

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1026

His only concern was Nicole and her hallucinations. He wondered if she had had any episodes these couple of months.

Davin came to the company to see him and mentioned Nicole.

“Evan, like I had already said, Nicole hacked into the account, stole all your money, and ran away with some other man. She...”

“Shut up!”

Evan bellowed impatiently, bringing the conversation to an abrupt halt.

He refused to believe a single word of these rumors. He and Nicole had been through so many ups and downs together. He knew exactly the kind of person that Nicole was.

The surveillance footage was blurry, to begin with. Even if they were not, even if everything had happened right in front of his very eyes, he would still not believe it at all!

Davin shot a glance at his brother. He had to admit, Evan had certainly harbored a deep affection for Nicole.

Their mother had been hit, his company account robbed, and Nicole had been seen sharing a luxury car with another man...

All of those glaring shreds of evidence still failed to shake Evan’s trust in Nicole. If Nicole knew about this, what would she think?

Back at the Seet Residence, Davin conveyed Evan’s reactions to Sophia.

“Mom, it had already been two months since the incident. Evan still doesn’t want to believe that it had been Nicole who did all those things.”

Sophia was rendered speechless.

She sighed. It seemed that all the pains that Nicole had gone through for his son had all been for nothing. Evan’s feelings for Nicole were deeper than they had imagined.

“There’s nothing we can do if Evan refuses to believe. Don’t mention this in front of him again. We can only give it time and let that deal with the damage.”

“Mom, you really don’t know where Nicole is?” Davin looked at Sophia in disbelief.

“I don’t! I’m worried too. I don’t know how she’s coping with her hallucinations. I don’t know if anything had happened to her.”

“Haven’t you talked things through with her already? Didn’t you arrange accommodations for her?” Davin pestered.

“Yes, I did! I’ve arranged a place for her to stay, where she wouldn’t need to worry about food and daily supplies, but she didn’t show up... Do you think she might have died? “

Davin’s face fell. “Mom, don’t take this the wrong way. It might not have been safe for Nicole to remain by Evan’s side, but Evan liked it that way! Now that she’s gone, it’s true that Evan’s safety is ensured, but it’s like he’s lost his soul. For the past two months, he had been putting up a long face, and he won’t say anything! It hurts me to see him like that.”

“You wretched child! Are you blaming me then? Do you think I wanted this? I had no choice! Was I supposed to watch my son risk his life every single day? I’m a mother! I can’t do that!”

Sophia clutched at her heart, pain and conflict reflected on her face.

Davin empathized with Sophia’s inner struggle. He could picture Sophia’s unwillingness to part with Nicole. In fact, after Nicole’s disappearance, not only was Evan devastated and distressed, but Sophia had also been worried as well, agonizing over guilt.

But she had to do it for the sake of her son’s safety.

God makes fools of us all!

After school, the four children called their father, asking when Nicole would return.

Evan came up with an excuse. "Your mommy's illness hasn't been cured yet. She'd come back when she's all better!"

"How long will it take for Mommy's illness to be cured? I miss Mommy!"

Maya spoke in a low tone. Evan could tell from her manner of speech just how much she missed Nicole.

But he really had no idea how long it would take to find Nicole.

"Be good, Maya. Give your mommy some more time. She misses you too. When Mommy gets better, she'll fly back to see you as soon as possible. "

He ended his comforting words and could hear Juan comforting Maya on the other end of the call as well. "Maya, it's important that Mommy gets treated. You can't rush Mommy. You have to give Mommy more time. When Mommy gets better, then we can be with her every single day!"

"Yeah, Maya. Mommy's sick, and she's suffering too. She loves us very much, so she would definitely come for us after she gets better!"

"But I really miss Mommy. Why doesn't Mommy call us?"

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"I'm guessing it's some sort of private facility. Maybe they don't allow calls out of concern that it might affect the patients," said Kyle, as he glanced at Maya.

Maya pursed her lips and said nothing in response.

She'd lost more weight recently and wasn't even interested in eating the cheesecake her mother liked. I want Mommy to see how different I look when she gets back. A brand new Maya!

After Evan hung up, he felt his insides churning yet again.

Damn it, Nicole. Where on earth are you?

Do our feelings mean nothing to you? What about the kids? Can you just let them go too? We really miss you, Nicole. When are you coming home? Come home, please...

That night, Evan dreamt of Nicole.

Nicole was curled up in a dark corner, shivering. Her hair was a mess, and her gaunt, pale face stared blankly into space. She couldn't seem to remember who she was, let alone find her way home. Evan called out to her as hard as he could but to no avail. The only thing he could see most clearly was the fear in her eyes.

Evan stopped briefly but knew he had to keep on trying. "You don't have to hide and suffer alone, Nicole. Let me share the burden with you, okay?"

