

## Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 829

Juan sighed in his heart and remarked, "I'm full." With that, he left the table abruptly.

As Susan looked at Evan who was sitting opposite her, she deliberately asked him how to make spaghetti.

"Evan, do you what kind of spaghetti Juan likes? I'd like to make him his favorite."

Evan was briefly silent before replying indifferently. "Make whichever that you are familiar with."

Susan was stunned but nodded nonetheless.

Only Nicole can make her special handmade spaghetti.

The taste is still fresh in my mind, but I wonder if I still have the opportunity to taste it again?

The taste of the spaghetti, together with everything that had happened in the past, suddenly flooded his mind that instant.

As his gaze darkened, his hand that was holding his fork trembled for a moment. He then got up and headed straight for his study.

Meanwhile, Susan frowned as she watched him walk away. What's with him now?

I asked him about spaghetti, and now he has lost his appetite? In that case, I better not bring up anything related to Nicole.

When Evan returned to his room, his mind kept replaying the scene where Nicole admitted that she would be leaving with Levant.

I don't understand! What's so great about Levant?

Since when did Nicole start falling for Levant? When?

Clang! The more Evan thought about it, the angrier he became. With that, he threw the limited-edition mug in his hand away furiously, shattering it into pieces. Susan, who was right outside the door, was jolted by the sound.

She stopped in her tracks and took a deep breath. Initially, she wanted to ask Evan what he wanted to eat so that she can get the chef to prepare it. However, given that he was in a foul mood, asking him anything would only invite a scolding. Hence, she thought it better to stay away for the time being.

After all, Evan was always rude to her. Hence, she turned and crept back to her room.

Meanwhile, Juan and Kyle couldn't sleep as they were still racking their brains over their Mommy's rescue.

Juan sighed, "The bad woman is watching us all the time. What are we going to do?"

Kyle seemed to be deep in thought. "It does seem quite hard for us to find someone to save Mommy."

"That's right. Daddy is just too much! He got us a home tutor, so we don't even have to leave home for school. He is worried that we may use the opportunity to sneak off and seek help for Mommy."

After sighing again, Juan looked at Kyle with his eyebrows furrowed. "What do you think? Does Daddy hate Mommy that much? Does he really want to keep her in prison forever?"

Kyle was equally confused. Not too long ago, both Daddy and Mommy were really close. Why did it change suddenly?

The adult world is really complicated.

After pondering for a moment, Juan suddenly lamented, "The bad woman has kept us on such a tight leash. I'm so frustrated, so I have to teach her a lesson, no matter what!"

Kyle looked up at him and replied coolly, "Count me in."

Seeing that his brother had agreed to help, Juan nodded zealously. That was what brothers were for.

In the other room, Nina and Maya couldn't sleep either.

Nina, who was on the upper deck, looked at Maya at the lower deck. "Why are you so nice to the bad woman?"

Yet, Maya remained silent. She knew who Nina was talking about. The only reason she was being cordial with Susan was to save Mommy.

But when she didn't answer, Nina questioned further, "Recently, when we discussed how to save Mommy, why didn't you say anything? Do you not want to rescue Mommy anymore?"

"No, I want to." Maya quickly replied.

"If you want to save Mommy, you shouldn't forget about her just because the bad woman gave you some sweets. Mommy is more important than sweets. Remember that!"

Maya continued her silence. Obviously, she knew that Mommy was more important than the sweets. The reason she accepted the sweets was to please Ms. Susan so that Ms. Susan could rescue Mommy.

In the middle of the night, Maya suddenly sat up. She had dreamt of Mommy. In her dream, Mommy was covered in blood. Not only that, but she was both cold and starving. It was an extremely gruesome sight.

She was frightened into tears. "Mommy... I want to see Mommy..."

Nina was awoken by her cries and climbed down to comfort her. "Don't cry. Mommy will be out soon. Don't cry." As she reassured Maya, she helped her wipe her tears.

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While she was consoling Maya, Nina herself started to tear as she, too, missed Mommy. In the end, both of them hugged each other to sleep.

It was a long and lonely night.

As Maya sobbed, she slowly drifted back into sleep. Meanwhile, Nina's small arms were wrapped around Maya's chubby body. The two children were huddling together pitifully and dreamt of Mommy coming back to them.

The next day.

Juan and Kyle got up and rushed downstairs to check what was for breakfast.

The night before, Susan had promised them handmade spaghetti. Hence, they wanted to see what Susan's spaghetti was going to look like, and if it would taste the same as Mommy's.

