

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

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“Do you like these toys? If not, I can have someone get you something else! Oh, what would you like for lunch? You can write down your preferences, so the chef can make whatever you like!”

Kyle kept quiet as he eyed Levant from head to toe with a cold look on his face.

On the other hand, Juan was surprised by his generosity. After giving it some thought, he asked, “Mr. Levant, could you give us a huge room? We wanna stay with Mommy!”

Just as I had finally convinced Nicole to stay next to my room, these kids show up today and ruin everything!

However, in order to win Nicole and the kids over, Levant had no choice but to agree.

“Of course! My room is big and well-furnished, so how would you lot like to move in there with your mommy?”

“Sure!” Juan nodded. He didn’t really care about the room’s condition as long as he got to stay with his mommy.

Nicole, on the other hand, felt a little uncomfortable doing so. “Are you sure about that?”

“Absolutely, Nicole! They may not be my kids, but for you, I’m willing to treat them as my own! I hope for all of you to have a great time staying here at Wicked Palace!”

At one side, Nina was glaring at Levant silently. I knew he wouldn’t be so nice to us for no reason! He’s just doing it to please Mommy! Sigh... Daddy has got himself a rival here...

Back at Darkmoon Manor, Evan had an ice-cold expression on his face as he hung up the phone.

He had just been informed of the suffering Nicole went through in prison, how she was beaten, bullied, and nearly lost her life.

Now I see why she hates me that much, and why she said that I was cruel and heartless... I was the one who put her in prison, so it makes perfect sense that she'd think it was all my doing. Nicole, do you really think I'd do this to you?

Evan stood by his window and went into deep thought as he gazed into the darkness of the night.

The person who murdered Grandpa and framed Nicole must be connected to the one who hurt her in prison. The killer must've worn some special gloves when he put Grandpa's walking stick in her hands. Who in the world would be so smart and cautious? I've had people investigate Levant, but we couldn't find anything at all. Was I really wrong about him?

Just then, a sudden knock on the door snapped him out of his train of thought.

"Come in!"

Susan opened the door and stood in front of him. "I made you some of your favorite dishes, Evan. Come on downstairs!"

"I'm not hungry at the moment. You may leave now."

"Evan, it's important to take care of your health! You shouldn't starve yourself like this! I made it all by myself, and I even got a little blister from it. Would you please eat a little?"

Evan turned around and saw a blister on the back of her hand.

"Susan, let the chef handle the cooking from now on."

"Well... I was worried you weren't used to the chef's cooking, so I thought I'd make you something myself instead."

Evan stared at her coldly. He had made it very clear to her that he loved Nicole and told her not to waste any more of her time on him.

“Susan, it was a real shame you had to give up on your role as a lead actress to take care of the kids. However, they’ve gone to stay with Nicole now, so you can head back home. Don’t worry. I’ll invest in a new show and have you as the lead role. You should head back and get prepared.”

Here Susan was, thinking that she could use the injury on the back of her hand to gain Evan’s sympathy, but alas, he told her to leave instead.

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She looked at him in surprise. “Evan, did I do something wrong? Why are you asking me to leave? I don’t want to go!” Susan began tearing up as she spoke.

“You should return home and carry on with your life, Susan.”

Susan fell silent. Is Evan using this as an excuse to reject me?

She looked at him with a pitiful expression. “Evan, I...”

“Don’t make me repeat myself, Susan. Get out. I’ll have Darius send you to the airport tomorrow.”

Seeing that Evan had made up his mind, Susan kept quiet and left the room with tears streaming down her face.

John and the others were shocked when they saw her come out looking like that.

“Do you think Mr. Seet bullied Susan? That’s not a very gentlemanly thing to do...” Jeremy sighed.

“Mr. Seet must be in a really bad mood if he’s so harsh on Ms. Susan. We’d better be extra careful.” Jensen shuddered.

“Sigh... Darkmoon Manor sure is quiet without those kids around... What do you think they’re doing right now?” Darius asked.

