

## Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 879

Kyle and Juan realized they had been played when they saw Nicole accept the gift.

You lied to us, Levant! Didn't you say you were going to take it back just a few minutes ago?

Nicole opened the box and was shocked to see that it was the exact same necklace as before.

Is such a coincidence even possible?

She thought to herself as she shot the two a suspicious glare. Juan simply lowered his head and smiled while Kyle had a somewhat awkward expression on his face.

Nicole noticed their abnormal reactions and quickly found herself an excuse to reject the gift.

"I don't feel safe wearing such an expensive necklace, Levant. I think you should hold on to it instead."

Levant frowned. "But this was designed by your favorite jewelry designer, Nicole. It really suits you!"

"Just hold on to it for me, okay?"

With that, Levant decided not to push her any further and walked away with the box after a brief exchange.

The moment Levant left, Nicole questioned the two troublemakers.

The two exchanged glances, and Juan stepped up to apologize.

"We're sorry, Mommy. We shouldn't have lied to you."

"Sorry, Mommy." Kyle apologized too.

Nicole gave them a pat on the head for their honesty and said, "All right, just remember to be honest kids from now on, okay?"

The two nodded their heads in response.

"I'm the most honest one, Mommy!" Maya spoke up all of a sudden.

"Yes, you are. You should all be like Maya."

Nina pouted when she heard that. "Maya got abused and kept quiet about it, Mommy! I don't wanna be like her!"

Her words shocked Nicole greatly as they came unexpected.

Then, Nicole turned to look at Nina in confusion. "What did you say? What do you mean by abused?"

"Oh, you have no idea, Mommy. Maya was stabbed with needles, strangled, and bullied in all sorts of ways! Because she wouldn't tell anyone about it, we only found out when she fainted and was sent to the hospital!"

After hearing that from Nina, Nicole turned to look at Maya, who was rubbing her chubby palms together with tears in her eyes.

If Nina hadn't exposed the incident, she wouldn't want to remember those horrific moments either.

Nicole gave Maya a hug and asked softly, "Will you tell Mommy who did this to you, Maya?"

Maya began crying loudly with tears streaming down her face.

"It was an old and mentally ill maid, Mommy. She killed herself by smashing her head on the wall for fear of Daddy's punishments." Nina answered.

"An old maid?"

Nicole was confused. What kind of old maid could possibly abuse a child like this?

Kyle tugged on Nicole's sleeve and motioned at her to have a word in private. Nicole understood his intentions and went into the bedroom with him after coaxing Maya to stop crying.

"Did you want to tell me something, Kai?"

Kyle nodded.

"I think the old maid wasn't the one who abused Maya. She was probably just a scapegoat."

Nicole frowned. "What do you know about this, Kai?"

"I think Ms. Susan was the one who abused her, Mommy. Maya's just too scared of her to say it."

Nicole was shocked.

Susan? Why would she abuse Maya?

"Daddy asked Maya who did it, but she refused to tell. She then shouted 'I'm sorry, Mommy!' all of a sudden. Could it have something to do with you, Mommy?"

Nicole was even more surprised when she heard that.

Did Susan abuse Maya because of me?

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"Kai, do you have any proof?"

"No, only Maya knows exactly who did it. Mommy, this incident has hurt her deeply. I think she was too afraid, that's why she refused to talk about it. We should probably help her overcome that fear before she can open up."

Nicole felt relieved when she saw how observant and mature Kyle was.

"All right, Mommy knows what to do. I'll try my best to help Maya out."

Nicole then recalled how scared Maya looked when she was applying acupuncture to herself with the silver needle last night.

Maya hid in a corner and whispered, "Can you please stop using the needle, Mommy?" When I asked her why, she said, "Because it hurts, Mommy! Don't ever poke people with needles, okay?" I didn't think much about it at the time as I thought she was just afraid of needles like every other kid out there, but it

turns out that she was abused with needles before! Who the hell would do such a cruel thing to a child? This is unacceptable!

Nicole felt her heart ache as she remembered the terrified look on Maya's face.

