

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 996

Evan thought Levant was being ridiculous. There was no need for him to resort to getting Nicole to do such a thing.

Evan glared at Levant. "I'm not like you. If ever Seet Group is in trouble and needs the publicity, I'll still have the decency to keep my wife out of it!"

Levant snorted before responding, "Then what was going on in the mall? Why would Nicole snatch someone's child to traffic?"

Before Evan could reply, Murphy cut in, "The hallucinogen could only have come from Wicked Palace. Which one of you stole it?"

Avril shook her head. "I have no interest in the drug. There's no way I even went near it."

Levant thought deeply. Why is Dad asking about the hallucinogen now?

"Why are you asking about this now, Dad?"

"Was it you, Levant?"

Levant had no idea what Murphy was referring to. He furrowed his brow and asked, "What are you talking about, Dad?"

"The hallucinogen is very similar to the amnesia drug. Were you aiming for the amnesia drug but grabbed the hallucinogen by mistake?"

Levant was still confused. He looked at Murphy, baffled.

"I don't know what you're talking about, Dad. Can you be clearer?"

Murphy elucidated his train of thought. "When you were wooing Nicole, you once fed her the amnesia drug. As she was about to marry Evan, you saw your chance disappearing. Did you try to erase her memory again by drugging her? You could have accidentally used the hallucinogen instead."

Levant froze. He could not believe that his own father was accusing him of committing such an act. What father would suspect his son of such a thing?

Also, did he just say that Nicole took the hallucinogen?

“Dad, did you just say that Nicole...”

“Yes. Someone fed her the hallucinogen.”

Levant’s face fell. How could something like this happen?

Murphy asked Levant again if he had anything to do with the incident.

“Dad, how can you suspect me? Besides, you were the one who brought up the idea of giving Nicole the amnesia drug at that time. If not for your suggestion, I would never have thought of it on my own.”

Murphy was startled by his son’s reaction. I was only trying to help you because you were so in love with her. How can you sell me out so easily now?

You ungrateful brat.

Sophia watched the two men point fingers at each other. She heaved a sigh. “I swear you two were enemies in a past life. Stop drudging up the past. Get to the point!”

She turned to address Levant, “Does Wicked Palace have the antidote to the hallucinogen?”

Levant’s expression flattened. He turned his pained expression towards Murphy.

“You use the hallucinogen to punish people you deem incompetent and traitors. Did you...”

“It had nothing to do with me! I only returned to the country recently. Although I am curious to know who else has access to drugs from Wicked Palace.”

Avril ruminated about the possibilities. A person came to mind.

“Levant, when you were at Wicked Palace, there was a woman who often came to see you. She seemed like the scheming type. Could it have been her?”

Levant fell silent.

Murphy was very interested in the woman Avril mentioned. He eventually found out that the woman in question was Susan.

“Who’s Susan?” Murphy demanded to know.

Evan’s eyes narrowed.

Ever since Susan escaped, there’s been no word from her. She could very likely be the one orchestrating this from the shadows.

It’s highly possible that she’s the one who drugged Nicole.

At the mention of Susan, Sophia let out another sigh.

“Let’s leave Susan aside for now. We should first talk about if there’s any way to cure Nicole.”

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Murphy was quiet for some time before he spoke, “There isn’t an antidote for the hallucinogen. The composition of the hallucinogen is very complex. Wicked Palace created it to be used as a lethal weapon. The point of its existence is that it has no cure,” Murphy explained.

Sophia’s expression darkened.

She looked at Evan like he was her last hope.

Evan’s features were twisted with concern. If she becomes worse than she is now, I don’t know how I’ll be able to take it.

“You should get someone to get started on making an antidote, Dad. We might still be able to save Nicole,” Avril proposed.

Murphy sighed. "I already tried many years ago. Your mother's friend took the drug accidentally. But it was useless. One wrong move would create a poison instead of a cure!"

Murphy's solemn delivery sounded as though he was sealing Nicole's fate.

"Nicole is a good person. Nothing bad will happen to her. She'll be fine."

