

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1037

Nicole deliberately went to the courtyard to check things out. She sighed a breath of relief when she saw the empty space, and that got her to murmur to herself, "Looks like that really was a hallucination. Thank the heavens nothing actually happened."

Nicole had just finished speaking when she saw Kate waving nervously at her.

Nicole walked over curiously and asked, "What's wrong?"

"There was an unconscious man in the courtyard. Good thing I came back in time or he would've died."

Surprise donned Nicole's face.

Someone actually fainted in the courtyard? Could it be Evan?

Nicole immediately asked what the unconscious man looked like.

Kate described Evan's facial features to Nicole upon hearing that question. "He has a regal aura and is obviously not an ordinary man. He's also handsome with symmetrical facial features. It was as if all the angels got together to bless him with that face. I honestly have never seen a better-looking person before," answered Kate.

Nicole's heart thumped fast.

Is that him? Could that be Evan? D-did I not hallucinate?

Kate deliberately sighed sadly when she saw how Nicole's anxiety had gotten her fingers tangled. In a sorrowful voice, Kate added, "It's such a pity. I don't think he has much time left."

"What's wrong with him?"

"He's probably poisoned. The toxin has reached his vital organs, and he likely won't survive it."

Nicole couldn't speak.

That news crushed Nicole, and she prayed. No, it's not Evan. It can't be him. It can't be!

"What's wrong, Nicole? Are you sick?"

Kate's voice pulled Nicole back, and the latter shook her head before answering, "I'm fine. The patient. Where is he now?"

"You mean the guy I rescued? He's in my room."

Nicole ran over nervously, but when she got there, she saw that the room was empty. Not a single person was in view.

She was about to turn around and leave when she noticed a few bloodied name cards.

Nicole walked over curiously and picked it up. When she saw the name on the card, her face paled with fear.

President of Seet Group, Evan Seet.

Kate walked in then. When she saw the name card Nicole was holding, Kate had an inspiration and lied, "Those name cards fell out of the unconscious man's pocket. I noticed how they were bloodied, so I threw them away for him."

Nicole couldn't speak.

Her hands trembled as she held the name card.

So that wasn't a hallucination. I actually saw Evan. What is Evan doing here? And why was he poisoned?

Nicole was deep in thought.

She was anxious the entire afternoon and was constantly worried about Evan.

Did Evan come to see me one last time because he knew that he was poisoned and doesn't have much time left?

It took Nicole a long time to overcome her hallucinations, and she planned to go home to Evan and the kids once her body had recovered.

She would be okay, and would not blame Evan if he misunderstood her, because that was all a part of her plan.

All she wanted was for him and the kids to be safe and healthy.

But how did he get poisoned? Are we destined to be separated by death?

The mere thought of it got Nicole's heart to ache.

She tossed and turned on the bed, but couldn't sleep. Every time she closed her eyes, she would see Evan's pale face and his weakened body on the floor.

"Evan Seet, it took me so long to overcome my illness. You can do it too! You can't die. I won't allow it..." murmured Nicole as tears rolled down her cheeks.

At the Imperial Garden.

Dusk had painted the sky in a beautiful shade of orange.

The streetlights flickered on.

Evan sat on the balcony while staring at the entrance. He was waiting for someone.

He checked his watch, and his eyes were full of anticipation. It was as if he could already hear her footsteps.

About half an hour later, a suspicious figure in a black outfit showed up by the entrance. Evan wouldn't have noticed the figure if he hadn't had his eyes on the entrance the entire time.

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The black figure moved like a spirit and hid behind the door before sneaking a peek into the Imperial Garden.

Evan immediately got his phone and called the butler. The former's instruction got the latter utterly confused.

"Why is Mr. Seet suddenly issuing an order like this? He actually demanded that all the maids retire to their respective rooms and banned them from leaving without permission. I-is something huge about to happen?" blurted the butler.

With uncertainty burning in his heart, the butler had all the maids return to their rooms.

The Imperial Garden instantly turned quiet.

Nicole was peeping from outside the Imperial Garden. She noticed that the place had turned quiet and not a single person was in sight. The courtyard was completely empty. This is my chance to sneak in.

The Imperial Garden was her home, so Nicole knew the place well, and she made a beeline to the living room.

Huh? The living room is empty as well? Neither the maids nor my kids are around. What's going on? Are the kids still in the Imperial Garden?

Nicole's curiosity was piqued. She scanned around before she tiptoed to the master bedroom on the second floor, but no one was in sight as well.

Where have all the people in the Imperial Garden gone to? Is Evan in the bedroom? That'd make sense. He's poisoned, so he should be resting there.

Nicole carefully cracked the door open a little and snuck a peek. As suspected, she saw Evan lying on the bed. Unfortunately, she could only see his back from her angle.

She stared for a long while. When she saw that Evan never moved a muscle, she guessed that he was asleep.

