

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 729

He's here to relive his memories? With his ex? I should've known...

Nicole's initial joyful expression slipped away, and it was replaced with a dull look as she stared down at the wreath in her hands.

Wiping the tears from the corner of her eyes, Susan suggested, "Ms. Lane, let's go see the children."

"Yeah." Nicole nodded and followed the other woman toward the rockery.

There was a pond beside the rockery. Susan watched the children playing gleefully with an intent expression on her face.

After a moment, Nina suddenly tripped on a pebble that seemed to have appeared out of nowhere. She staggered a few steps before falling into the pond with a loud splash.

"Nina!" Susan screamed.

In the next instant, she leaped into the pond.

Evan came running over at the shout. When he saw the two struggling figures in the pond, he immediately jumped in to save them.

"Evan, save Nina first!"

The words had barely left Susan's lips when Evan scooped Nina into his arms. He quickly swam toward the shoreline and placed his daughter down.

By the time he turned back to rescue Susan, she had already fallen unconscious from ingesting too much water.

He swiftly put her on the ground and started to perform CPR on her. Nicole and the children watched on worriedly from the sidelines. After several tries, water dribbled from Susan's lips as she coughed violently.

Her eyelids fluttered open. The first thing out of her mouth was, "Evan, is Nina okay?" Her voice was very weak and her words were barely audible.

Evan's expression was serious while confusion swirled in his gaze.

"Nina's fine. Susan, why did you jump in when you don't know how to swim?"

A wan smile curved her lips. "I was so worried I didn't think about that. Nina is your child, which means she's mine as well. When I saw her in danger, the only thing I could think of was rescuing her immediately!"

"Susan..."

Evan took off his own jacket and draped it across her drenched form. Then, he made a call to have someone bring over some clothes.

Susan leaned against his chest, a blissful smile on her face.

Standing off to the side, a bitter feeling encompassed Nicole.

The children are so lucky to have a stepmother who loves them so much. Evan is fortunate to have such a loving wife as well. They're a true family in all the ways that matter; I'm just an outsider looking in. It's about time I go my own way. Evan belongs to Susan so I shouldn't be having such feelings for him... Nicole Lane, it's time for you to wake up and accept reality. Go back and get married to Levant. You have your own life to live now.

Tears prickled at her eyes and she quickly lowered her face to hide them.

From where she was lying on the ground in Evan's embrace, Susan saw all the emotions that flickered across Nicole's face. A victorious grin bloomed on her pale face.

...

When they returned to Imperial Garden, Nicole began to plan her departure.

The children seemed incredibly reliant and attached to her, so outright bidding them goodbye would not work. She would have to leave stealthily.

After some thought, she decided the best time would be in the middle of the night while they were in deep slumber.

By the time they woke up in the morning, she would have been back in K Nation already.

"Mommy, what are you thinking about?"

Nina's childish voice dragged Nicole out of her somber thoughts. She shook her head at the girl in response.

"Nothing much. Nina, your miniature mannequins are very pretty. Can I have one?" She wanted to keep it as a souvenir.

Nina thought about it for a few seconds before saying, "Those are all old ones. I'll make a new one for you!"

"Okay!"

Nicole watched as Nina focused her attention on putting makeup on a new mannequin. Her lips turned upward in a small smile.

What a talented child. I wonder if she inherited it from Evan or her poor departed Mommy.

Noting how Nicole was staring off into space, Maya made up her mind. She would bring out some of her secret stash of snacks and share them with her mother.

"Thank you, Maya, but it's okay. You should leave them for yourself to enjoy."

Maya giggled and opened up her coat, revealing a huge hidden pocket sewn inside.

"I have a lot more snacks in here! You should have some!"

Nicole stared at the hidden pocket, dumbfounded. "Maya, when did you sew this hidden pocket?"

“When I was about to turn six years old. You sew it for me, Mommy! Now I’m seven!”

As she spoke, Maya lifted six of her chubby fingers before adding one more to make it seven.

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Nicole was bewildered at Maya’s words.

Maya stayed with me for a year at the estate. Since she’s seven now, that means she was six when she was with me. She said their mother sewn it for her when she was about to turn six years old, which was about a year before she stayed with me. But didn’t Susan tell me their mother died several years ago in a car crash?

Mulling over that question, she concluded that someone must have deliberately told a white lie to Maya. They must have someone else sew it and tricked Maya into thinking her mother had done it.

Poor, poor child. It really must suck to lose their mother at such a young age. I’m sure Susan will treat them as her own.

Nicole pulled out a small packet of cheese from the hidden pocket. Tearing it open, she popped the snack into her mouth. Maya beamed at her brightly.

She reached out to pinch Maya’s plump cheeks playfully, her heart clenching in her chest.

Will she be very sad when she discovers I’ve left without saying goodbye? Well, might as well rip off the Band-Aid now instead of dragging things out. I am bound to leave anyway.

