

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 956

After leaving the shopping mall, she spotted a drinks shop opposite. As she suddenly had an urge to drink something, she walked over with her bags in hand.

She ordered her favorite melon-flavored milk tea and sat down in a quiet corner to wait.

The waitress only served her the drink after a long while.

“Ma’am, here’s your milk tea.”

“Why did it take such a long time?”

“The drinks we sell here are different from the others. Have a taste of it!”

When Nicole picked it up and took a sip, she could not help but frown. It tasted quite weird, unlike the drink she had in the past.

“Is this the melon-flavored milk tea?”

The waitress stared directly into her eyes. Instead of replying, she merely smiled and left.

Nicole’s brows furrowed. She kept scrutinizing her milk tea, thinking that there was something strange with the waitress’s smile.

Is there something wrong with this drink? Not daring to finish the milk tea, she stood up and hurriedly left the shop.

When the bodyguards saw her rushing out so quickly, they worriedly asked if something had happened to her.

The waitress’s strange smile surfaced in her mind again, making her feel immensely uneasy.

She softly mumbled, “Nothing. Let’s go home.”

After returning to Imperial Garden, she felt extremely exhausted and was overcome with a strong urge to sleep. She started to wonder if the milk tea had been spiked.

She laid on the bed and soon began to dream.

This was a very drowsy sleep. She even had a nightmare that was plagued with terrifying images.

It was already nighttime when she woke up. Evan was sitting beside the bed and watching her silently.

As she stared at Evan, his face suddenly morphed into Zane's face. She sat up abruptly and exclaimed in shock, "Why are you here?"

Evan frowned. "I'm waiting for you to wake up so we can eat together."

Eat?

The scenes of her being tortured and forced to eat leftovers when she was staying in the Lane family suddenly appeared in her mind.

"I don't want to eat! I don't want to eat!"

She trembled gently as her face became pale. Noticing that something was amiss, Evan quickly held her hand and asked worriedly, "Nicole, what's wrong?"

When Nicole raised her head and saw that it was Evan, she heaved a sigh of relief.

"I thought I saw Zane earlier."

Evan sank into deep thoughts.

"Why would you suddenly remember him for no reason?"

Nicole shook her head helplessly. "I don't know either. Perhaps I'm too tired recently."

Pinching her nose gently, Evan said, "I won't tire you at night anymore. I'll let you have a good night's sleep." Although Nicole flashed him a small smile, she still felt very uneasy. Did that cup of milk tea have something to do with me feeling so exhausted and even mistaking Evan for someone else?

When they arrived at the dining room, they saw the four children, Stephen and Avril waiting for them.

“Dinner tonight is quite sumptuous. It’s much better than what we ate at Seet Residence! At least, there are meat and vegetables, which gives a balanced diet.”

Juan glanced at her. “We’re still growing so we need to replenish our nutrition and have a balanced diet.”

Maya held her fork with her chubby hands. She only took a few vegetables and poured a cup of fruit yogurt for herself. “I’m eating according to the menu my dietician came up for me. I’ll be having these for dinner for the remaining half of the month.”

“Maya, as long as you’re determined, your diet will definitely be a success.”

“Yeah!”

The four children started eating. However, Nicole picked up her fork and suddenly placed it down.

“The fish! The fish is crying out in pain. Don’t eat it anymore! It’s hurting!”

Everyone was rendered speechless.

Evan and Stephen glanced at her in shock, while the children were dumbfounded as well.

Widening her eyes, Maya asked, “Mommy, if the fish is already dead, how can it cry out in pain?”

Nina side-eyed her. “You’re wrong. Even if the fish isn’t dead, it won’t cry out in pain either!”

Nicole’s eyes bore into the plate of roasted fish. Earlier, I heard the fish crying out in pain. What happened? Was it a hallucination?

“Nicole, do you feel uncomfortable?”

Turning around and glancing at Evan, she shook her head gently. Although she could not shake this feeling of uneasiness, she did not know what was causing it. As she was still

clueless about what was going on, she did not want to make Evan worry and merely replied, "It's... It's nothing. I'm just joking with you."

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Juan's large eyes gleamed as he pouted. Mommy's actually making such a joke, but it's not funny at all!

"Okay, let's eat."

Evan placed the fork into Nicole's hand. For the entire dinner, Nicole only ate the vegetables. She did not dare to touch the roasted fish which she thought had cried out in pain.

After dinner, the four children, Sheila and Stephen chatted in the living room. As she did not dare to stay for long, she came up with an excuse and returned to her bedroom.

Kyle, who was a good observer, gazed at her back and remarked, "Mommy's complexion doesn't seem too good."

