

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

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Stunned, Portia felt a feeling of suffocation as though a fist was wrapped around her heart and squeezing tightly.

At the same time, her self-comforting thoughts were shattered, and Murphy's words were the main reason why.

He had used a rather cruel way to let Portia see that she was the most pathetic woman in the world.

She had no idea how she made her way back to the estate. She saw Stephen in the living room as soon as she stepped inside. Walking up to him, she questioned, "Why are you doing this to me, Stephen? How dare you do this to me?"

Stephen looked at her quizzically, not knowing what she meant.

"Why did you marry me and do this to me? You've ruined me. You've ruined my happiness! All these years being with you, I've never been happy, and it's all because of you!"

It was then Stephen understood.

"Portia, I've told you long ago that I wouldn't love you. You used your family to threaten the Musgrave family and forced me to marry you. I told you back then that you can't force someone to love you and that I loved Rosalie, but still, you insisted. You're the cause of this situation today."

I might have something to do with this, but you're the one to blame for it. Your obsession has not only ruined your happiness but also destroyed the happiness between Rosalie and me!

Portia saw a pit of disgust in his cold eyes and could not help but feel that they were cursed for tragedy. There was nothing between them other than resentment.

"I thought, maybe with effort, I could melt your stone-cold heart. What I didn't expect was that your heart would die along with Rosalie. You'd rather let your heart follow her to the afterlife than give me even the slightest warmth. I shouldn't have expected anything more!"

Looking at the pain written all over her face, Stephen said grimly, "Portia, you still have a choice to leave now. You can bring anything you want with you. I can give you anything as long as it's in the estate."

“Anything I want?”

“Anything you want.”

“What about your life? I want your life. Will you give it to me?”

Stephen’s lips curled into a relieved smile after a brief pause. “Sure. I’ve been wanting to see Rosalie again since a long time ago. Everything between us will be put to an end once you take my life.”

Portia was deeply disappointed. “You’re still thinking of seeing her at a time like this? You’ve never forgotten her, have you? I can’t believe I lost to a dead woman. What a pathetic woman am I?” she yelled.

She then turned and ran back to her room.

...

Disbelief was written all over Jordyn’s face when she and Levant got the phone call from Murphy telling them that Portia was the one who had poisoned her.

“What? How could it be her?”

“She did it because she was afraid that you might tell Stephen about the time she and I slept together when she was drunk. You can ask Nick about it. She admitted it herself, too.

Jordyn sneered, “Guess I did the right thing telling Stephen about it beforehand. If I hadn’t and wasn’t cured, I’d have died a worthless death by taking that secret to the grave.”

“Yes, you were right. Stephen has never loved her, nor have they ever consummated their marriage her whole life.”

Jordyn was surprised to know that Portia had been so poorly treated by the man she loved. I guess even the most hateful person deserves some pity.

“Murphy, are you feeling sorry for her? Stephen has never loved her, but you have. You guys have even slept together, right? Why not just marry her? That way, you can care for her however much you want.”

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“I’m not going to marry her! You’re my wife, and you always will be!”

"I wasn't your wife anymore since the moment I saw you two together. Murphy, even though it wasn't you that poisoned me, you're still connected to it somehow. I won't forgive you for that!"

With that, Jordyn ended the phone call and turned to Levant. "Did you hear what he said?"

"Yes." Levant nodded.

"So, will you kill Portia for me?"

Levant fell silent at the request.

Kill Portia?

He was feeling rather hesitant. After all, Portia was his adoptive mother and had cared for him when he was in the estate. He did not think he could bring himself to do it.

"What? Do you not want to?" Jordyn asked.

"How is it so complicated between you and Portia? You bumped into her and Dad, and you told her husband about it. Now, you find out that she was the one that poisoned you. You've already been cured, but she adopted your son by chance and treated him like her own child..."

"What are you talking about? What do you mean by adopting my son?"

"Portia adopted me! She took me from the orphanage to the estate and gave me a home. She took good care of me. I think of her as my adoptive mother."

Why would Portia adopt my son?

Jordyn was taken aback upon hearing that. She had always thought that it was the head of the orphanage who sent Levant back to Wicked Palace as they had agreed on. Levant was supposed to be with Murphy. Since when did Portia adopt him?

"I'm not a heartless person. I can't bring myself to kill her for you," Levant uttered.

"Why did she do that? Why did she adopt you?"

"Maybe it's because she felt sorry for poisoning you, so she looked after me in your stead. Or perhaps she adopted Murphy's son to get back at Stephen for ignoring her. I guess she's the only one that knows the real reason behind this."

