

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 781

As she had lost herself in the process of her thoughts, Evan had her pinned to the bed, rendering her incapable of motion.

Nicole replied with a sheepish grin in a thick-skinned manner, "Truthfully, it is possible! You don't have to verify it at all!"

"Really? If that's the case, we shouldn't delay it any longer than we have!"

"No! Not now, Evan!" Nicole was afraid that their children would knock on their door since they were in the house.

"What? Why not?" Evan ripped her clothes off with all of his might, causing the buttons on her clothes to scatter all around them.

Nicole was baffled because Evan seemed to be determined to get the things that he had in his mind.

Her eyes gleamed. She thought of something and yelled, "Evan, I'm hungry!"

"I'll make you your favorite dish once we're done. Just play along with me for the time being."

Nevertheless, Nicole refused to give up. She came up with an excuse again as she complained, "Evan, I'm exhausted and my body is aching!"

"You don't have to do anything! Just stay still and I'll have everything under control!"

Nicole was at a loss for words.

You're a rather shameless man, Evan!

As she refused to give in to his request, Evan smirked and ran his fingers across her porcelain-like cheeks. "You should stay still and stop retaliating. Otherwise, don't blame me when you come to discover what's in store for you!"

Nicole was speechless because she knew that it would be futile to retaliate against him. Since she had been rendered defenseless by the man, she decided to close her eyes and enjoy their session together.

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Half an hour later, they heard someone shrieking hysterically.

Instantly, Nicole sat upright and exclaimed, "It's Nina! What's wrong with Nina?"

Consecutively, she heard her daughter yelling, "Juan, you have ruined the make-up that I have been putting on the mannequin! I'll fight you to death!"

"Nina, I'm your brother! Are you really going to fight with me over a mannequin? Can you please return to your senses?"

"The mannequin is far more important than you! Even though you're my brother, you're not supposed to get your hands on it! I'll try my best to avenge my mannequin!"

Nina was determined to get her revenge. Therefore, she had gone after her brother as she had prewarned.

They ran up and down, wreaking havoc upon everything that they had passed upon.

Maya showed up and stood in Nina's way. She tried to talk some sense into her sister, yet Nina reprimanded her, "Are you going to help Juan or me?"

"I-I..."

Maya could never get her way around Nina. Truthfully, rather than taking sides, she had wanted them to make peace with one another.

Since Maya had remained silent, Nina pushed her sister away and bellowed, "If you're not going to help me, stay out of my way!"

Consequently, the chubby little girl fell onto the couch. Sighing, Maya muttered to herself, “Nina should learn how to behave herself! Since I can’t seem to talk any sense into her, I’ll just let them remain as they are. As Juan has been practicing his Taekwondo as of late, Nina can’t possibly defeat him.”

To her surprise, as soon as she finished her sentence, she heard Juan shrieking, “O-Ouch! I-It hurts!”

Maya sprang up and jumped off the couch immediately. She headed over to check on their conditions and noticed that Nina had managed to beat Juan up.

Her jaw dropped open because she couldn’t believe that her sister possessed the capability of outmatching her brother in terms of combat. Juan has been practicing Taekwondo! How did Nina manage to defeat him?

Staring at her chubby fists, she began to think that the “Maya Punch”, the one that her father had taught her, the one that she had been taking pride in, wouldn’t allow her to defend herself against Nina anymore. Thus, she was determined to come up with something new.

“Nina, I’m allowing you to beat me up to vent out your anger, but you shouldn’t go overboard!”

Juan took hold of the toy that Nina had been using to beat him up with all of his might, breaking it in half.

Nina panted as she pointed at Juan, warning him to express her frustration, “You’d better stay put until I return with another thing to beat you up!”

“If you continue to beat me up, I shall stop myself from holding back against you!”

Nina gritted her teeth and warned, “Don’t you dare!”

“Try me!” Juan held his head high, assuring his sister that it wasn’t a joke.

“We shall see!”

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Meanwhile, Evan and Nicole, who were in the bedroom, overheard the commotion and the contents of the conversation that their children had. They tried to work something out to prevent a similar situation from arising again in the future.

Nicole thought about it as she soon came to a conclusion, saying, "It's normal for them to get into a conflict every now and then. Let's just turn a blind eye to it and pretend that it's not a big deal. I'm pretty sure that they'll patch things up before going to bed."

"Seriously? We're their parents. How can we allow them to engage in endless rounds of fights?" Evan asked in a serious manner.

