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Nina sighed. "I'm perplexed too. Maya is the least smart amongst us, and she always loses her way. I can't believe that Daddy brought her along! He didn't even tell us when he left. He's so biased as if Maya is his only daughter. It's not like we aren't his children as well!"

"Daddy's probably worried about Maya. After she was abused, he's afraid that something bad might happen to her again," analyzed Kyle calmly.

Juan was stunned. "That sounds logical. However, since Mommy's going to marry someone else, it must've meant that she was furious. Do you think that Daddy can manage to win her back?"

Nina eyed Juan smugly. "Why are you saying all this unnecessary stuff? Just admit that you want to go too."

Juan threw a question back at her. "You mean you don't want to go?"

"I do! But without Uncle Davin and Ms. Sheila around, how are we supposed to go? Grandma and Grandpa will definitely not let us."

Suddenly, a gentle voice sounded. "Are you guys going to look for Evan? I can bring you guys there!"

After knowing that Evan went to K Nation to look for Nicole, Susan became extremely restless. The only thing stopping her was that she did not know what excuse she could use to leave!

Nicole is really lucky. To think she actually managed to survive in prison! Yet, here I am, foolishly thinking that she's dead.

"You'll bring us there? Will Grandma and Grandpa agree?"

Susan looked at them mysteriously. "If you really want to go, we can keep it a secret from them first. After reaching the place, we can give them a call to assure them that we're safe."

This is a good plan.

However, Kyle was a bit worried. This woman can't be so helpful without a reason. There must be something else! But we don't seem to have any other solutions now.

After some deliberation, Nina declared, "Then, let's pack up now and leave as soon as possible."

Susan gladly agreed.

We should go as soon as possible. By the time Evan brings Nicole back, it will be all too late.

Before leaving, Kyle softly reminded Nina, "You must follow closely behind us. Don't let that bad woman sell you off."

Nina snorted proudly. "If she dares to sell me away, I'll bite her!"

At the same time, Juan was thinking that if Maya's temper was like Nina's, she would not have been abused in the first place.

Hmph! I'm going to teach Maya how to be a bad chubby little girl with a fiery temper. That way, she'll never be bullied again!

Just then, Susan walked out of the bedroom, pulling a suitcase behind her. As she did not want to delay it any further, she urged the kids to leave quickly.

The three of them looked like they were about to enter the battlefield. Dragging their suitcases along, they valiantly strode to the garage.

Half an hour later, Kyle and Juan strode into the airport while carefully guarding Nina.

At that moment, Nina felt blessed that she had two older brothers protecting her.

At K Nation, John and the Hidden Masters were sitting in the living room and discussing their plan for that night.

In the midst of their discussion, Jeremy asked, "Who'll go with Mr. Seet to the Wicked Palace?"

Damien thought about it before suggesting, "I think Mr. Lindt should go. Although Mrs. Seet is not familiar with us, she's familiar with him. Perhaps, he might be able to persuade her."

John glanced at him and replied calmly, "I'll go. I want to have a good chat with Mrs. Seet, anyway."

Right after he spoke, Evan walked out of his bedroom and looked at them. "Maya's asleep. When she wakes up, tell her to drink her milk."

"Yes, Mr. Seet!" replied Darius.

Then, John offered, "Mr. Seet, I'll follow you. I want to meet Mrs. Seet too."

Evan glanced at him. "There's no need for that. I'll go alone tonight."

The Hidden Masters started to become nervous. It's too dangerous for Mr. Seet to take the risk alone. This can't happen!

Jeremy protested, "Mr. Seet, you can't go alone!"

Following that, Jensen agreed, "Yeah, Mr. Seet. If you go alone, we will be worried."

Then Darius chimed in as well, "Mr. Seet, just let John accompany you."

Damien volunteered, "Mr. Seet, I'll accompany you with John!"

John shot the four of them a glance. It's really obvious that they don't really understand Mr. Seet.

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Since Mr. Seet wants to go alone, he certainly had his own reasons.

"Mr. Seet, I agree. I think that you should go alone."

Immediately after John spoke, the four of them simultaneously stared at him in shock.

It was obvious what all of them were thinking. If something bad happened to Mr. Seet, can you afford to take responsibility for it?

Thinking that it was pointless to explain to them, John urged Evan, "Mr. Seet, time is ticking away. Don't worry, and just go. Leave Maya to us."

Evan nodded and left. The moment he stepped out of the living room, John became the target of everyone's condemnation. Everyone glared at him furiously.

John sighed. "Don't look at me like that. I've worked for Mr. Seet for the longest time here, so I know him the best. He definitely has something to say to Mrs. Seet. If we tag along, it'll make things more inconvenient for him."

