

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 201

When Nicole rushed towards Evan's car, all she could think of was Maya's safety. She hoped that Evan could find Maya even if it meant giving up her youngest kid to him.

The door to the car was opened just as she mustered the courage to knock on the window. There the little girl was, grinning happily at her. "Mommy!" Maya cried out.

Nicole couldn't hold back her tears of relief when she saw Maya returning safe and sound.

Kyle and Juan shared a knowing look. They initially thought that their father wouldn't help them, but it turned out that they had given him too little credit because he was the one who found Maya and brought her back to them.

"Maya, where have you been?"

Maya looked down at her round belly and rubbed her hands anxiously. She was embarrassed to tell her mother where she was.

Puzzled by how Maya ended up with Evan, Nicole gave Evan an inquisitive look.

Evan cleared his throat, "I brought her to Clare's Place."

Daddy is the one who brought Maya away? To Clare's Place? He should have told us beforehand. Look at how worried Mommy is! Kyle and Juan exchanged glances and sighed.

The next thing everyone knew, Nicole was hollering at Evan with her shrillest voice. “Evan Seet! How could you bring my daughter away without my permission?”

The last few hours had been an ordeal for her. Every second spent was agonizing when she thought about her missing daughter.

It turned out that it was just a misunderstanding.

Startled by Nicole’s sudden yell, Evan remained silent. He didn’t think it was a big deal to bring the gluttonous girl for some food, and he never expected Nicole to be so worried.

Nicole reached out to Maya and carried her in her arms. “Maya, you can’t go anywhere with him! He might have brought you to a nice restaurant today, but who knows if he will sell you off the next time? Can you promise not to do this again?” Afraid that Maya could be kidnapped by human traffickers, Nicole warned her sternly.

However, Evan found that insulting. Is she comparing me to human traffickers?

Besides, Maya is the one who kept pestering me for food! I am merely doing that out of kindness!

Frightened by Nicole’s stern tone, Maya nodded tearfully as she also realized that her actions had worried her.

Nicole wiped away Maya’s tears and walked towards Rose Garden with Maya in her arms and Nina following behind.

After they left, Evan told Kyle and Juan to get in his car. When they stared after Nicole’s retreating figure hesitantly, Evan finally lost his patience and snapped, “Get in!”

Juan sighed, "Daddy, you should have told us that you brought Maya somewhere else."

Kyle grumbled, "If you told us that you were with Maya when I called you just now, we wouldn't be so worried, especially Mommy!"

Evan felt helpless because he did send Nicole a message even though he didn't tell Kyle about his outing with Maya. Now he would just sound like he was making excuses if he told them that.

Keeping in mind not to approach Nicole and her child again, he demanded, "Enough talk. Get in!"

Kyle and Juan obeyed their angry father and hopped in the car. The sound of the car engine penetrated the calm night sky in Rose Garden.

Nicole was watching the leaving car and cursing silently in her mind when she heard Nina grumbling, "Maya, did evil daddy lure you to Clare's Place? He must have done it purposely to make Mommy worry. You're so stupid."

Maya merely shook her head fervently and said nothing.

"He didn't? Then why did you follow him?" Nina continued asking.

Seeing that Maya remained silent, Nina raised her eyebrows skeptically. "Don't tell me that you wanted to follow him to Clare's Place in the first place?"

Maya's face flushed at the question as she clutched Nicole's neck silently.

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Nicole found it strange that Maya was hesitant to reply. Could it be Evan threatened Maya to follow him? Or did he carry her away while she was asleep? What if Maya became traumatized because of it?

Stroking Maya's head tenderly, Nicole swore under her breath that she would never let Evan off in that case.

Nicole only took out her phone and saw Evan's message after bathing the kids and putting them to bed. It was a picture of Maya enjoying the delicious cuisines that she always daydreamed of in a luxurious room at Clare's Place.

Judging from the time that the message was received a few hours ago, Nicole realized that she must have forgotten to check her phone when she went out to search for Maya.

She approached Maya in her bed and asked gently, "Maya, I know you're a good girl. Can you tell Mommy exactly what happened today?"

The little girl blinked as she pondered how to begin with the truth.

"Mommy won't reprimand you as long as you tell me everything truthfully," Nicole added patiently.

"Mommy, I went to Uncle Evan because I was curious about the delicious food you said he had. He brought me to Clare's Place because I asked."

"..."

Nina scolded her for being a loser while Nicole held her hand. “You can tell me if there’s anything you want to eat. Don’t simply ask anyone else for food anymore, okay?”

Maya pouted. “But he’s Daddy! He’s not anyone else.”

Nicole’s heart ached as she realized that Maya longed for Evan’s love and concern. It was normal for every kid to yearn for parental affection.

She touched Maya’s forehead and managed a bitter smile. “I’ll apologize to Uncle Evan so that he’ll play with you the next time. Is that okay, Maya?”

Maya nodded fervently. “Mommy, don’t worry. He won’t sell me to human traffickers.”

“You’re right, Maya. I was too worried just now. I know he treats you well.”

Maya beamed happily in response.

Nicole’s mind was still in a chaotic state after she successfully coaxed the two girls to sleep.

