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At that thought, she turned on her laptop and began making plans.

Beside her, Nicole quietly sighed as she stared at her two serious daughters.

"What's wrong?" Evan asked curiously.

His wife turned to look at him. "I think they're both better than me. When I was around their age, I wasn't as hardworking as them. I was like a fool back then, thinking of the colorful flowers in the Rose Garden and..."

Before she could say "the boy, Tye," her face turned red. She stole a glance at Evan before looking away.

It seemed like the man had figured out what she had not said as he followed her to the bedroom with a bright smile. Upon entering the room, he asked, "What were you going to say? The flowers in the Rose Garden and what?"

"N-Nothing."

"I already know what it is without you even needing to say it. You're thinking of the flowers in Rose Garden and me, who protected you, right?"

Nicole stayed silent.

She raised her head to glance at him before lowering it again. There was a sweet smile on her face, but she kept quiet as she started arranging the skincare products on the dresser.

Evan stared at her for a moment before he stepped toward her and pulled her into his arms. "Nicole, when did our fates entwine? From the night at The Passion or from Rose Garden?"

The woman mulled over his words before giving him a serious reply, "Of course it's from Rose Garden. That's where we first met, after all."

"We've known each other for over twenty years since Rose Garden, but you've only been pregnant once. Don't you think that number's too little?"

Hs direct words rendered Nicole speechless.

What is he trying to say?

With pursed lips, she twisted her head to look at him. "Although I've only had one pregnancy, I've given birth to four children. That's more than enough kids."

In response, he hurriedly explained, "You can't count by quantity per pregnancy. You're supposed to count by the number of pregnancies. Moreover, I wasn't by your side when you were giving birth to the children. I couldn't take care of you back then. So, Nicole, let's have another baby. Think of it as an opportunity for me to make up for my regret."

She hesitated.

He continued, "Nicole, think of it as a challenge. You've given birth to four previously, so you'll give birth to five this time. Nine children would be a perfect amount. I, too, want to know how my nine children would look like. I wonder what kind of odd babies you can give birth to."

Nine? Odd babies?

"Evan, y-you're asking me to give birth to children to satisfy your curiosity? That's such a weird request. Now I know why I've given birth to weird children. It's because they have your weird genes!"

"My weird genes? Those four have already grown up, so we can't verify your words. Give birth to a few more, and we'll observe whether they've inherited your genes or mine," Evan muttered as he held her waist.

She was rendered speechless once again.

Give birth to a few more?

Nicole thought back to the days she had spent raising the children back then. Those were the days when sleep was a luxury – the children had been a handful.

Moreover, her current health was...

"I'm not in the healthiest state right now. I'm afraid I can't give birth to more."

"Not being able to do it now doesn't mean you can't do it next time. When you recover, we have plenty of time to have more children."

Nicole did not answer him.

It seems like Evan is adamant about having more children. I'm afraid the next pregnancy will be coming pretty soon.

She quietly made a decision to relax as much as possible while she was recovering. She had to prepare herself well, mentally and physically, for her next pregnancy.

"Evan, when you come back from work, buy some chestnut cookies for me. I'm craving them."

"All right. What else do you wish to eat? I'll bring them back as well."

"I want... I haven't thought of anything else besides those cookies. I'll call you when I've decided."

"All right, then. Rest well at home. Don't do anything that slows down your recovery, and try your best to recover within these few months."

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"Are you home now? I'll visit you there."

"Yes, I am. Come on over. I'll be waiting for you."

Nicole, who was resting and recovering, would not bother with other's personal affairs. However, Sheila was good friends with her, and the woman took good care of her children. Nicole could not reject lending her a helping hand.

When Sheila reached Imperial Garden, she immediately grabbed Nicole's hands anxiously, ignoring the cup of coffee Nicole had brewed for her. "Nicole, how are you feeling? Will it bother you if I were to ask you to help me? Levant is involved with this. Will it affect your mood to hear about him? Will it affect your recovery rate?"

Levant is involved in this matter she came to talk to me about?

Nicole had yet to see that man for several days. She heard that he had come to Imperial Garden multiple times, but Evan had always instructed the bodyguards to stop him from entering the place.

"What is it? Don't worry; I won't be affected. Tell me what it is."

