

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 991

How does one make sure that the leaves stay on the tree forever?

It's impossible. One cannot simply bend the rules of nature. Leaves will certainly fall, and new ones will take their place. The process perpetuates until the tree dies.

"Nicole, what say we stop this lollygagging and do something fun instead? Let's see... oh, I've got a joke, you want to hear it?" asked Sheila after taking a deep breath.

Nicole was unperturbed. Keeping a straight face, she continued to stare blankly at the fallen leaves.

Meanwhile, Sheila's heart was racing. She was afraid that the silent treatment from Nicole was because the latter would start acting up again. After all, it always ended up making Nicole oblivious to her surroundings while behaving like a gonzo animal.

"Forget about what I said, Nicole. Jokes aren't quite your style, huh. It's alright; I get it. We can do something else, though. Do you have anything in mind?" said Sheila with a timid tone.

"Well then, how about some shopping?" Nicole turned around and finally glanced at Sheila.

Sheila was startled for a while. Although she gave that suggestion, she was still worried that Nicole's illness would take over her conscious mind at the shopping district. If that were to happen, it would definitely be on the news the ensuing day.

Nicole would then have to kiss her project with the Muir Group goodbye. And after that, she would probably be notorious for her "stellar performance" at the shopping district for years to come.

Taking all that into consideration, Sheila concluded that it would be perilous to go with her proposition. So instead, Sheila tried to come up with a better proposition to deter her from going shopping.

However, Nicole seemed adamant that she was going shopping. As a matter of fact, she was murmuring to herself about the kind of outfit she was going to wear and listing out the things she was going to buy on a piece of paper.

“Nicole, instead of shopping, why don’t we check in with the kids at the Seet Residence. What do you say?” Sheila stared at her with her big round eyes.

After contemplating for a while, Nicole answered, “Hmm... Why don’t we go shopping first, then we can go check on the kids. We can even get some gifts for them at the shopping district.”

Hearing her answer, Sheila went silent for a while.

She then tried a different approach.

“Nicole, how about this, you can ask Davin to help you buy the things you want at the shopping district. In the meantime, we’ll go and check on the kids at the Seet Residence, okay?” suggested Sheila.

Nicole pondered on it for a while and said, “Hmm... but I’m not sure what to buy for them. Let’s just head to the mall and take a look. I’ll buy anything that catches my eye.”

Once again, Sheila was left speechless and didn’t know what to say.

At this point, it looked like Nicole was inevitably going shopping. Sheila thought about asking for Davin’s aid – to help prepare a contingency plan if things went south.

“Alright then, Nicole. Why don’t you go and get changed while I’ll wait right here.”

Nicole nodded and went into her bedroom to change her clothes.

In the meantime, Sheila went to the courtyard, looking anxiously for Davin. She then saw Davin, on his lonesome, leaning against a wall while checking a maid out. Furious, she rushed towards him and gave him a shove.

Davin was startled as it was all too sudden.

“Why did you push me out of the blue!”

"It's Nicole. She insisted on going shopping at the district mall."

"Shopping? Why don't you just accompany her?"

"What if her illness relapsed at the shopping mall, huh? Are you going to take responsibility when she starts kicking and biting all the other customers there? She'll be a laughing stock if the news gets out. The Seet Group's reputation will only go downhill from that point on!"

Davin nodded his head in agreement after listening. Sheila is right. It could end up disastrous.

However, he thought about it for a while and said, "Women like shopping right? Just let her do what she likes, she'll be more happy that way anyway. Besides, with you by her side, you'll be able to conciliate her if anything goes wrong. Just try to calm her down so that her illness won't act up again."

Sheila finally budged, but she still had a bad feeling about going shopping with Nicole. The premonition that something terrible would happen overwhelmed her when she thought about it.

"Davin, why don't you tag along with us?"

"Me? I can't because I'm still trying to find the puppeteer hiding in the shadows. Besides, I've finally found a lead, so that's why I must keep investigating. I can't just let this opportunity slide through."

Sheila curled her lips and left anxiously about the whole shopping trip.

Davin, on the other hand, felt that Sheila was just being too paranoid. It's just a shopping excursion, so what's the worst that can happen? They'll be back before they know it.

After that, he turned around and continued spying on his target.

Nicole was just done changing, so she walked out of her room to meet with Sheila. When Sheila saw Nicole, she was so captivated by Nicole's clothes that she stared at them for a good few seconds. Her lustrous and wavy hair dropped on her shoulders, being effortlessly perfect. On her body, she was donning a gorgeous pink top with a pair of funky palazzo pants. The pairing of clothes might seem odd, but Nicole was still able to pull it off perfectly.