Sophia's assuring words could just as likely have been for her own sake as it could Evan's.

Evan was stunned for a period of time before he turned to leave.

Sophia's heart ached as she gazed at his lonely and forlorn figure.

Nicole and Evan were about to get married. How could something like this happen?

"Haven't the both of them suffered enough? Why are they still being tortured? Nicole's illness affects Evan as well. They share each other's burdens. Evan cares more about Nicole than he does himself. No one is more hurt by this than him."

Tears welled up in Sophia's eyes as she spoke.

Don't they deserve their happily ever after? How many more times can their relationship be tested?

If I could rewind time, I would prevent Evan from ever meeting Nicole. Then, he'll end up with some girl he isn't as in love with and lead a boring but stable life!

Please let my son be alright!

"Don't be sad, Sophia. Ms. Lane might be able to overcome this. Evan's powerful love for her could be her source of strength."

I hope so too. Evan loves her so much. If anything happens to her, Evan will be absolutely crushed!

"Cheer up, Sophia. As long as one remains determined and strong, miracles can happen."

Sophia sighed. "I never thought the day would come where a drug from Wicked Palace would come to haunt my daughter-in-law and son. If I had known, I would have destroyed all the drugs in Wicked Palace when I left!"

Murphy had nothing to say.

Naturally, your son is more important to you than Wicked Palace.

But there are some drugs in Wicked Palace that save lives instead of causing suffering. It would be a waste to destroy those drugs too.

Murphy saw no point in arguing with Sophia while she was in a fit of rage.

He turned to Levant and Avril and said, "Go check on Evan. He might need help."

"Okay."

Avril nodded and bustled off. Is the worry getting to Murphy too?

Why else would he get me to go to Imperial Garden?

Imperial Garden is Stephen's home. Dad was the one who made me promise never to see him again. But how can I not see him if I'm at Imperial Garden?

Every step she took was fraught with anxiousness, afraid that at any moment, Dad would halt her.

She only breathed easy once she was a distance away. Suddenly, someone called out to her from behind.

Not knowing what Murphy was going to say, Avril was rooted to the ground momentarily. Seconds later, she bolted off before he could call out to her again.

After his shouts fell on deaf ears, Murphy let out a heavy sigh as he watched her fled away in her car.

"What's wrong with that brat? All I wanted was to ask her to bring Evan some supplements. Why did she leave in such a hurry?"

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Murphy had no choice but to entrust the chore to Levant, who carried the bag of expensive foreign supplements to Murphy.

When Evan returned to Imperial Garden, he headed over to order Davin to follow the lead regarding Susan.

“Don’t worry. I already have a suspect.”

Juan sprinted into the arms of his father and whispered, “Daddy, Mommy is asleep.”

Evan could tell from Juan’s troubled expression that he was worried about his mother.

He reached out to caress his son’s head. “Mommy will be fine. Don’t worry.”

Juan knew that his father was trying to comfort him. He nodded dutifully.

“Uncle Davin, didn’t you just say that you’re going to look into who harmed Mommy? I can help.”

“Sure. With your help, I’ll be able to find the culprit in no time. We’ll teach that person a lesson as revenge for your mother!”

“Yes! I want to avenge Mommy!” Juan announced with determination.

Evan’s expression was austere. “I’ll leave it to you. Stay at Imperial Garden for the time being, Juan. Only go back to the Seet Residence once this is all over.”

“I got it, Daddy. Take good care of Mommy. She was calling for you as she was falling asleep. She kept asking you not to take me away. She must have thought back to the time when she had to raise all the children on her own overseas. She had it hard during those years.”

Juan’s sorrow was evident on his face, his small eyes filling up with tears.

Evan thought back to the episode at the mall. The sight of Nicole desperately trying to protect her child was heart-wrenching.

"I know. I'll take great care of her."

"Okay, go to Mommy now. We're off to catch the bad guy!"

"Alright!"

Evan walked up to the bedroom after he saw Juan and Davin head towards the rear house.

Nicole was slumbering away. Sheila sat by her side.