"Levant got drunk two months ago, and he thought Tiffany was you, so he... slept with her. Now, Tiffany is pregnant. Levant doesn't want the child, but Tiffany does. Levant's father and Sophia found out about it, and they want Tiffany to give birth to the baby too."

"Tiffany is pregnant with Levant's baby?"

It was certainly a surprise for Nicole to hear that.

Nevertheless, she thought it was good news. Levant was not a young man anymore; it was time for him to settle down and have a family. The baby arrived just in time.

"Levant rejected Tiffany at first. Later on, the two of them made a promise in front of Davin and I. In half a year, if Levant doesn't accept her, he gets to leave. However, within that half a year, she got pregnant. What I wasn't expecting was for Levant to reject her even more after she got pregnant with his child."

Sheila paused and took a few sips of the coffee. She then continued, "The most pressing matter now is what we should do about the baby in Tiffany. The baby's alive! We'll be taking

someone's life if we ask her to abort it. Sophia hopes you to convince Levant to keep the baby in Tiffany."

"She wants me to convince him?"

Sheila nodded. "Yes. That's what Sophia is planning. Levant has a crush on you – he can't let you go. He won't listen to anyone now, but he might listen to you.

It was a tough matter for Nicole. While the baby was innocent, Levant was a stubborn man. Nicole could not guarantee that he would heed her words. Moreover, this was a private affair between Levant and Tiffany. It did not seem appropriate for her to intervene.

"What does Tiffany think about this?" Nicole asked.

"Tiffany wants the baby. Levant disagreed, and he even locked her in the house, forcing her to abort it."

"He locked her in the house?"

How can he do that? That's illegal!

"Nicole, based on my observations, all of them have their own plans. Murphy only wants the grandchild; he plans to bring the grandchild away to K Nation and raise the child there. He doesn't care about what happens to Tiffany and Levant."

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"Sophia thinks the child will have a complete family if Tiffany and Levant get together. That's why she wants them to get married. Levant's afraid Tiffany will use the baby to blackmail him into marrying her. Tiffany, on the other hand, wants to give birth to the baby. She swears that she'll raise the baby alone and cut all ties with Levant. Nicole, I think she's being too naïve. If the two have a child together, how can they ever draw a clear line between them?

After hearing Sheila's words, Nicole fell silent, pondering about the difficulty of her intervention.

"Let's go to Levant Winery to rescue Tiffany first."

Sheila responded, "I was there earlier. Levant won't allow anyone to meet Tiffany. But if the two of us go together, I'm sure Levant will let us meet her because of you."

"Let me get dressed. We'll head there immediately."

Nicole then rushed upstairs. When she was dressed, she left with Sheila to Levant Winery.

Levant's heart broke when he saw her in such a weak state. This was the woman he thought about all day and night.

"Nicole, are you feeling better? I went to Imperial Garden, hoping to visit you, but that jealous man, Evan, stopped me every time. I've been really worried about you."

Nicole flashed him a polite smile. "I'm fine. I'm still recovering, but I'll be fully nursed back to health soon. I'm hoping to visit someone today."

Levant glanced at Sheila, who was beside Nicole. She must have told Nicole about Tiffany's pregnancy. He could easily guess who Nicole wanted to meet.

Looking at Sheila, he remarked, "I refused to let you meet her, so you went to get Nicole instead. How much trouble you must have gone through."

The woman replied haughtily, "That's right. I've gone through much trouble to make sure your son stays alive. When you're older, you'll thank me for this."

"This is a private matter of mine. I don't need you to worry about it for me. Nicole, I have my own plans for my own matters. I hope you won't intervene in this."

Is he stopping me from talking? Is he afraid I'll try to persuade him with Sheila?

"Levant, I'm here to visit Tiffany because I want to help you. I'm hoping to convince her into giving up on the baby."

That caused the man to freeze; he was beyond shocked by Nicole's words.

He was sure that she would be like the others, trying to convince him to keep the baby. Why is she standing on my side?

However, he felt relieved to know that there was someone who was supporting him.

As expected, Nicole knows me well.

Sheila, who was beside Nicole, was stunned by the latter's words as well. She turned to look at her and sighed in her heart. Nicole, I asked you to help me save the baby. How can you help Levant? What are you trying to do?

