

# Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

## Chapter 576

“Shut it!” Before Daphne could continue her inflammatory harangue, Portia slammed the table and lashed out at her.

Daphne jumped at her sudden reaction and feigned a frightened tone. “Aunt Portia, I’m sorry, please don’t be mad. I just feel everything is so unfair for you. I really don’t see why Uncle Stephen is so defensive of that woman and her kids. You deserve so much better...” Her voice trailed off softly as a subtle smirk played across her serpentine lips.

Although Daphne did not know why her uncle would go to great lengths to defend them, still, she managed to take advantage of the situation and provoked Portia.

Stephen and Portia’s relationship were not close, to begin with. Although he had been respectful in all ways, there was no affection in their marriage life.

Now that he was giving her the cold shoulder all over again, it sure reminded the duchess of the time he fell in love with someone else years back.

A vortex of bottomless sadness and hatred spiraled in Portia’s eyes as she recalled what happened a long, long time ago.

There was this one woman in Stephen’s life that had always been a threat to her.

Back then, if Stephen and her parents had not done everything they could to stop Stephen, that woman would have well been the duchess by now.

Although so many years had passed since then, what happened remained traumatizing to her—and she would never allow what almost happened twenty years ago to happen again.

Thinking of it, the duchess gestured a servant to come over. “Make sure you keep an eye on Sir Musgrave. Report to me immediately if you find out anything,” she ordered.

“Yes, Lady Musgrave,” the servant replied.

Daphne lowered her face and shadow covered her face. Now that Aunt Portia is finally taking action, Nicole and the children will be out of the house in no time.

But who cares about them? Hector is the only person I want by my side.

She shifted her scheming gaze and looked at the duchess. "Aunt Portia, who's in charge of the new bodyguard?"

"Why? Did he offend you by chance?" Portia asked.

"Not really. I think they've been doing a pretty good job," she replied.

Portia widened her eyes as she heard her answer. It was surprising that Daphne would actually compliment the bodyguards.

"Jacob is in charge of the bodyguards," Portia told her.

That means I can get all the information I need about Hector from Jacob.

But Daphne was still trying to figure out why Hector had not come to her. It's either he's shy or he's concerned about our difference in status. Well, I guess I have to be the one to take the initiative.

Daphne had pursued Levant for a good five years. Over the years, she had learned to be more proactive when it came to love. Hence, showing Hector that she loved him would not be a problem at all.

After taking leave, Daphne set out to look for Jacob to ask about Hector. But to her dismay, she did not manage to get anything about him.

"What? Are you sure you have no records of him? I've seen him in the estate a few times! Why not you check it again?" she questioned Jacob.

"Ms. Ankings, I have all the bodyguards' information with me here. I'm a hundred percent sure there's no one with the name Hector. You can take a look if you don't believe me," he said, handing her a pile of documents.

Daphne took it over and started poring over every single piece of information.

“I can’t believe it! He clearly told me his name is Hector!”

The butler stood silent for a moment before finally asking, “Is that his real name?”

Daphne chewed on his question and nodded slightly.

She started describing Hector’s height and facial features and asked Jacob to summon all the bodyguards that fitted her description.

But Jacob smiled helplessly and scratched his head in frustration.

“Ms. Ankins, are you really looking for a bodyguard?” he asked.

“Yeah! He was wearing a bodyguard uniform when I saw him in the estate! Don’t tell me he’s able to come in if he’s not a bodyguard. Do you think I’m lying? Or do you think I’m hallucinating?” Daphne was beginning to get testy.

Jacob fidgeted his fingers as he looked at the difficult lady before her.

Ms. Ankins had the duchess at her back. That was the only reason why he had to do as she demanded despite her outrageous request.

Jacob went out and picked five bodyguards whom he deemed as handsome and brought them back to Daphne.

“Ms. Ankins, is the man you’re looking for one of them?”

Daphne’s anticipating glance swept across the five men but her excitement quickly turned into anger.

“Are you kidding me? I asked you to look for a handsome man and this is the best you’ve got?” she berated.

Cold sweat rolled down Jacob’s back as he faced Daphne’s fury.

He had tried his best to look for the most good-looking young men among the hundreds of bodyguards he had. But it seemed to him that Daphne was not looking for a bodyguard but for Brad Pitt.

