

## Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 534

It was Sir Musgrave who made the call.

Levant hesitated briefly and answered with a very loud and respectful greeting.

“Levant, I’m not doing so well, and there are many things that need to be dealt with urgently. Come back as soon as possible.”

“I understand, Father. I need to sort some things out, but I’ll be back before you know it.”

Levant also decided to let Nicole tag along.

He then called Nicole and said that he would pick her up at Imperial Garden to do a DNA test with him. They would depart for K Nation as soon as the results came out.

“Sounds good.” Nicole sighed deeply and immediately let Yoda make preparations for the trip.

For Yoda to follow her on his own would have been inappropriate. She then decided to let him pick a team of bodyguards that would follow them there as well.

Nicole was worried that the testing center he picked was not trustworthy. There was no telling if anyone would alter the results, so she took matters into her own hands. Nicole decided to pick out the testing facility herself, claiming that she had friends there and so the results would be out faster.

Levant had no objections and readily agreed.

When they arrived at the testing facility, she watched carefully as Levant had his blood sample taken. After that, the pair decided to wait together.

“Why don’t you go back first?” asked Levant. “I’ll stay and let you know when the results are out.”

‘Let’s just wait together, it’ll be fine,’ murmured Nicole.

She felt more at ease if she were there to ensure that nobody tampered with the results.

Levant understood what she implied and didn’t ask again. The two waited until the results came out.

Nicole widened her eyes as she saw the results: *non-related, kinship index null*.

That meant she was not remotely related to the Musgrave family.

“Nicole, I think this should ease your concerns?” asked Levant.

Nicole nodded. Levant looked at her with a deep and meaningful gaze. “Let’s go to K nation this afternoon, then. I’m assuming it’ll be alright on your end?”

“I just need to notify the children when I go back. It shouldn’t be an issue.”

“Alright, let me take you home.”

Back at Imperial Garden, Nicole and Yoda were discussing how to tell the children. “What if they have separation anxiety?” asked Nicole worriedly.

“They will understand,” replied Yoda calmly.

Nicole was still uncertain. She waited for the children to come back from school and summoned them into the study.

“Mommy is going on a business trip. Can you go to Seet Residence and stay with your Grandma for a while?”

“On a business trip? Where? For how many days?”

“Mommy, I don’t like the Seet Residence! I like it better here!”

“Mommy, who are you going with?”

Seeing how her children truly cared about her, Nicole decided to tell them the truth.

“What? You’re going to K Nation? With Mr. Levant?”

Nicole nodded dumbly.

“Don’t you want us anymore, Mommy?” pouted Nina. She looked at Nicole accusingly and asked, “Is Mommy going to abandon us and run off with that man?”

“Of course not! I just have something important to attend to. When that’s done, I’ll be on the first plane home!”

“Is Yoda going with you?”

“Yes, I’m bringing Yoda with me as well as a few extra bodyguards. I’ll be safe, don’t worry.”

Hearing what she said, the children were relieved.

Although they had yet to find evidence, they knew Yoda was Daddy. Knowing that Daddy would be with Mommy made them feel reassured.

“Mommy, you have to come back soon.”

“I will, darling.”

Nicole idly stroked the heads of the four children. She really couldn’t bear to leave them behind, but she had to.

Maya rubbed her chubby little hands together anxiously and looked at Nicole with tears in her eyes.

“Can’t you take me with you, Mommy?”

“I can’t, darling. But I promise to video call you every day, alright?”

“Maya, listen to Mommy,” said Juan. “Mommy must have something important, and you have us to take care of you.”

Maya looked at Juan and nodded, reluctantly.

After making arrangements for the children, Nicole and Yoda rushed to the Levant Winery alongside their carefully selected bodyguards.

Levant had prepared his private jet for the occasion. After a ten-hour-long journey, they finally arrived at K Nation.

Luckily, the Musgrave Estate was a short drive away from the private airfield they landed in.

Nicole stood outside and looked at the stately castle, her face filled with wonder.

There were towers, cupolas, and arches: elements that made the castle more magnificent than the average manor.

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Indeed, it was a residence worthy of the Duke himself.

“Nicole, this is where I live. Let me bring you inside.” As he said this, Levant extended his arm towards Nicole.

Nicole’s glanced at the man’s large and imposing hand but felt her heart pounding inside her chest. She had a feeling that she would be punished most severely by a certain *someone* if she accepted.

Bright-eyed, Nicole looked directly at the estate and asked, “Can I go inside now?” Without waiting for Levant to reply, she hurried in.