When they arrived at the dining room, they saw Susan helping the maid with the dishes. When she saw the children, she set the table for them.

Juan saw the spaghetti and some meatballs on the table. Furthermore, there were a few other dishes to go along with it.

He didn't expect Susan to actually prepare the spaghetti for them.

"I made this especially for you. Why don't you try some and see if you like them?"

When Juan saw the spaghetti, he fell silent. Although Mommy's spaghetti seldom came with meatballs, it smelled way better.

Taking a mouthful of it, he commented. "Mommy's is a lot more delicious."

"This is my first time making it. Anyway, they taste better if you mix them all together. I'll do better next time."

Just as she spoke, she swaggered upstairs.

As Juan watched her walk away, he wondered, "She's not going to ask Nina and Maya down for breakfast, is she?"

Beside him, Kyle sighed. "I think she is going to get Daddy."

Right then, Juan's mind spun like lightning, and something within his brain clicked. "She is getting Daddy to try her cooking! I think she wants to show him that she can cook better than Mommy."

Kyle nodded. "She wants to replace Mommy."

"We can't let her succeed."

As the brothers exchanged glances, they shifted their gaze to the dining table at the same time.

Knock! Knock!

Feeling especially anxious, Susan gently knocked on the door to Evan's study.

I wonder how he is feeling today?

She exposed part of her arm on purpose to reveal the scar left by the fire. Since Evan was someone sentimental, she hoped that he would treat her better when he was reminded of how she saved him earlier.

As the door opened, Evan looked at Susan and asked coldly, "What is it?"

Susan shifted her arm on purpose in front of him by pretending to fiddle with her hair.

“Evan, I’ve made breakfast. Why don’t you come down and have some.”

Evan noticed her movements and inadvertently noticed the scar too.

As his eyes darkened, his attitude towards Susan did become more gentle. As expected, his tone was also less harsh.

A faint smile broke out from his lips. He replied softly, “I’ll be down in a short while.”

Susan was delighted. “Alright, I’ll be waiting for you.” With that, she sauntered away.

After packing up his things, Evan came to the dining hall. There, he saw the four children staring at their food.

Susan looked curiously at them and wasn’t sure what they were up to.

“Eat up, guys. Your teacher will be here soon.”

When Evan sat down, Juan commented, “The spaghetti is just not edible. So are the meatballs and everything else.”

Susan furrowed her eyebrows curiously. She had deliberately woken up two hours earlier to prepare breakfast for them. Moreover, she had tasted them too. Despite not up to Michelin standards, she still felt it was decent.

Hence, she suspected Juan was causing trouble on purpose.

“If you don’t like it, I’ll make something else for you tomorrow.”

“Forget it, just get the chef to cook. Is your cooking even fit for consumption?”

Nina gave her a picky look as she spoke. Then, she pushed her plate away.

At the same time, Evan looked towards Maya, who was licking her lips while saying, “It’s too salty. I don’t like it.”

When even Maya, the food connoisseur, said the same, Evan believed that the food was really bad. After giving it a try, he spat it out immediately.

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He turned to look at Susan. “Next time, go easy on the salt. The children can’t take anything too salty.”

Susan was puzzled as to how salty it was. When she made the spaghetti, she didn’t even add any salt.

She tasted it herself. “This isn’t salty at all.”

“Ms. Susan, your taste buds are off. We can’t even stomach this. Next time, just leave the cooking to the chef.”

“That’s right. Just let the chef handle it so that we won’t waste any food.”

Just when Kyle finished speaking, Evan sighed and instructed the maids to prepare a fresh round of breakfast. He then stood up and left the dining table.

When Susan saw that Evan didn't even taste the food that she painstakingly prepared, she couldn't help but feel outraged. All she got in return for her wasted effort was harsh criticism and contempt.

Suppressing the fury within her, she pulled Evan's plate over and tried the food for herself. The next moment, she, too, spat it out.

"I didn't add any salt at all. Why is Evan's spaghetti so..."

She turned to look at the four children. However, Juan and Kyle averted their gaze and stared at the ceiling instead. They pretended as if it had nothing to do with them.

Nina, on the other hand, gave her the side-eye with her arms folded. She looked as if she was gloating at what had just happened.

As for Maya, she was licking her lips hungrily as she stared at the spaghetti. As her eyes flashed with desperation, her stomach growled in hunger.

She picked up her fork and started to devour the meatballs after mixing them into her spaghetti.

Susan furrowed her eyebrows as she pulled over Maya's plate. After giving it a try, she realized it wasn't salty at all.