Even if it were really Brad Pitt she was looking for, there was no way he would come to the estate as a bodyguard!

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“Look for him until you get him!” Daphne shouted at Jacob.

“But Ms. Ankins, these are the best I can find among all the bodyguards. Why not I summon all of them here and you take a look for yourself?” Jacob suggested.

Daphne glared at Jacob and clenched her jaws in anger. This useless old man! I bet he did it on purpose!

But there was nothing she could do. She had to eat her heart up for the man she so admired—the savior who had saved her and stole her heart.

After spending the whole afternoon going through each and every bodyguard, Daphne still could not get hold of Hector.

Just as she was about to give up, it suddenly occurred to her that Hector might have gone into hiding to avoid her.

“Jacob, please continue looking for this man. Make sure you inform me the moment you find him,” she said with determination.

“Yes, Ms. Ankins,” the butler replied.

Jacob let out a heavy sigh the moment Daphne walked out of the door.

What does she even want? It’s impossible I can find a man like that!

Within the day itself, news of Daphne looking for a dashing young bodyguard spread like wildfire in the estate.

When Levant heard about what happened, he could not help but wonder if Daphne had lost her mind because of his constant rejection.

If not, why would she look for a prince charming among the bodyguards?

“Get the doctor to take a look at her,” Levant told one of the maids.

“Yes, Mr. Levant,” the maid replied before looking into the matter immediately.

On the other side of the estate, John’s jaw dropped as he stared at Evan wearing his scary human skin mask.

He wondered how would Daphne react if she saw his handsome face beneath the mask. Ha! She’d probably rush towards Evan and shower him with kisses.

Seriously, why do girls fall for him wherever he goes? I bet he really has his ways with women.

Evan spotted John’s lewd smile and asked, “Hey, which woman are you thinking about?”

John jumped in surprise and collected himself, putting up a serious face. “I... I’m not thinking about anything! I was just thinking about what you asked me to do,” he replied nervously.

Evan looked at him in disbelief as he recalled the dirty look on his face.

But he decided not to call him out. “Did you manage to find anything?” he asked.

John cleared his throat and got ready to report every single detail he found about Levant. "Mr. Seet, it appears that Levant was adopted from an orphanage. The duchess screened through thousands of orphans before taking him into the family."

An orphanage?

This means Levant's an orphan and his parents deserted him.

Evan rubbed his chin as he pondered on the piece of information John got. "Who are his parents?" he asked after a slight pause.

"The orphanage closed ten years ago. So I didn't manage to get hold of any records," John replied. Evan grunted and his frown deepened. It seemed like their investigation had met a dead end.

Does this mean only the duchess knows who his real parents are?

"Did you find out why Levant wants to marry Nicole?" he asked again.

"Levant has been keeping an eye on her since a year ago when she just got back to the country. But I haven't come to the bottom of why he's keeping tabs on her," John replied accordingly.

A year ago.

Do they have a past?

Or did Levant fall for her at first sight?

If he really did meet her a year ago and fell in love with her, why didn't he do anything?

Evan crossed his hands before his chest, trying to figure out all the possibilities.

Before long, he let out a frustrated sigh and ordered, "Continue investigating."

"Yes, Mr. Seet."

Nicole had been pacing up and down the garden, trying to suppress the urge to question Evan if he had received any news from Wesley.

She had a gut feeling that Wesley would know who was the other person who learned acupuncture with her mother.

But she could not bring herself to ask Evan because she was still angry with him. She still had not gotten over what he did with Daphne.

Fine, I'll just check it out myself!

But a familiar figure caught her attention before she could even walk out of the garden.

Wait... What's he doing here?

Nicole figured it would be better to go over and greet him. After all, he had been nice to her although they had only met twice.

She walked towards Stephen and nodded courteously. "Sir Musgrave, are you here for a walk?"

"Yeah, I'm here for some fresh air," he replied. But actually, that was not the case.

He was in his study looking down at the garden when he saw her. That was why he made his way down.

Stephen looked at her in the eyes and a gentle smile brightened up his face.

Her eyes reminded him of the four children he saw earlier on, especially the two little girls. "Do you have kids?"