"Your hands are chilled to the bone. Are you cold?"

"Nicole, let's go home, shall we?"

Without warning, Nicole got up and left. Evan trailed closely behind in hot pursuit. They walked like this for ages when Nicole suddenly disappeared in the blink of an eye.

"NICOLE!" he shouted frantically.

With a panicked yell, Evan woke up with a jolt. His body was drenched in a cold sweat.

The scenes from just now were so vivid that Evan thought they were real.

This made Evan feel distressed. He wondered if Nicole was in fact, hiding somewhere, suffering through the torment of her illness all alone.

Is she going through everything I dreamt of?

Worriedly, Evan picked up his phone and made a call to the Hidden Masters. He had to know if they'd made any progress in tracking down her location or if she'd left a trail for them to follow.

Unfortunately, they had nothing to report, which only angered Evan. "For f*ck's sake, are you all completely useless? Keep looking!"

Sighing, he slumped back into his pillows and glanced at the clock. It was three in the morning, yet he felt restless.

This was clearly going to be a long night. Evan was pensive, his mind heavy with worry and longing.

Since he was unable to shake it off, he decided to get up and immerse himself in work. Hours passed in his study as he did what he could to alleviate his burdens.

Before he knew it, another year and a half had passed, and there was still no news about Nicole.

Her very name became a constant source of agony for him. It was also a taboo, for nobody dared mention her except for the children.

Evan lived out his days like a living corpse. The chill he exuded kept everyone away, and nobody dared approach him.

Seeing how their father was, the four children couldn't help but look at him with fear and respect in equal measure. All this while, they had been living with Sophia at the Seet Residence. They were reluctant to broach the topic of returning to Imperial Garden.

One day, the children happened to discuss Nicole's disappearance while they were sitting at the table having a chat.

Maya sighed. "Don't you think it's weird that Mommy has been away for so long? Without even making a single phone call?"

"It is odd. I suspect she's not even receiving treatment abroad. If that's the case, Daddy would be visiting her often, but he's not doing that at all. Look at how he's moping around!" said Nina.

"I have a feeling that Mommy is missing, and Daddy doesn't know where she went," replied Juan thoughtfully. He thought that Nina's suspicions made sense. "That's why Daddy looks so cold and distant every day. Do you still remember that rumor about Mommy eloping with some man? Is that actually true?"

Nina rolled her eyes at Juan. "Don't be silly, Mommy isn't someone like that."

"That's right! Our Mommy wouldn't do anything like that! Imagine how sad she'd be if she knew you doubted her like this!" retorted Maya earnestly.

Juan sighed again. "I'm not doubting her. I'm just saying. But honestly, if Mommy could come home now, even if she were to give me a beating, I'd be over the moon!"

Kyle, who'd been deep in thought, suddenly asked, "Do you think Mommy went to see her mentor?"

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"You mean, Mommy's acupuncture mentor?"

"Yes! He seems to be a very capable person!"

Sophia happened to overhear the conversation between the children. If that is indeed true, is it possible that he would've cured her by now?

Nearly two years had passed since Nicole disappeared. If she were cured, that would've been a good thing. Sophia's concern was that the treatment result showed otherwise and Nicole was dead.

Sophia toyed around with the idea for a bit, wondering if it was a possible clue that might reveal Nicole's whereabouts. Soon after, she gave Evan a call and bade him look into Wesley.

Evan recalled that when Nicole was looking into her biological father's identity in K Nation, Wesley had indeed made an appearance. But he only showed up to leave behind a letter before vanishing into thin air.

In hindsight, Nicole might have been with that elusive man after all since nobody had heard from her in the last two years.

The possibility of this lead gave Evan some hope, like a beacon in the dark. It was as if he'd received the news of the century. Excitedly, he immediately ordered the Hidden Masters to investigate.

Every day after that, he lived in a state of constant anticipation. Evan couldn't wait to see if this line of clue would lead him to Nicole.

It wasn't long before the weekend arrived. Nina stared at her mannequin and absent-mindedly began scribbling. Maya was watching her with excitement, her eyes glowing in awe.

"Nina, what are you doing?"

Nina immediately snapped out of her reverie and gave the mannequin a good, hard stare. Upon realizing that the look she started on was undeniably masculine, she blushed. The mannequin looked handsome.

"Nina, I've heard that people manifest their subconscious desires in their artwork. Are you thinking about a handsome man by any chance?"

Nina sighed inwardly and turned around to look at Maya in exasperation. "Don't be silly! I was just trying to see what makes makeup for both genders so different!"

Maya pouted and grinned at her. "Oh, I see. I thought you're being precocious, having an eye for cute guys at only thirteen years old!"