Mommy's definitely going to avenge you, Maya! If Susan really did abuse you like that, I'll make sure she pays for it a hundred times over! Nobody bullies my children! Nobody!

She thought to herself with a vicious look in her eyes.

As Nicole came out of the room, she saw Maya putting a jigsaw puzzle together. Maya would always bring out her Maya Punch whenever she lost an argument with Nina, but she simply rubbed her palms together in frustration and kept her head low when Nina reprimanded her recently. I was wondering what happened to her, and now I know she's been abused both mentally and physically...

Nicole took a deep breath and walked towards Maya.

"Hey, Maya! Would you like Mommy to help you with this?"

Maya nodded repeatedly and handed her two pieces of the puzzle. Nicole then took them over with a smile, and the two continued putting the puzzle together.

Oh, Maya... How will I ever get you to tell me who abused you? Kyle may have told me about his suspicions, but I need to hear it from Maya before I can do anything...

"The picture in this puzzle is a food court, Mommy! When we reach home, I wanna continue learning to make all sorts of delicious food!"

Reach home? Maya's still thinking of going back to Y City? That's where I nearly died! I don't want to go back there! Hmm... I wonder if she'll be willing to stay here if I can find her a local chef to teach her instead...

Nicole thought to herself and decided to give it a try.

Meanwhile, at the Darkmoon Manor, Susan was looking at Evan longingly with her suitcase in hand.

She really didn't want to go back home, but she didn't dare defy Evan's orders either. "Evan, remember to eat on time and take good care of yourself!" She reminded him before leaving.

Evan nodded. "I will."

"Evan, are you sure you want me to leave? I really don't want to. Who knows, maybe the kids will be back soon! They'd need me to look after them, then!"

John cleared his throat. Susan thinks too highly of herself... There's no way those kids are gonna leave their mommy for her! In fact, they don't like her at all! It's obvious that she wants to stay, but will Mr. Seet give in to her tears?

As expected, Evan ignored her and turned towards Darius. "Send Ms. Susan to the airport."

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"Yes, Mr. Seet!"

John took delight in seeing the shocked expression on Susan's face. Yes, this is how the great Mr. Seet does things!

"Please come with me, Ms. Susan." Darius walked up to her and urged her to leave.

With that, Susan wiped her tears and walked out of Darkmoon Manor with her suitcase in tow.

Darius then drove her to the airport and waited till she entered before leaving.

Little did he know, Susan, too, waited for him to leave before coming back out.

Hmph! There's no way I'd leave this place! I'm definitely settling down in this country!

Upon returning to Darkmoon Manor, Darius heard Evan talking on the phone.

"Are you sure about that?"

"Yes, Mr. Seet. We've confirmed that the people who hurt Ms. Lane in prison were able to carry out their plans successfully and that Levant had been secretly helping them!"

But Levant likes Nicole so much... Why would he help those people hurt her? Hmm... I can only think of one possible explanation for this... Those who hurt Nicole had done so in my name, which would lead to her hating me even more. Levant wants Nicole to give up on me, so he gave them a hand and then came to her rescue like a knight in shining armor! Oh, Levant... If only Nicole knew that you were the truly cruel and heartless one here...

John let out a sigh. "Mr. Seet, I think we should tell Mrs. Seet about this as soon as possible. Otherwise, she'd still treat Levant as her savior."

Meanwhile, Evan kept quiet.

Is that really all she thinks of Levant? Just a savior? Nicole had been planning on running away with him even before I put her in prison! I know she's been meeting up with him secretly a few times! But why would you do that, Nicole?

Jensen came in and said, "Mr. Seet, remember that thing you had us investigate? Well, we've found something."

"What'd you find?"

"Murphy had Stephen under his control a few months ago, and Levant used that to threaten Mrs. Seet into meeting up with him. That's why she went to see him."

So he forced Nicole into meeting him by threatening to kill his stepfather? Hah... Just how pathetic can you get, Levant? Still... Why didn't Nicole tell me about this?

John saw that Evan was in deep thought and suggested, "Mr. Seet, why don't we sneak into Wicked Palace tonight and tell Mrs. Seet everything?"