"What should we do to resolve it once and for all then?"

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It was a genuine question because Nicole had tried several things in the past. Unfortunately, her efforts were to no avail. Therefore, she couldn't wait to figure out the things that Evan had in mind.

In the end, Evan, who was in a set of pajamas, brought himself out of the bedroom in an intimidating manner. Five minutes later, he returned to the bedroom and behaved as though he had everything under control.

Nicole was shocked because she thought that he had sorted out the conflict between their children. However, when she was about to question him, she heard the voice of Nina and Juan. They had resumed in their fighting next door.

"Juan, stop running and take me on like a man!"

"Nina, I have never once beaten a girl up! Stop challenging my limits! Otherwise, you'll have to bear the consequences of your actions!"

Immediately after he warned his sister, he yelled, “H-Hey, Nina! Stop beating me! Are you sure that you’re my sister?”

“Nope! I’m pretty sure that I’m not, as of now!” Nina answered her brother’s query without a second thought.

“Fine! I’ll stop holding back against you as well!”

“Arghhhh!”

Squinting her eyes, Nicole cast a skeptical gaze at Evan.

He replied nonchalantly, “We’ll confine them to a room and we’ll get them to sort things out as soon as possible.”

Nicole was stunned.

Initially, she thought that he had headed out to be the mediator amongst the conflicting parties. It turned out that he had gotten them to start another round of intense fighting.

He’s their father, isn’t he?

Nicole rolled her eyes and brought herself out of the bedroom once she put on her clothes. She rushed over next door. Barging her way into the room, she noticed that there were scratch marks all over Juan’s arms.

Taking in Nina’s unkempt hair, Nicole was certain that her children had gone through another round of intense fighting.

“Are the both of you alright?”

“Mommy! Daddy has such a great idea! At long last, I have finally avenged my mannequin!”

Nina snorted scornfully and made her way back to her room with an arrogant look on her face.

Juan, who had been scratched on his arm, started sighing and explained himself, “I shall never lay a finger on a girl! Mommy, I didn’t beat her! I’d merely pulled her hair! It didn’t even hurt!”

Appearing out of nowhere, Evan replied, "Do you really think that it makes any difference when you have gone after her hair? Nina has always prioritized her looks over everything else."

Juan started to complain upon spotting his father's presence. "Daddy, you're biased! It's all your fault! You have deceived me! I shouldn't have let my guard down and followed you into the room! The only surprise that was in the room was an unpleasant one!"

After surveying the surroundings of the room for some time, Evan gathered his children around and warned them, "From today onwards, this room will be known as the combat room. If anyone wishes to resolve the conflict that they have with another person, they'll have to sort things out in the combat room. They'll be imprisoned to the room until they have everything sorted out."

Their children exchanged glances, remaining silent because they were confused; they were clueless about the things that their father was up to.

Juan muttered, "Daddy is trying to help Nina and Maya! We will never beat our sisters up for real! In short, the boys are the only ones who will get beaten up! Daddy is spoiling the girls in disguise!"

Meanwhile, Maya was thrilled yet concerned at the same time. She wanted to figure out who amongst her and her sister was the superior one, in terms of combat.

Nina shared the same thought. Staring at her chubby sister, she thought that Maya might not have been a match for her seeing that she was relatively skinny. In the end, she assured her father sincerely, "Daddy, I will never fight with Maya!"

Her sister felt as though a boulder had been lifted off her shoulders. Nina certainly seemed to be her great and loving sister.

"That's it for today. All of you are dismissed."

Looking at their children's departing figures as they made their way back to their room, Nicole noticed that Evan was overly biased toward their daughters.

Kyle and Juan had always taken great care of Nina and Maya. They were afraid they would accidentally hurt their beloved sisters. Therefore, they ended up being the ones who would possibly get beaten to a pulp.

“Let’s go, Maya!” Nina announced and snorted contemptuously before making her way back to her room with her sister arrogantly.

Juan moved aside and stayed out of their way in a humble manner.

Maya was overjoyed; it was written all over her face as she had never experienced being the superior one amongst her siblings.

Juan and Kyle stared at one another in the eyes and turned around, casting a skeptical gaze at their father.

In the end, they let out a long sigh as they finally realized that they had been living in a matriarch’s household.

The next day, Nicole made her way back to Lane Corporation after she dropped the children off at the school.

She reached for her phone as she received a call.

