

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1076

"Let's wait and see. I wonder how Seet Group will fix this mess."

After watching the reporters leave the press conference, John hurried to the president's office. As he made his way there, he sighed, wondering what Evan would do to Nina.

Meanwhile, in the president's office, Nina stood still with her head hung. Once in a while, she sneaked a glance at her father. Evan's icy demeanor frightened her.

The girl then turned to look at Nicole, whose expression was also grim. In her eyes were upset, conflict, and disappointment.

At that moment, Nina realized what was going on. Her scripted act had backfired.

"Do you know what you've done wrong?" A voice with a glacial tone echoed in the room. It was Evan who spoke.

Nina lifted her head to look at him and replied, "Daddy, it's common for the professionals in the live broadcasting industry to follow a script. I'm just following the rules."

A script?

"This is a scam! Were you really planning to carry out those promises? Or were those only words to persuade them to buy your product?"

After a moment of rumination, Nina realized that she had no answer to that question. Hence, she fell silent.

"Speak!" her father roared.

His loud and stern tone stunned Nina, and Nicole's heart skipped a beat. His volume even shocked John, who had just entered the room.

Mr. Seet has really lost his temper at Nina.

John held his breath and quietly walked beside Nicole.

Nina's heart was racing. With the words of the social media influencer in her heart, she responded, "Daddy, this is just a promise. I won't actually give them a refund! The company won't suffer any loss that way."

"You won't be giving them refunds? So you were planning to break your promises? How will you answer the customers when they ask you about it? Furthermore, what will you do when the ill-intentioned people break the product to get the exorbitant refund you've promised?"

Hearing Evan's angry reprimand, Nina answered, "Daddy, I've thought about this before. Those sold after today won't be refunded. There are many reasons we can use. When that happens, the customer service will have a way."

Nicole sighed. "What were you planning to say if it doesn't change the consumer's face like what you claim it'll do?"

"If it doesn't change their faces, it's because their faces weren't compatible. It has nothing to do with the product."

"Rubbish!"

Evan was like an enraged lion as he grabbed the limited-edition mug and threw it by Nina's feet.

Crash! Glass fragments scattered everywhere as water spilled across the floor. The poor girl's heart nearly escaped her chest. Close call! Any closer, and it would've hit my leg. However, Nina's clothes were now wet with water stains.

John let out a shaky breath. Ms. Nina really has to think about her words before she speaks. No wonder Mr. Seet is always mad at her.

Noticing the situation turning bad, Nicole walked to Evan and whispered, "Don't shout. You'll scare her. Reason with her instead. She'll understand and know she's in the wrong soon."

Evan lowered his eyes. Looking at Nicole's anxious and upset expression, he tried his best to tamp down the emotions that nearly overwhelmed him.

Realizing his efforts, the woman grabbed his hand. "Let me. I'll talk to her."

She then walked to Nina and tried her best to sound calm. "Nina, do you know you're doing the wrong things? If you do this, it'll make those who believe in you disappointed. You're destroying your own business foundation. Do you really want to ruin your future like this?"

Nina raised her head to cast a fearful glance at Nicole. "Mommy, I know it's wrong to do this, but that's what everyone all does. If I don't do this, I'm afraid my fans won't believe in me. I'm scared I won't sell well at the launch of my products. If that happens, I'll embarrass the company, Mommy, and Daddy."

Nicole let out a sigh. "Even if you can't sell a single item out today, Daddy and I won't find it embarrassing. If you're honest and the product is good, people will buy it. If they like it, they'll tell others to buy it too. Rather than making false advertisements, why don't you focus on improving the quality of the product instead? The talented ones will shine eventually."

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"Mommy, I understand." Nina lowered her head as she grabbed the edge of her shirt. She had wanted the press conference to be successful too badly; she wanted to impress everyone. That was why she had ended up like this.

"Nina, go. Apologize to your daddy."

The girl lifted her head to look at her father, but she froze.

"Go on now," her mother urged.

"Can my press conference continue?" Nina asked.

The icy expression was still on Evan's face. "How do you want to continue it?"

"I've taken a long time to prepare for this press conference. I want to end it well."

"End it well?" the man gritted out. "How do you plan to end this well? Can you really guarantee that the consumers' faces will change? Will the eyes turn bigger? Will a raisin become a grape again?"