"She won't believe us." Evan said after a brief pause.

To her, I'm just a cruel and heartless man. Even if I were to tell her the truth, she'd probably just think I'm finding excuses for myself!

“Mr. Seet, you don’t know that for sure unless you’ve tried it. Personally, I think it’s worth a shot. If Mrs. Seet does believe it, we could get the family back together and head home!”

Evan gave it some thought. I guess it is about time I go see Nicole and the kids!

“We’ll head over tonight!”

“Yes, Mr. Seet!”

John was happy as he felt it would clear up the misunderstandings and resolve the issue soon.

At nightfall, Evan called Kyle and asked him where Nicole’s room was.

He then snuck into Wicked Palace with John under the darkness of the night.

Juan and Kyle were waiting for him in the courtyard and got excited when they saw him.

Juan led Evan into the bedroom he shared with Kyle and told him everything Levant had done, including the necklace he gave Nicole.

“You have to put in more effort, Daddy! Otherwise, Levant will succeed in stealing Mommy from you!”

Evan gave him a pat on the head. “I know, Juan!”

“Kyle, could you have Maya and Nina leave the room for a while? Mr. Seet needs to have a word with your mother.”

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Juan understood that his Daddy wanted some time alone with his Mommy.

“Okay, I’ll do it right away!”

He ran over to Nicole’s room and whispered something into Nina’s ear. Nina looked at him in surprise and followed him out of the room shortly after.

Maya got curious when she saw that and wondered if they were going to do something fun without her. Thus, she scrambled to her feet and went out with them.

At the same time, Nicole was reading a book and didn’t pay much heed to what her kids were doing.

It wasn’t until she noticed a figure before her that she looked up from her book, and her eyes were filled with shock when she saw Evan standing in front of her.

“You... How did you get in here?”

“I walked in, obviously,” Evan said in a very matter-of-fact tone of voice.

The kids! They must’ve told Evan where I was! My goodness, did he send them here to spy on me? I’ve got to give them a proper scolding tomorrow!

“How has life been for you over here, Nicole?”

“That’s none of your business, Evan! Did you also tell the kids to fake their injuries at the wedding?”

Evan stared at her in silence.

She's probably associating everything bad with me right now. The kids came up with the plan to ruin the wedding on their own, but I don't mind taking the fall for it... After all, I don't want her to marry Levant!

"You'd better stop using the kids like this if you have any dignity and sense of shame left in you!"

Evan remained silent.

So having the kids stay with her to spy on her counts as using them shamelessly? Well, okay, I suppose so... I have nothing to say in my defense, nor do I have any regrets for doing that.

Nicole found it odd that Evan didn't retaliate at all after she had repeatedly scolded him.

Was it because he knows he's in the wrong here?

She eyeballed him viciously. "I don't want the kids to turn out cruel, shameless, and hypocritical like you, so I'm having them stay with me from now on! You'd leave them alone forever if you know what's best for them!"

Evan frowned. "They're my kids, Nicole! I will not agree to be separated from them, and I'm sure they won't agree to it either."

"Oh yeah? I'll make them!" Nicole said after a brief pause.

"I won't let that happen!" Evan objected sternly.

"I don't care!" Nicole snapped back at him.

Evan glared at her and felt his heart ache as he recalled the pain and suffering she endured in prison.

Had this argument occurred in the past, he would've strangled her to break her spirit.

However, he could no longer bring himself to do so.

Although he had nothing to do with her suffering in prison, he was still the one who put her there in the first place.

After everything she had been through, all he wanted now was to compensate her with love and affection.

"They're still kids, Nicole. Don't be so cruel to them."

Nicole was surprised to see Evan soften his tone and attitude with her. He was like a completely different man from the reaper she knew.

With a sneer, she retorted, "What's a little cruelty to a heartless man like you? I don't want to see you ever again, Evan! For the sake of the kids, I'm letting you walk out of here this time. If you show up again, I'll hand you over to Murphy!"

The vicious and merciless look in her eyes stabbed at his heart, and he left the room without saying a word.