Damn it, how dare they make a fool of me in front of Evan. They have wasted all my effort!

She curled her lips into a smirk. "Maya, stop eating. You can continue later. By the way, your hair seems to be in a mess. Come, darling, let me help you comb it."

Maya pondered a moment before nodding.

After jumping down from the chair, she was carried by Susan into her room upstairs.

Once the door closed, Susan's face turned gloomy instantly. She glared at Maya and demanded, "Who told you to say that the food was salty?"

Maya fidgeted with her fingers and didn't say a word.

Earlier, Juan was the one who told her to do it, but she didn't want to betray him.

When she didn't reply, Susan suddenly pulled her hair and ordered fiercely, "Speak!"

As the pain reverberated through her scalp, tears began to swell in her eyes. However, she quickly covered her mouth as she didn't dare cry out.

Susan had previously threatened her not to cry or else her Mommy would languish in prison forever, suffering from hunger and beatings.

Hence, she endured the pain as she didn't want Mommy to suffer.

When she still refused to speak, Susan put her on the bed and took off her pants. After that, she furiously pinched her chubby bum again and again.

It hurt so much that tears gushed down her cheeks. "Ms. Susan, I know I'm wrong. I won't dare do it again. Ms. Susan, I'll be a good girl..." she pleaded while sobbing softly.

Susan seethed, "You damn child. The next time you dare to prank me with the others, I will beat your bum till you scream. Also, your Mommy is never going to come out of prison! She will always stay inside her tiny cell, beaten to a pulp, just like a dog!"

Maya thought about the nightmare she had where Mommy was covered in blood. Horrified, she began to bawl aloud.

"Stop crying! You're driving me crazy!"

At Susan's order, Maya quickly covered her mouth and tried her best to contain her cries.

Despite her reaction, Susan's anger didn't subside. She dragged Maya's hair and continued to abuse her.

When she finally saw the bruises on Maya, she was so frightened that she stopped.

She was cognizant that she would be finished if Evan was to notice them.

No, I can't beat her like that. I need to think of another way.

Taking a deep breath, she ordered Maya to put back on her clothes. She then took Maya to the bathroom to wash her face and comb her hair.

After she was done, she was worried that someone might notice Maya had been crying. Hence, she kept Maya in her room for the time being and ordered the maids to bring in some delicious food.

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Preoccupied with rescuing their mother, Juan and Kyle did not notice that Maya was there.

Nina sighed. She thought Susan had bribed Maya with those candies, which was why Maya stayed in the former's room for so long.

Meanwhile, Susan only allowed Maya to leave when her eyes were no longer red and there were no signs of her crying.

Before she left, Susan warned her, "Don't tell anybody about this. Otherwise, your mommy will have to stay in that small dark room forever. Do you understand?"

Maya widened her eyes and nodded vigorously.

"Get out!" Susan yelled as she pointed to the door.

Rubbing her chubby hands against each other, Maya walked out of the room.

When Nina saw Maya coming back, she asked curiously, "Why took you so long? What did that bad woman tell you?"

Without a word, Maya shook her head. Anxiety was written all over her chubby face.

I can't tell her. Otherwise, Mommy will have to suffer in that dark room forever.

Nina glanced at her. That evil woman really managed to bribe her.

Maya lowered her head and sat in a daze. Is Mommy okay?

Did she get beaten up? Has she eaten?

Meanwhile, Nicole was leaning against the cool wall with an angry expression on her face.

Recalling the scene earlier, she let out a miserable laugh before tears started to roll down her cheeks.

Evan, even if you misunderstand my relationship with Levant, you should not allow others to humiliate me like this.

Did you really think that I cheated on you? Is that why you allowed others to treat me like this?

Haha!

Evan, you are ruthless!

That terrible scene earlier replayed in her mind vividly.

That man seemed to be out of control as though he had taken some sort of drug and was all out to rape her. In such a place, if it weren't the doing of Evan, who else had the power to order someone to do that?

In addition, he uttered, "Mr. Seet asked me to take good care of you. Well, when this is over, we'll see if he still wants you. You filthy woman!"

Then, he pounced on her like a beast.

If I hadn't learned medicine and managed to strike his acupoint, who knows what would have happened to me by now.

She felt like she was combating a ferocious wolf.

Although he did not manage to rape her, there were scars all over her body. The corner of her mouth bled when he slapped her, and he even kicked her in her stomach.

Evan's ruthlessness was way beyond her imagination.

No wonder he is known as Lucifer.

