

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 997

Murphy was quiet for some time before he spoke, "There isn't an antidote for the hallucinogen. The composition of the hallucinogen is very complex. Wicked Palace created it to be used as a lethal weapon. The point of its existence is that it has no cure," Murphy explained.

Sophia's expression darkened.

She looked at Evan like he was her last hope.

Evan's features were twisted with concern. If she becomes worse than she is now, I don't know how I'll be able to take it.

"You should get someone to get started on making an antidote, Dad. We might still be able to save Nicole," Avril proposed.

Murphy sighed. "I already tried many years ago. Your mother's friend took the drug accidentally. But it was useless. One wrong move would create a poison instead of a cure!"

Murphy's solemn delivery sounded as though he was sealing Nicole's fate.

"Nicole is a good person. Nothing bad will happen to her. She'll be fine."

Sophia's assuring words could just as likely have been for her own sake as it could Evan's.

Evan was stunned for a period of time before he turned to leave.

Sophia's heart ached as she gazed at his lonely and forlorn figure.

Nicole and Evan were about to get married. How could something like this happen?

"Haven't the both of them suffered enough? Why are they still being tortured? Nicole's illness affects Evan as well. They share each other's burdens. Evan cares more about Nicole than he does himself. No one is more hurt by this than him."

Tears welled up in Sophia's eyes as she spoke.

Don't they deserve their happily ever after? How many more times can their relationship be tested?

If I could rewind time, I would prevent Evan from ever meeting Nicole. Then, he'll end up with some girl he isn't as in love with and lead a boring but stable life!

Please let my son be alright!

"Don't be sad, Sophia. Ms. Lane might be able to overcome this. Evan's powerful love for her could be her source of strength."

I hope so too. Evan loves her so much. If anything happens to her, Evan will be absolutely crushed!

"Cheer up, Sophia. As long as one remains determined and strong, miracles can happen."

Sophia sighed. "I never thought the day would come where a drug from Wicked Palace would come to haunt my daughter-in-law and son. If I had known, I would have destroyed all the drugs in Wicked Palace when I left!"

Murphy had nothing to say.

Naturally, your son is more important to you than Wicked Palace.

But there are some drugs in Wicked Palace that save lives instead of causing suffering. It would be a waste to destroy those drugs too.

Murphy saw no point in arguing with Sophia while she was in a fit of rage.

He turned to Levant and Avril and said, "Go check on Evan. He might need help."

"Okay."

Avril nodded and bustled off. Is the worry getting to Murphy too?

Why else would he get me to go to Imperial Garden?

Imperial Garden is Stephen's home. Dad was the one who made me promise never to see him again. But how can I not see him if I'm at Imperial Garden?

Every step she took was fraught with anxiousness, afraid that at any moment, Dad would halt her.

She only breathed easy once she was a distance away. Suddenly, someone called out to her from behind.

Not knowing what Murphy was going to say, Avril was rooted to the ground momentarily. Seconds later, she bolted off before he could call out to her again.

After his shouts fell on deaf ears, Murphy let out a heavy sigh as he watched her fled away in her car.

"What's wrong with that brat? All I wanted was to ask her to bring Evan some supplements. Why did she leave in such a hurry?"

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Murphy had no choice but to entrust the chore to Levant, who carried the bag of expensive foreign supplements to Murphy.

When Evan returned to Imperial Garden, he headed over to order Davin to follow the lead regarding Susan.

"Don't worry. I already have a suspect."

Juan sprinted into the arms of his father and whispered, "Daddy, Mommy is asleep."

Evan could tell from Juan's troubled expression that he was worried about his mother.

He reached out to caress his son's head. "Mommy will be fine. Don't worry."

Juan knew that his father was trying to comfort him. He nodded dutifully.

"Uncle Davin, didn't you just say that you're going to look into who harmed Mommy? I can help."

"Sure. With your help, I'll be able to find the culprit in no time. We'll teach that person a lesson as revenge for your mother!"

“Yes! I want to avenge Mommy!” Juan announced with determination.

Evan’s expression was austere. “I’ll leave it to you. Stay at Imperial Garden for the time being, Juan. Only go back to the Seet Residence once this is all over.”

“I got it, Daddy. Take good care of Mommy. She was calling for you as she was falling asleep. She kept asking you not to take me away. She must have thought back to the time when she had to raise all the children on her own overseas. She had it hard during those years.”

Juan’s sorrow was evident on his face, his small eyes filling up with tears.

Evan thought back to the episode at the mall. The sight of Nicole desperately trying to protect her child was heart-wrenching.

