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Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1611

Chapter 1611 A Protector

Could it be that Rose isn't Ms. Nina?

To his side, Levant was equally bamboozled. "Logically speaking, Nina would have slapped that pervert several times over or at least aimed a punch or kick his way. So why..."

He then turned to regard Evan. "I can only assume that she's not Nina!"

"But what if she is?" Evan blurted this off the cuff for some inexplicable reason.

"What if..."

That got Levant thinking. "What if..." For the life of him, he just could not figure out why Nina would want to go along with something like this.

"Perhaps she has her reasons?" Levant speculated.

No longer able to contain himself, Evan shot onto his feet when he saw the duo enter the private room. "I can't stand by and watch this happen. If that were Nina, I'd regret it for life!"

This time, Levant stayed out of his way.

Alongside Damien, the two of them collectively made their way toward the private room as well.

When they were halfway there, a man went up and started pounding away at the door.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The trio found the figure familiar.

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When the trio stopped to investigate, they realized that it was Stephen.

Evan's brows knitted. "It's him?"

"I heard that he was the recipient of Chris' heart, Mr. Seet. If he's also here to spy on Rose, could it be that he is also suspecting that she's Ms. Nina too?" Damien said.

Levant sneered, "I'd say this show has just gotten that little more interesting. Why's this Rose being so nice to that pervert, though? Why did she not kick his ass? Why did she decide to follow him into the private room instead? Perhaps she was staging this to create an opportunity for Stephen to play the hero."

He continued, "Like us, Stephen must have been also actively searching for Nina. I bet he must have also realized that Rose could be her, and hence decided to tail her. As a father, you have nothing to worry about with a protector like him around."

By the time Levant's voice trailed off, Stephen had already busted his way through the door to the private room. Moments later, they could hear the ruckus generated by the sound of objects being thrashed around on the inside.

"Shall we go have a look, Mr. Seet?"

Levant stepped in again. "Damien, you should go on ahead on your own, as they won't recognize you. Act at your own discretion. Just make sure that Nina doesn't come to harm."

"Understood!"

Damien was about to approach when he saw the sorry-looking licentious man lumber out of the private room with his hands clutched around his own abdomen. The latter never stopped cussing as he fled. "Busybody, how dare you fight me for my catch? Just you wait. I'll have people tear you limb from limb!"

Following that, the emergence of Stephen and Rose from the room prompted the trio to duck out of sight.

"Why did you help me?"

"Because..."

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Rose's resplendent eyes fixated upon him unflinchingly while she awaited an answer from the hesitant Stephen. "Because you're cute!"

Rose could not decide if he was telling the truth. Cute? So he's just drawn to my looks?

Three days ago, she was drinking alone at the bar when Stephen passed her. Her glass slipped, but with his keen eyes and quick hands, he managed to catch it and have it returned to her.

That set the stage for their initial meeting.

Using her beauty as a lure was, indeed, what she had in mind. However, she wondered if Stephen would have fallen for it so easily.

Regardless of whether that was the case, she had attained her goal of getting close to him.

"Really? Am I the type that you'd fancy?" Rose said that while purposefully striking a sexy pose to a gawking Stephen.

He nodded sheepishly in response as though smitten by her.

"In that case, let's be friends. What would you say if we swap contacts?"

Stephen nodded after a moment of silence.

The two of them exchanged phone numbers, and a hint of glee swept past Rose's eyes when she looked at the contact details she received from Stephen.

"Come look me up here in the future whenever you are free. I do frequent this place at night, as I stay quite nearby."

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Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1612

Chapter 1612 Friendly Hug

Stephen surveyed the rowdy and chaotic scene that was playing out all around him. "All manner of unsavory sorts hang out in this bar, and that makes this a dangerous place for girls like you. It might be best to avoid coming here if you can help it."

"Why? Are you worried about me? Worried that I might be taken advantage of?"

Rose winked at a stupefied Stephen who appeared at a loss as to how to respond.

Stephen had mixed feelings. If she were her, I'd definitely not allow anyone to harm her! But if she isn't Nina, then what business is that of mine?

"It's getting late. Let me see you home," Stephen proposed.

"All right," Rose readily agreed.

As they strolled along the moonlit sidewalk, Rose cast a glance his way and initiated a conversation.

"Do you spend a lot of time in K Nation?"

"No. I'm only here to find someone," Stephen replied candidly.

"Find someone? Who?"

"I'm looking for a girl named Nina. Do you know her?" Stephen had his eyes firmly locked on her heavily made-up face.

