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John sounded like he was almost begging Nicole.

In response, Nicole simply kept quiet, and hung up after some time. I need to investigate this on my own.

"Mrs. Seet-"

Looking at the dimmed phone screen, John sighed. Would she help Mr. Seet? Mrs. Seet, you wouldn't be so cruel, right?

Jensen sighed aloud and suggested, "What if we kidnap Levant and exchange him for Mr. Seet?"

Jeremy thought for a moment. "I don't think it'd be easy to kidnap Levant, but we could give it a try."

Damien breathed a sigh of relief. "Then we'd better start planning our next move. It's either we succeed in saving him or die trying to do so. We'd be keeping each other company if it was the latter."

"Okay!"

They started to discuss their modus operandi.

Meanwhile, Levant was contemplating Nicole's question.

Nicole asked if Evan was in my hands.

He knew that Evan was here in K Nation when the kids ruined the wedding. However, he wasn't able to find out where Evan was staying.

Why would Nicole throw the question at me so abruptly? Could it be that something happened to Evan?

The fact that he could not pinpoint Evan's location made him more anxious with each passing moment. He felt as if his enemy was hiding in a dark corner, ready to pounce on him at any moment.

"Send over some friendly maids to bring some food to the kids. Get them to ask the kids where they were staying previously."

"Yes, Mr. Levant."

He was hoping that the kids would disclose where Evan was staying.

Not long after, a group of maids brought some toys and food for the quadruplets.

However, the kids were worried sick about their father's wellbeing and paid no heed to the toys and food.

The only exception was Maya, who was staring intently at the colorful chocolates.

An old maid brought the chocolate to her. "Here, have some."

Nina pulled her sister back and eyed the maid warily, "Don't eat anything that's handed to you. This may be their ploy to bribe you."

Maya became wary after listening to Nina. She recalled how Susan had given her sweets and abused her. A wave of fear washed over her as the images flashed before her eyes.

Shuddering, she rejected the colorful chocolates.

Stumped to see the kids unfazed, the maids could only report back to Levant.

Levant narrowed his eyes. "Since we can't bribe them, maybe we should try another approach."

He then sent his people to trail the kids, and while they were at it, they took Maya to the lakeside.

Maya was puzzled. What's happening? I thought I was in the bedroom? Why am I here all of a sudden?

"Hey kid, are you looking for your Mommy?"

Maya looked at the maze-like Wicked Palace and nodded helplessly.

"Answer a few questions, and then I will bring you to your Mommy."

Maya nodded again.

"What's your name?"

"Maya."

"What's your father's name?"

"Evan Seet."

"Are you sure your Mommy lives in the Wicked Palace? Before coming here, where did you stay at K Nation with your Daddy?"

Maya was stunned.

"See that lake behind you? If you don't answer me, the sharks in the lake will eat you and you won't ever get to see your Mommy again."

Maya was terrified as images of sharks with bloody mouths popped into her mind. She rubbed her little hands together and pleaded, "Before coming here, I lived at Darkmoon Manor with Daddy."

Darkmoon Manor. Very well.

"Close your eyes then. I will send you back."

Maya closed her eyes and dozed off in no time. The next time she opened her eyes, she was already in her bedroom.

Huh? That's odd.

Was I dreaming earlier?

She shook her head and thought that maybe it was all just a dream.

Meanwhile, Levant sent his people to find out Darkmoon Manor's exact address immediately.

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After getting his hands on the information, Levant took some of his people and made a beeline toward Darkmoon Manor.

The Hidden Masters had been staying at Darkmoon Manor for some time. The moment they saw Levant and his group of men, a fierce fight ensued. During their vicious fight, Jeremy and Darius escaped through a secret passage.

However, John, Jensen, and Damien were caught by Levant.

Levant stared at John. "Where is Evan?"

John was stumped. Why is he asking where Evan is? Does that mean that Mr. Seet is not in his hands? That's great news!

Jensen and Damien were equally surprised. But more than that, they were glad to hear that Evan had eluded Levant.

