

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 971

“Just a ‘sorry’? That’s all you can say?” Avril sneered. While staring down at the woman in front of her, she remembered who she was. She had come here once to look for Levant the other day.

“Oh, it’s you... Are you here to see Levant again? What is it this time?”

Tiffany’s heart skipped a beat at her interrogative tone.

She seems so wary of me looking for Levant. She might be his wife then.

Should I tell her about the money I owe him? Will she misunderstand anything?

“I...” she stammered.

“What is it? Say it properly! I won’t believe if you try pulling nonsense like you’re here to apply for a waitress’ position,” Avril snapped impatiently.

Tiffany drew a deep breath. She looked at Avril and asked carefully, “Are you related to Mr. Levant in any way?”

Avril was taken aback for a second. “Levant and I? We’re family.”

Tiffany went silent again.

They are family. Does she mean to say that she’s his wife?

“What’s wrong with you?” Avril rolled her eyes. “Just tell me now. Why’re you looking for Levant?”

"He helped me once. I'm here to thank him."

"He helped you?" Avril narrowed her eyes in disbelief.

Levant would actually lend a hand to another woman? Since when had her brother become such a kindhearted person?

She had always thought that Levant took after Murphy. Both of them had always been the kind of people who would only do something that served their self-interests. In fact, they would use any possible method under the sky to achieve their personal goals.

This woman had now piqued her interest. What on earth could Levant have done for her, so much so that she would purposely come here repeatedly just to express her gratitude?

Curious, she raised an eyebrow. "What did he help you with? What did he do?"

After a second's hesitation, Tiffany replied, "He had lent me some money when I was in trouble."

"How much did he give to you?"

"Ten million."

"What?" Avril gasped in complete shock.

Ten million wasn't a small amount to be given to someone they barely knew. She observed Tiffany with scrutinizing eyes. Why would Levant be so generous towards this random woman? Could he be interested in her by any chance?

Tiffany felt uneasy at Avril's surprised reactions and how she had been staring at her.

Oh no, has she misunderstood what is going on?

She was unsure if she should explain further. She carefully observed Avril's reactions as she hesitated.

Avril noticed the anxious look on her face.

She smiled. "Can we have a talk?"

Since Levant had found out about the incident of her attempting to seduce Stephen earlier, it's likely that he would use it to manipulate or threaten her whenever he would need to.

Therefore, she decided that this would be a good opportunity to dig into some of his personal secrets as well. She could use this information in her own defense against him.

There wouldn't be a need for her to worry about him reporting the incident earlier to their father as well.

Tiffany had no idea what was actually going on in Avril's mind. Her only worry was if the latter had misunderstood the type of relationship between Levant and herself.

"Please don't misunderstand. I was really in deep trouble that day that I even thought of dying. He'd only wanted to save me, hence he offered the money. I believe he would've helped either way even if it were someone else," she explained.

Avril gave an indifferent smirk. "Nonsense! I don't think he would've even bothered if it were someone else. He must have helped you because he's interested in a woman like you."

Interested in me?

Tiffany could tell that Avril had only blurted these words out casually without meaning them. But for some reason, her heart leaped for a moment. She felt an odd sense of joy, albeit it was short-lived and quickly replaced with a feeling of melancholy.

She was well aware of her own status. She knew about Levant's identity too.

They were from two different worlds.

She was a divorced woman, not to mention she had a child tagging along. Even if she were to be an unmarried virgin, she would still be very far from being a suitable match for someone like him.

If she could ever describe the difference between Levant and herself, it would be like the sky and the dirt ground. She would never dare to have any ambitious desires towards him.

"You've misunderstood. He's a good person. With his status, he can easily ask for any type of woman he wishes for. Someone like me is way too far from being qualified in any way. It's impossible for him to have any interest in me at all."

Avril was amused.

This woman was unexpectedly well aware of her own limits. It's rare to see such a self-conscious and well-behaved woman like her these days.

"Levant isn't lacking in money, but unfortunately he couldn't just get any woman he wanted like you said..." Avril sighed. "In fact, he just got dumped by someone he likes! He's been head over heels for her, but sadly she didn't reciprocate."

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Tiffany was confused. Did she just say that he was dumped by someone? So it means she isn't his wife?

She felt a weight lifted off her chest.

"He's a good man. I believe a better woman awaits him somewhere," she replied calmly.

Avril stared at her intently. A sudden idea emerged in her head. "Look, why don't you take this opportunity to give him some comfort? Who knows... Maybe he would take a liking to you instead."