Her beautiful eyes shifted as her mind spun. Carefully and quietly, she entered the room and closed the door behind her before walking to his bedside.

Evan's beautiful eyes were closed, and his face was eerily pale. He looked just as terrible as he did when she saw him during the day.

What was he poisoned with?

Nicole was an excellent medical practitioner, so she reached out to check Evan's pulse. She had just touched his wrist when he turned around and moved his arm away.

That sudden movement surprised Nicole which prompted her to crouch down and hide. When she was certain that Evan was still asleep and was simply turning in his sleep, she heaved a sigh of relief and stood back up.

Nicole stared at Evan's pale face. She was determined to figure out what was wrong with him and find a cure for his condition.

She reached out once again. She delicately placed her soft fingers on his wrist and had just found his pulse when Evan turned around again.

Nicole sighed internally. I am trying to check your pulse so that I can treat your condition and save your life. Why are you making things so difficult for me? Will it kill you to cooperate just a little?

Nicole reached out yet again to check his pulse. However, Evan's eyes suddenly flung open. When he saw her there, his expression darkened, and his gaze shone with complicated emotions before shifting to wariness.

"Who are you?"

Nicole's heart thumped hard. She was tortured by her illness and lost a lot of weight as a result, but she still looked the same.

Evan should recognize me, so why is he acting so warily, like I am a stranger? What is going on?

"It's me. I came to visit," replied Nicole softly.

Suspicion rushed past Evan's eyes. He frowned at her and said, "You came to visit me? Who are you?"

Nicole didn't know how to answer that.

What's wrong? Does Evan really not recognize me? No, that can't be it. If he doesn't know who I am, he wouldn't have gone to my place to look for me during the day.

"Didn't you come look for me at my place during the day?"

Evan was taken aback, but he continued feigning it. "During the day? I was lost, and I don't really remember where I went."

Confusion spread across Nicole's face.

A grown man getting lost? What the hell?

"If you don't tell me who you are, I will have my people chase you out!"

Evan's threat brought Nicole back around. She quickly answered, "I am Nicole Lane. Do you still remember me?"

"No!"

Nicole didn't know what to say.

He doesn't remember me? Does he have amnesia? How...?

Nicole was suddenly stumped. She honestly needed to sit down with someone and have that person explain what the hell was going on.

"Evan Seet, I am Nicole Lane. I am your wife."

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"My wife? Why aren't you living in the Imperial Garden? I don't remember seeing you around before."

Nicole thought about the situation before she lied, “You were sick, so I went abroad to study medicine. I’ve since finished my studies and have returned to treat your condition. Let me check your pulse, okay?”

Evan narrowed his eyes. He never expected Nicole to come up with an excuse like that, but he couldn’t let her check his pulse. She would discover that his illness was a ruse once she did so.

Still, she admitted to being my wife and said she’ll treat my illness. This is the perfect cover to make her stay by my side, so I can care for her and help her deal with her health issues instead.

“I can’t be certain that what you said is the truth. What if you’re just a quack doctor trying to hurt me? I will only allow you to examine me once I am certain that you are my wife.”

Nicole was shocked, but she replied, “Okay, how would you like to go about confirming that? Let’s get to it because your condition has to be treated immediately.”

Evan ignored her. He simply got up and walked to the study room.

Nicole followed closely behind him. She sounded worried when she offered, “I’ll only check your pulse. Is that okay?”

“No, it is not,” rejected Evan firmly.

Nicole would never guess that the real reason behind Evan’s stubbornness was that he was faking his illness. She genuinely thought that Evan was only acting that way because he didn’t know who she was. I suddenly hate that he has always been so cautious around strangers and is a bit of a germaphobe. Still, what do I do?

Nicole sighed and started looking for the others in the house. She wanted to ask the maids about Evan’s condition and learn what was going on.

The Hidden Masters rushed over at the time.

Every single one of them faked being surprised when they saw her there.

“Mrs. Seet?”

“Mrs. Seet, you’re back!”

“Mrs. Seet, what happened? You look thinner.”

Nicole nodded, but she didn’t bother explaining her condition to the boys. She immediately asked about Evan’s condition.

These four heartless men were only there because they received Evan’s call and, as per Evan’s instruction, they shared about Evan’s fake condition in a sorrowful tone.

“Mr. Seet was poisoned, Mrs. Seet, and it looks like he doesn’t have much time left.”

“He also has amnesia, Mrs. Seet. He forgot about a lot of things, and the doctor said that it is selective amnesia. It’s likely that Mr. Seet misses you too much, and chose to forget everything that happened between the two of you. He probably can’t even recognize you anymore.”

“Before Mr. Seet lost his memories, he missed you dearly, Mrs. Seet. Will you keep him company for a while? Let him spend his last moments with you.”

“You really should care for him, at least for now, because you’ll certainly regret it when he’s gone.”

The Hidden Masters’ words were like bolts of lightning that continuously struck Nicole’s mind.