"Hey, I'm asking you a question here. Where is Evan?"

John cleared his throat. "Mr. Seet already knows you're coming so he left earlier. As for where he's headed, we have no idea."

Levant was skeptical of John's words. "You're his right-hand man and yet you have no idea where he is?"

"I really don't." John shrugged and replied honestly.

Levant's gaze turned sharp. "Take them back. I don't think Evan Seet would leave them to die."

"Yes, Mr. Levant."

John was glad to know that Evan had not fallen into Levant's hands. Even though he was being taken away by the man, he felt no fear. On the contrary, he was actually relieved.

Mr. Seet must have predicted something like this would happen, that's why he left beforehand. But why didn't he let us in on this too? We could have escaped together.

Even though he was grumbling internally, his lips had unknowingly curled into a thin smile.

At the Wicked Palace.

Stephen sat before the cabinet with his back against the mirror. It seemed as though he was talking to himself. However, if one looked closer, someone was actually replying him.

The person lowered his voice. "I heard the guards talking about you. That's why I'm here. I'm bringing you along if I'm leaving."

"Don't act rashly! I am surrounded by Levant and Murphy's spies. I would have left earlier if it was a viable option. It's going to be hard for you to leave right now. You're going to be in danger if you were discovered!"

"I'll just go with the flow. I'm not afraid of death. Heck, I've been through it all."

"You think this is about you?" Stephen sighed. "You're fearless, alright. But what if something happens to you? How would Nicole be able to deal with that? What about the kids?"

Nicole?

If I'm really dead, Nicole marrying Levant wouldn't be so bad I guess. At the very least, she would be able to live a happy life.

He smiled bitterly. Now that he thought about it, the hatred that Nicole harbored against him actually served a good purpose.

Since she hates me so much, I guess she wouldn't be sad even when I'm dead.

As if he recalled something, Stephen uttered, "I think you could ask for someone's help if you would like to leave this place."

Evan, who was hiding in the cabinet, was puzzled. "You're saying that there's someone in the Wicked Palace who's willing to help? Is it one of your subordinates? Or did this person owe you some favor?"

"The person's not my subordinate, nor did the person owe me anything! Levant's afraid that I might flee, so every single person that's guarding me is fiercely loyal to him. I wouldn't stand a chance in bribing those people."

"Then, who is it?"

"You'll get to know soon."

Stephen had an apprehensive look on his face. He was contemplating whether there would be a hassle in the future if he asked for this person's help. But it's not like I have any other choice now.

It was a cold night.

The moon was shining brightly, illuminating the courtyard with its glow. Stephen took in a deep breath as he regarded the sight before him. Ever since he was trapped in the Wicked Palace, even the gentle moonlight seemed murderous to him.

His eyes were focused on the entrance. Will the person come tonight?

After all, she would always sneak in here whenever it's full moon.

After half an hour, the familiar silhouette made its appearance and snuck inside.

Stephen's face lit up with a smile at the sight of her.

She approached him, patted her chest, and breathed out deeply as she looked at Stephen with an apprehensive look.

"That was dangerous. If it wasn't for my lightning-quick reaction, I would have been caught just now!"

"You're afraid of getting caught?"

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"Of course! This place is off-limits. My Dad and Levant have repeatedly warned me not to come here. Otherwise, they'll lock me up with you."

After sizing up Stephen, the girl sighed, "I wouldn't complain about being stuck here with you if you're ten years younger. Too bad..."

"Are you saying that I'm old?" asked Stephen after checking himself out.

"Come on. You're as old as my Dad."

Stephen lowered his head and chuckled, "That's true, I guess. You're not much older than my daughter. I'd consider myself blessed if I were to have a daughter like you."

"Excuse me? You're treating me like I'm your daughter now? Please don't. Besides, I think we're a pretty good match, and I don't mind that you're a little older."

Meanwhile, Evan who was hiding in the room was as shocked as Stephen to hear those words.

