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I'll make Zane pay for it!

"As long as you're not upset, Nicole. You're a strong woman, and a brave one too. I really never expected that you'd dare to throw a knife!"

When Rocky was done speaking, a dubious look appeared on Nicole's face.

"What do you mean?"

"Nothing. I just meant that you put a stop to Sylvia when you threw the knife."

Nicole abruptly halted in her steps, her expression completely changing.

"Rocky, you know very well who threw it. Even if you wanna praise me, you don't have to say that I did it when it was really you."

Rocky was dumbstruck.

His expression took on a drastic change as well.

"Me? Weren't you the one who threw the knife?"

"I threw it? Weren't you the one who threw it?"

Both of them stared at each other, recalling the earlier scene. Indeed, they did not get a good look at who threw the knife, and the next second, Sylvia was lying on the ground.

Could it be...

Don't tell me...

A shiver ran down Nicole's spine and a hint of panic crept into Rocky's heart.

"It couldn't have been Sylphiette who threw it, could it?"

"Impossible. Sylphiette didn't even bring a knife."

"Neither were we when we went there!"

Both of them fell silent.

There were only four of them in the entire house!

Suddenly, a gust of chilly wind blew past, making them shudder. Nicole looked at Rocky and forced out a strained smile. Then...

She ran!

"Wait! Wait for me!"

Rocky quickly ran after her.

Looking at the two people running like they were being chased by a ghost, Evan's lips curved up into a mocking smile.

Scaredy cats. And they trying to scare other people?

Nicole's taste in men is horrible.

Evan walked away and got into his car, then drove towards the hotel.

On the way there, he spotted Nicole and Rocky panting hard as they ran.

He contemplated stopping the car to pick Nicole up.

After a while, he dismissed the idea. I'll give her a surprise back at the hotel instead. Hence, he floored the accelerator and sped off.

Very soon, he lost sight of them.

At the hotel, Nicole went back to her room and immediately locked the door.

It was really creepy just now. I should be more careful now.

She released a sigh. Then, she took her pajamas and went to the bathroom.

Standing beneath the showerhead, she breathed out a soft sigh, feeling as if a heavy weight had been lifted off her chest.

Finally, the truth was revealed.

Mom really wasn't the culprit behind the hit-and-run.

Nicole felt relieved.

"Zane Lane, my mother is already dead because of you. She isn't the culprit behind the hit-and-run, but you made her take the blame for you? You planned it really well, didn't you? I'll be sure to even the scores with you when I get back!"

After mumbling under her breath, she began showering.

After her shower, she put on her pajamas and exited the bathroom. She climbed into bed and fished out her phone.

Looking at Sophia's post on social media, her lips arched into a contented smile.

It was a photo of the clothes she bought for the four children. Nina chose a princess costume, which looked beautiful and stylish.

Maya chose a set of cartoon-printed clothes. Coupled with the hand sign Maya was making, she looked incredibly adorable.

Kyle and Juan chose clothes that were cooler in style, looking super smart and handsome.

"Leaving you with the Seets is a much better choice. You'll all want for nothing there."

However, she still couldn't bear it.

She couldn't bear to leave them with the Seets just like that.

"Mommy will go and visit you kids soon. Very soon."

Her eyes shimmered with unshed tears. She reached up to wipe them off before forcing her lips into a bitter smile.

With that, she switched off the lights.

She closed her eyes and was just about to fall asleep when she suddenly felt that something wasn't right.

Something seemed to be moving next to her.

She stretched out a hand to touch it, realizing that that something was rather huge.

With that, she poked and prodded more.

It had a head, a body, and arms...

F**k!

It's a human?

She jolted in fright and sat up abruptly.

"Who is it?"

She screamed at the top of her lungs and hurriedly fumbled to turn on the lights.

Evan's hand shot out to grab her fair wrist. He deliberately lowered his voice into a husky rumble.

"Miss, we offer special services for free. Would you like to try it? I'll make sure you're satisfied!"