Rose tapped a finger against her own lips as if she was deep in thought before she shook her head. "Nope, I don't know her! Who's she to you?"

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Don't know her?

What Stephen could infer from her expression alone was not enough for him to deduce whether she was telling the truth.

"She and I are friends."

"Boyfriend and girlfriend?"

"No."

"Why are you looking for her, then?"

The man suddenly stopped in his tracks. "Would you like to know?"

Hearing that, Rose was immediately on her guard. She then shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly. "You don't have to tell me if you don't want to because I was just asking for the heck of it. Frankly, I'm not that interested in other people's secrets."

Stephen tactfully looked out for signs which might suggest deception but was left confounded. So, is she Nina, or is she not? If she is, then her performance is flawless. I can't see a trace of deception.

The pair continued on, side-by-side, for another stretch down the street until they arrived outside Schumann Hotel. Rose then told him that she had reached her place and extended her thanks.

"No need for that, because this is where I'm staying too."

"No way. Isn't this such a lovely coincidence?"

When her voice trailed off, she spotted a woman coming their way. An idea popped into her head which made her suddenly throw her arms around Stephen.

The man was stunned and bewildered by this sudden and unexpected gesture.

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"It seems that the fates keep bringing us together. First, you caught my glass. After that, you helped me fend off that thug. Now, we're even staying at the same hotel. Isn't such a profound connection just deserving of a hug?"

Not far away, Melanie, who saw the entire scene playing out, was shocked to see Stephen canoodling with another woman.

He... How could he?

"What do you think you are doing, Stephen?"

Once Melanie was done howling, she strode toward Stephen. When she stopped before them, she stared at Rose with eyes widened in fury.

Relinquishing her hold on Stephen, Rose looked back innocuously at Melanie. "Who's this?"

"I'm his girlfriend! What were the two of you doing just now?"

"I..." replied Stephen, scratching his head.

"Couldn't you tell that we were hugging? Oh, I'm sorry. Don't misunderstand. It was just a friendly hug! Completely platonic and nothing else to it."

"A friendly hug? Do you need to hug a friend so tightly? The way I see it, you're up to no good."

"It's not what you think, Melanie. Look, I'll explain it to you later."

"What more is there to explain? I saw everything with my own eyes!"

Melanie was livid.

A hint of smugness flashed across Rose's eyes. "Jeez. I wasn't expecting your girlfriend to be so sensitive. You'd best attend to her, Stephen. I'll take my leave now."

When she was turning away, she sneered at Melanie and wagged her fingers goodbye to her in provocation before she sashayed through the doors of the hotel.

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Stephen visually tracked Rose closely from the rear, as he was eager to pick up some more clues off of her.

That, however, upset Melanie who was keeping her eyes on him. She then tugged at Stephen's arm and demanded accountability from him.

"Just one look at her skanky face, and you'll know that she can't be trusted. Now, promise me. I want you to promise that you'll never go near this vixen again!"

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1613

Chapter 1613 Day And Night

Stephen rescinded his gaze and let out an extended sigh before he regarded her earnestly. "I have my reasons for getting close to her."

"And that is?"

"She... You should head back first. I'll explain it to you in due time." With that, he strode off toward the hotel lobby.

Melanie was fuming when she watched him depart.

What good reasons could there possibly be? All the men in the world are all the same. They're all lustful b*stard. Their wandering eyes are drawn to the next foxiest lady that they can lay their hands on! Explain it in due time? That's b*llshit! No, I have to keep a close eye on him.

Melanie clenched her fists as she sorted out her mind.

Since there's no news of Nina for so many days, I bet she's dead! The money spent by whoever called a hit on her certainly did not go to waste, as those who did the job were so thorough that they even took care of the body. If we are still unable to find her body in the next few days, I should persuade Stephen to give up and go home! I shouldn't wait until the

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point we're stuck with this little hussy that we can't shake off. Right. I have to keep a tighter rein on this situation.

With that in mind, she picked up her pace to catch up.

Out in the dark, Levant looked curiously at Evan.

"What's your take on this?"

Evan remained silent.

"Rose has probably set her sights on Stephen and wants him for herself. Looks every bit like a love triangle to me. But if Rose is actually Nina, there must be more to it than meets the eye. Otherwise, Nina wouldn't have tried so hard to put on a show like that."

"Sounds about right. Nina was taken while she was paying her respects to Chris, and whoever took her must be connected to these two," Evan said.

"Are you suggesting that Nina is seeking vengeance?"

He received no firm answer from Evan. Without evidence, everything they had in mind would be pure conjecture.