“They’re obviously spying on Mrs. Seet and keeping Levant away from her, duh!” Damien replied.

“Do you think they’d actually be able to, though?” Jeremy asked.

“I think they can. Those kids are freaking geniuses, after all!” Jensen said.

“They may be geniuses, but Levant is no fool either! I bet they’ll soon realize they’re in for a tough fight!” John sighed.

“What if Levant deems them a threat? Do you think they’d be in danger, then?” Damien asked.

“They’ve only just gotten there today, so I doubt they’d be in any danger just yet. Some conflicts are bound to arise, though.” John replied.

Meanwhile, at the Wicked Palace, Kyle and Juan were standing guard outside the door of the living room.

They heard Levant was coming over to see their Mommy that night, and Evan had specifically instructed them to keep him away from her. As such, they had been standing guard like this after dinner.

Sure enough, they saw Levant coming towards the living room half an hour later.

The two exchanged glances and quickly stepped in front of the door, blocking his path.

Levant looked at them curiously and asked, “What are you two doing standing here like this? Are you being punished for something you did?”

We’re not being punished! We’re protecting Mommy from perverts like you!

Juan answered honestly, “No, we’re guarding the door!”

“Huh? Why would you do that?” Levant asked.

“Because Mommy is taking a shower with Maya and Nina right now, so we’re guarding the door to keep perverts out!”

Perverts? Why would there be perverts in Wicked Palace? These two sure are something...

He looked at the box in his hands and said, "In that case, could you hand this box over to your Mommy for me? I'll come back later."

Kyle took the box over and said coldly, "We'll hand it over to Mommy, so you don't have to come over later."

"That's right! Mommy's gonna be busy tucking Maya and Nina in after they're done showering, so they'd be asleep by the time you come back anyway!"

Levant eyed the two of them. Oh? So they're trying to keep me away from Nicole, eh? Interesting...

"Okay then, tell your mommy I'll come by tomorrow."

Juan nodded his head profusely.

Kyle, however, was curious as to the contents of the box in his hands and gave it a little shake, but he couldn't hear anything inside.

"What do you think is inside?" He asked Juan.

Juan tried taking a closer look at the box, but there were just too many possibilities for him to even make a rough guess.

"How about we open it and take a look?" He suggested.

Kyle nodded. The two then hid in a corner and opened the box.

"Whoa, it's a necklace! This shiny thing... It's a diamond, right? I bet Mommy would look pretty wearing such a huge diamond on her neck!" Juan's eyes sparkled at the sight of the diamond necklace.

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Kyle looked at him and asked, "Are we really gonna hand this to Mommy? I heard women love jewelry. What if Mommy likes Levant even more after receiving this?"

Juan thought about what Kyle said and agreed with it.

He's right. If Mommy likes Levant more and more, Daddy wouldn't stand a chance! We need to get both of them back together and live happily as a family! Still... This is a really beautiful necklace, and it'd be a shame if Mommy couldn't wear it...

Juan suddenly had an idea. "I have a plan. Why don't we..." He then turned towards Kyle and whispered in his ear.

"Are you sure? I don't think that's such a good idea..." Kyle asked.

"Why not? If he can resort to underhanded means to steal Mommy over from Daddy, a necklace is a small price to pay!"

Kyle took a moment to ponder what he had just said. "You're right. We'll go with your plan."

With that, the two hid the box in their bedroom and brought the necklace over to Nicole's room.

"Yes? What is it, boys?" Nicole looked at them curiously.

Juan handed the necklace over to her and said, "Here you go, Mommy! It's a gift from Daddy! He asked us to give it to you!"

Nicole was surprised.

A gift from Evan? Why would he give me a necklace? Is he trying to win me back by "bribing" me? Hmph! I'm not some gold-digger whose heart can be bought over with some fancy jewelry! In fact, I've never planned on getting back together ever since I've decided to cut ties with him!