Nina was at a loss for words.

Her father continued, "You don't need to bother yourself with the press conference anymore. You can only mention having another press conference when you really come up with a product that can do the things you've claimed they can do."

At that, Nina snapped her head upward with her jaw slacked.

I don't think I can come up with something that can make eyes bigger and turn raisins into grapes. Does Daddy mean I'm not allowed to have press conferences in the future?

Nina's path to her dream broke off. Her hope and passion were snuffed out like a flame of a candle after a powerful gust of wind; Evan's words were a death sentence to her dream.

The girl stared at her father's apathetic expression. She knew that the moment those words left her father's lips, nothing she said would change her fate. She could no longer launch any new products from now on.

Like a struggling fish stuck on a hook, she hopelessly muttered, "Daddy, you really won't launch my new product anymore?"

"That's right. I will never launch your new product," he declared.

Nina, with that promise of yours earlier, if you launch your new product, your integrity, as well as Seet Group's credibility, would be crushed.

You still have a long way to go. This incident will taint the road you walk. It'll be nothing but trouble for you in life.

I'd rather lose this batch of products than ruin your image and credibility.

Nina, please don't be mad at Daddy. You'll understand what I'm doing for you now in the future.

"Nina, apologize to Daddy. Mommy will go home with you then. We'll talk about the press conference next time." Nicole held Nina's hands and gave her a meaningful look.

The woman knew that Evan was doing all this for their daughter.

As of that moment, all Nina could think of was her efforts going to waste if she could not launch her new product.

With an ashen face, she broke free from her mother's hold and ran out of the president's office.

"Nina. Nina!" Nicole ran after her.

Evan hurriedly instructed his subordinates to send Nicole and Nina home. He stayed back, planning to discuss how he should fix Nina's situation with John and Davin.

When Nina reached home, she locked herself in her bedroom. No matter how many times Nicole called out to her, she refused to open the door.

"Nina, open the door. Nina, you still have more chances in the future. Daddy just doesn't want to involve you in this mess and ruin your future. Don't do anything silly!"

Nina stared at her table, where the ingredients and equipment for her skincare product research were. She had tried out each and every combination; she had spent so much effort to create this set of skincare products.

All that effort was now wasted.

Looking at the things on the table, Nina felt as if she was looking at her beloved pet's corpse. Her tears fell.

Why did things turn out this way? All I wanted to was for them to sell. All I did was come up with a scripted act. Why did it all end up like this? Why can't my products launch anymore?

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"Nina, Nina. It's Maya. Open the door!"

Nina did not reply after Maya's constant calling. Anxiety flooded Nicole's heart; she was worried Nina would not be able to take it after a bucket of cold water was poured on her passionate heart.

"Nina, listen to Mommy. Don't do anything silly. You have more chances in the future."

Maya took a peek at Nicole's anxious look and yelled, "Nina, Mommy's worried about you. Open the door! At least say something, or else I'll break the damn door down."

Hearing the constant shouts outside the room, Nina abruptly roared, "Can't you leave me alone?"

The two outside the room fell silent.

Nicole was fine giving Nina space, as long as her daughter was safe and sound.

"Mommy, go ahead and rest. I'll try to talk to her," Maya consoled.

"Okay."

The woman nodded before she gloomily headed to her bedroom.

Staring at the shut door, Maya muttered, "Nina, I'll keep you company outside the door. Call me whenever you need me."

Her sister kept quiet. All she did was stare at the recipe and ingredients on the table in a daze.

An hour later, Nina took out her favorite storage box and carefully kept the things from the table into it. "I'll take good care of you."

In those bottles and jars were her efforts of countless months. She had hoped for them to appear in public under the eye-catching bright lights. Yet, she never expected them to never see the light because of her. The mere thought of them never making it out of her bedroom made it hard for her to breathe.

She sat down, embracing the box in her arms as crystal clear tears landed on the box. It was as if her tears were her parting gift to them.

The moment Evan returned to Imperial Garden at night, Nicole hurried to him. When she saw his grave expression, her heart skipped a beat.

"Have you settled the press conference's issue?" she whispered the question in a worried tone.

He nodded. "Yes. You don't need to worry about it anymore."

Curious, she queried, "How did you settle it?"

