He went to Summervale only to find that Nicole had indeed come back and even taken away all of her clothes!

She had also dropped by Lane Corporation to pass the company's projects to the senior management.

It seemed like she was really doing everything she could to hide from him!

Nicole, should I continue searching for you, or wait for you to come to me on your own?

A conflicted emotion flickered in Evan's eyes.

Thereafter, he called John.

"Mr. Seet, what can I do for you?"

"I need you to do something for me..."

When Evan was done, John seemed to be in a daze and only regained his senses after a few seconds.

By that time, the other man had already hung up the call.

John stared at his phone screen as it gradually darkened, sighing softly.

He couldn't help but exclaim, "When did Yan Group offend Mr. Seet? If I really carry out Mr. Seet's orders, I'm afraid they'll be swimming in their own tears in no time!"

John carried out Evan's orders, making one phone call after another. Every call was like a lightning strike aimed at Yan Group!

Finally, he intentionally spread the news that someone from the Yan family had offended Mr. Seet and caused the destruction of Yan Group.

Upon hearing the disastrous news, lan's heart wrenched in pain and he burst with rage.

He sent out people to find out just who in the family had stepped on Evan Seet's toes, and what that person did.

In the end, Rocky became the target of criticism.

It wasn't just the Yan family who blamed him, but even the company's board of directors kept calling Ian for an explanation.

lan was livid as he glared at Rocky, who was kneeling on the floor and launched a kick at his chest.

"You useless brat! You messed up because of that woman again! It was also because of her the last time. Didn't I already tell you to stay away from her? But you... You completely disregarded what I said and even dragged down Yan Group with you! Tell me! Tell me how I should punish you!"

Rocky's heart was filled with rage at this moment.

After he found out that Evan had come looking for Nicole, he checked out of the hotel that night itself and fled back to the country. So, he couldn't understand why Evan was doing this to him.

Evan didn't even hesitate to shoot down Yan Group, so Rocky wasn't going to take this lying down!

"Dad, I'll handle this matter. I'll go and look for Evan Seet right now!"

With that, he got to his feet and walked out.

lan watched his son's retreating figure. With worry churning in his stomach, he sternly reminded, "Speak nicely to him when you see him. If you provoke him again, you can forget about coming back here!"

Rocky stiffened. Does that mean I'd have to hand Yan Group to those two illegitimate kids?

No way!

He clenched his fists and walked out of Yan Group.

Evan Seet. What exactly did I ever do to you to deserve this?

I have to clear things up with him.

He started the car and sped towards Seet Group.

When he reached Seet Group's lobby, the front desk stopped him from going up.

"I'm sorry, sir. You need an appointment to meet with our president."

"I'll make one for right now!"

The front desk employee gave him an awkward smile. "Our president's schedule is already fully booked for these two days. You'll have to wait in line."

Rocky was speechless.

He looked around restlessly and spotted John coming out of the elevator just as it opened.

He quickly went up to greet him.

"Mr. Lindt, I need to see Mr. Seet."

John was stunned to see Rocky. *Indeed, Mr. Seet's prediction was spot-on. This man actually came here to look for him just like he said.*

John cleared his throat before answering, "Mr. Yan, follow me."

In the president's office on the highest floor.

Evan, who was leaning languidly against his executive chair, stared at Rocky for a while.

Rocky felt immensely uncomfortable under the man's intense gaze. He drew in a deep breath before speaking, "Mr. Seet, I have a question for you."

"Go ahead."

"I heard rumors saying that you dealt Yan Group a blow because of me."

Evan continued looking at him and replied in a firm tone, "No. They're not rumors, but cold, hard facts!"

Rocky gulped.

Anger sparked in his eyes. "May I know how I've offended you, Mr. Seet?"

"Since you want to know, I'll cut straight to the chase. Where is Nicole right now?"

Nicole?

Rocky's brows scrunched in confusion.

"Mr. Seet, isn't she with you?"

"Are you sure she didn't return to the country with you?"

Rocky remained silent as he steadily met Evan's eyes. "Yes. I'm sure."