"I have two sons and two daughters," Nicole replied with a nod.

Just as Stephen had guessed—they were indeed her children.

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Stephen frowned and asked, "Are you separated from the children's dad?"

Nicole looked at him in surprise, wondering why the man had asked that question.

"I remember you said the last time that you and Levant liked each other. So does that mean you and the children's dad are already divorced?"

Nicole recalled that she had made up an excuse the previous time they met so that she could continue staying there. She never thought that Stephen would have such a good memory.

No wonder people said that one lie always led to more lies. She had brought it upon herself.

As such, Nicole could only bite the bullet and nodded.

"It's not your fault that you needed to experience such a misfortune. As long as you and Levant truly love each other, having the kids around would not be a problem."

*Sigh.* Nicole could only continue to be thick-skinned and nodded again.

As she did not want Stephen to stay on that topic, she took the initiative to steer the conversation into another direction. "Are you busy at the estate? Am I keeping you from your work?"

Even though that was what Nicole said, she was mumbling silently in her heart. *Please stop asking me questions! I don't want to go against my conscience and continue lying!*

Stephen noticed the woman's awkward expression and an uneasy expression on her face. He took the chance to inform her that he had some work to settle and left.

Nicole was finally able to heave a sigh of relief.

She understood that she could not blame Stephen for asking so many questions as it was just normal for a dad to be concerned with his son's marriage.

However, it seemed strange to Nicole that the man did not seem to mind at all that his son wanted to marry a divorced woman with kids.

After much thought, she came to the conclusion that Stephen must have an exceptionally big heart.

After walking a distance, Stephen suddenly stopped in his tracks and looked back at Nicole's figure in the distance and sighed.

*Rosalie, it's my greatest regret that I wasn't able to give you a good life! I hope that this woman who looks so much like you can receive the happiness she deserves.*

That scene which happened at the garden was secretly filmed by the Portia's henchman who was spying on them.

Then, he sent the video to the duchess, who watched it while clenching her fists tightly.

The way her husband looked at Nicole was different from the way he looked at anyone else.

Over the years, she had never seen him having such a gentle look in his eyes when he interacted with any other women.

*That Nicole Lane is a vixen indeed!*

Portia smoldered with resentment as she watched the video till the end while enduring the discomfort which she was feeling.

Her fury sprang to life when she saw Stephen look back at Nicole's figure with a meaningful smile on his face.

The duchess swept the teacup off the table in anger and hot tea splashed across the room. As the teacup landed on the floor, it was smashed into tiny fragments.

All of the maids lowered their heads fearfully and dared not even breathe.

“Get Daphne here!”

“Yes, Madam,” one of the maids replied and went to call Daphne.

Portia felt that she had to get rid of a bit\*h like Nicole as soon as possible, otherwise, that woman might end up seducing Stephen one day.

As Daphne was usually full of ideas, the Duchess wanted to discuss with her before coming up with a plan.

When Daphne rushed over, a glint of delight flashed in her eyes when she saw Portia.

People would only start to panic when they were the ones in trouble. Since that was related to Sir Musgrave, the Duchess was finally getting worried and wanted to force them to leave!

“Daphne, what do you think we should do so that Nicole and that four bast\*rds would leave the estate?”

“Aunt Portia, it’s not easy to deal with Nicole and those brats. We need to think over it carefully and come up with a good plan.”

Daphne felt a flicker of irritation when Nicole and her kids were mentioned.

Nicole had acted like a fool previously and cheated her. Until now, she still could not figure out the reason Nicole could stay sane after being drugged.

As for those four annoying brats, their presence irked Daphne even more. She had never met kids who were so weird and they were definitely capable of being the death of her.

She needed to take that opportunity to let out some steam!

After being in deep thought for a while, Portia replied with a troubled expression, “You’re right. Stephen had explicitly stated his wish to protect those four kids. So it would be hard for us to chase them away directly. We need to think of a better way.”

A menacing smile flashed across Daphne’s face as she said, “Aunt Portia, actually, it might be easier for us to do it in the dark. As long as we make the right moves such that they no longer feel like staying here, they would naturally leave on their own!”

After Daphne pointed that out, the duchess seemed lost in thoughts again.