Evan, he... Is there really no hope?

The Hidden Masters all felt guilty when they saw how horrified and pale Nicole was after she heard the news. She was completely crushed.

Is it really alright for us to lie to Mrs. Seet like that? Oh, Mr. Seet, how could you come up with such a terrible scheme?

“What was he poisoned with?” asked Nicole.

The Hidden Masters turned to one another. Shoot! Mr. Seet never told us what we should say. Darn it, what poison should we say it is?

Jensen stepped up and said, “We’re not doctors, Mrs. Seet, so we don’t know the specifics either. You should ask Mr. Seet about it.”

“He’s right. You should ask Mr. Seet. He knows all about it.”

“Exactly. Mr. Seet knows everything.”

Huh?

Nicole frowned. She obviously wasn’t buying their words. “You boys have no idea what he was poisoned with?” asked Nicole again.

No one spoke.

The Hidden Masters ended up turning to Damien because he was in the best position to answer that question.

Damien struggled for a while before he came up with the name Wicca.

Nicole was surprised. I guess this world really is too big and has too many things. I honestly have never heard of a poison named Wicca. I should ask Wesley about it when I return.

“I got it. I’ll take good care of him. You boys should leave and rest up.”

“Understood.”

The Hidden Masters walked out of the living room and heaved a sigh of relief as soon as they stepped out. They wondered why Evan was doing all that.

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“Mrs. Seet has gotten so thin and disheveled, but Mr. Seet is still heartlessly lying to her. I honestly can’t make heads or tails of what he’s thinking.”

"I can. I called John earlier, and he said that Mr. Seet is worried about Mrs. Seet not letting him take care of her. That is why he came up with the whole fake illness excuse to con her into staying by his side. It may look like Mrs. Seet is caring for him, but Mr. Seet will actually be the one who's taking care of her."

"He could've just feigned the illness. Why did he have to pretend to have amnesia as well?"

"That... is probably something only Mr. Seet knows."

Everyone was speechless.

Nicole called Wesley, who was also surprised to hear about Wicca. The latter claimed that he never even heard of something like that before. Unfortunately, Wesley and Kate had already left for S Nation, so it'd be a long wait before Wesley could return and save Evan.

Kate, however, deliberately lied to Nicole and said, "I've heard of Wicca before, Nicole. The victim can survive longer if they are happy. You must listen to his requests and do as he asks to keep his blood pressure low."

Nicole sighed after hanging up.

Evan is already a domineering ass*le. Now I have to go out of my way to keep him happy?

Despite her thoughts, Nicole still decided to do as informed to keep Evan alive.

Evan got out of his study room and immediately saw Nicole in a sorrowful daze.

He walked to her and commanded, "If you want to stay and prove that you're my wife, then you must fatten yourself up. You're too thin, and others will think that the Seet family have tormented you so much that we don't even feed you."

Nicole was speechless. She sighed. I don't want to be this thin either, but my illness seems to have left a "nice" gift behind. I have no appetite whatsoever.

"Go eat!"

After saying his piece, Evan dragged Nicole to the dining room.

Nicole stared at the table filled with delicacies, but she still didn't feel like eating anything. She had her bowl of porridge with her and was swirling the porridge endlessly with her spoon before she took one small sip.

"Gobble it up," ordered Evan sternly.

Nicole wanted to fight back and said that she didn't have any appetite, but she recalled what Kate said about Wicca. Evan must remain happy to prolong his life and prevent Wicca from killing him. So, Nicole started chowing down on her food.

Evan's frown dissipated, and a small grin lit up on his face. Watching Nicole eat was a joy to him, and Evan secretly vowed that he would get Nicole all healthy and glowing again.

After Nicole finished the entire bowl of porridge, Evan took the shells off of three prawns and gave the prawns to her. "Finish these too," insisted Evan.

Nicole couldn't speak.

She was stunned for a moment before she popped them into her mouth.

Evan noticed how difficult it was for her to finish eating everything and worried about her stomach being too full. Hence, he didn't force her to eat anymore.

After they had their meals together, the two lovebirds sat together to watch television. Evan was surprised by Nicole's reaction. She hadn't seen the kids in two years. Why isn't she asking about them?

Nicole missed her kids dearly, and she wanted to ask about them, but she thought that it was pointless. As far as she was concerned, Evan had lost his memories and had forgotten all about her, so there was no way he'd remember the kids. Moreover, she didn't want her kids to see how hauntingly thin she was at that moment.

I'll go see them after I gain some weight.

Evan saw through her hesitance and guessed what she was thinking, so he deliberately fished his phone out to call Juan.

"Juan, have you gone to bed?"

Nicole was flabbergasted when she heard Evan talking to Juan. He has amnesia, but he remembers the kids? Am I the only one he has forgotten all about?

"Not yet, daddy. Kai and I are doing our homework from the hacking classes. What's up, daddy? Why did you call?"

