

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 939

“I am nothing! A father and a stepfather like you are nothing to me! I hate you! I hate both of you!”

Then, he glared murderously at Nicole without blinking for a few seconds. After that, he suddenly snickered, but there was a hint of sadness in that scornful laughter.

“Evan will be marrying Sir Musgrave’s daughter now, Levant. If you want, you can stay. Otherwise, you should head back to Wicked Palace.”

Murphy gestured to his men to send Levant back.

“There’s no need for that! I’ll see myself out!” roared Levant.

After standing still for a moment, the man lifted his seemingly heavy legs and left.

The guests below the stage continued their discussions.

They had originally been there for Levant’s wedding, but someone else unexpectedly replaced the groom.

The three failed weddings instantly became big news, and many felt sympathy for Levant.

Since Evan had replaced the man as the groom, the wedding became nothing more than a formality. Nicole kept holding Evan’s hand tightly and cared not what others had to say. At that moment, the two only had each other in their eyes.

The woman was dumbstruck by the turn of events.

She thought she and Evan would have to go their separate ways for the rest of their lives. Never did she imagine him to appear suddenly and even become her bridegroom.

To Nicole, that was more than a pleasant surprise – it was a downright miracle.

Although they had been through many twists and turns, Nicole still felt fortunate.

When they finished the ceremony, Evan made a promise to her. “When we get home, I will give you a romantic and unique wedding.”

“Okay!” she nodded excitedly, her eyes gleaming like stars in the night sky.

When they got back to the estate, Sheila looked at Nicole and sincerely apologized to her.

“I’m so sorry, Nicole. I didn’t know you wanted to marry Levant to save Evan. I thought you really fell for Levant and decided to abandon Mr. Seet. I even accused you of being cold-hearted. Please forgive me for my ignorance.”

“It’s okay. I don’t blame you. I would have done the same. You know how the both of us are like – we’re both straightforward.”

Holding Nicole’s hand, Sheila nodded vigorously.

Davin chimed in, “You even made John and I misunderstand Nicole. We believed you when you say those things about her.”

“Anyhow, I believe everyone is happy about how things turned out in the end.” John chuckled before turning to Sophia.

“Ma’am, I knew you’re an extraordinary woman who can do extraordinary things, but I never expected you to be a member of Wicked Palace and a sister to Murphy.”

“Do you think it’s a good or bad thing that I was a member of Wicked Palace?” Sophia asked with a chuckle.

After some thought, John glanced at Jonathan and replied, “Good thing. It’s definitely a good thing.”

Sophia then exclaimed, “I didn’t expect Murphy to treat me the way he did more than twenty years ago. He’s a fine brother indeed!”

“Now that you have Wicked Palace’s got your back, the Seets wouldn’t dare cross you, Ma’am.”

John started to butter Sophia up at the revelation.

The woman lifted her head to look at Jonathan, Evan, and Davin. “What do you think, Seets? Is John right?”

Her husband coughed slightly but said nothing, while Evan nodded and replied softly, “Yup.”

Davin walked up to his mother to give her a massage, hoping to flatter her.

“Of course he’s right! From now on, you’ll be of utmost importance in our family!” Davin then gave Sophia a big thumbs-up.

Sheila pouted as she watched the way Davin acted. She was worried that the man would probably side with his mother if she ever fought with Sophia.

Is it really a good idea to marry this man?

The woman sighed to herself and decided that she would test Davin when she gets the chance. She wanted to see if she was more important to him than his mother.

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“Sophia!”

A cry sounded, and a woman suddenly burst in, rushing up to hold Sophia’s arm. “Sophia, I’m Avril, Murphy’s daughter.”

Sophia instantly sized Avril up. She had only been back at Wicked Palace for a short while – she had not gotten the chance to meet the rest of Murphy’s family.

When Sophia left Wicked Palace, Avril had just been born. The woman smiled happily at Avril because she had never expected to see her niece come running to her.

“What a beautiful young lady you’ve grown into now, Avril! Why don’t you go head back with me?”

“I can’t, Sophia.” Avril turned to glance at Stephen shyly. “My love is here, so I’m not going anywhere unless he goes with me.”

Portia, who was standing beside Stephen, burst in flames when she heard Avril's words.

She could not believe that the woman would dare to gesture at Stephen with that suggestive glance in front of everyone.

Am I a joke to her?

"Look at how she's confessing to you again, Stephen! Go, tell her what's on your mind."

Sophia was baffled by Portia's words because she was unsure of who the duchess was referring to. Besides Portia herself, Sophia was the closest in age to Stephen.

She's not talking about me, is she?

Sophia was about to ask Portia when Sheila approached her to gesture at Avril.

Avril has fallen for Sir Musgrave?