Why would she do that after poisoning me? Are you trying to repent for your sins, Portia?

Jordyn stopped asking Levant to kill Portia, though her expression turned gloomy after that.

She remained silent until Davin knocked on the door and asked when was the time to treat Nina's poison. "Maybe a few days later. We're still missing two important ingredients that can only be found in the valley," she replied.

"Do you mean the Resurrecting Herb from Wicked Hill and the Exquisite Flower from Jade Hill?"

"That's right. Those are the two main ingredients to cure the bone erosion poison."

"Don't worry about that. Evan had already sent someone to get them when we got here."

Jordyn was surprised to see Evan being so thoughtful.

"Great, but it will take at least two days for the herbs to be effective."

"Two days? That's not a long time, but..."

"But what? It takes time to clear the poison. This can't be rushed."

"That's not it. It's just that, can you change your meal plans? I can't eat only vegetables every day. Look at Levant! He's lost so much weight eating only vegetables for the past few days!"

After listening to him, Levant looked down and checked himself out. Have I lost weight? I don't think so.

"Don't use me as an excuse for not wanting to eat more vegetables. I think vegetables are fine."

"Levant, didn't we agree to eat the rabbit in the courtyard? Didn't you say you don't want to eat vegetables all the time? Are you saying this only because you don't want to trouble your mom? Don't worry, Levant. A mother would do anything for her child. My mom has always taken good care of you. She would always cook a big feast for you when you went to the Seet Residence. Even she would never feed you only vegetables, not to mention your mom! I believe she won't do that to you, too."

Levant was speechless at how much effort Davin put in, all because he did not want to eat vegetables.

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"I'll tell them to change the menu and prepare something delicious for you tonight."

Davin broke into a grin as soon as he heard this. "I shouldn't trouble you but thank you, Aunt Jordyn!"

Jordyn's expression fell. "Don't ever call me Aunt Jordyn again. I have nothing to do with Murphy anymore. If there's one thing that's left between us, it's hatred!"

Davin gulped when he heard that. He turned to look at Levant, who had no intention to answer. Davin then chuckled awkwardly. "I know that Uncle Morris has done you wrong, but you should at least give him another chance. After all, Levant needs a loving family!"

"I don't need one. I'm all grown up!" Levant frowned.

Davin looked at him with a straight face.

You don't need one but your parents might! Can't you at least try and help them get back together?

Levant sneered as though he understood what Davin was thinking. "You can't force a relationship. As long as they get what they want and live happily, I don't think it matters if they're together or not."

At that, Davin was speechless.

How could I forget this guy is super stubborn when it comes to relationships? He hates matchmaking so much, so how could I have expected him to do so for others?

"All right. I need to go to prepare the herbs. I'll leave you two to talk."

Davin sighed as soon as Jordyn left. "Levant, shouldn't you help matchmake your parents? Don't you want to see them live a happy life?"

"There's no way matching two people who don't have feelings for each other will help them live a happy life. Some people are just not meant to be together!"

"How do you know there are no feelings between your parents? Where do you think you came from if they don't have feelings for each other?" Davin teased.

Levant rolled his eyes at him. "There's nothing between me and Tiffany, but we have a child as well. Having a child together doesn't necessarily mean there's love between two people."

Davin was at a loss for words for a moment. "I don't know how to reason with you using normal logic!" He paused before he continued, "Forget about it. I shouldn't be reasoning with you. Tell your mom to make more good food tonight. The Hidden Masters need to have something good after their tough journey getting the Resurrecting Herb and Exquisite Flower."

Levant shot him a look and left.

"Hey, I'm talking to you! What's with your attitude? No matter what, you're still the young master of Nepenthe Valley. You can't do this to a guest! You have to treat your guests with hospitality," Davin nagged as he followed behind Levant.

Two days later, Jordyn had finished preparing the antidote with the Resurrecting Herb and Exquisite Flower. After a whole morning, another one-third of Nina's poison had been cleared.

Nina looked so much better now, with a natural flush on her cheeks.

Levant teased, "Does this cure have the ability to enhance beauty too?" Nina's snowy white face looked so much prettier than before.

"Doesn't she look more like Nicole the more you look at her? Don't you like her more as you look at that face?" Davin murmured into Levant's ear in a teasing tone.

Levant's expression stiffened for a second before his lips twitched and he stepped on Davin's foot as hard as he could.

"Hey!" Davin cried out in pain.

"I'm sorry. I didn't see you there."

