

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 946

“Do you have any charming male friends who are around Avril’s age? You should introduce them to her. Maybe that will be enough to shift her focus from me,” suggested Stephen to his daughter, who then nodded and promised, “No problem, Dad. You do care for Avril, don’t you?”

“I want her to get married as soon as possible so that she’ll leave me alone.”

Nicole considered his expression and realized that her father really did not have feelings for Avril. I guess we’ll go with the flow then.

I have to start planning the wedding when I get back.

It was already seven when they reached their homeland.

Sophia, Davin, Sheila, and Avril returned to the Seet residence, while Evan, Nicole, and the children returned to Imperial Garden with Stephen and his aides. John and the Hidden Masters also returned to their respective places.

That was the end of their trip to K Nation.

Stephen looked at Imperial Garden with great satisfaction. He could see how much Evan loved Nicole from the home his son-in-law had prepared for his daughter.

“You should stay with us, Grandpa. Don’t go. Stay with us forever,” pleaded Juan as he held his grandfather’s hand tightly.

Stephen’s mouth curved into a smile. “I’ll be staying with you for a while. At least until I attend your parents’ wedding.”

Big smiles appeared on the children’s faces when they heard of their parent’s plans to host a wedding.

“Mommy, we want to stand beside you and Daddy at the wedding. That way, people will know that you two already have four lovely children and that we’re a happy family.”

Nicole nodded in agreement. "Okay. I'll make sure all of you look stunning!"

"Mommy, I want to wear the kind of dress that fairies wear, and I also want Nina to give me fairy makeup. I'll look my best at the wedding!"

Maya's marble eyes sparkled with anticipation for her parents' wedding. She imagined that it would be as magical as stepping into a fairy tale.

"Okay, Maya. I promise to arrange that for you."

After sizing her sister up, Nina came up with a suggestion. "Maya, you should talk to your gourmet specialist, Molly, to have her come up with a diet plan for you before Daddy and Mommy picks a date for the wedding. You might need to shed a few pounds off before then."

What Nina said made sense to Maya, so the latter decided to give it a try.

"I'll contact Molly now. You'll see a slimmer me soon, I promise!"

"You can do it, Maya!"

The girl happily went to get the driver to send her to Molly while her other three siblings returned to their bedrooms.

It had been a long and tiring trip, so Stephen also headed inside his room to rest.

Soon, only Nicole and Evan were left in the room. The two looked at each other and smiled before sitting down to discuss the wedding.

The man listened to Nicole patiently because he wanted to realize as many of her ideas as possible to give her the most romantic wedding.

The woman's eyes sparkled like the stars when she talked about her dream wedding. She had it all planned out in her head.

She had high expectations for the wedding – so did he.

After talking for a while, Nicole suddenly stated, "I think we shouldn't invite too many people. I don't want the media to be present because I wouldn't know what to do if I slip up."

Evan curved his lips into a smile as he looked at her worried expression. "Whatever you say."

That made her nod happily before she asked if he wanted to add anything.

"I'll talk to my parents at the Seet residence tomorrow. You should discuss things with Stephen too. I want us to have the perfect wedding," answered Evan after some thought.

Nicole nodded once again. "Got it!"

The next morning, Evan went to the Seet residence before going to work.

Unexpectedly, he found Avril and Davin arguing as soon as he stepped into the house, though he had no idea what the conversation was about.

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Davin quickly walked over to his brother as if his savior had finally arrived.

"What's going on?" asked Evan curiously.

Davin started to complain that Avril had deliberately come over to stir up trouble and that she could no longer stay at the Seet residence. The woman had scolded even the maids, and Davin worried that she would ruin the whole household if she were to stay any longer.

With a pitiful look, Avril explained how she was not used to staying in the Seet residence before turning to Evan. "I really can't stay here any longer, Evan. Can I move to your place instead?"

All eyes were on the man when Avril asked the question.

Davin and the maids were especially concerned about his decision. They were praying hard that Evan would accept the difficult woman into his own home.

Evan froze as he considered the expressions of everyone in the room.

