

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 156

“Y-You...”

How can she insult me like that? Unable to rebuke Nina, Maya glared at her furiously as tears brimmed in her eyes. The next moment, she burst into tears and sobbed loudly.

When Nicole, who had just returned to the adjacent bedroom, heard her wails, her heart skipped a beat. Thinking that something bad had happened, she sprinted to the girls' bedroom quickly. “What’s wrong, Maya? What’s wrong?”

When Maya saw Nicole, she cried even harder. However, Nina had an innocent expression on her face. I only called her a pig. Does she have to cry so miserably?

“Maya, say something. What happened?”

“It’s Nina. Nina!” As Maya cried, she pointed at Nina and complained.

When Nicole turned around to look at Nina, the little girl quickly explained, “I just said that she’s a pig, then she burst into tears.”

Upon hearing what Nina said, Maya wiped her tears away and choked. “N-Not only did she call me a pig, but she also said that I’m a stupid and fat pig!”

“What are you talking about? I said that you’re a piglet. You cried without even hearing what I said clearly.”

When Nicole glared at Nina sternly, Nina immediately stopped talking.

When Evan heard her wails, he thought that Kyle and Juan were fighting. While passing by Maya's bedroom, he overheard their conversation.

A rare smile appeared on his normally cold face. He even burst out laughing. Nina has a way of insulting people, huh?

When Nicole heard Evan's laughter, she turned around and glared at him.

Then, she spun around to console Maya, "It's your sister's fault. I'll make her apologize to you, okay?"

Maya sobbed miserably before looking at Nina. "She must apologize and promise not to call me a pig in the future."

"You look like one, but you won't even let me say it," mumbled Nina softly.

"Nina! Apologize to your sister now! You're not allowed to call Maya a pig anymore."

"Mommy, I..." Nina was reluctant.

"You aren't solving the problem at all." Evan's mellow voice suddenly sounded.

Nicole was already perplexed over how to coax the two arguing girls. Then, Evan's words sounded like he was trying to stir up even more trouble. "Mr. Seet, this is between my daughters. You don't need to involve yourself with this."

"This is my house. I can say whatever I want," said Evan casually.

Nicole scrutinized Evan again. His attitude gave her an urge to beat him up.

However, she was staying in his house. If she insisted on opposing the man, she might face negative consequences.

After all, Evan was a mean person who held grudges.

Having thought about it again, Nicole gave in and squeezed out a smile. "Then, Mr. Seet, how do you think we should solve the problem?"

"Naturally, we'll have to solve the root cause!"

"What do you mean?"

Nicole looked at him in confusion.

"Tell Maya to make changes, so no one will have a reason to mock her anymore!"

"Make changes? Are you saying that Maya should lose weight?"

Lose weight? It's Nina's fault! Why must I lose weight? Maya widened her clear eyes in disbelief.

"Even if you can control what Nina says, can you control what others say? If other kids say the same thing about Maya, are you going to chase after them and force them to apologize to her?"

Evan had seen how Maya stuffed herself with desserts. Hence, he thought that it was time Maya practice a moderate diet.

After his words, Evan glanced at Nicole and left.

Nina scoffed coldly. I didn't expect that meanie to say something so logical.

"Mommy, I think that he's right."

Maya looked at Nicole with a pitiful expression.

Nicole stretched her hand out and stroked Maya's tiny head.

"Maya, let's have lesser desserts in the future, okay?"

Holding her tears back, Maya nodded vigorously.

"Maya, when you're as thin as me, I'll apologize to you. You must put in your best effort, okay?"

"Just wait and see! I'll be slimmer than you one day!"

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Standing up with her chubby hands on her hips, Maya stared at Nina in determination.

“Okay, I’ll wait for that day to come,” replied Nina seriously.

Nicole heaved a sigh of relief. If Maya could control her diet and eat lesser food, it would be beneficial to her health too. This could be considered a good thing.

After tucking the two children in, Nicole exited their bedroom and closed the door gently.

The intricately designed lamps lining the silent corridor glowed, enveloping the entire floor in an almost magical light.

Nicole raised her head and observed the inconspicuous but lavish decorations along the corridor. The famed paintings hanging on the wall not only highlighted the owners’ exquisite taste, but also their exorbitant prices.

Luxuries like these caused Nicole to feel uneasy.

She only managed to move into the Hillside Villa because of Juan. Yet, she did not know how long Evan would allow her to stay here. What if she was chased out? If she had to bring the kids to the impoverished ghettos, would they be used to it?