Levant was left behind with his hand in mid-air, which he retracted angrily. He quickly caught up to her to save himself the embarrassment.

The estate resembled a Renaissance painting. Everything from the layout to the hustle and bustle of servants tending to their chores felt surreal to Nicole.

Nicole stopped abruptly. She couldn’t bring herself to walk any further lest she destroyed the picturesque beauty of the place.

“What is it?” asked Levant suspiciously. He wondered why she came to such a sudden halt.

“This place is so majestic. How did my mother even get involved with all this?” asked Nicole as she gestured vaguely at her surroundings.

Nicole was so overwhelmed by the sights that she was star-struck, no matter where she looked.

She also felt extremely out of place.

Nicole’s mother was just the daughter of a middle-class businessman in Y City. To think that she had come here, to such an aristocratic place to seek answers made her feel weak in the knees.

Levant’s face broke into a dazzling smile. “It is magnificent, alright, but don’t forget that it’s also a place filled with people. Don’t think of its inhabitants as otherworldly or inaccessible. They also have emotions and desires. Like us, they’re very much human.”

*That’s true. How else can you abandon my pregnant mother?* thought Nicole bitterly.

Suddenly, she felt as if all the beauty and magnificence of the place were deeply flawed.

Levant took them all the way through the twisty gallery towards the guest wing. He also arranged accommodation for her bodyguards and found four maids to attend to her every need.

"If you need me, just let any of the maids know. I need to see to the Duke first." With a curt nod, Levant departed.

"Alright."

After Levant left, Nicole asked the bodyguards to rest in their respective quarters. With the four maids standing guard outside, only Yoda remained inside with her.

Nicole closed the door and breathed a sigh of relief. From the moment she entered the estate, she could not shake off the feeling that something was wrong.

"Do you think my father is someone who lives here? But how did my parents meet?" she wondered aloud. "People normally have more clues to work with, like a keepsake or a token. My mother never mentioned anything, let alone leave something behind for me."

Yoda observed the estate from the window, with a melancholy look in his eyes.

He could sense trouble lurking behind this façade of opulence.

Yoda suddenly regretted letting Nicole come here. It was too risky.

Seeing that Yoda did not reply, Nicole pressed on. "By the way, Levant mentioned that my mother was also Wesley's apprentice. I think my biological father has something to do with her learning the skill in the first place. I wonder if this is an important clue. Maybe I can use it to go down the rabbit hole and see where it leads."

Yoda narrowed his gaze as he turned around to look at her. "That means your mentor might know something?" His mellow voice rang across the room.

"Yeah. But he is notoriously difficult to track, and it will take ages to pinpoint an exact location."

"Tell me whatever you can about Wesley. I'll have someone look into this."

"That could work."

Nicole detailed whatever she knew about Wesley, and Yoda immediately made a phone call.

When he was done, Nicole cautiously said, "Go back to your room first. Staying here for too long will make people suspicious."

"Okay, call me if you need anything."

"Alright."

Yoda left the room and closed the door behind him.

Nicole looked around at the room she was in. It was exquisitely designed, where even the humble shoe cabinet in the corner did not seem out of place. Every piece of furniture was painstakingly chosen to match.

Her pale fingers slid across the milky white leather sofa. She sat down gingerly and made herself comfortable against one of the pillows.

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When I get rich, I'll build a castle like this one too. It doesn't have to be too big as long as it fits me and my kids.

This is only my first day here, but I'm already missing the kids.

She clicked on her WhatsApp to video call her kids.

Because of the time difference, the kids were having their breakfast when they received the call.

They squeezed to fit their faces inside the screen after accepting their mommy's call.

"Mommy!"

"Mommy!"

"Mommy, I miss you."

"Mommy, I-I'm eating."

Nicole gazed at them affectionately before asking what they were having for breakfast.

Nina was about to reply when Juan stopped her.

"Mommy, Maya should reply to this question," he said.

Nina giggled. "Yes, Mommy. Ms. Patty told us to recite a rhyme. Maya has memorized it well. Come on, Maya!"

Maya rolled her eyes at Nina but said nothing.

Nicole thought Maya had forgotten everything and consoled her. "It's alright, Maya. Ask your brother and sister to teach you. I believe you'll learn it soon enough."

"I have learned it! I don't need them to teach me!" Maya huffed.

"Okay, go on. Recite the rhyme then."

Nina is laughing at me again!

Fine, let me recite it. I'm not afraid, hmph!