Avril smiled. "Well, she's just gotten back together with your Dad. This is all because of him. You should settle the score with him instead."

The four of them fell silent, not really understand what she was saying. Juan asked, "Are you saying that Daddy's bullying Mommy?"

Avril nodded. "But, in my opinion, both of them are willing parties. You little brats shouldn't be too nosy about what the adults are doing."

Nina sighed. "Ms. Avril is right. Daddy and Mommy keep on separating and getting back together. Since we can't do anything about it, let's just not be nosy."

"Yeah. Grandpa, tell us a story."

"Okay, I'll think of one."

Stephen gazed at the children affectionately, thinking that it was a source of comfort to tell stories to them.

After all, he had not fulfilled his responsibility of raising Nicole. Now, he could make up for his regret by taking care of these kids well.

Avril cut up some fruits and placed them on the table so they could eat and listen at the same time.

In the bedroom upstairs, Nicole stared at her pale reflection in her mirror while losing herself in her thoughts. Chaotic images kept surfacing in her mind.

She could not figure out why she had mistaken Evan for Zane, and why she had seemingly heard the fish calling out in pain.

Her eyes were fixated on her reflection in the mirror, curious to see if her face would morph into someone else's.

When she saw the bedroom door open and Evan entering, she quickly hid her worried expression.

Noticing her poor complexion, Evan walked towards her, held her hand, and gently coaxed, "Go and bathe, then have a good night's sleep."

"Okay." Nicole nodded gently.

Perhaps, if she had a good sleep, her exhaustion and bouts of hallucination would disappear. In that case, she could finally return to her normal state.

Looking forward to that, she grabbed her pajamas and headed to the bathroom.

Evan had thoughtfully filled the bathtub with water and even tested the temperature with his hand. It was at the right temperature—neither too warm nor too cold.

"Have a long bath to soothe yourself."

"Okay."

Nicole smiled gently and lowered herself into the white bathtub. Afterward, Evan gently exited the bathroom.

Wisps of steam encircled the bathroom, while the warm water flowed around her gently. It felt very soothing and relaxing, as if she were having a massage.

Nicole gently closed her eyes and rested.

However, a short moment later, she suddenly smelled the metallic stench of blood. Opening her eyes in confusion, she became petrified.

She was bathing in blood!

Every inch of her skin was soaking in blood, which was so glaringly red. The strong stench of blood started to fill her nostrils.

Her heart beat frantically as she let out a terrified shriek. "Argh!" She stood up in a fluster and jumped out of the bathtub, as if she were escaping for her life.

Evan rushed in after hearing her scream. When he saw her standing outside the bathtub in terror, he instantly dashed toward her. He held her hand and asked worriedly, "What's wrong?"

"Blood! There's blood everywhere!"

Nicole's eyes were filled with fear. After speaking, she spun around and looked at the bathtub. However, when she noticed that it was filled with clear water, her eyes widened.

It's filled with blood just now! Why did it become water?

While she was in a daze, she suddenly realized that she might be hallucinating.

It must have been an illusion!

What's going on?

Evan scrutinized her from head to toe and asked curiously, "Where's the blood?"

Nicole mulled over it for a while. Should I let Evan know that I'm hallucinating?

I think I should sleep first and see if the hallucinations will disappear.

Perhaps, I should visit the doctor tomorrow and find out what's going on before telling him.

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There were still many matters at Seet Group for him to deal with, so she did not want to trouble him.

"Nicole, what's the matter?" Evan asked.

Snapping out of her thoughts, Nicole shook her head. "Nothing. I had a nightmare when I fell asleep in the bathtub earlier."

Concerned, Evan gently touched her pale face and comforted her, "You don't seem well. Tomorrow, I'll get a doctor to give you a checkup."

"It's alright. I feel tired all the time, but I'll be okay after taking a nap," Nicole assured.

"Quickly get some sleep then," Evan nagged as he took a bath towel and dried her body. Then, he carried her into the bedroom and gently placed her on the bed, tucking her under the white sheets.

Within minutes, Nicole closed her eyes and fell asleep.

That night, she had many dreams, and as though she was watching a movie in her head, shocking scenes continued to appear one after another.

She was either running for her life or drowning in the middle of an ocean. Otherwise, she was falling off a cliff. All of them were taunting to her, and none were peaceful dreams.

By the time she woke up, she was covered in sweat.

It took her some time to calm down, and when she turned to her side, Evan was no longer there. She stretched out her hand to touch the empty spot, but it felt cold, which meant he left a while ago.

He had probably gone to work. It looked like she overslept again.

She reached for the watch by her bedside and saw that it was already nine in the morning.

Sighing, she sat up, still feeling weak.