"It's nothing. Where are Maya and Nina?"

Nicole dug her fingers into her flesh. Waves of emotions washed her heart when she heard Juan's voice. She really wanted to hold her kids in her arms and see how they were doing.

Nicole held her breath as she waited for Juan's answer.

"They're asleep, daddy. Nina said that a good night's sleep can keep her beautiful, so she had been sleeping on time. Maya has begun paying attention to her looks ever since she got thin, so she went to bed when Nina did."

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Evan didn't reply.

Evan's sharp eyes caught Nicole digging her fingernails into her flesh. He also saw her eyes glowing with endless anticipation and excitement, which got him to think that he should find a way to let Nicole see the kids.

"I got it. You and Kyle should go to bed soon as well."

"Okay, daddy. We will."

After hanging up, Evan got up to walk up the stairs. He was walking past Nicole when she suddenly asked, "Evan, do you really have amnesia? How do you still remember the kids?"

A chill ran down Evan's spine. Should I confess now and tell her that I never had amnesia? No! I still need an excuse to prevent Nicole from checking my pulse. She will stay by my side as long as she doesn't check my pulse and figures out that I was never poisoned.

"My parents told me that they are my kids, and there is no way my parents would lie to me," informed Evan before he continued walking up the stairs.

Nicole didn't comment on that.

Oh, no wonder. thought Nicole. She watched his back as he walked up the stairs, and a hint of sorrow flashed past her eyes.

Evan didn't want Nicole secretly checking his pulse at night and realizing that he wasn't sick. Hence, he didn't share a room with her. Instead, he got Nicole to sleep in the room beside his.

Nicole tossed and turned at night. She couldn't sleep and kept wondering, Is Evan asleep? Should I sneak in and check his pulse?

Evan was having an equally hard time falling asleep. Does Nicole need anyone to take care of her at night? Her body is weak. Should I go check on her?

The two lovebirds deliberated for a while before they got out of their bed at almost the same time. They both wanted to go check on the other.

When they got out of their rooms, they saw each other sneaking out. Their eyes met, and that got them frozen on the spot.

Nicole's heart thumped fast when she saw Evan there. Who would've thought that Evan is still awake at this hour? Good thing I hesitated and came out late. It would've been so awkward if he caught me sneaking into his room.

Evan stared at Nicole. He was observant and noticed that she was cautious and tiptoeing earlier. She seems agile, so her body should be fine. Why was she sneaking around, though? What was she going to do?

"You haven't gone to bed?" asked Evan after they stared into each other's eyes for a while.

Nicole deliberated before lying, "I can't sleep, s-so I came out to go for a walk."

Evan could tell that she was lying. He didn't know what she was planning, but he didn't push it either. Well, I can't sleep either, so I'll just go for a walk with her, and we can chat.

"I can't sleep either. The moon's beautiful tonight and it's a great time for a walk. Let's go together."

Nicole didn't reply.

She simply nodded and followed him down the stairs.

When they reached the ground floor, Nicole noticed that the sky was pitch black. She could forget about seeing the moon because even the stars were nowhere to be seen. At that moment, Nicole was truly tempted to diss, "Mr. Seet, where's the beautiful moon you promised?" Naturally, Nicole didn't actually say anything aloud.

Evan looked at the pitch black sky and suddenly felt awkward. He forced himself to say, "The breeze is nice tonight."

Nicole put on a fake smile on.

The weather is freezing tonight, and the breeze only made things worse. Yet, he's calling it nice?

Nicole instinctively rubbed her hands and breathed out on them upon thinking that. A second later, a pair of warm hands draped a coat over her shoulders.

Nicole was stunned. Didn't Evan lose his memory? Is he instinctively being so sweet to me?

It had been a while since Nicole was spoiled like that, and a warm sensation engulfed her heart.

"Evan, what were you poisoned with?"

"I forgot. I have amnesia, remember?" replied Evan before he brushed past it. Both his amnesia and the poison were faked, so he didn't want to dwell on that topic.

Nicole didn't say anything.

Evan broke the silence when he saw how quiet Nicole was being.

"You claim to be my wife. Can you tell me what happened between us? Maybe that'll trigger my memory."

"Sure. We met at The Passion bar. No, wait, that is not accurate. We first met at the Rose Garden. I was just a kid at the time..."

The two of them reminisced in their past as they strolled around, and happiness glowed in Evan's eyes. It had been two years, and he had fantasized countless times about how he would walk with Nicole and talk about their past together. My dream finally came true.

Chapter 1042 Skeletal Monster

"... You had been nice to me ever since I was a kid. After that, I had to return to the Lane family, and you had to go back to the Seet family. We lost touch because of that. The next time we met was at the Passion bar. I was drunk at the time, and I mistook you as a male escort..."

Nicole turned to Evan when she mentioned male escort. She was going to skip that part, but Evan spoke up suddenly and asked, "Hold on, you mistook me as a male escort?"