Maya glared at Nina before reciting, "Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any food? Yes sir, yes sir, three plates full. One plate of chips, one plate of ribs. And cheese for the little boy who lives down the lane."

The other three kids exchanged glances before bursting out into laughter.

"Mommy, did you hear that? Maya recited that rhyme in class."

“Ms. Patty scolded her in class.”

Maya lowered her head and fell silent.

Through the screen, Nicole patted Maya’s adorable cheek and comforted her. “Maya, I’ll teach you when I come home, alright?”

She nodded fervently.

“Maya, are you craving fried chicken? I’ll ask the chef to prepare some for lunch.”

“Grandma, Maya is reciting a rhyme.”

“Rhyme? I thought she was reciting a recipe.”

Maya rolled her eyes. I can also recite a recipe!

“Grandma, that was a rhyme. I will recite a recipe tomorrow.”

“Okay. Maya, good job!”

Upon hearing Maya and Sophia’s conversation, Nicole smiled at the other end.

“Hurry and finish your breakfast. Mommy will hang up now.”

“Bye, Mommy.”

“Bye-bye, Mommy.”

“Mommy, come back soon.”

“Mommy, I’ll recite rhymes and recipes when you come back!”

“Okay.”

After hanging up, the smile on Nicole’s face remained.

The kids have inherited the good genes from Evan and me.

When I return, I’ll spend more time with them. After all, they are my kids.

But my dad abandoned mom and me.

“Mom, who was that heartless man? Is he a lowly servant of the Musgrave family?”

Frowning, she dismissed that thought right away. After all, a lowly servant wouldn’t have ended up in Y City.

It must be someone who was in charge of diplomatic relations, she decided.

In the meantime, Levant strode out of Stephen’s study, his face was gloomy.

Stephen’s health was deteriorating each day, but he refused to pass on his title to Levant. I know what he’s thinking.

When you find the truth, it’ will be too late. Both Nicole and the title will be mine!

A conniving glint flashed in his gaze as he made his way to Nicole's room.

She was gathering her thoughts with her eyes shut. Then, she rose to her feet when someone knocked on the door.

"Levant? I thought you went to meet Sir Musgrave?"

"Yes, but he's feeling under the weather. He'll see you later."

As Stephen seemed unwell, Levant didn't mention Nicole at all.

He thought he should inform his father only after Nicole and he became inseparable.

By then, even if Stephen found out who she really was, it wouldn't matter anymore.

After all, she belonged to him.

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“I’m not in a hurry,” Nicole made up an excuse.

I’m glad Stephen doesn’t want to see me. Anyway, I’m here to find who my birth father is. So nothing else matters.

“By the way, you told me that my mom learning acupuncture had something to do with my biological father. What actually was that?”

“You’ve just arrived, so please get some rest tonight. When you’re well-rested, I’ll tell you the story. Then, you can do your investigation.”

“I’m not tired. You can tell me now.”

Levant shot her a mysterious smile. “Even if I tell you now, there is nothing you can do. The person who had learned acupuncture isn’t at the estate right now. I’ll inform you when he’s back.”

He’s trying to brush me off again.

Didn’t he just say the person learned acupuncture together with my mother?

Did that person learn it from Wesley?

If that’s the case, this person must be highly skilled in acupuncture.

Ha! Here’s another important clue.

“Rest well. I’ll go back to my study now. We’ll have dinner together later.”

After Levant left, Nicole summoned the four maids into her room for a chat.

She was hoping to get some information from them.

After exchanging greetings briefly, she went straight to the topic. “Do you know who is skilled in acupuncture within the estate?”

The maids looked at each other and shook their heads.

“You don’t know?”

“Miss, we’ve never heard of anyone who knows acupuncture skills.”

“You haven’t?”

How could this be possible?

If that person is Wesley’s student, he or she should have saved a few lives. There is no way no one knows about this.

Then, one maid thought of something and said, “I heard Mr. Levant’s cousin is good at using needles. If you like, Mr. Levant can bring her here.”

“His cousin? Does she live on this estate too?”



“Yes. She has been staying here for the past five years. I heard that...” the maid suddenly stopped.

Nicole’s brows snapped together as she urged, “What did you hear?”

“N-Nothing.”

“Ms. Nicole, you shouldn’t overthink. Mr. Levant adores you and he has never treated his cousin this way.”

She didn’t know what that meant, so she tried to find out where that cousin lived instead.

If Levant’s cousin is skilled in acupuncture, who was her teacher then?