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All this while, Nicole always had that girl-next-door image. Hence, it gave Sheila a big shock when Nicole came out of her room. The Nicole in front of her looked like a classy model with a feisty personality. This new woman was probably formed through the influence of the arrogant yet charming Evan, who spent a lot of time with her.

It was said that if two people stayed together long enough, similarities between them would start to appear. This was, in fact, true for Nicole and Evan.

“Let’s go.”

“Nicole, just enjoy yourself once we’re at the mall, alright? Focus on the things and gifts you want to buy and ignore everything else. After that, we’ll go and meet the kids at the Seet Residence.”

“Okay.” Nicole’s face was beaming with a smile when she said that. Feeling excited, she flooded her mind with a list of gifts she would prioritize looking for at the mall later.

When they reached the mall, Nicole first passed through a toy store. The store was filled with various types and different sizes of toys, to which none had caught Nicole’s attention. Since her daughters were almost ten, she wanted to buy some educational toys for them instead.

Thus, Nicole searched every corner of the store, and she finally found a Baguenaudier, which was said to be effective in improving children’s intellect. There was also an intricate lock puzzle that she found at the store, which she thought that her sons, Kyle and Juan, would also find interest in.

She then walked up to pick up the lock puzzle and examined it closely.

“Do you think I could solve this puzzle?”

“Of course! All you need is some time to figure it out. This is suitable not only for kids but adults as well. It helps to kill some time, and in the meantime, distracts kids from their phones. So it’s definitely better for their eyesight,” explained patiently by the owner of the store.

Nicole was shocked by the complicated structure of the lock puzzle because even she was having a hard time solving it.

“This puzzle’s origin dates back to Ancient China and uses what they called the Bagua principal. You need to carefully inspect the sunken parts of the lock. Each of them is slightly different.” The store owner hinted.

Nicole wrapped her head around the puzzle for a while and thought that the puzzle was riveting. Being intrigued, she found herself frowning in contemplation and also inadvertently used her hands to tinker with the puzzle.

The expression that Nicole had made Sheila feel uneasy. Sheila was worried that the puzzle would annoy Nicole, making her emotionally unstable thus letting her hallucinations happen again.

“Nicole, let’s drop the puzzle for now. We’ll leave it to Kyle and Juan to solve it later. In the meantime, why don’t we find gifts for Maya and Nina?” Sheila walked up to her with a smile. After gently grabbing the puzzle from Nicole’s hands, she gave it to the store owner to wrap it up.

Having left the store, Nicole was still fixated on the lock puzzle’s complex structure. As she was picking out clothes for Nina and Maya, she suddenly came up with a solution for the puzzle and turned around.

As Nicole was walking back to the toy store, her head started hurting. The people in front of her looked surreal and contrived. It felt like she was in a dream. She took a couple more steps and started feeling as if she was floating. For some reason, her body felt lighter than usual.

A toddler, who was trotting slowly behind his mother, passed by Nicole that instant. That little boy looked a lot like the younger Juan to her.

She took a closer look and was adamant that the young boy was actually Juan.

She rushed to the boy, bent over, and carried him up from the ground. "Juan, how could you just run away from home by yourself? But it's okay now, mommy's here to take you home, okay?" said Nicole.

The young boy looked at her curiously, not knowing what she was blabbering about. He only thought that the woman in front of him was beautiful and carried a nice scent.

After following Nicole for a while, the young boy finally realized that something was wrong, and he started crying.

"Juan, don't cry. Mommy is right here. We'll go home now."

"Mommy, I want my mommy. Where's my mommy-"

"You don't remember mommy now? I'm right here, see?"

"Mommy-"

An endless stream of tears was flowing down the boy's eyes. He started struggling to get away from Nicole but to no avail.

Nicole was perplexed by the boy's reaction. Her Juan was never this belligerent towards her and would have stopped crying at that point when she hugged him.

"Juan, are you feeling sick or something? Are you hungry? Mommy's gonna get you something to eat, okay?"

"Mommy... I want my mommy-" The boy couldn't stop bawling.

The intense crying of the boy caught the attention of others at the mall. The boy's mother heard the faint sound of a child crying behind her, and she turned around, only to find out that her child was missing.

The mother tensed up and anxiously looked in the direction where the sound was coming from. And there he was, being carried away by Nicole further and further away from her.

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“Stop! She’s stealing my child! Give me back my child! My child!”

The woman screamed as she ran after Nicole, immediately attracting the attention of everyone around. Their eyes latched onto the wailing child in Nicole’s arms.

“Is... Is she stealing someone else’s child?”

“Does she really think she can get away with doing such a thing in broad daylight?”

