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Nina, however, didn't share her bubbly enthusiasm. The two girls even got into an argument over it.

"Daddy lied to you. He brought that woman for a checkup at the hospital, remember? Wait until that woman gives birth, then you'll know that Daddy is nothing but a liar. He's the biggest liar in the world!"

"No. Daddy would never lie to me. And he's not a liar!"

"Yes. he is!"

"No, he's not!"

"Yes, he is!"

"No, he's not! He even told me to tell you to rest well and said that he is going to come visit you. Nina, Daddy cares about you so much, but you said all those terrible things about him. You're horrible!"

Maya, who was initially in high spirits after the phone call with her Daddy, couldn't stand it when Nina badmouthed Evan and hence, began arguing with Nina.

Nina wasn't about to back down either. "You're horrible! You're a traitor for going behind Mommy's back to help Daddy. You should just let Daddy take you away so that you can live with that bad woman and evil daddy."

"You go live there! You're too much, Nina!"

"No. You're too much, traitor!"

"Well, you're mean! You're evil..."

Their childish squabble managed to catch Nicole, Kyle and Juan's attentions.

"What's going on? What are the two of you fighting about?"

"Mommy, Maya secretly called Daddy. She's a traitor!"

Nina announced it with her chin raised.

Maya twisted her chubby fingers together as she fell silent. Then, she abruptly wailed, "I'm not a traitor! Mommy, Daddy said he's gonna come visit Nina. He even said that he wasn't gonna have another baby. Not even one!"

Silence ensued.

They went for a pregnancy checkup, so of course they're having a baby.

Evan said that just to bluff an innocent kid like Maya.

"Alright, alright. Stop fighting you two. If this continues, I'm gonna separate the two of you into two bedrooms. No more sharing."

The two little girls exchanged a glance, seemingly unwilling to sleep in different bedrooms. Hence, they clamped their mouths shut in complete sync, silently agreeing to stop arguing.

Nicole went back to the living room. Just as she sat down, Sheila rushed over with a bunch of stuff.

"I heard that you've regained your memories. I came to visit you and your children."

"Thank you! Come, take a seat!"

Sheila sat next to Nicole and prodded in a soft voice, "So? Are you planning to start over again with Mr. Seet?"

Nicole's eyes snapped towards Sheila and she gaped at her in bewilderment. "He's already married to another woman. Even if I'm a spineless woman, I would never start over with him again!"

Davin was actually the one who told Sheila to come over here today.

This was because Davin had overheard the conversation between his mother and one of the maids earlier this morning.

That maid had been specially arranged by Sophia to work at Hillside Villa so that she could monitor Susan.

Through their conversation, he had learned a few secrets and believed that he could use them to draw his brother and Nicole closer. Hence, he couldn't wait to tell Nicole.

However, it wasn't appropriate for a grown man like him to talk about such a sensitive topic, so he entrusted Sheila to do it instead.

Sheila remained silent for a moment before speaking, "Ms. Lane, it's one thing to hold a wedding ceremony, but whether it's legal and whether they're actually together completely different matters. Things aren't what you think they are between Mr. Seet and Susan."

Nicole couldn't fathom what Sheila meant by these words.

Her brows knitted together as she queried, "What are you trying to say?"

"What I mean is, Mr. Seet and that woman, Susan, are only husband and wife in name. Besides, they didn't even get a marriage certificate. Strictly speaking, they aren't a legally married couple, nor have they consummated their marriage. So, I think you should get rid of Susan, and repair what you had with Mr. Seet. The fact that Mr. Seet hasn't touched her even after such a long time is enough to prove his sincerity towards you!"

Sheila thought that what she said made sense. She told Nicole to sleep on it and then take action once she came to a decision, so that her four children could have a complete family as soon as possible.

Nicole laughed mirthlessly and asked her, "Only husband and wife in name? I witnessed their wedding with my own eyes! Haven't consummated their marriage? Susan is pregnant. Where did the baby come from? Evan even accompanied her, no, carried her for her pregnancy checkup. So tell me, what was that all about?"

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Nicole's barrage of questions confused Sheila.

Susan is pregnant?

Mr. Seet even carried her for her pregnancy checkup?

"This is no joking matter." She stared at Nicole with cautious eyes.

"Nina scalded herself earlier today. I bumped into Susan at the hospital and she said so herself! I saw Evan carrying her into the consultation room with my own two eyes. I'm certain!"

Silence blanketed them.

Sheila suddenly felt as if she had been given a tight slap across her face.

Davin Seet, that b*stard. He wouldn't have deliberately tricked me into coming to Nicole's place just so I'd get humiliated, would he?