While having breakfast, Avril stared at Nicole's pale face and seemed hesitant to talk to her. She looked like she had a question.

"Do you want to ask me something?" Nicole took a sip of her milk and asked Avril directly.

Awkwardly, Avril looked around before walking towards Nicole. She whispered, "You must have had a lot of fun with Mr. Seet last night. It looks like all your energy have been sucked out of you."

Alarmed, Nicole looked at Avril with a horrified expression on her face.

What is Avril thinking about? This woman from Wicked Palace has quite a wild imagination. Last night, I fell asleep quite early and did not do anything with Evan at all.

Meanwhile, Avril took Nicole's silence as an acknowledgement. Patting her shoulder, she advised, "I heard that doing too much of it is not good for health. Both of you should learn to control yourself."

She even added, "This is a genuine piece of advice."

"It's nothing like that, I..."

Nicole was about to explain herself, but Avril had turned to leave.

Such matters were always hard to explain. Besides, although it was nothing like what Avril thought, Nicole knew something was wrong with her health. She could not figure it out and thought of visiting the doctor.

Following her plan, she cleaned up after breakfast and changed into some casual clothing before heading to the hospital.

The doctor found no health issues with her body after the examination, but he mentioned that she might be too tired or stressed out recently. He advised her to rest and prescribed some tranquilizers for her.

With the doctor's assurance, Nicole could finally let down her guard.

The moment she returned to Imperial Garden, she followed the doctor's order and took the medicine he prescribed for her. Then, she lay down on the bed to rest.

Soon, she was fast asleep.

On the other hand, Avril was downstairs, pestering Stephen whenever she had some free time. As a result, his first reaction was to hide whenever he saw her.

When he opened his door and saw her standing before him, he would close his door immediately.

When he went downstairs and saw her there, he would head back to his room.

When he saw her walk to the living room, he would walk away.

Upset, Avril pouted and looked at his back and start sulking.

"Weren't we getting along earlier? Why would he change his mind all of a sudden? They say women are fickle-minded, but I guess men are equally the same too. This can't continue. I have to think about how else I can rise above this challenge."

After she whined, she glanced upstairs and thought about Nicole.

Surely, Nicole would help her.

Immediately, she rushed upstairs and knocked on the door several times. However, there was no response, so she barged in to see Nicole sleeping peacefully.

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Why does she sleep so much?

She gently shook Nicole's shoulder to wake her up. The lady in bed opened her tired eyes and frowned when she saw who was hovering over her.

"Are you really standing in front of me? This isn't a dream, right?" Nicole croaked.

Confused, Avril stared at Nicole, unsure of what the latter meant.

"What are you talking about?"

Still unsure, Nicole touched Avril's face then pinched it.

"Ouch!" Avril yelled in pain. "Why did you pinch me? It was so painful! Your dad is already avoiding me. If you pinch me and disfigure my face, your dad will surely dislike me even more."

As Avril cursed under her breath, Nicole sighed in relief. It's really Avril, and I'm not hallucinating.

"Sorry, I fell asleep and thought I was still dreaming," Nicole apologized.

Avril sighed, "See, I already told you that engaging in too many sexual activities is not good for you."

"Don't spout nonsense. I'm genuinely tired," Nicole denied while shooting Avril a look.

Stretching her neck, she was relieved that the doctor's medicine seemed effective since she was not hallucinating anymore.

Breaking her trail of thoughts, Avril massaged Nicole's shoulders and asked, "I'll give you a massage and in return, can you answer some of my questions?"

"What questions?" Nicole probed.

"It has to do with your mom. Your dad has not forgotten your mom after over twenty years, so there must be something special about your mom that he really loved. I want to know what it is."

Nicole tried to recall. However, from her memory, her mom was always unhappy and even had depression.

Until now, she did not even know how her parents met and what her dad liked about her mom.

If she could time-travel, she wished she could travel to the time when they first met, so she could see what her mom looked like then.

She wanted to know how they met and how their relationship started and developed before they finally got together.

Although Stephen mentioned it before, she would love to see it for herself.

Closing her eyes, she tried to imagine.

In place of the melancholy look in her mom's eyes, there was a bright spark in them and a smile on her face.

She was no longer unhappy and was taking a stroll with her dad, hand in hand.

The gloom and misery that engulfed her mom were gone. Instead, she looked shy, like a girl spending time with her first love. Her heart palpitated quickly in her chest, excited for the future in store for the two of them.

Nicole ever heard from Stephen that when her mom pursued him, she was very bold. She studied acupuncture with him and even took the initiative to confess to him.