Levant pondered for a moment before he said, "Whatever it is they have between them, I think we should leave them to resolve it for themselves. Let's just stay out of it. We can secretly send someone to protect Rose while allowing her to proceed with whatever she has in mind. That is, so long as she herself doesn't get taken advantage of! Never mind how she might torment Stephen and that woman! Just let her have it her way and take her own revenge. As a father, you owe it to her to give her a chance to mold herself!"

Evan continued to hold his silence, but he seemed to have agreed to Levant's suggestion.

Perhaps it's high time for Nina to learn how to dole out payback and protect herself!

Back at Wicked Palace, Evan ordered Draven and the Hidden Masters to secretly watch over Rose, with instructions to furnish him with updates whenever necessary.

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Additionally, he issued them with a warning. Should there be a repeat of the previous incident where they remained in the dark about Nina's arrival in K Nation, the five of them should prepare themselves to be worked to death at the branch company in I Nation.

After they heard that, the Hidden Masters became zealous in their duties, determined to protect Rose at all costs.

"We'll take turns. Jeremy and Jensen will cover the day, whereas Damien and I will cover the night. Draven should stay awake to watch over her day and night, so that he may supervise us at the same time!"

Jeremy and Jensen, who had no complaints about the arrangement, heartily agreed.

"Great. Recently, I've been able to get some quality rest at night, so I'm well and alert during the day. The day shift suits me best," Jeremy said.

Damien had no objections either. "I'm okay for nighttime, as I enjoy admiring the moon. Plus, I won't be lonely since the moon can keep me company."

"Now, aren't you the die-hard romantic? Moonlight, really? Still in a mood to admire the moon after having broken up with your girlfriend?" Jensen shot him a look.

"Shut up. Do you have a problem with that? How about we switch it up then? You take the night, and I cover daytime."

"No, I have no problems at all! Daytime for me, and nighttime for you, it is."

"That settles it, then shall we—"

As Darius was about to wrap it up, Draven drove a foot into his behind. "You got me working both day and night without rest. Do you think I'm superhuman? Do you reckon that I don't have to sleep? How heartless can you get?"

"Since you're the main person in charge, I'm worried that you'll be dragged down with us if you don't supervise us at all times! I'm doing that for your sake." Darius made it out like he was genuinely doing it with his counterpart's interests at heart.

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Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1614

Chapter 1614 Dowry

Draven was more skilled and higher ranked than the four of them, so the lot of them should not be able to mess up too badly on Draven's watch. To put it simply, nothing could go wrong with the supreme guardian angel, Draven, watching over them.

Draven snickered when he saw the earnestness on the man's face. He then reached out to pinch both of the latter's ears before he enunciated his own thoughts aloud, word by word.

"Listen here. I'll be on the clock whenever you are, protecting Rose and supervising you at the same time. I'd kick you ten times, with your pants down, if you ever dare to slack off. Do you hear me?"

Darius' eyes widened.

D*mn it. You win!

"Understood! Whatever you say!"

"Fine. Then we're settled."

Darius stole a glance at him. He just felt more assured having this guardian angel around.

With the arrangements set, they immediately carried out their duties. Damien, Darius, and Draven would be watching over Rose together on the first night.

When Nicole saw Evan coming back in, she immediately asked about Nina.

Evan nodded as he looked at the anxious yet hopeful-looking Nicole. "I have news on Nina."

"Really? Where is she?"

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"She... She's in the middle of something important! I've already assigned people to secretly protect her, and she'll be back once she's done with her task."

"What is she doing?"

"If someone were to pick on Nina, would you want to seek justice on her behalf, or would you want her to seek payback on her own?"

Nicole held her silence, as she could not answer that immediately.

She inferred from Evan's words that Nina could be out seeking justice for herself.

"We may be her parents, but it's impossible for us to keep sheltering her for the rest of her life. The day will come when we won't be around, and she will still have to learn how to be self-reliant. So, would you agree that we should let her find her own way?"

Nicole concurred with him and nodded. "Yes! However, I'd still like to see her. Can I see her?"

Evan broke off eye contact. "Not right now. I'm afraid that you might not be able to accept the looks of hers."

"What? Why? What happened to her?"

Upon hearing that, Nicole was so anxious.

"Remember the dream you had, Nicole? The one where you saw Nina in some strange makeup..."

Nicole sifted through her own memories and then began to regard Evan in astonishment and incredulity.

"Do you mean that Nina really dressed herself up like that?"

Evan nodded. "Yeah. That is to facilitate her own mission!"