"You're back, Mr. Seet."

Evan's expression was hard and cold. Sheila felt fear set in. She wrung her fingers together guiltily.

"I'm sorry Mr. Seet. I had no idea this would happen. I didn't want to take her out shopping, but she really wanted to go. It's my fault. I should have watched over her."

Evan was momentarily dazed by her outburst. "It's not your fault! Even if she had one of her episodes in front of me, I would have no idea what to do. Today must have been difficult for you. Go back and rest," he muttered hoarsely.

Sheila let out a sigh of relief. Before she left, Evan told her about how Hayes Group was officially collaborating with Muir Group. He reminded her to stay alert during the collaborative process and point out any issues she noticed.

Sheila was grateful for Evan's words. She was scared that the collaboration would be affected.

"Thank you, Mr. Seet! Please take good care of Nicole. Feel free to call me if you need me. I'll be here as soon as possible."

"Noted."

After Sheila left, Evan sat by Nicole's bedside. He gazed at her pale and small face with a sunken expression.

Is the hallucinogen really incurable?

His deep gaze was fraught with concern and grief. He fished out his phone and walked to the balcony to call the Hidden Masters.

“Do research into whether the hallucinogen has an antidote. If not, search for a skilled doctor who can come up with one.”

“Yes, Mr. Seet.”

Evan received a call from John after hanging up with the Hidden Masters. John informed him that all the related trending topics had been removed. They made sure to clean up all the loose ends to ensure that Nicole would never see the video or know about her illness.

“Good job, John. Keep watch over Seet Group. I won’t be going to work for the foreseeable future.”

“Yes, Mr. Seet.”

John knew that Evan was worried about his wife and needed to be with her.

Evan walked back into the bedroom to see Nicole rubbing the sleep out of her eyes.

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He spoke warmly to her, “Are you awake?”

Nicole sat up lazily and looked around the room. “How did I get home?”

Her question sparked hope within him. Could she have remembered something?

He suppressed his doubts and replied, “You were already home when I came back. What’s wrong?”

Nicole frowned and seemed to be deep in thought. “I remember. I remember going out with Sheila...”

She started to recollect her memories but before long, she hit a wall. Her mind was blank.

Evan handed a cup of warm water to Nicole. "You must be mistaken. It was probably just a dream."

A dream?

Nicole took the cup from him. Her eyes scanned the room. When she saw the clothes on the clothes rack, her skepticism grew.

I clearly remember going out. I even ransacked the closet in search of one specific piece of clothing. If it were a dream, why would the clothes be there?

"Drink some water, Nicole. Are you hungry?"

Nicole eyed the water. She gulped down several mouthfuls and paused for a while before handing the cup back to Evan.

Evan's expression was dour and he stood still instead of receiving the cup.

Nicole knitted her brow and softly called out to him, "Evan."

Her voice pulled a reaction from him. He took the cup from her and placed it on the table.

Nicole could not shake the feeling that Evan was hiding something from her. I can tell from his eyes that there's something he isn't telling me.

"A penny for your thoughts? Did something happen?"

Evan hesitated. "I was thinking... Why don't we go on a vacation? We can go wherever you want. We'll treat it like our honeymoon."

Nicole was surprised by his suggestion.

She considered his proposal before replying, "The children have school, and you need to manage the Lane Corporation and Seet Group. Since the company is about to undertake a large project, you're about to be very busy. Why don't wait till the children are on holiday and when you have more free time to go? The six of us will be able to go together."

Nicole always had others in mind.

He wanted to take her out and spend time with her. He was certain that keeping her positive would be helpful to her illness.

"A honeymoon is only meant for the two of us. There's no need to take the four of them. I've settled all the company's projects. Let's discuss where to go..."

His serious demeanor incited Nicole to interrupt him. "I don't want to go now. Let's talk about it when we decide to go, okay?" she whined.

She had been experiencing intermittent dizziness recently and did not want to burden Evan.

Faced with Nicole's puppy dog face, Evan decided to go along with her decision.

He cupped her ivory face and was about to speak when her phone rang.