Moreover, Tiffany won't easily agree to give up on the baby.

"Nicole, are you really here to help me convince Tiffany to give up the child?" Levant gueried.

"That's right. Let me visit her. I'll try my best to convince her."

If she doesn't want other women to give birth to my child, does it mean that she still wants me? The man was secretly delighted as he answered, "All right. I'll let you meet her."

He then opened the door to Tiffany's room, and Nicole and Sheila both entered.

The pregnant woman was standing by the window, staring out of it with a grave look. She did not turn around even upon hearing the noises.

Sheila spoke up first. "Tiffany, let's talk."

Only then did Tiffany turn to look at them. Stubbornly, she uttered, "I won't give up on the baby."

Sheila turned to look at Nicole, wondering what she would do. She wanted to find out if she was really going to help Levant convince Tiffany to give up on the baby.

Nicole took out her phone and typed on it. Then, she handed it to Tiffany.

She had typed a short and concise message on the screen: Make it seem as if you've agreed to my words. Let's leave this place before we make more plans.

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After Tiffany read the message, she raised her head to look at Nicole.

The latter nodded at her and whispered, "If you want to keep the baby, you'll have to leave this place first."

Curious, Sheila peeked at the words on the phone too. This is a good trick Nicole pulled on Levant.

She hurriedly added, "Tiffany, don't be stubborn and grab the opportunity. It won't do you any good to stay here."

Lowering her head, Tiffany glimpsed at her stomach. She had no other plans. Violently rebelling against Levant was not a plan, and the man had already stated last night that he would force her to go for an abortion. She was afraid that she might not be able to keep the baby for long.

Closing her eyes, she ruminated before answering, "All right. I'll do what you say."

After a while, the two of them exited the room to tell Levant that Tiffany had agreed to the abortion and agreed to head to the hospital with them now.

Their words surprised the man. He knew how stubborn Tiffany was, so he could barely believe that she had agreed to it so readily.

"Levant, we'll head to the hospital with her right now. She might regret her decision and change her mind after a while. I'm afraid she won't be convinced this easily the next time."

After a while of thinking, Levant responded uneasily, "I'll go with you."

Hearing his response, both Nicole and Sheila tensed up. That had been their excuse to bring Tiffany away from Levant Winery, but they had forgotten that Levant was a wary man.

Before leaving the place, Nicole went to the bathroom to call Evan for help.

"Evan, this is a matter of life and death. Call the hospital now. Tell them to secretly keep Tiffany's baby alive."

Evan had initially not cared about Levant's matter. When he heard that a woman was pregnant with Levant's child and that he seemed to have no intentions of keeping it, a thought entered Evan's mind. If we keep this baby and bring it to Levant after it's born...

Levant's expression will be the most interesting image I'll see for a while.

Moreover, with the baby alive and in need of a father, Levant would be distracted. He'll stop thinking about Nicole.

"Don't worry. I'll make the necessary arrangements for it. Head home soon and stop worrying about things like these."

Hearing his agreement, Nicole finally felt reassured. She had been worried that Evan would refuse to help her with anything that involved Levant.

"Okay. I'll head home immediately after I accompany Tiffany to the hospital."

Walking out of the bathroom, Nicole shot a wink at Sheila. They all then went to the hospital with Tiffany and Levant.

Forty minutes later, the once pregnant woman came out of the surgery room with a pale face. She glared at Levant and declared, "From now on, we don't know each other."

On that note, she left the hospital without a hint of hesitation.

Looking at her retreating figure, a trace of remorse grew in Levant's heart. He took out a card and handed it to Sheila. "Give this to her on my behalf."

"You... What are you hoping to achieve by giving her money? Why didn't you give this to her yourself earlier?"

Levant did not give her a response, leaving after a moment of silence.

Sheila looked at Nicole and the card in her hand. "Tiffany can use this money to raise the kid."

"Let's ask her what she thinks about it first."

"Okay."

Tiffany had just reached home when Sheila and Nicole caught up to her. When the woman saw the gold card Levant had given her, she immediately told Sheila to return it to Levant. She did not want any money from him.

"Are you an idiot? He's given you the money, so you should just take it and think of it as his contribution to child support," Sheila huffed.