Taking a peek, she noticed that it was a call from Levant.

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“Nothing good has ever come from him.”

Murmuring to herself, she hung up the call without any hesitation because she didn’t want Levant to get in the way of her blissful life anymore.

Initially, she thought that he would call her again, but to her surprise, she didn’t receive any calls from him anymore. Nicole was shocked because Levant had behaved rather differently from what she had expected.

As soon as she reached her office, her assistant placed a mug of coffee and a stack of documents on her table. "Ms. Lane, here's an update of the progress of the company's latest projects."

"Alright."

Nicole started focusing intently on her work. She perused the report, page by page, and spent the entire morning working in her office.

In the afternoon, she received a call out of the blue. It was a call from the maid that had been serving her when she stayed in the estate at K Nation.

The moment she picked it up, she heard the voice of the anxious maid.

"Miss, Sir Musgrave is nowhere to be seen, after he had been invited to head over to Murphy's Wicked Palace last night. Lady Musgrave had sent someone to inquire about Sir Musgrave's whereabouts, but those from the palace have told us that he has long departed. He's nowhere to be found, and we can't reach him! Can you please make a trip back to ensure that everything's fine?"

He has gone missing since his visit to Murphy's Wicked Palace?

Nicole's heart skipped a beat as soon as she linked the missing puzzle pieces together. She turned the words of the maid in her mind and was certain that Murphy was the one behind everything. I'm pretty sure that he's still inside Murphy's Wicked Palace!

"Alright! Get in touch with me as soon as you receive any updates!"

"Yes!"

Leaning against her chair, Nicole's mind was all over the place. Suddenly, she remembered the earlier call that she had received from Levant a few hours prior to this.

Perhaps he didn't bother to call her again because he was certain that she would return his call and get in touch with him.

Is this all part of a bigger scheme?

Immediately, Nicole called Levant. Within a few seconds, her call was answered.

A man's voice could be heard, asking in a contemptuous manner, "Nicole, what brings you to have called me today?"

Nicole was about to bring up the incident that had occurred revolving around her father, but she changed her mind and asked, "I had received a call from you in the morning. Do you need anything from me?"

"Actually, there is something that I'd like to ask of you. May I have the pleasure of buying you dinner?"

She was taken aback by his suggestion that came out of the blue. Losing herself in the process of thought for a few seconds, she thought that it would be a great opportunity for her to inquire about her father's whereabouts over the meal. Thus, she decided to join him for a meal because she was concerned about her father's wellbeing.

"Sure. When and where are we heading over?"

"I'll see you at Amazon Hotel at seven o'clock in the evening."

"Alright."

After she hung up on him, she decided to call Evan. She wanted to inform him of the things that had occurred. However, she couldn't reach him because he hadn't picked up any of his calls. Therefore, she called John.

"Mrs. Seet, how may I help you?"

"John, where's Evan? Why didn't he pick up my call?"

"Mrs. Seet, Mr. Seet is currently in the middle of a board meeting because a few of the company's projects have encountered several issues. Perhaps his phone is in silent mode. Why don't you tell me about what you've called to ask him? I'll deliver the message on your behalf."

"What's wrong with the projects?"

Nicole found it odd because Evan would usually pick up her call in a timely manner. If it weren't due to emergencies that required his attention, he wouldn't have put his phone on silent mode.

"Mrs. Seet, the projects in K Nation have been brought to a halt. In fact, a few domestic projects have headed south as well. You may have to tolerate Mr. Seet because he could potentially have a foul mood later today."

Eventually, through John's explanation in a serious tone, Nicole figured out that Evan must have been having it tough due to the issues that he encountered at work.

"Alright. It's not a big deal. Please keep this conversation between us because I don't want to get in his way."

"Yes, Mrs. Seet."

Nicole let out a long sigh after she wrapped up the conversation. Since Evan had a lot of things on his plate, she decided to keep him in the dark for the time being.

After she got off of work, Nicole headed over to Amazon Hotel for a dinner with Levant.

As soon as she arrived at the hotel, she was informed that Levant had reached. He greeted her with a faint smile as she made her way into the reserved suite, "Nicole, welcome!"

Nicole took a seat across from Levant. She took a breather before asking, "Levant, may I know of the reason that you've asked me out for dinner?"

"I just wanted to buy you a meal," Levant replied in a casual manner.

"Is that it?" Nicole probed further; she thought that he had an ulterior motive.