I have never imagined that he would be so cruel to me.

Nicole's heart ached so much she felt suffocated.

Well, I guess it's right to say that love is as bitter as it is sweet. Today, she got to experience the meaning behind that saying.

On the other hand, Evan felt somewhat irritated while flipping through his documents in the office.

Then, John walked up to Evan and observed him while he massaged between his brows. John wanted to speak but did not dare to. Therefore, he stood in front of the desk like a statue.

Sighing, Evan said, "What's wrong?"

Since Evan asked, he mustered his courage and did what he had to do. As Nicole usually treated him well, he felt that he should stand up for her.

“Mr. Seet, do you think Mrs. Seet is really Mr. Russell’s murderer? I believe she’s not that kind of person. Besides, Mrs. Seet and Mr. Russell have always been on good terms, so there is no good reason for her to do something like that.”

Without a word, Evan stared at him blankly with deep-set eyes.

John was nervous, and since Mr. Seet did not cut him off, he was unsure whether or not to continue.

Nonetheless, he decided to do so. “Mr. Seet, I think you should investigate what actually happened without delay and rescue Mrs. Seet.”

Evan’s expression dimmed upon hearing that, and he reached out to pick up the documents on the table. Then, he threw them at John and yelled, “Mind your own business!”

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John was at a loss for words.

Is Mr. Seet annoyed because I talked too much? Well, it makes sense. With his astuteness, he should have known all that.

Why is he not finding a way to help Mrs. Seet then?

John could not understand what was on the man’s mind. Picking up the documents thrown at him, he sighed before leaving the office.

Evan leaned back against his chair and narrowed his eyes, deep in thought.

After so many days, is Nicole still planning to leave with Levant?

Recently, while Levant had been finding ways to go against the Seet Group, Evan had been doing the same to Levant’s business as well. They were taking drastic measures to destroy each other.

Although the Seet Group suffered tremendous loss, Levant did not gain any advantage either. Soon, Levant’s company will lose a foothold in the country. When he leaves, Nicole will never be able to see him again.

In this life, I don’t want Nicole to see Levant ever again.

Two days later, after multiple discussions, the quadruplets finally found a way to leave Hillside Villa to rescue their mommy.

After Juan finished explaining, he looked at his siblings and asked, “Do you have any other questions about what we have to do?”

Kyle gave it some thought before he replied, “Nope.”

Following suit, Nina also responded, “I have no questions either and will definitely play my part well.”

With that, she turned to look at Maya beside her.

She realized that Maya had been awfully silent during their meetings.



“Maya, did that bad woman bribe you with candy? Is that why you don’t even want to save Mommy?” she accused.

Maya merely shook her head vigorously.

“That’s good then. You seem to have a close relationship with her, so you shall be the one to lure her out.”

Hearing that, a hint of fear appeared in Maya’s eyes. Previously, when she commented that the spaghetti was salty, Susan pinched her buttocks and even warned that if the quadruplets ever tried to fool her, she would not let Maya off.

At the thought of being punished, Maya rubbed her palms together nervously. “No, let’s not make fun of her.”

Feeling betrayed, Nina glared at Maya. “What’s wrong? Are you in cahoots with her?”

Maya shook her head again.

She was truly terrified that Susan would beat her into a pulp. Besides, Susan was brutal, and her beatings were very painful.

At the same time, she was afraid to tell her siblings the truth because she did not want her mommy to be stuck in prison forever.

Juan thought Maya was too kind that she felt bad about lying. Therefore, he suggested, “Let’s not force Maya to do it. I will lure her out instead.”

Maya stared at Juan in surprise.

On the other hand, Nina sighed. She complained, “We can never count on Maya. She’s useless.”

“Stop scolding her. She’s only worried for Mommy,” Kyle spoke up for Maya.

In response, Nina rolled her eyes and stopped talking.

Then, they started to carry out their plan. Running to Susan’s room, Juan acted as though he was extremely anxious.

“Ms. Susan, something went wrong. Please open the door!” he yelled.

When the door opened, Susan looked at Juan in annoyance. “What do you want?”

“Ms. Susan, Nina fell into the pond at the rear house. Please help her!” Juan sobbed.

Susan was shocked. How could it have happened?

Who cares whether Nina is alive or not? However, since I volunteered to take care of them, how can I explain myself if anything goes wrong?

“Hurry, please take a look!” Juan begged.

With Juan leading the way, Susan hurried to the rear house.

When they finally reached the pond, Kyle looked into the pond worriedly while Maya was rooted to the ground. She looked lost like a deer in the headlights.

