to be aware of her condition.

Hence, she instructed the maids to keep them, especially Evan, in the dark.

"Yes, Mrs. Seet."

Once Evan returned home, Nicole sat on the couch and pretended as though she had a great time watching the show on the television. He didn't bother to engage in a conversation with her and made his way to the study room immediately.

As always, he switched on his computer and started working again. Staring at his departing figure, Nicole felt aggrieved because she wanted to tell him that she needed him by her side.

If it weren't for Seet Group's crisis, she would have wanted to keep him by her side and behave like a needy child, asking for his attention.

However, she didn't want to get in his way since he already had so many things on his plate.

As soon as their meal was ready, the maid informed Nicole that it was time for dinner. She looked in the direction of the study room upstairs and told the maid, "I'll go and get Evan to join me."

When she entered the study room, she noticed that he was in the middle of a conversation with someone. Thus, she decided not to interrupt him as she stood right in front of him.

Meanwhile, Evan had received a call from Susan. Since the production of her new drama would begin soon, she insisted on having him on the set on the first day.

Initially, Evan was about to turn Susan down due to their odd relationship and the crisis that had yet to be resolved. However, the moment he had caught a glimpse of Nicole, he recalled that she had been meeting Levant behind his back, keeping him in the dark. Thus, the wrath that he had been holding back caused him to go berserk in his mind.