Just you wait, Davin Seet. I'll make sure to settle the scores between us!

She huffed out an awkward laugh and said, "Ms. Lane, perhaps there's some kind of misunderstanding."

"There isn't. Even if there is, it would be that I misunderstood Evan's feelings for me. He married another woman while I was suffering from amnesia, and I will never forget this! So starting over with him is impossible!"

Sheila rubbed her clammy palms against her shirt. Nicole is really adamant to the point where there's nothing for me to work with. She might even see me as an enemy if I push too much.

Sheila didn't have any close friends and she had a rather good relationship with Nicole. She also really liked Nicole's quadruplets. She didn't want something like this to cause a rift between Nicole and her.

Sheila gnawed on her lip before blurting out furiously, "Yeah! You're right! Since Mr. Seet treated you this way, you shouldn't give him a chance! Not even if the whole world burns and we're about to die!"

Nicole was stunned silent by her sudden outburst.

Uhm. Didn't she switch sides a little too quickly? What's her purpose in coming to Imperial Garden anyway?

Nicole was slightly baffled.

When Sheila saw the suspicion in Nicole's eyes, she made a few more remarks that were in her favor. Following that, she stood and came up with a random excuse before leaving in a panic.

Even after Sheila had stepped out of Imperial Garden, she was still inwardly cursing at a certain someone. Davin Seet, how dare you screw me over. I won't let you off the hook!

When Davin saw Sheila return, he excitedly asked her how it went.

"How did it go? Was Nicole touched when she found out how deeply my brother loves her? Did she ask for your opinion on how to repair her relationship with my brother?"

A creepy smile appeared on Sheila's face as she gritted out, "What do you think?"

"I think, hell yeah she did! Nicole is also a straightforward person. She would've definitely shared her thoughts with you and discussed them as well. So how did you go in for the kill?"

Looking at a very curious Davin, Sheila crooked her finger at him.

"Come here and I'll tell you!"

Davin placed his ear right in front of her, but to his utter shock, she grabbed his ear between her fingers instead!

"Ow, ow! Why are you pulling my ear? Let me go, let me go!"

"Davin Seet, you a*****e! You played me, didn't you? You knew that Susan is pregnant with your brother's child, so you purposely sent me to Nicole to make a fool out of myself, didn't you? A****e!"

What Sheila said stunned Davin to the core.

"Susan is pregnant? Impossible. That's impossible! Release me and let me go ask my brother. I'll go right now!"

"You'll go right now? Fine. I'm coming with you!"

Sheila released his ear and followed closely behind Davin.

If Davin was indeed unaware of this matter, then she would let it go. However, if he knew about it...

Then she would give him hell!

Davin felt uneasy with the way Sheila was following so closely behind, as if she was an extension of him. He glanced at her and said, "I think you should just wait for me here. After I figure things out, I'll call you immediately with an explanation."

"Well, I'm coming with you whether you like it or not. If you stop me from following you, I'll take it that you're feeling guilty because you lied to me."

Davin blinked dumbly in response.

He sighed inwardly and thought to himself, She's being completely unreasonable!

Women are such difficult creatures, and this woman is the worst of them all!

Helpless, Davin could only take her to Hillside Villa with him.

Unfortunately, Evan wasn't home. Susan knew that Davin and Evan had a good relationship with each other. She also knew that Sheila was Sophia's ideal daughter-in-law and that they would be considered her family sooner or later. Thus, she wanted to build a good relationship with them by treating them with warmth and respect.

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"It's so rare to see the two of you here. Please, take a seat."

Davin looked at Sheila, who lowered onto the sofa unceremoniously. She thought that since Evan wasn't around, they might as well ask Susan about the pregnancy because it wouldn't make a difference anyway.

Seeing Sheila taking a seat, Davin followed suit.

"Hurry. Brew a pot of tea with the best tea leaves we have. We can't very well serve ordinary tea to Mr. Davin and Ms. Muir."

"Yes."

"Cut some fruits too."

"Yes!"

Sheila found Susan's hospitality rather over-the-top and forced out a smile. "Please, don't trouble yourself. We actually came here today to see you."

"See me?"

Not only was Susan surprised, but so was Davin.

We obviously came here to ask my brother some questions. But all of a sudden, we're here to see Susan?

Women aren't just unreasonable and annoying, but they're liars too!

Davin realized that both women in front of him were expert liars. He decided to let them battle each other in a game of lies and see who would emerge as the winner.

Sheila didn't even bat an eyelash as she lied, nodding her head in utmost gravity.