The man's almost as old as Murphy! Why would Avril fall for him?

Sophia considered how Avril looked at Stephen and soon realized that her niece was indeed in love with the man.

Does Murphy know?

Portia demanded impatiently, "Say something, Stephen!"

After glancing at his wife, Stephen turned to Avril and noticed her looking at him with love-struck eyes.

At that moment, Avril promised herself that she would give up everything to follow Stephen like a moth to a flame if he confessed openly to her.

Her eyes burned with flames of passion as she looked expectantly at the duke.

"Avril, I told you that it'd be great to have a daughter like you, so would you like to be my foster daughter?"

The question came down like a bucket of cold water on the woman, extinguishing the flames in her eyes.

"No! I don't want to be your foster daughter!" she shouted angrily.

Sophia walked over held her niece's hand. "Stephen will be like a father to you, and you'll be a sister to Nicole. That's good, isn't it?"

"No, Sophia. That's not good," Avril sneered.

"What do you want then? Stephen won't be with you, so I suggest you stop dreaming about it!" Portia huffed.

Avril then turned to Nicole. "Didn't you say your mother's more beautiful than you? All I see here is a madwoman. There's nothing beautiful about her."

Nicole was stunned by her harsh remark. She had never told Avril that Portia was not her birth mother.

She thought the woman would find out eventually, but it had not turned out that way.

Just when Nicole was wondering if she should explain the situation to Avril, Portia did it for her.

“I am Stephen’s wife, but not Nicole’s mother. That woman’s been dead for a while now.”

The word “dead” hurt Nicole like a knife to the heart, and it also prompted Stephen to roar at his wife, “Portia!”

The duchess turned to her husband in a huff. “What are you yelling at me for? It’s the truth!”

Avril froze. She knew Portia was telling the truth when she noticed the sadness in Nicole’s eyes.

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Evan felt extremely repulsed when Levant addressed him as his cousin. With fury rising within him, memories of their past grudges surfaced in his mind.

The airplane crash, scheming to steal my wife, sabotaging the Seet Group...

Perhaps, even Grandpa’s death has something to do with him.

Upon that thought, a vicious glint flashed across his eyes as he looked at Levant. With a frosty expression, he asked hostilely, “What are you doing here?”

“I’m here to visit Sophia.”

“Leave now, you’re not welcome here!”

Levant was not surprised by Evan’s harshness. Instead, he smirked and said, “Levant, I’d like to talk to you in private.”

Evan remained silent.

“I know that you don’t want to see me, but aren’t you curious who’s the culprit behind your Grandpa’s death? Don’t you want to know who sabotaged Nicole in prison and made you the scapegoat?”

When Levant mentioned his grandpa’s death, Evan clenched his fists secretly. “Aren’t all of them related to you?”

Levant was stunned. “Let’s find a place to talk.”

A grim expression crept into Evan’s eyes. He directly headed to the study room upstairs, while Levant followed behind him.

Sitting at his desk arrogantly, he glanced at Levant and demanded, “What do you want to say?”

“Evan, your Grandpa’s death has nothing to do with me. The culprit is Susan and I have the evidence to prove it. As for what happened in prison, I did secretly help her in order to make Nicole hate you. I don’t deny that! However, the true mastermind was never me. At the very most, I was only an accomplice who offered some help. When Susan killed your grandpa, my men were monitoring her and managed to film her in the act. Would you like to see it?”

Evan peered at Levant coldly. He must have a reason for coming to Seet Residence. Why is he telling me all these? I really want to know.

When Levant saw Evan staring at him motionlessly, he said again, "If you want to see the evidence, I'll show it to you. I just hope that you won't stop me whenever I come to visit Sophia."

"This is your objective? You want to come to Seet Residence whenever you want?"

"Yes! This isn't an excessive request, right?"

"Then, you should come only when Nicole and I are not around."

Levant was speechless.

Is he guarding against me because he's afraid that I still haven't given up on Nicole?

However, in order to give Evan a peace of mind, Levant nodded in agreement and sent a video to his phone.

After Evan clicked on the video, he saw the scene of Susan smashing Russell's head with a heavy object.

By the time Nicole arrived at the scene, Russell had already stopped breathing. Then, Susan knocked Nicole out cold, wore a pair of gloves, and placed one of Nicole's buttons on Russell's palm. She even deliberately made Nicole's clothes messy, as if she just had a vigorous scuffle with Russell. Lastly, Susan placed his walking stick into Nicole's hands...

When Jonathan and Sophia rushed over, they naturally pinpointed Nicole, who was still in a daze after waking up, as the culprit.

Evan's eyes became bloodshot. When he thought of Susan abusing Russell like that, he felt heartbroken.

Susan... Deserves to die!

Looking at Evan's terrifying expression, Levant knew Susan was going to meet her doom soon.