From the room next door came the sounds of Juan and Kyle playing games together.

She entered their room curiously and Juan stuck his tongue out at her. “Mommy, I’ll practice my Taekwondo after this round!”

Kyle smirked and added, “I’ll try to improve on my hacking skills after this round!”

“Sure.”

Once again, Nicole lamented the fact that their mother passed away so young. It was such a pity.

Evan had said that the woman in the photo was his only wife.

Maybe it’s because of these outstanding children that he can’t seem to forget about her. That woman must be absolutely irreplaceable in his heart.

“Mommy, could you bring us to the amusement park tomorrow? It’s a Sunday tomorrow and we’ll have to go back to class on Monday!”

“That’s right, Mommy! You used to bring us to the amusement park all the time.”

Nicole mulled over the idea for a moment, finally agreeing. She would just think of it as fulfilling one last wish for the children before she left.

“Alright.”

“Should we ask Daddy to come with us?”

Honestly, she was getting tired of being treated as a substitute by Evan. Besides, he was a married man. She should be keeping her distance from him.

She shook her head, replying, "No need. I can take all of you myself. Actually, there are maids here, aren't there? We can just bring one of them along with us."

The kids glanced at each other, remembering all the times their mother used to bring them to the amusement park alone. Their father was probably too busy with work to come with them anyway.

The next day.

The children woke up very early due to their excitement. After breakfast, they changed into their favorite clothes and stood outside Nicole's bedroom door, waiting.

Their father was displeased with how they shouted and banged on Nicole's door to wake her up the day before. He told them that she was very tired and that they should let her rest. They were not allowed to make a commotion.

Heeding his instructions, they stood outside her door and waited in silence obediently.

By the time Nicole woke up, it was well into the day.

Checking the time, she bolted upright in bed. Were the children too tired from their outing yesterday? It was strange that they were not knocking her door down to wake her up.

She took her time changing into a clean set of clothing before she opened the door. To her surprise, the four kids were lined in a neat row in front of her door.

"Mommy!"

"Good morning, Mommy!"

"Mommy, time to eat breakfast!"

"Mommy, we've already eaten!"

She frowned when she took in how they were already dressed and ready to go.

"Why didn't you wake me up?"

They looked at each other, grinning but not replying. At last, one of them spoke up, "Maya, you tell her!"

Maya was the most straightforward and honest of them all.

Giggling, Maya explained, "Daddy said he would give us a spanking if we woke you up by banging on your door!"

Evan threatened them? Is it because he wants to let me sleep in? That's very thoughtful of him. Too bad he's about to disappear from my life forever. We're just not fated to be together.

At the thought, her heart trembled and ached terribly. Curling her fingers into fists, she mentally berated herself.

Nicole Lane! Such is your life! Accept it and move on. Stop thinking about him and focus on enjoying your last day with the kids!

“Mommy, is there something wrong?”

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“Mommy isn’t really hungry. How about we go to the amusement park now?”

“No! Mommy, you should drink a glass of milk and eat a piece of cheese at least!”

“That’s right! Otherwise you won’t have the energy to bring us around!”

Nicole chuckled at the serious expressions on Juan and Kyle’s face. She sped toward the dining room and gulped down a glass of milk. After that, she wolfed down some cheese.

“Alright, let’s go!”

She got four excited nods in response.

The amusement park was like the children’s playground.

The moment they entered, the kids charged straight for the Ferris wheel.

Nicole and the accompanying maid followed along behind them. The adults did not take their eyes off the children as they called out for the kids to be careful.

Despite their vigilance, something unfortunate still happened!

The kids got off the Ferris wheel and were about to head for the pirate ship when they noticed Maya was missing.

“Where’s Maya?” Nicole asked as she looked down at the three remaining children.

“She was just behind us!”

“Yeah! I swear she was still giggling behind me a moment ago!”

“Mommy, do you think she could have gone off to buy something to eat? She’s very gluttonous.”

“C’mon, we have to find her! Keep close to us and don’t stray!” Nicole ordered as she searched frantically for Maya.

Yet even after searching through the entire amusement park, there was still no sign of the little girl.

Nicole was way beyond panic now. She prayed that nothing had happened to Maya.

She kept imagining Maya’s chubby, adorable face, smiling innocently.

Her fingers were clenched so tightly her nails were digging into her sweaty palms. Worry and anxiety set her heart racing.

“Mommy, call Daddy.”

“Daddy will be able to find Maya!”

“Okay, okay.”

She hurriedly fished out her phone and scrolled through her contacts for Evan’s number, tapping on it. She wondered how she was going to break the news to him.

How is he going to react to the news I lost his precious daughter? Will he blame me for it?

The call connected and Evan’s deep voice drifted out, “Hello...”

“E-Evan, Maya is missing! I lost Maya!” Nicole cried out in a quavering voice.

“What?”

Evan was taken aback by her words. However, he could tell from her tone of voice that she was absolutely terrified.