Evan's eyes narrowed slightly. Does this mean Nicole came back on her own?

"You'd better be telling the truth!"

"Mr. Seet, I really am telling you the complete truth. After I saw you that night, I immediately checked out of the hotel and didn't see her since then!"

Evan didn't respond to that.

Seeing Evan remain silent, Rocky added that if this were the reason for him taking down Yan Group, he hoped that Evan could let them off because it was all just a misunderstanding.

Evan stared at him with a pensive look on his face. "You want me to let Yan Group off?"

"Yes!"

If Evan continued making things difficult for Yan Group because of him, he would lose his place in Yan Group.

His position would also be taken over by lan's two illegitimate children.

How could he be willing to let that happen?

Evan's mouth twitched slightly. "If you want me to let Yan Group off, make a phone call first."

What?

Rocky took out his phone and per Evan's request, dialed Nicole's personal number.

The call was connected very soon.

"Rocky, is something up?" Nicole's perplexed voice drifted over the phone.

Rocky's eyes darted to search Evan's expression. Only when Evan nodded did he answer, "Yeah. I need to talk to you about something."

"About what?" Nicole prodded.

Rocky looked at Evan again, and the latter quickly scribbled a few words on a piece of paper. *I want to buy you dinner.*

With that, Rocky said into the phone, "I wanna buy you dinner."

"Dinner? Why?"

Evan wrote on the paper. Make up a reason.

Rocky glimpsed at the paper and mindlessly said, "Make up a reason."

"What?" Nicole couldn't make sense of his baffling words.

Evan stood up and violently grabbed the collar of his shirt, giving him a warning glare.

Rocky gave him a guilty look that seemed to say 'I didn't mean it'.

"Rocky, what are you talking about?"

"What I meant was... I have something important to tell you tonight."

Evan scribbled a few more words on the paper. If she doesn't go tonight, Yan Group will pay the price!

Rocky's heart flew into his throat and he started to convince her with more vehemence.

"Nicole, you have to come tonight, otherwise, I... I'll be as good as dead."

He couldn't think of another way to persuade her, so he said the first thing that came to mind, but later felt bad for saying that.

"What? What do you mean 'as good as dead'? Rocky, what exactly happened to you?"

"Nicole, stop asking for now. I'll tell you tonight. I'll send you the location in a while."

Then, he immediately ended the call.

Rocky heaved a sigh. Is this counted as lying to Nicole? Well, I really had no choice but to do it!

"Nicole, please don't blame me!"

"Alright. Leave your phone on the table."

"Mr. Seet, what do you mean by that? You're not thinking of getting your hands on Yan Group's confidential information from my phone, are you?"

Evan shot him a look that said 'you think too highly of Yan Group'.

"Then feel free to stay here until I've seen Nicole."

Rocky was dumbfounded.

Is he afraid that I'd secretly inform Nicole about the truth?

"Mr. Seet, aren't you being a little too paranoid? I'm actually hoping that she would go and meet you. Because that way, you'll let Yan Group off the hook, isn't that right?"

Evan scanned Rocky's helpless expression and sneered.

"Rocky, I can see now that Yan Group is more important than Nicole to you!"

Rocky was stunned silent.

Truth be told, it was his position in Yan Group that was important.

He had to fortify his status as the successor of Yan Group!

Career and women...

Only with a career would he have the right to pursue a relationship with a woman.

A career was the cornerstone for all of this!

So of course, it was the most important thing.

He glanced at Evan and asked, "What about you, Mr. Seet? Is Nicole or Seet Group more important to you?"

Evan's lips quirked up but he didn't answer.

However, there was determination in his eyes.

As long as Nicole was willing to come back, he would give up Seet Group and everything he had for her!

He could lose the whole world, but not her.

He didn't know if this choice of his was right or wrong. All that he knew was that Nicole was an obsession embedded deep into his very soul.

When Rocky saw the look on his face, his heart sank as realization dawned on him. Perhaps Evan really loved Nicole more than he did.

However, seeing the woman whom he had liked for so many years with another man was easier said than done.

The current Rocky didn't have the tolerance for that. Hence, he would fight for her whenever it was necessary.