I wonder how he'll treat such a heartless and unscrupulous woman like her.

When Nicole entered the study room and spotted Evan with Levant, she was shocked.

People always said that things would not end well when love rivals met. Looking at Evan's enraged expression, this seemed to be the case.

On the other hand, when she gazed at Levant, she discovered that he looked extremely calm. There was nothing strange about him, except for the fact that he was constantly staring at her, making her feel a little uncomfortable.

Evan also noticed Levant's weird actions. Feeling jealous, he stood up and dragged Nicole away from the study room.

She was shocked by his abrupt move. Just when they stepped out of the study room, she suddenly recalled that Sophia had sent her there to summon the both of them to dinner.

Hence, she turned around and shouted at Levant, "The food's ready. Let's go eat!"

“Okay!”

Levant smiled and followed her.

Evan glanced at her. “Why are you inviting him for dinner?”

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Before he knew it, she stood up and prepared to undress.

“This time, I have swallowed all my pride. Regardless of the cost, I am giving myself to you. After tonight, you shall file for a divorce with your wife and marry me instead.

Stephen’s expression darkened.

“You want to marry me? Why? Don’t tell me that you are interested in me because I know that is not the truth,” he challenged.

Avril groggily looked at Stephen and suddenly felt a little delirious.

The wine was strong, and she could finally feel its effects.

After giving it some thought, she replied, “Firstly, I do like you. Secondly, your wife had an affair with my dad, so my mom left him. She felt bad, so she decided to raise Levant after stealing my mom’s man. I want to take revenge on her by stealing her man.”

Stephen was speechless. He squinted at her with a dim expression on his face.

Portia and Murphy...

If they really liked each other, I can give them my blessing. I am no longer in love with Portia. After being tied to her for almost half of our lives, a separation between us seems like the best ending.

If so, I can be buried with Rosalie after I die.

The corners of his lips curled upwards, and he looked at Avril meaningfully. In a serious tone, he confessed, “You don’t have to do this, I will divorce Portia anyway.”

Avril frowned. “Do you mean it?”

Stephen nodded. “I mean it. You can go back and rest since your wish will come true soon.”

“After you file a divorce with her, will you marry me?” Avril injected.

Raising his brows, Stephen refused, “No.”

“Well, that can’t do. I will only achieve what I want if you marry me.”

Then, she began to undress.

Immediately, Stephen stopped her. Despite that, Avril did not care. She continued to undo her buttons, one by one and even threw her jacket onto the ground.

“Avril, stop it! Go back to your room and get some sleep,” Stephen shouted.

Avril's red lips curled into a shy smile before she whispered, "Your daughter was the one who told me to take a bolder step. Am I not being bold enough?"

Those words took Stephen with surprise.

This is Nicole's idea?

"Are you serious?" He questioned.

Avril nodded her head vigorously.

"It's true. She told me that your wife had a lot of courage when she pursued you and advised me to do the same."

It did not take long for a knock to sound on Nicole's bedroom door. Evan opened it to see Stephen standing outside while supporting a drunk woman. He felt a little odd.

"What is this?" Evan uttered.

Angrily, Stephen spat, "This is Nicole's fault. Let her settle it."

Then, he helped Avril into the bedroom and shot Nicole a deathly glare before he left.

The drunk woman staggered and landed onto the soft bed.

"Stephen, come here. Please give me a kiss," she cooed.

Puzzled, Evan looked at Avril then glanced at Nicole.

Earlier, Stephen said Nicole caused this. Did she do this?

"Did you spiked her drink?" Evan sounded bewildered.

Feeling wronged, Nicole fervently shook her head.

At that moment, Avril sat up from the bed suddenly and glared at Nicole. "You told me to be gutsier...to strip and throw myself into his arms."

What the heck? What kind of nonsense is this?

I wanted her to be bolder, but I did not mean it that way!

"I encouraged you to do more, but I did not tell you to strip!" Nicole yelled.

"You...you told me to be daring enough...to strip," Avril slurred and started to undo her clothes again.

Evan looked at Nicole with a puzzled expression on his face.

Exasperated, Nicole protested, "I did not tell her that! I swear I did not."

"It's useless to explain it to me. I think you should explain it to your dad instead. He seems angry," Evan advised.

Nicole was speechless.

Seeing how Avril was about to tear her clothes off, Evan turned to leave the room.

“Stephen, please hug me! How about a kiss?” Avril continued to whine.

Nicole felt Avril’s body heating up, so she helped the drunk woman to the bathroom and ran some cold water for her to take a bath.

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“Please have some tea.”

“Thank you.”

Levant sat on the old sofa and sipped his tea. This taste... he found it hard to drink as he was not used to it.