He had initially thought that his father-in-law was getting tortured in the Wicked Palace, but he never expected the man to have such luck there. I wonder how Nicole is going to feel about this if she ever finds out.

"I know that you're an open-minded and cheerful person, but you shouldn't joke about that."

"I'm not joking, I mean what I said. Let's just forget about our age and run away together. What do you say?"

Stephen gazed at the spontaneous girl with the bold but terrifying idea. "You didn't come here just to talk about this, did you?"

"No. I want to know why my Dad hates you so much. He wants nothing more than to send you to hell, and I need to know why."

Stephen would rather not bring up the past as there were more important things to do at hand.

"You really want to know?"

"Yes." Avril nodded vigorously.

"Do me a favor then, and I'll tell you when it's done."

"Name it."

Stephen brought Avril into the room, and her jaw dropped when she saw Evan.

After staring at Evan's handsome face for a while, Avril turned to Stephen. "Who's he?"

"A friend who sneaked in to see me. Can you get him out of here safely?"

"I'm not leaving here without you!" Evan was determined.

"What does a man like you want him for? Besides, I'll be lonely if he leaves." Avril looked at Evan in puzzlement.

Narrowing his eyes at Avril, Evan found it hard to believe that the girl before him was Murphy's daughter. "You could run away with us. Then, you won't have to sneak in here ever again. Didn't you just say that you wanted to elope with him?"

With her brow knitted, Avril thought about it and decided that it was a good idea. Not only will I be able to get Stephen out of here, but I'll also be making my dream come true. But how am I going to get these two out, though? It's going to be hard sneaking two men out under the guards' nose.

Stephen looked at Evan with mixed feelings. What is this punk planning in that head of his? If we get tangled up with Murphy's daughter, there will be no more peace at the estate. On top of that, taking Avril with us will only make it harder for us to leave unnoticed.

Looking as calm as ever, Evan thought it was more important for them to get out and deal with the girl later.

After some thought, Avril sighed because they seemed to be out of options. "We have to be careful. If my Dad and Levant find out about this, we'll be dead before we know it."

"Your father would kill you?"

Avril nodded. "It's possible."

Wow. That bad, huh? Then we better be extra careful.

"I'm going to go now. I'll be back again once I think of something."

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"Alright, be careful."

Avril nodded before sneaking out on her toes, but she bumped into somebody as soon as she got out.

"What are you doing here, Levant?"

Levant looked at Avril before shifting his focus to the courtyard. "I could ask you the same."

Avril's heart was beating so fast that she could almost hear it. If Levant goes in, he's bound to discover that Stephen is hiding somebody inside. Then, they'll both be in trouble.

Sighing, Avril then raised her voice purposely, "The Wicked Palace is my home! Wherever I go here is none of your business, Levant!"

She deliberately shouted Levant's name louder so that the two inside could hear it.

"You don't usually talk like this. Is there a reason why you're shouting?" Levant got suspicious of Avril's unusual behavior.

"I don't need a reason to shout! I'll shout whenever I feel like it!" replied Avril with an even louder voice. If the two didn't hear me before, they should now.

Levant shifted his focus away from Avril and started walking into the courtyard.

He could see Stephen calmly enjoying his tea in the living room from far away.

"Why did Avril come to visit you?" asked Levant after scanning around the living room.

"She had some questions," replied Stephen as he glanced at the man.

"About what?"

"About the grudge between Murphy and me," Stephen answered calmly before taking a sip of his tea.

Levant looked at the Duke suspiciously and wondered why Avril would care about the past.

"That's it?"

Stephen lifted his head to look at Levant with a sharp gaze. "What else would there be?"

Levant gulped as he realized that he would not be getting anything from Stephen, so he scanned every inch of the room with his sharp eyes. Something's not right here.

"Search the room!"

"Yes, sir!"

Stephen's face darkened as he watched the guards carry out their order.

When Levant and his men found nothing, they finally left Stephen alone. Just then, Evan crawled down from the roof and went back into the room.