“Calm down. Tell me where you are right now. I’ll head over immediately!”

“We’re at the amusement park. I’ll send you the address.”

“Okay. Don’t panic, okay? I’ll be there in a moment!”

After he hung up the call, Evan rushed out of his office. He bumped into Susan the moment he stepped out of the elevator.

“Evan, what’s wrong? Where are you going in such a hurry?”

“The amusement park!”

“I’ll go with you!”

Evan did not even stop to answer her as he strode out of the building. Susan hastily followed him.

The noise and bustle of the amusement park seemed to have been put on mute. Nicole could not hear a single thing as her head spun wildly. Only one thought was running through her mind right then.

I have to find Maya!

“Maya!”

She kept screaming Maya’s name as she continued forward numbly.

Suddenly, she tripped and stumbled a few steps. Unfortunately, she was unable to regain her balance and went crashing to the ground.

“Mommy!” Juan yelled anxiously.

She sat on the ground, staring at Juan’s small figure sprinting toward her. Out of nowhere, there was a sharp pain in her head. Time seemed to come to a halt as images flashed through her mind. She saw Juan when he was still a toddler, learning how to walk. Then, another image flashed in her mind—Juan had only just learned how to run...

Next, her head began to throb dully and she cradled it gingerly. Like a broken dam, wave after wave of images crashed upon her relentlessly. They played out in her mind like a video that was hastily patched together.

It started out with her giving birth to several babies. Then, it was the children crying, smiling, feeling cold and feeling hungry.

Next, it was images of her returning to the country and meeting Evan again—using her identity as Dr. Tussaud to cure Kyle’s illness. There was the time when Evan tried to fight for the custody of their children, and when Evan was in a plane crash. Finally, she remembered when Evan followed her to K Nation to discover her real identity as the daughter of a duke.

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The pain in her head was agonizing. Nicole felt like her head was about to explode with the intensity of the pain as her whole body trembled violently.

“Mommy, what’s wrong with you?”

“Mommy, are you hurt somewhere?”

It was a good long while later before Nicole lifted her head to look into the worried faces of Juan and Nina. Raising a shaky hand, she stroked their heads gently. Tears welled up in her eyes before slipping down her cheeks.

“Mommy, don’t cry. We’ll definitely find Maya!”

“Don’t be sad, Mommy! Daddy will find Maya for sure!”

The emotions playing across Nicole’s face was too complicated to describe as she stared at her children quietly.

She remembered everything.

She had regained all her memories.

Evan married another woman!

When Evan and Susan arrived at the amusement park, they spotted Nicole crouching on the floor with her head buried in her hands.

All three children and the maid surrounded Nicole as they kept comforting the distraught woman, “Mr. Seet will definitely find Maya. She’ll be brought back safe and sound, you’ll see.”

Susan instantly squatted down beside Nicole. “Ms. Lane, how did this happen? How could you lose Maya? She’s still so young! She...”

At this, tears squeezed their way out of Susan’s eyes.

Nicole did not even lift her head as she remained silent.

“Ms. Lane, I’m not trying to blame you. I’m just so worried about Maya!” Then, she turned her teary eyes on Evan. “Evan, it must be exhausting for Ms. Lane to take care of four children on her own. Maybe we should bring them back to live with us at Hillside Villa!”

Although he had noted the state Nicole was in, Evan was not in the mood to think of anything else. He said, “What’s more important now is to find Maya.”

With that said, he started to make some calls.

Nicole slowly stood up. Grabbing Nina and Kyle’s hands, she called Juan to her side and turned to leave.

Realizing she was leaving, Susan instantly moved to block their way.

“Ms. Lane, Maya is still missing so I think these three should return with Evan and me to Hillside Villa.”

At last, Nicole raised her head to pin the other woman with a hard stare.

Susan hastily clarified, “Please don’t misunderstand. I’m not blaming you or anything. I know you must be incredibly upset that something like this has happened as well. They’re Evan’s children, which means they’re my children too. I really don’t want anything to happen to them. I...”

She trailed off before turning to look at Evan anxiously, clearly expecting him to say something.

Nina scowled at her viciously and spat, “We’re not your children! We want to be with Mommy!”

“Yeah! We don’t want to return to Hillside Villa! We wanna be with our Mommy!” Juan chimed in.

Kyle stared at the sheer despair and grief on his mother’s face before tightening his grip on her hand. He declared, “I want to be with Mommy too!”

Susan did not expect the children to be so obstinate. Then, she turned to face Evan with a pleading look.

Evan was silent for several moments before he walked toward Nicole. Coming to a stop before her, the sadness on her face sent daggers of pain stabbing into his heart.

“Don’t worry. I’ll definitely find Maya no matter what! Go back to Imperial Garden and have a good rest. Let Susan bring the kids back to Hillside Villa for now.”

“You don’t have to worry about a thing, Evan. I’ll take good care of them.”