He put the teacup down and looked at Tiffany. “I would like to ask you for a favor.”

“What is it?” she asked and added, “Please go ahead. I will help you. You saved my life that day; I owe you a favor.”

He did not beat around the bush, either.

“I need you to cover for me, to temporarily be my girlfriend. Do you understand what I mean by that?”

Temporarily cover for him.

She went silent for a moment. “Yes. Don’t worry, I won’t overthink.”

“Good. I need you to come with me somewhere right now; I will bring you back home later.”

Reluctantly, she looked at the bedroom. “My child is still sleeping. If I leave...”

Bang! The door was suddenly burst open. Avril walked in to see what was going on.

Levant thought that she came at the right time. He asked her to take care of the child for the time being.

After getting Levant’s consent for lifetime access to Levant Winery, Avril agreed, “Deal.”

Now she could stay for as long as she wanted at the winery and he could never send her away. To her, this was totally worth it.

When the two left, Avril looked at the child who was sound asleep and murmured, “Dear Lord, I pray that this child sleeps soundly till day breaks...”

She had no idea how to coax children as she grew up as a proper lady. She would not know what to do if the child were to wake up and cry.

On the way to Seet Residence, Tiffany felt tremendously nervous, yet she patiently asked Levant what she should anticipate as well as the precautions.

“Is there anything in particular that I should keep in mind? Or is there anything that I should be aware of to save you the trouble?”

Levant thought for a while. “About your child... Say that your child is adopted and not yours.”

Tiffany was startled.

The fact that she had a child must have bothered him a lot. Then, subconsciously, she pinched the sleeve of her shirt and reminded herself that she was merely posing as his girlfriend. They would not have anything to do with each other, after all, so she should not overthink anything.

They drove at flying speed to Seet Residence. When she saw the magnificent-looking European manor, her heart skipped a beat.

She could never afford such luxury even if she worked exceedingly hard her whole life.

Glancing at Levant, who was sitting beside her, she became even more aware of her status. The gap between them was as wide as birds from fish and heaven from earth.

Tiffany's nerves intensified as she walked. She asked Levant quietly, "Are there any rules or etiquettes to follow? Will I embarrass you?"

He looked at her. The thought of buying her decent clothes occurred to him immediately.

Her outfit is only worth a few hundred at most. Would it seem suspicious to them? However, since they were just a door away at this point, they could only bite the bullet.

"No worries. This is fine."

She felt relieved after his reassurance.

Walking into the living room, Levant instantly introduced her to everyone.

"This is Tiffany, my girlfriend."

He really brought her here! As his aunt, Sophia welcomed her warmly without further ado.

"Tiffany? You look so pretty! Please, have a seat."

"Thank you, Ms. Chinton."

Meanwhile, Nicole was observing her intently. Evan said Levant would bring a gorgeous model here, but she did not look like one, and she certainly did not look like an actress.

She looks like a shy lady.

Moreover, her outfit...

Nicole whispered to Evan, "I don't think she's an actress."

Evan shifted his gaze from Tiffany to Levant; he wondered where the latter found this real-life Cinderella.

"What is your line of work, Tiffany?"

"I work from home as a designer, as I need to take care of my ch-child."

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Tiffany paused when she remembered what Levant had told her about mentioning her child.

Nonetheless, Sophia curiously asked, “I heard from Levant that you adopted a child. That must’ve been so difficult for you! Why did you want to adopt?”

“...”

Tiffany’s expression hardened. That was her own flesh and blood! Since Levant told her to keep mum, she could only make up an excuse for Sophia.

“I have always loved children growing up. I chose to adopt out of compassion.”

“What a kind-hearted young lady indeed.”

“...”

Even after receiving praises from Sophia, Tiffany felt anxious about lying. Subconsciously, she lowered her head.

“She’s lying.”

Evan whispered at Nicole’s ears.

“How do you know?”

Nicole asked curiously but her question was entirely unnecessary. Undoubtedly, the great Mr. Seet—a man of experience and who possessed a sharp mind—had already seen through Tiffany.

“Why did Levant make her lie about this?” Nicole asked Evan for the reason behind the lie.

Evan smirked and glanced at Levant. “Because he’s insane!”

“...”

Evan still would not let go of any chance to ridicule Levant!

During lunch, Sophia kept putting food on Tiffany’s plate. Being cautious, the latter did not know what to say but only politely responded, “Thank you, Ms. Chinton.”

“You’re welcome. Please help yourself. How long have you known Levant?”

Startled, Tiffany looked up at Levant.

He quickly answered for her.

“We met the year before last. We weren’t official then, but we are now.”

“Really? All good things take time. I’m sure you will be very happy together.”

“Thank you, Ms. Chinton.”