"Yes. We heard that you're pregnant, so we came just to see you."

Pregnant?

Susan was startled. Why would Sheila say this?

I only mentioned my pregnancy to Nicole. Could Nicole have told her?

She had actually said that to provoke Nicole, but it seemed like she had to continue keeping the act up.

"What's wrong?" Seeing the dazed look on her face, Sheila pressed on.

"N-Nothing. I'm just happy that the two of you came to see me. When I'm happy, the baby in my belly will also be happy."

Sheila and Davin were stunned silent.

Their eyes met after hearing what Susan said. Could it be, that she's really pregnant?

With disbelief apparent on Davin's face, he asked, "How far along are you?"

"The doctor said almost two months." Susan didn't forget to caress her belly as she spoke, incorporating tenderness into her gaze as well.

"Does my brother know?"

Susan paused for a split second and her eyes twinkled when she answered, "He doesn't know yet. His birthday is coming soon, so I'm planning to tell him on that day to surprise him."

Davin's brows drew together. Either Susan was lying, or his mother's intel wasn't accurate.

Since things were confirmed so quickly, Sheila didn't see the need to stay any longer. She got to her feet and said, "In that case, rest well and take care of your body. We won't take up any more of your time."

"I'll send you off."

Susan hurriedly stood up.

She politely saw them off. After Davin's car sped away, her expression immediately darkened.

"Get ready. I'm going to Imperial Garden."

"Imperial Garden?"

"Yes. Nina is hurt, so I should go visit her."

With that, she lowered her gaze to her belly with a gleam in her eyes.

She took out her phone to call Dr. Harrison.

Sheila, who was sitting in Davin's sportscar, released a long sigh. Suddenly, she could understand Nicole's feelings.

If another woman were pregnant with Davin's child, she wouldn't be able to accept it either.

Moreover, Nicole's situation was different from hers. Nicole already had four children with Evan. Apart from not registering their marriage and holding a wedding ceremony, they were practically husband and wife.

Putting herself in Nicole's shoes, Sheila felt that she had picked the right choice by not forgiving Evan, as no woman would be able to get over it.

Sheila sighed. "Men are really despicable."

When Davin heard her mumbling out those words, he whipped towards her and sneered coldly. "Did you actually believe what Susan said?"

He had initially wanted to see who would come out as the winner. He never expected Sheila to lose at the beginning of the battle itself.

In terms of deceiving, her skills were a far cry from Susan's.

"She's already two months in. This isn't something she can just lie about. You're not trying to speak for your brother, are you?"

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"I'll drop you off at home first then head to Seet Group.

"You still wanna ask your brother?"

"Of course. We can't just listen to that woman's one-sided story."

Sensing the determination in Davin, Sheila pursed her lips and didn't speak anymore.

Although she knew that Susan wasn't as simple as she looked, she found it hard to believe that she would make up such a huge lie.

Imperial Garden.

Nicole was surprised when Susan came to visit.

Susan smiled faintly and placed the gift she brought with her on the table.

"I should've visited earlier seeing as Nina was injured. Unfortunately, I've been feeling sick and nauseous these few days, so I couldn't come earlier. I feel much better today, so I immediately came over. Evan has also been nagging me to come."

As Nicole looked at Susan's delicate and frail look, she couldn't help but fear that she would be exhausted from standing and talking too much.

She had never seen such a weak woman like her who could barely stand on her own two feet.

"Nina's not home. She's gone to school. We're not lacking anything here at Imperial Garden either. So please take your things and go back."

No matter how many times Nicole reminded herself to stay calm, she couldn't do it while facing Evan's woman.

Seeing the discomfort on Nicole's face, Susan walked closer to her and asked in a pitiful voice, "Ms. Lane, can we talk?"

"Just say whatever it is you wanna say. I'm in a hurry."

"Ms. Lane, I won't take up a lot of your time. Can we go upstairs?"

Nicole couldn't figure out what Susan was up to. After looking at her for a moment, she couldn't help but feel that the woman had ulterior motives.

"If you have something to say, just say it here."

"Ms. Lane, let's go upstairs. I have something to show you."

With that, she walked upstairs as if she owned the place.

Watching her back as Susan headed upstairs, Nicole's heart felt extremely uneasy. If the woman weren't pregnant, she would have immediately dragged her out!

She followed her upstairs and went into the bedroom. Susan automatically shut the door behind her.

She turned around and looked at Nicole with tearful eyes. Then, she extended her arms and rolled up her sleeves.

Nicole was taken aback when she saw her arms.