Seeing the arrival of Susan, Maya immediately lowered her head, afraid to make eye contact.

“Where is Nina? Where did she fall into?” Susan demanded while scanning the pond. However, the pond’s surface was calm, and there were no ripples.

Kyle replied, “She sank! What’s going to happen to Nina?”

“She sank?” Susan screamed.

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Susan panicked. It’s over. How can I explain the situation to Evan if something really happens to her?

Why would these dumb children come to the rear house?

That stupid girl Nina has to drag me down even when she dies! That’s ridiculous.

“Ms. Susan, please get someone to fish her out!”

Snapped out of her daze, Susan anxiously said, “Yes, hurry up. Get the maids who can swim to dive into the pond and look for Nina. We have to find her corpse at least. Quick! We have to get her out of there.”

After Susan instructed, Kyle and Juan started to gather the maids.

While the group of people thought of ways to save Nina, Juan sneaked out of Hillside Villa.

“Should we inform Mr. Seet?” one of the maids asked.

“Let’s look for her first before we call him,” Susan ordered.

The maids were anxiously trying to rescue Nina and those who could swim were already in the pond.

Susan panicked. There was only one question on her mind. How should I explain it to Evan? What should I tell him?

Dozens of maids searched the pond, but there was still no sign of Nina. That was when she started to doubt the quadruplets.

Well, if she really did drown, we would still be able to find her corpse. But why couldn’t we find it?

She turned around and noticed Maya avoiding her gaze while standing in a daze with her head hung low.

Then, she looked at Kyle, who stared into the pond expressionlessly while crossing his arms. There was no hint of sorrow or anxiety on his icy face.

Susan froze. Wait a minute... Where is Juan?

Panic-stricken, she growled at Kyle and Maya, “Where is Juan?”

Maya raised her head and stole a glance at her before quickly looking away.

Meanwhile, Kyle did not react at all, as though he did not hear her.

Juan is missing, and we can't find Nina either. What are these children up to?

Susan whirled around and hurriedly returned to the house to find the other two children.

When she entered Nina's bedroom, she saw her in front of the mirror, playing with make-up.

Taken aback, Susan stared at the child and asked, "I thought you fell into the pond. What are you doing here?"

Nina froze for a moment before she replied arrogantly, "I climbed out of the pond by myself. What's wrong?"

Susan was rendered speechless.

Climbed out?

She rolled her eyes in anger.

Sensing that Susan was scrutinizing her, Nina narrowed her eyes and challenged, "Why? Did you think otherwise and hope that I would drown? If I died, how would you face Daddy?"

Well, at least she is alive.

At that moment, Susan could not be bothered to argue with her. "Where is Juan? I can't find him."

Running her fingers through her hair, Nina shot Susan a death glare and replied, "How would I know? I just got out of the pond."

Realizing that Nina would not tell her anything, Susan immediately turned around and went to the other rooms.

However, even after she had searched through all the rooms in Hillside Villa, she still did not manage to find Juan. Furious, she rushed to the rear house to question Maya.

"Maya, where is Juan?" Susan asked in a gentle tone.

Looking at the angel-like smile on Susan's face, Maya froze.

Ms. Susan has mood swings. Sometimes she is gentle, but other times, she is vicious like a devil.

Could there be two different individuals?

While she was still confused, Susan bent down and grabbed Maya's chubby hands. Then, she tried to get an answer out of the latter. "Tell me, where did Juan go?"

Maya jumped at the unexpected contact and said in a quivering voice, "Juan, he..."

"Did Juan sneak out?"

Maya did not respond and merely looked down in guilt.

Instantly, Susan realized that Juan had sneaked out to save his mommy.

How tricky of them!

There was a fierce look in her eyes, and she clenched her fists tightly. The night was approaching, so she had to find him as soon as possible before it was too late.

As night fell, Juan carefully sneaked back into Hillside Villa.

Kyle and Nina anxiously asked him if he had seen Sheila and whether she agreed to help their mommy.

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Juan sighed. "Ms. Sheila was not home. She left the Muir family three days after Uncle Davin was gone. She probably went to Y City with him because her family did not know where she was either."

"After Great-grandpa died, Uncle Davin did not return, and he even switched off his phone. Who knows where he went?" Nina said before she sighed.

"Then, who did you look for?"

She was certain that Juan had found another way. Otherwise, he would not come home.

Sure enough, Juan explained, "I secretly went to Daddy's company and met Uncle John nearby. He went to K Nation with Mommy before, so he knew a few people from the estate. He said he would find a way to inform Grandpa to save Mommy."