Tiffany looked up and glanced at Levant. She had never hoped to find a man like him with whom to spend the rest of her life. If she could meet someone who would treat her sincerely, she would live happily with that person.

After lunch, Nicole talked to Tiffany while Evan and Levant sat aside.

Interestingly, when Nicole wanted to have a glass of milk, the two men would get it for her at once.

Evan glared at Levant coldly. "Take care of your girlfriend and stop caring about someone else's wife!"

Levant's face froze and he replied feebly, "It was merely out of convenience."

"Oh, really?" Those two simple words sounded highly sarcastic.

Levant shot a glance at Evan and said nothing more.

This observation had Tiffany guessing. Is this lady sitting beside me the one Levant likes?

She must be outstanding in other areas besides her beauty to have two exceptional men fall for her at the same time.

She was suddenly curious about Nicole and started to look at the latter in admiration.

Nicole also found Tiffany likable, and the two exchanged contact information.

Tiffany felt that her fate might be about to change now that she had met such outstanding people.

On the way back from Seet Residence, she looked at Levant, who was driving. She carefully asked, "Is Ms. Nicole the one you are interested in?"

Levant went silent for a moment. "This is personal."

He meant that he doesn't like people being nosy.

"Alright."

Feeling awkward, she dared not ask any more questions but quietly sat at the passenger's seat and stared at the road.

Meanwhile, Evan, Nicole, and Sophia were busy analyzing Tiffany.

They felt that Tiffany and Levant were too formal with each other; the two did not look like a couple at all.

Sophia, too, recalled several strange instances about them. For example, Levant would hurriedly answer most of the critical questions while Tiffany was astonishingly obedient to Levant, agreeing with everything he said. Somehow, she made them feel that she was afraid of Levant. This was totally not how someone would treat her boyfriend.

Just to be safe, Sophia instantly called someone to investigate Tiffany.

After two hours, everything about her was out in the open.

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Sophia was really surprised after hearing about the circumstances.

"Tiffany's child is actually not adopted, but her own flesh and blood? Do you mean to say Levant is in a relationship with a divorcee who brings along a child? What nonsense!" she shouted in disbelief.

She was really lost for words.

Nicole was surprised as well. "Do you think there could be hidden reasons behind this?" she broke the silence and asked tactfully.

Sophia sighed. "No matter what, I must inform Murphy that Levant is in love with a divorcee now. If not, I can't imagine how I could explain to him should anything happen later!"

Without hesitating, she dialed Murphy's number.

Murphy was infuriated with what Sophia told him.

Thud! He threw his phone hard on the floor.

"Oh, my! What kind of sin have I committed in my past life that I'm now being tortured with these two idiots!" Murphy groaned in despair.

"How could Avril be so shameless to seduce Stephen! What a disgrace!" he roared and his body trembled in anger.

"Levant, too, is really a fool! He has finally given up on pursuing Stephen's daughter, but he's now in a relationship with a divorcee? There are countless charming women for him to choose from. Any one of them would be far better than that woman. He's really an idiot!" he yelled again.

"Damn these two troublemakers! Do they not have any sense of shame? If I were to foresee all these, I wouldn't have let them live till now!"

He roared with teeth clenched, yet it did not help to ease his anger at all.

"I must go and ask them if they really are my flesh and blood!"

He ordered his men to arrange for his return trip home as soon as possible.

Nicole was in a gloomy mood after she came back from a follow-up session at the hospital.

Her face was recovering quite well, but when asked if there would be a scar on her face, the doctor replied that it could only be confirmed after her wound was fully healed later.

"Evan, do you think there will be a scar on my face?" Nicole was concerned.

"Don't worry too much. Even if there is a scar later, our Nina can surely work her magic. Your scar will be invisible after she applies her perfect makeup on you," Evan comforted her patiently.

Nicole was still moody and did not know what to say.

She was feeling insecure, as if something unexpected was going to happen.

It was not a matter of whether Evan would feel disgusted by her scar, but her confidence was greatly shaken by Levant's words.

Oh goodness, I'm so worried that my scar would affect Evan. He is such an outstanding and successful man. If the media finds out he is married to a woman with scar on her face, this will certainly become breaking news!

Moreover, those women who are so fond of him will surely grab the opportunity to approach and lure him. Oh no, what am I supposed to do?

“Don’t worry, I’m sure there won’t be any scars.” Evan consoled her again.

He convinced her that he had been looking for a specialist and believed that her wound would heal properly.

Before Nicole could really give a sigh of relief, she recalled the hallucination issue which had been bothering her.

“These few days I tend to poke holes into my food before eating, just to test its safety. This seems to be working and I’m not having any hallucinations so far,” she told Evan thankfully.

The hallucinations actually did not disappear.

She was just unaware of it whenever she had hallucinations.