“I know. I’ll take great care of her.”

“Okay, go to Mommy now. We’re off to catch the bad guy!”

“Alright!”

Evan walked up to the bedroom after he saw Juan and Davin head towards the rear house.

Nicole was slumbering away. Sheila sat by her side.

“You’re back, Mr. Seet.”

Evan’s expression was hard and cold. Sheila felt fear set in. She wrung her fingers together guiltily.

“I’m sorry Mr. Seet. I had no idea this would happen. I didn’t want to take her out shopping, but she really wanted to go. It’s my fault. I should have watched over her.”

Evan was momentarily dazed by her outburst. “It’s not your fault! Even if she had one of her episodes in front of me, I would have no idea what to do. Today must have been difficult for you. Go back and rest,” he muttered hoarsely.

Sheila let out a sigh of relief. Before she left, Evan told her about how Hayes Group was officially collaborating with Muir Group. He reminded her to stay alert during the collaborative process and point out any issues she noticed.

Sheila was grateful for Evan’s words. She was scared that the collaboration would be affected.

“Thank you, Mr. Seet! Please take good care of Nicole. Feel free to call me if you need me. I’ll be here as soon as possible.”

“Noted.”

After Sheila left, Evan sat by Nicole’s bedside. He gazed at her pale and small face with a sunken expression.

Is the hallucinogen really incurable?

His deep gaze was fraught with concern and grief. He fished out his phone and walked to the balcony to call the Hidden Masters.

“Do research into whether the hallucinogen has an antidote. If not, search for a skilled doctor who can come up with one.”

“Yes, Mr. Seet.”

Evan received a call from John after hanging up with the Hidden Masters. John informed him that all the related trending topics had been removed. They made sure to clean up all the loose ends to ensure that Nicole would never see the video or know about her illness.

“Good job, John. Keep watch over Seet Group. I won’t be going to work for the foreseeable future.”

“Yes, Mr. Seet.”

John knew that Evan was worried about his wife and needed to be with her.

Evan walked back into the bedroom to see Nicole rubbing the sleep out of her eyes.

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He spoke warmly to her, “Are you awake?”

Nicole sat up lazily and looked around the room. “How did I get home?”

Her question sparked hope within him. Could she have remembered something?

He suppressed his doubts and replied, “You were already home when I came back. What’s wrong?”

Nicole frowned and seemed to be deep in thought. “I remember. I remember going out with Sheila...”

She started to recollect her memories but before long, she hit a wall. Her mind was blank.

Evan handed a cup of warm water to Nicole. “You must be mistaken. It was probably just a dream.”

A dream?

Nicole took the cup from him. Her eyes scanned the room. When she saw the clothes on the clothes rack, her skepticism grew.

I clearly remember going out. I even ransacked the closet in search of one specific piece of clothing. If it were a dream, why would the clothes be there?

“Drink some water, Nicole. Are you hungry?”

Nicole eyed the water. She gulped down several mouthfuls and paused for a while before handing the cup back to Evan.

Evan’s expression was dour and he stood still instead of receiving the cup.

Nicole knitted her brow and softly called out to him, “Evan.”

Her voice pulled a reaction from him. He took the cup from her and placed it on the table.

Nicole could not shake the feeling that Evan was hiding something from her. I can tell from his eyes that there’s something he isn’t telling me.

“A penny for your thoughts? Did something happen?”

Evan hesitated. “I was thinking... Why don’t we go on a vacation? We can go wherever you want. We’ll treat it like our honeymoon.”

Nicole was surprised by his suggestion.

She considered his proposal before replying, “The children have school, and you need to manage the Lane Corporation and Seet Group. Since the company is about to undertake a large project, you’re about to be very busy. Why don’t wait till the children are on holiday and when you have more free time to go? The six of us will be able to go together.”

Nicole always had others in mind.

He wanted to take her out and spend time with her. He was certain that keeping her positive would be helpful to her illness.

“A honeymoon is only meant for the two of us. There’s no need to take the four of them. I’ve settled all the company’s projects. Let’s discuss where to go...”

His serious demeanor incited Nicole to interrupt him. “I don’t want to go now. Let’s talk about it when we decide to go, okay?” she whined.

She had been experiencing intermittent dizziness recently and did not want to burden Evan.

Faced with Nicole’s puppy dog face, Evan decided to go along with her decision.

He cupped her ivory face and was about to speak when her phone rang.

It was from Maya. Nicole answered.

“Do you miss me, Maya?”

Maya suddenly burst out into tears. Nicole was immediately gripped with concern. “What’s wrong, Maya?” she asked anxiously.

