

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 561

The three kids nodded at her solemnly.

Just then, Yoda brought Maya back. He did not enter the room nor did he spare a glance at Nicole.

Wearing a poker-faced expression, he handed Maya to her and left.

Nicole was hit by a pang of sadness in her heart when she saw him leaving.

She did not tell him the truth just because she wanted to perfect her acting. Also, she thought Yoda would be able to see through her acting when time passed.

It was not her intention to lie to him at all!

Perhaps, Yoda had lost some of his common sense as he was simply too worried about her. He totally believed she had really lost her mind because he trusted and cared about her too much.

Because of that, his anxiety and worry got the better of his logical sense.

Nicole muttered under her breath, "Are you too dumb to see through my acting or my acting skill is just too good?"

"Nicole, what did you just say?"

"Nothing."

With a bitter smile, Nicole carried Maya back to the room.

Back in his room, Yoda lay on the bed thinking about how Nicole had been pretending to be an idiot all this while.

The moment he saw how Nicole was reduced to a mere shadow of her old self, he was both shocked and heartbroken.

He found it hard to breathe as though his heart was being squeezed by an invisible large hand.

“Yes, you’ve successfully shown how great an actress you can be. But, how could you fool me, out of everyone else? Don’t you know that I’ve been worrying about you a lot?”

During the past few days, there was not a moment he had not tried to come up with ways to cure her condition.

Suddenly, he thought of a piece of advice he received some time before this – stay away from good-looking women because the more beautiful they were, the better a liar they were.

Seems like I have to remain rational whenever I deal with Nicole in the future.

She’s a good-looking woman and she’s also great liar.

The next morning, Maya heard a commotion from outside their room when she was about to go comb her hair.

Juan threw Nicole a curious glance. “Mommy, would you please check who’s that?”

Nicole took a peek at the corridor outside through the window. When she saw it was Daphne, she immediately reminded the kids. “The bad woman is here. Look, Mommy is going to act like an idiot again, so please remember not to blow my cover!”

It's the bad woman!

It's Daphne!

Ha! She's here at just the right time! Let's see how I'm going to teach her a lesson!

"Mommy, don't worry because we will protect you!"

Just then, Daphne walked into the room together with two maids. She glanced at Nicole who was staring blankly ahead on the bed, and then at the kids sitting around her.

"Early this morning I was told that Levant's brought several kids to stay here. Seems like the information is accurate then."

Are those kids related to Levant? Could they be the illegitimate children he has with Nicole?

"Who are you kids?" Looking disgusted, Daphne yelled at the kids impatiently.

Juan cast a contemptuous glance at her before introducing himself, "People who know me call me Satan."

Daphne shot him a supercilious glance in response. I'm sure this boy isn't Levant's kid because Levant won't have a child as frivolous as this boy!

She turned to Kyle instead. "What's your name?"

Maintaining an impassive face, Kyle glanced around and asked slyly, "Is anyone talking to me?"

Nina, whose arms were crossed in front of her chest in a smug manner, replied, "Nope. But I just heard a dog barking somewhere!"

“How dare you!” I can’t believe that rascal just referred to me as a dog!

She moved her eyes which were brimming with fury past the three kids and then landed on Maya. Blinking her eyes which sparkled like the stars, Maya looked harmless and adorable.

“Where are you from?”

Maya pondered over her question and answered with a wide grin, “From the plane.”

Daphne snorted impatiently. “I mean, where’s your home?”

“My home is at my hometown.” Maya stuck out her tongue and answered matter-of-factly.

Daphne was left speechless. Are these kids a bunch of idiots?

Daphne examined the kids thoroughly and came to the conclusion that there was something wrong with their minds.

“Are they your kids?” She turned around and aimed that question at Nicole.

Yet, Nicole pretended she did not understand her question by staring at the ceiling dazedly in silence.

As Daphne failed to get Nicole’s attention, she strode forward and got nearer to her.

“Hey, are they your kids?”

Nicole nodded at her, but quickly shook her head again and started giggling foolishly at her.

You wanna know the answer? What a shame, because I'm not telling you!

"Is Levant their father?"

Damn it. So, this is the reason why she came to visit so early in the morning. I can't believe she's having suspicion of me having kids with Levant before. Come on! All I can say is that she certainly has a very fertile imagination.