At that point of time, John was waiting outside. When he saw Evan leave the room looking disheartened, he knew Nicole must've kicked him out.

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Love really does humble someone... No one in the corporate world would've dared take up that attitude with Mr. Seet unless they had a death wish!

He let out a sigh and walked up to Evan. "How did it go, Mr. Seet? Did you manage to explain it to Mrs. Seet?"

Evan ignored him and walked off, leaving John rooted to the spot in confusion.

Why'd he just leave like that? Did he manage to tell her the truth or not? Judging by his temper, he most probably didn't... No, this won't do... I have to tell her! I can't let Mrs. Seet misunderstand him like this!

John knocked on the door and entered the room.

"Can I help you?" Nicole asked.

John nodded sternly. "I came to tell you something."

"If this is about Evan, you can save your breath. I don't want to hear it!"

She really does hate Mr. Seet a lot... Even so, I must say it!

In order to make sure he could finish what he had to say, John restructured his sentences. "It's got nothing to do with Evan and everything to do with your suffering in prison."

Nicole lifted her head and glared fiercely at him. Evan was the one who hurt me in prison! How could this have nothing to do with him? Is he just saying this to defend Evan?

"I don't want to hear about that, John! Go speak to Evan if you insist on talking about it! Try asking him why he was so cruel towards me!"

John saw how agitated Nicole was and quickly expressed his understanding of her emotions.

As if anyone would be able to stay calm when their traumatic events are brought up, right?

"I understand how you feel. Mr. Seet, too, was devastated when he found out about your suffering in prison."

Heh, as if Evan didn't know about it... Is John trying to whitewash what he did?

The person that hurt her said he was carrying out Evan's orders.

Although Nicole had her doubts at first, she couldn't think of anyone else in Y City capable of doing such a thing.

The person had produced a letter with Evan's handwriting on it; hence, the reason she was so convinced that he was behind it all.

"Save your breath, John. You can't whitewash that guy!"

"I can see that you don't trust Mr. Seet at all. Do you know what Levant was doing while you were suffering in prison? He was helping those people who hurt you! He was an accomplice!"

Nicole stared wide-eyed at him in shock and disbelief.

No... That can't be true... Levant was the one who saved me when my life was hanging by a thread! Why would he do that if he helped them hurt me?

"Evan is a cruel and shameless man. You've spent so much time around him that you're becoming more and more like him."

Is she saying that I'm as cruel and shameless as Mr. Seet? Now I see why he said she wouldn't believe me...

"John, are you seriously framing Levant in order to whitewash Evan? I don't think I even know you anymore."

John sighed. It's pointless to say any further. If anything, it would just make her think this is all part of Mr. Seet's plans. Looks like the only way to convince her is to present her with solid evidence.

"Just you wait, Mrs. Seet. I will prove it to you."

With that, John turned around and left the room.

Nicole took a deep breath and let out a wry smile.

Could he have been telling the truth? No, that can't be! It's impossible!

Despite her stubborn attitude, it was obvious that John's words had left a strong impact on her.

After that, John returned to Darkmoon Manor and saw The Hidden Masters waiting for them in the living room.

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"Oh, the whole team is here! What are you all doing up so late?"

Jeremy chuckled. "We're waiting for you, John! Did you manage to meet Mrs. Seet this time?"

John nodded. "Yes, and I've said everything there is to say. However, as Mr. Seet had predicted, she didn't believe us at all!" He let out a sigh and continued, "You can probably see it from that ice-cold look on Mr. Seet's face, right? His wife was really nasty towards him!"

Jeremy frowned. "No, because we haven't seen Mr. Seet."

"Yeah, how are we supposed to tell that from his face if we haven't seen him?"

John froze. "Wait... Mr. Seet isn't back yet?"

"Nope!"

"How is that possible? He left before I did!"



The Hidden Masters exchanged glances and looked at John worriedly. "You said Mr. Seet left before you did, but we haven't seen him come home at all!"

John was confused. And here I was complaining that he didn't wait for me! Where could he have possibly gone?

"Don't panic, let's call him and ask him where he is."