Susan took several steps forward and reached out to grab Juan and Nina’s hands. However, Nicole immediately stepped in front of them to block her.

“Ms. Lane, what are you doing?”

A troubled expression appeared on Susan’s face. Biting her lip gently, she turned to look at Evan. Her voice was sickly sweet when she called out to the man, “Evan...”

The man knitted his brows slightly at Nicole’s refusal to hand the kids over.

He was allowing Susan to bring the kids to Hillside Villa because he wanted to let Nicole rest. She was obviously not in a good shape right then.

Since she was unwilling, he would not force the matter.

He was about to open his mouth to say so when he noticed the glare Nicole was sending him. Her eyes were dark with anger as she said in a frosty tone, "Why should I let you take away my children?"

Evan froze at her words.

Did she just say "my children?"

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Has she regained her memories?

Evan's heart skipped a beat before beating faster.

Susan was staring at the other woman in shock as her heart jumped into her throat. By her sides, her fingers slowly curled into fists.

Don't tell me Nicole remembers everything?

Without speaking another word, Nicole led her children in the direction of the parking lot.

Evan watched her go. Recalling the look in her eyes and the tone she used, he felt like he had plunged into ice-cold waters. Like a statue, he stood there unmoving.

She remembers everything.

"Evan, I don't think Ms. Lane is in her right mind currently. Shall I head over to Imperial Garden to help her look after the kids?"

It was several seconds later before Evan replied coldly, "No need."

With that, he spun around and stalked toward the Maybach. The color drained from Susan's face before she hurried after him.

Back at Imperial Garden, the three kids were watching their mother, who was staring off into space blankly. They sighed silently.

"Mommy, do you remember everything now?" Juan asked in a soft voice.

His words dragged her back to the present and Nicole nodded.

Nina exclaimed in delight, "Really, Mommy?" After a beat, she huffed angrily and continued, "Mommy, since you've remembered everything, you should take revenge on Daddy! He married another woman when you lost your memories! He's such a big, bad meanie!"

"Mommy, Daddy... He..." Kyle was lost for words, not knowing how to defend Evan.

He could tell his father still loved his mother and most likely had his own reasons for marrying that woman.

But that did not change the fact that he did marry another woman.

Nicole was quiet. Her mind was in turmoil at the fact that Evan had married another woman. She did not know what she was feeling right then. All she knew was that she did not want to think about her feelings. She wanted to avoid and escape from them.

“What’s most important now is that we find Maya! Don’t worry, Mommy is still able to take care of all of you alone. Are you all willing to stay with Mommy?”

The three kids did not hesitate in nodding.

Daddy’s already abandoned Mommy so we can’t do the same! We’ll stay with Mommy forever!

At Hillside Villa.

Evan made call after call while Susan lingered nearby, her heart thumping furiously in her chest.

“Find out who kidnapped Maya. I want them to pay a hundred times over for what they did to her!”

His voice was as sharp as a blade, a blade that Susan felt was hovering over her own head. Her breathing was erratic while her fingers kept twitching. At last, she excused herself by saying she needed to change clothes.

Slipping into the room, she swiftly locked the door and sent out a message.

About an hour later, Evan received news about Maya’s whereabouts.

Maya was standing outside the doors of a dessert store like an abandoned child. Her face was filthy as she blinked her bright eyes, staring at the passers-by.

How did I get here?

Stars swam in her vision and she rubbed her eyes blearily. There was an utterly lost look on her face.

Glancing around, she did not see her mother or siblings anywhere. Scared about getting lost, she did not dare move from that spot. Thus, all she did was stand there, all the while crying out softly for her parents. Tears welled up in her eyes before spilling over.

When Evan finally arrived, she immediately burst into tears and wailed loudly, “Daddy!”

He pulled her into a tight hug, wiping away her tears as he shushed her gently. “It’s alright. Everything’s okay now, Maya.”

When they were seated in the car, he asked her, “How did you get here?”

This dessert store was quite a distance away from the amusement park.

Still a little misty-eyed, Maya shook her little head. “I don’t know. When we were at the amusement park, a lady called me over to her. She smiled at me a-and I don’t remember anything after that. Then when I opened my eyes, I was already at that dessert store.”

Did she run into some human traffickers? But why would they abduct her then drop her off at that dessert store?

Bewildered, Evan had his men investigate the matter further. Whatever the case, he was extremely glad that nothing had happened to Maya.

“Daddy, I want to see Mommy. Can you take me to Mommy please?”

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“Alright, Daddy will take you back to Imperial Garden.”

Nicole must still be incredibly worried.

The Maybach sped like a bullet down the roads, heading in the direction of Imperial Garden.

When they arrived there, the other three kids were elated at seeing their sister.

“Maya! Daddy found you!”

“Maya, are you alright?”

“Maya, it’s so great that you’re back!”