Evan recalled that Nicole once hallucinated out of a sudden. She threw tantrum at him with punches and kicks. However, she could not recall anything after she woke up from her sleep.

He even called the doctor regarding Nicole’s hallucinations. The doctor recommended that she undergo a checkup if she were to hallucinate again, in hopes of detecting the root cause of the problem.

Seeing him stunned and motionless, Nicole lightly patted his shoulder and interrupted his line of thought.

“Evan, are you alright?” Nicole asked in concern.

“Nothing actually, I’m going out for a while later, just come along with me,” Evan answered gently.

Nicole shook her head after thinking for a while.

She told Evan, “It’s alright. I won’t join you since you’re having a work discussion. I feel like staying at home for a good rest.”

Seeing the lethargy on Nicole’s face, Evan nodded and said softly, “Alright, you just have a good rest at home. I will be back once my discussion is over.”

Before he left, he kept reminding Nina and Kyle to look after Nicole and not leave her alone. If something was not right, they must call him immediately.

Both of them nodded obediently.

“Daddy, don’t worry. You can rely on us.”

“We will look after Mommy well,” both of them said confidently.

After Evan left, Nina accompanied her mother all the time and even offered to teach her makeup skills.

Nicole was actually planning to take a nap. Seeing Nina so keen in teaching her makeup skills, she changed her mind and gladly listened to her.

Nina took out two mannequin heads: one for her mother and the other one for herself. After that, she took out her makeup tools and patiently led her mother step by step.

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“Mommy, you need to apply a layer of foundation before putting on makeup,” Nina instructed.

“Alright,” Nicole answered obediently like a student.

She was very impressed with Nina for being particular with the steps, even though they were just applying makeup for mannequin heads. She followed Nina’s instructions seriously.

“Nina, look at Mommy’s work. Do you think I have any potential in doing makeup? Should I learn this skill from you?”

Nina frowned as she studied the mannequin head that her mother was working on.

“Mommy, are you sure you’re following my steps? This is not makeup anymore. You’ve totally changed the style of the mannequin head. A sweet, pretty face now looks like a vixen’s face!” Nina commented.

Nicole could barely think of what to say.

She studied the mannequin’s head closely for a while. The blush and lipstick are just a bit redder and the eye shadow is a bit darker. But does it look like a vixen? I didn’t exactly change the style.

Talking about vixen, I haven’t contoured this pair of eyes. She will really look like a vixen later with her pair of alluring eyes!

After pondering for a while, Nicole started to contour the eyes of the mannequin head to her own liking.

After she was done with the eyes, she showed the mannequin head to Nina complacently. Nina frowned and asked doubtfully, “Mommy, why did you apply such heavy makeup on her? I’ve never seen you style yourself in this way, either. You like a vixen’s makeup style?”

Nicole was again lost for words.

She glanced disapprovingly at Nina. She was just applying makeup for the mannequin head by freely following her heart and genuinely felt that it looked quite nice. To her, only heavier makeup could be considered nice makeup.

“No, I don’t like vixens. I’m just applying makeup freely,” Nicole explained patiently.

Nina suddenly recalled that Maya had applied makeup to a mannequin head previously, and it was very similar to her mother’s. She felt like comparing the two mannequin heads.

“Mommy, wait for a while. I’m going to bring another mannequin head here to compare with yours.”
Nina then dashed into her bedroom to get the figurine.

After rummaging through boxes and cabinets, she finally found Maya’s colorful mannequin head which resembled a clown. She cleared the layer of dust on it and brought it out to show her mother.

By the time Nina returned to her mother’s room with the mannequin head, she was astonished by what she saw.

Nicole had shattered the mannequin head and was mumbling continuously at the broken pieces. What a horrifying scene!

Nina rushed towards her mother and shouted in concern, "Mommy! Mommy! What happened to you?"

Nicole turned to look at Nina with extreme hatred in her eyes, as if Nina were the person she loathed the most.

Nina was shocked by her terrifying gaze and stuttered, "Mommy, why...why are you looking at me like this?"

Nicole strode towards Nina, grabbing the girl's shoulder as she hissed, "What! What did you call me?"

Nina was terrified and stammered, "I-I'm calling you, Mommy!"

Nicole stared fiercely at Nina as if she did not recognize her daughter at all.

In her eyes, Nina had turned into a horrifying monster with an enormous mouth.

All of a sudden, she pushed Nina hard on the floor and shrieked hysterically, "You're a monster! You swallowed Nina and Maya! You monster! Monster!"

Nina slumped on the floor and was about to burst into tears. She shouted frantically, "Mommy, I'm not a monster! I'm Nina!"

Nicole's eyes were already blinded by anger so she did not seem to have heard her daughter's words. She dragged Nina abruptly from the floor and bit her hard on the shoulder.