Nina looked up at Maya again, thinking of giving her a retort, but something held her back. She realized that after Maya had succeeded in losing weight, her face resembled Mommy even more. Not only that, but Maya also seemed to look prettier than herself.

Nina relied on makeup in her pursuit of beauty. Every brushstroke and color she used on herself was meant to enhance her features. Maya on the other hand, seemed to be blessed with a sort of innate, natural beauty.

"Maya, what do you do to have such rosy cheeks? I'd like to improve my complexion, so why don't you come up with a meal plan for me? Did the gourmet specialist teach you anything about making them?"

"I don't need the specialist for that! It's something that can be sorted out in a few minutes!" replied Maya. "How about this? Give me a set of makeup, and I'll give you a meal plan with top-notch ingredients. It's a mutually beneficial agreement! Deal?"

"Deal!"

With that, Nina began to work on matching beauty products for Maya, and the latter designed a meal plan to give her a better complexion.

Having finally completed their tasks, the two also decided to do the same for Sheila. They wanted to give her something tailor-made as a way of expressing their gratitude.

When Sheila received the gift, she was absolutely delighted. To her, Nina and Maya were a godsend.

"From now on, I'll leave my beauty in your capable hands!" exclaimed Sheila.

Maya and Nina nodded. "No problem. Where's Uncle Davin? He seems to be quite busy!"

"Him?" At the mention of Davin, Sheila became angry. "He said he was helping Levant to pursue someone, but from what I've heard, that doesn't seem to be the case. Apparently, it's the opposite! He's helping the woman to pursue Levant, but who knows if that'll work at all? Maybe the woman might fall for Davin instead since he's showering her with that much attention and kindness!"

Maya rolled her eyes and tried to placate Sheila. "Don't worry! You're so beautiful, and Uncle Davin won't have eyes for anyone else but you!"

“However, this is still worrisome. It’s bad enough that Uncle Davin is a renowned playboy and a skirt-chaser to boot. If he hasn’t done anything like this in the past, why would he gain such a reputation?” mused Nina aloud, sarcastically.

Nina’s words only served to aggravate an already annoyed Sheila even further. “You’re right,” said Sheila with a sigh. “I have every reason to get to the bottom of this myself!”

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After Sheila left, Maya looked quizzically at Nina and asked, “Why did you say that about Uncle Davin? Didn’t he buy you the latest beauty kit the day before yesterday?”

“They’re called principles, Maya.” retorted Nina with a huff. “Him buying me things has nothing to do with the matter at hand, so I’m not going to conflate the two!”

On the surface, Nina’s words made sense, but Maya still thought it was obnoxiously self-righteous of her to say so.

Maya only blinked at Nina in response. Well, don’t threaten Uncle Davin and then ask him for favors! Even after he’s bought you stuff, you still badmouth him? You’re as bad as Kyle! That’s why you both can’t get along with him! Hypocrite!

Meanwhile, Sheila walked out of the Seet Residence carrying the things both Maya and Nina gave her. Immediately, she made a phone call to Davin.

“Davin, where the hell are you?”

“I’m at home, I didn’t go out today!”

Through gritted teeth, Sheila said, “Really? Why don’t I show you where I am right now?”

With a click, she took a picture of her standing outside the Seet Residence and sent it over.

Davin swore and rubbed his chin. "Fine, I'm at the Levant Winery."

"Is that so? If I find out that you're not there in the next fifteen minutes, you're dead meat!"

Sheila hung up with a huff and drove her BMW straight to the Levant Winery.

When she reached her destination, Davin happened to arrive at the same time. He wasn't sure of how to explain the situation when Tiffany exited his car.

This upset Sheila even more, who proceeded to grill Davin about the other woman's presence.

"It's not what you think it is!" Stammered Davin. "It's... I just... She..."

Davin was worried that he might cause a misunderstanding and that Sheila would go ballistic. Due to his nervousness, however, he found himself unable to explain what was happening.

Tiffany then walked up to Sheila and took the initiative to explain. "Ms. Muir, this is a simple misunderstanding. He's helping me on the behest of Avril, who asked him to do this before she left for K Nation."

"Helping you with what, exactly?"

"She's helping me to pursue Levant!"

Sheila pursed her lips and gave Tiffany the once-over.

When I first met her two years ago, she was a miserable woman who had a child to raise. She's changed quite a bit over the last two years. She's got a better figure for one. Even her situation has improved.

I've also heard that she's set up a small design company, and the business is going smoothly.

However, there was a huge disparity in her station and that of Levant's. Judging by the standards of compatibility, Sheila felt that it was not a good match at all.

She also couldn't understand why Davin was so keen on helping her.

"Ms. Tiffany, I'm going to be honest. Do you think Levant would fancy someone like you? I don't think so."

Tiffany did not respond immediately, a thoughtful look on her face. "Whether or not he likes me, I want to try. That way, even if things don't work out, I won't regret not trying at all."