"Aren't you afraid that something bad will happen to Mr. Seet? Wicked Palace is a really hostile place that's chock-full of dangers."

"Jeremy, you dimwit. Even if Mr. Seet prohibits us from following, we can still secretly follow and protect him. Haven't you thought of that?"

Damien and Jensen agreed that it was a good idea. "Then, what are we waiting for? Let's follow him quickly."

After speaking, Jensen impatiently shoved John forward.

He spun around and shot daggers at Jensen. "If I didn't have to waste time explaining to you stubborn fools, I would've already followed him."

Damien shoved him again. "Cut the crap, and let's go now."

While bickering, they left Darkmoon Manor and rushed towards Wicked Palace.

When they reached, they coincidentally spotted Evan sneaking into the palace disguised as a guard.

"Let's follow him quickly."

"Okay."

At that moment, Nicole was standing in the living room and carefully checking out the wedding gowns Levant had sent her.

The selection of wedding gowns included both elaborate designs and simple ones.

For all of the wedding gowns, Levant had hired the best designers to create unique, limited edition designs.

From how meticulous Levant was in preparing the wedding gowns, it was evident that the wedding was of the utmost importance to him.

Levant must really love me a lot.

Perhaps, it's better to marry someone who loves me than marry someone I love.

I love Evan, but it was such a painful experience. It's too tiring to love him. Perhaps, if I spend the rest of my life with someone who loves me, life might be easier.

But, is this too selfish of me?

When the maid noticed Nicole staring at the wedding gowns in a daze, she thought that Nicole couldn't make a decision. Hence, she took a few steps forward and gently reminded, "Ma'am, why don't you try them on? It'll be easier to compare that way."

Having sprung back to reality, she returned to her senses and nodded. "Okay, then I'll try them on."

She casually took a wedding gown and walked to the bedroom. After changing into it, she walked out while holding the hem of the dress.

"Wow, you're so pretty! You're the prettiest bride I've ever seen."

The maid stared at her excitedly, her eyes sparkling. A longing look crossed her face as she fell into a daze.

Undeniably, the designers Levant had hired were exceptionally talented. All of the designs were breathtakingly beautiful.

The heart-shaped strapless dress was elegant and sexy. Layers of veils, embroidered with exquisite roses and encrusted with dazzling jewels, draped across the dress. However, when Nicole wore it, she felt that it was overly luxurious.

"I'll try on a something simpler."

"Ma'am, you look really good in this."

Nicole stared at her reflection in the mirror again. Not only was the wedding gown's design very eye-catching, but it also hugged her waist in the most perfect manner to display her curvaceous figure.

"Okay, then. I'll wear this one."

Immediately after, someone pushed the door open.

When the maid saw Evan, who was wearing a guard uniform, enter, she was surprised.

She chided, "Why did you enter? Who let you come in? Go out and guard the door!" She assumed that Evan was actually a guard at Wicked Palace.

However, Nicole's expression became solemn.

Judging from how Evan normally handled matters, she knew that he would not leave so easily after coming here.

Evan strode towards the maid. Before she could figure out what was going on, he quickly knocked her out cold.

"Why did you come?" asked Nicole hostilely as an icy expression hung on her face.

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Evan stared at Nicole's wedding gown grimly.

The woman I so deeply loved, whom I dream of marrying, is finally donning a white wedding gown. Yet, she's marrying someone else other than me!

The bride's going to marry someone, and I'm not the groom.

I've never expected myself to be in such a situation or experience such emotion.

He felt like there was a fist squeezing and wrenching his heart forcefully. The feeling of suffocation made him struggle to utter out a single word.

His eyes secretly reddened.

"Get out! Or I'll call someone over!"

Evan took a deep breath. "Nicole, you look really pretty in a wedding gown."

Nicole's heart skipped a beat. Evan's voice is so nice – deep, mellow, and charismatic.

However, his words had such an unsettling effect on me.

It's as if a bitter and gloomy feeling was trying to engulf me whole.

I don't know why I'm feeling this way, but I don't like it.

I hate it when he appears in front of me again, disrupting my tranquil and peaceful life.

"Go away and don't come anymore! If you do, I'll hand you over to Murphy!"

As if he could not hear her at all, Evan strode towards her without a care in the world.

"Nicole, are you marrying Levant because you truly love him?"

Nicole did not expect him to abruptly ask this question. After a moment of silence, she exclaimed with tears brimming in her eyes, "Because he loves me! He loves me more than you do! When my life is in danger, he would risk everything to save me. On the other hand, you cruelly pushed me into hell. You tortured me, humiliated me, and even tried to kill me!"

The memories of her experiences in prison were engraved in her mind. She could never forget them.

Evan, since you want me to die so much, why did you come here to look for me?