Regretting at her impulsive reaction, she walked towards the main house to offer Evan her sincerest apologies.

Evan’s slender silhouette looked particularly lonely under the shimmering moonlight in the garden.

He seemed to spend a lot of time below the rose trellis. Nicole remembered when he stood at the same spot the day he came back from the cemetery, he looked so sorrowful as if he were reliving his sad memories.

“Mr. Seet.” Nicole approached him.

Evan frowned at the voice which disrupted his thoughts.

“Mr. Seet, I’m here to...”

Not giving her the chance to finish the sentence, Evan turned his back on her and returned to his room.

Nicole’s voice faltered as she watched Evan walking away determinedly.

Can’t I get a chance to apologize?

It was totally up to him to decide whether to forgive her, but she thought that he should at least hear her out.

Dejected, she lowered her head and caught sight of a stack of paper on the stone table beside the trellis. Evan must have left it there accidentally.

Nicole picked up the stack and squinted. She couldn’t see clearly in the dark, but she could make out that they were drawings. Guessing that it might be something important that Evan didn’t want to lose, Nicole brought it to his room in hopes of apologizing to him.

Nicole knocked on the door to his bedroom several times. However, she was dismayed when the door wasn’t opened. On the contrary, the light in the room was turned off.

Does he hate me to such an extent?

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He must be really mad.

Nicole sighed helplessly and went back to the rear house.

She examined the drawings in her hand and smiled subtly at the sight of a drawing of a little girl because she didn't expect Evan to have an artistic hobby.

She frowned when her eyes settled on the next drawing. The little girl started to seem familiar.

Her eyes widened in shock when she saw the third drawing in which the girl featured in the two previous drawings was tiptoeing and biting a young lad's shoulder. There was also a water gun beside them.

The rest of the drawings left Nicole astounded. When she finally finished going through all of them, she laid the stack of drawings on the table with her trembling hands as her suppressed memories resurfaced in her mind.

How could it be so coincidental? Could it be that Evan Seet was the boy she met years ago?

Nicole went through the connection among the series of mysterious events from the past few days in her mind. She came to the conclusion that it was too much of a coincidence, yet she found it hard to believe that Evan was the same boy she met years ago.

The boy she met was an outcast like her and was always beaten up in Rose Garden. She always thought that the boy was some servant's child or a poor kid forced into work at a young age.

Certainly not the princely Evan Seet.

Nicole's mind buzzed with confusion as she pondered whether to ask Evan about it the next day.

If he really was the boy, he must have remembered her all along.

Except that she wasn't the same girl in his memories anymore because she had outgrown her vulnerability. Unlike her current cruel and greedy self in Evan's opinion, she was a naive and weak little girl who was constantly bullied in the past.

If Evan was really the boy who helped her in the past, it might ruin his impression of her when he found out that she was the innocent little girl.

Maybe it isn't him. Nicole assured herself. Maybe the drawings belong to one of the bodyguards or the servants. Maybe...

She couldn't be sure about the boy's identity anymore. Bitterness engulfed her as she stared at the drawings and traced her fingers across the little girl's silhouette. Her eyes reddened and a lopsided smile appeared on her face when she thought of her past.

She was so small and fragile that she couldn't fight back the bullies. It was the boy that always protected her and cared for her.

Just when she became reliant on him, he left Rose Garden all of a sudden and never returned.

She never knew his whereabouts after he left. All she knew was that she had to become stronger and look out for herself from then onwards because there was no longer someone else to protect her.

Her heart ached at the thought of her past.

At night, she had a dream of the boy waving at her under the rose trellis.

She was beaming so happily when she raced towards him in the dream. However, the boy vanished into thin air before she could get a good look of him.

Where are you? She looked around frantically in her dream.

“Tye!” Nicole gasped in her dream. The next thing she knew, she was panting and sitting wide awake on her bed. It took her a few deep breaths to calm down and realize that it was just a dream.

When she relaxed eventually, the image of the boy waving at her came back to haunt her. Who’s the one that drew these portraits of me?

She decided to find out everything from Evan tomorrow.

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The next morning, Nicole sent the girls to the kindergarten after breakfast. A smile stretched across her face as she watched her children heading towards the kindergarten entrance cheerfully.

Recalling that she had something more important to settle, she turned her car around and drove back to Rose Garden.

However, when Nicole headed towards the main house with the drawings, she saw Evan's car speeding away.

Is he going to the company?

I guess I can only ask him when he comes back.

Meanwhile, Nicole wondered if Zane divorced Sylvia. If he really did that and asked her for money in turn, how was she supposed to give him the money?

She thought of asking for Evan's help, but she was quite positive that he would reject her. She would have to come up with another plan.

On the other hand, Sylvia was scowling at Zane while planning her next step because she couldn't be sure that he would remarry her after faking their divorce to get money.

What if he ditched her and ran away after that? She had to be careful because the situation wasn't unheard of either.

“Zane, that b*tch Nicole must be hoping to ruin your family! Otherwise, why will she want you to divorce at your age? How can a daughter do this to her father?”