She had expected to see fair and smooth skin, but her skin was covered with hideous scars instead.

"Your arms?" Nicole's brows furrowed as she looked at Susan with confusion.

"These are burn scars left from when I saved Evan back then."

Susan's eyes misted over when she explained the origin of her scars.

"Do you think Evan's love for me is without reason? No! I'm his savior. Not just my arms, but my body and face were also burnt by the fire."

"Do you know how many times I had to go under the knife to look like this? Do you know how much pain I suffered?"

Susan looked at the silent Nicole and arched her lips into a smile. "Of course you don't. Because I'm the only one who has gone through this kind of excruciating pain!"

"My face has recovered now, but what about my heart?"

"Do you know how much pain my heart was in when I went through all of this? I felt like I was dying! The scars left on my heart will never heal!"

She raised her head to look at Nicole with tears in her eyes. "Don't you think I deserve to be spoiled by Evan after suffering so much for him?"

By then, Nicole was so shocked that she couldn't formulate a sentence.

She had no idea that Susan and Evan had this kind of history between them.

All of a sudden, she understood why Evan had chosen to abandon her and marry Susan when she had lost her memories. This was probably the biggest reason for his actions.

"Why aren't you saying anything?"

Seeing Nicole's lack of reaction, Susan became slightly anxious.

"Ms. Lane, I hope you understand that Evan and I are fated to be together. We will never separate from each other, so..."

"Aren't the two of you already together? Why are you still telling me all this?"

Nicole cut Susan off mid-sentence and asked in return, "Or is it because deep down, you know that you're using this incident to be with Evan, and that there are no feelings between the two of you. You're afraid of losing him and you see me as a threat, so you came to Imperial Garden just to tell me all of this?"

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Susan turned away slightly, afraid to meet Nicole's eyes.

After a while, she opened the bedroom door just as a bone-chilling smile appeared on her lips. "You're wrong. This isn't the main reason I came here today. The reason I came here today is to..."

Following that, she screamed until her voice broke. "Help! Don't push me! Help!"

After that, she collapsed onto the floor in front of Nicole with a smirk. A stream of fresh blood poured out of her lower body soon after.

Nicole was slightly dazed by this turn of events.

Susan came here to frame me?

Before long, rapid footfalls sounded as a few maids ran up the stairs. They were stunned to see Susan lying in a pool of blood at Nicole's feet.

How did this happen?

Did Ms. Lane hurt her?

The maid who came with Susan immediately wailed in distress, "Mrs. Seet, what happened? You're carrying Mr. Seet's flesh and blood!"

After making her point, she lifted her head to look at Nicole. "Ms. Lane, how could you do this to Mrs. Seet? Even if you're jealous of her, you shouldn't have attacked a pregnant woman!"

Nicole was pulled back to the present by the maid's howls. She quickly ordered, "Call an ambulance. Hurry."

"Yes, Ms. Lane."

"Call Mrs. Seet's attending doctor. He's been helping Mrs. Seet in regulating her body, so he knows her condition best."

At that moment, Nicole didn't care what the maid said. She prayed that the baby in Susan's belly would remain safe.

Otherwise, there would be no way for her to get out of this.

Sacrificing babies for personal gains was something she thought would only happen in dramas. So she couldn't believe that it was happening to her in real life.

Not even a tiger would eat its own cubs. Although Susan seemed faint-hearted on the outside, at that moment, Nicole found her to be even more terrifying than a devil.

While chaos descended at Imperial Garden as they tried to save Susan, Evan had just returned to his office after a board meeting. Before he and Davin had a chance to talk, his phone rang with an incoming call.

"Mr. Seet, something terrible has happened. Ms. Susan fell down and has been admitted to the hospital."

"What happened?"

"I-It was Ms. Lane who pushed her. Please come to the hospital."

Ms. Lane? Nicole?

"Which hospital?"

Thereafter, Evan and Davin rushed to the hospital together.

Susan had woken up by then and was sobbing on the hospital bed, looking utterly despaired.

Standing by the side, Nicole's heart was filled with regret.

Just like that, a life has been lost to the world. The baby was innocent and didn't deserve this. But the same cannot be said for Susan.

The baby would never have died if it weren't for this vicious and cold-hearted mother.

"Ms. Lane, you clearly knew that I was pregnant. How could you push me? I know you hate me and this child, but the child also belonged to Evan! How could you be so heartless?"

Nicole was rendered speechless.

Both Susan and I know what really transpired back there, but here she is, crying and distorting the truth. How does she even make it sound so believable?

No wonder Nina said she's good at acting. Well, ain't that the truth? She could probably bag the best actress award.