Nicole nodded. That was what happened. After that night of passion, they were blessed with four adorable yet naughty kids.

Evan recalled that beautiful night when he smelled Nicole's perfume. His dark eyes burned with hints of lust before he paused and demanded, "How could I possibly have been mistaken as a male escort? You should know that lying comes with a price!"

After saying his piece, Evan dragged Nicole into his arms and kissed her lips eagerly.

Evan sighed internally. My gosh, Evan Seet. You've lived to see the day you lie just to get a kiss. Forgive me, Nicole. I really can't find another excuse. This is the only way I can hold you in my arms.

Nicole's eyes bulged. T-this kiss is way too spontaneous!

Nicole's mind ran wild, but she suddenly realized that something was off. Evan was supposed to be poisoned and on the verge of dying. How is he still strong enough to drag me into his arms?

Nicole reached out to try to check his pulse. Evan noticed that soon enough, and he pushed her away gently.

"Go back to bed, and never lie to me again," warned Evan before he turned around and left.

Nicole was speechless. I wasn't lying, okay? I was being honest! I did mistake you as a male escort.

Nicole frowned as she watched Evan walking away. She didn't think that Evan would still be that domineering towards women, even after he was poisoned and had amnesia.

Wicca... He wasn't poisoned because he messed with another girl's heart, was he? Did a woman get upset and use the poison to seek revenge?

Those thoughts got Nicole suddenly curious about how Evan was poisoned. I need to get to the bottom of this when I have the chance.

Nicole felt strange when she returned to her room and laid on the bed. Over the past two years, she had been wary of overeating because she would inevitably vomit everything out afterward. To her surprise, she didn't have any bad reaction, even though Evan made her finish an entire bowl of porridge and three prawns.

That got Nicole secretly delighted. If this persists and I stop vomiting, I may be able to fatten myself up quickly and see my kids soon. When Evan spoke to Juan earlier, Juan said that Maya had lost weight and is thin now. I wonder what she looks like. They're approaching their teens now, so they must have grown up a lot...

The next day.

Evan had the maid prepare a scrumptious breakfast for Nicole early in the morning. Nicole was cooperative and wanted to eat more, but she only managed to down a few bites before she suddenly rushed to the washroom.

Evan knew that Nicole's stomach was acting up, so he immediately called the doctor and have him examine her. The doctor diagnosed Nicole with poor physical health and said that her digestive system was weakened, so she couldn't eat well. He later prescribed some medicine to her and told her to rest well.

Nicole sighed when she saw the bags of medicine lying by her bedside. To think that she was celebrating last night and thought that she would see her kids soon. Looks like that dream will take some time before it comes true.

Nicole was feeling sad when she suddenly heard her children shouting.

"Daddy, we're here to visit you."

"Daddy, I learned several recipes for different delicacies. I'll cook for you."

It's Juan and Maya! Nicole was excited and thought, My kids are here. I want to see them so badly.

However, Nicole later checked herself out. Do I really want to see the kids in this state? I am like a skeletal monster now.

Evan could see Nicole struggling, so he spoke in a harsh tone, "I will not let you see my children until I am certain that you are my wife."

After saying his piece, Evan walked out of the room and closed the door behind him.

Nicole stopped struggling, but she was obviously disappointed as well. Still, she thought that it was good for her to not see them just yet. She could wait until she recovers, and her kids will see a healthy and pretty mommy. She wanted to present herself that way to her kids.

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The kids' voices rang up from the other side of the door.

"Daddy, I won the Taekwondo competition again. Shouldn't you reward me for it?"

"I'll help you reward him, daddy. I've learned a lot of recipes, and I can make him healthier. Those recipes can also give him a physical boost which can be a reward."

Juan turned to Maya and complained, "I am not interested in that. I want to go to a more challenging dojo to continue training and improving my skills. Daddy, will you let me go?"

Nian and Kyle walked over, too. Nina sighed and claimed, "Daddy, I want to manage the press conference announcing my new products. I have some ideas about how I want to reveal the mystery of my product to the entire world. It will revolutionize the cosmetic industry, and I want to be the one who names them. Can I do that, daddy?"

Nina had just finished speaking when Kyle, who was a man of few words, suddenly chimed in as well. "I have the same idea as Juan, daddy. I want to move to a more challenging school to further develop my skills. I'm not interested in martial arts, though. I prefer honing my computer skills so that I can better help you manage the company," said Kyle.

Nicole teared up when she heard what her kids said. Her children had all grown up, and they had developed their own views and ideas. They were also hardworking and knew to always strive to be better. That put her mind at ease.

Looks like Evan and Sophia had been nice to the kids over the past two years and had taught them well. I, however, failed miserably as their mother. I wasn't there for them when they grew up.