In response, the children let out a breath of relief, knowing that John was willing to help them.

Maya blinked her large eyes, deep in thought. Will Uncle John really help us and get Grandpa to save Mommy?

"Alright, let's prepare to go for dinner. Daddy will be home soon."

"Will that bad woman complain to Daddy?"

"She can do that for all I care. At most, we will get punished by Daddy," Juan sneered like he was unbothered.

"Juan, don't worry. If Daddy wants to hit you, tell him that it was my idea. Besides, Daddy doesn't hit girls," Nina suggested boldly.

"Okay."

Juan nodded. Then, the quadruplets headed to the dining hall.

As soon as they went down the stairs, they could hear Susan complaining to Evan about their behavior today.

After complaining, she even said, "What if something bad happens to them the next time they sneak out like this? I'm worried. Besides, it is not good to be lying at such a young age. Evan, please don't misunderstand. I do not blame them, but they are children after all, and I worry for them."

Evan fell silent, not expecting them to be so daring.

Lying is bad to begin with, but they even had the guts to say that Nina fell into the pond. How could they treat something serious like that as a joke?

When the time is right and Levant has left, I will let Nicole out. Why did they have to take action into their own hands?

Noticing Evan's cold expression, Susan pretended to coax him, "Evan, please don't be angry with them. They are still kids after all."

Ignoring her, Evan headed up the stairs directly.

The quadruplets exchanged panicked looks when they saw their daddy's stern expression while he was coming up the stairs.

Nina asked, "Is daddy going to punish us?"

Terrified, Maya suggested, "Let's hide first."

"Where can we hide? There isn't anywhere daddy can't access in Hillside Villa. There is nowhere we can hide."

By the time Juan finished, Evan was already in front of them.

"I want to see all of you in my study room now."

"Oh no, I guess we are in for a punishment." Juan sighed while the other three headed to the study room obediently.

After they entered, they stood in a neat line, looking at Evan with different expressions on their faces.

Wasting no time, Evan questioned, "Whose idea was it?"

The quick-witted Juan took a step back discreetly.

Nina rolled her eyes and mirrored his actions. Then, Kyle followed suit. Only Maya stood rooted to the same spot in a daze.

The other three children were surprised to see Maya standing in the same spot.

Does Maya want to take the blame for us? They were touched at that thought.

Juan secretly gave Maya a thumbs up.

At that moment, Nina realized that Maya had been awfully quiet for the past few days. She felt that Maya's behavior was a sign of her becoming more mature. It had nothing to do with the bad woman's influence or that she felt distant from their mommy.

I should not blame Maya anymore. She seems tougher than I am.

Instinctively, Kyle wanted to tug at Maya's clothes. However, thinking that Daddy liked her most and probably would not punish her, Kyle retracted his hand.

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Seeing his three other children standing calmly behind Maya, Evan squinted.

Out of these four kids, Maya is least likely to come up with such a ridiculous idea. Do those three guilty children want Maya to take the blame?

He looked at Maya and asked patiently, "Maya, was this your idea?"

Rubbing her chubby palms together, Maya was confused by her daddy's question. Only after she turned back to look at Juan and Nina did she realize that they were standing behind her.

In any other situation, she would be okay with taking the blame. However, she was too afraid to do so this time.

If Ms. Susan finds out, she will definitely give me a beating.

Maya felt scared as she recalled how painful it was when Susan punished her previously, and she didn't want to experience that suffering anymore.

With that, she shook her head fervently. "Daddy, it was not me. I did not play a part in it." Then, she swiftly ran out of the study room.

Speechless, Juan gritted his teeth with a quirky expression on his face.

On the other hand, Nina sighed softly as she realized that she was overthinking earlier. Maya is just like that bad woman. It will be a wonder if she learns how to bear some responsibility.

However, Kyle was as cool as a cucumber because he felt that it was only right for Maya to do so. After all, she had never participated in their plan.

"Was it the three of you?" Evan asked.

As Evan questioned, Juan accepted his fate and took a step forward to say, "Daddy, everything was my idea. I was also the person who lied to sneak out of Hillside Villa. The two of them are innocent."

Since Juan displayed loyalty to his siblings by owning up to his mistake, Evan fixed his gaze on him and responded, "You are in the wrong, so you have to be punished. Tell me, how should I punish you?"

Juan was taken aback. He was not a toddler anymore, so it would be unfitting for his daddy to cane him as a punishment.

