

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1017

Evan ducked and dived as Nicole chased him around the house. Everyone was stupefied by the commotion in front of them.

Did they get into an argument?

She's using a knife?

Mr. Seet's arm is bleeding. Did Mrs. Seet do that?

What's going on?

Everyone there immediately tried to stop Nicole, only to be stopped by Evan in turn. "Nobody shall touch her. She has a knife. If you try to intervene, you'll either hurt yourself or hurt her."

The maids could only watch Evan dodging around as they tried to figure out what had happened to Nicole.

You're married! Why would you threaten his life over an argument?

As Nicole once again lunged at Evan, he was able to do a quick sidestep and deliver a swift chop on the back of her neck. Finally, the confrontation ended with Nicole falling unconscious into Evan's arms.

"Mr. Evan, you're injured."

"It's just a scratch."

Evan was unconcerned about his wound and carried Nicole back to the bedroom.

The butler immediately called the family doctor, who arrived soon after to treat Evan's injury.

"Mr. Seet, this is a deep cut."

"It's fine. I'll be staying at home anyway. It won't be too much of a hassle."

The doctor secretly let out a sigh. Mrs. Seet's situation right now is really tricky.

"Mr. Seet, why don't we admit Mrs. Seet into a hospital? It's too dangerous to leave her like this." The doctor was being extremely serious.

"No need. I'll be more mindful about it."

Evan's response left the doctor speechless. The doctor understood Evan was worried that something might happen to Nicole inside the hospital.

When he left, the doctor suddenly remembered that Nicole had baited out some information from him, and was wondering whether he should turn back to tell Evan.

Suddenly, his phone rang. It was Sophia, asking him to head to the Seet Residence.

The doctor pondered for a while and decided to go to Sophia first. I'll tell him next time. Getting him angry right now would be the worst choice ever.

At the Seet Residence.

Sophia had already caught wind of what happened at Imperial Garden——that Evan was injured.

Despite knowing clearly that the root cause of the incident was Nicole’s hallucinations, Sophia was still worried about Evan.

“How’s Evan? Is it serious?”

“His injury has been treated; it’s nothing too serious.”

The moment the doctor finished, Sophia let out a heavy sigh. “This is too dangerous. She even used a knife this time. Thank goodness it was just his arm! I-I don’t know what I would do if something were to happen to Evan.”

She had mixed feelings about the situation and was really agitated.

On one hand, Sophia felt very sorry for what happened to Nicole. On the other hand, however, she had to consider her son’s well-being. Any mother in the world would be afraid to have a ticking time bomb like Nicole beside their children.

Do I have to think of something to separate them?

As soon as that idea popped into her head, Sophia felt appalled. How could I ever think that! They’ve gone through so much hardship and suffering to be with each other. I’m a terrible person!

Sophia became really frustrated with herself because of that.

After the doctor left, she brought this up with Murphy.

“Her situation right now is as good as dead,” Murphy let out a sigh. “Evan’s being stubborn here. With his status, he could get any woman out there. Why suffer together with her? Nicole won’t live long. In the end, Evan will have suffered for nothing.”

Sophia’s heart ached. “When she goes crazy, she would hurt Evan and the kids. But then she forgets everything when she snaps out of it. Does she suffer at all?”

“Of course. Whenever she starts hallucinating, her body as well as her mind take a heavy toll. She’s going at Evan for now, but it won’t be long before she starts hurting herself. If things become severe enough, she might even commit suicide.”

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“Sophia, to be honest, perhaps her death would be the best way out for Evan and you. As for my son, Levant, he can finally stop thinking about her. It may be selfish of me to say so, but she’s suffering too, so we might as well...”

Murphy instantly shut up when he met Sophia’s terrifying gaze. “Alright, forget about it,” he sighed.

He heaved a sigh and headed upstairs.

Sophia was lost in thought as her heart beat nervously in her chest.

Dear God, why is this happening? This must be Nicole and Evan’s predestined fate. He’s risking his life to be with her. Is there nothing else I can do as a mother other than to watch him risk his own life?

What should I do? What am I going to do?

...

Back at the Imperial Garden.

Nicole only regained consciousness in the afternoon, and Evan sitting by the side of her bed was the first thing she saw when she opened her eyes.

She had a splitting headache, and every part of her body hurt as if she had gone through savage torture.

“Nicole, you’re awake.”

“What happened to me, Evan?” Her voice was weak.

“You’re fine. You told me you were tired, so you took some rest.”

Nicole sat up. She saw Evan’s injured arm and was stunned. “What happened to your arm?” She asked.