Nicole secretly opened the door and snuck a peek. She saw that her kids had all gotten taller. Juan and Kyle were growing to look more and more like Evan. Juan had always been active, while Kyle had always preferred a more passive way of dealing with things. When they were kids, Juan would prefer running around and playing, whereas Kyle would prefer sitting still and reading. That made Kyle the man who planned the schemes, and Juan the man who carried out the plans. And now, Juan is into learning martial arts while Kyle is into learning computer skills. It's perfect for them.

Nicole then turned to Nina and Maya. Nina was beautiful with a good figure. Her movements exuded confidence like that of a noble lady, giving off the impression that she was a vibrant personality who spoke her mind.

Is that... Maya?

Maya's chubby cheeks were gone which indicated that Maya had indeed lost a lot of weight. She looked a lot like Nina, and her beautiful face shone with a lively tone. Looks like leading her down the path of a chef is a fantastic choice for her. She has really benefitted from it, and her healthy diet has given her a beautiful glow. Maya wasn't as proud as Nina but was like a stunning sunflower instead.

Emotions swelled up Nicole's heart when she recalled the first time she met them at the hospital.

"Sure, I can promise all of you that. I will call you once I've made all the arrangements."

"Thank you, daddy."

"Thank you, daddy."

The kids were all delighted.

Evan's gaze shifted to Maya. He paused for a moment before he asked, "Maya, can you make a few dishes for me? I'd like to try them."

"Sure, daddy. I'll get on it right away."

Maya's cooking...

Nicole's lips curved into a beautiful smile. She recalled how Maya used to get her face all dirty as she ate desserts, and how the kid looked like a cute little kitten. Maya's specialties are probably the cakes and desserts that she had always liked ever since she was a kid.

About half an hour later, the door to the room was knocked on and opened. The butler came in with two plates of delicacies and informed, "Mrs. Seet, please try these. Ms. Maya made them."

Maya made them?

Nicole saw the delicacies that looked and smelled wonderful. She got extremely excited and took the food over to take a closer look. The ingredients were nutritious and well-balanced with crab meat, sliced pork, and vegetables.

Nicole took a small bite. Happiness oozed from her smile as she commented, "This is the best dish I have ever tasted."

"I'm glad you enjoy it, Mrs. Seet."

The butler left the room. Nicole ate the dishes Maya made and recalled how Maya was as a kid. Nicole remembered how, one time, Nina teased and called Maya a piggy. That got Maya so upset that she cried with a broken heart and insisted that she wasn't a fat piggy...

There was also a time when Maya argued with Nina, and Nina, being the quicker one, dissed her mercilessly. Maya was angry, but she couldn't keep up with Nina, so the former ended up hugging a teddy bear and yelling from outside the room, "You're a mean sister. Come out of there, you meanie!"

Everything felt like it happened the day before. A few years have passed in a blink of an eye. Time really waits for no one.

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Before Nicole even knew it, she had already finished everything Maya had cooked.

When she popped the last prawn into her mouth, her face shone with pride and satisfaction as she exclaimed, "My daughter is a genius. Everything she cooks is amazing."

When Evan entered, he saw that the plates were empty and was surprised by that sight. However, he was also delighted. Everything's fine as long as Nicole likes it.

If Nicole ate that much every day, it was likely that she would get back to her former healthy self in no time.

Looks like Maya will have to stay busy for a while.

Nicole caught Evan staring at the empty plates with his beautiful eyes. That got her a little embarrassed, and she commented shyly while massaging her fingers. "Uhm, Maya's cooking is really good..."

"Of course. Everything my daughter cooks is perfect."

Nicole was speechless.

She was just telling herself that a moment ago. Who would've thought that Evan is as equally shameless as I?

"I will let the kids see you once you've recovered. They can prove if you're my wife and their mommy."

Nicole didn't say anything.

Evan's thought reflected her own. She also planned to go see the kids once she got better and looked less like a skeleton.

"Okay," agreed Nicole, as she nodded.

Maya later heard about how Evan would like her to cook for him every day, and that got her ecstatic. She was certain that her cooking was amazing, and that was the only reason her daddy would love it so much.

"I'm glad you like it, daddy. I will cook for you every day," promised Maya.

"Okay. Thank you, Maya. Looks like you'll be working hard lately."

"Oh, that is no trouble at all. I've already completed all my school work anyway, and all I really need to focus on is my cooking. I want to spend more time finding out the best combination so that I can create healthier and tastier recipes. It's perfect. I can try making a few dishes so you can taste-test them daddy. Hopefully, you can offer me some valuable feedback," said Maya.

Healthier meals are exactly what Nicole needs right now.

“Okay, keep working on it for a while, Maya. Daddy will monitor your improvement and provide feedback.”

“Should I stay in the Imperial Garden for the time being, daddy?”

Evan thought about how it'd be difficult for Maya to go back and forth all the time. Plus, I can't exactly ask Maya to drive all the way over to cook for Nicole if she gets hungry in the middle of the night.