Zane thought it was cruel of Nicole to do so too, but he could understand her reasons since things between Sylvia and her were pretty heated.

The only problem was how to convince Sylvia to go along with the divorce. He knew he had to coax her instead of arguing with her to get her to agree to it.

Sylvia was sobbing and at a loss of words when Sylphiette barged into the room.

“Sylphiette, you’re getting ruder! You should knock on the door before coming in!”

“Dad, I have something important to tell you!”

“What is it?” Zane asked impatiently.

Ignoring her father’s annoyance, Sylphiette started spilling out her newly discovered secret excitedly. “Dad, do you know why Evan moved to Rose Garden?”

Zane raised his eyebrows and snapped, “Don’t keep me in suspense. Get to the point.”

“Dad, do you remember that Nicole’s mother used to bring Nicole to Rose Garden whenever the two of you fought? There was a mansion that belonged to Nicole’s grandfather over there.”

Sylvia snorted, “Of course I remember! That b*tch Natalie! She was so stubborn that she didn’t want to divorce your father even when she already moved out. She must be dreaming of your father returning her the assets when...”

“Enough!” Zane interrupted coldly and turned back to Sylphiette. “I don’t see why you’re making a fuss about where Mr. Seet lives.”

“Of course it’s important! When Mr. Seet was young, he lived in Rose Garden and met a girl that he cannot forget even though it has been years.”

“A girl? Are you saying that the girl is Nicole?”

“Well, to be precise, he doesn’t remember the girl’s true identity, but he thinks that she’s already dead all these years because he saw Nicole’s fake cemetery with her photo on it years ago before it was ruined.”

“What? Is Nicole really the girl he met years ago?”

“No, Mom,” Sylphiette replied with a mischievous grin on her face. “It was me!”

Zane and Sylvia exchanged glances as they had already guessed what their daughter was up to.

“Sylphiette, are you going to replace Nicole’s identity? Isn’t it too risky? What if Evan finds out that you’re lying to him? Have you ever thought of the consequences?”

“Nothing ventured, nothing gained. I have to take the risks if I want to be Mrs. Seet. When my plan succeeds, Lane Corporation will be able to make a comeback easily!”

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Zane sank into deep thought.

If he divorced Sylvia, he would get 50 million at most from Nicole and lose Lane Corporation forever.

However, he could benefit more if he chose to support Sylphiette. By the time she succeeded in marrying into the Seet family, his status would skyrocket.

After comparing the benefits, he turned to Sylphiette with anticipation. "Our future depends on you, Sylphiette."

"Dad, don't worry. I'll make sure that you and Mom live a better life."

"Alright. I'll arrange the rest for you."

"..."

Sylvia heaved a sigh of relief. She couldn't wait to see Nicole's reaction to Zane's final decision of their marriage and Sylphiette's plan to replace her.

Serves her right!

Sylvia swore under her breath that she would do anything to make sure Nicole was left with nothing in the end. Already picturing herself slapping Nicole, she let out a wicked snort. You can join your mother in hell!

...

Evan was approving the new planning report in his office when the phone rang.

He picked the phone up and asked, "What is it?"

"..."

"What?"

"It's true, Mr. Seet. The girl isn't dead. She's Zane Lane's daughter."

Evan frowned. Zane Lane is Nicole's father. Could she be... Nicole? As soon as he thought of Nicole, the person on the phone continued, "It's Sylphiette, Zane Lane's youngest daughter."

Sylphiette?

Evan had a bad impression of her because she kidnapped Juan once.

How could the innocent little girl do such things?

"Are you sure?" Evan asked.

"I'm totally sure of it, Mr. Seet. Sylphiette's mother was Zane's mistress. Before Zane's first wife passed away, Sylphiette and her mother lived near Rose Garden."

"She didn't die? Then what's with the tombstone?"

"I've heard that the cemetery was built because Zane's first wife wanted to curse Sylphiette. Luckily, Sylphiette was blessed and unscathed. After that, they removed the photo but left the tombstone in its place."

Evan was surprised at the ruthlessness of Nicole's mother. How could she curse an innocent girl and build a tomb for her?

The conversation left Evan deeply immersed in his confused thoughts.

At night, Evan saw a woman rushing towards him agitatedly upon returning to Rose Garden from Seet Group.

“Tye, I’ve never forgotten you all these years! I’ve been searching for you ever since, and it turns out that it’s you all along, Mr. Seet...”

Evan felt an involuntary spasm when he heard Sylphiette calling him “Tye”. The way she called him alluringly was greatly disturbing. It didn’t feel like the sincere little girl at all.

Seeing that Evan didn’t respond, Sylphiette pinched herself hard enough to make herself cry. She had to make her act more convincing.

The next moment, Evan asked calmly, “How much do you remember about us?”

Already prepared, she replied confidently, “I used to sneak in through the tunnel to pick flowers for my mother. I had been bullied for a few times before you came along to help me...”

Evan blinked and smiled. “It’s been a long time. You’ve become so beautiful.”

Sylphiette was over the moon when Evan praised her because he had encountered so many beautiful socialites in the past and yet she never heard him praised anyone of them. This meant that she was the first to meet his approval!