“Mommy, add Grandma into the parents’ group chat. She can’t get the announcements that the teacher sends out.”

“Okay, I’ll add Grandma now. Are you crying over this, Maya?” Nicole asked curiously. It seemed like a trivial matter to her.

“No.” Maya sniffled. “Mommy, the teacher announced in the group for us to wear our uniforms for exercise. Grandma didn’t know, so I was the only one who didn’t wear it. I wore the new waistcoat instead. When we were doing the exercise, everyone... everyone laughed at me. They said that from afar, I looked like a tortoise!”

Nicole froze. She pictured the expansive field. Maya was wearing the waistcoat, her stubby body showing off her clear inadequacies, while the children circled her.

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“How could your classmates describe you like that! That wasn’t very nice of them!” Nicole exclaimed furiously.

Maya started to cry even harder.

“Mommy, do you think my classmates are right? Do you think I look like a tortoise?”

Nicole sensed that she misspoke and clapped a hand over her mouth. “No. Not at all. You’re an adorable princess. You don’t look like a tortoise at all.”

Maya started to wail again. Nicole hastily handed the phone to Evan.

Evan immediately started to comfort Maya. “No matter if you’re fat or skinny, it doesn’t change the fact that you’re beautiful in your own way. Don’t live by the words of others. It’s not your fault that you didn’t wear your uniform. I’ll add Grandma into the group chat now. We’ll pay better attention in the future, okay?”

Maya choked back a sob. “Daddy, I followed the nutritionist’s diet plan and lost a lot of weight. It didn’t use to bother me when they made fun of me. But now it makes me so sad.” Maya continued to sob.

“You’re a big girl now, which is why you’re starting to care about your looks. You’ll become slimmer in the future and your beauty will grow.”

Will I really?

I have more questions but I know that being slim equals being beautiful.

I can already see myself as skinny and pretty as Nina. She wiped the tears away from her eyes. “I’ll continue trying my best to lose weight, Daddy. I won’t give them a reason to laugh at me again.”

“I believe you, Maya.”

“I want to talk to Mommy, Daddy.”

Evan handed the phone back to Nicole. Maya reminded her to take care of herself. Nicole did not understand why Maya was telling her such things.

“I’m fine, Maya. If you miss me, why don’t I go see you?”

“Come see us tomorrow, Mommy. Grandma is bringing us to the mall to buy new clothes later.”

“Okay, I’ll visit you tomorrow.”

After she hung up, Nicole griped to herself. If I had noted the announcements in the group chat, Maya wouldn’t have been laughed at. She wouldn’t have been so hurt.

Evan comforted her and took her hand in his. “What do you feel like having for dinner? I’ll cook.”

Nicole mentally flipped through the menu of her favorite food. She decided that she wanted to have steamed fish. She could almost smell the enticing aroma and licked her lips in anticipation.

“Let’s have fish, Evan. I want to go to Amazon Hotel.”

Nicole resembled a kitten to Evan.

He tapped her nose. "Okay, go change."

She did so and the pair headed to Amazon Hotel.

When they entered the lobby, she noticed the strange looks of the surrounding people. The looks increased as they made their way to the suite, accompanied by hushed whispers.

They were staring at her like an animal in the zoo.

"Are they looking at me, Evan?"

News of Nicole's alleged child-snatching was the current hot topic. Although it had been removed from official sites, many people had already seen the video. Evan knew that the people around were talking about Nicole because of what happened in the mall.

He hurried to come up with a plan to squash her doubts. "They're not looking at you, but at me. It's natural for me to receive such attention since I'm the president of Seet Group," he proclaimed.

Nicole did not fully accept his explanation.

IF they're looking at him as he said, they should be shooting looks of envy and admiration.

But their eyes are filled with scorn. They're clearly talking about me in their secret discussions.

There must be something I don't know.

When they entered the suite, Evan started ordering food. Nicole excused herself to the washroom.

She heard two women whispering as she stepped into the washroom.

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A random Passerby A said, "Why do you think someone of her status would resort to snatching someone else's child? That's so odd!"

Passerby B then responds, "I don't get it either. Maybe the child is Mr. Seet's bastard child? I suppose she didn't want other women using their illegitimate child to threaten Mr. Seet, hence the episode."

Passerby A added, "I don't think so. The woman at the mall was hardly attractive. Plus, she looked rather old. Mr. Seet surely won't fall for someone like her."

"Could the tabloids be spot on? Perhaps she's mentally unwell? But I saw her with Mr. Seet earlier on and she looked fine. She didn't look like a deranged woman," commented Passerby B.

