

# Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

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He scrutinized Levant and replied, "I think you're the one who deserves the most to be captured!"

Levant couldn't wrap his head around the statement. "Me? You think that those gorgeous ladies would like me?"

Immediately, Davin shook his head and replied, "No. It's because you're the most gullible of us all!"

Levant scowled at him and argued childishly, "I think you're even more gullible than me!" Then, he glared at Davin fiercely before ignoring him afterward.

Meanwhile, Evan scanned around the heavenly place and tried to unravel its mystery. Knowing that Crystal Rose must be here somewhere, they must continue their journey regardless of the possible threats. Deep down, he, too, was curious of the shenanigans planned by Crystal Rose.

Evan answered, "Since the Lady of the Valley is so sincere, we are obliged."

The group followed Evan closely behind. They passed through a flowerbed and headed toward a luxurious wooden house.

Davin exclaimed, "The flowers planted in the flowerbed are glorious! It's bright red like blood. Guys, come and take a sniff. They even smell like blood! Could it be that they're painted using blood?"

Everyone paid more attention to the flowers after being prompted by Davin's remark.

The woman replied, "That's an overstatement. This flower is called the blood flower, and it has always been this red. Please, come in."

The door opened widely. Draven, however, suggested abruptly, "Mr. Evan, since the place isn't that big, why don't the bodyguards and I stand guard outside?"

Evan nodded. "I think that's a good idea." Next, the bodyguard lowered Monica and Nina to the ground. After that, the two of them entered the wooden house together with Davin, Evan, and Levant.

The pompous decorations brightened up the ambiance, creating a rather homey and comfortable vibe. Davin was surprised and couldn't resist asking Levant,

"Hey, do you think a lovely place like this can be the residence of a weird, wretched lady? It's clean and neat, and everything is organized perfectly."

Levant stared at him but kept quiet.

"Please, have a cup of tea," the woman with a white blouse said.

The woman, with her soft and silky hands, poured cups after cups of freshly brewed tea and left it on the table.

Evan looked at the tea and turned his gaze away while asking, "If I drink the tea, can I meet Crystal Rose?"

The woman, who appears to be the leader, beamed. "I'm not the one to call the shots. Nonetheless, the tea is really good. Please help yourselves."

Good tea?

Because of her answer, Davin became really suspicious of the tea. Is it poisoned? Hence, he softly reminded everyone, "I think it's best if we refrain from drinking it. Who knows if there's poison in the tea."

Evan and Levant looked toward Davin. After that, they started drinking small sips of the tea.

Davin's eyebrows knitted together. "Why did you drink it? Are you not afraid of being poisoned to death?" Anyway, Davin would never touch the cup of tea. He was skeptical of the place and refused to let his guard down.

Since Evan and Levant drank the tea, Nina, who was also thirsty, picked up the cup and started drinking.

Monica looked at the three of them drinking their tea before turning her head toward Davin. She, on the flipside, agreed with Davin that they must exercise an abundance of caution in a dodgy place like this.

Davin cheekily teased Monica, "It looks like you're afraid of being poisoned as well. You must really be afraid of dying."

Monica rolled her eyes at Davin and replied, "It's not about dying. I just don't like tea."

Hearing that, Davin couldn't help but rebuked her, "Just admit it. You're afraid of dying! Stop faking it!"

Monica lashed out, "Davin, you're not drinking the tea as well! Since we're both afraid of dying, you don't have the right to mock me!"

"I've been very honest, unlike you. Yes, I'm afraid of dying, but you, on the other hand, refused to admit it. Remember this—if we manage to get you cured, there shall be a truce between the Seet family and the Marston family."

"You wish!"

"It's not really that hard to figure out the math. Think about it. Although the demise of your father was caused by my father, Nina was poisoned by you. A life for a life. If you think that it's not enough, we're now saving your life! Besides, although the Marston family business is now wound up, you have been causing chaos to the Seet Group all this while. Hence, I think it's more than enough! Both families should just bury the hatchet and move on!"

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"Even if the entire Seet family was wiped out, it still won't be enough to pay for my dad's life," Monica uttered.

Upon hearing that, Davin replied, "Monica, aren't you being too much? It's just normal if we decide not to save you! Evan, you saw it with your own eyes how evil she is! Let's not save her."

Shooting Davin a look, Monica did not reply.

After Evan, Levant, and Nina finished their drinks, the woman in white suddenly came forward. "Everyone, I was just informed that Lady of the Valley had allowed you to visit her."

"She's willing to see us?"

"That's right. Please follow me."

The few followed the woman in white through a zig-zagged pathway and arrived at a bamboo forest. There was a couple of stylish-looking bamboo houses there.

"Go on ahead. The person you're searching for is right inside." After the woman in white finished her words, she walked away.