Night fell and Rocky's phone abruptly rang. Nicole had brought forward the meeting time.

After their previous conversation over the phone, she kept wondering what Rocky meant when he said that he would be as good as dead.

She surmised that perhaps Rocky had fallen severely ill and needed her to treat him.

Treating illnesses to save lives wasn't something that could be delayed, so she decided to meet him sooner.

"Rocky, I'm heading over to the location you sent me right now. Hurry up and meet me there!"

"Okay, Nicole. I'll go there right now."

After the call ended, Rocky looked at Evan.

Evan was quite satisfied with his performance. He gave John, who was beside him, a pointed look before rushing towards the location to meet Nicole.

Rocky and his phone had been under John and a few bodyguards' watchful eyes the whole time, and he had no freedom whatsoever.

Evan had clearly stated that he would only let Rocky go and relieve the crisis Yan Group was facing if he called Nicole.

Hence, no matter how reluctant Rocky was, he could only cooperate.

Nicole arrived at the agreed meeting location, which was a bar. Once inside, she made sure to find the correct room number before quickly stepping in.

She spotted a man whose face was concealed behind a magazine. Thereafter, she bombarded him with words of concern.

"Rocky, do you have some kind of incurable illness? Don't worry, I'll take a look at you. Even if I can't cure you, there's still my master. My master can..."

"You can cure me!"

Evan lowered the magazine in his hand. When Nicole took a good look at his face, she was shocked beyond words.

She stood there with her mouth agape, seemingly completely petrified.

Why is Evan here?

Rocky was clearly the one who called me. And he was also the one who told me to come here.

Don't tell me...

Who am I kidding?

Rocky helped Evan to trick me!

She let out a frustrated sigh as several questions raked at her mind.

Rocky, did you help Evan because you think you're both men and hence, should be on the same side?

Did you forget how Evan bullied you last time?

She mentally gave Rocky an extremely disdainful look.

"Are you so touched to see me that you're lost for words?"

Evan's voice pulled Nicole back to reality. Clearing her throat, she offered him a bland smile.

"I think I came to the wrong place. Sorry."

Without wasting any time, she pivoted around and ran towards the door like a madwoman.

Huh?

When was the door closed? Why can't I open it?

"You should stop wasting your energy. You can't open it."

An incredibly familiar baritone voice sounded from behind her. Nicole's hope of escaping was snuffed out when she realized that the door was indeed unbudgeable.

Wearing a smile on her face, she looked over her shoulder. "What a coincidence. I never thought that you'd be in this room, Mr. Seet."

"Whose room did you want to enter?"

Whose room?

B*stard!

You clearly know who you ordered to call me out!

And yet you have the audacity to ask me!

Nicole inwardly rolled her eyes at him before clearing her throat and taking the seat opposite his.

Evan stood up and gently took her hand in his, causing Nicole to frown. What is he getting at?

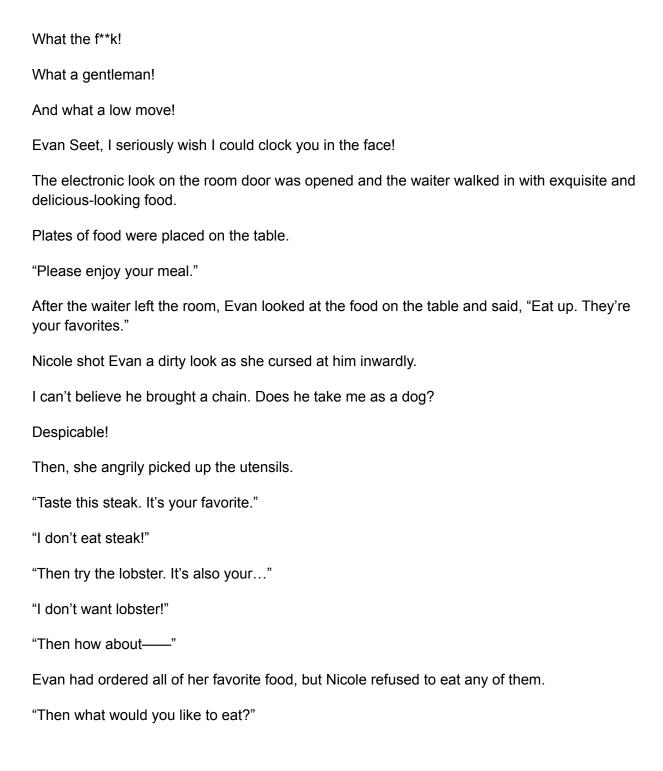
She briefly noticed that Evan was holding something in his other hand before a *click* sounded and her wrist was cuffed.