"Levant's getting suspicious. We'd better get out of here soon."

Evan nodded in agreement.

Tossing and turning, Nicole had trouble falling asleep for she had not heard back from the secret informant she hired to find out if Evan was in the Wicked Palace. The people at Wicked Palace sure are tight-lipped. Would Levant kill Evan if he's really here?

Although she hated Evan, she didn't want to see him dead. After all, he was the kids' father, and his death would definitely break their little hearts.

It wasn't until past midnight that Nicole finally fell asleep, but she had not slept for long before she jolted awake from a nightmare.

She dreamed that Levant had imprisoned Evan and used a gleaming knife to cut the man's flesh.

In contrast to Evan's look of pain and horror, Levant looked absolutely deranged with a sadistic grin on his face.

As he continued to torture Evan, the unhinged man merely laughed menacingly as Evan wailed in pain.

Even after waking up from the nightmare, Nicole could still hear both the wail and laughter echoing inside her head.

"Evan..." She sat up abruptly, her forehead was drenched with sweat, and her heart was pounding frantically. Could it be real? Could Levant really be hurting Evan?

Feeling helpless, Nicole held her head with both hands. None of this would have happened if Evan had listened to me. That idiot should have stayed away from the Wicked Palace!

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"Damn it, Evan! You brought this upon yourself!" murmured Nicole to herself. She felt as if an invisible hand was pulling her down and drowning her in fear. Hating someone isn't as easy as I thought it would be. As much as I hate Evan, I don't want him to die.

Nicole clutched at her hair as tears ran down her cheeks.

To prevent the nightmare from becoming reality, she decided to spend more time with Levant in order to make sure that he would not have the time to hurt Evan.

Levant was puzzled by Nicole's unusual behaviors. Maybe she's getting attached to me because we're getting married soon, and she's just happy to be my bride.

Although they were together most of the time, Levant could not help noticing how distant Nicole was. To him, it felt like Nicole was simply tailing him for some reason, as she would always ask where he was going.

"Nicole, What's with the sudden clinginess?"

Nicole kept quiet and only responded with a faint smile.

Whenever Levant tried to get close to her, she would keep her distance and nervously say, "We're not married yet, Levant."

How's that an excuse? She never got married to Evan, yet they had four children and were living like a married couple.

Realizing that Nicole had not accepted him, Levant gave her a half-smile. "Fine. After marriage it is then. Let's get married the day after tomorrow."

That's two days earlier. But I guess that's fine. The sooner we get married, the sooner Stephen can return to the estate. I might even be able to look for Evan as madam president of the Wicked Palace once I become Levant's wife.

"Sure."

Levant only felt better when Nicole agreed with him.

The four little ones were baffled when they noticed how their mother seemed to be getting tangled up with Levant instead of looking for their father.

"How could Mommy do this?" sighed Juan.

"Does she really not care about Daddy anymore?" asked Nina, who was confused.

Rubbing her chubby little hands, Maya thought it was wrong of her mother to be so cold. I told her that I'd cry until I'm out of tears if Daddy died. Does she not care? Mommy seems to only care about Levant.

Standing aside with a blank expression, Kyle crossed his little arms in silence.

The boy believed in his mother, for he noticed how worried she seemed to be these days. Whenever she came home from Levant's, she would look sad.

Kyle believed that there was a reason his mother got close to Levant. She's probably doing it to find Daddy. But, with that many guards in the Wicked Palace, it must be hard to find him. What can we do to find him as soon as possible?

"Stop complaining about Mommy. We should think of a way to help instead," suggested Kyle to his three siblings, who sighed before starting to brainstorm.

In the afternoon, Juan pretended to play with Kyle as he ran around in the Wicked Palace, taking the chance to map out the place in his mind. After that, the two returned to their bedroom to draw out an actual map and analyze where their father would most likely be held at.

Juan drew circles on the drawing with his little hand. "This spot and this spot are the most hidden. Do you think this is where Daddy's at?"