Evan knew she was bound to ask about his injury, so he replied with the excuse that he had planned. “I was injured by some scoundrel when I was out. It was probably because the company’s project had jeopardized someone’s golden eggs, so it seems like I should lay low and stay at home with you for the time being.”

“...”

Nicole furrowed her eyebrows. Despite his fluent speech, she couldn’t help but feel uneasy for some reason. She gave it some thought and couldn’t help but retain the hunch that something bad was about to happen.

Was he injured because of me? Did it have something to do with my “madness”?

Did I have a relapse?

Every part of her body hurt. When she had woken up earlier, she had not felt like her usual self, so she concluded that she must have had a relapse!

She forced the truth out of an honest maid using her status as the lady of Imperial Garden while Evan hadn’t been paying attention.

She found out that she was the one who had stabbed Evan’s arm with a blade, and that truth hurt her heart so much that she had to gasp for breath. It was so painful that she had a hard time standing still.

I was the one who had hurt him.

It was really me!

Her face turned as pale as a piece of paper.

Nicole Lane, how could you do that? How could you harm Evan? You’re a terrifying monster...

She stood in stunned silence for a while. Then, like a person who had just lost her soul, she headed back to the bedroom.

When she passed by the study room, she caught sight of Evan, who was working on his laptop. The sight made her heartbroken, and she teared up from the guilt.

Evan, I'm sorry that I hurt you...I'm sorry...

She walked towards him and tugged at his sleeve timidly like a child waiting to be reprimanded. She didn't know what to say, so she stood quietly by his side.

Evan settled the project on hand and turned to her. He immediately noticed that something was amiss. "What's wrong? Are you feeling not well?" he asked in concern.

Tears slowly welled up her eyes, but she held them back. "How's your arm? Does it still hurt?" she asked.

He shot a glance at his arm and assured her it was just a minor injury.

"Why? Are you worried about me?"

She wasn't just worried, she was feeling increasingly guilty by the minute.

Evan thought she was worried about his injury, so he took her into his arms and said softly, "Silly girl, it's nothing serious."

She didn't remember how she had stabbed him in his arm. She couldn't recall anything about the incident. However, just by looking at the gauze wrapped around his arm, she knew that she hadn't held back at all when she had stabbed him.

Evan, do you really not blame me?

Do you really have no worries about being with a dangerous woman like me?

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While Nicole was lost in thought, the maid outside the study room suddenly reported, "Mr. Seet, Ma'am is here."

"Let's go."

"Alright."

They went down the stairs and headed to the dining room together.

Meanwhile, Sophia was wandering around the room in deep anxiety.

Upon seeing them, she immediately walked towards Evan. She had been so worried about him.

"Mom, I'm fine. It's just a small wound."

Sophia glanced up at Nicole with complicated emotion.

She understood that Nicole hadn't intended to hurt him. She only behaved in that way because of the Hallucinogen. However, taking into account the current state of her condition, it was dangerous to let her stay by Evan's side.

Her heart was in her mouth as she thought about that.

Nicole realized Sophia sang a different tune after the incident, but she could relate to the latter's attitude change. She was a mother as well, and she would want to keep her children safe from all harm.

Therefore, she didn't blame her.

"Evan, why don't you stay in Seet Residence for now? Your uncle wants to have a chat with you."

Nicole agreed with her suggestion. If Evan stayed at the Seet Residence, he would not be harmed by her at the very least.

However, Evan turned Sophia down without an ounce of hesitation. "Mom, I won't stay in Seet Residence. My home is wherever Nicole is." he asserted.

"You..." Sophia sighed. She knew how stubborn he could be, so she didn't push him.

Thoughtfully, Nicole said, "I think you should stay there for a few days. The kids are there too, and I need some time to myself to focus on the acupuncture."

"..."

Evan frowned at her words. "You need time to yourself? Am I an annoyance to you?" he asked.

"..." How was that possible? All she wanted to do was to protect him.

"Yes. I'm stuck with you every day, and things start to get boring. Have you not heard the saying that absence makes the heart grow fond?" she replied.

"Listen to your wife, Evan, let's just stay in Seet Residence for a few days," Sophia chimed in.

Evan coldly sneered. "Absence makes the heart grow fond? To me, everything seems fonder right here with you!"

"..."

It seemed like Evan had made up his mind. Sophia heaved a sigh, and Nicole said nothing more.

Nevertheless, she had an idea in her mind. The best way to keep him away from her was to quarrel with him. If she deliberately found fault with everything he did, he definitely would not be able to stand her. He would leave her alone for sure that way.

After sending Sophia off, she began the execution of her plan.