Following that, Evan calmly locked the other side of the handcuff on a chain that he had prepared. Then, he wrapped the chain around the leg of the table a few times to make sure it stayed in place.

Nicole's jaw was hanging off its hinges when she saw what he did.

"Evan Seet! What are you doing?" Nicole yelled at him.

Evan's tone was flat even as he answered her earnestly, "I'm hungry and I wanna eat. But I'm afraid that if I open the door and call the waiter here, you'd run away again. So, I really had no choice. Forgive me."



"You!"

Nicole looked at him with a sullen face.

Evan stared at her puffed-up cheeks and smiled slightly.

"You wanna eat me? Well, why didn't you say so?"

Nicole blinked at him and bowed her head without making a sound.

Evan rolled up his sleeve and offered out his forearm to her. "Here. Eat up!"

Nicole's eyes widened. He's insane!

"If you don't wanna eat my arm, which part of me do you wanna eat?"

Nicole was speechless once again.

Seeing her remain tight-lipped, Evan acted as though he had a moment of revelation and exclaimed, "Oh, that part? No wonder you're too embarrassed to say it out loud!"

Nicole almost choked. She really wanted to throw one of the plates at him.

She abruptly pulled Evan's arm towards her and sank her teeth into his flesh.

She bit down hard.

Despite that, Evan didn't dodge or pulled his arm back. Instead, he let her bite him!

She was bewildered and frustrated at the same time. Doesn't this b*stard feel any pain?

I'm biting him so hard but yet, he's not making a single sound.

After biting him so hard, half of her rage was quelled.

Slowly, she relaxed her jaws and moved away.

"Done biting? Then, let's eat!"

Evan began cutting up the food into smaller pieces for her.

Looking at his thoughtful actions, Nicole's heart constricted with complicated emotions.

Why is Evan so nice to me?

If he keeps this up, I don't know how I'm going to resist him!

"Eat up now. All these taste much better than my arm."

Nicole's eyes darted to his before she looked down and began eating.

After dinner, Evan took her back to Summervale.

The moment she stepped into the empty house, memories of her four children flooded her mind.

"Are the kids at the Seet Residence?"

"Yes. They'll be staying at Seet Residence until you marry me."

"What? Evan Seet, do you really want me to marry you that badly?"

"Yes! Stop running and face it together with me!"

Nicole's heart skipped a beat.

"What if your family opposes it until the end?"

"I'll convince them!"

Zane was the hit-and-run culprit, not Nicole's mother. If Zane paid for his crime, perhaps Jonathan Seet would stop being angry at Nicole and allow them to marry.

Nicole didn't continue arguing with him. She could only take things one step at a time. If the Seets came looking for her, then she would react based on the situation.

Just when she snapped out of her stupor, Evan tugged her into the bathroom.

"Why are you taking me to the bathroom? I don't wanna go."

"You have to because I want to."

"Then you go, I'm not..."

Before she could finish, Evan pulled on the chain in his hand. Only then did Nicole realize that her left hand was still cuffed to it.

"Can't you just unlock the cuffs, Evan?"

Evan gave her a look and calmly replied, "No."

He had a feeling that if she snuck away again this time, it wouldn't be so easy to find her or trick her the next time.

"Mr. Seet, I swear that I won't run anymore."

Nicole raised her hand and vowed.

Evan gave her a sidelong glance. "Your vow isn't as credible as these handcuffs. I'll keep them locked for my own peace of mind."

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Nicole was at a loss for words.