Nicole did not know what else to say about that, as she found it disconcerting just to envision Nina in that outlandish get-up.

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"Say, Evan. Do you think there's a possibility that Nina would continue to maintain that look? Could she revert to being the Nina that she was before? If she can't roll it back, who will be willing to marry her in the future? What if she can't find herself a partner?"

"She won't remain single!" Evan declared confidently.

He was confident that the outstanding daughter of his would certainly find a great man.

"That's true. There should be countless men lining up to marry her for any dowry that her father has to offer."

Evan's brows creased up, and his expression suddenly grew very serious. "Nicole, I won't be preparing dowries for either Nina or Maya!"

Nicole was stumped.

Why?

She was in the opinion that the dowries for her daughters should be generous by default.

"Are you thinking about leaving everything to Juan and Kyle? Since when have you become so chauvinistic? As I recall, you have always favored Maya, Nina, Kyle, and then Juan. In that order."

"I don't like what you just said, Mrs. Seet. I've always loved the four of them and held them all in equal esteem."

Nicole was rendered speechless.

Is that so?

She seemed to remember Nina often complaining to Evan about his favoritism toward Maya, citing that Maya was the one he adored the most. If Nina was around, she would probably bring up those itty-bitty issues from the past and confront her father.

If their daughters were around and learned that their father would not be preparing their dowries for them, then perhaps they would have something to say about it.

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Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1615

Chapter 1615 Dowry And Inheritance

Nina and Maya were not there to defend themselves. Therefore, Nicole believed that she had to defend their rights.

Nicole then said, "Evan, if you love them as much as you love our sons, why won't you give them dowry? Even ordinary families provide dowries for their daughters in the event of marriage. You're the president of Seet Group. You will be a laughingstock if you're this stingy."

However, Evan smiled upon hearing her. "Why should I care whether others are laughing at me? Once I return to the country, I'll issue a statement about this."

"What statement? Are you going to say that our daughters won't have dowries?" Nicole asked.

"That's right! My daughters shall only marry for love! They marry because they and their chosen partners love each other. It must not be for any other reasons," Evan answered.

He then continued, "No man can seek to marry my daughters to gain material wealth or opportunities for advancement. I will reject such people right away! Furthermore, my daughters' boyfriends must be capable and of good character. Only such men are worthy of marrying my daughters!"

Nicole became silent.

She wondered if this was the difference between a father's and a mother's love.

Nevertheless, she admitted that Evan considered things more thoroughly than she did. She only wanted to let her daughters live comfortable lives no matter who they married. However, she did not consider the troubles their dowries would attract.

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Therefore, on second thought, she believed that Evan was right.

Nina and Maya are talented, and they've achieved much success in make-up and culinary respectively. Therefore, they should find men even more successful than they are. They deserve men who can take care of them and provide them with an even brighter future. Only such men are worthy of Maya and Nina. Love is not about being well-matched in social and economic status. It is more important to have similar values and worldviews.

Seeing that Nicole was silent, Evan sighed and said, "I refuse to give them dowry. However, it doesn't mean that I'm not giving them an inheritance!"

Inheritance?

Nicole was shocked to hear that word. "You are still healthy and well. Why do you suddenly mention inheritance?"

Evan answered, "Nicole, don't worry. I will walk with you for the rest of your life! By the time we are old, Nina and Maya should already be married and have children. They should also understand their husbands' character well by then! If they were to receive an inheritance at that time, they would know how to manage it wisely. They can choose to keep it for themselves or use it to support their husbands. We will also feel more at ease knowing that they can decide for themselves."

Evan's words moved Nicole. Now, she knew that he loved Nina and Maya and wanted the best for them. Evan was undoubtedly a good father.

"Nina and Maya are blessed to have you as their father," Nicole said.

"Nicole, you must not tell them about the inheritance. However, you can tell them and their chosen partners that I won't provide a dowry for them," Evan added.

"Don't worry. I understand. I won't tell Nina and Maya about the inheritance," Nicole replied.

Evan nodded and caressed Nicole's face gently as if he was touching a precious jewel.

"You've lost a lot of weight in the past few days from worrying about Nina. I think you should rest early tonight."

"I will. I can finally rest assured now that I know Nina is fine," Nicole said.

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Evan hugged her and said softly, "I'll give you a bath, okay?"

Nicole chuckled and said, "You wouldn't do this unless you want something. Mr. Seet, what do you want from me?"

"Haven't you guessed?" Evan asked her back.

He then lifted her and carried her to the bathroom.

Soon, Nicole found herself soaking in a flower petal bath and enjoying a personal massage from Evan. However, she could not help thinking about her children.