As Juan remained silent, Evan instructed coldly, "You will skip dinner tonight. I want you to return to your room and reflect on your actions."

Feeling awful, Juan rubbed his hungry belly. He had been outside the whole afternoon. Had he known that he would be forbidden from having dinner, he would have eaten outside.

Nina felt aggrieved for Juan and instantly stepped forward. In a serious tone, she asked Evan, "Daddy, have you heard of the story where a child splits a mountain to save his mother? Juan only did this out of filial piety. He planned it because he loves Mommy and wanted to rescue her, so what is wrong with that? Why do you have to punish him?"

Looking at Nina's expression as she tried to stand up for Juan, Evan could only think of how similar she was to Nicole when she was arguing with him.

Nina resembles the way Nicole speaks.

“Daddy, your silence means you agree that Juan is not at fault. Therefore, you should not punish him.”

Snapping out of his reverie, Evan stared at Nina. “Well, that is only a fairy tale. Your mommy is not trapped under a mountain, so you don’t have to save her. Instead, you should mind your behavior and stay out of the adults’ matters.”

Pouting, Nina glared at Evan in rage. “That is not right. Although she isn’t trapped under a mountain, she is still locked up. That is worse than being crushed by a mountain. How could we sit back and do nothing as her children? Daddy, since you want us to ignore mommy’s plight, what would you expect us to do if you were in her shoes instead?”

Evan was at a loss for words.

However, he was not infuriated by Nina’s stubbornness. Instead, there was a tinge of surprise in his gaze.

This girl is so eloquent. She argues just like her mother.

“You are still young. I have my own plans for your mommy. If you have the time, you should practice makeup. I will hold a press conference for you and allow you to create your own cosmetic brand. The whole project will revolve around you. Are you interested?”

Evan’s proposal was a huge temptation for Nina, who was interested in makeup and enjoyed being the center of attention.

But after giving it some thought, she rejected his offer. “Daddy, I don’t need the press conference and my own brand. All I want is for Mommy to return to us. Everything will be meaningless if she doesn’t come back.”

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Who knew that this seemingly cold and indifferent girl is actually so sentimental?

Instead of feeling angry, Evan only felt touched by her words.

“Daddy, Juan knows that he is in the wrong. Please let him have dinner. Besides, this was not only his idea but mine too.”

Kyle’s words interrupted Evan’s train of thought. If Nicole finds out about Juan going hungry, she will be heartbroken.

“Alright, you can have dinner. However, after dinner, you have to return to your room and reflect on your actions today.”

Juan raised his head and looked at Evan in surprise. He did not expect his daddy to be so lenient.

Kyle shot him a look before they hurriedly left the study room.

Seeing the four children following Evan from the study room to the dining room, Susan was surprised.

The quadruplets look fine, and Juan even gave me a smirk. Did Evan not punish them?

Her eyes dimmed in disappointment, and she secretly clenched her fists.

If Evan doesn't do anything about it, I will take care of it myself then.

After breakfast the next day, Juan and Kyle retreated to their rooms while Evan headed to work. After Nina finished her porridge, she returned to her room too.

Watching her siblings leave one by one, Maya quickly downed her porridge. The moment she wanted to leave, Susan called after her.

"Maya, your hair is so messy. Come, let me comb your hair."

Maya's heart thumped wildly. She was afraid of going to Susan's room because she knew Susan would punish her.

Besides, she could not imagine what Susan would do to her this time.

Trembling, she looked at Susan with fear in her eyes. "Ms. Susan, Nina can help me comb my hair."

"Nina has to practice her makeup skills and does not have time to help you with it. Come on," Susan responded warmly before bending over to carry Maya in her arms. Then, she headed upstairs in a hurry.

Meanwhile, Maya grew more terrified and could not look Susan in the eye. She knew that Susan's devilish side would surface soon.

Upon entering the room, Susan locked the door and glared at Maya coldly.

Overwhelmed with fear, Maya stood rooted to the spot and rubbed her palms together helplessly.

Susan looked at the young girl condescendingly and asked, "Did you know that Juan and Nina were going to lie to me yesterday and sneak out?"

Maya stood there without a word, unsure of how to respond.

Impatiently, Susan leaned over and grabbed Maya's shoulders. She growled, "Tell me!"

Maya nodded timidly.

"Why didn't you report it to me?" Susan demanded.

I can't betray my brothers and sisters.

Seeing Maya in a daze, Susan fumed and pinched Maya's chubby cheeks mercilessly. Then, she grabbed the girl's hair and dragged her toward the bed.