Evan and Levant led the way, while Davin, Nina, and Monica followed close behind them. When they walked up to the bamboo house, a voice suddenly boomed inside. "I know you mean no harm. Thus, I don't want to make your life hard either. Please leave!"

Staying silent for a moment, Evan replied, "We're very sorry to have to disturb you. However, you're our only hope. I heard that you're the only one that knows how to cure bone erosion poison. If you agree to save my daughter's life, I'll be greatly indebted to you."

"Are both of the women infected by bone erosion poison your daughters?"

When Monica heard that, she roared, "Who said that I'm his daughter? I have nothing to do with them!"

"If that's the case, why did you come together with them?"

Evan answered, "It's a bit complicated to explain. Could you please come out and take a look at them first?"

The door to the bamboo house swung open, and a woman clad in black clothing walked out. Instantly, she attracted the attention of everyone.

When one looked carefully, they would observe that she exuded a refreshing vibe. It was not hard to deduce that she was undoubtedly a beauty when she was younger with her above-average looks. As for her age, Davin speculated that she was around the same age as his mother.

"So you're Crystal Rose?"

"That's correct!"

Right after she finished talking, Davin and Monica felt a feeling of dizziness and quickly tumbled to the ground.

When Evan witnessed that, he stared at Crystal Rose in shock. "What did you do to them?"

"Do you have evidence that I did that to them?"

At that, Evan furrowed his eyebrows. She has a point, as I did not see her attacking them. However, why would the two of them faint so suddenly?

Noticing his confusion, she decided to explain, "They fainted because of the blood flowers planted in the garden."

Upon hearing that, the remaining few recalled the beautiful blood-red flowers. Indeed, there was something off with those flowers. However, all of us had taken the same pathway getting here, so why were they the only ones who fainted?

Crystal Rose continued with her explanation, "Before you arrived at the bamboo forest, you were asked to drink a cup of tea. As the tea was the antidote to the blood flowers' poison, you were able to pass through scot-free. They both must have thought there was poison in the tea given to them and went without it."

Contrary to their wild imaginations, the cup of tea was actually an antidote.” Then, she stared straight at the three of them. “Therefore, I would advise you not to act presumptuously in Nepenthe Valley. It might backfire on you.”

The three of them exchanged glances. It seems like Crystal Rose is certainly no ordinary person!

“Since you’re able to find this place, I’m sure you’ve heard about my rules as well. If you want to ask for a favor, you have to meet my requirements.”

Evan replied, “Yes, I’m well aware that you have three requirements. Firstly, you would only treat women, and we have met that. As for the following requirements, we’ll try our best to achieve them.”

Crystal Rose sized them up carefully. “It must have been a long journey for you to get here, so I won’t deliberately make things harder for you. For my second requirement, I have three things for you to do. With the achievement of each, I’ll detoxify thirty percent of the poison out of their bodies.”

“Please enlighten me about it,” he replied.

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“First off, I want you to clean every spot of Nepenthe Valley to show your intention.”

However, Levant was obviously unhappy about it. “We’re the guests, so don’t you think it’s inappropriate to ask us to do chores? Aren’t you just treating us as your maids?”

“So you’re unable to accept something as simple as this? If you can’t accept it, please leave right away!”

Seeing her determination, Levant was taken aback and looked toward Evan. As Evan was the one that needed the woman’s help, he was also the one making the final decision.

After thinking for a moment, Evan decided to go along with it. It was not a difficult task, and it was reasonable to do so for the detoxification of Nina.

“I can agree to this, however...” Evan lowered his eyes and stared at the two bodies on the ground. “Could you please give them the antidote?”

Crystal Rose looked toward the ground and answered, "No problem." After saying that, she ordered someone to fetch the antidote tea and feed it to the duo. "You can ask your bodyguards to carry them to their rooms. They'll awaken in a moment." Then, the two were brought to their respective rooms.

True enough, the duo woke up groggily about half an hour later.

Davin was flabbergasted. "I remember myself losing consciousness and falling."

"That's right. You fainted."

"Fainted? Why would I have fainted?" Confused, he mumbled to himself. "It must be Crystal Rose! Did she do something to me?"

When Levant saw how suspicious he was, he grinned. "No. She didn't do anything to you. You just fainted suddenly."

"Huh? Why would I suddenly faint without any reason?" Davin was filled with confusion.

Levant smirked. "You shot yourself on the foot. We were poisoned by the blood flowers when we passed by the garden. However, the tea given by the woman back in the wooden house was the antidote. You and Monica fainted because both of you were wary and did not consume it."

So that's the reason why? Davin was taken aback by his explanation.

He shot a curious look at Levant. "I was shocked that you and the others gulped it down without a second thought. Perhaps you knew that it was the antidote? If you did, why didn't you tell me?"