The man froze for a second before saying, "I handed it to John and Davin. In a few days, when the public is less concerned about this matter, we'll have another press conference to give the public an explanation. Furthermore, the company will launch a new electronic product on the day of the press conference. We'll sell it at a cheap price. I'm sure this will cover up Nina's incident."

Nicole was silent after she heard his words.

She sighed quietly, hoping that Nina would learn from this incident.

"Where's Nina?" Evan queried.

"She's upstairs. She locked herself in her bedroom after she came home, and she refuses to open the door. I'm afraid she might do something silly."

At that, Evan went upstairs.

Outside Nina's room, Maya was sitting on a chair she brought over and trying to persuade her sister. "Nina, you know all that glitters is not gold. Daddy and Mommy want the best for you. Nina, I know you know that. Think about it in this way—it's not time for your products to be revealed to the public yet. After a while, it'll be their time. Your efforts won't go to waste."

"Maya, what are you mumbling about outside my room? Even if your mouth isn't tired, my ears are. Can't you shut up?"

Maya broke out into a relieved smile when she heard Nina's response. Nina had a proud character, and Maya was afraid that the former might do something silly.

"Nina, I'm trying to be nice. I'm only telling you this because we're sisters. I'm ranked first among my school's public speakers. I'm spending a lot of my time talking to you, so you should give me something in return. If you were someone else, I wouldn't even bother talking to you even if you paid me for it."

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Both Nicole and Evan were surprised to hear Maya's words.

Quietly, the latter turned Nicole. "Maya is ranked first among her school's public speakers?"

Nicole had a similar look of disbelief on her face. Nina had been saying that Maya could not express herself well since young. She was surprised to hear that her daughter had become the best public speaker in her school.

The woman's heart soared in delight. "Maya's a smart kid too."

Just as her words left her mouth, Nina responded, "Stop bluffing. We're in the same grade. How can I not know that you're ranked first?"

"Hahaha! I dream of becoming the first. I've never told anyone about it, so how could you have known?"

"You... Maya, you're getting more and more shameless."

Tilting her chin higher, Maya grinned. "Of course. Look who our daddy is. Look who our uncle is. Look who our brother is. I learn from them."

Evan was at a loss for words.

At the same time, Nicole cleared her throat. So Evan, Davin, and Juan are shameless people to Maya. Nicole was sure that the brother Maya was talking about was Juan, not Kyle.

When she turned to look at Evan, she saw his sullen expression.

"Don't take the words of a kid to heart. Maya is just joking."

In the beginning, Evan had been worried about Nina's state. Hence, he was relieved to hear Nina's response. He felt it was a good idea for Maya to talk to Nina; it was better than the girl wallowing in her sorrow alone.

He glimpsed at Nicole and replied, "I won't take the words of a child to heart. Maya's doing the right thing."

The latter nodded. "Yes. Nina tends to make things difficult for herself. Maya should be with her. She really is doing the right thing. She's such a sensible kid."

Evan hummed in agreement. Sensing that Maya was enough of a company for Nina, he turned to retreat to his bedroom. Nicole followed after him. After closing the door, they started talking about how they should educate Nina on today's incident.

Nicole was the first to speak. "It's also our fault for Nina's mistake this time. We didn't teach her well enough, and that's why she used the wrong method. I'll have a talk with her."

"She's too aggressive. That's why she'll do anything to be better than the others. We'll have to talk to her about this. Right. Her earlier makeup teacher said Nina can do her own research now, but I don't think she's great at the ingredients section yet. So, I'm thinking of getting someone capable to continue teaching her."

"You want her to learn more?"

"Yes. She's still young – it's good for her to learn more things. It's better than her having the time to come in contact with all those nonsense."

"Do you have someone in mind?"

"I'll ask John to keep an eye out for anyone who can teach her. You should watch out for her moods."

"Of course."

After they were done discussing Nina's matter, someone abruptly knocked on the door. It was the butler; he was here to tell them dinner was served.

When the two entered the dining room, they saw Maya taking a plate of food.

"Maya, what are you doing?"

"I'm giving this to Nina. She doesn't want to come down for dinner."

At that, the young girl brought the plate upstairs and knocked on Nina's door.

"Nina, open up. It's time for dinner."