"Let's mark all the suspicious spots and go through them one by one. I believe we'll find Daddy that way," replied Kyle after some thought.

After deciding on a few spots and sneaking their black suits out of the suitcase, the two talked on their bed and waited for nightfall.

Juan suddenly sighed, "I heard that Mommy's getting married to Levant the day after tomorrow. If we can't find Daddy by then, do you have any idea how to stop the wedding?"

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The question stunned Kyle. "Levant's definitely going to be on the lookout for us. Trying to stop the wedding won't be easy."

"That's why it's imperative for us to find Daddy. He'll know how to get Mommy back."

Kyle nodded in agreement.

Soon, the sky dimmed as the sun gradually disappears below the horizon. The two little ones knew it was time to move out.

Fortunately, they had no problem sneaking into Avril's residence.

Sighing in the courtyard, Avril was startled when she inadvertently saw two small figures moving. "What the hell?"

She stood up and walked over to take a closer look, but the two shadows had already disappeared.

"That's weird. I thought I saw two figures moving. Something must be wrong with my eyes." Even after rubbing her eyes, Avril couldn't find anything.

However, when she turned around, she suddenly saw two little kids ran into her room.

Avril immediately rushed in after them and locked the door behind her.

"Come out now!"

Juan and Kyle both trembled as they wondered if that was the end of their operation. This lady sure has sharp eyes. We're doomed now!

"If you don't come out on your own, I'll seek you out myself. And when I do, I'll fry you up as my dinner!"

Juan shivered all over before whispering to Kyle, "This madwoman is scary. Should we just surrender ourselves?"

"Let's wait a little longer," replied Kyle after some thought.

Juan held his breath and prayed that they would not be discovered as he waited for the woman to make a move.

"Not surrendering, are we? Fine. I'll drag you out myself!"

Avril rolled her sleeves and started rummaging through boxes and cabinets.

Listening to the noises of the search, the kids' hearts almost beat out of their chests, for they had never seen a woman so hellbent on catching them. Who knows what's going to happen if she catches us.

Suddenly, the wardrobe door was opened, and the two kids desperately backed as far away inside as they could.

"What are you two doing in my courtyard? Are you after my body or money? Is this an attempt on my life?" asked Avril as she dragged the children out unceremoniously.

Why would we need her money or her body? Look at how young we are! And how would we kill her without any weapon? This madwoman is just weird.

Juan looked at Avril with rounded eyes and smiled. "We're not here for your money or your life. Even though you're as beautiful as a diamond sparkling in the morning light, we kids are not here for your body either."

This kid sure knows how to butter up someone.

"Then why are you two sneaking around in those outfits?"

After some thinking, Juan answered sincerely, "Well, that's because we're playing hide-and-seek."

However, Avril was unconvinced. Why would anyone think it's necessary to wear black suits for hide-and-seek?

As she continued to look at the two suspiciously, Avril suddenly realized how similar they looked to someone she knew. Could that person be the reason why they're here?

After serious consideration, she stared at Juan intently. "I can tell that you're not being honest with me. I can read minds, so there's no point in lying to me."

She can read minds? Nobody can do that! This madwoman must be lying to us, but jokes on you! We won't be fooled!

"If you can read minds, tell us why we're here then," requested Kyle coldly.

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"You're here to look for someone," replied Avril calmly with her arms crossed.

Huh? How did she know?

Juan looked astonished while Kyle furrowed his brows. Can she really read minds? Or perhaps it's just a wild guess?

Seeing how the two were still unconvinced, Avril confidently added, "In fact, the person you're looking for is a man."

Looking at the astounded children, Avril cleared her throat before continuing, "I also know that he looks exactly like you."

Seeing how Avril got everything right, Juan gaped at her in shock. Do mind-readers really exist?

Kyle stared at Avril with his piercing gaze and thought of two possibilities. Either she can really read minds, or she knows something.

"If you can really read minds, tell me what I'm thinking right now." Kyle decided to test the self-proclaimed mind-reader.