Nina needs to avenge herself. Kyle's girlfriend is pregnant. Maya and Wilbur are on holiday overseas. Lastly, Juan... Juan and Skyler are investigating Riley. All of them are involved in something. But why do I feel that something is wrong?

Suddenly, Nicole said to Evan, "By the way, Juan still hasn't got a girlfriend at his age. You should do something."

Evan was stunned by her sudden comment. How are you still able to think about Juan now? You are always concerned about our children.

"Don't worry. I talked to Juan about it the night Steven tried to blow up Imperial Garden. He promised to get married and have kids once the matter was over. After he has finished investigating Riley's background, I'll get him to fulfill his promise," Evan replied.

Nicole looked at Evan in shock. "Are you saying that Juan agreed?"

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Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1616

Chapter 1616 I Wish To See Her

Nicole wondered if Juan had agreed to it willingly or was reluctant about it.

"Yes, he agreed. He suddenly understood in the face of death and agreed willingly!" Evan explained to dismiss Nicole's concerns.

"Really? That's wonderful! Once Nina's matter is resolved, I'll go with you to make sure that he fulfills his promise," Nicole said.

"Sure!" Evan answered.

As the temperature rose in the bathroom, Evan and Nicole clung to each other, enjoying the wonderful night with each other's company.

The following morning, Evan woke up and immediately called the group assigned to protect Rose to ask about her situation.

Draven answered his call and said, "Mr. Seet, Rose stayed in her room the whole night and did not come out. I assure you that she is safe and sound."

"That's good. You must make sure that she is safe!" Evan replied and proceeded to give further instructions. "You should find a way to confirm whether Rose is Nina."

"Yes, Mr. Seet! Should we try to get a few strands of her hair for you to carry out a DNA test?" Draven suggested.

Evan remained silent for a moment and answered, "It doesn't have to be that troublesome. I have something with me which you can give to Rose when there is no one else around. See whether she accepts it. You don't have to say anything!"

"What is it?" Draven asked.

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Evan did not answer his question but instructed, "You can come here to collect it later."

"Yes, Mr. Seet!" Draven answered.

After ending the call, Evan took out a necklace and an earring. Murphy had fished these out of a river and gave them to Evan.

These are Nina's. Draven only has to give the necklace and earring to her. He doesn't even have to say anything. If she accepts them, we will know the truth without saying anything.

Soon, Draven came to collect the items.

Nicole was worried whenever she thought about Nina. "Evan, I can't stop thinking about Nina. Even though I know that she is safe and that we have agreed to let her avenge herself, I'm still worried. I wish to see her. Can I sneak a glance? I'll make sure that she doesn't see me."

Evan understood Nicole's concern for Nina. She had not seen Nina for a long time, so it was understandable that she was worried.

It pained Evan to see Nicole like this. Therefore, he considered for a moment and said, "Sure. I'll go with you to see her. However, we have to see her in secret. If we meet with her openly, it will ruin her plan for revenge. She has disguised herself for the sake of this plan. Furthermore, she will never admit that she is Nina even if we meet her."

Nicole recalled Nina's usual appearance. According to Evan, Nina now looked strange in her outlandish get-up. She could not resist comparing the two and sighed sadly.

Nina put all her effort into avenging herself. I wonder what her grudge is. What wrong did she suffer?

"Don't worry about it. I'll pretend not to know her so that I don't ruin her plan! I'll look at her from afar. All I want is to see her," Nicole said.

"Good. She will be at the bar tonight, so I'll bring you there. Since the bar will be crowded and noisy, I don't think anyone will notice us. We won't cause her trouble," Evan explained.

"All right. I'll go with you tonight." Nicole looked forward to seeing Nina.

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After the discussion, Evan waited for Nicole to change her clothes, and they headed to the estate together.

The estate was where Nicole's father lived. They always visited him whenever they came to K Nation. They would have dropped by much earlier if they had not been rushing to search for Nina.

The moment they entered the living room, they saw the duke having tea. He did not seem surprised to see them at all. It seemed that he was expecting them.

"Dad!" Nicole greeted him affectionately.

"Dad, how have you been?" Evan asked with concern.

Nicole's father looked at them and said, "I'm well. I've been expecting both of you. Please sit down."

"How do you know that we are in K Nation?" Nicole asked.

"I heard about it from Juan and Kyle when they called me. They are very thoughtful. They asked about my health and inquired about Nina. They also mentioned both of you," the elderly man answered.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1617

Chapter 1617 She Has Passed Away

"They were worried when they didn't hear anything about Nina, and they thought that you and Evan would be devastated if you two knew about it. Thus, they called me, hoping that I could give them some information."