"We didn't know that. However, I had a feeling that Crystal Rose would not want to kill us without any reason. Even if she wanted us dead, she would meet with us first before going through with her decision."

Davin was rendered speechless. You're a smart one, huh?

After shooting Levant a look, Davin remained silent for a moment before asking, "Did Crystal Rose mention anything else to you? Did she agree to treat Nina?"

"She did! However, she had a condition on doing so." Knowing that it would pique Davin's interest, Levant continued explaining, "Which is to clean up Nepenthe Valley."

"What? Cleaning up Nepenthe Valley?"

"That's right. Your brother, the bodyguards, and Nina are hard at work. You should quickly go on and help them."

Upon hearing that, Davin's brows knitted together. I have no idea how to do house chores! After all, all of the housework in the Seet Residence were done by the maids. There was never a need for him to lift a finger.

"I don't know how to clean!"

"Your brother said that you can learn it just by looking at them."

Unable to refute, Davin stalled for time by complaining about feeling weak and wanting to rest for a while. After that, he plopped down onto the bed.

His actions exasperated Levant. Finally, Davin was only willing to climb out of bed and head to the garden after being called by Draven.

Evan and Nina were helping out there. Even Monica, who also fainted, had joined them. Thus, he had no choice but to follow them.

"Mr. Evan, you should leave everything to us instead," Draven offered.

"I'm just here to monitor the progress, nothing more than that."

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Glancing at the trellis Evan organized earlier, Draven understood that he was anxious to obtain the cure for Nina. Thus, he did not continue pressing.

In the evening, the entire Nepenthe Valley was spotless and approved by Crystal Rose.

"Not bad. I can give them thirty percent of the cure tonight."

Immediately, Nina's eyes shone with hope while Monica was filled with happiness after knowing she was saved.

That night, the duo followed Crystal Rose into a secret chamber. There, the latter ordered someone to prepare two wooden buckets filled with precious herbs, and the entire room was filled with its rich scent.

"You guys can go and soak inside for two hours. After that, I'll check your pulse and give you the medication."

Monica and Nina exchanged glances. The former was obviously hesitating, staring at the wooden bucket with a frantic look on her face.

Meanwhile, Nina answered, "Okay," and proceeded to soak herself in the herbs.

Crystal Rose shot a look at Monica. "Do you still want the cure? If not, you can leave right now."

Since Monica was left with no other choice, she decided to go along with it.

"Y-Yes. I want to." After saying that, she dipped herself into the wooden bucket.

Two hours seemed to pass by longer than usual. Nina had her eyes closed, silently sitting inside the wooden bucket.

On the other hand, Monica was growing antsy and antsy. "Do you feel a kind of weird sensation? Like ants are biting all over your body?" She could not help but ask.

Nina shook her head. "Nope. I only feel that the water feels warm and relaxing."

Relaxing? Why don't I feel the same way? Perhaps there's something wrong with the water?

At that moment, Monica was growing more and more anxious by the passing minute. Seeing that they were the only ones inside the chamber, she clambered out of the bucket and walked in front of Nina. After taking a good look, she realized that the water inside was entirely the same color and smell as hers, even having the same temperature.

Why are we having different experiences soaking inside if that's the case?

"Nina, how about we exchange buckets?"

"You can ask Crystal Rose about it first. If she agrees, I'll exchange it with you."

Monica was taken aback and planned to find a reason to persuade her. However, Crystal Rose suddenly walked inside and scolded, "Who told you to come out?"

"I don't feel good, so I wanted to come out and ask Nina how she felt."

"Both of you are using the same herbs, so there's no way one will feel uncomfortable. It's your fault if you have a low tolerance toward the medication. Get back to your bucket. You'll need to stay for another hour."

Upon hearing that, Monica was speechless. However, she decided not to defy Crystal Rose, for she was the only one who could save her. Thus, Monica returned to the bucket.

After Nina finished soaking, Crystal Rose checked her pulse and prepared a mixture of precious herb powder for her.

"Once you take this herb powder, you won't feel as exhausted the next morning. Look, your complexion is not as ghastly as before either."

"Thank you."

"No need. You still have new conditions to fulfill tomorrow, so head back and get a good rest."

Once Nina headed back, the three men looked her up and down and realized she indeed looked better than before.

"Nina, how do you feel?"

"I'm feeling way better than before, having more energy too."

"That's good news. It seems that Crystal Rose certainly lives up to her name! However, it's unsure what tasks she'll ask us to do tomorrow," Davin grumbled. Suddenly, he asked, "Where's Monica? Did she not come back with you?"

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"Yeah. She still needs some time as Crystal Rose ordered her to soak for another hour."

"For another hour? Why?"