Back with her siblings and mother, Maya could feel tears threatening to roll down her cheeks again. She sprinted over and threw herself into Nicole’s arms. “Mommy!”

“Maya, just what exactly happened?”

“Mommy, I-I ran into some bad people!”

“Bad people?” Nicole’s heart jumped into her throat.

“Yeah!” Maya nodded before launching into her story again.

Someone took her away on purpose? Was it human traffickers?

Questions swirled around Nicole’s mind.

Evan was standing off to the side, his eyes glued on Nicole. He wanted to talk to her but did not know what to say.

Even if he did, he was sure the words would not leave his lips.

“Daddy, sit down! Why are you standing?” Maya questioned while blinking her eyes innocently.

Juan and Kyle snuck a glance at their mother. Her expression was hard and distant. She was clearly furious at their father. The atmosphere was so tense that they did not dare speak up.

Nina hesitated slightly before running off to the utility room. After a while, she returned with a feather duster and handed it to Nicole. She then announced, “Mommy, you can get your revenge now!”

Nicole did not even glance at her daughter. All she did was sit there silently.

Maya stared at Nina like she was crazy. “Nina, have you gone nuts? How could you tell Mommy to hit Daddy?”

“He dared to marry another woman when Mommy lost her memories! Shouldn’t Mommy get her revenge for that?”

Maya’s fingers flexed as she turned to look at Nicole with surprise. Has Mommy remembered everything?

Since Nicole did not make a move to take the feather duster nor speak, Evan paced toward her with heavy steps.

“Don’t bottled up your anger. Take it out on me if it makes you feel better!”

His words instantly set her off.

Her head whipped around and she focused her infuriated gaze on him. “Mr. Seet, why should I hit you? You’re someone else’s husband now. What right do I have to beat you?”

Her words were like daggers that stabbed him in the heart.

His fingers twitched reflexively but he could not refute her statement.

“Mr. Seet, please don’t come to Imperial Garden in the future! From now on, you and I shall go our own ways. In fact, let’s just pretend we don’t know each other!”

Grief and hurt filled Evan’s eyes at her harsh words. Is she cutting off all ties with me?

At that moment, it was like somebody was carving at his heart with a knife. He could not breathe.

So this is what it feels like to have your heart broken.

“Mr. Seet, please go home!”

Then, Nicole turned and walked toward the stairs without another word or glance in his direction.

Evan did not know how he managed to walk out of Imperial Garden. His mind was blank as he plodded on—every step felt like he was stepping on cotton. Before he knew it, he was back at Hillside Villa.

Susan ran over to support him the moment she spotted how terrible he looked.

“Evan, what happened to you?”

“Don’t touch me!” He deftly avoided her hands and headed for the stairs.

The cloud of pain and sadness that surrounded him was nearly visible. Susan watched as he stumbled his way up the stairs, tears welling up in her eyes.

One year.

It had been one year since they had their wedding ceremony in K Nation and returned here. Evan had not even touched her once.

Nicole only just regained her memories and she’s taken his heart again. Heh! The depth of their feelings for each other is truly remarkable!

Liquid trailed down her cheeks even as those frail-looking fingers curled into tight fists. It almost looked like she was squeezing something to death.

Evan remained in his study till the early hours of the morning. His face was so cold and hard it was like he was carved out of marble.

At dinnertime, a maid came in to call him down for dinner. He did not bother replying as he sat there with red-rimmed eyes. A terrifyingly cold aura emanated from him. Gulping, the maid did not dare linger long, scurrying out as quickly as she could.

When Susan herself came in, he still did not make a sound. Hence, she ordered the maids to bring in the food. Crying and pleading, she tried to coax him into eating. His only reply then was, "Get out!"

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The menacing growl sounded like something a demon from Hell would make. Shocked, Susan instantly stopped crying and shivered. She sniffled slightly while wiping her tears away. After that, she had the maids leave the room with the food.

She was intensely curious about what had happened between Evan and Nicole for him to be in so much despair.

Back at Imperial Garden.

Nicole tossed and turned in bed, unable to fall asleep. Images of what happened during the time she had amnesia kept flashing in her mind—especially Evan and Susan's wedding.

No wonder she felt a sense of familiarity with Evan and was so attracted to him.

All those perverted thoughts about him made a lot of sense too.

That would also explain the tight feeling in her chest and the tears that had trickled down her face at his wedding.

Turns out the groom was my man, the father of my children, and the bride was another woman, not me. Nicole, you stupid woman! You even gave them such a generous wedding gift! Everyone must have been laughing their asses off at me! Nina was right. How could Evan do this to me when I lost my memories? It's unforgivable!

However, at that point, she had to snort at her own idiocy. He was already married to someone else. He did not need her forgiveness anymore.

She gave herself a slap across the face. From now on, he can do whatever he wants! I don't want anything to do with him anymore! Stay the hell away from him, Nicole!

With that mental warning, she shut her eyes, trying to keep her out-of-control brain in check. Half an hour later, she finally fell into a deep sleep.