Nicole was bewildered. What mall? What child? This Mr. Seet that they keep mentioning... Could it be Evan? And the lunatic... It can't be me, can it? What the hell is going on?

Just as she remained frozen in her spot trying to figure out what was happening, a woman appeared a few meters away from her. She began watching a video clip on her phone.

The distance between the women was minute, so Nicole could hear the woman's video clip playing loud and clear. A woman's voice came from the phone – it was Nicole's voice.

Unable to resist the urge, Nicole whipped her head to see what was playing on that woman's phone.

It was a video clip of her attempting to snatch someone else's child away. She was dumbfounded, to say the least.

The woman stood at the side snickering as she took in Nicole's reaction.

In a calm but scornful demeanor, she said, "Hey, isn't this Mrs. Seet from the Seet Group? You know, the one who bit her own child and tried to snatch another person's child?"

Nicole glanced at her, brows furrowed. "What did you just say?"

"I'm talking about you!"

She proceeded to play another video clip, one that showed Nicole biting Nina to tears.

What she saw utterly horrified her, shocking her to the core. Was the person in the two video clips really me? No, it can't be. I have no memory of these two events. But if it isn't me... Why would Evan, Davin, Sheila, and Juan be inside the video clip?

Witnessing that look of agony on Nicole's face absolutely delighted the woman. The edges of her lips curled upwards as she sneered while getting a load of Nicole's disorientated look. "Nicole Lane, you're as nutty as a fruitcake. The whole world knows it but you. When you're having your manic episodes, not only do you try to snatch someone else's child, you also harm Mr. Seet and your children. That's the reason why they don't stay with you at the Imperial Garden. They live in the Seet Residence, far away from you. Do you see how unstable you are?"

"No, that can't be true. You're spouting nonsense! Nonsense!"

Nicole desperately tried to defend herself. She was still clueless as to what actually happened. No matter how hard she racked her brains, nothing came to mind. The overwhelming stress washed over her and she started feeling giddy.

The smirk on the woman's face widened as she continued to berate Nicole in a condescending manner. "Look at you, Nicole Lane. You're acting up again. Whenever you start going hysterical, you hurt everyone around you. A crazy woman like you should stay far away from Evan Seet. You'd better disappear from his side and never return, do you hear me?"

Nicole faintly lifted her head to look at the woman, only to realize that she began to see double of her self-satisfied smirk.

What was going on?

Nicole shut her eyes tightly and attempted to reopen them. All of a sudden, she felt her world spinning. Within seconds, she fell to the floor with a massive thud.

As she watched Nicole convulsing helplessly on the ground, the woman cackled with laughter.

The thought of agitating Nicole Lane absolutely thrilled her. Any chance of doing that was not to be missed.

Once Nicole had been tormented to death, it would be time for her to emerge using her brand new identity.

After the woman left, the other two women from earlier walked away too, leaving Nicole stationary on the ground.

In the dining room, all the dishes had been served. However, Nicole had yet to return.

Evan frowned before getting up to go to the restroom.

As he was approaching the entrance of the restroom, he saw a group of waiters frantically walking towards him.

“Um, are you Mr. Seet?”

“Yes. What’s the problem?”

“The woman who came with you has fainted inside the washroom.”

This alarmed Evan as he scurried to the female restroom. He swiftly held the unconscious Nicole in his arms.

“Nicole? Nicole!”

He called out her name a couple of times to no avail, so he lifted her up and carried her out of the restroom.

After getting a chauffeur at the last minute, Evan sat in the back seat of his car, pulling Nicole to his arms and holding her close. He was visibly in a state of distress, repeatedly instructing the chauffeur to speed up.

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When the car arrived at the hospital minutes later, the doctor was already on standby. He wasted no time in giving Nicole an examination.

“How is it?”

The doctor paused for a moment before answering him. “Mr. Seet, I doubt this was one of Mrs. Seet’s episodes. She seems to have collapsed due to a sudden increase in her blood pressure.”

“Will she be fine?” Evan’s voice was full of concern.

“Don’t worry Mr. Seet, Mrs. Seet should come to in a while.”

His words greatly relieved Evan. Taking a seat by her bedside, he silently prayed for her well-being.

When Avril arrived at the Imperial Garden, Evan and Nicole were not around. Hence, she found a reason to talk to Stephen.

She took the chance to ask him, “Why did you tell others about how I threw myself at you?”

Stephen froze at her question. Aside from Nicole and Evan, he had not told anyone. No one else should be in the know.