At that thought, Nicole raised her head and gazed at Avril. Looking at the latter carefully, she suggested, "You are just as daring as my mother. Regardless, I feel like you can afford to have more courage."

Avril's eyes widened. "Am I not bold enough now? How much bolder do you think I should be?"

By pursuing Stephen, she already felt like she had thrown her pride away.

As though she thought about something, she looked at Nicole with curiosity. "Are you telling me to throw myself in your dad's arms?"

Nicole felt awkward and started coughing as she was startled by Avril's words.

Instantly, Avril switched to massaging Nicole's back instead.

After a while, Nicole gave Avril a serious look and warned, "If you dare to do anything inappropriate to my dad, I will throw you out of Imperial Garden."

Avril was speechless.

Didn't she tell me to be bolder?

I can knock on his door in the middle of the night to show him care and give him fruits. I can cling and pester him all day.

However, I can't do anything more than that.

Deep in thought, the lady frowned.

At Seet Group.

Evan received a call. Susan's body was not found, even after they searched the entire river. It was like a confirmation that Susan had escaped.

That year, they met with many misfortunes. The death of his Grandpa and Nicole's imprisonment were things that caused his heart to ache.

Instantly, he ordered the Hidden Masters to activate everyone to find Susan at all cost.

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“Mr. Seet, don’t worry. Susan cannot escape because the police are looking for her too. I believe that she will be caught soon.”

Evan’s gaze looked dull.

Once we catch her and avenge Grandpa, I want to marry Nicole.

However, Susan is scheming, and it bothers me that she is nowhere to be found now.

After ending the call, Evan ordered John, “Dispatch more men for the search. I want to catch her as soon as possible.”

Nodding, his assistant acknowledged, “Yes, Mr. Seet.”

Already predicting that Evan would do so, Susan was prepared. She stared back at her unrecognizable reflection in the mirror with satisfaction.

The most dangerous place would be the safest place.

Evan, I’m sure you didn’t expect me to be right under your nose.

The hallucinogen I added to Nicole’s milk tea was very effective, and I shall continue to use it.

Nicole will be tortured to death before I get caught. Does Evan want to witness it?

Well, he doesn’t have a choice because I will make that happen.

Evan, you have pushed me to this step. Nicole asked for it. How dare she take my place beside you?

She deserves it.

If I go to hell, I will drag her down with me.

A sinister smile and terrifying expression appeared on the reflection of the unknown face in the mirror.

Meanwhile, Avril pondered for the entire night and could not think of another better solution.

Therefore, she made a decision boldly.

She was going to swallow her ego and get closer to him.

“Urgh, there is nothing else I can do. If I want to be shameless, I have to go all out,” she muttered.

She took a deep breath and began to prepare for her plan. She even went out to purchase wine and perfume.

After that, she came back to see Stephen in the living room. To ensure her plan goes smoothly, she blurted out, “You don’t have to leave! I will not pester you and will leave instead. You can stay here.”

She flashed a smile before she headed to her bedroom.

Sitting on the curved sofa, Stephen furrowed his brows. There is something wrong with Avril’s behavior today.

Maybe she finally got the message and dared not fool around anymore. It is a good thing.

For the rest of the day, Avril tiptoed around Stephen like a mouse who saw a cat.

Stephen was relieved.

However, by the time night fell, he was in for a big surprise.

Out of the blue, he heard a knock on his door. Thinking that it would not be Avril who had been hiding from him all day, he did not hesitate to open his door.

To his surprise, he saw Avril standing outside with a bottle of red wine in her hand. He could even smell the perfume she sprayed all over her body.

“What are you doing here?” He demanded.

"I stayed out of your sight the entire day. It is nighttime now, so can we talk? Maybe for an hour? Otherwise, I will be contented with half an hour," Avril replied.

"Come in," Stephen reluctantly said.

The woman followed him into the room and casually took two glasses. She slowly filled them with red wine. One was for her, and the other was for Stephen.

"It is a beautiful night. Let's have a drink," she offered.

Stephen frowned at what she said. It is getting late, yet this woman is here to drink with me?

She has been hiding from me the entire day...something is not right.

Regardless, he picked up the wine glass calmly but poured it into another porcelain cup beside him when Avril was enjoying her drink.

Looking at his empty glass, Avril refilled it.

Like earlier, they had another glass each.

"Here, have another one," she offered.

After three glasses, Avril's face began to turn red. She glanced at him with a smile and asked, "Is there anything different about the wine you are drinking?"

Stephen just stared at her without saying anything.

Avril turned her glass upside down and answered her own question, "This wine is special."

"How is it special?" Stephen questioned.

Confident that she would win him over, she confessed. "This wine is specially made and laced. I spent a lot of money to get it brewed."