"Because she was caught leaving her wooden bucket and was thus punished."

After hearing that she was punished, Davin could not help but sigh. "Suits her right! Someone as ungrateful as her should be duly punished!" After that, he looked toward Evan. "Evan, aren't you afraid she would still hold a grudge against us even if we managed to find a cure for her?"

The gleam in Evan's eyes dwindled. "She won't do that!"

"How are you so sure about it? You heard her saying she would continue to take revenge on us despite saving her life!" Davin retorted.

"She won't," his brother answered in a determined tone.

Looking at Evan's resolvedness, Davin was curious why. Did he perhaps think of a good idea?

Davin then continued, "Are you thinking of doing something to her? Like maybe save her life before killing her off?"

"You'll know about it in the near future." Evan shot him a meaningful look.

Davin knew that he was scheming something just by his look. As for what it was, the former would have to sit back and watch.

"Nina, it's getting late. Go on and get some sleep."

"Okay. Everyone, good night."

After Nina returned to her room, the adults continued chattering for a moment before retiring for the night.

The following day, someone knocked on their door to announce breakfast was ready early in the morning.

Gaping at the bland dishes, Davin and Levant felt a loss of appetite.

"It's not enough nutrients if we only consume leaves. Do you serve anything else?"

"No! People here eat it for all three of our meals."

All three meals? How could the inhabitants of Nepenthe Valley put up with this?

As Davin and Levant were used to eating lavishly, they were unaccustomed to eating simple meals. Thus, they started to discuss the ways to improve their meals.

"How about we hunt for some wild animals?" Davin suggested.

"That's a great idea. I saw that there were rabbits beside the wooden house. Do you prefer it to be steamed or braised?" Levant replied.

Before Davin could give his preference, the woman in white spoke up. "The animals in Nepenthe Valley are used in experiments here. Therefore, it might be unsafe for you to consume it as they might have poison in them."

"Huh? Why would you do something like that?"

"Of course, it's to try out our antidotes. Otherwise, how would we be so talented in this aspect?"

"So that's their reason behind them being so talented in formulating antidotes. However, there must be many animals sacrificed for the sake of it. That woman is way too cruel," Davin muttered to Levant.

However, the woman in white answered before anyone else could. "The main purpose of us doing this is to save lives. If compared, a human's life is definitely more precious than an animal's. Besides, less than a hundred animals were killed in the experiment. Which, I dare say, is nothing compared to those slaughterhouses."

Levant and Evan exchanged glances. After seeing how fierce the woman was, they did not continue arguing with her. Since the animals in this valley cannot be eaten, we'll have to think of another way.

Looking opposite him, Davin was absolutely horrified seeing Evan and Nina having finished their portion of vegetables. I didn't know my older brother was such a pro! How on earth could he finish eating something as plain as that?

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"You actually finished it?"

"Yup. It tastes good."

After hearing his brother's answer, Davin scooped a few leaves and slowly chewed them. Then, he swallowed it painfully with his eyes closed. It was as if he was consuming medicine instead of vegetables!

I firmly believe that Evan's vegetables are different from mine. Next time, I'll taste his first!

After breakfast, the group of people went to visit Crystal Rose to ask about their second task.

"Your second task is to let the two poisoned women pluck some flowers. Coincidentally, there's no sun today. Remember to pick the flowers soaked in morning dew."

After pondering for a moment, Nina nodded. "Okay. I'll head to it now."

Monica nodded along with her.

As Monica's way of picking flowers was somewhat rough, the dew on the petals dribbled everywhere, causing Crystal Rose to scold her over it. After that, Monica started to pick flowers more gently despite cursing the woman angrily in her heart.

Meanwhile, Nina had plucked all the flowers with utmost care and put them in the basket as it was a precious gem, fearing to damage the petals.

Both of them finished picking half a basket of flowers. After that, they were only notified that the petals were used for their medication.

Looking at the mess in her basket, Monica deeply regretted her actions. I wonder if it would affect the effect of the medication? Darn you, Crystal Rose! Would it hurt for you to tell us earlier? I thought the flower was used to serve tea or other daily uses!

Then, Crystal Rose continued to cure them again. Two hours later, Nina had successfully detoxified another thirty percent of the poison. Immediately, her complexion seemed way better than before.

After Monica was detoxified, she checked herself in the mirror. I don't think that my complexion improved at all. Did the stupid witch only remove 20% of my poison and 60% for Nina?

She seriously suspected Crystal Rose had tampered with the detoxifying process.

Despite having doubts in her heart, she did not dare to inquire Crystal Rose about it. After all, her life solely depended on that woman, whether she liked it or not.

As the first two tasks were way too easy, the group figured the third task would be as well. Therefore, Davin and Levant sat by leisurely as Evan asked for the third requirement.