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Make them feel like they no longer want to stay here...

“Daphne, how about this...”

After dismissing everyone else in the room, Portia shared her ideas with her niece.

Daphne thought about it and added, “Aunt Portia, I think we can be more ruthless than that, for example...”

After Portia listened to Daphne’s suggestion, she clenched her fingers tightly while pondering over it. She felt that the younger woman had a point. They had to be more ruthless in order for that vixen and those brats to be afraid. Only then would they scam quickly!

“Daphne, we’ll do as you say.”

“Alright, Aunt Portia. I’ll make arrangements right away.”

Once Daphne turned around, a look of delight appeared on her face.

Seductress and little rascals, you just wait and see!

Maya looked at Nina’s floral dress in envy.

“Nina, your dress is so pretty! Can I wear it for a while?”

Nina looked up and stared at the chubby Maya with a look of contempt, before looking at her own dress, which was the latest in children’s fashion, and rejected her sister straight out.

“Nope, you’re going to spoil my dress!”

“I won’t, I will just wear it for a while!”

Nina rolled her eyes at Maya impatiently and replied, “You’re so fat! You won’t be able to fit into it.”

Maya looked down and touched her stomach. Then, she took a deep breath and contracted her stomach. “Look, Nina! My tummy became smaller.”

Nina pouted and replied, “Who are you trying to bluff. Anyway, I’m not going to lend it to you.”

Maya was stumped.

Hmph, Nina is so selfish! Maya merely wanted to see how she looked like in the dress. If it made her look pretty, she would get her mom to buy her one as well.

Being rejected did not discourage Maya from wanting to try on the dress.

She continued to observe Nina secretly.

Maya’s chance finally came when it was time for Nina to practice make-up techniques. As the older girl was worried that the make-up would stain her dress, she removed it and put it in her bedroom.

Maya sneakily took the dress and could not wait to try it on.

She undressed herself urgently and tried to put on Nina’s dress.

OMG, it’s so difficult to wear. As the dress wasn’t very elastic, the girl heard a tearing sound as she tried to pull the dress down.

Oops, seems like it’s torn.

However, as the dress had already gone through half way, it would be a pity to remove it then. After exerting much effort, Maya finally managed to pull it all the way down. When she looked at herself in the mirror, the girl felt like she was looking at a rice dumpling instead.

It was a rice dumpling so tightly tied that the meat looked like it was bursting out any time.

When Maya raised her arms and twisted her waist a little, she heard another tearing sound.

Holy crap! If Nina sees these holes I've made in her dress, she'll definitely kill me!

At that thought, Maya immediately took off the dress and left the bedroom with growing anxiety.

After Nina finished practicing her make-up techniques, she returned to the bedroom and discovered that her favorite dress had been destroyed. At once, she started yelling.

"Ahh! You fat bear! Pay me back my dress!"

After yelling, Nina grabbed her ruined dress and charged towards the living room furiously.

Seeing the murderous look on Nina's face, Maya immediately looked for a place to hide.

When Juan and Kyle heard the shouting, they came out of their bedroom and looked at the girls curiously. "What happened?"

Overpowered with anger, Nina threw the dress on Maya and shouted, "Was it you who did this?"

Maya rubbed her chubby hands nervously, unsure if it was wise to admit her doing.

Nina is so fierce. If she decided to scratch me, I would be disfigured!

But teacher said that we can't lie.

What's more important? My cute face or listening to what my teacher said? Maya was feeling very conflicted.

"If you don't say anything, I will take it that it was you who did it. Don't you know that you're as fat as a pig? Didn't I already tell you not to wear it?"

"Sorry, Nina." Maya lowered her head and apologized.

“Sorry? Do you think you’re getting away with that? Replace this dress. It has to be the exact same one.”

Maya was speechless.

She was at a loss and stared at Nina with her large bright eyes. There was no way she could pay her sister back as she did not have money.

“Can I ask Mommy to buy you a dress on my behalf?”

“No! I want you to pay me back.”

Juan looked at Maya, who had a timid and awkward expression, and stood up for her. “Nina, I’ll pay for Maya instead.”

“No! It has to be her!” Nina was not about to let it slide.