Before going to bed, she suddenly wanted to have a glass of milk, so she yelled nastily at him, "Go and get me a glass of milk!"

"..."

Evan narrowed his eyes. Although Nicole was a feisty lady, he couldn't recall a single time when she had talked to him with such attitude. He was surprised to see her acting so pretentious.

"Sure, wait right here."

Evan stood up and headed downstairs.

Nicole took a deep breath. Why was he smiling while walking out of the room? Shouldn't he be mad when I had talked to him with such a bad attitude?

Right when Nicole was pondering over Evan's strange reaction, he returned with a glass of milk and handed it over to her in a respectful manner.

"Mrs. Seet, here's your milk."

"..."

Nicole shot him a sideward look as she took over the glass and took a sip. Milk had literally never tasted better.

She held herself back from taking another sip and spat out the milk suddenly. "Evan Seet, how dare you serve me this terrible milk! What are you thinking? You are doing this on purpose, aren't you?" she yelled.

"..."

Evan was stunned by her sudden change of attitude. Could it be the side effect of Hallucinogen? Is that the reason why she is emotionally unstable?

He gazed at her patiently. "I'll get you another glass."

Unceremoniously, she handed the glass back to him while giving him a death stare.

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Nicole pulled a face after Evan left. He was too nice to her. She would have to take things a step further if she wanted to provoke him.

She had to harden her resolve and go all out to make him leave. That was the only way to keep him safe.

Evan came back with another glass of milk. Respectfully, he placed the glass of milk in front of her. "Mrs. Seet, please have a taste. I assure you that would taste completely different from the previous glass."

She took over the glass and took a sip, proceeding to spit it all out, right on his body.

"This is freaking disgusting! It's even worse than the previous one. Evan Seet, go get me another glass!"

He frowned at her reaction. He was worried that this might be a symptom of relapse for her "madness".

He went downstairs to get her another one, phoning the doctor while at it to consult about her condition.

"Mr. Seet, I can't give you an exact answer. How about I head over to your place right now and check on Mrs. Seet?"

"Sure!"

Evan hung up the phone and brought the third glass of milk into the bedroom.

Nicole didn't even taste it. She knocked over the glass, and it crashed to the floor. "Is that even milk? It disgusts me!"

"..."

It was milk!

Without a doubt.

Was she having an attack of Hallucinogen? Was that why she was mistaking the milk as something else?

Evan didn't refute her words. He walked towards her and held her in his arms. "Tell me, what kind of milk do you like? I'll buy you anything you like. I'll get it for you now." he uttered softly.

"..."

Evan, you're a fool. Can't you tell that I'm doing all this on purpose?

Why are you putting up with me when I'm being unreasonable? You are the president of the Seet Group. You should... You should be exactly like Lucifer and treat me cruelly like how you deal with those people who try to harm you.

Seeing that Nicole remained silent, Evan wanted to comfort her more, but she pushed him away fiercely. "You're so annoying! Leave me alone!"

"Alright. I'll leave now. I'll be right outside, so call me if you need anything." he replied.

"..."

He didn't get mad at all, even when I pushed him.

Is he the Evan Seet I know?

Is this the same guy who was the president of the Seet Group?

Evan, where's your temper?

He walked out of the room and had even closed the door for her. Nicole's emotions were a jumbled ball of mess.

A man has no temper only when he falls in love with a woman.

Evan, you truly love me and cherish me! But I don't want your love right now. I want you to stay away from me, as far as possible!

She put her head between her hands as she racked her brains for a way to make him leave.

The doctor arrived, and Evan knocked on the door, informing her that the doctor was here to dress his wound and would be giving her a checkup as well.

Something was not right. Nicole thought about the situation.

Why would the doctor give me a checkup in the middle of the night? Did he suspect that I was having a relapse?

Based on how he had tolerated her a moment ago, it was very likely that he had such thoughts.

If he knew that there was nothing wrong with her, perhaps then, he wouldn't tolerate her anymore.

"Alright."

Nicole was cooperative throughout the whole examination, and the doctor proceeded to have a talk with Evan in the study room afterward.

"Everything seems normal. There were no symptoms of Mrs. Seet having a relapse."

Evan was baffled. "Normal? She is emotionally unstable and has been throwing a tantrum. What's going on?" he questioned.

The doctor pondered about it and replied, "Mr. Seet, I think that has nothing to do with the Hallucinogen. If it were a relapse, there definitely would be something wrong with her organs. Mrs. Seet likely has unstable emotions because of her bad mood. It is common for women to start acting contrived when they are in a bad mood."

Contrived?

Evan furrowed his eyebrows.