While the maids genuinely hoped that Avril would leave, Davin was exchanging looks with Avril as he continued to observe Evan's reaction.

Based on what he knew about his younger brother, Evan figured that his brother was likely working with Avril to put up an act.

Their goal was to get Avril to Imperial Garden so that she could continue to pursue Stephen.

"We don't have any extra rooms or maids at Imperial Garden. You'll have to do everything yourself, Avril, so I'm sure you'll prefer to stay here."

Davin was dumbfounded when Evan disagreed with the suggestion.

"But if she continues to stay here, the Seet residence will be ruined!"

Avril quickly chimed in, "I don't mind doing everything by myself. I don't need any maids."

Evan was taken aback but then looked to the maids aside. "From now on, you don't have to help Ms. Ankings with anything. Let her do everything herself."

Avril's jaw dropped when she heard his words.

What? Why?

Davin was just as shocked. Avril had promised him treasures from Wicked Palace if he could get her to Imperial Garden. He had been sure that he could fetch a good price selling the treasures. He could also save those valuable collectibles for emergencies.

Davin sighed internally. Now I'm never getting those treasures.

Evan's getting in the way of my riches again.

After smirking at the downhearted two, Evan walked upstairs to the study room.

When Jonathan saw his son walk in, he placed his documents aside.

"After being away for so long, there's much that needs to be done. You should hurry to the office."

"I'll personally handle the more urgent business matters, Dad, but there's something more important I need to discuss with you."

"What is it?"

"It's about my wedding."

His father's face darkened as soon as he mentioned the wedding.

"Do you seriously think I'll agree to your wedding with your grandpa's murderer?"

"Dad, Nicole's not the murderer!" retorted Evan with a serious look.

"Unless you can prove otherwise, she'll remain your grandpa's murderer to our family. We won't allow you to marry her!"

Evan furrowed his brows. He would need to get to the bottom of the murder before he could marry Nicole.

Not only did he have to find the real murderer for his family's sake, but he also had to clear Nicole's name.

"Don't worry, Dad. I'll get to the bottom of it."

"Good! Find out the truth before you talk to me about the wedding again."

After a brief moment of silence, Evan turned and left the study.

After leaving the Seet Residence, instead of going to his office, Evan went to the Muirs' to learn about the evidence Patrick had found a few days before.

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The Muirs were located in Y City. Second only to the Seets, they were also considered one of the most prominent families.

Patrick welcomed Evan politely when he saw the man.

“Please have a seat, Evan.”

“Thank you, Patrick.”

“Sheila and Davin are engaged, so we’re a family now. Remember that you’re always welcome here.”

The two sat opposite each other before Evan asked straightforwardly about the evidence Patrick had found related to the matters in prison.

“Levant was indeed involved, but he’s not the mastermind. He only helped remove some obstacles.”

“Who’s the mastermind then?”

“It’s a woman. She was smart enough to not expose her identity. The witnesses I sent to K Nation two days ago knew her. They would’ve been able to recognize her if you showed them a photo of the suspect. Unfortunately, they’ve been kidnapped.”

A woman?

Who would hate Nicole so much to let her rot in prison?

Evan squinted as a familiar name appeared in his mind.

Since Levant was involved, he must know something.

The man’s not someone who gives up easily. I wonder if he’ll come here when he finds out that Nicole and I are going to have a wedding.

Evan was in deep thought as he rushed over to the office in his Maybach. As soon as he arrived, he had John pinpoint Susan’s location.

“Yes, Sir. I’m on it.”

Meanwhile, Levant sat on a plane with a gloomy look on his face. Playing inside his mind was the scene where he argued with Murphy about traveling to C Nation.

“You’re still not letting go of her, are you? Why are you so stubborn?” Disappointed, Murphy looked angrily at his son.

“I don’t want to explain myself, but I have to go, no matter what.”

“Are you going to chase after her for the rest of your life? Evan is your cousin! Are you really trying to steal your own cousin’s wife?”

Levant smiled bitterly. “Don’t worry, Dad. I’m not going to do anything stupid. I heard they’re getting married, so I’m just going to attend their wedding. That’s all.”