“She must be a human trafficker. Someone get her.”

“Yes, get her. Call the police!”

Several well-intentioned people started to chase after Nicole, while others called the police.

While walking, Nicole suddenly found herself being blocked. Her heart skipped a beat as she yelled, “What are you doing?”

“Put down the child!”

“Child?”

Nicole’s heart skipped a beat. I hid Juan overseas when he was just a baby so Evan wouldn’t find him. Can it be that my worst fears have been confirmed?

Were these people dispatched by Evan to snatch my child away from me?

Nicole hugged the child tighter in her arms. She addressed the people behind in panic, “This is my child. I can’t give him to you. This is my child!”

At this moment, the child’s mother ran up to her. Her heart broke watching her bawling child.

“That’s my child. Give him to me!”

“Yours? No, this is my child! My Juan! I gave birth to him! I won’t give him to you, I can’t!”

Nicole squeezed the child even tighter, eliciting an even louder howl from him.

The child's mother was fraught with anxiousness and heartache. She tried to reason with Nicole. "There are so many people here. You won't be able to take him. Just give him back to me!"

"No! I won't!" Nicole's eyes clouded over with hysteria. She wracked her brain for a way to safely escape with "Juan".

As the two women fought, the people around began to wag their fingers at Nicole.

"She dolled herself up so prettily. Who would expect her to be a human trafficker? She must have earned a mountain of dirty money from selling children."

"Yes. We can't let her get away with this. Just wait till the police get here to investigate her."

"How horrible. I can't believe she would do that to children. It's despicable."

"What a cruel woman."

Hearing herself being chided by the people around, Nicole's head started to throb. Yet her arms clung fast to the child.

The child's mother dared not to engage in a physical scuffle with Nicole for fear of injuring the child in the process.

Sheila, who was searching for Nicole, dashed over to where the people were crowding.

She could not believe what she saw.

"What's going on, Nicole?"

When the crowd saw Sheila approach Nicole, they assumed that they were in cahoots.

Several people started to film the scene to post on social media. They wanted to warn their loved ones to take extra precautions when it came to their children's safety.

After understanding the situation, Sheila murmured to Nicole, "This isn't Juan, Nicole. He's at the Seet Residence waiting for us. Give the child back to her."

Nicole did not seem to recognize or hear Sheila. She clutched the child to her chest defensively as she cooed, "Don't cry, Juan. Don't cry, Juan."

Since it was an emergency, Sheila called Davin. Davin immediately drove over in his sports car. If only I can turn this into a rocket. I'll be there in the blink of an eye.

Meanwhile, Evan was in an urgent meeting.

John's phone started to ring. He glanced at Evan before declining the call. When he checked WhatsApp, he was instantly stunned.

The message came from his friend. The message read – Two human traffickers have appeared at a shopping center. They strongly resemble Mr. Seet's wife and the heir of Muir Group. Can you ask him if it's them?

John peered closely at the image. When he confirmed that it was Nicole, he was absolutely aghast. He raised his head and stared at Evan, stupefied.

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Evan's piercing gaze landed on John. When he saw John's frozen state of astonishment, he frowned and asked, "What did I just say, John?"

John snapped to his senses and replied. "Something's wrong, Mr. Seet."

Evan narrowed his eyes at him. "Did I say that something was wrong?"

"No, you didn't say that. But something is really wrong," John anxiously blurted.

He scrambled over to Evan and showed him the video.

Even before the video ended, Evan's expression had darkened. He rose to his feet and briskly walked out of the conference room.

"Why did Mr. Seet leave?"

"I don't know. Did something happen?"

"What could have happened that's more important than the expansion of the company?"

As the people in the conference room speculated, one of the executives opened social media and was floored by the news he saw.

"Something more important than the company's expansion did happen! Mr. Seet must have gone to Forest Mall."

"How do you know?"

"I saw it on social media."

All the board members accessed social media. Those who did not see the news questioned the people sitting next to them.

"Wait. Mrs. Seet is a human trafficker? This is insane."

"Exactly. There must be some hidden reason."

"I think the other woman is the trafficker and Mrs. Seet must have tried to save the child by saying he's hers."

Those who were unaware refused to believe that the wife of the president of Seet Group was a human trafficker.

"It's possible."

With the meeting canceled, the board members started to discuss amongst themselves.

By the time Davin rushed to Forest Mall, the police had arrived. He immediately took the police to the side and explained the situation to them.

"The woman carrying the child isn't a trafficker. She's ill. She..."

Evan arrived in the middle of Davin's explanation.

When Nicole spotted him, her eyes filled with fear. He actually came down here personally to take my child!