Evan stood there motionlessly. A cold expression crossed his face while an intensely sorrowful look crept into his eyes.

Is she really willing to marry Levant? She's really...

"Nicole, is there anything about me that's worse than Levant? I'll change, okay?"

Evan, who was always so dignified, arrogant, and mighty, had now humbled himself completely. There was even a trace of imploration in his voice.

As long as Nicole would not leave him, he was willing to do anything.

However, Nicole scoffed coldly and spat, "It's impossible for you to change your innately vicious and heartless character!"

Vicious and heartless.

Those few words were like sharp daggers tearing through Evan's heart, filling him with hurt and despair.

Words were always too futile and weak to express one's love. Yet, when they were used to express hatred, they always sounded so cruel.

He could be vicious and heartless to anyone, but not Nicole.

The only reason why he locked her up was to prevent her from meeting Levant and leaving his side!

He never wanted to hurt her.

Hence, how could he ever bear to treat her viciously and heartlessly?

"Nicole, what should I do for you to believe that I'll change so that you'll be willing to stay by my side?"

Nicole forced out a bitter smile. She closed her eyes, concealing the turmoil of emotions within them. She instructed, "Leave! I don't ever want to see you again!"

Even if you'll change, I can never forget the hurt you've caused me, the torture I experienced in prison, and the burden of a human's life.

Evan, this is the end of both of us...

Nicole walked to the door and pushed it open.

Through this action, she made her desire to chase Evan out very clear.

Evan walked towards the door. However, before leaving, he stopped in his tracks, turned around, and gazed at Nicole, his deep-set eyes filled with longingness and sorrow.

Nevertheless, Nicole turned her face away, refusing to look at him.

Sighing deeply, Evan left the room.

Nicole slammed the door shut before slumping against the door. The emotions, which she tried so hard to suppress earlier, crept into her eyes. Gradually, a look of utter despair appeared on her pale face.

Evan, why did you treat me that way? Why?

After killing me, you're now trying to win me back. You're even crueler than the Devil himself! Not only have you become the devil, but you also appeared in front of me disguised as an angel...

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Do you think that my resolve will waver? Never!

When the rest saw Evan despondently leave with an expression of utter defeat, John turned around to look at Damien and Jensen.

"You finally understand why Mr. Seet stopped us from following, right?"

Both of them frowned. "Why?"

"You saw how he looked like just now. He must've been chased out by Mrs. Seet. If we witnessed it, won't he feel really embarrassed and humiliated?"

Jensen exclaimed, "Indeed, you understand Mr. Seet well, Mr. Lindt. What should we do now?"

Damien chimed in, "Yeah. Do you want to meet Mrs. Seet and speak in Mr. Seet's favor?"

John gave it a thought and said, "I don't need to speak in favor of Mr. Seet. Mrs. Seet is harsh with her words, but in reality, she's a softie at heart. I just need to tell her the facts, and her attitude towards Mr. Seet will certainly improve."

"If that's so, you should go now."

"Yeah, go on. We'll be on the look-out for you."

John glanced around. After seeking out the perfect opportunity, he briskly rushed to Nicole's room and knocked on the door.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Who's there?" asked Nicole warily.

"Mrs. Seet, it's me, John."

John came right after Evan left. Is he here to speak on Evan's behalf?

"Leave. I don't want to see you."

"Don't do this, Mrs. Seet. I don't stand with Mr. Seet, and I did not come here because of him either. Instead, it's about your four kids."

After deliberating for a while, Nicole opened the door.

"What happened to the four of them? Come in and speak."

"Okay."

John entered the room and closed the door behind him. Gazing at Nicole, he forced out a dry smile.

"Mrs. Seet, are you doing well?"

"John, you can call me Ms. Musgrave or Nicole. However, don't ever call me Mrs. Seet again!" emphasized Nicole solemnly.

John fell silent for a while. "Okay, then. Can I sit down and chat with you?"

"About my children?"

Stunned momentarily, he nodded quickly. The most important thing now is for me to continue staying here. Hence, it did not matter if I lied.

"Take a seat."

"Thank you."

Gazing at Nicole, who was sitting opposite him, he sighed.

"The four kids miss you a lot. Maya's been longing to see you. She came with us. Would you like to meet her?"

Naturally, she wanted to see Maya.

Even in her dreams, she yearned to meet her four children.

"Can you bring her over tomorrow?"

John hesitated, not knowing how to deal with this dilemma.

If I agree to bring Maya over, will Mr. Seet allow me to do so?

Furthermore, if Maya appeared at Wicked Palace, Levant will certainly know that Mr. Seet is here in K Nation. Will this affect Mr. Seet's attempts in winning his wife back?

It's already a challenging feat, so I must not make things harder for him.