Davin glared at him. *Pfft! I bet you did it on purpose! Well, I guess it's kind of my fault. I shouldn't have mentioned Nicole when I know that he's still not over her.*

"Why does Nina look so much better while my condition looks so bad?" Monica asked as she looked at Crystal Rose quizzically.

Monica had also cleared the poison three times, just like Nina did. However, she still felt weak.

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Crystal Rose sighed. "It requires more time and effort to clear your poison because you've been poisoned for a longer period. With the same remedy, Nina's poison can be cleared up to ninety percent, but yours can only be cleared up to forty percent. Of course your conditions are different."

Monica's expression fell. "Forty percent? Can the poison be cleared any further? How much more can it be cleared?"

"If you want your poison to be cleared fully, there's one special herb you can take. However, if you take it, you will lose your memory. Do you still want to take it?"

"Lose my memory?" Monica's eyes widened.

She turned to look at both Davin and Evan. Will I remember the grudge with the Seet family if I lose my memory?

"When I said you would lose your memory, it means you won't remember everything from before. You will have a clean break and can start a new life."

Hearing this, Davin said, "That's great! Doesn't that mean you can forget every frustration in life and start a new, happy one?"

Monica sneered, "Of course you want that. That way, I won't remember everything and won't be able to get my revenge on the Seet family. You would love that, won't you?"

"Are you still thinking about getting your revenge? Don't you think we should be even right now? It would be for the best for you to forget about the grudge you hold against us!"

"I don't want to forget! My dad died because of your dad! The Marston family's company closed down because of your dad! Everything is because of your family! I want you to pay the price!"

Davin rolled his eyes at her. "Nina was poisoned because of you! You only have the chance to be treated because of us. Don't you remember the times when you tormented Seet Group, my mom, and Maya? You need to stop. If your poison remains untreated, you might not have long to live, let alone get your revenge."

"He's right. If you choose to keep your memory, your poison can only be cleared up to forty percent and you'll lose your life. How are you going to get your revenge if you're dead?"

"How long do I have left if the poison is cleared by forty percent?" Monica asked.

Crystal Rose paused to think and answered, "Given your situation right now, not more than two months."

Two months? Will two months be enough for me to get revenge? I think two months are enough if I go all-in!

"Monica, if you insist on getting your revenge, we won't stand aside and watch like we did before. Two months? Even if we give you two years, you might not get what you want. You don't have to risk your own life for nothing."

"He's right. You have to be alive first before you can plan how to get your revenge. That's the only way you know you'd ever get a chance. Losing your memory might be temporary. There's a chance you will remember everything after a period of time."

"I can remember?" Monica's eyes lit up with hope.

Crystal Rose nodded. "There's a possibility."

Monica was hesitant, but Crystal Rose told her that she had to make a decision latest by tomorrow. There were only two choices for her: to stay and get the treatment or leave.

"I'll take it into consideration."

"What else is there to think about? What's more important than your life?" Davin asked.

Monica glared at him and turned to leave the living room.

Crystal Rose let out a sigh upon seeing Monica leave. "Maybe this is fate."

"What do you mean?" Levant asked.

Crystal Rose looked at Evan and said, "To tell you the truth, it was Evan and me who decided to let her lose her memory."

"What?"

"As all of you know, there are three conditions to get treatment in Nepenthe Valley. First, you have to be female. Then, there are three requirements to fulfill for the second condition, which you've all met. For the third condition, I'm actually looking for a successor. I thought Nina was the perfect candidate at first, but Evan didn't want that to happen. I also think that there's a better life ahead for Nina, so Monica became my only choice."

Pausing briefly, she continued, "I also heard that Monica has lived a tough life and is constantly haunted by the grudges she holds. Making her lose all her memories might be an escape for her. It's the best for everyone, too. That's why I deliberately reduced the dose for her to force her into making this decision."

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So, that was what happened!

"I think it's great news. Now that Monica's fine, she will stop making things difficult for us Seets," said Davin.

"I will cultivate her into the next Lady of the Valley and help her start a new life."

"I know we do agree with this, but it is still her choice to make. What if she doesn't want to lose her memory?"

"I still believe her survival instinct will kick in once she has to choose between dying or losing her memory. Judging by her willingness these few times to heal herself, I do think she wants to live."

"You're right..."

After a whole night of consideration, Monica decided to lose her memory over losing her life. However, she figured she should do something before losing her memory.

She found herself a silver needle and carved the word "Seet" onto her arm, tolerating the pain so that she could remind herself to seek revenge on the Seets even after losing her memory.

The following day.