The doctor felt so sorry for Evan. The "madness" caused by Hallucinogen was enough to cause him a headache, but now he had to deal with her mood swings as well.

Mr. Seet, I guess you'll have to go through a hard time these days.

"I see. You can go back now."

"Yes, Mr. Seet."

After the doctor left, Evan stood in the courtyard to get some fresh air. He was afraid that his presence in the bedroom might provoke her, so he didn't want to be in her line of sight.

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Nicole was probably the only person in the whole world who could make Evan Seet put up with her spite.

Standing in the cooling night breeze, Evan looked up at the dim stars. A shred of gloom clouded his gorgeous features as his dark eyes filled with despair.

By the time he returned to the bedroom, Nicole had already fallen asleep. He pulled the blanket over and covered her to keep her warm. Then, he lay down beside her and cuddled her snugly.

Regardless of her violence and mood swings, she would always be the woman whom he loved the most.

He would love her forever!

...

In the Levant Winery.

Levant was shocked when he found out that Nicole had injured Evan. "How's he dealing with it? Are his injuries serious?"

"He's fine, other than that injury on his arm."

"No, I meant... How are things between Nicole and him? Did he scold her or become estranged from her?"

Avril stared at him as if she were looking at a freak. "How do you even have the mood to be concerned about this? Don't tell me that you've still got feelings for her. She has taken Hallucinogen, and that means she can't live for long. Aren't you aware of that?"

Levant ignored her words and persisted with his queries. "Has Evan left her yet?"

"..."

Avril heaved a sigh. "You know how much he loves her. Do you really think that he would leave her? Not only did he not leave her, but he also kept the truth from her. He forbade anybody to tell her about the Hallucinogen and how he got his wound!"

Levant was at a loss for words.

"Is he really treating her well? Does he really not care about his own safety? All for the sake of staying by her?" Levant was surprised.

He can't really sacrifice his life for her, can he?

"Levant, listen to me. Stop being so obsessed with her. You should forget about her and pay more attention to Tiffany. I met with her yesterday, and she kept asking about you. I can tell that she has missed you very much. But perhaps she thought she didn't deserve to be with you, so she was very cautious with her words."

"Nicole..."

"F***ing hell! Stop that! Did you not hear what I just told you?"

Levant drooped his head and shot her a cold glare. "You are the one who should listen to yourself! Or else, I'll tell Dad that you sneaked out to meet Sir Musgrave!"

"You...You're taking my kindness for granted! She's not the one for you! You have no future with her! We don't even know how much longer she can live. Even if she's able to live a long life, you won't be the one who's meant for her anyway."

"..."

He side-eyed her and turned around to walk away.

"Where are you going? You are not going to visit her, are you?"

Avril sighed, but a doubt suddenly crossed her mind. He is obsessed with Nicole, and I am obsessed with Stephen, but who was the more obsessive one?

Of course it's Levant!

She was confident that she was in control of her feelings towards Stephen.

The way Levant held on to his loved one was nothing like Murphy. Instead, he reminded her of Stephen.

Now that she thought of it, she realized she was not the person whom Stephen loved the most. It was Rosalie, Nicole's mother, whom he loved, not her!

"I won't lose to a person who died ages ago. I refuse to accept defeat! Stephen, we shall see how things will end up!"

Back at the Imperial Garden.

When the butler informed Evan about Levant's arrival, he told the butler to chase him out.

"Tell him we don't have time for him!"

"Yes, Mr. Evan."

"Wait, " Nicole disagreed, "It's been a while since I last met him. I miss him. Let him in."

Silence ensued.

The butler froze on the spot and looked back and forth between his two masters. He didn't know to whom he should listen but eventually decided to wait for Evan's instruction.

Evan stared at her with a cold expression. Is she still having a mood swing? Eventually, he gave in to her request. He was curious. Now that Levant is here, how are you going to behave, Nicole?

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"Let him in."

"Yes, Mr. Evan."

Levant entered the living room. With a glimmer in her eyes, Nicole ran towards him. "Levant, I haven't seen you in a while, and I really miss you."

"..."

Levant looked at her, confused.

Is Nicole talking to me? Did she really say she missed me?

This statement astonished him more than winning the lottery.

"Levant, what's the matter? Did you come here to see me?"

Levant returned to his senses and said, "Yes! I came here to see you. How are you?"

Nicole nodded vigorously. She gave Levant a warm welcome and showed him to his seat. She then asked the maid to serve him tea, all the while completely ignoring Evan's existence.

Levant was pleased to receive such hospitality from Nicole. Although he did not understand the change in Nicole's attitude toward him, he was truly enjoying every second of this treatment.