At that, Avril pretended like she was focusing on her power. "You're wondering how I knew you're looking for someone, aren't you?"

Kyle shook his head. "No. I'm thinking you must've seen the person we're looking for, haven't you?"

Avril fell silent.

My, my! I didn't expect this little guy to see through me like that. What a smart kid.

Hearing Kyle's words, Juan then looked expectantly at Avril. "Did you really see someone who looks like us? You look like a nice lady, I'm sure you'll tell us where he is, right?"

Avril sneered at the two and said nothing in response. I do know where he is, but why should I tell them?

"Someone as pretty as you must have a kind heart, so would you please tell us? It's been so long since we last saw Daddy. We miss him a lot." Juan put on his boyish charm while Kyle nodded and made a sound of agreement.

Looking at the boys with two different personalities, Avril inquired, "That man's your father? Then what's his relationship to Sir Musgrave?"

Avril believed that the two men shared a special relationship. Otherwise, Evan would not have risked his life just to see Stephen.

On the other hand, the children were surprised to realize that the woman knew their grandfather. So not only has she seen Daddy, but she also knows Grandpa? Then, should we tell her the truth?

Avril could tell that they were hesitant, so she suggested, "How about I tell you where your Daddy and Sir Musgrave are, and you tell me their relationship?"

After some thought, Kyle replied, "Sir Musgrave's our Grandpa."

The word "Grandpa" shocked Avril, she never expected Stephen to have grandchildren that old. And here I thought we could run away together and have our own children.

Looking at the boys, Avril could not help imagining them calling her newborn baby their uncle. Now that would have been a horrible sight to behold!

"Now it's your turn to tell us where they are." Juan's voice pulled Avril back to reality.

She cleared her throat and answered, "Your Daddy's with your Grandpa."

"And where exactly is our Grandpa?"

"The Wicked House, but you'll never find it, so go home. It's too dangerous for you to run around in the Wicked Palace."

"We're not running around, we live here."

"You live in the Wicked Palace?"

"Yup! Our Mommy lives here too."

Avril suddenly remembered hearing that Levant brought a woman back with him a few days ago, and the woman had four children.

Realization finally dawned on her that the boys were Levant's stepsons. So why would Levant imprison Stephen here if he wanted to be with the man's daughter? What kind of b\*stard treats his future father-in-law like that? I have to warn Stephen's daughter not to marry that b@stard!

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"It's too dangerous out there. How about I send both of you home?"

Since Avril knew where their father and grandfather were held, Kyle and Juan thought they might be able to develop a plan if Avril went back with them to their mother and sisters, so they agreed.

"Thank you, pretty lady!"

"You're welcome. Now, let's go!"

When Avril and the boys reached Nicole's residence, Nina and Maya were surprised to see her.

"Who is this?" asked Nina after sizing up the woman.

Juan froze when he realized that he had no idea what to call the woman he brought home.

Seeing the blank look on her brother's face, Nina sighed. "How could you be so careless to bring a stranger home with you?"

Amused by the children's interaction, Avril introduced herself. "Hello, I'm Murphy's daughter, Avril, and this is my home."

Juan and Kyle were just as surprised as their sisters to find out that they had brought an enemy home. It's a mistake to bring her here!

When Nicole heard the commotion, she stepped out of her room and was shocked when her gaze landed on Avril.

After giving Nicole a once-over, Avril greeted the children's mother. "You must be Sir Musgrave's daughter."

Nicole nodded. "And you are?"

"I'm Murphy's daughter. My name is Avril."

Avril then approached Nicole to take a closer look at the woman's fair and delicate face.

Feeling uneasy, Nicole was about to say something when Avril suddenly asked, "Who's prettier? You or your mother?"

Nicole was baffled that the woman would mention her mother suddenly.

After a moment of silence, she replied, "My mother's prettier."

"Well, that sucks. If your mother's prettier, that means I don't stand a chance."