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Special services?

Could the hotel have arranged this?

"I don't need it. Please leave this instant!"

"Miss, why don't you reconsider?"

One of Evan's restless hands gently grazed her cheek.

What the f**k! Did he just touch me?

Nicole was frantic. With one hand being restrained, she clenched her other hand into a fist and threw a punch at him.

Before she could hit home, her wrist was grabbed as well.

She struggled with all her might, but he held her wrists with an iron-clad grip.

"B*stard, let go of me!"

Evan's lips lifted slightly. He continued toying with her, deepening his voice so as to conceal his identity.

"You're a feisty one. Is this you asking me to be rough with you?"

What the hell? Is this b*stard trying to force himself onto me?

Her heart turned cold at this thought. Based on how things are going, this man doesn't seem to have been arranged by the hotel!

When did he even come into my room?

Why didn't I hear anything at all?

Based on the strength of his grip, he seems to be a strong man!

I'm just a woman. If he really forces himself onto me and I fight him with all my might, would it be enough for me to escape his clutches?

Or perhaps instead of using force, I should use my brains to outwit him?

Her intelligent eyes gleamed. She cleared her throat lightly and spoke in a cutesy voice, "Ow. You're hurting me. Let me go first."

This tone and reaction of hers made Evan's whole body tense up.

Nicole has never even treated me this way!

But she's treating a male stranger like this?

From her unusual docile manner, he was sure that she was going to do something unexpected next.

Evan released her wrists. Indeed, Nicole hastily turned on the lights and snatched up her bag from the bedside table, taking out a pepper spray before aiming it at him.

"I'll spray you to death!"

Right after that, she sprayed it at him.

Evan, who was leaning on his side, immediately turned around and pulled the blanket over himself.

"What the hell! Why are you hiding?"

Unable to use her spray on him, Nicole yelled anxiously.

Evan's face darkened. Why am I hiding? Did you expect me to just let you use that pepper spray on me?

Even a brainless idiot would know to hide!

"You... You..."

Damn it. I didn't get him!

It was such a waste of my pepper spray.

No. I have to succeed.

She jumped off the bed and maintained a distance from him before raising her voice, "You! Turn around!"

Ever since Evan burrowed under the blanket, he had been ignoring her.

When Nicole saw this, she pulled the blanket with all her might. Evan did not loosen his grip on it either.

Hence, the two of them entered into a game of tug-of-war. However, his strength was too much for her to overcome. Before long, she became out of breath and stopped trying to pull the blanket away.

"You're bullying me because I'm a woman, aren't you? Just you wait!"

With that, she quickly grabbed her phone and dialed Rocky.

The call connected, but before she could speak, her phone was snatched away and the call was swiftly ended!

Nicole whipped her head up and was dumbstruck when she saw the man's face.

"How... How are you here?"

"Disappointed?" Evan gazed at her with deep eyes.

"No, no..."

She wasn't disappointed, but completely shocked out of her mind!

How did Evan appear here out of nowhere?

"Am I dreaming?"

She muttered to herself, then raised her hand to slap herself on the face.

She slapped herself a little bit too hard. F**k! It really hurts!

I'm really not dreaming!

She looked up at Evan again, suspecting that she was hallucinating.

She closed her eyes, then opened them again.

Evan Seet, the president of Seet Group, was still standing in front of her, staring at her intensely with that same frosty and arrogant look on his face.

"What are you doing here?"

"Don't wanna see me?"

"It's not that. I'm just really surprised."

It's as if he appeared out of thin air!

And it was just too sudden!

He didn't just appear out of nowhere, but the way he appeared was just too...

"I came here to discuss a company project. When I checked into the hotel, I coincidentally spotted you and Rocky eating together."

Nicole stayed silent for a while, wondering whether he had said that last part through gritted teeth or whether she had imagined it.

Rocky and I ran into each other here. Evan wouldn't have read too much into things, right?