"I won't give you the child! I gave birth to him. This is my child!" Nicole shrieked at him.

"I'm not going to take the child from you. Calm down, Nicole. I won't fight with you over him."

"No, you will. I already gave you one child. Please let me have Juan at least. He's mine."

Juan?

She thinks the child is Juan. She's regressed to the person she was several years ago. No wonder she's afraid of me snatching the child.

Evan's heart panged. He patiently tried to coax Nicole, to no avail. As such, he had no choice but to call someone to bring Juan over.

During this time, Davin was doing his best to stabilize the situation. The police were explaining the situation to the people around.

Oh, so she's sick.

The crowd started to buzz with chatter.

The woman stopped trying to provoke Nicole. The child in Nicole's arms had stopped crying and had fallen asleep.

When Juan arrived, he dashed over to his mother.

"Mommy!"

Nicole was shocked to see Juan. "You... You?"

"I'm Juan, Mommy!"

Juan?

How can there be two Juans?

There's a small one in my arms and a bigger one in front of me. Which of them is the real Juan?

Nicole's mind was in pieces.

Juan reached out his hand and touched the child in Nicole's arms. "Mommy, this little boy is that lady's child. Give him back to her, okay?"

Nicole was still doubtful, but she slowly handed the child back to the woman.

She wrapped Juan in her embrace and looked him up and down. "Did... Did you eat steroids or something? How did you get so big all of a sudden?"

Juan was speechless.

He stuck out his tongue and said, "Mommy, you have four children. We're all this size now."

"Four children?"

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Evan walked up to Nicole and gently asked, "Nicole, why don't I take you to see our other three children?"

Nicole knitted her brow. Her vision of Evan started to blur and her head throbbed again. She was unsteady on her feet and passed Juan to Evan. As she cradled her head, she took a few steps forward. Sheila quickly came to support her.

"Are you okay, Nicole?"

Besides her headache, her face was also drained of color.

"Take her home," Evan instructed Sheila.

“Okay.”

Sheila held onto Nicole as they walked forward. Seeing them leave, the crowd dispersed as well. However, the news shortly dominated various news and media outlets.

Wife of the president of Seet Group is a human trafficker.

The wife of the president of Seet Group is mentally ill.

The president of Seet Group and his wife fought it out with a woman in a mall over a child

Evan Seet’s wife is crazy!

The news spread like wildfire, attracting the attention and speculation of people everywhere.

When news reached the Seet family, they were all extremely appalled. Why would she do something so damning in the middle of a mall?

Sophia’s face was tense with confusion as she scrolled through the trending topics. When she was assured that she had not made a mistake, she looked up at Evan in bewilderment.

“What’s going on? Why did Nicole and Sheila suddenly go to the mall to snatch that woman’s child? How did my daughters-in-law become human traffickers?”

Evan was quiet as he pondered telling Sophia about Nicole’s illness. Looking at the way things are, I don’t think I can keep her in the dark any longer.

I know my mother well. She’s a smart woman. If I don’t tell her the truth, she’ll just hire someone to secretly look into this. It’s better for me to come clean with her now than to have her come up with some convoluted interpretation of her own.

Since Mom likes Nicole so much, she’ll probably only care for Nicole more when she finds out.

After mulling over the decision for a while, Evan announced, “Mom, Nicole is sick!”

“Sick? What is she sick with? What happened to her?”

Evan was upfront with his explanation to his mother. Sophia's face slowly registered dismay.

"What did you just say? Nicole sometimes has hallucinations?"

"Yes. Someone fed her a hallucinogen."

"What?"

Sophia's expression soured intensely.

She was no stranger to hallucinogens. It was a method of torture. When people took them, the worst-case scenario would result in them utterly losing their minds.

When she was at Wicked Palace, she once saw her father use hallucinogens to punish someone.

When first consumed, the person would exhibit mild visions. As their condition worsened, the individual would start to lose their ability to distinguish between fantasy and reality. Eventually, they would lose grip on all that was real and start behaving erratically.

"How did this happen? How could this have happened?"

The thought of the dangerous drug frightened Sophia, and she started to mutter to herself.

"Mom, Nicole needs to keep calm. So the children will need to stay in the Seet Residence for the time being."

"Wait, Evan. Your uncle is here. Why don't you ask him if he has any ideas on how to cure Nicole?"

Sophia stood to fetch Murphy.

When Murphy heard what had happened, he was shocked as well.

"The hallucinogen is only made in Wicked Palace. How could someone have fed it to Nicole?"

The anxiously puzzled Avril and Levant arrived at this time.

When they caught sight of Evan, Levant walked up to question him.

“Is this your doing, Evan? Did you force Nicole to do that for publicity?”