The next day, she was woken up by her alarm. The children needed to go to school so she had to get them ready. She needed to make sure they had their breakfast and dressed warmly before heading to school.

The four kids were utterly dumbfounded when they saw her up so early.

They were planning on getting the chauffeur to send them to school if she did not wake up in time. Yet to their surprise, she was already up even before they started to eat breakfast!

Nicole scrutinized them closely, taking in their appearance and attire. Kyle and Nina were the best dressed and the neatest in appearance. Juan had buttoned up his shirt wrongly so she helped him rebutton it. Maya's hair was not brushed properly and looked like a bird's nest.

"Maya, Mommy needs to brush your hair."

Maya stared at her with her big doe eyes. A second later, she nodded slowly.

“Mommy, Maya is obviously not fully awake. She’s definitely going to fall asleep later in class!”

Not really in the mood to fight with Nina, Maya lowered her head tiredly. She had a dream about Evan last night. Unfortunately, she wasn’t able to sleep after waking up from that dream. It was only close to dawn that she fell into an exhausted sleep.

In truth, she really wanted her parents to be together again. She was even dreaming about it in her sleep.

“Okay, I’m done with your hair! Go have your breakfast!”

When they were done eating, Nicole sent them off to kindergarten.

On her way back home, she received a call from Rocky.

“Rocky, what’s up?”

“Nicole, I heard that you are back. You should probably drop by the clinic if you have the time.”

“Okay, I’ll head over right now. Sorry for troubling you, Rocky. Thank you for all that you’ve done for me.”

“There’s no need for that. I’m ashamed to receive your gratitude. I’m afraid I have been busy with my company matters and staying at M Nation for a while. I haven’t been to the clinic at all. It’s already been shut down. Are you planning on reopening it?”

“Of course! I’ll go take a look now.”

She needed to earn a living to look after the four kids now. A lot of companies had clamored to work with Lane Corporation due to her relationship with Evan. However, now that he had married another woman, the company was bound to be affected.

She had no idea what the future would hold.

That was why she had to reopen the clinic. It would serve as an alternative source of income for her.

Arriving at the clinic, she checked over everything carefully. With a bit of cleaning up, she was certain she could reopen the business.

After going through the necessary procedures, she sent out news about the clinic’s reopening.

Juan and Kyle were overjoyed when they heard about this piece of news.

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Nina thought the clinic needed a nice name. After a moment of thought, she suggested, “Mommy, why don’t you call the clinic Nina’s Clinic! That has a nice ring to it!”

Maya blinked before sticking out her tongue at her sister. “Mommy, you should call it Maya’s Clinic! That sounds way better than Nina’s Clinic!”

Juan mulled over both names before commenting seriously, “They’re both not nice nor suitable.”

Feeling annoyed, Nina rolled her eyes at her siblings. She was quiet for several seconds before suddenly snorting. Then, she giggled.

“What’s wrong with you? You’re acting so weird. Just say what you have in mind.”

“What do you guys think about Evan’s Clinic?”

“If that’s the only name you can come up with then I might as well not open the clinic!”

Nicole eyed her daughter coldly before rising up to head for the kitchen.

Juan berated, “Why did you have to bring Daddy up? This isn’t the right time for that!”

Nina pouted and muttered sullenly, “I was only joking. I didn’t expect Mommy to get angry.”

“Mommy’s not angry. She’s just sad. We should probably avoid mentioning Daddy at all these few days.”

“Mommy is definitely not going to forgive Daddy for this.” Maya sighed loudly.

“I don’t think Daddy is going to leave that bad woman either.” Juan’s face was filled with disappointment at his father.

“Adults are so complicated! How do we even help them?”

This time, all four of them sighed simultaneously. Their heads drooped sadly as they went back to their own rooms.

At Hillside Villa.

The moment Evan returned from work, Susan rushed forward to welcome him home warmly. Affection was writ large upon her face as she stared at the man. When she parted her pink lips to speak, her voice was gentle and sweet, “Evan, dinner will be ready shortly. Is there anything in particular that you want to eat? I can have the kitchen staff prepare it for you.”

“Anything is fine!”

Tossing those words over his shoulder, he did not even glance at her as he walked upstairs to his study.

Susan watched him go silently before informing the kitchen staff to whip up several of Evan’s favorite dishes.

When they were seated at the dining table, she asked in a careful tone, “Evan, it’s been a year since we had our wedding ceremony. Don’t you think it’s about time we get our marriage certificates? Are you free tomorrow? We could go to the Civil Affairs Bureau...”

“I don’t have the time. I have an important meeting tomorrow.”

Susan’s expression fell and she was quiet for a few seconds. Tears welled up in her eyes as she persisted, “Evan, every time I bring up the topic of getting our marriage certificates, you either say we should wait a while longer or that you’re not free. It’s only getting our marriage certificates at the Civil Affairs Bureau! At most, it’ll take an hour. Can’t you even set aside one hour for me?”