She mulled over it for a moment, then casually said that she and Rocky had been discussing a collaboration and that they coincidentally ran into each other.

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Evan's eyes darkened. Coincidentally? This was all clearly planned out.

Take him for example. He said he was here for a project discussion, but he was actually here to see her.

"Are you done with your matters here? Can we go back tomorrow?"

The moment Evan said this, Nicole froze up.

She had previously promised Sophia that she would leave Evan.

And that after she found out what she wanted to know, she would not look for him even when she went back.

But now, he wanted her to go back with him.

"I still have matters to settle tomorrow, so I can't go back."

"What about the day after then?"

"I'm not sure."

"Nicole, you're not abandoning your husband and eloping with another man, are you?"

Abandoning my husband? Eloping with another man?

Nicole widened her eyes at him. Why is he asking me this?

Alas, it was true that she had no choice but to abandon her husband. However, eloping with another man was complete nonsense and downright slander!

"Evan Seet, stop spouting nonsense!"

"That better not be the case! Follow me back tomorrow. Whatever problems there are, we'll face them together once we're back."

Evan's intense eyes bored into hers and his face took on a grave expression.

Nicole squeezed a bitter smile onto her face. A lost life hung between them. They could face it together, but they couldn't solve it.

The Seet family would still oppose them being together. Evan would also face pressure from his family.

He would be going against his entire family just for her sake!

Even as these thoughts ran through her mind, she still feigned obedience and nodded her head reluctantly.

Evan was very satisfied with her response.

He reached out to gently flick her nose before changing the topic. "What was a scaredy-cat like you doing trying to scare other people?"

Nicole blinked at him in shock. Does Evan know something?

Looking at the question in her eyes, Evan revealed the truth to her.

"The knife. I was the one who threw it!"

Nicole's mouth formed the letter 'O' when he said that.

It turned out that he was the one who helped her.

"Did you... Did you hear everything?"

"Yes. Zane should bear the consequences of his own mistakes. It has nothing to do with you and your mom."

Suddenly, Nicole didn't know what to say. Zane was her father. Even though this was what Evan thought, it didn't mean that the rest of the Seet family share the same thought.

Nicole didn't argue with him either but instead planned her next course of action.

Faced with her silence, Evan abruptly jerked her into his arms and warned, "Don't even think about leaving me. And don't let Rocky near you from now on! Or else..."

Can this guy read minds or something?

She was seriously thinking about sneaking away from him and going back to the country with Rocky.

"Or else what?"

"I'll lock you up so that you'll never be able to leave my sight!"

Uhm. Locking me up and stealing my freedom? That's terrifying!

Seeing Evan's commanding stance, Nicole thought to herself, Looks like I'll have to find a chance to go back alone then. How pitiful.

"Understood?"

Nicole came out of her own thoughts and nodded fervently..

Evan was immensely satisfied with her response.

"Good girl. Let's sleep now!"

Nicole slipped into bed and lay down.

Suddenly, she recalled something. Evan pranked me earlier and I still haven't gotten back at him for it.

On second thought, she decided to let it go. On account of him throwing a knife at Sylvia for her, she would call it even between them.

She sighed softly and mumbled, "I'm such a forgiving person!"

"What?"

Evan couldn't hear what she said clearly, so he looked at her with a frown.

Nicole sealed her lips shut and shook her head.

Since I've decided to let it go, I won't bring it up anymore!

Her long and thick lashes fluttered slightly under the warm light. Coupled with her fair and rosy cheeks, she looked extremely cute.

She didn't speak, but Evan's heart trembled at the sight of her.

He abruptly leaned into her. Staring at her with a penetrating gaze, he asked in a low and sexy voice, "Don't you think we should do something before going to bed?"

Seeing the desire swirling in his eyes, Nicole understood his meaning immediately. He's going to start on his perverted ways again.

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Sure enough, without waiting for her response, his large hands caressed every inch of her body, leaving trails of heat behind.