Evan watched their interactions coldly. He was really starting to entertain the idea of marching over and grabbing Levant by the collar to kick him out of the Imperial Garden.

“Nicole, if you have the time, do visit the winery. They included new delicacies to their menu, so you should head over to give them a taste and see if you like them.”

“She doesn’t like the food at Levant Winery!”

Evan blurted out before Nicole could respond. He stalked up next to Nicole and looked down on Levant with his piercing gaze, emitting an air of a king’s aura.

Levant, who was sitting in Evan’s direct line of gaze, suddenly felt oppressed. Nicole’s warm hospitality was certainly a sharp contrast to Evan’s cold attitude.

He found himself wandering between fire and ice. There was Nicole, whose smile was as warm as the spring breeze, but there was also Evan, whose glare was as cold as ice.

They have always been in harmony with each other. They have never been at odds like they are right now. What happened? Could it be that they are really going through a rough patch? If that’s the case, isn’t this the perfect chance for me to mess up their relationship and get between them?

Levant watched their actions keenly while silently celebrating this discovery. “Nicole, would you like to go?” He asked again.

“Of course! Let’s go now!” Nicole exclaimed, shooting a glare at Evan while she spoke.

Evan’s face instantly paled. He came to a sudden realization that Nicole’s contrived acts were aimed at his annoyance only.

What is she trying to do?

He studied Nicole carefully and noticed that she was looking at him with utter disgust. His heart clenched like someone had just stabbed him with a knife.

He could not understand Nicole’s sudden hatred toward him. He furrowed his eyebrows slightly, lost in thought.

“I didn’t have breakfast, and I do feel a little hungry right now. Let’s go,” Nicole urged.

Levant was overjoyed. He turned to Evan and asked calmly, “Mr. Seet, you don’t have a problem with that, do you?”

Evan’s face darkened, and the anger in his deep-set eyes was eminent.

Nicole did not dare to look at him. She knew she was contrived! But being contrived was the only way to make Evan hate her and eventually leave her.

“No. Let me grab a change of clothes then, we can go together.”

Levant was speechless.

He really did not want the man’s company!

Nicole stood up all of a sudden and bellowed at Evan, "Why bother! You treat me like your prisoner and keep me under your close surveillance every single day! I'm sick of this! I don't want to see your face! Levant, let's go!"

"..."

Nicole's rave, filled with bellowing anger, came as a shock to both Evan and Levant.

How could Nicole talk to Evan like that? Was there really trouble in paradise?

While Levant was lost in his own world, he could hear Nicole calling out to him, "Hurry up already!"

He came to his senses and followed Nicole out of the living room. He wanted to look back at Evan, but he didn't dare to. Even without having to look, he knew that the man left behind would surely be staring daggers at him, wishing to butcher him with his glare.

It was only after they left the Imperial Garden and got in Levant's car that Nicole shed her pretense. Levant took the initiative to strike up a conversation with her, to which she responded wearily, and all her enthusiasm from before had vanished.

The only thing she could think about was how crushed Evan must have been by her attitude a while ago.

Witnessing a complete change in her attitude, Levant finally understood the situation. Nicole's enthusiasm towards him just now had been a show to spite Evan!

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"Were you using me just now?"

Levant spoke in an indifferent tone, pulling Nicole's thoughts back to the present. She shot him an apologetic look and said to him piously, "I'm sorry."

"..."

Levant's thin, delicate lips curled up into a mocking sneer. Nicole, I don't blame you. I feel happy even though you took advantage of me.

The car sped all the way to Levant Winery.

Avril was just about to head out when she saw Levant and Nicole coming back in a car, with Evan nowhere to be seen. A look of surprise found its way to her face.

"Why did the two of you come back together?"

"Why can't we?" Levant retorted.

Stunned, Avril replied, "Of course you can! I just wasn't expecting it."

They went up to a private room, with Avril's curious gaze fixated at their backs. Evan's fiancée is dining with her suitor, Levant. I wonder if Evan knows about this.

As Levant's sister, she knew that Levant and Nicole relationship would never lead anywhere, which was why she sincerely hoped that the two would not get too close and comfortable with each other. Therefore, after some consideration, she phoned for Evan.

The call was answered quickly.

"Mr. Seet, did you know that your wife is dining with Levant..."

"...right now?" Evan hung up her call before she could finish her sentence.

She stared blankly at her phone screen, wondering what in the world was going on.

By the time she got to the Seet Residence, she was still pondering over Evan's intention of hanging up on her. Perhaps he didn't believe me?

She brought up that matter in front of Sophia later. When Sophia learned that Nicole was at Levant Winery, she decided to meet her.