Nicole sighed in her heart. I wonder just how heartbroken Evan would be when he sees her looking so vulnerable and pitiful!

If he really believes that I harmed his child, what would he do?

When Evan's stony and arrogant face flashed across Nicole's mind, her chest constricted slightly.

The door to the ward room was abruptly opened. Evan and Davin came in one after the other.

"Evan, you're finally here. You have to get justice for me."

Evan looked at the sobbing Susan, then at Nicole who was standing by the side. With a stoic expression, he asked, "What happened?"

"Evan, I went to Imperial Garden to see Nina. Ms. Lane forced me to go to the bedroom upstairs because she said she wanted to ask me something. In the end, she got to know that I saved you before and that's why you married me. She was angry and said that I took advantage of your gratitude to snatch away her position. Then, she started to attack me. She hit me and even caused me to fall."

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What the f**k? She seriously distorted the entire truth.

Nicole was so furious that she took a step forward and glared at Susan. "I didn't attack you or push you! And you were the one who wanted to go upstairs, not me."

Susan looked at Nicole and retorted, "Ms. Lane, Imperial Garden is your house. Would I have been able to enter your bedroom without your permission?"

Nicole was speechless.

If I wasn't afraid of hurting you because you were pregnant, did you think I would've allowed it?

Evan's brows knitted together as he meticulously analyzed all the details of this incident.

If Nicole really did this, does it mean that she still cares about me?

If Nicole really pushed Susan, does it mean that she sees Susan as her love rival and still can't forget about me?

Does it mean Nicole still cares about me and can't bear to see me with another woman?

Evan's gaze on Nicole suddenly became intense. His heated stare made Nicole's heart lurch. What is he trying to do?

Seeing Evan's complete disregard for her as he stared intently at Nicole, Susan's heart burned with anger.

"Evan, you have to get justice for me! You can't forgive Ms. Lane so easily."

Evan turned to look at Susan with a frown. "Then what do you want to do? Fight her? Can you beat her though?"

Susan was stunned. What does Evan mean by this?

Davin couldn't suppress his laughter. I wonder if Evan would really allow both women to fight if Susan says that she can beat Nicole.

If he does, then Susan would be on the losing end because Evan would discreetly help Nicole, right?

Suddenly, Nicole spoke up. "Evan, what happened today isn't like what Susan said. I didn't push her. I would never harm the child in her belly. She was the one who..."

In truth, Nicole only felt sorry for the tiny life.

"What did you say?" Evan looked at Nicole with surprise in his eyes.

Did she just say that there was a child in Susan's belly?

When Nicole saw the doubt in his eyes as he looked at her, as well as the harshness of his tone, she thought that he didn't believe her.

"Forget it if you don't believe me. I was only telling the truth!"

Seeing the firmness in her stance, Evan asked her word by word, "You said, the child in her belly?"

At that, Davin immediately interjected, "Yeah, Evan. Susan is pregnant with your child. I wonder if the child is alright after what happened."

Evan's handsome face darkened. He turned towards Susan and asked in shock, "You're pregnant?"

Susan's hands subtly tightened on the blanket. "Yes, Evan. I was planning to surprise you, but before I could, the child died. Evan, you have to get justice for our unborn child!" With that, she started up with the waterworks again.

Evan's eyes hardened. "You got pregnant? Do you think you're Mother Mary?" Since you seemed to have gotten pregnant all on your own.

Davin's brows scrunched together.

Nicole was surprised as well.

What does he mean by that? Could it be that he's never touched Susan before?

When Susan saw the odd looks Davin and Nicole were sending her, she stammered out a response, "E-Evan, what are you talking about? The night you got drunk, w-we did it several times. Did you forget?"

"Bulls**t!" Evan shouted furiously.

He had never touched her. Susan was simply making things up.

One said that they had done it several times, while the other one called bulls**t on it. Unfortunately, when it came to these sort of things, only the two people involved were privy to the truth.

Nicole had been worried that Evan would make things difficult for her because of that innocent child, but it turned out that she was worried over nothing.

She couldn't be bothered to listen to the drama that was Evan and Susan's personal life. Hence, she sent Davin a look and the two of them turned to walk out of the ward.

"I'm sure you could tell that Susan was lying. She wasn't even pregnant to begin with."

Nicole shot him a sidelong glance. "Why are you so sure that Susan was the one lying? Who knows? Maybe Evan was lying. If he refused to admit it after knocking someone up, then he's really a grade A b*stard."

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Davin fell silent for a moment. "So are you saying that Susan isn't a liar? Then, what she said earlier about you hitting her and pushing her was all true?"