Was he the person who learnt acupuncture together with my mom?

That means I can find my birth father through this clue.

At that thought, Nicole decided to bump into the cousin deliberately to get close to her. That would help with her investigation.

When it was time for dinner, Levant sent someone to inform Nicole.

She anxiously made her way to the dining room. Then, she heaved a sigh of relief when she saw Levant alone.

“Have a seat.”

“Thank you.”

A delicious spread had been served.

The Musgraves were indeed nobles. Even their silverware was exquisite.

“Nicole, please help yourself.”

“Thank you.”

Nicole’s stomach was rumbling in hunger. She couldn’t be bothered about formalities and picked a huge piece of lobster.

Before she could place it in her mouth, someone came over to them, her heels clacking on the ground.

She looked at the doorway where an elegantly dressed lady walked in.

“Levant, when did you return? No one told me about it,” she said with a pout.

Her voice was laced with displeasure as her gaze flitted on Nicole.

When their gazes met, Nicole’s heart sank at the anger she saw in the lady’s eyes.

We’ve just met and I didn’t even offend her!

She studied the attractive lady, who was tall and slender with curves in all the right places. It was obvious the lady was born with a silver spoon in her mouth as she seemed haughty.



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Hmm, this young lady is arrogant.

“I just came back today. What can I do for you?” Levant inquired coolly.

The lady walked to the table and towered above him.

“Who is she?”

Levant placed his cutlery down. “Let me introduce you to Nicole Lane, a good friend of mine. This is my cousin, Daphne Ankins.”

Cousin?

Is she the one skilled in acupuncture?

Oh, this is great. I don’t have to plan for an encounter.

Should I befriend her to help with my investigation?

“Friend? Levant, when did you befriend someone this lowly? Look how excited she is. She must be scheming something, so be careful.”

Her nasty words hit Nicole hard.

But to think about it, Levant was a nobleman. She was just a lowly commoner, after all.

Daphne’s right. I’m actually scheming things, but my target isn’t Levan but you, dear Daphne.

“She’s right. I’m lucky to have met you, Mr. Levant.”

“Nicole, don’t belittle yourself.”

“Levant, she’s right. At least she knows her place.”

Levant glanced at his petty cousin, who was putting on a haughty look.

However, Nicole couldn’t be bothered about Daphne’s attitude as she came here with a motive. So she decided that temporary setbacks would always be overshadowed by persistence as long as she achieved her goals. Hence, the most important thing now was to befriend Daphne.

“Ms. Ankins, you haven’t had dinner yet, right? Come, join us for dinner.”

Daphne looked at Nicole before turning to Levant.

But he said nothing.

Is he not welcoming me? Fine. I’ll stay against his wishes. Daphne huffed silently.

She plopped down on a seat next to Levant before informing the maids to prepare her utensils.

“Levant, you’ve lost weight. Eat up.”

Levant just ignored her. “Nicole, you should eat more,” he told her.

She looked up and met Daphne's malicious gaze.

She had a jolting shock.

Why is Daphne staring at me like I'm her love rival? Is she seriously thinking that I'm her enemy?

She seems extremely jealous. Obviously, she's in love with him. But isn't Levant her cousin? So can they be together?

Nicole pondered for a while before she concluded. Perhaps these two aren't really related. She might be adopted or something. As they are not blood-related, they can be together.

As she wanted to befriend Daphne, she took a piece of fish and placed it on her plate. "Ms. Ankins, eat up."

"Stop giving me food. That's filthy."

Nicole froze at her rude comment.

Daphne picked up the piece of fish and threw it on the table in disgust.

Fine, I was wrong.

Some people are seriously annoying.

I wouldn't have given you the fish if I don't need your help!

Nicole proceeded to ignore her and resumed eating.

After filling her stomach, she stood up and announced. "I'm done. I'll go back to my room now."

"I'll escort you," said Levant as he rose to his feet.

"It's alright. Please continue eating," replied Nicole as she left the dining room.

"Levant, I have something to tell you."

He glowered at her before sitting down. "What is it?"

Daphne waited until Nicole's figure disappeared from sight before she spoke, "Levant, who is Ms. Lane? Don't forget that I'm your fiancée."

"Fiancée? Really?" He scoffed as if he had heard a joke, then his gaze at her coldly.

"Levant, don't forget you're nothing without Aunt Portia! You have to marry me!"

"Yes, I owe your aunt a favor, but I don't love you. I won't marry you just to repay the favor."