John said and dialed Evan's number, but there was no answer.

"Do you think he could still be at Wicked Palace?"

"Try calling Juan!" Jeremy suggested.

John did as told, but Juan said, "Daddy left long ago!"

"Go check in your mommy's room, Juan. Mr. Seet might have gone back to see her again!"

"Okay!"

Juan got dressed and knocked on Nicole's bedroom door.

"What is it, Juan?"

"Is Daddy with you, Mommy?"

"No, he isn't!" Nicole said angrily.

Juan ran back into his room and told John about it.

John paused. Where else could Mr. Seet be?

Even the Hidden Masters were starting to panic and complained about John being unprofessional.

"You should've stayed by his side, John! How could you just leave him by himself?"

"Yeah! Wicked Palace is the enemy's territory! What if something happens to Mr. Seet?"

"Should we go back and search for him?"

"Calm down, you guys! Mr. Seet is an adult, okay? He's not going to get himself lost! He probably just went to get some fresh air and clear his head or something! I'm sure he'll be back soon!"

With that, they decided to wait a little while longer.

John was so anxious that he even began praying while he waited. Dear God, please let Mr. Seet come back safely! I'll be dead if anything happens to him!

After waiting for a couple of hours, the Hidden Masters were losing their patience.

Jensen kept pacing about, glaring at John every now and then, and sighing each time he did.

At the same time, John was getting uncomfortable with his behavior and spoke up, "You can't blame me entirely for this, you know? I only stayed behind to try and resolve the misunderstanding between them!"

“Quit finding excuses already! If anything happens to Mr. Seet, his blood will be on your hands!”

“Yeah!”

John had nothing to say in response to that.

Oh, Mr. Seet... Why did you only bring me along? Why didn't you bring these guys with you? All they do is sit around and complain anyway! Sigh... This might just be it for me... Wherever you are Mr. Seet, now would really be a good time to come back... If I could turn back time, I would never have tried to convince Mrs. Seet! All I got in return were insults from her...

Darius took pity in how stressed John was and defended him. “Now, now, blaming John isn't going to do us any good. Let's hurry up and go find Mr. Seet.”

“Yeah! Let's head over to Wicked Palace! He might still be there!” Damien said.

Then, the two began walking towards the door.

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John got up and was about to follow them, but Jensen and Jeremy told him to stay.

“The four of us will go. You just stay here and wait for Mr. Seet. Call us if he gets back, okay?”

John knew he had made a mistake, so he could only nod in silence.

The Hidden Masters made a trip to Wicked Palace and pulled every string they could, but they were still unable to find Evan.

Seeing as the sun was about to rise, the four of them decided to retreat and head back to Darkmoon Manor.

John sprang to his feet when he saw the Hidden Masters enter the living room. “Where's Mr. Seet? Did you manage to find him?”

Jeremy and Jensen kept quiet and simply sighed in response, much to John's dismay.

Oh, my god... I've lost Mr. Seet! I'm dead... I'm so dead...

Damien sat down beside him and gave him a pat on the shoulder. “Calm down, John. Let's all just wait here a little longer. Maybe Mr. Seet really did just go for a walk or something! Who knows, he might be back soon!”

John frowned. There's no way Mr. Seet would be out that long... It's more likely that he's gone missing...

He looked outside the bedroom window, anxiously hoping to see Evan return to the manor.

An entire morning soon came to pass with no sign of Evan whatsoever.

John stood up and walked out of the courtyard, dragging his feet behind him.

“Where is John going?” Damien asked as he watched him leave.

“Where do you think? He's obviously going to look for Mr. Seet!” Jeremy replied.

Jensen let out a huge sigh. "I still can't reach Mr. Seet on his phone... Oh god, please let him be okay... This is all John's fault..."

Darius cut him off, "Stop blaming him, man. He blames himself enough as is, and he isn't any less worried than we are. Besides, even if we went with Mr. Seet, there's no guarantee that such a thing wouldn't happen."

They all exchanged glances and let out another sigh.

Right then, John whipped out his phone and called Juan again.