Everyone let out a sigh of relief after knowing Monica had decided to accept the treatment.

Davin reminded everyone, "Monica gets to start a new life again after leaving the room. If possible, let's act like strangers to her so that she gets to live her new life in peace."

Levant nodded. "You're right. Let's forget about the Monica we knew in our past and go on our separate ways with this new Monica."

Evan looked at Nina. "I heard that you will need half a year to heal the poison left inside of you. Nina, are you willing to stay here on your own for the time being?"

Nina could tell that he missed Nicole. Daddy has to be there for Mommy now that she's pregnant.

"Daddy, don't worry. I can do this."

"Don't worry. Crystal Rose will take good care of her over here."

After hearing what Levant said, Davin immediately corrected him by saying, "Levant, why are you still referring to her as Crystal Rose when she's your mother?"

Levant glanced at him. "I know what to call her. You don't have to interfere with that!"

Davin pursed his lips. You'll regret this sooner or later. Just wait and see.

After Monica stepped out of the room, she had already lost her memories. She was standing there like a newcomer to the Nepenthe Valley, looking timidly at her surroundings.

"Monica, I have healed most of the poison in your body. As for the remaining bit of poison, just like Nina, you will have to take half a year to heal. I'll be teaching you poison healing techniques in the meantime before you take over Nepenthe Valley. It has been your dream all this while."

My dream?

Monica was puzzled, but she still nodded in response.

"Is this the new Lady of the Valley?"

"It's a pleasure to meet you."

Davin and Levant played along. Monica smiled shyly at them. "You're too kind. I know nothing at all as I'm still new here."

"It's fine. You will learn everything in a couple of years."

Monica nodded. Jordyn then ordered her to do some tasks.

Watching her walk away, Davin looked closely at Levant and said, "If you lost your memory, would you choose to start a new life like what she did?"

"What do you mean?"

"I mean, will you choose to forget about everything and spend the rest of your life with Tiffany and your son?"

Forget about Nicole and start a new life?

Levant felt repulsed after hearing what he had said.

“Davin, if you keep up with your nonsense again, I won’t mind calling Crystal Rose my mother and getting those pills for you so that you will lose all your memories about Sheila and the baby inside her. After doing that, I’ll make sure to find you another woman for you to start a new life with.”

D*mn! That’s cruel!

“I’m just trying to look out for you. Just forget it if you don’t like the idea.”

“You better not repeat this again!” Levant warned solemnly.

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Davin’s expression darkened. He sounds so arrogant just because his mom can make and cure poison! That night, Davin and Evan were discussing their return date.

“Evan, we can rest assured to keep Nina here. Crystal Rose is Levant’s mother, and I’m sure she will take great care of Nina.”

“I know. When do you plan to go back then?”

“Tomorrow. What about tomorrow?”

“Is it because you miss Sheila already?”

“I know we’ve always been fighting at home, but I realize I do miss her now that we’re apart. Anyway, I can’t be leaving her alone when she’s pregnant now. I’m sure you feel the same way about Nicole too.”

Evan smiled faintly. “It hasn’t been that long. I’m not that hopeless.”

Davin snorted. Stop denying. I saw you looking at her pictures a few days ago and murmuring to yourself. Tsk. Do you think you can fool anyone with those big words?

“Tch! You’re the most hopeless one here.”

“What are you mumbling about?”

Davin looked up at him and said indirectly, “I was mumbling that... I’m a hopeless romantic who stares at my wife’s pictures while talking to myself like a fool. I’m just that hopeless!”

"I'm glad that you realized that!"

Davin frowned.

Does he not know I'm talking about him? Somebody, please get this president an Oscar!

The next day.

After making the arrangements for Nina, Evan and the others were preparing to be on their way back.

"Wouldn't it be a little uncomfortable for Nina if we all left her behind in this place? I know you have families to return to, but I don't. Why don't I stay behind and keep Nina company in Nepenthe Valley?"

Levant found an excuse to stay behind and take care of Nina, but he was doing this to stay back and spend more time with Jordyn, his birth mother.

He couldn't bear to leave Jordyn after seeing the reluctance in her eyes.

"Evan, just let him be. Nina won't be that bored too if he's with her."

"Okay."

Davin and Evan understood what Levant was thinking, and they did not dwell much on this.

Before they left, Evan reminded Nina to call him if anything. Despite Evan being the president of Seet Group, he was just a father in front of Nina.

Nina was willing to admit that Evan was a caring father from the bottom of her heart.

"Daddy, don't worry. I'll make sure you'll see a different me by the time I get back."