Nicole ignored her question. In a thick-witted manner, she started fiddling with her fingers and reciting random numbers.

"One, two, five, three..."

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Damn it, I can't tempt any answer out of both the adult and the children!

Infuriated, Daphne clenched her fists tightly, but there was nothing much she could do. She stormed off angrily after a while.

Watching her back as she marched out of their room, the kids felt overjoyed deep down inside

"That bad woman should count herself lucky that she left before we could do anything to her!"

"Exactly! I'll teach her a good lesson next time if the opportunity arises!"

“That’s enough. You guys should steer clear from her in the future, understand?”

As soon as Nicole said that, Sheila came to serve them breakfast.

“I saw someone walking out from here just now. Who’s that?”

“Daphne.”

Sheila’s eyes widened in response. Immediately, she whirled around trying to catch a few glimpses at the woman who was walking away. It was a shame that she missed the chance to meet Daphne in person.

“Ms. Sheila, we pissed her off so badly that she had no choice but leave. You should have seen how pale her face looked just now!”

“Really? You guys are amazing!”

“Hmph, this is just the beginning. If she tries to sabotage Mommy again, we won’t go easy on her next time!”

“You guys are great. Now, please line up and wash your hands before we dig in.”

After washing their hands, the kids sat down at the dining table looking joyous.

While munching on the food, Juan and Kyle started discussing how they should go about helping Mommy to look for her father.

...

In the meantime, Yoda’s eyes darkened with thoughts when he saw Daphne storming out of Nicole’s place furiously.

Finding out Daphne’s acupuncture master was the key to tracking down Nicole’s biological father.

Seems like I should start putting my focus on Daphne now.

If Nicole hadn't been pretending to be an idiot in front of me before this, I wouldn't have wasted so much time on looking for doctors! I could have begun the investigation on her father way earlier!

Instead of returning to her room, Daphne intended to see Levant and ask him about the kids.

She had witnessed with her own eyes how cocky those kids were and she was sure they didn't take her seriously at all. They must be Levant and Nicole's kids!

Otherwise, they won't dare to behave in such a presumptuous way!

Perhaps, he has even reassured them not to be afraid of anyone.

Her blood started boiling the more she dwelled on that thought.

Levant, there's no way I'll forgive you if you really have kids with another woman!

Indeed, you're good-looking and you have a very distinguished social status. However, I can't allow my man to have kids with another woman!

That's something I can never accept!

She rounded past a corner of the corridor at a hurried pace and walked right into someone.

As she was in a foul mood, she fumed, "Are you blind or are you tired of living?"

The person whom Daphne ran into kept his eyes downcast without uttering a word.

Annoyed by his silence, Daphne yelled at him, "Can't you hear me? Lift your head and show me your face now!"

As the man slowly lifted his head, Daphne was smitten by his face at once.

The skin of his face was fair and translucent, and his facial features were exquisite and well-defined. Beneath his long and curly eyelashes, his brooding eyes exuded a mysterious and alluring aura.

Before meeting this guy, Daphne had been very sure that Levant was the most charming and good-looking guy in the world. Never in her wildest dreams could she imagine meeting a guy who was even more handsome than Levant.

Judging from how the man was dressed, he seemed to be one of the bodyguards working at the estate.

“What’s your name?”

“I’m Hector Larrison.”

His voice was deep and manly.

“Hector Larrison?”

He doesn’t put his looks to good use at all by merely working as a bodyguard! Daphne was so mesmerized by his charm that she couldn’t take her eyes off him.

At first, she always thought she had an abhorrence for men of a lower social rank than her. It was only then she realized she only hated those guys because they did not have a beautiful face.

The man standing in front of her was so attractive that she could not make herself hate him at all.

Yet, a horrible thought popped up in her mind at that moment.

As Levant was not the biological son of Uncle Stephen and Aunt Portia, Aunt Portia had always wanted her to marry Levant and be the future duchess.

However, he had always been indifferent and cold to her. She had been trying to get closer to him for the past five years, but her effort was futile. In fact, she was getting impatient and tired of trying.

If only I could let this guy replace Levant...

With his good looks and his social status, he would be a perfect man if he treated her nicely. He would be a man so much better than Levant, whom she had to struggle hard to please.

“Ms. Ankins.”

The maids called her name in a soft voice to knock her out of her daze.

When she came back to her senses, she was taken aback by her own thoughts.