It was from Maya. Nicole answered.

"Do you miss me, Maya?"

Maya suddenly burst out into tears. Nicole was immediately gripped with concern. "What's wrong, Maya?" she asked anxiously.

"Mommy, add Grandma into the parents' group chat. She can't get the announcements that the teacher sends out."

"Okay, I'll add Grandma now. Are you crying over this, Maya?" Nicole asked curiously. It seemed like a trivial matter to her.

"No." Maya sniffled. "Mommy, the teacher announced in the group for us to wear our uniforms for exercise. Grandma didn't know, so I was the only one who didn't wear it. I wore the new waistcoat instead. When we were doing the exercise, everyone... everyone laughed at me. They said that from afar, I looked like a tortoise!"

Nicole froze. She pictured the expansive field. Maya was wearing the waistcoat, her stubby body showing off her clear inadequacies, while the children circled her.

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"How could your classmates describe you like that! That wasn't very nice of them!" Nicole exclaimed furiously.

Maya started to cry even harder.

"Mommy, do you think my classmates are right? Do you think I look like a tortoise?"

Nicole sensed that she misspoke and clapped a hand over her mouth. "No. Not at all. You're an adorable princess. You don't look like a tortoise at all."

Maya started to wail again. Nicole hastily handed the phone to Evan.

Evan immediately started to comfort Maya. "No matter if you're fat or skinny, it doesn't change the fact that you're beautiful in your own way. Don't live by the words of others. It's not your fault that you didn't wear your uniform. I'll add Grandma into the group chat now. We'll pay better attention in the future, okay?"

Maya choked back a sob. "Daddy, I followed the nutritionist's diet plan and lost a lot of weight. It didn't use to bother me when they made fun of me. But now it makes me so sad." Maya continued to sob.

"You're a big girl now, which is why you're starting to care about your looks. You'll become slimmer in the future and your beauty will grow."

Will I really?

I have more questions but I know that being slim equals being beautiful.

I can already see myself as skinny and pretty as Nina. She wiped the tears away from her eyes. "I'll continue trying my best to lose weight, Daddy. I won't give them a reason to laugh at me again."

"I believe you, Maya."

"I want to talk to Mommy, Daddy."

Evan handed the phone back to Nicole. Maya reminded her to take care of herself. Nicole did not understand why Maya was telling her such things.

"I'm fine, Maya. If you miss me, why don't I go see you?"

"Come see us tomorrow, Mommy. Grandma is bringing us to the mall to buy new clothes later."

"Okay, I'll visit you tomorrow."

After she hung up, Nicole griped to herself. If I had noted the announcements in the group chat, Maya wouldn't have been laughed at. She wouldn't have been so hurt.

Evan comforted her and took her hand in his. "What do you feel like having for dinner? I'll cook."

Nicole mentally flipped through the menu of her favorite food. She decided that she wanted to have steamed fish. She could almost smell the enticing aroma and licked her lips in anticipation.

"Let's have fish, Evan. I want to go to Amazon Hotel."

Nicole resembled a kitten to Evan.

He tapped her nose. "Okay, go change."

She did so and the pair headed to Amazon Hotel.

When they entered the lobby, she noticed the strange looks of the surrounding people. The looks increased as they made their way to the suite, accompanied by hushed whispers.

They were staring at her like an animal in the zoo.

"Are they looking at me, Evan?"

News of Nicole's alleged child-snatching was the current hot topic. Although it had been removed from official sites, many people had already seen the video. Evan knew that the people around were talking about Nicole because of what happened in the mall.

He hurried to come up with a plan to squash her doubts. "They're not looking at you, but at me. It's natural for me to receive such attention since I'm the president of Seet Group," he proclaimed.

Nicole did not fully accept his explanation.

IF they're looking at him as he said, they should be shooting looks of envy and admiration.

But their eyes are filled with scorn. They're clearly talking about me in their secret discussions.

There must be something I don't know.

When they entered the suite, Evan started ordering food. Nicole excused herself to the washroom.

She heard two women whispering as she stepped into the washroom.