However, they did not expect Crystal Rose's third condition to bring such a shock to them. It was evidently shown in Levant's reaction, staggering back as he stared at her in shock. "What did you say?"

Crystal Rose slowly repeated her request, "I'm ordering you to kill Murphy!" Her tone was filled with malice.

Levant was silent for a moment before questioning, "Which Murphy are you talking about? Where is he from?" Perhaps, there might be someone with the same name.

However, Crystal Rose shattered his hopes as she answered thoughtfully, "The leader of K Nation, Murphy Morris."

So she's really talking about my dad? How could that be...

Levant recalled him confirming that issue with his father. However, his father made it clear he had nothing to do with Crystal Rose, not even knowing who she was. If that was true, why would she hold such a grudge against Dad?

“Do you really know who Murphy is? What grudge do you hold against him?” Levant continued to ask.

Crystal Rose’s facial expression turned bitter. “A jerk as heartless as him deserves to die! My hatred toward him can never be resolved, not even if he dies!”

Her words caused everyone to feel stunned.

Evan had gotten information that there was a history between Crystal Rose and Morris. However, he never expected a grudge to exist between them.

Davin whispered to Levant, “Perhaps did Uncle Morris lie to us? Maybe there really is something going on between him and Crystal Rose.”

“No way. Dad didn’t seem to be lying about it. Didn’t you hear him?”

“That’s weird. That woman seemed to hate your father a lot. If your dad is really speaking the truth, there’s no way she would feel this way.”

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Levant’s mind was buzzing. Did my dad really lie about this?

“I believe my third condition is nothing hard for you. If you can achieve this, I’ll detoxify another thirty percent of their poison.”

Crystal Rose’s words caused the three to exchange glances with each other.

Not hard? How could killing someone not be hard?

Plus, the person she ordered them to kill was no other than Murphy. He was Levant’s father and also the uncle of Evan and Davin. There was no way it was considered an easy task.

“You’re asking us to break into Wicked Palace to kill its owner. How is this not difficult? It’s nearly mission impossible!” Davin sighed.

“I’m sure you can do it if you try. Of course, if you decide to stop their treatment, you can opt not to.” After that, the woman turned back to the bamboo house.

Levant stared at Evan suspiciously. “Are you seriously considering killing your uncle for Nina’s treatment?”

The man shot a look at him. "I'm just curious what he did for Crystal Rose to resent him so much."

Levant was speechless, for he was also unsure of the answer.

"Perhaps there's a misunderstanding between them. Before we came here, we even called Uncle Morris to understand the situation. By his tone, he seemed not to be lying about not knowing her."

After Davin finished his explanation, Levant pitched in, "I also think that this weird woman got it wrong. There's no way my dad would lie so blatantly!"

At that moment, Draven suddenly walked up to them and reminded them, "Mr. Seet, I was the one who found out that there was history between Crystal Rose and the owner of Wicked Palace. There's a rumor circulating that Crystal Rose was not the woman's initial name. She had changed her name upon arriving at Nepenthe Valley from K Nation."

Once Draven finished talking, Davin took a moment to think before asking, "So what you're trying to say is that Crystal Rose was using another name while in K Nation. Therefore, Uncle Morris would only recognize her initial name and not Crystal Rose!"

"What was she called before?" Levant looked toward Draven for an answer.

After thinking for a moment, Draven answered, "I'm not sure about her full name, but her nickname was called Jordyn."

"Jordyn?" Levant repeated the name. "I'm not sure if my dad will know her."

"You can ask him about it. If your dad knows her, that'll be able to confirm that love and hatred exist between them!"

"That's right. You can call and confirm it with Uncle Morris."

Upon hearing Evan and Davin's prompting, Levant hesitated for a moment before giving Murphy a call.

The person on the other end picked up the call almost immediately.

"What's the matter?"

"Dad, I wanted to ask if you know a certain someone called Jordyn?"

When Murphy heard that name, his heart skipped a beat, and his expression darkened. Immediately, memories from the past flashed past his mind, causing him to feel nauseous.

"Dad, do you know her? Did you and her—"

“Why are you asking about her out of the blue?”

By his tone, it could practically be confirmed that Murphy knew about Jordyn.

“Dad, do you have a grudge against Jordyn? Did you abandon her back then?”

“It’s all in the past. Why are you still bringing it up?” Murphy’s voice was low.

“Dad, so you really did abandon her and let her down?”

Murphy hesitated for a moment before answering, “All right. If you have nothing else to say, I still have some matters to settle.” After that, he hung up the call.

The three of them exchanged glances. It was obvious that Murphy knew who Jordyn was.

There was a huge possibility that Murphy was ashamed of his actions, seeing how he refused to bring up the past.

“So... What should we do about it now?” Levant asked the duo.