"I did not expect them to be this caring and concerned about us," Nicole said. Hearing that, her father said, "Yes, they are both good kids with great potential. I think Kyle will have no

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problem managing Seet Group. Juan can choose to help him or do what he wants. Whatever he is interested in, he will excel in it.”

Nicole glanced at Evan and said, “I don’t care about that. He is not a kid anymore, so he should marry and have children soon. My three other children are all seeing someone. Only Juan remained single.”

After that, Nicole took a sip of the tea. She complimented the tea, saying that it tasted good and was fragrant.

She then put the cup on the table and turned to her father. “Dad, why are you looking at me like this? Do I have something on my face? Or do you think that I’ve grown thinner? I’ve been busy at the hospital lately. Furthermore, I’ve been worried about Nina and haven’t had much appetite or sleep. Perhaps I have lost some weight.”

Her father did not take up what she said. Instead, he sighed and looked at her with confusion. “Why do you rush Juan to marry and have children? You can’t force love. Why rush him when he hasn’t met the right person? Marriage is a lifelong matter. You must let him marry someone he loves so that he won’t regret it.”

He then paused for a moment before continuing, “In the past, your mother and I... I could not choose to marry the one I love. That is why my relationship with your mother is filled with regrets. Nicole, this is my advice to you. Do not force him to marry. I think Juan will do well in life. Who knows, he might find a woman he loves and marry her. If you force him to get married too soon, you might ruin his chance of happiness. You could ruin his life forever! Being forced to marry someone does not lead to happiness. How will you be happy if you see Juan unhappy in his marriage? Therefore, you might as well let him marry later and leave everything to fate!”

Upon hearing this, Evan became silent for a moment before nodding. “Dad, you’re right. We won’t force Juan if he is really against getting married. However, since he’s a grown man now, we still hope that he will give marriage some consideration!”

“It’s normal for parents to worry about their children. I’m glad you understand what I’m talking about. No one can force love! Anyway, let’s not talk about Juan anymore. We should discuss Nina. Is there any news about her?” the duke said.

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"Yes! Someone set Nina up, so she wants to avenge herself. We decided to let her walk her path. Since she wants to do this, we will let her. It's a chance for her to grow so that she can face any challenges in the future," Evan answered.

The duke poured more tea into their cups and said, "You have my support. Do you need me to do anything?"

"Dad, it's all right! We shouldn't interfere, since we have decided not to get in her way. Evan has already arranged for his men to protect her. She will be fine," Nicole said.

"That's good."

Nicole glanced around the large living room. She noticed that it was clean and tidy, but she could not see any servants.

Therefore, she asked curiously, "Where are the servants?"

"I hired workers to work on the two gardens at the backyard, so the servants are helping them. Do you need them for something?"

"No, Dad..." Nicole mumbled in reply.

Nicole's father looked at her puzzledly. Nicole was usually an easy-going person. Now, it seemed that something was bothering her. "Nicole, is something on your mind?"

"Dad, where is your wife, Portia?" Nicole had not seen her for a long time. She noticed that Portia did not show up even when her father was severely ill. Therefore, Nicole was curious.

The duke was silent for a moment before letting out a heavy sigh.

"What happened?" Nicole asked curiously.

"She... She has passed away!" her father answered.

"Passed away? When did it happen?" Nicole asked.

Nicole and Evan were shocked by the sudden news of Portia's death.

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Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1618

Chapter 1618 Death And Burial

The duke did not rush to answer Nicole. Instead, he took a few sips of his tea before explaining the matter.

It turned out that Portia had been living with her family for the past two years. Three months ago, the duke had suddenly received news that she had drowned after falling into a lake.

At the same time, there were rumors that Portia was too bad-tempered and stubborn, leading to quarrels and disputes with her brother and sister-in-law. For that reason, she had become depressed and drowned herself in the lake.

Some also said that her brother and sister-in-law had done something to shame her. Portia had sacrificed herself for her family for years and finally realized that her sacrifices were in vain. And because of that, she had grown depressed and drowned herself in the lake. Moreover, the duke heard that Portia had a big row with her brother and sister-in-law before her death. The Ankings family was embarrassed by what had happened, so they kept everything to themselves.

Therefore, no one knew the truth behind Portia's drowning.

Although Evan and Nicole both disliked Portia, they were still a little sad to hear about her sudden passing.

It was disheartening to know someone died this way in her old age.