"I don't want it, so give it back to him."

Huh? But this necklace is so pretty! I can't believe Mommy doesn't want it!

"Do you not like it, Mommy?"

“No, and don’t ever give me any of his gifts again, okay?”

Oh... Mommy didn’t like it because we said it was from Daddy... What do we do now?

“It’s late. Hurry up and get some sleep, you two.”

The two sighed as they left Nicole’s room.

“What do we do with this necklace now? Do we return it to Levant?” Juan asked.

Kyle nodded. “We’ll return it tomorrow and tell him Mommy didn’t like it.”

“All right.”

The next day, Kyle and Juan were walking around the corridor looking for Levant.

Levant saw them as he came over to wake Nicole up for breakfast. “What are you two doing here?”

Juan held the box up to his face. “Mommy said she didn’t like it and told us to give it back to you.”

Levant froze.

Nicole was just talking about this jewelry designer the other day, saying how her designs had “soul” in them. I spent a huge amount of money on this necklace, and now she doesn’t like it?

“Mommy also asks that you don’t give her any more gifts!”

That surprised Levant even more.

He observed them carefully and could tell that something wasn’t quite right from the look in their eyes.

Did Nicole really say that, or are these kids just lying to me?

With a stoic look on his face, Levant took the box over and said, "All right, I'll take it back if your mommy doesn't like it."

Then, with a dazzling smile, he began walking towards Nicole's room.

The two frowned as they watched him disappear around the corner.

"Is he going to see Mommy?"

"Didn't he say he was gonna take it back? Why is he bringing it to Mommy now?"

"Do you think he lied about that?"

As if they had realized something, the two ran after Levant, only to see him handing the box over to Nicole.

"This is a necklace designed by that jewelry designer you liked. It is inspired by the concept of eternal love. Do you like it?"

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Kyle and Juan realized they had been played when they saw Nicole accept the gift.

You lied to us, Levant! Didn't you say you were going to take it back just a few minutes ago?

Nicole opened the box and was shocked to see that it was the exact same necklace as before.

Is such a coincidence even possible?

She thought to herself as she shot the two a suspicious glare. Juan simply lowered his head and smiled while Kyle had a somewhat awkward expression on his face.

Nicole noticed their abnormal reactions and quickly found herself an excuse to reject the gift.

"I don't feel safe wearing such an expensive necklace, Levant. I think you should hold on to it instead."

Levant frowned. "But this was designed by your favorite jewelry designer, Nicole. It really suits you!"

"Just hold on to it for me, okay?"

With that, Levant decided not to push her any further and walked away with the box after a brief exchange.

The moment Levant left, Nicole questioned the two troublemakers.

The two exchanged glances, and Juan stepped up to apologize.

"We're sorry, Mommy. We shouldn't have lied to you."

"Sorry, Mommy." Kyle apologized too.

Nicole gave them a pat on the head for their honesty and said, "All right, just remember to be honest kids from now on, okay?"

The two nodded their heads in response.

"I'm the most honest one, Mommy!" Maya spoke up all of a sudden.

"Yes, you are. You should all be like Maya."

Nina pouted when she heard that. "Maya got abused and kept quiet about it, Mommy! I don't wanna be like her!"

Her words shocked Nicole greatly as they came unexpected.

Then, Nicole turned to look at Nina in confusion. "What did you say? What do you mean by abused?"

“Oh, you have no idea, Mommy. Maya was stabbed with needles, strangled, and bullied in all sorts of ways! Because she wouldn’t tell anyone about it, we only found out when she fainted and was sent to the hospital!”

After hearing that from Nina, Nicole turned to look at Maya, who was rubbing her chubby palms together with tears in her eyes.

If Nina hadn’t exposed the incident, she wouldn’t want to remember those horrific moments either.

Nicole gave Maya a hug and asked softly, “Will you tell Mommy who did this to you, Maya?”

Maya began crying loudly with tears streaming down her face.