Nicole paused mid-stride and exclaimed, "Bulls**t! She was lying!"

"Exactly. Since you know that she's a liar, how can you believe her words over my brother's?"

Nicole turned over his words in her head before snapping, "Both Susan and your brother love to lie. They're perfect for each other!"

Then, she hastened her steps to leave. It was time to pick the four children up from kindergarten, so she was in a hurry.

Davin stared at her retreating figure and heaved a sigh. "The truth is right in front of you. So how can you still refuse believe it?"

By the time Evan came after Nicole, she had already left for quite some time.

"She's gone?"

Davin nodded in response.

"Did she say anything?"

"She said..." Davin fumbled for words.

"Said what?" Evan pressed on.

"She said that both you and Susan love lying and that you're a b*sta..."

Nicole said it too fast just now and I can't really remember. How exactly did she put it? Nah, whatever. I'll just use my own words!

"She said that both you and Susan love lying, and that a b*stard and a b*tch are perfect for each other. So, you guys are practically a match made in heaven."

Although his choice of words was slightly different, Davin thought that he expressed Nicole's meaning perfectly.

He was immensely satisfied with his answer and looked up at Evan with a smile that matched his mood. However, he was scared out of his wits when Evan's terrifying gaze pierced into him.

"I-I have some errands to run, so I'll leave first." He literally ran away after that.

He was afraid that Evan would leave several holes in his body if he stayed any longer.

Nicole really said that?

She's been scolding me a lot lately. Shouldn't I find the chance to return the favor?

I can't always spoil her now can I? She might think she's above the law some day!

Night fell.

Many houses were brightly lit to chase away the darkness.

The quadruplets were about to have dinner with Nicole when Evan showed up.

Upon seeing him, Nina bowed her head and ignored him. Juan and Kyle didn't give much of a reaction either. Only Maya actively made conversation with him.

"Daddy, are you here to see Nina?"

"Yes!"

"There's nothing to see. I'm fine."

"Nina, Daddy will arrange for a specialist to look at you tomorrow."

"No need! My hand is fine."

Nicole's forehead creased. When she fetched them home earlier, Nina was complaining that she wanted her hand to heal faster so that she could continue practicing makeup.

It would be considered a good thing if Evan could arrange for a good doctor to help Nina heal faster.

The children didn't deserve to suffer because of the problems between Evan and her. Both were separate matters and shouldn't interfere with one another.

"Nina, let Mr. Seet take you to the doctor tomorrow. You can practice makeup sooner this way."

"I don't want to!"

When Nina remembered Evan carrying Susan in the hospital, her heart hurt so much.

Her little temper flared up again and she stubbornly stomped back to her bedroom, not even bothering to eat anymore.

Maya pursed her lips and blinked at Nicole. "Mommy, should I go talk to her?"

Juan glanced at Maya and objected. "Just forget it. If you talk to her, you both would end up fighting again. If Nina doesn't wanna go, we shouldn't force her."

Once he was done saying his piece, he cast a fleeting glance towards Evan. At that moment, Juan held some resentment towards Evan too.

If he hadn't married another woman, things wouldn't have turned out this way.

Kyle kept mum as he waited for his food.

Nicole mulled over it and agreed, "Juan is right. We shouldn't force Nina since she doesn't want to go. Mr. Seet, please leave."

Evan's purpose of coming today was to visit Nina and also to get even with Nicole for saying such nasty things about him!

Hence, it wasn't going to be easy getting him to leave.

"You're all about to have dinner, right? Great. I haven't had my dinner."

With that, he shamelessly sat next to Maya.

The little girl looked at him with a wide grin. "Daddy, can you help me cut my food into smaller pieces?"

"Sure!"

Nicole was utterly speechless. She started to think that Evan didn't come here just to see Nina, but to raise a ruckus.

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"Mr. Seet, this is not Hillside Villa. May I ask that you leave?"

"I know that this is not Hillside Villa. I'll leave after dinner. It's just one meal, you won't mind, right? If you do, I can pay for it."

Pay for it?

Who wants your money?

Nicole stared at him with a long face. Seeing how he was so determined to stay for dinner, she did not bother to argue with him further. She took some food and hurried back to the bedroom upstairs to eat alone.

Can't we eat together?

Evan sulked and his appetite was greatly affected.

The atmosphere at the dining area became very awkward between him and the three children.

Juan and Kyle took a glance at him then continued eating.

Licking her lips, Maya's big round eyes gleamed as she fixed her gaze on the plate of beef in front of Evan.