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How can I possibly fall in love with a man I just met?

Besides, Aunt Portia might not agree to let him replace Levant too.

She decided to walk away. Yet, she barely took a few steps forward before she turned around to glance at the bodyguard again.

“Ms. Ankins, what’s the matter?”

“I’m fine.”

“Should I get him tied up to receive punishment?”

“No, it’s not necessary!”

It was only then did Daphne continue her way to Levant’s room.

Levant was swamped with work at the moment, so he had no time to entertain her. Not taking her confrontation about the kids seriously, he only gave her a perfunctory reply before asking her to leave.

Unable to stand his indifferent attitude, Daphne snapped, "Levant, I suppose you understand it very well that I'm much more important to Aunt Portia than you, and I'm going to be your future wife. Are you sure you're going to continue giving me the cold shoulder?"

Levant's face fell as he went lost in thoughts. In fact, she's got some point there.

Lady Musgrave is my foster mother and she isn't related to me by blood. Perhaps, it's true that Daphne, her niece, does matter more to her.

But, so what if that's true?

It's up to Sir Musgrave to decide his successor.

Also, I know exactly who's on his mind.

The dukeship will be mine as long as I get to marry Nicole!

"Levant, answer me now!"

At that moment, Levant decided to make his stance clear to Daphne.

It would actually do her good too – the earlier he told her that he was going to pursue Nicole, the earlier Daphne could stop wasting her time on him.

"Daphne, I suppose it's no secret to you that I have no romantic feelings for you. In fact, I don't think we're suitable for each other."

I don't think we're suitable for each other.

That was the verdict Daphne received after five years of painstaking effort.

All at once, her mind was flooded with memories of how hard she used to try pleasing him and ingratiating with him.

She suddenly realized how sorry and cheap she had been in the past five years.

The pent-up frustration of not getting her love reciprocated had turned her into an aggressive and overbearing woman.

Seems like I'm nothing but a sickening presence to him now!

"Levant, remember what you just said to me! I hereby announce the death of my old self because I won't ever try to please you so hard again in the future!"

After the angry outburst, she turned around and stormed off.

Watching her back as she went, Levant's eyes were tinged with desolation and resignation.

A relationship can't be forced. I can't make myself love you, but I really hope you find a man who can.

At the same time, Daphne ran back to her room as fast as she could.

Once she was inside, she banged the door shut and yelled at the maids standing outside, "No one is to come inside! Just leave me alone!"

The maids exchanged wary glances as they stood by the door obediently.

One step at a time, she made her way to the dressing table. She reached out to touch her own reflection in the mirror and found that she could hardly recognize herself anymore.

Ever since the first day she moved into the estate, Aunt Portia had told her she was the future duchess. Her life had since been confined to Levant from that day.

She had wasted five years of her youth working her way toward becoming the future duchess and trying hard to please him, the future duke. Have I been doing the right thing?

Is the thing I've been working for so far what I actually want?

Her eyes darkened as she wiped away the tears that started streaming down her face.

I want to be the future duchess! But as to Levant...

There's really nothing much I can do to change how he feels about me.

Perhaps, it's time I make some changes to my plan!

...

In the meantime, Evan was putting on a terrifying-looking human skin mask which could transform him into Yoda.

John's heart was pounding hard as he witnessed the entire process.

It was thrilling to watch how a person could look so completely different thanks to a human skin mask.

"Mr. Seet, why are you in disguise?"

"It's because the person who tried to murder me has yet to pay the price for his sin!" The menace in Yoda's eyes was intense.

John stared at him wide-eyed in consternation. "Mr. Seet, are you saying that the plane crash was planned? I knew it! Plane crashes generally don't just happen for no reason at all and I knew you wouldn't be that unlucky! Do you know who's behind it?"

Yoda nodded.

"Who's it?" John pressed on.

"It's Mr. Levant from the Musgrave family!"

"What? Why did he want to kill you? If that's the case, aren't you staying in the villain's lair now?"

Finally, John realized the reason why Evan needed to go around in disguise.

That was because he needed to avoid being discovered by Levant!

“I haven’t gotten to the reason why he did that. So now, I’m going to leave it to you.”

John went speechless in response.

Mr. Seet, don’t you think you’re overestimating my intelligence? How can I possibly find out anything when even you yourself are stuck?