Tiffany froze for a split second. Her heart skipped yet another beat. She collected herself and let out a self-mocking laugh. "You must be joking. To have me do something like that, is like asking a strand of wild grass on the dirt to approach a star in the sky."

"It's good that you have some self-awareness." Avril shrugged. "But why belittle yourself like this? Won't you consider if there's actually a chance for you to turn your life around and reach for your happiness?"

My happiness...

She wanted so much to be able to own a house, a place where she could call home. A home where she could live with someone whom she would love and would love her in return. That would be what she called an ideal life of happiness.

But from where she came from and where she was now, she was certain that she couldn't just be with any man she wanted.

Levant, for one, was someone too far out of her reach.

"He won't be the one to do that," Tiffany said and handed out a gold-colored card with both hands. "This is his card. Please help me return it to him, and tell him that I..."

"You do it yourself!" Avril scoffed. "He gave this to you, so you should return it to him with yourself. Don't ask me to do it on your behalf."

Unwilling to face her brother, she denied Tiffany's request before she could even finish her sentence.

Meanwhile, she couldn't help but feel that there's something special about this woman. Her looks weren't extraordinary, yet she seemed to be emitting this faint glow, like a little spark of light that shone gently in the midst of darkness. Somehow, her character and the way she carried herself would make anyone with her feel secured. This woman seemed like a considerable option for Levant despite the difference in status.

Tiffany's hands froze in the midair for a second. Then, she withdrew them slowly, awkwardly.

She took a last glance at this odd woman who questioned her in the beginning, then turned around and proceeded towards Levant's room.

Avril walked on. She thought she should investigate this woman called Tiffany.

If this woman's true character turned out to be like she seemed, she would figure something out to matchmake Levant with her. It'd be better than seeing him so bullheadedly fixated on Nicole. Thus, she decided to intervene a little as his older sister.

Knock! knock!

Tiffany had waited for almost two minutes before the door swung open.

"What is it?" Levant asked plainly when he saw her standing at the door.

She held out the card. "I'm here to return this to you. I'll transfer a partial payment every month along with interest, until all that I've owed you is settled."

"There's no need for you to pay any interest."

"I know you're not in need of money," she answered firmly. "But I won't have peace if I were to just receive your help without giving anything in return. So please, accept this from me."

Somewhat puzzled, he nodded after a second. "It is up to you then. Is there anything else I can help with?"

Tiffany rubbed her fingers together hesitantly. With a deep breath, she mustered her courage. "You'll eventually find someone better one day, someone who likes you!" she blurted and then left right away.

Levant stood blankly for a moment. His lips then curved up into a wry smile. There was no way he would ever have feelings for another woman again besides Nicole Lane.

With a thud, he swung his door shut once again.

Avril had been secretly watching from behind a corner. Now, she was confused.

That's it? She turned away just like that, and he closed the door just like that too? They've only talked so little! Are things really that simple between them?

"Does he really not have any feelings for this woman at all? Was he really just helping her out of pure goodwill? That's impossible," she mumbled to herself as she walked back to her room.

Somehow, she couldn't help but wish for something more interesting to happen between the two of them.

Meanwhile, at the Imperial Garden.

It was dinner time again. Nicole glanced at Nina and Kyle, then began stabbing around on her dishes with the same needle she had used.

"Now that Maya's not around, Mommy can finally do this again," she let out a sigh of relief. "You both can start eating once Mommy checked through all the food."

"Mommy, give me a needle too. I'll help you with the poking," Nina said thoughtfully.

"Alright, just be careful."

Kyle stared at the dishes in front of him, each and every piece covered in tiny holes as his mother and sister continued stabbing. His appetite had gone.

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"Mommy, I'm done eating. I'll head to my room now."

"What? You didn't even eat much. I have poked these cookies with my needle earlier. There's no problem with them so you should eat some more."

"I'm really full, Mommy. I still have homework to do." With that said, he quickly ran upstairs.

Nicole felt that he was becoming more and more like Evan as she watched him go. Maybe it's because Evan raised him. That's why their behaviors are so similar.

"Nina, do you think Kyle's looks and personality would be exactly like Daddy when he grows up?"

"No. Kyle is Kyle while Daddy is Daddy. They will only be similar but never the same."

Nina's words made sense to her. "It's great if he doesn't become like Daddy. Your Daddy is..."

"What's wrong with me?"

Evan had just gotten to the dining area when he heard her chastising him. He couldn't help but interrupt her.

Nicole was stumped for words. As her eyes darted around the room, an unnatural smile appeared on her lips and she tried to brush it off by saying, "I was saying how impressive you are. And it must be hard on you. It'll be difficult if Kyle grows up to be just like you."