Hence, the priority was to quickly earn money and leave this place. Then, she could raise her children in a better environment.

After Nicole was done preparing breakfast the next morning, she woke the children up.

As usual, Maya was the first one to wash up and sit at the dining table.

She was followed by Kyle, Juan and lastly Nina, who had combed her hair neatly.

Maya's eyes sparkled as she looked at the delicious pizzas, fruit tarts, eggs and glasses of milk spread on the table. She pulled the largest pizza towards herself, before taking two eggs, three fruit tarts and two glasses of milk.

She was about to start eating when Nina coughed. "Someone said that she's going to lose weight. Do you guys believe it?"

Maya blinked. That was what she said last night.

If she wanted to lose weight, she would need to eat lesser food. Lowering her head, she glanced at the pile of food in front of her. Should I eat lesser? But I'm reluctant to part with any of these food!

Juan's clear eyes sparkled, understanding that Nina was talking about Maya.

A surprised expression appeared on his face.

Turning around, he noticed Maya's conflicted expression as she gazed at the food. He chuckled and said, "Are those just empty words? You'll need to go hungry if you want to lose weight."

On the other hand, Kyle acted like an older brother. He encouraged Maya, "I believe that she can become thinner than you."

"Okay, Juan. Both of us don't believe her, while Kyle is siding with Maya. Let's make a bet and see what's the outcome then."

When Maya heard that, she pushed the pizza and fruit tarts away from her angrily. She even forced herself to cut down on her favorite eggs.

Only one egg and a glass of milk remained in front of her. "Kyle, I won't disappoint you."

"You can do it!" A smile appeared on Kyle's face as he encouraged Maya.

Maya drank the milk in a gulp and finished the sunny side up egg. However, she could not help but steal a couple of glimpses at the pizzas and fruits tarts. Still, she managed to restrain herself from eating them. Standing up, she ran to her bedroom to get her bag.

Juan looked at Nicole worriedly. "Mommy, do you think that she'll be hungry?"

"Probably, but let's see if she can endure it."

After thinking for a while, Juan asked again, "Why don't I bring some biscuits and chocolates for her, just in case she gets hungry?"

Immediately, Kyle opposed. "If you do that, she'll never succeed in losing weight."

"Yeah, Kyle's right. We must encourage Maya more."

"Don't worry, Mommy. I'll monitor Maya."

However, Nina's words caused Nicole to feel even more worried. "As her sister, you shouldn't be monitoring her, but encouraging her instead. You must not be too harsh on her, okay?"

Pouting, Nina nodded.

When Nicole was about to send them to kindergarten, Evan called out to her. "Juan's going to the same school as Kyle today."

Juan was astonished when he heard that.

Nicole was surprised too. However, she could understand why. Since Evan knew that Juan was his son, so it was logical that he would want to provide Juan a good learning environment by sending him to an elite kindergarten.

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However, Nina and Maya could not understand why.

They thought that Evan was biased and that he only liked sons but not daughters.

Maya was glaring at him in resentment.

On the other hand, Nina did not react in any extraordinary manner. After all, she had always disliked Evan.

She grabbed Maya's hand. "Time for school!"

"I want to go to Grant Kindergarten too."

Nicole was in a tough spot. Right now, she did not have the money to send both of them to such an elite kindergarten. She raised her head and glanced at Evan.

He found it ridiculous. Why is she looking at me? They're not my daughters anyway. Their schools have nothing to do with me!

"Maya, we don't need to go there. Our current kindergarten is great!" Nina consoled Maya.

Maya pouted. "B-But..."

"Maya, let's go to our kindergarten first. When I have the money, I'll transfer you to another school, okay?"

Nicole stroked the little girl's head. At that moment, she could not help but realize the importance of money.

"Daddy, why don't I switch with Maya and let her go to Grant Kindergarten? I want to attend my old kindergarten instead."

Evan voiced his opposition immediately after Juan spoke. "No way! You can't switch!"

Evan's stance was firm, offering no possibilities of negotiation.

Juan stuck his tongue out, feeling stumped.

Nina scoffed haughtily. "Maya, let's see if you'll still call him a goodie!" With that, she grabbed her bag and strode out.

Maya walked towards Evan furiously with her hands on her hips. "Y-You're not a goodie!"

Then, with a scornful snort, she stomped out of the living room.

A flash of surprise appeared on Evan's cold face. She only knows how to complain about people not offering her kindness, while completely disregarding the fact that she's been staying under my roof free of charge! How dare she says I'm not a goodie? But then again, I wouldn't expect the children of Nicole to behave any better than their mother herself!