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Yoda could sense John’s hesitation. “Have you been affected by Davin’s attitude after working for him for too long a time?”

At the mention of Davin, John steeled himself to list down all Davin’s mistakes and unethical actions to Evan.

At last, he came to a conclusion. “Mr. Seet, there are people who’ve been eyeing to usurp the control of Seet Group recently. Although Mr. Davin has improved a lot to become a better businessman, I’m afraid he still isn’t shrewd enough to fend off the threats.”

“I’ll go back and deal with them after I finish settling my stuff here. In the meantime, this is a good chance for Davin to gain some experience too.”

John did not respond to what he said.

I’m sure Mr. Seet’s return is going to frighten them out of their wits!

But before that can happen, I'm worried that Mr. Davin will be reduced to a battered soul having to deal with the villains.

“By the way Mr. Seet, you revealed your face to Daphne just now. Won't you be worried that...”

“I did that just to make sure she remembers me as the bodyguard of the estate. That identity is going to help in a lot of ways.”

John immediately looked enlightened. “Oh, I see. I thought you were trying to seduce Daphne just now!”

Evan whirled around and sized John up suspiciously.

Has John been learning all the wrong stuff from Davin?

Did he actually hear how ridiculous he sounds?

A girl like Daphne clearly isn't worth my effort to do something like that!

Just then, Juan and Kyle were making their way to Yoda's room as they thought of trying to collect more clues on Nicole's father from him. When they reached his room, they happened to catch John saying the last sentence.

Juan furrowed his brows in displeasure. “Did John just say that Daddy is trying to seduce the bad woman?”

Kyle nodded at him. “I heard the same thing too.”

Nina and Maya, who had been trailing behind the boys, heard what they said too.

When they were back to their room, Maya approached Nicole to ask about what she heard. “Mommy, what does it mean when someone tries to seduce the other person?”

Nicole looked at the chubby girl who was blinking her innocent eyes at her. *Why is a little girl like her curious about stuff like that?*

How should I phrase it so that she can understand my explanation?

After some contemplation, Nicole's eyes glimmered with inspiration. Then, she crouched down next to the little girl to answer her question.

"That's what a boy does when he wants to fool a girl into doing bad things. So, if you meet a boy who does that to you, you have to stay away from him, okay?"

I can't believe I actually have to start worrying about my daughters meeting jerks when they are still at such a tender age. Oh, parenting is so hard!

Maya, who did not look like she fully understood Nicole's explanation, muttered to herself, "Oh, so does it mean that Daddy is trying to fool the bad woman into doing bad things?"

Daddy?

Nicole managed to capture the most crucial piece of information and she immediately probed Maya about it, "Daddy? What has this got to do with Daddy?"

Staring at her with her huge sparkling eyes, Maya told Nicole in a solemn tone, "Daddy has got everything to do with this because he's going to seduce Daphne."

Nicole eyed Maya disbelievingly. "How did you find out about that?"

"The four of us overheard that when Uncle Lindt was talking to Daddy in his room with the door closed!"

Nicole was rendered speechless.

How Maya described it made John and Evan sound like perverts who were up to no good.

After hearing what Maya said, Nicole's face grew increasingly sullen and her fists were clenched tighter. *Seems like Evan has another facet to his personality which I have no knowledge of. It's about time I make some effort to look into it. If Evan is really doing the thing Maya just said...*

She gritted her teeth resentfully and her knuckles cracked as her fists were clenched tightly.

"Maya, Mommy is going to assign a very important task to you. Do you think you can handle it?"

Seeing how serious Mommy sounded, Maya nodded as she felt honored to be given the task.

“I can. Mommy, what do I have to do?”

“Can you help me keep an eye on Daddy when I’m not around?”

Maya was slightly taken aback to hear that as tasks like that were usually done by Juan before this. *Am I capable of doing it? I can't run fast with my chubby and short legs.*

“Mommy, why don’t you let Juan do it? He can run faster than the bunnies.”

Indeed, Juan could move faster and was better suited to the task. However, he was also sharp enough to know that he would be betraying his Daddy by carrying out the task. Thus, Nicole felt safer to assign the task to Maya, who was less scheming and honest.

“Mommy, I can help you with that!” Just then, Nina approached Nicole and volunteered to take on the task.

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Seeing how keen Nina was on doing the task, Maya immediately agreed to do it too. “Mommy, I’ll do it together with Nina.”