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“What else could it be?”

Nicole gave it a thought and decided to bring up her father’s disappearance in front of Levant.

“I’ve heard that my father has gone missing after he’d made a trip over to Wicked Palace. May I know what’s going on?”

Levant giggled and queried in return, “Nicole! I’m afraid that the information that you’ve received isn’t complete! My father had asked your father over for a few glasses of drinks, but your father had long made his way back after that. He’s no longer in Wicked Palace. Why? Has he not made his way home yet?”

“Levant, are you sure that my father has left Wicked Palace? Why am I unable to reach him?”

Levant picked up the glass of wine that had been served and gulped it down within a few seconds. He ignored her question and directed another question at her. “Nicole, are you asking me for a favor to search for your father?”

Nicole was speechless at his words.

Stop with your acting! I’m pretty sure that my father is somewhere in Wicked Palace! It’s not a request because it’s a demand! I want you to send my father back immediately!

Nicole had her eyes glued to the man in front of her, casting a stern gaze at Levant.

Similarly, Levant was aware of the things that she would possibly have in mind.

Nevertheless, he couldn’t be bothered by it at all. Instead, he stated, “Nicole, I’ll be sure to help you! However, I think that we should keep this between us to ensure your father’s safety. Evan can’t be of much help since he has limited influence in K Nation. I’m afraid that something bad may happen to your father. Do you see where I’m coming from?”

What the heck? Is he threatening me with my father's safety to keep Evan in the dark? Is he going to put my father's safety at stake if I defy his words?

Coincidentally, she had no intention to get Evan involved because he had a lot of things on his plate as well. She didn't want to cause him any more trouble.

As she made her way over to the restaurant, she had made up her mind. Levant could have possibly abducted her father for the reason that he had wanted to have a meal with her. Thus, she could be sure that he wouldn't hurt him since her father had brought him up and had educated him, back in the day.

"Levant, although he's my father, he has brought you up and he's taken care of you over the past two decades. I hope that you won't go overboard."

Smirking, Levant served Nicole a glass of wine as he assured her, "Of course, Nicole! As long as we're on good terms, I'm sure that he'll be fine!"

As long as we're on good terms? Hell no! I don't even consider us friends! Since Dad has been taken into custody by him, I don't think that I should offend him. Rather, I'll play along with him for the time being and think of a way to save Dad.

"Nicole, why don't you give it a try? I have ordered your favorite dishes!"

The waiter served the dishes that he had ordered, but Nicole wasn't in the mood to savor them. She savored a serving of steak and noticed that it had tasted different. It wasn't as delicious as the ones that she had whenever she dined with Evan.

"What about this, Nicole?"

Levant served her all sorts of dishes enthusiastically. Nicole moved her plates away from him and told him, "I'll help myself to the dishes that I enjoy eating."

"O-Okay..."

Levant gave in to her request and allowed her to have it her way.

She could barely enjoy the delicacies that had been served. It felt as though she had been savoring dishes of stale food.

On the other hand, Evan, who had arrived home, noticed that Nicole was nowhere to be seen while their children were engaged in different things. He asked, "Have you guys had your meals yet? Where's Mommy?"

Juan, the busybody, uttered, "Yes, Daddy! Mommy has told us that she would be home late because she would be caught up by something!"

Instantly, Evan glanced at his watch. It was almost nine o'clock in the night. He couldn't fathom the things that could keep her in the office until such an odd hour.

Therefore, he reached for his phone and called Nicole.

"Where are you?"

"I had a meal with a friend of mine. Currently, I'm on my way home. I'm merely a short distance away from home."

"You should hang up and drive safe."

"Okay."

After hanging up the call, Nicole checked on the time. Since Evan had just called her, she was pretty sure that he had reached home merely a few minutes ago.

Judging by the extended period of time that Evan had spent in his office to have sorted things out, Nicole thought that he must have been caught up in a nasty situation.

All of a sudden, she recalled that John had told her that the projects in K Nation had encountered all sorts of issues and were brought to a halt.

Why? What's wrong with the projects in K Nation? Could it be Levant again? Is he the one behind the nasty situations that Seet Group has encountered?

She turned the idea in her mind, praying she had misperceived things.

As soon as she reached Imperial Garden, she parked the car and sprinted over to the living room.

“Which friend of yours have you dined with? Where did you head over to have your meal at?” Evan asked the moment she showed up in the living room.