Murphy sighed, “You may be my son, but you’re nothing like me. After all, it was Stephen who raised you. It’s no wonder you’re as love-crazed as he is!”

Levant was similar to Stephen, who only had eyes for Nicole’s mother; the former wanted no one else besides Nicole.

Maybe fate brought Stephen, Nicole, and me together, but like Stephen and Rosalie, we’re destined to be separated.

Levant snapped out of it when the plane landed. After getting off the plane, he headed straight to Levant Winery.

Because of what happened between him and Evan, the winery was no longer as lively as it used to be. The business there had worsened, and the place even looked a little bleak.

Levant benefited nothing from the showdown between him and Evan.

After taking a deep breath, the man stepped into the winery. He had only taken a few steps when he noticed a crying woman running in his direction, crashing into a marble pillar not far away from him.

He dashed over to the woman and pushed her to the ground.

"Why did you push me?" asked the woman as she looked at him with tearful eyes.

After sizing the woman up, Levant slight lifted the corner of his mouth. The woman was petite with a curvier figure; she was not much taller than Nicole. Something about her reminded Levant of the woman he loved.

"Why did you run into the pillar?" he responded to her question with a question of his own.

"Because I wanted to!"

"Can you do it somewhere else then? You dying here is only going to worsen the already terrible business."

The woman then got up and wiped her tears before running out of the winery.

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Unsure if he was simply curious or if he was genuinely worried about the woman's safety, Levant quickly chased after her.

After leaving the winery, the woman covered her face and continued to bawl. Then, she wiped her tears with her hands before slamming herself into the wall of a nearby villa.

He rushed over to the woman once more and held her tightly.

"Let go of me! What do you think you're doing? Let go now!" the woman shouted as she struggled.

"So you're going for the wall after the pillar? You're so young. It'd be a shame to throw your life away like that. Whatever it is, I'm sure you can work it out."

The woman continued to wipe her tears. "I'll do whatever I want. That wall doesn't belong to you, so why do you care?"

Levant could tell that the woman was determined to kill herself because of how hard she struggled. Left with no choice, he knocked her out and carried her into the winery.

His servant was shocked to see him carrying someone inside and asked curiously, "Who might this be, Mr. Levant?"

"Someone I saved from death."

Caleb, his servant, was stunned but quickly caught up with Levant when he realized that his master was trying to do good.

After placing the woman in a guest room, Caleb asked Levant curiously, "Mr. Levant, did she try to kill herself because she's in some kind of trouble? She's quite good-looking."

"She wouldn't run into a wall after running into a pillar if she weren't. I'll ask her why she did such a stupid thing when she's awake."

Caleb continued to look curiously at the man before him. He knew his master was not the kind of man to meddle in other people's business, which made him surprised to see Levant do something so out of the blue.

Why would he care about a random suicidal woman? Unless...

No. There's no way Mr. Levant would've fallen for this woman. He only has eyes for Ms. Lane, so why would he suddenly have a change of heart?

An hour later, the woman opened her eyes and began to look around frantically.

"Where am I?"

"Levant Winery."

The woman knitted her brows when she remembered how she had slammed herself onto the pillar and the wall. Tears started to well up in her eyes, and before long, she was bawling again.

"No matter what, you shouldn't give up on your life," Levant chided.

The woman covered her face as she tried to choke back her tears.

Levant let out a long sigh. He thought he had a tough life, but looking at the woman, he realized that there were others who had it even tougher.

I'm sure I'm not the only one suffering in this world.

"Are you in some kind of trouble?"

The woman felt even worse because of Levant's question, but she wiped her tears and replied with a broken voice, "I am nothing."

"Why do you say that?" Levant had said a similar thing when his wedding was ruined.

He did not expect the woman to feel the same way about herself as he did himself.

After calming herself down, the tear-streaked woman started to share her story.

"I'm a divorcee."

"So what? A lot of people have gotten divorced. That's not the reason why you wanted to kill yourself, is it?"

The woman shook her head vigorously.