Noticing his lack of response, Avril proceeded to grill him further. “Do you hate me that much? To the point that you wish for everyone to mock me?”

Stephen remained silent.

"I take it that your silence means a yes?"

Still quiet, Stephen's brows furrowed.

Avril shot him a look of despair and grumbled, "Why do you have to be that way? Even if you're not fond of me, it doesn't give you the right to degrade me like that! My dignity is worth a lot too, alright. Now, everyone knows about how I drugged myself and tried to seduce you. My reputation is completely tarnished. Do you really want to see me kill myself?"

With a grim look etched on his face, Stephen still did not say a word.

This further upset Avril, causing her to weep uncontrollably.

Staring at her crying her heart out unsettled Stephen as he was fearful that others would misunderstand. "Please Avril, don't be like this."

She turned around to look at him full of hope and asked, "Are you comforting me?"

Stephen responded, "If you really want to cry, don't do it here. Should other people get the wrong idea, it would be more unfavorable to you."

Avril blinked a few times and stuttered, "You... You want me to... Go home to cry? Why don't you just ask me to stop crying?"

Stephen was at a loss for words.

"Then stop crying," he finally said with a blank look on his face.

Avril glared at him in disbelief, unhappy with his cavalier attitude. More tears started streaming down her face.

All the misery she had been feeling recently manifested in her uncontainable tears. The more she bawled, the more vexed she felt. From a mere few teardrops, it slowly progressed into a flood of tears.

Stephen, who already struggled with consoling women, was left feeling helpless.

Luckily, Levant arrived at the Imperial Garden at the right time. Before he even stepped foot into the living room, he could already hear Avril's loud wails.

Taking big strides, he rushed to her side and gazed at her with concern.

"Avril, what's going on? Why are you crying?" He asked gently, in fear of upsetting her further.

She paid no attention to Levant and continued sobbing.

Levant looked to Stephen for answers but the latter's face was gloomy. Stephen heaved a long sigh and said, "Hurry, pacify her."

Surprised, Levant questioned, "You didn't do anything to her right?"

Unable to give him a satisfactory explanation, Stephen kept his mouth shut.

Choking back on the tears, Avril added, "He... He... He asked me... To cry at home... He wanted me to continue crying! So I shall."

Stephen could not believe her. She was the one who wanted to cry her heart out... Now it's my fault? Women. They can be so unreasonable.

Levant's gaze shifted between the both of them. He too felt powerless. So she's crying just because someone told her to? How weak! Besides, since when she was so docile?

To him, Avril was just being willful, throwing a tantrum as and when she wanted to.

Her sobs soon grew louder, getting on Levant's nerves.

He sighed, asking Stephen in a low voice, "Is there anywhere in this house where the sound doesn't travel?"

Stephen pondered for a moment before he said, "The music room. It's rather sound-proof there."

"Where is it?"

Ten minutes later, Levant glanced at a piteous Avril and said, "Avril, give us a call once you're done crying. Any screaming can't be heard from the outside."

With that, he left the music room and shut the door behind him.

"How imbecile of you, Levant Musgrave, I'm your sister. I can't believe you would help Stephen and not me. He's just your step-father, I'm your actual sister. The one who's actually related to you by blood!"

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1003

"That a**hole Stephen. How could he not be worried to see me in tears? He even agreed to put me in here to let me bawl all alone! The audacity of these men..."

She sat in the music room wailing while ranting on about the two of them. Despite it being undesirable for her image, she realized being alone in the music room was rather cathartic.

The room granted her solitude, where she could cry and complain to her heart's content, without having to worry about others' opinions. The liberating feeling it gave her made her grow fond of Imperial Garden's music room.

Levant slowly set all the tonics he brought on the table. He looked up at Stephen and sincerely called out, "Dad."

Stephen froze for a moment. It had been a while since Levant referred to him as "Dad". Taken aback, Stephen was at a loss for words.

"Dad, where's Nicole and Evan?"

His question put Stephen out of his trance. "Oh, they went out for a meal. They'll likely take a while."

At this moment, Stephen was still unaware that Nicole was in the hospital after fainting.

“These tonics are for Nicole to replenish her health,” declared Levant as he continued to place them on the table.

Stephen could tell they were from K Nation. He had heard that Murphy was back, and he instantly knew these were purchased by Murphy.

Unfortunately, the deep-seated grudges between himself and Murphy were complicated. He didn't want his own daughter ingesting anything that came from Murphy.

“Bring it back. We don't lack anything here at Imperial Garden,” Stephen stated coldly.