"Ouch!" Nina screamed in great pain.

Hearing Nina's scream, Kyle darted towards them. He was dumbfounded when he saw what was happening.

He yelled nervously, "Nina, what happened?"

"Kyle, Mommy bit me! Call Daddy quickly!" Nina cried out in pain, her body trembling in fear.

Kyle immediately moved forward and pulled Nina away from their mother. He looked at Nicole in astonishment and questioned, "Mommy, what is happening? Why are you biting Nina?"

His mother insisted that Nina was a monster and kept hissing, "Monster! You're a monster! You've swallowed my Maya, my Nina..."

Sensing there was something odd with his mother, Kyle recalled his father's reminder and called Evan without hesitation.

"Daddy, please come home now! There is something wrong with Mommy! She has bitten Nina! She even insisted that Nina is a monster!" Kyle told his father nervously.

Evan was speechless after hearing Kyle's words.

He was in the midst of a business project discussion. His memory of Nicole hallucinating earlier quickly flashed across his mind. Recalling how Nicole had hit and kicked him violently, he became very worried.

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“Daddy will be home right away,” said Evan before he hung up the phone.

Evan then dialed up the doctor and asked him to get over to the Imperial Garden immediately.

“Understood, Mr. Seet. I’ll head on over right away,” said the doctor.

Evan and the doctor arrived at the Imperial Garden within seconds. The two of them made their way upstairs hastily.

At that moment, Nina was crying in her own room. She looked at the bite marks sadly with tears in her eyes. Why did mommy bite me?

Nina did not expect her mommy to bite her, much less biting so hard that it might leave a scar.

Nicole was locked up in her room. She was trembling all over with visions of monsters opening their gaping maws to devour anyone in sight. Maya and Nina have been eaten by the monsters. I have to avenge my babies by killing them off!

“Please don’t eat my daughters... Please don’t eat my daughters...” Nicole pleaded weakly in the corner with her eyes red from crying.

Suddenly, the door was flung open and when Nicole caught sight of Evan and the doctor walking in, she shrieked, “The monsters ate Maya and Nina. The monsters ate our daughters!” Visibly terrified, Nicole was wailing helplessly.

“They’re alright. There isn’t any monsters. You were just having a bad dream. Maya and Nina are both fine and well,” Evan comforted Nicole gently.

“A bad dream?”

With her brows furrowed, Nicole tried hard to recall what had happened but only felt nauseous. “My head hurts so bad, Evan,” Nicole said as she grasped her head tightly with both hands.

Evan immediately stepped aside for the doctor to get an examination on her. However, Nicole was repulsed by the doctor’s touch.

“What are you doing? Don’t touch me!”

“Mrs. Seet, please let me perform an examination on you.”

“No, stay away from me! Don’t touch me!” Nicole screamed at the top of her lungs as the doctor approached her. She turned to look at Evan in despair, hoping the latter would help her fend the doctor off.

“We must examine her immediately to determine what is ailing her,” the doctor urged.

After a moment of deliberation, Evan came to Nicole’s side and consoled her patiently. As soon as she showed signs of easing up, Evan quickly struck her from behind, causing her to pass out.

Nicole promptly collapsed into Evan’s arms. The doctor then took this opportunity to examine her.

The doctor's face gradually darkened over the course of the examination with what equipment he had on site.

Evan sensed that something was amiss when he saw the doctor's expression. Nicole's illness is probably more serious than I thought.

"Mr. Seet, I'm afraid Mrs. Seet was poisoned. Someone had drugged her with a hallucinogen," explained the doctor.

Silence filled the air.

The entire atmosphere turned chilly as Evan narrowed his eyes, bearing a frosty expression on his face.

A hallucinogen. Who could have done this to Nicole? And when?

"Is there an antidote? Will there be any side effects?" asked Evan worriedly.

"Mr. Seet, this particular hallucinogen is very potent. There isn't an antidote as of this moment. Judging by Mrs. Seet's condition, it is very likely that she will suffer a relapse in near future. However, the possibility of a relapse is highly dependent upon the patient's emotional stress and state of mind. Therefore, it is important to keep Mrs. Seet happy and free from stress so as to alleviate the symptoms," the doctor explained to Evan after some careful thinking. "Mrs. Seet could not even recognize her own daughter. Clearly whoever decided to give her the hallucinogen spared no expense. For the hallucinogen to be completely removed from her body, I'm sorry to tell you that it is going to be a long and tedious process."

Evan had obtained valuable information from the doctor's explanation—Nicole would be tormented under the effects of the hallucinogen for a long period of time.

The high level of dosage administered to Nicole showed the culprit was well aware of the fact that Evan intended to keep Nicole close by his side—an apparent obstacle for future poisoning.