Nicole was touched by the sweet gesture of her daughters.

“Great! Mommy will assign this important and glorious task to the two of you then!”

Maya took it very seriously as that was the first time she had been assigned such a significant task by Nicole. Without further ado, she immediately went to look for Yoda and start spying on him.

At first, Nicole intended to go with the girls so that she could react as soon as they found anything fishy.

Yet, one of Levant's underlings came and told her to meet him as he had something important to discuss with her. In response, Nicole let out a sigh in resignation.

Maya and Nina stared at her with determination shone in their eyes. "Mommy, we can handle this on our own!"

"Please be careful and just call me if there's any issue."

"Don't worry about us, Mommy!"

After Nicole were off to Levant's room, Nina and Maya went into action right away.

Maya started tiptoeing her way to Yoda's room in a surreptitious manner.

Seeing how sneaky she looked, Nina strode off to keep up with her and grabbed her shoulder.

Her touch took Maya by surprise. Frightened, Maya whirled around and glared at her. "What're you doing?"

Nina is such a troublemaker. Why is she disturbing me when I have to hurry up to go spy on Daddy!

"How you behave is going to expose our mission! Daddy will surely get suspicious if he sees you like this!"

Maya was left stumped.

Eh?

Fiddling with her chubby fingers, Maya started seeing sense in what Nina just said.

“Follow me,” Nina ordered.

One after another, the two girls made their way to Yoda’s room excitedly.

When they finally arrived at their destination, Nina gestured at Maya for her to keep quiet. Then, they squatted down and pressed their ears against the door.

Coincidentally, John happened to be having a discussion with Yoda on how to make Yoda be the hero who saved Daphne, the damsel in distress.

“If someone who saved her life happens to be in need of an acupuncture treatment, do you think she would seek help from her acupuncture master?”

John pondered over the question before answering, “Generally speaking, all normal people wouldn’t hesitate to do that. However, can we judge someone like Daphne by the standard of normal people?”

Yoda flashed him a sly smirk. “I bet she’s just as emotional as all human beings. As long as we make sure everything looks real enough, I’m sure she would feel the urge to approach her master.”

Seems like we have to hope that she still has a shred of conscience in her, and she’s a person who knows how to appreciate someone else’s kindness then.

But...

John eyed Yoda worryingly. “Mr. Seet, what if gratitude is not the only thing she develops for you? What if she ends up lusting after you too?”

After all, there were many ladies out there who were swooning over Evan’s good looks.

In fact, those girls were not to be blame for falling in love with him as very few girls in the world could resist the attraction of his flawless and handsome face.

Evan did not take what John said seriously.

In Daphne’s impression, he was only a bodyguard of the estate. For a gold digger like her, what she yearned for was the position of the duchess and Levant was the man she needed in order

to get what she wanted. How would she be interested in a humble and nameless bodyguard like him?

Yoda looked up at John and said, "You're overthinking."

John kept his eyes downcast, hoping that his concern was really unnecessary.

If Daphne really ended up falling in love with Evan, he would have a hard time trying to explain it to Nicole.

"Mr. Seet, when should we carry out the plan then?"

"We should do it at night, with less people watching us. The fewer the people who gets to see my face, the better."

After completing this mission, he would continue to appear as Yoda, who was Nicole's bodyguard.

"I'll do the preparation now!"

Hearing that John was about to leave the room, Nina immediately dragged Maya away to a stone table behind which they crouched down and hid.

They watched John leaving the room and walking further away. Then, they started a discussion in whispers.

"What did you hear just now?" Nina asked Maya.

Blinking her large eyes, Maya tried hard to recall their conversation. However, she only managed to catch a few snatches of their conversation as it contained too many information which sounded too convoluted for her comprehension.

"I heard they mentioned Daphne and something about being emotional. Also, they talked about appreciating kindness and lust."

Nina widened her eyes in surprise, quite impressed by Maya's memory.

“What did you hear then?” Maya threw the question back at her.

Nina took some time to sort out the information she managed to collect. Together with the information Maya contributed, she formed a conclusion.

“I heard them saying that there was something wrong with Daphne. So, Daddy and John agreed to put on an act in front of her to make her appreciate Daddy’s help and lust after him. Also, John said he was going to make the arrangement so that Daddy could meet her at night without wearing the mask.”