Judging by the disgruntled look Stephen had, Levant knew that the reason behind his reluctance to accept the tonics stemmed from his grievances with Levant's own birth father, Murphy.

He put on a cheery smile and tried to persuade his step-father. “Come on Dad, I already brought it here. How can I bring it home? Besides, it's rather heavy. I'll just leave it here, okay?”

Stephen glanced at him and attempted to repeat his previous statement. However, Levant swiftly changed the topic.

“Dad, you haven't had dinner, right? Why don't you come to my place for dinner? You can have anything your heart pleases.”

Stephen smirked, “Well, it's true that Levant Winery has everything.”

Levant quietly added, “Dad, if it weren't for your support, there wouldn't be Levant Winery. It's all thanks to your generous investment. Just come over whenever you want and treat the place like your own.”

His words brought Stephen to when they were picking out an ideal location for Levant Winery. He let out a long sigh of despair. So much has changed since then...

When he decided to take in Levant and treat him like his own, he never expected him to be Murphy's son.

Despite the fact that Levant called him Dad, their relationship constantly reminded him of their animosity. It was disconcerting.

“Levant,” Stephen began, “I know you meant well... Perhaps it's time for you to leave. Oh, and don't forget to bring Avril along.”

Despite understanding why Stephen was so distant, Levant still felt disheartened by his distance.

Since neither Nicole nor Evan was around, there was no point in him lingering in Imperial Garden.

He lightly nodded and headed to the music room.

He caught a glimpse of Avril still delivering a tirade through the glass window, and she looked as though she was having a good time.

Just as he was contemplating on whether to interrupt her, she noticed his presence. She whipped her head to glare at him and started to lash out at him. “Levant Musgrave, you ingrate! I'm your sister and

you couldn't even offer any help while I was in agony? You even banished me to the music room and left me all alone! How could you? A guy like you doesn't deserve to be loved by women!"

When she mentioned women, she instantly got reminded of Tiffany.

She had forgotten about Tiffany's phone call where she asked for a favor. How silly of me!

Groaning at her absentmindedness, she raised her hand and gave her forehead multiple slaps.

Still observing her from the other side of the window, Levant was appalled.

Seriously? Was all that whining not enough? Now she's actually hitting herself? So... She knows she's at fault?

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Just don't be nonsensical in future.

Levant let out a sigh and mustered the courage to walk in.

"Alright, just acknowledge your mistakes and move on. There's no need to resort to self-harm."

Exasperated by his statement, Avril gave him a death stare and scolded, "You're the one who's in the wrong! I'm not, I'm right as hell!"

Levant had nothing to retaliate. She's too stubborn. "Fine, let's go home."

"So fast? It's already so late. Why don't we stay for dinner?"

Without uttering a word, Levant gave Avril a meaningful look before turning around to leave.

Sensing something amiss, she obediently followed behind him.

As they were about to leave, Stephen was nowhere to be found. Unable to resist the urge, Avril remarked, "He must have expected us to stay for dinner, that's why he's cowering in his room."

"When we return to Levant Winery, you can have anything you fancy. Is that not enough?"

"How can the food at Levant Winery compare to a meal that he's paying for?" Avril casually commented.

Just as they were approaching the parking area, Levant abruptly stopped in his tracks and turned around to look at Avril. With a solemn expression, he said, "Let me remind you again. If you think it's all fine and dandy to play around with him like that, you better think again. When you really become besotted with him to the point you're unable to detach yourself from him, you'll be in tremendous pain and you will regret it! On the other hand, if you're harboring any other ulterior motives, you can forget about them too. Dad and he are able to resolve their own problems. You're in no place to interfere. With the free time you have on hand, why don't you go find yourself a boyfriend?"

His criticisms caught Avril by surprise and a trace of nervousness flickered briefly in her eyes.

Originally, her objective was to avenge her mom. She schemed to cling to Stephen, harassing him for days on end. Her ultimate goal would be fulfilled if Stephen and Portia divorced. That way, Portia would get a taste of what it was like to be deserted.

Not only that, but she also hoped to gain something from Stephen.

However, during the period of time they spent together, she realized that Stephen was a rather decent guy. He even appeared in her dreams from time to time.

Could it be that I've really fallen for him? No, no, no, it can't be. It was all an act. All for the sake of spiting Portia. I have self-control, I can keep my feelings in check. I can.

Noting her unresponsiveness, Stephen scoffed, "Don't tell me you've really fallen for him. I don't want to be your son. I'm your brother!"