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Kyle joined in the conversation, speaking with a cold expression. “Nina, Maya has no money. It’s pointless to keep on insisting that she pay for it.”

“Hmph! That’s because she spent all her allowance on buying snacks! Look, she’s already fatter than a bear and she still keeps eating. Right! We should confiscate all her snacks!”

Confiscate my snacks?

That what am I going to eat?

Maya looked up and blinked her big eyes, ready to negotiate.

Before she could speak, Nina crossed her arms in front of her chest and looked at Maya in a domineering manner.

“Hand over all your snacks. You’re not allowed to keep any behind my back, otherwise, you have to pay me back!”

Maya was momentarily stunned. If she had to choose between paying money and handing over her snacks, she could only choose to part ways with her snacks.

She pouted and rubbed her chubby hands as she walked towards the bedroom.

First, she took out a few bags of chips from the wardrobe, then pulled out a trunk from underneath the bed which was filled with Milky Way bars, Chips Ahoy and Snickers.

Next, the girl opened her drawers and took out some Oreo cookies. Then, after hesitating for a while, she drew out some milk pudding from the pocket which her mom had sewn for her.

All those made up one huge box of snacks. Maya pushed the box to the living room with all her might and said to her siblings, “These are all for you guys to eat.”

“Are these all?”

Juan’s eyes widened as he looked at the enormous pile of snacks. “There is a lot here. I’m sure that’s all she has.”

Nina rolled her eyes at Maya and said, “If you wear my clothes again next time, I’ll make sure that you’ll have no more snacks to eat forever!”

That was the most effective way to deal with Maya.

Maya took one last look at her beloved snacks and was extremely reluctant to part ways with them. Then, she lowered her head and walked out of the living room.

Just as she sat down on the wooden stool, a ball suddenly fell on her head.

“Ahh!” The girl cried out.

Juan and Kyle immediately rushed out. When Maya saw her brothers, she pointed to the ball while covering her head with one hand.

The boys immediately understood that her head must have been hit by the ball. Which idiot goes around throwing things into the yard?

One second later, a few other balls flew over the wall towards the direction of the kids.

Juan and Kyle immediately pulled Maya away and hid underneath the table.

“What the f\*ck! Seems like someone is targeting us intentionally.”

“Who could it be?”

“I’ll go out and take a look!”

Juan charged outside angrily and once he stepped out of the yard, a bucket of cold water fell on him.

Juan, who was attacked without any warning, wiped the water away from his face using his hand and looked up. He saw a person wearing a mask jumping down the wall and escaped.

“I dare you to stop right there! You even dare to ambush me? You’re dead!”

The masked man was long gone when the boy finished shouting.

Kyle rushed over and saw his brother looking so disheveled. “Did you manage to see who did it?”

“Nope, I couldn’t see him. That person was wearing a mask. Someone is definitely picking on us. We need to be more careful. Let me get changed first.”

Juan walked back into the house dripping wet and gave Nina, who just came out of her bedroom, a fright.

“Juan, did you drop into the lake?”

Juan shook his head and replied, “Nope, why would I fall into the lake? Someone is out to pick on us. Maya got hit on the head just now too. You should be careful as well.”

Someone is picking on us?

Why would anyone do that?

Nina was very surprised to hear that. Not convinced with what her brother told her, she looked outside. After Juan entered the bathroom, she went out to the yard immediately.

Maya and Kyle were playing on the wooden stools and there did not seem to be anything out of the ordinary.

She continued walking and looked outside the yard.

“Sigh. I bet Juan was just careless and fell into the lake. He must have lied because he was too embarrassed to admit it.”

Right after Nina muttered to herself and was about to step back into the yard, a basket of flour fell onto her head.

Nina looked just like a snowman in an instant.

What’s going on?

The girl dusted off the flour from her eyes and looked around but could not see anyone nearby.

“Which bast\*rd ambushed me? Come out right now!”

After yelling, the response she received was silence.

That jerk had gotten away so quickly!

Nina tried to sweep away the flour on her, but it was impossible to get it all off as it was just too much. She'd better go in to take a shower and change into a new set of clothes.

"Look! What's that creature? Is that a huge white dog?"

Maya asked Kyle as she stared curiously at Nina, who was covered in flour and walking with her head hung low.