Even if he did take a fancy to her, there was no guarantee that they would be together anyway.

However, since they were both unmarried, Tiffany felt that she should at least express her feelings.

Her purpose wasn't to ensure that she would definitely end up with Levant. She just wanted to make sure that she had no regrets. She might even give up on the idea completely if she acted on it and failed.

"You want no regrets? Then I reckon you should be doing this yourself without anyone's help. Davin is a man. He shouldn't be helping you chase after another man. Do you think this is even remotely appropriate?" queried Sheila.

Tiffany glanced at Davin. "I think what Ms. Muir said is perfectly reasonable. You have my apologies. I won't bother you again, Mr. Seet."

Shortly after she finished speaking, Tiffany gave them a brief nod and walked towards the Levant Winery.

Davin turned to look at Sheila, clearly exasperated by the whole affair. "There, are you happy now? You've ruined my transaction!"

"Transaction? Just what business do you have with her?" Sheila frowned at Davin, but she was curious nonetheless.

Davin sighed and explained, "As mentioned earlier, it was Avril who asked me to set her up with Levant. I only agreed because there is valuable information I could gain if this goes through!"

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"What information?"

"Information about my sister-in-law! You know what my brother is like now. Any news about Nicole will definitely give him a new lease on life."

"Really? Avril can obtain this for you?"

"Why do you think she was going back to K Nation in a rush? According to a lead provided by the Wicked Palace, Nicole showed up at K Nation with someone. Avril was initially going to stay behind and play matchmaker between Levant and Tiffany, but I offered to see this through in exchange for that piece of information."

"Then why didn't you tell Evan and have him look into this?" asked Sheila.

"It's the credibility of this information that I'm worried about. Evan will be happy for a brief moment, but he'll spiral into depression again if it turns out to be a false alarm."

Sheila pondered over this and thought it made sense, but the notion of Davin helping Tiffany still made her feel off.

"Tell Avril to leave the matchmaking between Levant and Tiffany to me. Ask her to focus on obtaining that lead and to notify us when she has an update."

Davin was surprised at Sheila's offer. "Didn't you think they're incompatible? Why are you helping her then?"

Sheila thought about this before she replied. "Well, Tiffany said she wanted no regrets, remember? She'd accept any possible outcome, even if it means Levant won't be with her. Furthermore, I also want news about Nicole as soon as possible."

"Okay, then I'll call Avril now. Tiffany has already entered the winery, so please do your best to help her. You cannot mess this up!"

"Relax. I meant what I said when I offered to help."

With Sheila's reassurance, Davin took out his phone and made the call.

Sheila soon made her way to the penthouse suite, where she heard a discussion coming underway. Cautiously, she pressed her ear against the door, hoping to make out what both Levant and Tiffany were saying.

"Levant, I know that we're like oil and water and that I'm not worthy of you. But won't you at least give me a chance? This is a relationship I desire, and I'm willing to work hard for it!" Cried an impassioned Tiffany.

"I think you need to understand that while many things can be obtained through hard work, love isn't one of them." Levant sighed.

Sheila pursed her lips and shook her head, cursing inwardly. If this dolt can say this to Tiffany, would it kill him to be more self-aware?

Levant had been chasing after Nicole for so long. Even now, when nobody could confirm if she were alive or dead, he'd been unable to let her go. The man's lack of self-awareness was truly astounding.

"I understand that," said Tiffany exasperatedly. "But not everyone falls in love at first sight! We've not really established much contact, and we barely know anything about each other. Who knows what would happen if we gave each other some time?"

Levant was silent for a while. Before he could respond, however, he was interrupted by the door bursting open.

Sheila hurriedly walked towards them, a big grin plastered across her face.

"Levant," tutted Sheila. "I think there's some sense in Tiffany's words. You barely know her, so how can you be sure that you won't fall in love with her?"

"Are you telling me I don't know my own thoughts well enough? And what are you doing here, pray tell? Didn't anyone tell you it's rude to barge in like that without knocking?" asked Levant icily.

Sheila cleared her throat to hide her discomfort and grinned at him sheepishly. "I apologize. I was in a hurry and forgot to knock. Davin is here as well by the way."

"Back to the discussion at hand, I think she's being reasonable," said Sheila as she gave Tiffany a brief nod. "You haven't given Tiffany a chance, so how do you know you're both incompatible? Unless... you're afraid you would end up falling for her? Maybe you already like her now!"

Levant only glanced at her and ignored everything she said. Nonsense.

After Davin strolled in, Sheila winked at him and they began trying to convince Levant yet again.

"There you are, Davin. I think Levant is afraid to give Tiffany a chance. Perhaps he's afraid of falling in love with her, what say you?"