Avril snapped out of her daze and scowled at him. "Piss off! I don't need you meddling in my affairs." With that, she took off, leaving Levant behind.

He stared at her back view as she stalked out and heaved a sigh. Murphy's and Stephen's lives were becoming inextricably intertwined. Not only did they have bad blood, but their son was also hopelessly in love with Stephen's daughter. Then there was the possibility of Murphy's daughter, Avril, liking Stephen...

Perhaps it was fated for Murphy's children to be enchanted by Stephen's family to atone for the sins Murphy committed.

Life sure has its ways of toying with people.

Sighing yet again, Levant ignited the engine and speedily drove off.

In the hospital.

When Nicole roused from her slumber, she was greeted by the sight of Evan by her bedside. The worry in his eyes was evident and he was visibly fatigued.

Noticing that she had awoken, Evan affectionately asked, "Nicole, how do you feel? Are you alright?"

She shook her head lightly. Then the commotion in the restroom came to mind. Everything – the woman's every word, the two video clips – was still fresh in her memory.

The first video clip showed her trying to take someone else's child, while the second video clip was of her biting Nina.

The woman still said that she was a lunatic and that she hurt everyone around her whenever she went insane.

Could these be true?

"Nicole, what's wrong?"

She came back to her senses after his question. "Nothing. I'm just tired. I want some water, please," she replied.

"Alright, give me a moment."

As he stood up to grab her a glass of water, she mulled over the problem.

Whether or not it was true, she could verify for herself. In the video clip, she could be seen biting hard on Nina. The pain was so excruciating that Nina kept wailing. Examining Nina's shoulder for a bite mark would answer all her queries.

The thought of that made her heart skip a beat. If it proved to be correct and she was truly unwell with some sort of "madness", what was she going to do?

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1005

Evan gently passed her a cup of warm water and added, "I've tried some. It's not too hot."

Nodding, she began to drink the water.

After she was done, she returned the mug to Evan. At the same time, the doctor walked in.

He did a quick examination of her vitals and discharged her after making sure she was fine.

When they returned to Imperial Garden, Evan specially instructed his subordinates to get grilled fish from Amazon Hotel for Nicole. This gesture warmed her heart.

"If I hadn't fainted, I would've long gobbled this fish up."

"You must be famished. Hurry and eat."

"Let's eat together."

Evan agreed and instructed someone to call for Stephen to join them. However, the latter rejected, stating that he wanted to turn in early.

"My Dad sure is understanding. He just didn't want to interrupt our time as a couple," Nicole casually said.

"Really?" asked Evan as he lovingly placed a piece of fish on her plate.

Nicole smiled as she nodded to indicate that was the case. Then, she slowly devoured the food like a child.

All of a sudden, she posed a question. "Evan, why did the little ones think of going to Seet Residence to live?"

It may have seemed like a spontaneous question, but she was awaiting an earnest reply.

"Those kids were thinking of how there were people at Seet Residence to play with them. There's Sheila, Davin, and even Uncle Morris. It's much livelier, and they love the company."

So it wasn't because they were afraid of me hurting them?

"Oh... I see," Nicole began to say, "I promised Maya I'd visit tomorrow. I do awfully miss the lot of them."

"Sure! I'll go with you," exclaimed Evan as he placed more pieces of fish on her plate.

Despite nodding in response to his statement, her mind was elsewhere. She reminded herself again to be sure to check Nina's body for any bite marks.

Evan observed that she was deep in thought and frowned.

“What’s the problem?”

Nicole was jolted back to her senses. “Nothing much. Evan, let’s have a competition to see who eats faster.”

Evan wanted to pursue the question but he refrained from it. He could sense her excitement so he nodded enthusiastically in hopes of lifting her spirits.

“These are for you. Now, start eating!”

Evan eagerly played the role of a competitor, stuffing his face with food.

As Nicole watched him snarfing down food, she quipped, “Mr. Seet, let’s say I send a video of you wolfing all these food down to your parents, along with the caption ‘starving from the deprivation of food for the past week’, what do you think they’re going to say?”

Evan glanced at her and used a piece of napkin to wipe his mouth in a civilized manner. Then he answered, “If you really do that, I’m sure they would be extremely anxious. They will probably suspect you of maltreating me. Either that or they’ll think I went through some unspeakable suffering.”

Pouting, Nicole grumbled, “Can’t it simply be that the grilled fish is too scrumptious? So delicious to the point you can’t wait to devour the food?”

Evan snickered, “You could try.”

That delighted Nicole and prompted her to fish out her phone to snap a video of Evan. She instantaneously sent it to Sophia.