This is an important question which I must carefully consider.

"I need to go back and ask Maya. If she wants to come, I'll bring her over." John gave a vague response.

"Okay. Thank you, John."

"You're being too polite! Ms. Lane – oh, wait – Ms. Musgrave, may I ask you a question?"

She knew that John looked for her because he had a specific motive.

"John, I don't want to hear anything about Evan. If the questions are about him, then there's no need to ask about it."

"You misunderstood! I wanted to ask about something else. Previously, I stayed with you and your kids at the estate for a year. Stephen took great care of me. Yesterday, I made a special trip to the estate to visit him, but the staff said that he's been staying at the Wicked Palace and hasn't returned for a long time. Is it true?"

Nicole was guite touched that John was being so concerned about her father.

"John, thank you for your concern for my Dad. He's staying at the Wicked Palace temporarily. After my wedding with Levant, he can return to the estate."

John frowned. "Why must he wait until after the wedding?"

Nicole froze, not wanting John to know that Stephen was being controlled by Levant and Murphy. Besides, it was pointless even if he knew.

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"Because... He wants to spend more time with me."

Noticing Nicole's unnatural expression and darting eyes, John had a feeling that she was lying.

Looks like there's something more to that!

"You and Levant have only arrived at the Wicked Palace a short while ago. I heard that Stephen came here earlier than you. Why..."

"John, this is my Dad's private matters. Why don't we talk about something else?"

As Nicole already interrupted him, it was inappropriate for him to keep pressing her for an answer.

"Let's talk about something else, then. Your strategy of feigning your death is really smart!"

A bitter smile spread across Nicole's lips. "It's just to save my life."

"You have no idea how devastated we were when we heard about it."

Even if John didn't mention Evan's name, Nicole understood that he referred to him and Evan when he said 'we'.

John continued, "Levant even prepared a fake urn of ashes to bury beside your mother's grave. Luckily, we didn't bury it. Otherwise... Otherwise, your Mom would be so upset if she saw someone else buried at your spot."

He initially wanted to say – "Otherwise, where would you be buried when you actually die?"

However, he suddenly realized that it sounded quite bad. Furthermore, Nicole was going to marry someone else, so logically, she would be buried with her husband instead, if she were to pass.

Hence, He suppressed his urge before he managed to utter those words.

"My Mom won't mind."

The ashes Levant intended to bury belonged to a pitiful and helpless child. If those ashes were buried there, the little child could keep her Mom company on her behalf.

John was stunned. "Well, even if your Mom doesn't mind, someone else will. Every night, he would hug that urn to sleep. Now that it turned out to be someone else's, won't he feel upset for being lied to?"

Nicole was surprised.

Is John talking about Evan?

Evan did not bury the urn, but instead hugged it to sleep?

How is that possible?

Why would he...

Hah! You've already caused someone's death, but y Are you regretting now, Evan?

Gazing at Nicole, who looked extremely solemn, John continued, "You probably don't know this, but by the time arrived at the grave, Levant has already..."

"That's enough! Stop speaking!" Nicole suddenly interrupted John, startling him.

He initially wanted to give a detailed description of how miserably Evan had been digging for the urn, so Nicole could understand his deep love for her. He intended to move her, but she had unexpectedly interrupted him. Does this mean that I won't have the chance to tell her?

Indeed, Nicole tactfully requested for John to leave by using the excuse that it was already late and she needed her rest.

Since she had already made her desire to chase him out known, he had no choice but to stand up.

"Mrs. Seet – oh, wait – Ms. Musgrave, have a good rest. I'll visit you when I have time."

"Okay."

After that, John left the room. Damien and Jensen, who was observing him from a hidden corner, guessed that he had probably failed to help Mr. Seet reconcile with Mrs. Seet.

"Look at how defeated he looks. Although he doesn't look as sad as Mr. Seet when he came out, their expressions are quite similar. Looking at that, I think his mission was also unsuccessful."

"Yeah. In my opinion, he probably got chased out by Mrs. Seet."

"Let's ask him and see if he continues bragging."

"Okay."

Both of them carefully snuck behind John, and Jensen patted John's shoulder. The sudden tap frightened John, who was still immersed in his thoughts.

Spinning around uneasily, he heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that it was both of them. "What the hell! You gave me a scare."

"Mr. Lindt, how was it? Were you successful in helping Mr. Seet win back his wife?"

Looking at their curious expressions, John laughed. "Successful? Dream on. We haven't even made half the progress. This time, Mrs. Seet is truly angry. It's going to be an extremely, let me rephrase that -almost impossible – feat for Mr. Seet to win his wife back."

"Huh? Is Mrs. Seet that hard to persuade?" asked Jensen in shock.