"What is it, Mr. John?"

"Juan, put your mommy on the phone. I have something very important to tell her."

Juan noticed how anxious John sounded and quickly ran towards Nicole.

"There's a phone call for you, Mommy!"

Nicole frowned. "Who is it? If it's your Daddy, you can just hang up the phone! I'm not talking to him."

John heard what Nicole said and knew Evan wasn't with her.

With that attitude of hers, I don't know if she'll even consider helping us out...

"No, Mommy! It's Mr. John!"

"He's with your Daddy, so I'm not talking to him!"

"But he said he had something very important to tell you, Mommy! Will you please talk to him?" Juan begged.

Nicole reluctantly took the phone over. "What is it, John? You're not going to try and change my mind again, are you?"

"Mr. Seet has gone missing! I haven't heard from him ever since I returned last night, and he isn't reachable on his phone either! Do you think Levant could've captured him? I'm really worried about him..."

Upon hearing that, Nicole froze in her spot.

Evan has gone missing? How? Wait, no... Whatever happens to him is none of my business! Why should I care?

"Even if Levant has captured him, it would be entirely on him! Did he really think he could just enter and leave the Wicked Palace as he wishes? I say he's gotten what he deserves!"

"How could you say that? Mr. Seet only went there to see you! If Levant really has captured him, his life could be in danger! Are you going to just sit by idly and watch him die?"

Nicole clenched her fists subconsciously, and the look in her eyes turned grim.

The thought of Evan dying felt like she was hit in the chest with a sledgehammer.

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Honest to God, she did not wish to see him dead.

However, didn't Evan wish me dead back then too?

She had her guard high up when she thought about the heart-wrenching moments back then.

She had her mind set on disregarding her feelings toward him.

Nicole vowed to not let her residual feelings toward Evan show.

"John, his life or death does not concern me! The old Nicole Lane had long been murdered by him. He killed me once. Do you think a victim like me would care about her murderer? He might as well be dead to me!"

Nicole hung up the phone right after.

Juan widened his mouth and looked at his mother in surprise.

Mommy wants to see Daddy dead?

I guess the saying's true that a woman could be really vicious if she sets her mind to it.

But... Vicious is not a good word to describe Mommy though.

Mommy mentioned that she had been killed by Daddy once. What did she mean?

Adults are complicated.

Why couldn't they just be lovey-dovey toward each other? Why are they trying to kill one another when they still have feelings for each other? Hmm, this is really not something that I could comprehend at my age.

Nevertheless, Evan was his father, after all. No matter what happened between his father and mother, Juan still hoped that his mother would save his father.

Nicole handed the phone to him. "Juan, hold this."

Juan snapped out of his thoughts and took the phone. He stared at her with his obsidian-like eyes and pleaded, "Mommy, please save Daddy."

Nicole tried her best to suppress the raging storm inside her heart and put on a placid expression.

"Juan, you've heard it wrong. I was just practicing lines with Uncle John. The lines... They're not real. Your Daddy's fine. He's taking a nap at home!"

Puzzled by his mother's explanation, the little boy asked, "But Mommy, why are you practicing lines with Uncle John though?"

"Because it's fun."

Juan pursed his lips. "Mommy, you're not an actress. Don't use the same excuse over and over. I'm not so naïve that I'll believe excuses like this."

Nicole was rendered speechless.

Just as she was trying to come up with another viable explanation, Juan turned and left her bedroom.

It seems like he's really mad at me.

Nicole took in a deep breath. John's words rang in her head again.

John is right. Evan would really be in danger if Levant has indeed caught hold of him.

Levant loathed Evan, not only because he saw Evan as a love rival, but also because they were fierce business competitors.

Evan had resorted to devious strategies to eradicate Levant's influence at Y City back then, forcing the latter to give up the domestic market and defer back to K Nation.

In Levant's mind, Evan's action was an act of transgressions that he would never forget. As such, Evan would be in a predicament should he have truly fallen into his hands.

And then, there was Murphy. He had long wished to sever all ties and connections Evan had at K Nation, and to take over all of them. Such an ambitious person would definitely not let Evan off easy should the chance arise.