"Sophia, if you want to meet her, you should let her come to you. You are the elder here, so you shouldn't have to seek her out!"

"That won't do. We can't have her showing up at the Seet Residence," Sophia said with concern.

"Why?" Avril asked.

Sophia did not provide an answer, opting instead to dismiss her with a sentence. "You'll know someday." She then sought help from Avril and Murphy.

Murphy readily agreed after hearing her request.

"Sophia, don't you worry. I'll call Levant."

"Right, I only need half an hour. Have Levant occupied elsewhere for that period."

Sophia showed up at the Levant Winery according to plan. Levant had received an emergency call out of the blue and thus had to excuse himself. Sophia seized that opportunity to slip inside and greet Nicole.

"Nicole, how are you doing?"

How am I doing?

Nicole knew what she was referring to. Sophia was talking about her "madness".

"Sophia, I'm well aware of my condition. Whatever it is that you have to say, just put it out there. I'm all ears."

That statement stunned Sophia. "Why, Nicole, you're a bright child. In that case, I won't beat around the bush..."

Sophia told her her piece of mind, leaving Nicole in a daze, having rendered speechless, long after she had finished her speech.

“Nicole, I know you would probably be against this arrangement. In fact, you might even resent me. B- But I can’t afford to care about all these. Parents will never stop worrying about their children, after all. I just don’t want my son’s life to be in danger. “

“...”

Nicole’s eyes watered and she lifted her head up to look at the older woman. “Sophia, I don’t blame you. I just... I just can’t bear to leave him... and our children.”

“I know. I understand that. I’ll take good care of them. If you really miss them, I will send you videos. We can still keep in touch, but Evan... Whenever I think of him being in danger, I just can’t eat or sleep well. D-Do you understand how I feel?”

Nicole wiped her tears away. “Don’t worry, I won’t let him know where I am.”

Sophia had not expected Nicole to be so cooperative. She held the younger woman’s hand tightly as she grieved.

Nicole, I’m sorry. I really wanted you to live happily with Evan. I had really hoped that the two of you would eventually get married, but I really can’t stand by and watch my son live in constant peril. I’m a selfish mother! I can understand if you blame me or resent me for everything that I have done to you. I’ll make sure that you’ll be well taken care of. I won’t let you be treated badly in any aspect of your life.

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“Sophia, I left the house with Levant. If I leave just like this, it’ll cause trouble for Levant and the winery. Let me stay at the Imperial Garden for one more night. I’ll leave tomorrow. Is that alright?”

She had taken enough advantage of Levant and she did not want to hurt him again.

Furthermore, she wanted to see Evan just one last time.

Once she left, she didn’t know if she would ever see him again. She did not know how much longer she could live either.

“...”

Sophia empathized with her struggles and reluctance to part. She uttered, in between sobs, “Alright. I trust you. I know you don’t want to hurt Evan either. I understand how you feel.”

...

By the time Nicole got back to the Imperial Garden, Evan was already waiting for her on the brown sofa. His deep-set eyes lingered on her frame upon seeing her return.

“You’re back! How’s the food at Levant Winery?”

His words carried a strong pang of jealousy, setting the green-eyed monster free in the living room.

Nicole nodded. “It was nice.”

“You don’t have to eat there anymore. You’d be able to savor the same dishes here, right at home.”

As soon as he said that, another figure entered the living room and nodded at Nicole politely. "Good day, Mrs. Seet. From now on, you can order food that you wish to have, and I shall have it prepared. I was a chef at Levant Winery, but I would be working at the Imperial Garden from now onwards. I can make all the signature dishes from the winery. Feel free to order whatever you like."

Nicole was rendered speechless.

Evan actually poached Levant's chef? How thoughtful of him.

Unfortunately, she would not be able to enjoy his kindness any longer. Just thinking about that made Nicole's heart twinge with pain.

"Are you satisfied with this arrangement?"

"Yes."

She replied rather flatly before heading to the bedroom upstairs.

Evan's heart sank as he watched her leave. Was she really satisfied, or did she have other thoughts?

Over the course of dinner that evening, Nicole persisted in her indifference.

Evan made an effort to deshell some prawns and placed them into her bowl. "Have some more."

Nicole glanced up at him. At that moment, she was conflicted. Before departing, should she leave Evan with happy memories to remember her by, or should she hit him exactly where it hurts?

Happy memories would warm his heart whenever he thought about her. However, that warmth would seem insignificant compared to the pain of losing her.

Hurting him could make Evan heartbroken and resent her. In that case, Evan would never want to remember her. Even if he did lose her, he would not be too upset. He would completely get over her in due time!