He was rendered speechless at that.

Is that what she meant?

I don't think so though.

At the sight of her father's furrowed brows and the obvious guilt on her mother's face, Nina quickly changed the topic.

"Have some cookies, Daddy. Mommy poked these with her needle herself."

"....."

He didn't understand what she meant by 'poked these with a needle herself' at first but finally understood when he saw the needle in Nicole's hand.

Why is she poking the cookies with it?

"Are you using these to practice acupuncture?"

“No. The doctor said I have to pay attention to the food I eat. He thinks that my hallucinations might be caused by something I ate or something I touched.”

Evan said nothing as he furrowed his brows.

If it's because of food, she wouldn't be able to find anything by doing this but she'll definitely alarm the other party.

It seems like I have to investigate thoroughly now.

He remained silent as he took his spoon and began eating.

Beside him, both Nina and Nicole were having a little too much fun as each of them poked a plate of food with their needles.

Eggs that looked rather normal had countless prick marks on them and Evan lost his appetite at the sight of it. But when he thought of what Nina said earlier, he forced himself to continue eating.

He went back to his bedroom after dinner. He then got into bed after his shower but before he fell asleep, Nicole sat up abruptly and stared at him.

The look in her eyes made him feel inexplicably strange.

“What's wrong?”

Nicole shook her head but her face was pale and she had a look of forbearance.

Evan knew that something was off and he suddenly realized that she might be hallucinating again.

“What's wrong, Nicole? What did you see?”

Her eyes were still fixated on his handsome face as she pointed at a few spots on his face.

“There's lipstick here, here, and here.”

Evan froze. I've just showered. How could there be lipstick on me?

“Evan Seet, why are you covered in lipstick marks, Evan?”

Nicole spoke with such conviction it was as if she could actually see them.

She must be seeing things again. He quickly took her in his arms and said gently, “Go to sleep, Nicole. Nothing will be here anymore once you wake up.”

The woman instantly pushed him away. “Evan, how dare you hug me when you were kissed by another woman?”

Evan became alert upon seeing her furious look.

She’s having hallucinations again. She sounds so certain as if she could really see the lipstick marks.

“Why are you looking at me? You must be thinking that I’m ugly now that my face is injured. That’s why you are fooling around, aren’t you? Then when you are done with that woman, you came back with all these hickeys on purpose. Are you trying to show it off to me? How can you do this, Evan?”

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Disappointment was written all over Nicole’s face and her eyes were misty. Evan was absolutely heartbroken seeing her in this state so he reassured, “That’s not real, Nicole. What you’re seeing now is just a hallucination. It’s not real.”

“Hallucination?”

She felt dizzy and her head was throbbing slightly. Nicole didn’t dare to think much about it. As she furrowed her brows and studied Evan, she could still clearly see the hickeys, each one of them glaring at her. She closed her eyes and opened them again but was still able to see them.

"I can see them, Evan! Who did this to you? What was the woman trying to do to you? Tell me!"

"Believe me, Nicole. You're really hallucinating. You-"

A mocking smile appeared on her lips as she spoke, "You're telling me I'm hallucinating?"

"Yes," he answered loudly.

Nicole reached out and gave him a slap across his face. "Does it hurt?"

She slapped Evan with so much force he felt as though his face was burning.

"Of course it hurts. You hit me so hard."

"It hurts? Didn't you say I'm hallucinating? Since I'm hallucinating, all this should be fake. So why would it hurt?"

He couldn't believe that Nicole could still argue this well even when she was hallucinating.

"You hitting me isn't a hallucination but those hickeys you're seeing are not there."

"The hickeys are not real?"

She reached out and pinched Evan's face. "You look like you've been gnawed on by a dog here, here, and here. I can see it so clearly. How can this be a hallucination? I wasn't hallucinating when I hit you but I am seen these hickeys? Evan, do you think I'm foolish enough to believe you?"

"....."

He didn't know how else to explain it to her.

However, Nicole became even more furious when Evan wasn't talking. She started hitting and punching him as if she had gone crazy.

Evan didn't expect her to act like this and noticed that her punches were very strong.

He kept his arms around her and tried to make her stop moving but Nicole struggled with all her might.

However, she started to cry when she couldn't break free even after struggling for a while.

"How dare you mess around with other women behind me, Evan? How can you do this to me? I want to break up with you!"

Evan kept silent as he knew that Nicole wasn't in the right state of mind right now so it was pointless to explain further. He couldn't be bothered to explain too.