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Nicole knew that Evan would want her to fill him in with the details. However, she couldn't tell him the truth since Levant had threatened her with her father's safety. Fortunately, she had come prepared.

“Lately, things have been great on my end. I have headed out for a meal with my assistant for a simple celebration. What about you? Why do you seem to be having a hard time lately? Is it because of your company?”

Evan nodded and denoted, “It's not a big deal. I have everything under control.”

Nicole was silent at this.

Liar!

Even though Nicole had seen right through his lie, she was conscious that it was a white lie because he was worried that she would be concerned. Hence, she decided to stop poking her nose into his business. “Where are the little ones?”

“They have tucked themselves in. You should head over and take a shower immediately. It's almost time for bed.”

“Sure.”

Nicole walked past Evan and headed upstairs, returning to their bedroom.

Staring at her departing figure, a sense of uncertainty flickered in his eyes; he was confused by the scent of tobacco on her dress. It didn't make any sense since she had merely dined with her assistant.

Albeit faintly, Evan, who had always been sensitive toward scents, could detect the scent of tobacco that was exclusive to a certain someone.

It must have been a coincidence, right? Stop overthinking things, Evan! She's the last person on Earth that you should suspect.

He chuckled and found that his thoughts were absurd.

Once he sorted out the things that he had in his mind, he brought himself upstairs and switched on his computer. Typing, he focused intently on his work.

Meanwhile, Nicole indulged herself in a hot bath. Trying to procure the aid of someone who would be familiar with the structure of Wicked Palace, she wanted someone to infiltrate the Palace and locate her father on her behalf.

Nevertheless, the only candidate that she could think of was herself. As she had stayed in Wicked Palace for some time back then, she was familiar with its structure. However, Levant would definitely take notice of the things that she was up to, the moment she made her trip to K Nation. If he took him somewhere else, it would be increasingly difficult to locate her father's whereabouts.

Soon, she reached for her phone and called the maid, urging her, "Tell Lady Musgrave that he's still in Wicked Palace. Get her to send someone who's familiar with the structure of the Palace to infiltrate the place and locate him."

"Lady Musgrave has already sent someone over to infiltrate the wicked palace. We'll get in touch with you as soon as we have any updates on the situation."

"Okay."

After she hung up the call, Nicole let out another long sigh. She was pretty sure that she was the reason that her father had been imprisoned in Wicked Palace.

Levant would never let her off the hook easily. She was afraid that it would take more than a few meals with him to save her father.

With that being said, there wasn't anything that she could do about it either. Therefore, she decided to take it one step at a time.

After taking her shower, she walked out of the bathroom, but Evan was nowhere to be seen in the room. She knew that he must have been spending his time in his study room again. Hence, she walked over to his study room immediately.

As she reached the study room, she heard that he was in the middle of a conversation through the phone.

Nicole kept silent.

"These projects are of utmost importance. If they go wrong, Seet Group will suffer huge losses."

"I knew it! Murphy was the one behind all the project issues in K Nation!"

Nicole couldn't believe her ears. She was right all along because it wasn't a mere coincidence.

Caught up in her train of thought once more, she couldn't figure out the reason that Levant had imprisoned her father and had made a move against Seet Group.

What on Earth does he want? Levant and Murphy are equally as nasty as each other! Can Evan handle the issues that his company has encountered?

She stole a peek at Evan and noticed that he was in the middle of something in a serious manner after hanging up the call. Thus, she decided not to get in his way as she strode her way back to the bedroom instead.

Feeling a strong sense of insecurity, she reached out for her phone and called Levant.

"Nicole, what brings you to call in the middle of the night?"

"Why are you picking on Evan and Seet Group?"

"Nicole, Evan is a competitor of mine. It's merely a fair competition. I'm not picking on anyone in particular."

“Levant, what are you up to in particular?”

“I’m afraid that I don’t understand what you’re talking about, Nicole.”

Damn it! Stop acting in front of me! I’ll be sure to reveal your true colors soon!

She decided to hang up because it would be impossible for her to get to the bottom of the entire issue if she had run it by him.

Lying on the bed, she tossed and turned due to the unsolved mysteries.

In the middle of the night, the drowsy woman, who had been sleeping soundly, was roused from her sleep the moment she detected a pair of gigantic arms around her waist.

Feeling the man’s sturdy chest, Nicole was aware that Evan had returned to their bedroom. She leaned against him and asked, “What time is it?”