When Sophia saw the video, the first thing she did was phone Evan.

“Evan, what’s the matter?”

“Mom, I’m fine,” Evan replied calmly while shooting Nicole a look.

“Is that fish you’re having? Is it so delicious?”

He gave Nicole another brief glance and remained silent.

Sophia proceeded to continue, “Did you find some chef with divine cooking skills to make some heavenly dish for you? I had to rewatch the video multiple times to ensure that it was you inside. How about this? Why don’t you have the chef come over to Seet Residence to whip up a few dishes for us? Your Uncle Morris will be around too.”

Evan responded, “Mom, the food is from Amazon Hotel. I’ll just have it sent over to you. There’s no need to summon the chef.”

“Amazon Hotel? You’ve eaten the food from Amazon Hotel plenty of times. How could it be so good? Or have you not eaten in days? Evan, you... Did anything happen to you?” Sophia’s tone was anxious.

All I did was gulf down some fish and she has such a conjecture. Evan was at a loss for words, but he understood where she came from.

He expected that reaction from her.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1006

Standing by her side, Davin chimed in, "Mom, I bet he's doing this to tease my sister-in-law. Her happiness is all that matters at present. As long as it puts her in a good mood, I'm sure he's willing to go to extreme lengths."

Sophia heaved a sigh. That makes sense. It must be because Nicole has been having hallucinations.

She then casually asked Evan, "How's Nicole feeling? Are her emotions stable?"

"She-she's fine." Evan took a quick peek at Nicole before coming up with an excuse and hung up.

When Nicole heard Sophia enquire about her health so gravely, she felt bizarre.

Could it be... I... I really have some sort of... "madness"?

"Nicole, you should go take a rest."

"Alright."

She rose to her feet and headed upstairs, lost in thought.

Evan proceeded to the study room to tend to company matters before he joined her in the bedroom.

Nicole had just finished washing up and was seated on the bed using her phone. She tried hard to search for the video clip the woman showed her, to no avail.

Evan took a seat beside her and grabbed her phone. "Hey, you can't keep using your phone. It's bad for your eyesight. I think you should just stare at me. I'm a glorious sight to behold."

That tickled Nicole. With his chiseled features, Evan was undeniably attractive.

She lay in his embrace and reached out to trace his face with her hands.

As her fair and slender fingers marked out Evan's face, it ignited the desire in him.

He caught hold of her wrists unexpectedly and whispered to her ear, "I think we should do something else." The feel of his warm breath against Nicole's ear left a tingling sensation.

"What is it that you want to do?" She pretended to be coy as she questioned.

In a matter-of-fact tone, Evan responded, "The best indoor exercise there is, of course."

Nicole simply shut her eyes and acted as though she was asleep.

He cast a look in her direction and teased, "If you're not going to cooperate, you leave me no choice but to turn to force."

She deliberated for a moment before muttering, "Take a shower first."

"No. By the time I'm done, you may have fallen asleep."

She then got up from the bed and said, "I'll go with you."

Satisfied with her response, he headed for his closet. Holding his pajamas in one hand and Nicole's hand in the other, he sauntered to the bathroom.

"Help me bathe. There'll be rewards," Evan said as he filled the bathtub with water.

"What rewards?" Nicole prodded.

"You'll know in a while."

Hmph! He's always goading me.

Unmoved by his offer, Nicole rolled her eyes and stayed put.

Evan lifted his brows quizzically and devised a plan.

He stripped naked and got into the bathtub, before letting out a cry.

Nicole frowned and cast him a look of concern.

With a pitiful expression, Evan gazed at her and stated, "Gosh, my hips hurt. I don't think I can move anymore."

Wasn't he just fine a moment ago?

She continued to stay there, studying him with her brows furrowed.

He uttered out another cry and pretended to complain, "My feet hurt too. I think my legs are cramping up."

Nicole looked a little bemused.

For someone who's known to be largely impassive, the expression Mr. Seet had on was too exaggerated.

"Does anywhere else hurt?" Nicole asked.

After pondering for a moment, he replied, "My back. My back is aching. My whole body is in immense pain."

Nicole took a look at his handsome face and began roaring with laughter.

"What're you laughing at?" asked Evan, puzzled.

"Mr. Seet. At this moment, your behavior reminds me of a woman. A woman who's on her period is exactly like this."

"Don't tell me you're on your period," frowned Evan.

Despite the somber look on his face, he was all right with being poked fun at. As long as Nicole was in good spirits, that was all that mattered.

Then, she said, "Whether my period is here or not, you can come over and confirm for yourself."