"Nina, I'm glad to know you're all grown up now."

After Evan and the others left, Levant saw Nina's eyes become teary. He said, "Don't be sad. I'm still here with you."

"Thank you, Mr. Levant."

"You're welcome. I do envy your father. He's a great husband as much as he's a great father."

Nina stared at Levant in shock. She didn't expect to hear such words from him. "I'm sure he'll be happy to hear you say this."

“Shh... Don’t tell him. Let this be our secret.”

“Okay!” Nina smiled sweetly.

Half a year later, Nina finally recovered from the poison. Levant returned to Y City with her.

Before they left, Jordyn told him, “I’ll be traveling around the world once Monica is eligible to take over Nepenthe Valley. By then, I’ll make sure to drop by at Y City and visit you.”

“All right. I’ll be waiting for you.”

“I hope I can see my grandson by then.”

Levant’s eyes flickered. He failed as a father for not seeing his son that often.

He decided to stop getting into relationships for the rest of his life as he just wanted to compensate his son for everything he had done wrong.

“You will get the chance to meet him in the future.”

“Sure! Levant, I hope you can move on and find your own happiness someday.”

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Levant smiled in response. If only it is that easy to move on. I... I guess I will try to do so.

“Nina, let’s go!” He turned around and left Nepenthe Valley with Nina. Three years later.

At the Seet Residence, Davin looked gloomily at his son, who had never won in a fight, and he sighed.

“Zayden, I don’t want to nag you, but you should be brave and strong. How can you not win her? You should be a man.”

Zayden was rubbing his hands in confusion. He looked up at Davin, trying to understand what Davin meant by being brave and strong and also a man.

Davin couldn’t help but frown at Zayden’s expression. He looked at Sheila, who was enjoying her roasted pumpkin seeds at one side, and said, “Look at him.”

“What’s wrong?”

Sheila walked up to Zayden and looked at him. “He’s doing fine, isn’t he? What do you want me to look at?”

“Look at him rubbing his fingers and his eyes when he’s looking at me. Don’t those timid eyes remind you of Maya when she was younger?” He then looked at Zayden again. “The more I look at him, the more I see the resemblance!”

That chubby Maya when she was younger?

Sheila frowned and looked carefully. “I don’t see it. My son is calm and steady. I think he resembles Kyle more.”

“You must be joking. Kai used to defy me so much when he was younger, but Zayden can’t even fight Joy. We should have named him something that represents bravery so that he grows up into a fearless man!”

“Davin, can you stop thinking about fighting anyone? Zayden’s name was a family decision. Moreover, he’s three months younger than Joy. What’s there to be embarrassed about for not defeating Joy?”

Sheila picked Zayden up in her arms and squeezed his cheek a little before kissing it. “Look at how adorable he is.”

“Adorable? Joy is the definition of adorable. I think she’s even more adorable than Nina and Maya when they were younger.”

“Davin, why are you praising other children instead of yours? Zayden is hungry. You should go and prepare his milk.”

Davin looked into Zayden’s widened eyes. “Do you want your milk?”

Zayden nodded in delight.

“I’ll give you two bottles of milk, but you will have to defeat Joy after that. Do you get me?”

Zayden licked his lips and nodded.

He would agree with anything if he could get milk in return.

Zayden was still drinking his milk when a sweet voice said, “Zayden, I’m here to play with you.”

Zayden widened his eyes in shock after hearing it was Joy’s voice. He immediately hid in Sheila’s arms while holding his milk bottle.

“Look at him being this afraid when she’s yet to appear. How embarrassing!”

Evan walked over with Joy's hand in his. Joy greeted sweetly upon seeing Davin and Sheila. "Hi, Uncle Davin and Aunt Sheila."

"Joy, you're such a good girl. Zayden is still having his milk now. Can you wait for him to finish his milk before playing with you?"

"Sure!" Joy blinked her clear eyes and stepped aside to wait.

After Zayden finished his milk, he was still lying in Sheila's arms, refusing to let go of his milk bottle.

"You have already finished your milk. Now go and play with Joy."

Zayden turned around and sneaked a glance at Joy. He then got out reluctantly of Sheila's arms.

Right then, Sophia was walking down the stairs with two lollipops in her hands. "Joy, did you come here to play with Zayden?"

"I've missed you, Grandma, and I came here to see you."

"How sweet of you! I've missed you too. Here, I have two lollipops. One for you and one for Zayden."

Joy ran over to Sophia. She picked a lollipop that had a sheep printed on it before giving Zayden the lollipop that had a wolf printed on it.