“Susan, I’m really busy with work. I’m sorry.”

Evan had a grim look on his face as he barely flicked a glance in her direction. Standing up, he left for his study again.

Uneasiness swirled inside Susan. They had not gotten their marriage certificate nor had he touched her so far. In other words, she was technically only Mrs. Seet in name.

How am I supposed to be his wife in all the ways that matter? How do I ensure I won't be dethroned?

Her brows furrowed deeply in thought.

Evan turned on his laptop and saw the news about Nicole's clinic reopening for business. His eyes narrowed while he stared at his screen intently.

He still remembered how he had helped her with her failing business back then. Now...

Pulling out his phone, he made a call.

"John, have someone keep an eye on Nicole's clinic."

"Mr. Seet, may I ask why?"

"I want to know how well her clinic does—whether she profits or loses money."

"Got it, Mr. Seet!"

After hanging up, John sighed. He could already guess the other man's intentions. Evan was doing this so he would be able to help out again if Nicole's business were not good.

Oh, Mr. Seet. You're already married to another woman. I seriously doubt Ms. Lane will appreciate you doing this for her.

For a week straight, John sent some men to keep an eye on Nicole's clinic.

On the very first day of the clinic's opening, Nicole prayed fervently that her business would only continue to grow and flourish.

In the blink of an eye, it was the weekend again. Maya was craving some desserts but was too shy to speak up. Hence, Kyle brought the idea up for her.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 737

Despite being a reserved boy, Kyle doted on his sister excessively.

Maya stared at Kyle with shining eyes, unsure of how to express her gratitude. In the end, she settled with a sweet, "Thank you, Kyle!"

"Go with Mommy. Remember not to eat too much."

"Don't worry! I'm not a three-year-old anymore. I know how to hold back!"

Nina rolled her eyes at her gluttonous sister. You're already seven years old yet you still don't know how to keep a leash on that greed of yours! Your self-control is terrible when it comes to food!

"The three of you aren't coming?" Nicole asked the other three kids curiously.

“My makeup teacher wants me to practice the latest makeup trends.” “I have to practice my Taekwondo.” “I don’t like eating desserts.”

Thus, Nicole took Maya to the dessert store alone.

They entered the store while Maya’s chubby hand holding on to Nicole’s hand tightly. She uttered, “Mommy, I’ll only eat a little bit. The main reason I wanna come here is because I really like the buttery smell here.”

Nicole glanced down at her daughter. “Okay. Then Mommy will keep an eye on you so you don’t eat too much. Breathe in as much of this buttery smell as you want.”

Maya nodded before sighing heavily. Nicole questioned worriedly, “What’s wrong, Maya?”

“Daddy promised me he would hire a gourmet specialist to teach me. I guess there’s no hope for that now.”

Nicole kept quiet as she mentally calculated how much it would cost to hire a gourmet specialist. The number she came up with was rather daunting. When she added up how much she had in her bank accounts, an apologetic grimace appeared on her face.

“Maya, give Mommy two months, okay? I’ll hire a gourmet specialist for you then.”

Once Lane Corporation began to earn a profit and business for her clinic grew, she would have enough to hire one for Maya.

Knowing how hard her mother was working to earn money for them, Maya shook her head. She said in a thoughtful tone, “Mommy, I’m still young. I can always learn when I’m older.”

Nicole stroked her daughter’s head gently, her heart aching for the child.

Unfortunately, things are a little dire right now. How depressing is it that I can’t even fulfill my own child’s dream? If Evan were here, he would have agreed in a heartbeat! Ah, damn it! What happened to not thinking about that jerk?

She sucked in a deep breath to calm herself. After that, she led Maya over to select a few desserts before sitting down at a table.

Unlike all the other times before, Maya did not instantly wolf everything down today. She took her time observing the shapes of the desserts and the distribution of the chocolate and cream. Then, she shut her eyes and inhaled deeply, enjoying the fragrant aroma.

“Mommy, you should eat first!”

Nicole leveled a surprised look on her daughter.

Previously, whenever Maya had dessert, she would stuff them down her gullet without a care for anything else. Yet this time, she was actually letting her mother eat first. Growing up by a year really makes a difference, huh.

Taking a bite of the slice of cake, Nicole pushed it toward her daughter. “It’s too sweet. Mommy doesn’t like it so you can have it all, Maya.”

Maya cut herself a morsel of cake and ate it. “Mommy, since you don’t like sweet stuff, I’ll be sure to make you non-sweet desserts in the future!”

Nicole watched the way her daughter’s eyes glimmered brightly. She beamed at the child. “Alright. Mommy can’t wait to try it!”

Maya nodded vigorously. “I’ll definitely be able to make you anything you want to eat, Mommy!”

“I believe in you. You’re definitely going to be a world-famous gourmet specialist someday!”