“Is there a possibility that we could resolve the grudge between them?” Evan asked.

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Davin sighed deeply. “The issues between a man and a woman are as simple as they are complicated. However, judging by Crystal Rose’s hatred toward Uncle Morris, it doesn’t seem like an easy task to resolve their problems with each other. “In fact, the more hate a woman has toward someone, the more it stands as solid proof she was once madly in love with that person. It’s no surprise that she still has a love-hate relationship with that person!”

“Also, Uncle Morris is single now. If they could resolve their past grudges and regain their peace with each other, Crystal Rose could become his wife again. From there onward, I’m sure she would gladly cure Nina and even help us heal others, too!”

Davin was elated. However, Levant disagreed strongly with the former’s words.

“Are you trying to get me a stepmother? Your ideas are terrible, Davin!” exclaimed Levant.

"Do you have any better ideas, then? Anyway, I'm just blabbering. Even if you're willing to call her 'Mom', it doesn't mean she'll accept it right away!"

"That's great! After all, I don't want to call her that either!"

"Our top priority now is to understand the past between Uncle Morris and her."

They had a little chat on the phone with Murphy a while ago, but he never talked about his past. Thus, it seemed they would have to communicate with Crystal Rose directly if they wanted answers.

After a discussion between the three of them, Levant volunteered and suggested, "Why don't I have a talk with her?"

"You'll talk to her? Sure! But will she agree to speak with you?" Davin asked worriedly.

Levant pondered quietly and concluded, "I have my ways to make her talk." Then, he rose and exited the room.

"Evan, are you sure he's the right person for that task? Will Crystal Rose be willing to talk to him?"

Following Davin's doubt, Evan stared at the leaving man's back until he gradually vanished from sight. "I don't know. However, since Levant volunteered, it doesn't harm anyone for him to try."

Davin stayed silent. Levant won't be chased out by that weird woman, right?

Out of curiosity, he decided to follow Levant and see for himself what would happen.

Meanwhile, Levant arrived at Crystal Rose's doorstep and knocked on the door.

Shortly after, the door swung open. Crystal Rose's expression darkened as soon as she saw Levant. "How can I help you?" she asked coldly.

"I would like to talk to you."

"I'm busy."

"I have a way to kill Murphy in a heartbeat. I believe you might be interested in it."

Crystal Rose was surprised by Levant's initiation concerning the topic.

She scanned Levant from head to toe. She didn't dislike him as she also had a son who was of similar age. I wonder if my son is doing well out there nowadays?

“Can we talk about it if that caught your interest?”

Crystal Rose regained her train of thoughts and let Levant into the house.

Davin, who was hiding in a corner after stalking Levant to this location, was shocked by the scene he just witnessed. D\*mn, I can't believe Levant really had a way to deal with Crystal Rose! He even successfully entered her room!

Davin was extremely curious about the discussion between Levant and Crystal Rose, so he remained hidden in his spot and waited for Levant's reappearance.

In the room, Crystal Rose was quite courteous to Levant and invited him to have a seat. The latter retracted his wandering gaze around the environment and sat on a bamboo chair.

“You said you had a swift method to kill Murphy. What is it?”

Levant was stunned for a split second before saying, “I cannot guarantee the method's success rate, but before I tell you about it, may I ask what your grudge with Murphy is? Did he leave you? Were you... his lover? Or were you something else?”

Lover? Crystal Rose smiled mockingly. “I will never be someone's lover in this lifetime!”

Levant remained silent. Since Crystal Rose and Dad were never lovers, does that mean they were in a serious relationship before Dad married Mom? Did Dad leave her so he could marry Mom? Is that why Crystal Rose holds a grudge toward Dad? For abandoning her?

As he mulled over the situation, Crystal Rose soon revealed some baffling information to him...

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“I was Murphy's wife once,” muttered Crystal Rose.

Levant was astonished by the information and didn't know how to respond. Isn't Murphy's wife Avril and my mother? Then that means that she...

Crystal Rose saw Levant staring at her in disbelief and tried to convince him it was the truth. “It's true. I left him because I discovered he was cheating on me.”

Is this the truth? If it is, then she's my biological mother!

In that instant, Levant felt a flood of complicated emotions rush through him as his face fell. "You abandoned the child you had with him because you hate him. Not only that, you even deliberately sent the child to an orphanage!"

Crystal Rose frowned. How does he know about that?

Levant's face grew colder in response to the woman's silence. "So, those are the facts? You abandoned your own child as a mother. Where did you even get the audacity to reprimand and despise others?"

"I had my reasons when I did that! I would never have done that if I could have raised my child back then!" Crystal Rose explained desperately while staring at Levant in confusion. "How did you find out about these matters? Who told you about them?"