“Stay here for a while then, Maya.”

“Okay.”

Juan and Kyle had no objection whatsoever, but Nina complained and wanted to stay as well. Evan made up an excuse about how he wanted Nina to focus on the cosmetics press conference, then had her stay at Seet Residence.

Nina pouted. “Daddy, are you letting Maya stay here because you want to secretly give her all the rewards and gifts? You've always played favorites. You were nicer to Maya ever since we were kids, and you're still so mean now that we're grown up,” complained Nina.

“Daddy won't do that, Nina. He just wants me to stay so that I can cook for him.”

“Nina, has daddy not been nice to you all these years?” asked Evan.

“You're nice to me, but you're even nicer to Maya,” replied Nina before she held her beautiful face up high and turned around unhappily to leave.

Evan couldn't speak.

He was stunned. Nina has always been a little petty and needs to be the center of attention all the time. She's going to have a hard time if she continues being so stubborn.

Maya walked to Evan and said, “You know how Nina is, daddy. Her words might be harsh, but she doesn't really mean it. She's just a little too blunt.”

“I'm not mad at her. You'll stay on the third floor for now, Maya.”

Maya got confused. “I used to stay on the second floor, daddy. In fact, the room Nina and I shared is still empty. Why are you making me stay on the third floor now?”

Evan didn't know what to say for a moment there. I can't exactly tell her it's because her mother is worried about being seen in a weakened state.

“Because I think the third floor is quieter. You're a big girl now, so the third floor is better suited for you.”

Maya was a lot less picky than Nina, so the former didn't object and simply did as Evan asked.

That night, Evan deliberately asked Maya to prepare two dishes and some porridge for dinner. He later had the maids take them to the second floor.

Maya was surprised, so she asked, “Daddy, why are you taking them to the second floor? Aren’t you going to eat with me?”

“I have some work to do, so I’ll eat on the second floor. Cook something you like and eat on your own, okay?”

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Maya stared as Evan took everything to the second floor. She assumed that her father was extremely busy and was going through a rough time, and that got her determined to create even better recipes for her father.

Maya turned around and went back to the kitchen to cook for herself. She put the cooked food aside and washed her hands. She was about to chow down when she saw Evan taking her dishes over and eating away happily.

“Daddy, did you eat the meal I made just now?”

“I finished it!”

“Huh?”

Maya was so flabbergasted that her eyes bulged as she stared at him. When did daddy become such a glutton?

“Your cooking is getting better, Maya. Looks like I will have to get you a food plaza and let you manage it.”

“I don’t want to manage a food plaza, daddy. I want to do something else.”

“What do you have in mind?”

“I haven’t decided yet. I’ll let you know once I figure it out.”

“Okay.”

Evan chatted with Maya while eating the delicious meal she made. It didn’t take him long before he finished eating everything.

Maya stared at her father as he walked up the stairs. She later turned to the empty plates in front of her and the empty plates that Evan brought down from the second floor. She couldn’t quite put a finger on it, but she felt like something was off.

Did daddy really eat this much just because it’s tasty?

Nicole was ecstatic about being able to eat the dishes Maya prepared and peeping at Maya in the house.

The only thing off was that she was gripped with worry whenever she thought about Evan’s medical condition. She would toss and turn at night and had trouble sleeping.

I wonder if the poison is hurting Evan, and who knows when Wesley will be back to treat Evan? Will Evan last long enough until Wesley returns?

Nicole sat up anxiously. She deliberated for a long time before she decided to peek at Evan and see if he was asleep. She would find an opportunity to secretly check his pulse. That would give me a better understanding of how his physical condition is.

Nicole snuck to Evan's room and placed her ear against his door. She listened for a while, but she never heard anything, so she assumed that Evan was asleep.

She carefully keyed in the code to the room before she opened the door and entered.

Maya was walking down the stairs when she saw a figure walking into her father's room. She found that to be strange. That figure seems familiar, but she's so thin. Does the Imperial Garden have a maid that thin?

Maya couldn't recall anyone that thin, no matter how hard she tried.

That got her even more curious. Who was it that snuck into daddy's room?

Maya immediately rushed to Evan's room and tried to listen.

At that moment, Nicole was watching Evan sleep. His breathing was even, and it was obvious that he was sleeping soundly. That got Nicole to sigh a breath of relief and prompted her to reach out and check his pulse.

Unfortunately, she hadn't even touched him before someone knocked on the door to the bedroom. In her panic, Nicole dashed to the washroom to hide there.

Evan was woken up by a series of knocks. He opened his eyes and saw a figure rushing into the washroom. The knocking on the door persisted.

"Daddy, are you asleep?" asked Maya.

"Yeah, is something up?" asked Evan.

Maya thought about it for a while before replying, "Yeah."

Evan got out of his bed and opened the door for Maya. That was when he realized that the passcode had been entered and the door was unlocked. He recalled the familiar figure he saw running into the washroom and immediately guessed what had happened.