Who did this! It has only been awhile since I left her side. Just how did the culprit manage to poison her?

I mustn't drag on any longer. This matter has to be dealt with immediately. Since Davin and Sheila are unoccupied lately, I'll have them conduct an investigation into this matter.

He immediately called Davin to give him a brief on the situation before assigning the latter to the task.

"Evan, what do you mean by this? You want me to investigate to see if there were any suspicious people in the Imperial Garden? What suspicious people?" Davin replied in surprise.

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"We'll discuss further once you arrive." Evan hung up the call after that.

Davin took a moment to process their conversation in silence but was left puzzled. Ah! I'll just make a trip to Imperial Garden and get more details.

Back in Imperial Garden, the doctor carefully cleaned and bandaged Nina's wounds before giving her a jab.

Nina was as pale as a sheet as she tried to withstand the pain but tears still welled up in the corner of her eyes.

“Nina, does it still hurt?” asked Evan worriedly. In response, Nina just silently shook her head.

It was obvious that Nina was just putting up a strong front through both the physical pain from the bite and the emotional pain from what had just happened.

After the doctor left, Evan had Kyle look after Nicole in the next room. The maids were dismissed as well and now, the room was only left with him and Nina.

Evan carefully pulled the usually proud and stubborn Nina close in his embrace as he comforted her gently.

“It’s alright now Nina. Daddy’s here beside you. Tell me where it’s hurting,” Evan said with a gentle voice.

This was the first time Nina had ever been in Evan’s embrace like this. Thinking back on her ordeal, she started weeping.

“Nina, Mommy did not bite you on purpose. Daddy will apologize on Mommy’s behalf. Please forgive Mommy ok?” Evan said as he gently patted Nina on her back.

“W-Why did Mommy call me a monster?” Nina muttered between her sobs.

“Mommy is sick right now Nina. She doesn’t know what she is doing. The doctor had already done a check up on her. She doesn’t even know she is sick. Poor Mommy has to fight against the illness now. Will you please forgive Mommy?” explained Evan patiently.

“What kind of illness? How did Mommy get this weird illness?”

Stumped by Nina’s question, Evan paused for a moment before answering, “I... Well... It’s because Daddy did not take care of Mommy properly.”

“Daddy, is the wound on your face also caused by Mommy when she is sick?” Nina asked after remembering the bruise on Evan’s face while she was wiping the tears from her eyes.

Disregarding Nina’s question, Evan suggested, “Nina, why don’t you go to the Seet Residence with Kyle? You can stay with Grandma, Maya and Juan. That way, Mommy couldn’t hurt you when she gets sick again.”

“No, Daddy. I want to stay here and look after Mommy,” Nina said while shaking her head.

Despite being traumatized by the incident, Nina was still willing to stay back and be with Nicole. The thought of it warmed Evan’s heart. All that tough persona is just for show. Deep down, our Nina is such a darling...

“Nina, be good and listen to Daddy alright? I’ll be here for Mommy. It would be worse if Mommy hurts you again. Imagine how bad she would feel if she found out about the hurt she has caused you. So, the best you can do to help Mommy for now is to stay at Seet Residence. I promise you that once Mommy recovers, I will personally come pick you up. How does that sound?”

Nina contemplated Evan's words and thought it made sense. "Alright Daddy. I will go over to Grandma's house."

"That's my girl. Daddy will get the driver to send you and Kyle over," said Evan.

Davin arrived not long after Nina and Kyle were sent off to the Seet Residence. He marched into Evan's study room to ask him about what happened.

"Evan, what happened in the Imperial Garden? Did a spy steal some sensitive information? Or did you lose something important?" Davin inquired.

Evan shook his head in response, his expression as cold as ice. Sensing that things might be more serious than he expected, Davin probed again. "Evan, what is going on here?"

Evan then carefully explained what had transpired in detail. Davin was horrified at what he had just heard.

"Evan, are you serious? How did this happen?" Davin questioned.

"The maids of the Imperial Garden had all worked at the Hillside Villa before this. The investigation would go nowhere if an outsider were to do it so you'll have to be the one to do it. Remember to keep this on the down-low so that we do not alert the culprit," Evan told Davin.

"Alright Evan. You can trust me to get the job done," declared Davin while nodding his head.

"One more thing—do not let anyone know about your investigation, especially Nicole," added Evan.

Davin knew that Evan was worried that Nicole would be triggered by it and subsequently deteriorating her health. "Understood, Evan. No one will know about this."

"Actually, there is one person you can tell. You could even get her to help you with the investigation. Who knows, you might even get to know each other better," Evan continued.

Davin didn't even have to guess who was Evan referring to. Telling Sheila would be a good idea I guess. She could even spend some time with Nicole. Maybe that would help the latter with her condition.