Evan patted her head and served her the beef she had been eyeing for a while now. He reminded her, "There's a lot, don't finish it all at once."

"I know, Daddy. I'll only eat five pieces. I'm limiting the amount of food I consume, so I won't overeat."

Evan smiled. Setting a maximum limit is good, it can help Maya control her diet.

While eating, he kept looking upstairs from time to time and did not pay any attention to the taste of the food.

Considering how distracted he was, Maya asked curiously, "Daddy, do you want to go upstairs to see Mommy?"

He kept silent for a while then nodded. "I'm going to check if she has enough to eat."

After that, he turned around and made his way upstairs with a dish in his hand.

Juan asked softly, "Do you think Mommy and Daddy will be all right?"

Kyle shook his head. "I think the chances of Daddy getting kicked out of the room is higher."

Maya was enjoying the scrumptious dinner. She puffed her cheeks out like a chubby chipmunk.

"I think we should work together to help them resolve their conflict and chase the bad woman away. Then, we can reunite as one happy family."

"Mommy won't forgive Daddy so easily. Moreover, that bad woman is so shrewd. It's even harder to make her leave Daddy."

Kyle asked Juan for his opinion, "What do you think?"

Juan pondered over it and then sighed. "I think that the matters involving the adults are way too complicated. Just let Daddy and Mommy settle it themselves. We're still too young to understand."

Seriously?

Maya's jaw dropped. Wasn't he the keenest among us to bring Daddy and Mommy together? I can't complete this challenging mission all by myself, can I?

Suddenly, she thought about her request to learn cooking. Mommy's company and clinic don't seem to be running very smoothly recently, could she still hire a gourmet specialist for me? Perhaps I should ask Daddy when he comes down later since money is nothing to him.

With a dish of pork cutlet in his hand, Evan knocked on Nicole's bedroom door.

"Who is it?" Nicole asked, trying to check if it was Evan.

He did not say a word but continued knocking on the door.

Nicole knew that it was him. She rolled her eyes and continued eating.

He knocked continuously in an unhurried rhythm. Knock! Knock! Pause. Knock! Knock!

He was determined to wait patiently until she answered the door.

The knocking persisted till Nicole finished her dinner. Getting impatient and irritated, she stood up and opened the door.

"What do you want?" She stared daggers at him and asked in an angry tone.

Evan knew her personality well and tolerated her sudden outburst. In fact, he offered her the dish. "I just want to make sure you have enough to eat."

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Nicole took a glance at the dish then glared at Evan with a straight face.

"Mr. Seet, everything about me has got nothing to do with you, be it any daily affairs or life and death matters. You don't have to do this. By the way, please don't intervene in my business as well as any happenings at the clinic. You can leave this dish with me now and go."

Evan was quiet.

I didn't expect her to be so heartless. She seems very firm in her decision to cut ties with me.

He then rebutted with a white lie, "Don't be so full of yourself. I just don't want my children to suffer under your care. Hence, I'm trying to take care of you, for their sake. If your company goes bankrupt and the clinic is not doing well, I'm worried that my children will starve. Who knows if you'll sell them off for money?"

Nicole could not answer him back.

His words reminded her of the recent devastating situation that she was facing; a poorly run company and a deserted clinic.

Is he rubbing salt on my wounds, trying to mock me whenever he gets a chance to?

All of a sudden, she felt that her internal injuries had gotten worse.

Even if I have no income, I wouldn't let my children suffer with me, let alone selling them off! Nicole thought that he bore malice towards her.

This is so annoying.

Without showing weakness, Nicole then retorted, "Don't you worry. Soon, I'll turn things around and ensure that both Lane Corporation and the clinic will flourish and prosper. I guarantee that the four of them will have more than enough money to spend."

Some things never change. This woman is still as stubborn as ever. I'd like to see how she's going to achieve what she's just said.

Evan narrowed his eyes and had no intention to continue this topic with her.

He recalled his purpose of visiting her and said seriously, "Nicole, if I ever find out that you were insulting me again, I'll give you a taste of your own medicine."

Seems like the person who brought a staff from Seet Group to the clinic did pass the message back to Evan. Oh well, let it be then. I'm not afraid that he knows I scolded him.

"If you don't want me to say anything bad about you, then please remember your status as a married man and leave me alone. Keep your distance and be a stranger. Otherwise, be prepared to hear harsher words from me."

A married man.

Coldness flashed through his deep eyes. He felt a sharp blade poke through his heart. Choosing to remain silent, he turned away and left.

When he got downstairs, Maya, who wanted to ask him about hiring a gourmet specialist, decided to drop that topic when she saw his grim face.