"You didn't travel so many miles just to provide me this special service, did you?" Nicole blurted out.

"You wish!"

Evan gripped her chin between two fingers, the abrupt pain making her yelp slightly.

"Ow! You..."

Before she could say the word 'b*stard', she was silenced by his lips.

Just when Evan was enjoying himself and about to invade that sweet spot between her thighs, someone knocked on the door!

Bang, bang, bang! The knocks were frantic.

Nicole shoved him away and squeaked, "There's someone at the door. I'll get it."

"No, I'll get it!"

Evan put on his clothes and opened the door. When he saw who it was at the door, his face instantly turned black.

"Mr. Seet, when did you arrive?"

Rocky gaped at him in surprise.

Evan looked daggers at him and emanated a murderous aura as he answered with displeasure, "You just interrupted our fun time!"

Rocky was rendered inarticulate.

While Evan had no qualms admitting it out loud, Rocky, on the other hand, felt very awkward.

He hurriedly explained, "Nicole called me earlier but the call was abruptly ended. I was worried, so I decided to come check up on her!"

"She's fine. Stay away from her from now on!"

After he was done warning him, he shut the door with a loud bang.

Rocky stood rooted to the spot while his mind was in a complete mess.

It seemed like he had thought things to be too simple. Just because the Seet family opposed it didn't mean that Evan would really break up with Nicole!

He had underestimated Evan's feelings for Nicole and overestimated his own place in her heart.

Nicole's heart only ever had space for Evan.

He laughed self-mockingly. Then, he turned around and made his way back to his room with a sense of heaviness in each step.

"Who was it?"

"A hotel staff!" Evan replied petulantly.

Nicole blinked twice.

Why did it sound like Rocky though?

"What are you thinking about? Hurry up and sleep!"

Evan got into bed and pulled her tightly against his chest as if declaring ownership over her.

Nicole felt slightly suffocated with how tightly he was hugging her.

"Don't hug me so tightly! I can't breathe!"

"I'm afraid that you'd run away if I don't hug you tight enough!"

Seriously? Does he even know that I'm planning on running away? Is Evan even normal?

Nicole's heart thumped wildly in her chest. Even before she could put her plan into motion, she was already feeling guilty.

In the middle of the night, she whispered into Evan's ear saying that she needed to go to the loo. Only then did Evan loosen his hold on her.

She slinked into the bathroom and began her plan. Her acupuncture skills were going to be put into use again!

She came out of the bathroom and tentatively took out her needles from her luggage. Then, she tiptoed towards the bed and peered down at the sleeping Evan as she deliberated.

If I manage to do this, he'll sleep for a long time. But if I failed, then... I'll just say that I was sleepwalking.

I'm too dedicated to my job and I was practicing acupuncture in my sleep.

Yeah. That sounds like a passable excuse.

She mustered her courage and stuck a needle into him at a precise location!

The next day.

When Evan woke up, he turned his head to see that the other side of the bed was empty.

He immediately shot up and cast a glance across the room. To his dismay, all of Nicole's things were nowhere in sight.

Her luggage, handbag, and everything else had vanished along with her.

He hastily took out his phone and called Nicole, but it showed that her phone had been switched off.

When he looked at the time, he was utterly dumbfounded. He had actually slept for sixteen hours straight!

How did this happen?

A frown appeared on his face as he went deep into thought. Just when he was going to get out of bed, he felt something sharp prick him. When he took a closer look, he found that it was a silver needle.

Realization dawned on him. To escape from him, Nicole had resorted to using her acupuncture skills on him. In her haste to leave, she had probably dropped this needle.

Why is she so adamant about leaving me? Is it because she doesn't trust me to handle matters with my family? Or is it... because of Rocky?

When Evan left the hotel, he purposefully inquired the front desk and found that Rocky had already checked out.

Doubts seeped into his heart. Did Nicole and Rocky leave together?

If they did...

Nicole Lane. Just you wait!