"Dad, where did they bury her?" Nicole asked.

Her father's expression immediately turned solemn. "The Ankings family reported her passing to me. We had divorced before her death. Seeing that we had lived together for many years, I bought her a burial plot."

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"What? The Ankins family was not even willing to pay for her burial?" Nicole was shocked.

The duke sighed and said, "Yes, that is why I believe the rumors that she drowned herself because she had a hard time when staying with her family."

"Ha! If she could return from the dead, I wonder if she would regret all that she did before. She had done everything for the sake of her family. I heard that when she left, she even took away many things from the estate, including your saving and some jewelry..." Nicole said.

Nicole suddenly remembered Gillian Snow, a character in a novel by Camina Larson. After her divorce, Gillian received a substantial divorce settlement which she gave freely to her family. However, once her family finished spending her money, Gillian finally realized how heartless they were. They quickly turned on her and were cruel to her.

"I believe she regretted what she did before her death. Sometimes, it is hard for people to see the true nature of their loved ones until the end of their lives. That's enough. Let's not talk about Portia anymore. I want to speak to you on an important matter," said the duke solemnly.

Nicole wondered what her father wanted to say.

"When I bought the grave site for Portia, I also considered myself. Nicole, when I'm dead, can you bury me with your mother? We were never able to get married while she was alive. Therefore, I wish to rest with her in death. That way, I can keep her company, and she will not be alone."

Nicole could not help feeling sad when he mentioned her mother, Rosalie.

Mom had a tragic life. If she knew that Dad wanted to be buried with her, she would be happy, right?

"Dad, I understand, but you are still healthy. I'm sure that you can live for a few more decades, so you should not talk about this," Nicole said.

"Still, I think it is better to discuss this with you earlier. You are my only child. Please bury me with your mother, and I'll leave this estate to you. All I have will be yours," her father said.

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"Dad, I don't want anything from you. Please live well. I firmly believe you shall live for a few more decades and reach a hundred years old!" Nicole insisted.

Right after she had spoken, she saw a woman walking in with dirt-covered hands.

"Oh, there're guests?" the woman asked with a clear voice and stood watching them from nearby.

"Avril?" Nicole looked at her in surprise. She was Murphy's daughter and Levant's sister. She used to try to woo the duke.

Is she here to woo him again?

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1619

Chapter 1619 A Guest Of Mine

"Yeah, I'm Avril! I was helping to plant the flowers at the back. You know, I did everything by myself that my hands were covered in mud! But I think it's worth it! Just look at the blooming flowers! It feels great to stand there and smell the scent of these colorful flowers."

She returned to Stephen's side and smiled as she asked, "Why don't you go ahead and see for yourself once you're free? I'm sure you're going to like it as well! In the future, let's put furniture in the garden, and we'll have our afternoon tea there. We can watch the flowers and then the sunset. It'll surely be one of the most enjoyable things to do in life."

Nicole and Evan exchanged glances in silence as they were confused by the duo's relationship. They wondered if Stephen had accepted Avril's feelings.

Meanwhile, helplessness was written all over Stephen's face. "You dismissed the gardener I hired and insisted on tending the garden for me. I don't even know how I should thank you. How about this? Let me know what you need, and I'll give it to you. Think of it as your compensation."

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Staring at Avril in the eyes, he started naming a variety of luxurious brands, asking her to choose whatever she wanted so that he could return the favor for her service.

Yet, Avril rejected him outright with a heartbroken expression on her face. "What do you mean by this? I haven't spent the entire day sorting things out in the garden for something as superficial as those! All I want is to spend some quality time with you in the garden! I just wish to make your day! How could you bring up the suggestion to compensate me for my service? What am I? A maid or something?"

"No! I'm not treating you as a maid!" Stephen explained.

"Really? If that's not the case, then what is it?"

"I think of you as a valuable guest of mine! It feels bad to have a guest sorting things out on my behalf."

"A guest?"

To say Avril was surprised was an understatement.

I thought he would say I'm his family. Guest or maid are all the same—both are outsiders!

"Why aren't you thinking of me as your family?" she demanded.

Stephen's expression turned grim when he heard her question. In a serious tone, he said, "Avril, I've told you this repeatedly—you should live your own life and seek your own happiness. Stop wasting your time on me because Rosalie's the only one I love. Portia tried for years, yet I still didn't harbor feelings for her. Therefore, stop wasting your efforts on me."