Thus, Nicole was dragged into the bathroom by Evan.

The bathroom was soon filled with Nicole's complaints as she urged him.

"Evan, hurry up. Are you done yet? How much longer do you need? So many seconds have passed. Can you hurry up..."

Hmph. This is what you get for wanting me to follow you around!

Evan directed a bored gaze at her and threatened, "If you nag some more, I'll lock your mouth next!"

Nicole stopped talking then.

He looks so scary!

She blinked twice and abruptly clamped her mouth shut.

It's bad enough that he's taken away my freedom, and now he's threatening to take away my freedom of speech too?

You're the biggest a**hole in the whole wide world, Evan Seet!

The next day.

Evan wanted Nicole to follow him to the company.

Nicole went on a hunger strike so that she wouldn't need to go, but in the end, her efforts were futile and she was dragged to the company anyway.

As soon as they stepped into the company, they caught the employees' attention and whispers shrouded the entire place.

"Didn't Mr. Seet and Ms. Lane break up? And I thought Ms. Sweeting and Mr. Seet were in a relationship."

"Yeah. I also heard that Sofie Sweeting is the one marrying Mr. Seet and that his grandfather, Mr. Russell, was the one who arranged it for him."

"But that doesn't seem to be the case now. Could those be rumors?"

"Oh gosh. Look! Isn't that Ms. Sweeting? She's probably here to see Mr. Seet, right? I can sense the drama about to happen."

"Yeah. Do you think she'd be chased out by Mr. Seet if she enters his office?"

"I can't say. Who knows, maybe Ms. Lane will be the one getting chased out."

"Then let's wait and see."

The employees stared after Sofie who walked into the elevator. Their curiosities were piqued as they tried to guess whether she or Nicole would come out of that elevator first.

In the president's office.

Nicole was sitting opposite Evan, looking at him with pitiful eyes.

"Mr. Seet, why don't you let me go to Lane Corporation? There are a lot of matters that need to be settled there too."

Evan silently took a report from the side and handed it to her.

"Let's do it this way. You help me with Seet Group's matters in the morning, and I'll help you with Lane Corporation's matters in the afternoon. Feel free to ask me if you come across anything you don't understand. I'll train you, so you'll be benefiting at the same time. What do you think?"

I'll be benefiting at the same time?

Nicole glared at him, but just as she was about to throw back a smart remark, a knock sounded on the door to his office.

"Who is it?"

"Evan, it's me, Sofie."

Sofie's gentle voice sounded from the other side of the door.

Evan's face instantly darkened as he impatiently replied, "Come in."

Sofie readjusted her clothes and plastered a smile on her face before pushing into the office and speaking in her gentle voice, "Evan, Grandpa asked me to..."

When her gaze fell on Nicole who was sitting across from Evan, the words died in her throat and the coquettish smile on her face froze.

Why is she here?

Didn't she says she'd left Evan and would never appear again?

"What is it?"

Evan's chilly voice pulled Sofie back to the present.

She spoke slowly, "Evan, Grandpa asked me to come and be your assistant."

So that we can spend more time together and cultivate feelings?

Nicole's face darkened slightly. It seems like Evan's grandfather is trying to bring Sofie and Evan together.

Then, shouldn't I be the bigger person and——

She lifted her gaze to look at Evan.

"I don't need it. You can go now," Evan replied simply.

Sofie's expression became awkward.

However, she was still reluctant to leave just like that. Hence, she recalled the lesson Lisa had taught her about concealing her true intentions.

"Evan, don't get me wrong. This is what Grandpa wants. Just think of it as granting your Grandpa's wish and take me in."

She also didn't forget to emphasize, "I don't have any other intentions and I won't disturb you or Ms. Lane."

Nicole couldn't help but curl her lips when she heard what Sofie said.

She actually pinned everything on Mr. Russell. Even if he wanted this, he couldn't have forced her to come if she wasn't willing, right?

At the end of the day, she's the one who wanted to come here!

Nicole's guess was spot-on. It was Sofie and Lisa who sang along to each other's tunes in front of Russell and planted the idea in his head.