"Daddy, you shouldn't treat them like that." After speaking, Juan walked out furiously with his bag.

"Daddy, are you in dire lack of money? If not, why did he refuse to let Maya and Nina go to Grant Kindergarten?" After throwing him that question, Kyle followed Juan out of the mansion with a solemn expression.

Evan was speechless. What's going on? How did I become everyone's enemy? I've been helping them out so much, yet they're claiming the moral high ground now. Why is it my obligation to let other children attend an elite kindergarten?

Evan found it ridiculous. Kyle must have said that because he was influenced by Nicole. Seems like I must have a proper talk with Nicole.

"Come to my study room after sending the kids."

When Nicole heard Evan's words, her heart skipped a beat.

Before she could respond, Evan walked up the stairs steadily.

Then, Nicole sent the children to their respective kindergarten.

Gazing at her two daughters, she felt extremely guilty.

If Evan knows that Nina and Maya are his daughters, will he treat them equally as the boys?

But if Evan knows the truth, will he keep the four children for himself and chase me away, forcing us apart?

After deliberating for quite some time, Nicole still could not reach a resolution. Hence, she decided to meet Evan and assess his attitude first. If he kept refusing, she would plead with him. She did not mind being a maid to the family if he was willing to protect the children.

When Nicole returned to Hillside Villa, she knocked on the door before walking into Evan's study room nervously.

With a lowered head, he was reviewing the contracts seriously. The sunlight shone on his cold face, making him seem gentler than usual.

People always said that a woman looked the best when she was serious at work. However, Nicole had to admit that a serious man was equally handsome too.

Every action of his exuded an elegant and dignified aura, causing an image to surface in Nicole's mind.

She was so engrossed in watching the man that her heart pounded rapidly as her lips curled upwards into a smile uncontrollably.

When Evan raised his head, he saw that Nicole was grinning and her smile becoming brighter as time passed.

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He couldn't help but furrow his brows in bafflement.

Her smile seemed to carry a hint of ill intention, reminding him of a Satan's smile.

"Why are you smiling?" His icy tone snapped Nicole out of her trance.

She shook her head vigorously. As she imagined her own expression earlier, her face heated and flushed beet red right away.

How could I get so fascinated by his look? And he even caught me doing it. How embarrassing.

"What are you scheming right now?" Evan's forehead creased as he eyed her suspiciously.

Nicole hurriedly shook her head again. "N-Nothing."

"That's good. Anyway, it doesn't really matter what you do."

"What do you mean?"

"You've influenced Kyle and Juan, to the extent that they can't differentiate what's right or wrong, so you're not allowed to stay here anymore. Do you understand me?"

Evan's words sounded like a deafening thunder in Nicole's ears, and she was shaken up instantly. Is Evan kicking me out? That's too fast.

Nicole fell into silence. Thank God I didn't tell him that Maya and Nina are his daughters. Otherwise, he'll probably keep all four of them to himself and chase me out. Phew... From now on, I should think twice before uttering a word.

"Why don't we make a deal?"

Evan's voice brought Nicole out of her reverie. I wonder what kind of deal he's talking about.

"Mr. Seet, what are you trying to say?"

"It'll be a win-win situation. I want to have Juan's custody, and I'll pay you handsomely in return, so that you, your two daughters and your man can live a better life. What do you think?"

Nicole's brows snapped together. Is he trying to buy Juan from me? What a scumbag! I'll never sell Juan, no matter how poor I get.

"In your dreams!" Nicole adamantly rejected him. She took a step forward, stretched her arm, and slammed her palm forcefully on Evan's desk.

How dare she yell and act so rudely? He put the document aside and stared squarely at Nicole with a serious face.

"You should give it some thought. Juan will only suffer if he's under your care. Are you okay with that?"

"Despite the hardship, I believe Juan will be happy as long as he stays with me."

"But I won't allow that. He's my son, and I will not let him suffer together with a woman like you."

“Mr. Seet, does a materialistic life guarantee a child’s happiness? Look at Kyle, he has been with you since young, living a lavish lifestyle. Do you think he’s happy? I really regret letting Kyle stay with you.”

After saying that, Nicole rolled her eyes mischievously. “Mr. Seet, why don’t you give me Kyle’s custody? He’s way happier with me.” I can be overly demanding too!

“Dream on!” van gritted his teeth in rage, clenching his fists tightly. I really wish I can slap her now!

We’re talking about Juan’s custody, but this woman changes the subject. Not only did she rebuke me, but she also fantasized about getting Kyle’s custody too.