"I'm not hungry. I don't want to eat anything."

"The food's really sumptuous today. They have your favorite crawfish for dinner today."

When Maya realized that Nina was not going to open the door, she brought the plate back to the dining room and put it on the table. "Daddy, Mommy, Nina doesn't want to eat."

"Ignore her then. We'll eat by ourselves. She'll come to her senses when she's hungry." With that said, Evan began digging into the food.

"Mommy, let's eat. Nina will be fine even if she skips a meal or two. You're not recovered yet, so you should eat more," Maya said as she took more food to put on her mother's plate.

However, Nicole was distracted. She wondered if Nina would hold a grudge against Evan. If the girl were to come to her senses about the incident, she would realize that the one at fault was herself.

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However, if she did not...

After dinner, Nicole knocked on Nina's door.

The girl opened her door, and Nicole entered the room. "Nina, why didn't you want to eat your dinner?"

"I wasn't hungry."

"Nina, do you hate your daddy?" Nicole asked directly.

"Mommy, Daddy is known as the reaper. It's rumored that he's ruthless in the corporate world. Why can he do anything he wants, but I can't?"

"Nina, before your daddy does anything ruthless, he knows what can be done and what can't be done. He can be brutal with the evil ones, but he'll never exploit the consumers and the rest of the people."

Nicole paused before continuing, "On the other hand, you're doing the complete opposite. You heed the words of the evil, and you exploit your consumers. You're digging your own grave, do you know that? Nina, this is a serious issue about morals. Do you understand what I mean?"

The girl sat transfixed for a moment before she nodded.

At the start, she had rejected the idea of putting on an act. However, her wish to become successful was stronger than her conscience that told her to do the right thing. That was why she had crossed the moral line.

"I'll be more mindful of it in the future, Mommy."

"That's good Nina, Daddy says he'll hire a teacher who's well-versed in skincare products. Do you want to learn more about it?"

"Yes."

"Okay. You go and apologize to your daddy later, and this will be over, okay?"

Nina hesitated. She did not want to apologize to her father.

"Mommy, I've done the wrong thing, and Daddy has already punished me for it. I'm scared I'll never have the chance to have another press conference. I don't feel good when I see him. I don't want to see him."

"Nina, you will have more chances to launch your products in the future. Your daddy has done a lot to clean up the mess and look for a better teacher for you. You shouldn't say such things about him. He does care a lot about you."

"But he wants me to come up with a product that can make people's eyes bigger and turn raisins into grapes before he will let me have another press conference. I don't think I can ever come up with something as miraculous as that."

Right then, Maya stepped into the room. She snorted, "Nina, Daddy didn't come up with that; you did. If you know you can't come up with that, why did you promise the customers that your product can do that? That's why Daddy's not in the wrong. You are."

Nina stared at her sister in silence. Maya really doesn't have a brain-to-mouth filter. Can't you say something I'd rather hear? How annoying.

"Nina, your daddy only said that because he was very angry. When the time is right, I'm sure he'll let you have another press conference," Nicole explained.

"You think so?"

"Yes. Mommy promises you. Your daddy wishes all of you to become successful more than anyone else. He wants you and all your siblings to be happy and at your best."

"That's right, Nina. Daddy loves you. If Juan and Kyle did something like this, he'd definitely smack them. Daddy couldn't bear to lay a finger on you. That's why I think you should apologize to Daddy. Be a little nicer, and Daddy will surely forgive you."

After similar remarks from Maya and Nicole, Nina carefully mulled over their words. Realizing that acknowledging her mistake was the first step, she turned to head to her father's study room.

After knocking on the door a few times, she entered. Standing in front of her father's table, she uttered softly, "Daddy."

Evan raised his head to look at her. Solemnly, he inquired, "Have you realized your mistake?"

Nina pouted. "I have. I won't do anything unethical like this anymore."

"Nina, your peers will influence you. Don't come into contact with those who taught you these bad things in the future."

"I understand, Daddy."

"John called me earlier. He told me that he has found a teacher who's knowledgeable in cosmetics ingredients. Pay attention to your teacher's lessons. I'll take you to meet your teacher tomorrow."

"Got it, Daddy."

"Rest now. Don't make your mommy worry about you this much next time. She doesn't have the best of health."