Feeling like her scalp was about to be ripped off, Maya teared up in pain.

She pleaded softly, "Ms. Susan, I will be obedient next time. Please don't hit me. I will listen to you in the future."

"Shut up! If you say another word, I will make sure to give your mommy a good beating."

At the thought of her mommy, Maya stayed silent.



Susan pulled down Maya's pants and was shocked to see bruises on her buttocks. If Evan or her siblings sees this, I won't be able to get away with it.

So...

Livid, she pinched Maya's thighs instead. It was so painful that Maya started to cry. However, she covered her mouth for fear of making a sound.

Then, Susan rose to her feet and walked to her dressing table. Opening up the drawer, she took out a box and returned to Maya. Slowly, she opened the box, revealing the silver needles in it.

Maya trembled in fear when she saw the needles.

When her mommy performed acupuncture on others in the past, she felt terrified too.

Is Ms. Susan trying to use that on me?

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Seeing Susan take out a silver needle and aiming it at her skin, she could not help but yell, "Ms. Susan, I don't need acupuncture. I am not sick!"

"You are not sick? I beg to differ. I think you have a liar disease and have to go through acupuncture."

With that, Susan sank the needle into Maya's calf.

Maya wailed in pain, but Susan covered her mouth immediately.

"Don't cry. If you cry, I will make your mommy die in prison, and you will never see her again," Susan warned.

"No! Mommy won't die!" Maya yelled.

Afraid that people would hear her, Susan dragged Maya to the bathroom and closed the door immediately.

Then, she took out her phone and found a photo of Nicole looking pitiful. As she shoved it in Maya's face, the latter saw Nicole covered in blood.

"Mommy..." Maya sobbed.

"Stop crying! If you cry, I will punish your mommy again. Do you understand?" Susan warned.

Terrified, Maya desperately covered her mouth.

Susan looked at the silver needles in her hand and asked, "How many needles does your mommy usually use? She has performed acupuncture on so many people, so it is only fair for me to do it on you too, right?"

Then, she pierced another needle into Maya's buttocks.

For the first time, Maya thought acupuncture was as scary as a demon. Next time, I will tell Mommy not to perform acupuncture on others. It really hurts.

Looking at Maya with her hand over her mouth, Susan's lips curled up into a faint smile. She felt immensely satisfied at the sight.

Nicole is my stumbling block while her children made a fool out of me. I'm going to use them to vent my anger.

Then, she grabbed a few silver needles and poked Maya's buttocks with them.

Maya trembled in pain, and she gripped Susan's clothes tightly. With tears flowing down her face, she gritted her teeth and did not scream nor make a sound.

I don't want Mommy to be beaten or die in prison.

Susan tortured Maya for a while before removing the needles from Maya's body and placing them back in the box.

Maya stumbled onto the ground before lifting her buttocks to maintain a kneeling position.

After being pricked so much on her buttocks, it was too painful for her to sit.

Looking at the pale Maya who was whimpering, Susan rolled her eyes.

"Stop crying! Go wash your face now."

Immediately, Maya stood up and staggered to wash her face. Susan shot a death glare at her back.

It was nearing noon when Maya finally came out of Susan's bedroom with a candy she was too afraid not to accept.

She had washed her face clean, and there were no red circles around her eyes anymore. Susan even styled Maya's hair like a princess.

However, her face was still pale.

Seeing Maya come back with a candy in her hand, Nina asked, "Did that bad woman use a candy to bribe you again?"

Maya glanced at Nina timidly, her eyes turning red.

Suddenly, she remembered that she promised not to let anyone else know about the punishment before leaving Susan's room. Otherwise, her mommy would be beaten and lose her life. At that thought, she lowered her head immediately.

Nina sighed. "Since you are close with that witch, you don't feel a need to care about me anymore, do you? You are too much."

After she grumbled, she went back to practice makeup.

Maya lay in her bed with her eyes closed. However, she could still see the silver needles before her.

Additionally, she could feel the needles being pricked into her body. So painful...

I miss Mommy and her warm hugs.

Recalling the picture of her mommy that Susan showed her, tears started to form in her eyes.

According to Ms. Susan, not only did Daddy put Mommy in prison, but he also ordered others to beat her up. He is so evil! He is a meanie!

During lunch, Maya did not go downstairs to eat because she wanted to sleep.

Susan looked at Evan and explained, "Maybe she did not sleep well last night and wants to sleep in. When she is awake, I will order the kitchen to prepare more food for her."

Evan nodded in response after some thought.