"No reason in the world could justify why you abandoned your child." Levant stood up and responded icily, then left the room.

Crystal Rose watched as he left the room abruptly and had an indescribable feeling about the latter's agitated reaction to the subject.

How did Levant find out I abandoned my child at an orphanage? How did he learn about my past? Also, why was he so enraged when he told me that?

Crystal Rose was initially perplexed by the situation. Soon after, she realized her abandoned child would be around Levant's age. Then a bizarre thought occurred to her. Could Levant be the child I abandoned back then? No, that can't possibly be true! What are the odds of reuniting with my long-lost son in Nepenthe Valley out of pure coincidence?

Davin, who was waiting for Levant outside Crystal Rose's house, spotted the latter approaching him. Yet, the look of rage on Levant's face baffled him.

Did his conversation with Crystal Rose go south? If not, why else would he look so angry? Davin paced toward Levant and intercepted him. "How did the discussion go? Is she still obsessed with taking Uncle Morris' life?"

Levant's expression was gloomy and complicated as he pushed Davin out of the way while saying nothing.

"What the... Hey, what happened between the two of you? Why are you acting this way?" Davin remained confused as he watched Levant walk away.

"Crystal Rose is such an odd woman. What did she tell Levant that irritated him to that extent?" he wondered to himself before heading off to find Evan.

After reporting the situation to Evan, Davin questioned, "Don't you think that it's weird, Evan? Is it because Levant failed to persuade Crystal Rose out of taking Uncle Morris' life?"

After some speculation, Evan disagreed, "There must be some other reason behind it. I'll go check on Levant."

Later, Evan arrived at Levant's room and noticed the latter was packing up his belongings. Bewildered, he asked, "Are you leaving so soon?"

"That's right. I'm getting out of here."

Evan was taken aback. Before witnessing Levant's behavior, he had assumed Davin was making a big deal about Levant's irritation out of nothing. Looks like something's really wrong with him.

"I'm genuinely curious about what Crystal Rose said to you that infuriated you to this extent. Was it really because you failed to talk her out of her mission to seek revenge and kill Uncle Morris?"

Levant looked at Evan seriously and answered, "Crystal Rose is a heartless woman. She abandoned her son! I'm absolutely disgusted by these kinds of people."

"How do you know she abandoned her son?" asked Evan.

Levant didn't answer Evan's question. Of course I know. I'm the son she abandoned!

## **Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo**

### **Chapter 1250**

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Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1250

Levant didn't want to talk with Evan about what he had discovered through his conversation with Crystal Rose.

"Since at least sixty percent of Nina's poison has been cured, she could probably get the help she needs from other doctors. Why don't we leave this place together?" Levant suggested.

Leave? It's not that easy to find someone else who is as skillful as Crystal Rose. I won't risk Nina's health and leave this place so recklessly.

"Are you really leaving?" Evan asked again to confirm.

Levant appeared to be extremely determined in his decision. "Yes, and I swear I'll never step foot into this place again!"

Evan stared at Levant's disappearing figure and suspected that the event which led to his departure wasn't as simple as that.

What did Crystal Rose tell Levant? Also, Levant mentioned she abandoned her own child. Does that have anything to do with him leaving so suddenly? Yet, why does it matter so much to him?

Evan couldn't figure out the motive behind Levant's actions, so he met up with Crystal Rose in hopes of fully understanding the situation.

As soon as Crystal Rose saw Evan, she promptly inquired before the latter said anything, "I want to know who exactly the man who followed you all the way to this place is? Who are his parents?"

Evan mulled it over for a short while. Now that Levant had left, he knew Crystal Rose had nothing to hold against him. Therefore, he decided to tell her the truth. "He's Murphy's son."

The answer was ultimately shocking to Crystal Rose, and her expression changed drastically. I can't believe this. I really can't...

"No reason in the world could justify why you abandoned your child," the voice of Levant echoed in Crystal Rose's mind. Furthermore, the reproach in his eyes was engraved inside her head. He was obviously blaming her!

What a coincidence... Levant is my son!

"He left Nepenthe Valley. If you feel the need to make his life difficult or let him pay for his father's wrongdoings, then it's too late."

"He left? He's really gone?" Crystal Rose returned to her senses and hurried outside while commanding others to help chase after Levant.

Evan swiftly blocked their way and stated, "There's no need to chase after him. He's long gone. If you wish to avenge yourself, you can go through me as I'm related to Murphy too."

"How are you related to him?"

"Murphy is my uncle!"

Hearing Evan's answer, Crystal Rose stared at him and asked, "So that makes you Levant's cousin, am I right?"

"That's right."

"Is there a way to make him return to Nepenthe Valley?" Crystal Rose voiced out her concern after a brief moment of silence.