Nicole looked at the mumbling woman in confusion. What does my mother's appearance have anything to do with her? Is she right in the head?

"What's your name?"

"Nellie Musgrave."

"Let me ask you this, Nellie. Are your parents close? Do they get along well?"

Nicole did not know how to respond to the question about her parents' relationship. My mother passed away a long time ago. Besides, who asks someone they just met a question like that? What's wrong with Murphy's daughter?

"Not well, huh? I knew it! Why else would Lady Musgrave do nothing about her imprisoned husband? It's obvious that they're not on good terms."

Avril then earnestly suggested, "Since they're not getting along, you should ask them to consider getting a divorce, then they can go their separate ways."

Nicole looked at the woman oddly. "My parents are getting along just fine! You should worry more about yourself. Do you not have good doctors here who can take a look at your..." She then pointed to Avril's head, but the other woman could not care less about the insinuation.

Avril grabbed Nicole by the hand and continued with her questions. "Are your parents really getting along? Then, would your mother mind if your father eloped with another woman?"

Feeling helpless, Nicole took a deep breath. What the hell is wrong with this woman!

She then turned to look at her sons and wondered why they brought the weird woman back with them.

Juan quickly explained himself. "Mommy, she knows where Daddy and Grandpa are being held."

Nicole shifted her focus back onto Avril and looked at the woman warily. "Is that true?"

Avril nodded.

"Where are they being held? Is Levant giving them a hard time?"

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"They're held at a place where you won't be able to reach them. I have a question, though. Why would you want to marry the man who imprisoned your father?"

Nicole smiled bitterly when she realized that Murphy's daughter had no idea what was going on in the Wicked Palace.

Seeing that Nicole had fallen silent, Avril held her hand and advised her seriously, "Listen to me. Don't marry Levant. Him imprisoning your father is reason enough to stay away from him."

Nicole had mixed feelings about the marriage that was to come, but she did not have many options since Levant was holding Stephen and Evan captive. It's indeed despicable of Levant to imprison my father, but he's also saved my life. He has feelings for me and is good to me. "Is there any way you can bring me to see my father?"

The question stunned Avril. "If you have something to say to him, I can pass the message along, it's too difficult to set up a meeting."

"But you're Murphy's precious daughter, and this is your home! Surely you can find a way. Please, help my Mommy, pretty lady," begged Juan.

Maya approached Avril and fished out her favorite cake pop to give to the woman. "If you help my Mommy, I promise to share all the goodies I have with you."

Good food had always been Maya's most precious possession, and she was willing to share it with Avril to help her mother.

Avril reached out to pinch Maya's chubby cheek. "From now on, you can call me Avril or Grandma." Although getting called Grandma would make her seem old, Avril thought it would get her closer to the children's Grandpa.

Maya was puzzled by the woman's peculiar thinking. Most women would like to be deemed young and beautiful, why would she want to be called Grandma? How weird! Is that a trend now?

Nina, who cared a lot about appearances, was also left scratching her head at Avril's words. After some thought, she concluded that the people in the Wicked Palace must have some screws loose in their head, hence, they're different from the average Joe.

"Please help Mommy, Grandma!" Juan had no problem calling Avril that.

Feeling like an elder to the family, Avril continued to hold Nicole's hand as she thought to herself. If I help her this time, she'd better not have any problem with her father eloping with me. I'm only doing this as a favor.

"Okay. I'll bring you to see your father tomorrow night."

But I'll be getting married to Levant the day after tomorrow. Will tomorrow be too late? What if something happens?

"Can we go see him right now? My wedding's the day after tomorrow, I'm afraid that tomorrow..."

"After midnight then, but I hope that you'll reconsider marrying Levant," replied Avril after serious consideration.

Nicole thanked Avril from the bottom of her heart when the woman agreed to help her.

Juan and Kyle wanted to tag along, but Nicole and Avril rejected their request because they wanted to avoid complications. Left with no choice, the children could only go to bed obediently.