"No, of course it's not. The divorce wasn't easy, but I never thought about ending my life because of it. I wanted to kill myself because... I don't have a place in this world. My future looks bleak, and I really don't want to go through the same thing again. I'm so scared of going through another failed marriage... So scared... "

Realizing that the woman had been through some hard times, Levant frowned, pulling up a chair to listen to her. Perhaps she had kept her feelings to herself for too long, so she was willing to answer any questions he had.

"Don't you have a family? Why didn't you go back to your parents after the divorce?"

The woman took a deep breath. "I did. I stayed at a vacant house that my family owned, but that's not my house, and it's a terrible feeling to live under some else's roof." At that point, the woman lifted her head to look at him. "Have you read 'The Allure of Love' by Camina Larson?"

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The man shook his head in response.

She then continued, "Gillian Snow, the lead character in the novel, has been through what most divorced women would go through living with their parents. A phrase in the novel goes 'a divorced woman living with her parents has no one to depend on.' That was exactly how I felt."

"Were your parents not good to you?"

"After my failed marriage, I tried to be more careful about choosing my next partner. I wanted to start again with another relationship, but I've never found a suitable one in the past two years after the divorce. My mother would get mad whenever the neighbors mention my failed marriage. Then, she'd ask me to hurry and get remarried soon. I was living in a house that belonged to my parents, so from time to time, my mother would remind me that they planned to move into the house soon. I knew she was trying to drive me out. I haven't slept well for the past two years because I was sleeping under someone else's roof. I didn't have a home, and I have no one to depend on."

Levant had no right to comment on the woman's family matter, so instead, he inquired, "Have you not thought about getting your own house? Do you have a job?"

The woman nodded. "I do. When I was six, my mother shut me out of the house when I fought with my brother. I was so scared that she'd never let me in again, so I cried until the sky turned dark. In the end, my grandmother brought me back to her house. When I was sixteen, my mother sent me elsewhere to make money. I've known since I was sixteen that I had to depend on myself. I've supported myself over the years."

Her tears started rolling down again when she recalled her painful past.

"I've used all the money I've earned to pay off my ex-husband's debt to raise my children. I don't earn a lot, and I have to pay for my children's living expenses, send money to my family, and cover my own daily expenses. What little money I have left isn't going to be enough for me to buy a house."

A bitter smile then appeared on her face. "I didn't understand why divorced women were in a hurry to marry someone they don't love before, but I do now. A woman needs to be financially capable and have her own home. Only then she can start planning her own life. Otherwise, we'll always be under someone's thumb."

When the woman was done speaking, she looked at Levant and asked, "What do you think? Should I listen to my mother and get remarried soon?"

Levant was silent as he sized her up. "Even if you can't afford to buy a house, you can always rent a place."

"I did. I rented a house after my divorce, but my mother came over, and we had a big fight over it."

At that point, the woman could no longer go on talking. The past was a knife to her heart, making it bleed in pain.

Seeing how the woman was suffering, he decided to stop questioning her.

Buying a house was nothing to Levant, but it was enough to change this woman's life.

"Will you stop trying to hurt yourself if you have a house?"

The woman lifted her head and shot him a puzzled look.

Having gone through the harshest situations her life had to offer, she wondered if the stranger before her was trying to lend her a helping hand.

"You... You'll lend me money?" she asked hesitantly.

After a brief pause, Levant nodded determinedly. "I'm only doing this because I don't want you to kill yourself. I'll lend you money if that's what it'll take to save you."

The woman stared at Levant in shock before sincerely thanking him. "Thank you! Thank you! I'll write you an IOU, and I'll pay you back once I've earned enough."

Seeing how sincere the woman was, he took out a debit card and handed it to her. "There should be enough on this card to buy you a house."

The woman took the card with her trembling hands and asked softly, "How much is this?"

"You don't have to know. Just take as much as you need."

"How much should I write on the IOU then?"

Levant did not care much about the money; it would not matter to him even if the woman decided not to repay him in the end. Seeing how serious the woman was, he inquired, "How much would you need to buy a house for yourself?"