Evan recalled Levant's determination when leaving this place and told her about his uncertainty.

"Now tell me which option is easier for you. Is it killing Murphy or making Levant return here?"

"Of course it's the latter! Murphy is my uncle, so I can't murder him with my own hands!" Evan replied without the slightest hesitation.

"All right, then. I'm changing the third condition in our agreement. If you can make Levant stay here for three months, I'll cure thirty percent of Nina's poison."

Evan couldn't figure out why Crystal Rose would change her mind suddenly. Why do you want Levant to return to Nepenthe Valley so badly?

"You don't have to think too deeply into this matter. I will never hurt Levant. I'll only treat him the best I can. He's my son, after all."

Your son?

At that moment, Evan finally understood the comments made by Levant regarding Crystal Rose's cruelty.

Levant was the abandoned child all along!

Under these circumstances, Evan felt it was nearly impossible to make Levant come back to this valley willingly.

What should I do to make Levant return?

When Evan returned, Davin asked immediately, "Evan, is it true that Levant left?"

Evan nodded. "That's true."

"Why? Is it really necessary for him to get mad at an old lady?"

"It is necessary considering their relationship."

"What? Evan, what do you mean by that? Who exactly is Crystal Rose to Levant?"

"Crystal Rose is Levant's biological mother."

Davin was utterly shocked when he heard the truth.

Darn it! I had thought Crystal Rose's urge to murder Murphy was already the biggest surprise. I can't believe there's something more astounding than that!

# Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

## Chapter 1251

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Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1251

Davin was still deep in shock at the news when he heard Evan say, "Now, we need to convince Levant to return to Nepenthe Valley and stay for three months. Only then will Nina get the cure she needs, and Crystal Rose will give up seeking vengeance on Uncle Morris."

"Is that so?" Davin thought back to the fury on Levant's face when the latter left Crystal Rose's room. Besides, the determination Levant had before leaving this place was still as clear as day in his mind.

Would he willingly come back?

"Evan, I don't think it's a simple task to make him come back to us."

"That's right, which is why you'll have to come up with a plan to convince him."

"Me?" Davin pointed at himself in bewilderment. You're having too high of a hope in my capabilities!

"Evan, Levant is a stubborn man. It's obvious to tell from his never-ending love and commitment toward Nicole! He's as hard-necked as a cow! How could I possibly convince him?"

Evan glanced at Davin icily. "You can at least try. How will you know if you don't try?"

Once again, Davin had no words. He quietly sighed before he murmured, "All right, I guess I have no other choice but to try. Although, there's no guarantee I can bring him back."

"Okay. You can try calling him first."

Reluctantly, Davin picked up the phone and dialed Levant's number. He already anticipated the latter would insult him with ugly words.

The call was answered quickly.

"What do you want from me?" Levant snapped in a moody tone.

“Why did you leave so suddenly?”

“I had something to do,” Levant prevaricated casually.

“What else do you have to do? We were at Nepenthe Valley to find a cure for Nina! You’re so selfish and irresponsible for leaving like this. You could’ve at least waited for Nina to be cured before leaving!”

“Davin, I won’t beat around the bush with you. I will never return to that place!”

Hearing Levant’s reply, Davin exhaled sharply and retorted, “Well, since you want to put it that way, I’ll tell you what I think. You must return to Nepenthe Valley! Nina’s cure depends on you!”

“Me? I don’t have the ability to cure her.”

“I know you don’t. However, Crystal Rose promised to cure her if you were willing to return...” Davin thought of telling him the full condition, which was having to stay for three months, but decide to keep that a secret since he knew Levant would definitely refuse. “If you return, Crystal Rose will cure Nina!”

“There’s no way I’m going back!”

“Levant, please! Think of it as helping Nina. She needs you!”

Levant hesitated for a split second, then hung up on Davin.

Evan is a powerful and resourceful man, so there must be some other methods that could save his daughter. Anyway, I could never go back there and face the woman who abandoned me.

If it hadn’t been for Stephen’s wife, Portia, who had adopted him and treated him as if he was her own son back at the estate, he couldn’t imagine how his life would have turned out.

Portia...

Levant’s emotions were in turmoil when he thought about his adoptive mother.

He didn’t know what exactly happened all those years ago. All he knew was that Portia now had two identities – she was a homewrecker who had destroyed the relationship between his biological parents, and she was also the adoptive mother who raised him.

Levant had no idea how to face her in the future. Should he hate her? Or was he supposed to thank her for raising him?

He pondered over this matter and finally chose to find out the full picture of the story before deciding further.

Levant wanted to contact everyone important involved in his past, including Murphy, Stephen, and Portia.

First, he contacted Murphy, but Murphy didn't want to talk about his past and tried to brush him off. "Why do we have to talk about that? Just let the past be in the past."