"No way! I'm not going to give up, and you can't chase me away! I'll still come over tomorrow and the day after that. Anyhow, I've taken care of everything in the garden. All that's left is for you to join me there for the session I have in mind. No one can sway me, not even my father, because he doesn't even care about me anymore! I get to do whatever I want. Just you wait!"

Having said that, Avril stalked out.

Nicole let out a sigh discreetly as she watched the woman's departing figure.

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A few seconds later, she turned around and asked, "Dad, actually, it isn't a bad idea for someone to keep you company. Besides, Mom has passed away for so many years. Don't you feel lonely?"

"Nicole, I'm not alone because she lives on in my heart despite being away from us for so many years. It feels like she has never left because of the fond memories we've had throughout the years. On the contrary, I've never once listened to Avril seriously, even though she's such a chatterbox. Isn't it obvious that your mom's the only one I love?"

Stephen wrapped up his speech with a contented look, looking forward to the day when he reunited with Rosalie in the afterlife. After all, having lived till such an age, he knew that his days were numbered.

Nicole was at a loss for words because he turned out to be far more uxorious than she had thought.

What will Mom think if she knows about this? Would she be delighted?

Once she snapped out of her train of thought, she voiced, "Dad, I think Mom would want you to move on and live a blissful life without her!"

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1620

Chapter 1620 Meeting Nina

"I'm living quite a blissful life as we speak! All right, let's put my matter aside. Are the two of you staying for dinner?"

Evan forestalled Nicole and replied, "We can't because there are a few projects that require our attention. We'll drop by and pay you another visit tomorrow."

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"All right."

Even after leaving the estate, Nicole still looked evidently troubled.

Seeing that, Evan smiled and asked, "What's on your mind?"

"I'm wondering the reason Avril is so persistent in courting Dad."

After all, he has turned her down more than once. She knows her efforts are fruitless, yet she refuses to give up. What is she thinking about? Has she fallen deeply in love with him?

Instead of answering her question, he asked, "What about your father? Why is he so persistent in staying loyal to your mother?"

As Nicole went dead silent, he added, "Love has no reason. Everyone has someone they love, one they could never let go of. When it comes to any other things, efforts will pay off, but not romance."

"But you can't deny that sometimes, someone's effort does bear fruition in a relationship," she retorted.

"Are you sure the affection the couple has for one another is genuine if that's the case?"

Once Nicole recalled Levant and Tiffany's relationship, she remarked, "They could still spend their lives together even they don't love each other! If Dad's willing to accept Avril's feelings—"

"The proper terminology you're looking for is cohabiting. However, do you think it's possible when he has never once opened up to Portia in spite of her effort throughout the years? What makes you think Avril is different?"

Nicole thought Evan had a point. Thus, she made up her mind to talk some sense into Avril in order to stop her from wasting her time on her father.

Shortly after the meeting with their business partners from K Nation, Evan discussed with Nicole their upcoming agenda to see Nina at the bar in the evening.

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He exhorted Nicole to only watch from the side. She was not allowed to talk to Nina for fear of causing trouble for their daughter.

Nicole responded with a nod, but her mind was all over the place as she wondered just how bizarre Nina's appearance was.

Still, she could not suppress the excitement of seeing her daughter in person and eagerly awaited nightfall.

In the evening, Evan brought her to Vamped.

"We'll find an inconspicuous seat later. No matter what you see, you have to remain calm."

"Don't worry. I only wish to see Nina; I won't do anything."

Shortly after she reassured him, he signaled her to turn around.

Following his gaze, Nicole saw a young woman dressed in a revealing outfit and high heels.

On top of her smokey makeup, she had flamboyant hair. Even though it was not rainbow-colored as Nicole had dreamed, there were at least three different colors.

In short, the young woman was nothing similar to Nina in her memories.

Unable to believe that she was her daughter, Nicole asked, "Evan, are you sure she's Nina?"

"I'm almost certain."

With that, she swept her gaze across the young woman. Nina, your style change is crazy! Even when I'm standing before you, I can't even bring myself to believe you're my daughter!

The couple had their eyes glued to the young woman and saw her grabbing a seat at the bar and getting herself a glass of wine.

While swiveling the wineglass, she scrolled through her phone and made a call.

At that sight, Nicole asked, "Who is she calling?"

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"Let's not poke our nose into her business as long as she's all right. She can do whatever she wants."

Instead of replying to Evan, she fastened her gaze at their daughter for some time before asking, "How long is it going to take until she gets her revenge?"

The man pondered for a moment and answered, "Nina doesn't like to drag things on. I'm sure it'll only take her a few more days at most."

"Once she gets her revenge, let's take her away with us! I can't watch her keep this act up!"