Hence, she was certain that Evan's life would be hanging by a thread if he was indeed trapped at the Wicked Palace.

Should I find out if he's really trapped there?

With that thought, Nicole rose and walked out of her room. However, she stopped in her tracks as soon as she was out the door.

Nicole Lane, what are you doing?

What do his life and death have anything to do with you? Why bother?

She hesitated for a moment before turning around to head inside her room again. She had taken but three steps before she turned around and headed outside again.

As she walked, she kept telling herself that she just wanted to witness the murderer facing his retribution. It's not like I really care about his safety...

Yes, I only want to see how he would end up. Nothing more.

She repeated the statement over and over inside her head, fearing that even she herself could not be convinced by it.

Juan and Kyle exchanged glances with each other when they saw their mother leaving in a rush.

Nina sighed. "Seems like there's no need for us to beg Mommy. She's gone to save Daddy already."

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"I guess Mommy's not a heartless person. She just doesn't like to admit it."

“You’re right. Mommy is the exact opposite of that bad woman. That bad woman’s a heartless meanie but she always puts on a pitiful look.”

Nina turned around and looked at Maya. “Stay away from the bad woman when you see her next time. The sweets that she offers you are poisonous. Do you understand?”

Maya did not refute and nodded her head seriously.

When Mommy and Daddy get back together, Daddy will be able to protect Mommy. I will tell Daddy then that Susan is a bad woman! She would use silver needles to poke us... And she would always pinch our buttocks. She’s worse than the old witch!

“Since Mommy has gone to save Daddy, let’s just wait and see how it goes.”

“Okay.”

With that, the four of them went back to their bedroom to wait for the news while racking their brains to come up with countermeasures.

Nicole dashed into Levant’s place as soon as she arrived.

“Miss, Mr. Levant is not around.”

Acting as if she did not hear the maid, Nicole went straight inside the room. When she saw that Levant was indeed nowhere to be seen, she became very uneasy.

Where would Levant go?

Is he out to torment Evan?

She subconsciously clenched her fists as her face paled at the thought.

“Where is he?”

The maid stuttered, “Mr. Levant headed out last night to deal with something and hasn’t been back since. We have no idea where he is.”

Last night?

Evan disappeared last night. Could it be a coincidence? Or...

Could it be that Evan has really fallen into Levant’s hands?

Feeling ill at ease, she headed outside. As she stepped out of the living room, she tripped on something and almost fell over. Fortunately, she was steadied by someone.

Nicole lifted her head and noticed that it was Levant.

“Nicole, are you alright?”

Nicole shook her head. Noticing her pale face, Levant furrowed his brows slightly. “What’s the matter? Why are you looking for me?”

Nicole fell silent.

He wouldn't answer me if I ask him about Evan directly, right?

She was at a loss for words.

Levant noticed her worried look and asked, "Are you feeling ill somewhere?"

She shook her head and breathed in deeply. "Levant, is Evan in your hands?"

Levant was taken aback by her question.

"What? Evan? No, of course not! Why would he be in my hands?"

His blatant denial rendered Nicole speechless.

But where would Evan go if he's not caught by Levant?

Levant regarded her, somewhat displeased by her reaction. "Nicole, are you missing Evan?"

Nicole's expression turned somber for a moment before she smiled rather stiffly. "Why would I miss him? He almost murdered me."

Levant's face sank. Her initial reaction had said it all.

This won't do. I have to make the wedding date earlier so that Nicole can give up on Evan. I need to make sure that she realizes that it's already over between them.

"Nicole, I've asked someone to pick out an auspicious date. Let's get married one week later."

Nicole was slightly stunned at that. One week? That's fast.

"Why? Is there a problem?"

Nicole shook her head gently. "No."

However, she did not look at him when she said it. It was apparent that there was something on her mind.

Levant held her hands. "Nicole, even though Dad is quite comfortable here, I'm sure he would like to head back to the estate as soon as possible. I'll send him back personally after we're done with the wedding."

Nicole remained silent in response.