She even has the audacity to say such shameless words out loud!

“Nicole, don’t test my patience. I’m giving you ten seconds to tell me how much you’d like to get from me. Then take the money and leave.”

Even couldn’t wait to send this annoying woman out of the door.

Bastard! I’ve made myself clear, but he still thinks that he can have it his own way using money.

Misinterpreting her silence as hesitation, Evan made an offer straight away. “A private villa and five hundred million. It’s more than enough for you, your daughters and your man to live a luxurious life.”

Evan was full of confidence while making this exorbitant offer.

After that, he leaned back against his chair idly while fixing his eyes on Nicole.

There’s no way she can resist this. I can’t wait to see her overbearing attitude turn into a smiley face or a reluctant expression.

In fact, this offer was really tempting for someone like Nicole, who was constantly struggling to make ends meet.

After a moment of silence, she sneered, “Now I know Mr. Seet thinks that money can buy everything. But that’s not the case with me. No matter how much you’re willing to give, I’ll never give you Juan’s custody!”

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Her attitude and response surprised Evan.

He squinted his eyes at Nicole. Then he decided to raise the stakes.

I don't believe this woman can truly disregard money. I'll see how long she can fake it.

Before he could utter a word about his new offer, Nicole interrupted him firmly with an unwavering gaze, "Juan is my life. No amount of money can make me give up on him," Her voice was loud as she enunciated every word.

Evan's expression darkened. She doesn't want my money. Is she after something else?

Maybe she wants to be Mrs. Seet?

How greedy!

"Don't you want money? You'll get nothing else then."

"What?" Does he think that I have a hidden agenda?

"Mr. Seet, I never expected to get anything from you."

Evan's lips twitched up in a scornful smile. He sneered, "Really? You don't want the money? Well, I can still get Juan's custody without paying you a single cent!"

Is Evan going to take legal action against me? With his prominent status and family background, I can never contend with him.

Nicole's heart started beating frantically.

"Pack your things now and scram!" Evan exclaimed in an icy tone.

Afterward, he turned around and walked out of his study, while Nicole froze on her spot, feeling increasingly troubled.

"Evan, are you going to the office?" Davin saw Evan walking down the stairs and greeted him warmly.

With a smile on his face, Davin looked carefree and mischievous as usual.

But Evan ignored Davin with a frigid expression and stomped out of the living room.

Why is he so hostile early in the morning? Davin frowned in bewilderment.

"Did he have a nightmare or something? Maybe he dreamt of a project failure, or the woman he loved leaving him for another man."

After mumbling to himself, he whistled with a smile while gently swaying his head as he headed upstairs.

When he arrived at the second floor, he saw Nicole absent mindedly wandered out of the study with a grim face.

"Good morning, Nicole."

But his warm greeting fell on deaf ears because Nicole was completely engrossed in her own thoughts about Juan's custody.

Watching her disregard his words and brush past him, Davin felt irritated. What's wrong with everyone? Why are they giving me the cold shoulder early in the morning? Am I not welcome here at this Hillside Villa? No, I have to find out the truth.

He strode over to Nicole and stopped her in her tracks. "Nicole, I'm talking to you. Can't you hear me?"

When Nicole raised her head and saw Davin, her gaze became stern and sent chills down his spine.

"Nicole, what's wrong?"

"How can your family oppress people so ruthlessly with your power? The Seet family is such a big bully!" Nicole shouted out of the blue.

With a baffled look, Davin asked, "Nicole, what do you mean?"

Nicole kept silent and stormed furiously back to her room, leaving Davin confused and surprised.

Maybe she had a fight with Evan. Did Evan bully her?

But what does this have to do with the Seet family?

Out of curiosity, Davin went and asked Blake, but Blake had no idea too, saying that it was about their children.

"So you're saying that Nicole wants to send Maya and Nina to attend the Grant Kindergarten, but Evan disagrees?"

"Ms. Lane said nothing, but the two girls seemed upset and said that Mr. Seet is... is a bad guy."

Davin's eyes widened in astonishment at Blake's words.

Blake let out a sigh. "But this isn't Mr. Seet's fault. Actually, Mr. Seet..."

"Hold on," Davin interrupted Blake. "Which of the two girls said such sensible words?"

Why does sir ask such a weird question? Blake's expression sank as he gaped at Davin with an enigmatic look.

He couldn't help but sigh inwardly. Sir's mentality is really one of a kind.

"Why are you looking at me like that? I'm talking to you."