Evan clenched his jaw, the expression on his face frighteningly cold.

The plane landed safely.

Nicole finally breathed a sigh of relief after she stepped out of the airport.

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I have to lay low for the time being. I'll wait until Evan gets tired of looking for me, then only come out of hiding!

She had initially wanted to visit her four children, but when she thought about the current situation, she had no choice but to postpone it.

Hence, she changed her destination to the Lane family. She was going to settle the scores with Zane.

She hailed a cab to the Lane family villa, then stormed into the living room.

"Ms. Nicole!" The maid quickly rushed over to greet her.

"I want to see Zane."

The maid froze. Did Ms. Nicole just call her father by his name?

"Ms. Nicole, Mr. Lane is in his study. I'll inform him of your arrival."

The maid could tell that Nicole wasn't here for friendly reasons. Hence, she ran upstairs as if her tail was on fire.

Nicole swept her gaze across the room. She lowered herself onto the sofa and fixed her flinty eyes on the stairs.

When Zane heard the maid's description, worry lined his features.

With the hostile way Nicole has come looking for me, could it be that she has discovered something?

He discreetly made a few speculations before going downstairs. Before Nicole could speak, he announced, "Nicole, is there something you need? I have an appointment soon so I'm in a rush!"

An appointment?

Nicole didn't believe him in the least.

She figured that he was making an excuse to avoid her.

"I just wanted to tell you that I'll take my time making you pay for what you did to my mother! Also, I'll make sure you pay double for all you've done!"

"Nicole, what are you talking about? I don't understand!"

Zane stared at her, feigning surprise and ignorance.

He's pretending.

He's still pretending.

Nicole couldn't be bothered beating around the bush with him as she stared straight into his eyes.

"You were the culprit behind the hit-and-run! My mom died because of you too! After she died, you even made her take the blame for you. Zane Lane, do you even have a conscience?"

How did she find out about this?

Genuine surprise appeared in Zane's eyes and he quickly denied it.

"Nicole, where did you hear all this? It's all rubbish!"

"Rubbish? Why don't you ask yourself which part of what I just said isn't the truth?"

After Nicole was done reprimanding him, her fierce eyes stared unblinkingly at his face.

She wanted to see if he had a guilty conscience, or if his heart was made of stone.

"Nicole, you have to believe me. I was also heartbroken over your mother's death, but what you just said isn't true at all!"

Hah!

It seems like he really does have a stone for a heart!

I'd only be wasting my breath talking to someone like him!

"It doesn't matter whether you admit it or not. I'll make sure you pay for every single thing!"

Nicole emphasized each word and shot Zane a resolute glare before swiveling on her heels to leave.

Once out of the villa, a humorless laugh suddenly escaped her lips.

If her mother saw how the man she gave all her love to turned out to be, how much pain would she be in?

Everything had a price. Perhaps love was destined to leave scars in people.

"Mom, don't worry. I'll avenge you!"

After taking a cab to Lane Corporation, she gave her assistant some orders regarding company matters before deciding to begin hiding from Evan.

Her assistant looked at her in shock. "Ms. Lane, is there something important you have to settle that's keeping you from coming to the company?"

Nicole pondered for a while before answering, "Yes, I do have some matters I need to handle, but I'll come to the company from time to time."

Evan would no doubt hunt for her, and Lane Corporation was the easiest place to catch her. If he did, there was no way he would let go.

Thus, she could only find the right time to safely sneak into the company!

Oh God. Now I even have to sneak around my own company. Nicole Lane, how did you end up in this state?

She sighed inwardly. This is crazy!

Love can indeed make people stupid!

She really did not want Evan to be pressured or cast out by his own family because of her.

Or even worse, lose everything——his family, his career, his unsurpassable reputation, and his glorious achievements which were born from his blood, sweat, and tears.

If that happened, she would feel uneasy even if she could be together with Evan!

The first thing Evan did when he returned to the country was to search the places Nicole might have gone to.