That's right. My marriage with Levant is not only about me. I have to consider Stephen's safety too.

When she first came to the Wicked Palace, Levant had given her the chance to meet Stephen once. She looked at his silhouette and noticed that he had lost his vibrant and energetic vibe. It was apparent that he seemed quite bogged down. Not to mention Stephen had lost a fair amount of weight, making him look frail.

The sight of the duke's debilitated state pained her.

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At that moment, Nicole made a decision that she would marry Levant, the man who saved her life. That way, Stephen could head back to the estate sooner.

Back to the present, the duke's frail figure flashed before her eyes again. Unwittingly, tears started streaming down her cheeks.

"Nicole, what's the matter?"

"Nothing. Levant, I hope that you will keep your promise and send my Dad back to the estate after we're married."

Levant was pleased with Nicole's reaction. It seems that Stephen is indeed the best bargaining chip I have. I would be able to marry Nicole as long as he's under my control.

"Of course, Nicole."

With that, Nicole went back home. However, the feeling that something was amiss nagged at the back of her mind.

The maid mentioned that Levant had not been home for the whole night. Does Evan's disappearance last night really had nothing to do with him?

The kids approached their mother as soon as they noticed that she was back.

Maya wrapped her arms around her legs. "Mommy, did you go and see Daddy?"

At the same time, Juan asked, "Mommy, is Daddy at the Wicked Palace?"

Nicole took in a deep breath. She lowered her head to look at her kids. Is their father all they could think of? By now, she was certain that her kids were spies sent by Evan.

"Your father is not at the Wicked Palace."

"What? Really, Mommy?"

Nina blinked. "Mommy, could it be that you're saying Daddy's not at Wicked Palace because you want him to die?"

Nicole regarded her daughter intently. Am I such a despicable person in her eyes?

Smiling bitterly, she explained, "Nina, don't get me wrong. Even though it's true that I want to see your father dead, it doesn't mean that I'd lie to you about his whereabouts. If he's indeed at the Wicked Palace, I'll be the first to tell you, I wouldn't lie to you guys. I'm an honest person and my word is my bond."

Hearing that, the kids fell silent.

Mommy, we don't care if you're lying to us or if you're an honest person. All we care about is our father's safety!

"Mommy, do you really hate Daddy that much?"



Nicole breathed in deeply and looked at Juan. "You kids wouldn't understand the fight between adults, and you guys should not ask about it either."

"But the fight between the two of you determines whether Daddy lives or dies. If Daddy's gone, we would become fatherless children," Nina retorted.

Maya nodded in agreement. "Mommy, I will be so sad if Daddy dies. I will cry until there are no more tears left."

Nicole was in a turmoil of emotions as she looked at the two children.

Evan would be so happy to know that these two care so much about him.

Just then, the normally silent Kyle suddenly asked, "Mommy, did Levant say Daddy is not at the Wicked Palace?"

Nicole nodded.

"Could it be that he's lying?"

Kyle's guess resonated her own.

However, Wicked Palace was Levant's turf. It would not be easy to find out whether he was speaking the truth.

In the end, she could only console her kids. "Don't think about it too much. Mommy will let you guys know if anything comes up."

With that, the four of them went back to their bedroom and discussed tracking Evan down in secret.

The afternoon went by in a blur. As night fell, the Wicked Palace was slowly lit up with bright lights.

Nicole's phone suddenly rang. She glanced at it and noticed it was from John. He must be calling to ask Evan's whereabouts.

Her first intuition was to ignore the call. However, in the end, she still chose to answer it.

"Mrs. Seet, do you know where is Mr. Seet?"

"John, Levant said he's not at the Wicked Palace."

Stumped by Nicole's reply, he said, "But Mrs. Seet, we've just gotten news that Mr. Seet hasn't left the Wicked Palace since last night."

"What?"

Nicole was taken aback. Did Levant lie to me?

If Evan's really in Levant's hands, would he be dead or alive right now?

"Mrs. Seet, I will find the evidence to prove that Mr. Seet did not hurt you in any way. Before then, I hope that you would help him out for the sake of the children."