"He didn't even want the baby. I don't need his money for child support," Tiffany croaked. Tears were brimming in her eyes, and it was obvious that she was trying to stop them from escaping her eyes.

"Tiffany, where's your other kid?" Nicole inquired.

Upon hearing the mention of her other child, Tiffany's tears streamed down her cheeks uncontrollably.

Sheila answered on her behalf, "Tiffany's ex-husband took her first kid away, saying that the kid's grandparents brought the kid to the countryside. We tried looking for the kid, but the kid was nowhere to be found."

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At that, Nicole fell silent.

She recalled the time when she had just given birth to her own children. Fearing that Evan would take the children away from her, she had brought them abroad. Even after coming back here, her life had been occupied by efforts made to make sure the man did not find out about the children. At that moment, she felt bad for Tiffany, knowing the tough life the woman had ahead of her.

"Tiffany sure is hardworking. It's only been two years and a half, but she has already given Levant back the money she owes him for the house. Business at her design studio is doing fine as well. Honestly, I sometimes think Tiffany was born into the wrong family. Moreover, she met a douchebag early in her life. She'll be much better off if she had the same starting position as I did in life."

That objective comment Sheila made about Tiffany surprised Nicole.

In the beginning, the latter had been suspicious about Tiffany, wondering if Levant's worry was true. She had pondered if Tiffany would force Levant to marry her by blackmailing him with the child. However, Nicole soon realized that her thoughts were wrong.

"Do you really want to keep the baby?"

Tiffany nodded. "I don't know where my other kid is, and I can't bear to part with this one. Levant and I are not fated to be. I am sure that I no longer have feelings for him. However, I want to raise this baby."

Back then, Nicole had not wanted to give up on her children too. That was why she now had these few adorable children. Although it had been tough back then, when she thought about it now, the suffering she had gone through was indeed worth it.

"Your life will get better."

Nicole's words of comfort warmed Tiffany's heart. Sheila then handed Levant's card to Tiffany again. "Keep it. You need money to raise a child. Plus, this is the least he could do for you and your child."

Sensing Tiffany's hesitation, Sheila shoved the card into her hands.

"I'll take it, then. When my stomach grows bigger, I might have to leave for a while. I'll come back after I give birth to my baby. It'll be safer this way. Otherwise, if Levant finds out, I'm afraid he'll make me go for another abortion again."

"Do you have a place to go? I can make some arrangements for you," Sheila offered.

"Thank you. Thank you, both of you. Thank you for your kindness, but I can settle this matter myself."

After leaving Tiffany's place, Sheila and Nicole discussed the matter as they walked. The deeper they delved into the topic, the more they felt that Levant needed to be taught a lesson."

Evan returned with Nicole's chestnut cookies in hand at night. The latter nearly drooled at the sight of the cookies.

Nicole then called Nina and Maya out of their respective rooms to share the cookies.

"Nina, Maya, come out. Your daddy brought back something tasty."

The two girls headed into the living room. Maya, who had finally lost some weight, stared at the chestnut cookies desirably. She was calculating the calories the cookies had in her mind, worried that she would not be able to control her consumption at the delicious taste. She did not wish to become a plump girl again.

The vain side and the gluttonous side of her battled ferociously. Finally, her vanity won.

"Mommy, have more of it. I won't be eating." With that said, she sped upstairs.

Noticing Maya leaving, Nina decided not to eat as well. "Mommy, I still have many things to plan for my press conference. I won't be eating either."

What in the world? What's going on with them? They're giving up on really tasty cookies. Maya was definitely tempted earlier. I saw how she looked at the food. The two of them definitely want to eat these.

Spotting her disappointed look, Evan sat down beside her and said, "I'll eat them with you."

She nodded and split half of her cookie to Evan.

Biting into the cookie, a sweet smile grew on her lips. "I loved eating chestnut cookies when I was a kid. I stole a cookie once, and Sylvia slapped me hard when she found out about it. From that day onward, I thought that I would be so happy if I could have chestnut cookies every day."

Evan gazed at Nicole, who was lost in thought, and melancholy filled his heart. With adoration in his eyes, he murmured softly to her, "I'll buy you chestnut cookies every day from now on. You'll get to eat them every single day if they make you happy."