He just hoped that she would become clearheaded soon.

She cried for a while with Evan consoling her before she finally fell asleep.

Only then did he feel relieved.

Would the beating Nicole gave me earlier leave bruises?

He got up and went to the dressing table. A puzzled look appeared on Evan's face when he saw himself in the mirror.

Was she the one who caused this bruise?

It happened to be on my face too. And it's at the most conspicuous spot. I have to give her credit for picking such a great spot.

He quickly looked for medicine and applied it, hoping that it would go away by tomorrow.

Nicole talked in her sleep again in the middle of the night and Evan hugged her tightly and coaxed her back to sleep patiently.

The next day, she woke up at dawn for the first time, much to her surprise.

She rubbed her tired eyes before turning to look at Evan who was still sleeping soundly. The corners of her lips slowly tilted upwards as she studied his sleeping face.

He always got up earlier than her. However, she had unexpectedly woken up so early in the morning today.

A frown appeared on her face after staring at him for a moment.

What happened to his face?

She reached out and touched the bruise on his face. He must've accidentally bumped into something.

My face is injured and now his face is bruised. We really are a couple after all.

Evan saw Nicole staring at him the moment he woke up and he felt uneasy all of a sudden.

I hope she's not hallucinating again and start slapping or even punching me.

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He instantly grabbed hold of her wrists upon thinking about that.

Nicole furrowed her brows. "What are you doing with my hands?"

What am I doing?

I'm afraid that you would attack me all of a sudden!

Before Evan could answer, she added, "Why is your face bruised? Did you bump into something?"

"....."

He had a bad feeling about this when he saw the innocent look on Nicole's face.

She could always remember what she did when she was hallucinating previously.

Why can't she remember anything now?

"Nicole, can't you remember what happened last night?"

She frowned as she tried to recall what happened. "I came to the bedroom and slept after dinner last night. What happened?"

Evan kept silent at that.

She really can't remember anything!

Nicole would hallucinate from time to time but wouldn't remember anything after that. It was just like a dangerous character hidden within her, who would lose control at any time. Once that character was gone, she would go back to normal but she wouldn't be able to remember anything she did previously. It was as if this hidden character had nothing to do with her at all.

Evan's heart pounded and he was starting to get worried.

"What's wrong, Evan? What happened last night?"

He didn't answer her since he didn't want her to know what really happened last night.

If she knows that she'd have hallucinations but not remember anything after that, she would be all worried and upset. This would do her no good.

"You had a dream last night, Nicole. You said you wanted to go to the company with me and you didn't want to be separated from me. Do you remember that?"

"I said that?"

Of course she didn't. The only reason Evan said that was because he was worried that she would start having hallucinations again and get into an accident. That was why he wanted her by his side at all times.

Nicole pondered over it for a moment but couldn't remember anything.

"I can't remember what I said in my dreams. You can't take what I said while sleeping so seriously."

"Well, I took it seriously so you have to go to the company with me. I don't want to be separated from you for even a minute."

She was rendered speechless.

Since when has Evan become so clingy?

Nicole said while she stared at the serious look he had. "I didn't say that in my dreams, did I? You're just saying that so I would follow you to the company, right? Why do you want me to go?"

"Because I don't want to be separated from you," he replied with a slight smile.

She could tell that he was just making up a random excuse to brush her off. After thinking about it for a moment, a look of realization appeared on her face as she looked at Evan.

"You're afraid that Levant would come see me and you don't want us to meet, right?"

Confusion flashed across his eyes as he had never expected her to think of something like this.

But this is a good excuse I can use.

Without any hesitation, he nodded and praised Nicole for being so smart.

The woman smiled in delight. Then, she pointed at the very obvious bruise on his face. "What on earth happened? Did someone hit you? Who dared to hit the great Mr. Seet?"

Who else would it be beside you!

Evan stared at her and was about to make up an excuse but Nicole suddenly asked, "Was it me? Did I move around too much when I was sleeping and hit you accidentally?"

He nodded in response.

"Was it really me?" I'd only made a wild guess. Who knew I actually got it correct?

"Who else would hit me other than you?"

Err...

Nicole was overwhelmed by guilt since she was the one who hit him. That was why she didn't argue or refuse to follow Evan to the company.

Before breakfast, she purposely called Nina into the room so that she could put on some makeup on her father's face to hide the bruise.

The girl looked at his face in surprise and asked, "Daddy, you were still fine when you went to bed yesterday. How did you get hurt after a night's sleep?"

Nicole was sure that the bruise on Evan's face was her doing now that she heard Nina's question.