An ecstatic grin spread across Maya’s face at her mother’s words. Warmth suffused Nicole at seeing how happy her daughter was. So what if I lost that man? I still have my four precious children! Having such understanding and thoughtful kids really is a blessing!

Turning her head slightly, she spotted a man who had a similar build as Evan standing nearby. A woman dressed in extremely sexy clothing was clinging to his arm as they browsed the cakes. A bolt of pain shot through her heart sharply.

Heh! Giving up on someone you love with all your heart feels like a burden in one instant and a terrible loss in the next.

Her breath gusted out heavily.

She was reaching out to wipe away the cream on Maya’s face when a shrill voice rang out.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 738

“Well, well, well. If it isn’t Mr. Seet’s ex-girlfriend, Nicole Lane.”

Nicole raised her head to see a woman standing before her with her arms crossed in front of her chest. The other woman’s face was filled with disdain as she looked down her nose at Nicole.

She was the director of a small company that Nicole had refused to work with in the past—Sheryl.

Nicole barely glanced at Sheryl before ignoring the latter entirely. She continued to wipe the cream away from Maya’s face as if there was no one there.

Annoyed at being ignored, Sheryl scoffed and mocked, “What’s with the arrogant attitude? I thought Mr. Seet has already abandoned you? Do you seriously still think you’ll be able to marry into an influential family? Only in your dreams!”

“Is there something you want?” Nicole demanded impatiently.

“Can’t I just have a little chat with you? I heard Lane Corporation isn’t doing too well without Mr. Seet’s support. Luckily, you didn’t agree to work with us back then. Otherwise, it would be difficult to extricate ourselves from you now.”

Nicole gave her an amused look. “Extricate yourselves? Stop kidding yourself! Even if Lane Corporation is doing terribly, and lost all our business partners, there’s no way I’ll work with someone like you!”

“Stubborn b****!” Sheryl glanced at Maya before she sneered scornfully. “Hmph! So what if you gave birth to several bastards? Evan Seet still doesn’t want you! You’re just a worthless b****! Stop acting so haughty when you’re nothing!”

Maya’s head snapped around as she glared at Sheryl furiously. This bad woman actually called me a bastard and scolded Mommy! What a horrible person! She curled her fists tightly, gathering energy for her Maya Punch.

A few seconds later, her fists flew out and smashed into Sheryl.

She only got two hits in before Sheryl grabbed her by the collar. “You little bastard, how dare you hit me!”

Sheryl scowled at the little girl and shook her several times. After that, she shoved the girl away from her.

“Maya!”

Thankfully, Nicole’s quick reflexes allowed her to catch Maya before she fell down. Terrified and shocked, tears welled up in Maya’s eyes.

Wiping away her daughter’s tears, Nicole said, “Maya, can you stand on your own two feet?”

Then, she straightened up and turned to the smugly smirking Sheryl. Her hand darted forward to slap the other woman harshly.

Smack! The sound rang out clearly, catching the attention of the other people in the dessert store. They glanced over curiously, wondering what was going on.

Having caught off guard, Sheryl held her throbbing cheek as she glared at Nicole. “You dare hit me!”

“Of course I dare! You were spouting nonsense at me. I intend on ignoring you but you insulted my daughter! You deserved to be slapped! Say anything else and I’ll ruin that face of yours!”

Nicole was like a tigress protecting her cub. Sheryl felt apprehension rise in her. If they really did end up fighting, there was a high probability that she would lose.

Besides, she had heard that Nicole knew how to use silver needles. It was better not to get in a direct fight with her.

Another thing was that even if Lane Corporation was not doing well, Nicole was still more influential than her. She was just the director of a small company. If things went south and blew up, it would affect her significantly.

There were other opportunities and better ways to deal with Nicole.

Sheryl’s eyes narrowed before she spat out through clenched teeth, “Nicole Lane, just you wait and see!”

“Get lost!”

The menacing and commanding aura Nicole exuded was startlingly similar to Evan's. With her heart skipping a beat, Sheryl fled out of there with her tail between her legs.

Nicole bent down to pick up Maya. "Let's eat these at home, shall we?"

The little girl nodded.

Feeling humiliated, Sheryl's hatred for Nicole deepened. She spent a lot of time thinking about how she would get her revenge. Finally, she decided on a course of action. She would wait for the perfect day to enact her plan.

Two days later.

Nicole was shopping with the children at a shopping mall when a crowd of people suddenly appeared out of nowhere. They began to point fingers and chatter about Nicole.

"Look, there she is! That's the woman who tried to rise above her station! She's Nicole Lane!"

"That's her?"

"Yeah! She thinks that just because she gave Mr. Seet four children, he'll marry her. Look at her now—being tossed aside like some unwanted piece of trash! She deserved it!"

"Mr. Seet doesn't want her even though she gave him children? Wow, she really must have the most terrible of luck! Now those poor children have become bastard children. How very unfortunate!"