How should she do go about this?

"I'm full."

Nicole put down the bamboo chopsticks and went up to the bedroom. After a heated debate with herself, she finally came to a decision.

Better a little less than a long sorrow. I have to make Evan hate me!

She sent a message to Sophia in secret, asking for the older woman's cooperation with her over this matter.

Sophia was shocked when she had received the message.

She replied: Are you sure you want to do this? If you proceed with this, Evan will misunderstand you. He'll be heartbroken.

Nicole texted back: This is the only way for him to give up on me. He'll never want to see me again. It's perfect!

Sophia reminded her: Are you sure about this? The two of you can still be together in the future if your illness can be cured by some miracle, but this misunderstanding wouldn't be resolved that easily.

Nicole breathed in deeply. Miracle? Will there ever be one? She did not want to count on it!

She ended their conversation with one last message: Please take care of my children. I'm willing to do this for your son. My children are in your hands. Thank you!

Sophia felt a dull pain in her heart. She was grateful to Nicole for doing this.

This way, Evan would hate her for several years. After that, when he had forgotten about her, perhaps he would still be able to meet another woman. He would not have to die alone.

She secretly made up her mind to treat the four children like her precious darlings. With her there, no one would ever dare to think about laying a single finger on them.

...

The next day.

Evan received a sudden call from John early in the morning. A mishap had occurred to their company funds. Hackers have stolen a huge sum of money from their accounts.

"Who did this?"

"Mr. Seet, we had investigated the incident. The money eventually landed in Mrs. Seet's hands."

"What?"

Evan refused to believe the information.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1025

It was then that he turned around to find the bed empty.

Where's Nicole?

He immediately got out of bed to look for her.

Just then, his phone rang again, this time from Davin.

"Evan, something had happened to Mom."

"What is it?"

"She got hit and the perpetrator ran away."

Evan couldn't respond.

The news came to him like a bolt from the blue. After sitting in stunned silence for a moment, Evan quickly queried for the hospital that his mother had been admitted to.

He rushed to the hospital and found Sophia lying on the bed covered with scars and wounds, her legs supported by braces. That sight caused him distress.

“Mom, how are you feeling?”

“Evan, you’re here. The doctor said my injuries are serious. I’m afraid it might take several months for my legs to recover,” Sophia said weakly.

“Mom, who hit you? Can you remember the license plate number?”

“Yes...” Sophia stuttered.

“Mom, tell me!”

“Evan, I don’t remember the exact numbers on the license plate, but I think my eyes must have been playing tricks on me. After I got hit, the passengers in the car got down to check on me. The woman I saw looked like Nicole, and there was a man next to her, but I must have been mistaken.”

Nicole?

Evan furrowed his eyebrows. He had not seen Nicole since getting up in the morning, and he could not find a single trace of her even after searching through the whole Imperial Garden. It can’t possibly be a coincidence, can it?

It was then that Davin walked into the room and showed Evan a short video.

“Evan, the footage in the surveillance camera at the scene where Mom was hit had been modified. There was a hidden camera a short distance away, and the perpetrators had not found it, so it hadn’t been tampered with. The footage isn’t very clear, but it’d do. You should have a look.”

Evan examined the video closely. The car that had hit Sophia was too far away from the camera, so the license plate number was unclear. The car itself, however, was eye-catching. It was a limited-edition Bugatti Veyron.

Next, he saw someone with whom he was extremely familiar.

“Evan, isn’t that Nicole?” Davin questioned, eyeing the figure in the footage.

Evan did not answer. He had spent several years with Nicole, day in and day out. He was the person who was the most familiar with her, so he was sure that the woman in the video was Nicole.

Right then, one of the camera lenses suddenly faced Nicole. He immediately zoomed in and found himself looking at the panicked expression on her face.

“Evan! It really was Nicole! It really was her!”

Boom! A bolt of blue came crashing down on him for the second time in a day.

Nicole hit Sophia?

He immediately pulled out his phone and called Nicole, but her phone was off. He could not reach her no matter how hard he tried.

It was really Nicole in the car, but whose car was it? There was a man in there too. Who was he?

A cluster of doubts flooded his mind. Evan’s face turned pale as his deep-set eyes filled with shock.

For a long time, the silence was the only thing that filled the ward. It was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

After a moment of dead silence, Evan spoke, "Keep up the investigation! Find out who the owner of that car is!"

"Got it, Evan."

"Evan, was it really Nicole who hit me? W-What's going on here?" Sophia asked with her glance fixated on her son.

"Mom, it can't be her. I'm sure it's not her."

"I don't think it's her too. Perhaps we should conduct a thorough investigation before jumping to conclusions."