Did Daddy and Mommy fight?

Poor me, when can I ever have a happy family?

Maya walked back to her room. Her little body looked exceptionally lonely and sad.

On his way driving back from Imperial Garden, all that was playing in Evan's mind was his disappointing conversation with Nicole.

Does she intend to keep a distance from me? Does she really want me to leave her alone?

Every word she spoke jabbed at his heart painfully.

If this is her true intention, should I then oblige?

Since that day, Evan had not seen Nicole for half a month.

He numbed himself by occupying all of his time with work. Each day, he would get back to the Hillside Villa around midnight after completing all the work for Seet Group.

Whenever he sat in his study room alone, a clear figure would always pop up in his mind. The same face, name, and figure that was impossible to forget or ignore.

"Nicole, have you gotten used to the days without me disturbing you? Are you happy?"

He mumbled to himself. Taking out his phone, he scrolled to her name, and recalled their conversations.

Each scene flashed through his mind, playing like a movie.

His lips curled up. Sitting quietly in his study and reminiscing his times with Nicole had become the happiest moment of his day. However, what came after a short and sweet flashback was an attack of bitter memory, which would usually linger throughout the night.

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"Has everything ended for us?"

He whispered softly. His heartache could be seen clearly through his deep eyes.

Meanwhile, Nicole was tossing and turning on her bed and could not fall asleep.

Two companies were willing to collaborate with Lane Corporation and that would help her resolve the problems faced earlier. Her assistant had checked on these two companies and concluded that they were not associated with Seet Group nor had any business transactions with the latter.

Yet, Nicole still doubted the motive behind the agenda, as to why these companies wanted to collaborate with her.

People would generally want to work with a top seed. Who would want to get involved in a company with a bleak future?

Although the two companies have affirmed me that they value my character, I've actually never interacted with their persons in charge before. Moreover, there were unfavorable news about me on the Internet some time back, which made the reason given by them sound like a lame excuse.

The real reason is probably related to that person.

"Evan Seet, if you're really behind all these, what's your intention? Why did you go the extra mile to help me but hide your identity?"

Since you've decided to repay your debt of gratitude through your marriage and sacrifice happiness for the rest of your life, why do you still care about me so much?

"I know that you had no choice, you had your reasons to do so because you value love and relationships, and you certainly couldn't ignore the hardships your benefactor had to go through, but..."

I really can't accept the fact that you're married. I can't stand you being around any other woman.

We all have our fair share of worries, difficulties, and struggles.

Perhaps, that's our fate.

As Nicole thought about this, her heart wrenched. She let out a sniffle and tears streamed down from her cheeks uncontrollably.

Five days following that, Nicole received news that Yage Group was going to hold a cocktail party, and all of the top businessmen in the industry were invited.

After pondering over it, she looked at her assistant and asked solemnly, "If I were to attend this cocktail party and be lucky enough to meet a few top guns, won't that save Lane Corporation from its current predicament and also bring benefits to its future development?"

Her assistant thought about it. "Yes, it will, Ms. Lane. Our company's growth is rather stagnant now. We could use some backers to move things forward."

Nicole squinted her eyes. "All right, I must get ready and seize the golden opportunity."

A few party scenes flashed through her mind as she thought about what to wear at night.

After two hours of preparation, Nicole looked stunning in a pastel-colored tube dress, delicate make-up, and 6-inch stilettos. She left Imperial Garden confidently.

The cocktail party was magnificent. Luxury was an understatement. There were marble stairs, expensive carpets, dazzling lights, and a selection of premium red wines.

Nicole took a deep breath and walked in calmly.

As soon as she entered the hall, she became the center of attention.

"Who is that?"

"She looks like Nicole Lane from Lane Corporation."

"Oh, the one who had a relationship with Mr. Seet from Seet Group?"

"Yes, that's right. Unfortunately, Mr. Seet abandoned her and married another woman in the end."

"So what if she was abandoned? She must be something to have attracted Mr. Seet in the first place. Why don't we..."

"You're interested in her?"

"Who's not interested in a belle like her?"

A few guys were throwing lecherous gazes at Nicole as if they were wolves, ready to devour their prey.

They held a wine glass each in their hands and walked towards Nicole.

"Care for a drink?"

She gave them a once-over. They dress well and look like some local notables.

She recalled her purpose of attending the party. "Sure, cheers." She lifted her glass and downed the red wine.

"You're really good. Shall we continue somewhere else?"

What?

She started to notice their lustful gazes and ugly smiles. These people have a different agenda, don't they?