Evan opened the door and let Maya in. The first thing she did was to scan the place. It was obvious that Maya was searching for something.

"Maya, it's late. Why did you come look for me?"

"Daddy, I-I saw someone entering your room. I don't recall a maid that thin in the Imperial Garden, and that got me worried, so I came in to see if everything is okay. Daddy, where is the person who snuck in?" asked Maya curiously when she saw that there was no one in the room.

Evan knew that the person Maya saw was Nicole, but Nicole had hidden away. It was obvious that Nicole didn't want Maya to see her like that, so Evan lied, "There's no one in here. I've been sleeping soundly the entire time, and no one came in."

“But I definitely saw... something.”

Maya recalled the figure she saw earlier. It was as clear as day, and she was certain that she didn't make any mistake.

However, Evan insisted that no one was around. He even opened the closet in front of Maya to show her that no one else was in the room. “See, Maya?” said Evan, “There's no one else in my room.”

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Maya didn't say anything.

She turned to the empty room, then to the empty closet. I'm not really in a position to say anything right now. Daddy has already gone out of his way to show me that there's no one else in here. That means that either I made a mistake, or that person has already hidden really well. There's no point in asking under either circumstance.

“Oh, then rest well, daddy.”

“Okay.”

After Maya left, Evan closed the door and locked it before he headed into the washroom.

Nicole stared. An awkward smile crept up on her lips.

Evan frowned and demanded, “It's late. Why did you sneak into my room?”

Nicole's lips never said a word but the gears in her head were turning. I came in to check your pulse. I want to estimate when your poison will act up again, and learn how long you can survive.

Nicole hesitated for a moment before she forced a grin on and lied, “Mr. Seet, I-I was sleepwalking and went into the wrong room.”

Evan narrowed his eyes. “Sleepwalking? So you're dreaming?” asked Evan as he approached her slowly and dangerously.

Nicole backed away. She didn't know what Evan's words meant, nor did she know what he was thinking.

“Well, since you're dreaming, then let's do it together.”

What the hell? I-is he saying that he wants to sleep with me?

Nicole hadn't even really registered what Evan was saying before he dragged her into his arms. She struggled for a bit. She couldn't break free, but her eyes soon shone with inspiration, so she asked, “Mr. Seet, you're still not sure whether I am your wife, so it's a little inappropriate for you to treat me this way, isn't it?”

“I'm only acting this way because you served yourself up on a silver platter. Besides, now's the perfect time to prove your words,” replied Evan. He picked her up immediately after and walked to their bed to lay her down gently on the soft bed. Seconds later, he was on top of her.

Nicole thought something was amiss. She laid in Evan's arms and could feel his heart thumping quickly and healthily. The way he held her and kissed her showed that he was strong as well. There was no sign of him being poisoned, and it didn't seem like his life was hanging by a thread.

What's going on?

"Evan Seet, y-you weren't poisoned, were you?" asked Nicole as she reached out to grab Evan's wrist. She was going to check his pulse.

Shoot! The situation will be bad if Nicole realizes that I have been lying to her. I...

Evan coughed profusely and spoke breathlessly, "I gave it my all earlier. Don't make any sudden moves, or I will honestly break down."

Nicole couldn't speak.

He does sound weak.

Nicole then pushed him as hard as she could, and Evan deliberately stumbled backward, then fell onto the floor.

Evan turned to Nicole, who was still lying on the bed, and demanded, "You pushed me so mercilessly even after I told you that I am weak? Did you come to my room in the middle of the night to try to hurt me?"

Nicole was speechless.

What the hell? The old saying was wrong. Karma doesn't exist, and that is why my kind intentions were being repaid with accusations. Darn it, I came just to check his pulse but end up being accused of attempted murder! Gah, this is so wrong.

"Quit bullsh*tting. I was sleepwalking and went into the wrong room."

"Did you though?" asked Evan as he got up with "great difficulty" then walked toward her.

Nicole could tell that he was fine, so she quickly left his bedroom. A soft slam later, the door to the bedroom was closed.

Evan's lips curved into a mischievous grin. He checked his own pulse and concluded that it was indeed showing how healthy he was. Nicole will definitely figure out that I am faking everything if she checks my pulse.

The important question is this, though. Did Nicole sneak into my room in the middle of the night because she suspects that I am not poisoned? Or did she do so purely because she was worried? Looks like I will have to be more careful.

With Maya's nutritious meals helping Nicole, the latter's appetite got better, but her health remained poor.

Under normal circumstances, improved appetite usually led to improved health, but Nicole still looked restless and sickly.

Evan got worried, so he called the doctor over when Maya left for her culinary class.

Nicole was cooperative when the doctor dropped by to examine her body. She wanted to become healthier because that'd allow her to see her kids and care for Evan.

After the examination, the doctor stared at her and advised her to rest well. Adequate sleep was crucial for her.