After midnight, Avril cautiously brought Nicole to Stephen's residence.

"This is it."

The two waited for more than an hour so that they could sneak in when the guards change shifts.

Evan was on alert even when he slept, so when he heard movements outside, he patted and woke Stephen up before climbing out the window at the back.

Stephen's heart was racing as he listened to the approaching footsteps.

"Your father must be sleeping in his bedroom right now. I'll keep watch while you're inside."

"Thank you."

"Don't mention it. I have my reason for doing this," responded Avril with a smile.

Even though Nicole had no idea what the woman meant, she couldn't be bothered to find out. She proceeded to knock on her father's bedroom door.

"Who is it?"

"Dad, it's me, Nicole."

Stephen quickly opened the door and got extremely emotional when he saw Nicole.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 898

"Nicole! How did you get here?"

"It's not safe here, Dad. Let's talk inside."

After returning to his bedroom, Stephen deliberately dimmed the light before asking his daughter to sit on an inconspicuous spot. He then sat on his bed, and the two started whispering to each other.

"How are you doing, Dad?"

"I'm fine. I may be imprisoned here, but Levant treats me decently. Probably because he still remembers that I was the one who raised him."

Nicole turned her attention to Stephen's fingers when she suddenly recalled something.

"Dad... Your fingers..."

"What about them?"

Stephen lifted his hands to show them to his daughter, who was surprised to see that they were perfectly fine.

Nicole realized that it was not really Stephen's finger that Levant used to threaten her before.

She was relieved to discover that Levant was not as cold-blooded as she thought.

"It's great to see that you're doing well, Dad. Don't worry, you'll be out of here in two days."

Instead of feeling relieved, Stephen was distressed to hear that.

"Nicole, are you really marrying Levant?"

Nicole nodded in response.

"You're really giving up on Evan?"

Nicole thought if she just hated Evan enough, she would be able to let him go, but her nightmares and worries showed her otherwise. She accepted the fact that the man was someone she could never forget nor get close to. All she could do was keep him in her heart.

Noticing his daughter's silence, Stephen continued earnestly, "I hope you can think about this carefully. I have all I need here, and the environment's pretty good too. It makes for a pretty decent retirement home."

"What happened between your Mom and me cannot be undone, and it'll always be my regret. That's why I don't want you to go through the same thing because of me. Otherwise, I won't be happy even if I return to the estate, and I'd rather stay here. Do you understand what I'm trying to tell you, Nicole?"

Nicole could feel a heartache creeping in, she understood that it would be a regret to not be able to with someone she loved. I admit that I love Evan, but as much as I love him, I still have my principles, and I can't just forget about all the heartbreaks I went through. I do love Evan, but I hate him at the same time!

The love-hate relationship was killing her, and she did not want to be trapped in the masochistic struggle. Nicole wanted to get as far away from Evan as possible, so getting married to Levant seemed like a good idea.

Besides, Stephen was imprisoned because of her, so there was no way she could just leave him here.

"Levant loves me, Dad. I'm sure I'll be happy if we get married," assured Nicole with a shaky voice and a bitter smile.

With a grim look on his face, Stephen let out a long sigh.

Outside the window, Evan felt as if his heart had been stabbed with a knife.

Nicole was everything to him, and he was not about to let her marry someone else. I won't let it happen!

After a moment of silence, Nicole suddenly mentioned the man. "Dad, I know you said that Levant didn't give you a hard time, but did he do anything to Evan?"

"Evan came here on his own. Levant has no idea that he's here. It's too dangerous for him to be here, Nicole. You must find a way to get him out."

"He came on his own?"

Why would he risk his life to come here?

"Where is he?"

At that, Stephen turned to look out the window before standing up. "I'll go take care of the lights while you talk to Evan. This will make it harder for people to spot us."

After Stephen left the room, Evan climbed back inside through the window.

Nicole gasped a little when she heard the movement.

"You shouldn't have come here."

"And why shouldn't I?" asked Evan in his deep, mellow voice.