“It was an old and mentally ill maid, Mommy. She killed herself by smashing her head on the wall for fear of Daddy’s punishments.” Nina answered.

“An old maid?”

Nicole was confused. What kind of old maid could possibly abuse a child like this?

Kyle tugged on Nicole’s sleeve and motioned at her to have a word in private. Nicole understood his intentions and went into the bedroom with him after coaxing Maya to stop crying.

“Did you want to tell me something, Kai?”

Kyle nodded.

“I think the old maid wasn’t the one who abused Maya. She was probably just a scapegoat.”

Nicole frowned. “What do you know about this, Kai?”

“I think Ms. Susan was the one who abused her, Mommy. Maya’s just too scared of her to say it.”

Nicole was shocked.

Susan? Why would she abuse Maya?

“Daddy asked Maya who did it, but she refused to tell. She then shouted ‘I’m sorry, Mommy!’ all of a sudden. Could it have something to do with you, Mommy?”

Nicole was even more surprised when she heard that.

Did Susan abuse Maya because of me?

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“Kai, do you have any proof?”

“No, only Maya knows exactly who did it. Mommy, this incident has hurt her deeply. I think she was too afraid, that’s why she refused to talk about it. We should probably help her overcome that fear before she can open up.”

Nicole felt relieved when she saw how observant and mature Kyle was.

“All right, Mommy knows what to do. I’ll try my best to help Maya out.”

Nicole then recalled how scared Maya looked when she was applying acupuncture to herself with the silver needle last night.

Maya hid in a corner and whispered, “Can you please stop using the needle, Mommy?” When I asked her why, she said, “Because it hurts, Mommy! Don’t ever poke people with needles, okay?” I didn’t think much about it at the time as I thought she was just afraid of needles like every other kid out there, but it turns out that she was abused with needles before! Who the hell would do such a cruel thing to a child? This is unacceptable!

Nicole felt her heart ache as she remembered the terrified look on Maya’s face.

Mommy’s definitely going to avenge you, Maya! If Susan really did abuse you like that, I’ll make sure she pays for it a hundred times over! Nobody bullies my children! Nobody!

She thought to herself with a vicious look in her eyes.

As Nicole came out of the room, she saw Maya putting a jigsaw puzzle together. Maya would always bring out her Maya Punch whenever she lost an argument with Nina, but she simply rubbed her palms together in frustration and kept her head low when Nina reprimanded her recently. I was wondering what happened to her, and now I know she's been abused both mentally and physically...

Nicole took a deep breath and walked towards Maya.

"Hey, Maya! Would you like Mommy to help you with this?"

Maya nodded repeatedly and handed her two pieces of the puzzle. Nicole then took them over with a smile, and the two continued putting the puzzle together.

Oh, Maya... How will I ever get you to tell me who abused you? Kyle may have told me about his suspicions, but I need to hear it from Maya before I can do anything...

"The picture in this puzzle is a food court, Mommy! When we reach home, I wanna continue learning to make all sorts of delicious food!"

Reach home? Maya's still thinking of going back to Y City? That's where I nearly died! I don't want to go back there! Hmm... I wonder if she'll be willing to stay here if I can find her a local chef to teach her instead...

Nicole thought to herself and decided to give it a try.

Meanwhile, at the Darkmoon Manor, Susan was looking at Evan longingly with her suitcase in hand.

She really didn't want to go back home, but she didn't dare defy Evan's orders either. "Evan, remember to eat on time and take good care of yourself!" She reminded him before leaving.

Evan nodded. "I will."

"Evan, are you sure you want me to leave? I really don't want to. Who knows, maybe the kids will be back soon! They'd need me to look after them, then!"

John cleared his throat. Susan thinks too highly of herself... There's no way those kids are gonna leave their mommy for her! In fact, they don't like her at all! It's obvious that she wants to stay, but will Mr. Seet give in to her tears?

As expected, Evan ignored her and turned towards Darius. "Send Ms. Susan to the airport."