Evan didn't respond.

He arranged for Sophia to be taken care of in the hospital before driving back to the Imperial Garden. He heard from the maid that Nicole had yet to return.

He found Nicole's mobile phone on the dressing table.

Did she forget to take it with her, or did she leave it here on purpose?

Evan turned on the phone. He read through all of Nicole's WhatsApp and contact records but did not find anything suspicious.

Nicole, where are you?

Three days passed with no news from Nicole.

A week passed, and still, nothing.

Two months passed. Evan had mobilized every last ounce of manpower he had to search for Nicole, to no avail. She seemed to have vanished into thin air.

Evan would look at Nicole's picture, overwhelmed by dread and suspense. Nicole, where are you?

He thought about Sophia's car accident, the money hacked and stolen from the company account, the luxury car that suddenly appeared as well as the man on board. Although Evan had not figured out what was going on, he wholeheartedly refused to believe that Nicole was the one behind this chain of events.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1026

His only concern was Nicole and her hallucinations. He wondered if she had had any episodes these couple of months.

Davin came to the company to see him and mentioned Nicole.

"Evan, like I had already said, Nicole hacked into the account, stole all your money, and ran away with some other man. She..."

"Shut up!"

Evan bellowed impatiently, bringing the conversation to an abrupt halt.

He refused to believe a single word of these rumors. He and Nicole had been through so many ups and downs together. He knew exactly the kind of person that Nicole was.

The surveillance footage was blurry, to begin with. Even if they were not, even if everything had happened right in front of his very eyes, he would still not believe it at all!

Davin shot a glance at his brother. He had to admit, Evan had certainly harbored a deep affection for Nicole.

Their mother had been hit, his company account robbed, and Nicole had been seen sharing a luxury car with another man...

All of those glaring shreds of evidence still failed to shake Evan's trust in Nicole. If Nicole knew about this, what would she think?

Back at the Seet Residence, Davin conveyed Evan's reactions to Sophia.

"Mom, it had already been two months since the incident. Evan still doesn't want to believe that it had been Nicole who did all those things."

Sophia was rendered speechless.

She sighed. It seemed that all the pains that Nicole had gone through for his son had all been for nothing. Evan's feelings for Nicole were deeper than they had imagined.

"There's nothing we can do if Evan refuses to believe. Don't mention this in front of him again. We can only give it time and let that deal with the damage."

"Mom, you really don't know where Nicole is?" Davin looked at Sophia in disbelief.

"I don't! I'm worried too. I don't know how she's coping with her hallucinations. I don't know if anything had happened to her."

"Haven't you talked things through with her already? Didn't you arrange accommodations for her?" Davin pestered.

"Yes, I did! I've arranged a place for her to stay, where she wouldn't need to worry about food and daily supplies, but she didn't show up... Do you think she might have died? "

Davin's face fell. "Mom, don't take this the wrong way. It might not have been safe for Nicole to remain by Evan's side, but Evan liked it that way! Now that she's gone, it's true that Evan's safety is ensured, but it's like he's lost his soul. For the past two months, he had been putting up a long face, and he won't say anything! It hurts me to see him like that."

"You wretched child! Are you blaming me then? Do you think I wanted this? I had no choice! Was I supposed to watch my son risk his life every single day? I'm a mother! I can't do that!"

Sophia clutched at her heart, pain and conflict reflected on her face.

Davin empathized with Sophia's inner struggle. He could picture Sophia's unwillingness to part with Nicole. In fact, after Nicole's disappearance, not only was Evan devastated and distressed, but Sophia had also been worried as well, agonizing over guilt.

But she had to do it for the sake of her son's safety.

God makes fools of us all!

After school, the four children called their father, asking when Nicole would return.

Evan came up with an excuse. "Your mommy's illness hasn't been cured yet. She'd come back when she's all better!"

"How long will it take for Mommy's illness to be cured? I miss Mommy!"

Maya spoke in a low tone. Evan could tell from her manner of speech just how much she missed Nicole.

But he really had no idea how long it would take to find Nicole.

"Be good, Maya. Give your mommy some more time. She misses you too. When Mommy gets better, she'll fly back to see you as soon as possible. "

He ended his comforting words and could hear Juan comforting Maya on the other end of the call as well. "Maya, it's important that Mommy gets treated. You can't rush Mommy. You have to give Mommy more time. When Mommy gets better, then we can be with her every single day!"

"Yeah, Maya. Mommy's sick, and she's suffering too. She loves us very much, so she would definitely come for us after she gets better!"

"But I really miss Mommy. Why doesn't Mommy call us?"