

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 361

Seeing the huge cartoon lollipop in Maya's hand, the boys asked why Evan hadn't bought one for them, too.

As he gazed at his two traitorous sons, Evan felt a hot rush of anger.

He had taught them hacking skills, and they had used it against him by thieving from his bank account! These two boys deserved to be punished.

Evan lifted his leg and gave both of them a kick on their behinds.

Kyle looked at him in bewilderment and yelped angrily, "Hey! Why did you kick us?"

Juan grabbed his bottom and ran around the living room, howling. "Daddy, we just asked you why you didn't buy us candy. Did you really need to kick us? You're too mean! Were we wrong to ask that question?"

Gritting his teeth, Evan glared at them and hissed, "Just the both of you wait!"

Seeing their father's wrathful expression, both Juan and Kyle were speechless.

They exchanged a glance.

"What's going on?"

"How would I know?"

"What did Daddy mean?"

"How would I know?"

“...”

Just as they were puzzling over their father’s unsettling behavior, Nicole walked out from the kitchen. Surveying the scene before her, she asked puzzledly, “What’s going on?”

Evan forced a smile onto his face. “Nothing! I was just teasing them a little.”

Juan rolled his eyes. Huffily, he said, “Daddy, you kicked us! How could you say nothing’s wrong?”

“Exactly!” Kyle chimed in. “Who kicks people to tease them?”

Evan shot them a withering look, and the boys fell silent immediately.

Nicole knew that Evan’s unconditional love towards the boys was indisputable.

He must have had a really good reason to kick them like this. Juan and Kyle must have committed a grave mistake.

Spoil the rod, spare the child—Nicole understood this perfectly. Hence, she refused to pursue the matter any further.

Taking the bags of ingredients from Evan, she said, “Mr. Seet, the kids are simply too mischievous. Don’t let them spoil your mood.”

“I’m fine! I’m just disciplining them for you.”

“...” Nicole looked at him, not understanding his words.

Juan and Kyle shrugged unhappily. What did their father mean by that?

Did they make their Mommy angry somehow?

No way!

“Daddy, are you siding against us because you want to get into Mommy’s good graces?”

“Exactly! You’re making use of us to help you woo Mommy again! Gosh, you have so many tricks up your sleeve!”

As soon as they finished speaking, Evan lifted his leg threateningly again, sending the two boys scuttering back to the toy room.

The boys sat down next to their pile of toys and continued complaining about their father.

“If kicking us in the bottom is going to make Mommy and Daddy’s relationship better, then at least we won’t have suffered for nothing. Just now, Daddy was obviously defending Mommy and helping her to take out her anger on us!”

Kyle thought for a while and said, “I don’t think the matter is this simple, though. When we go back later, Daddy will probably kill us.”

“But why?”

“That’s not the point. Tonight, we’d better stay over at Mommy’s place. If Daddy wants to thrash us, at least Mommy will be around to stop him.”

“Alright. After dinner, let’s pretend to fall asleep. We’ll just lay here and refuse to go.”

Nina had overheard their entire conversation.

She felt very surprised, too—why was Evan suddenly treating her Mommy so well?

Did he really want to get together with Mommy?

But I like Uncle Rocky more! Nina cried silently.

She dashed into her bedroom and called Rocky on the phone secretly.

When she told Rocky that Evan was chasing her mother again, a smile broke out on his face.

“Got it. Thank you, Nina. Uncle Rocky will do his best.”

“Alright, Uncle Rocky. You must come over to visit us soon!”

“Okay.”

As soon as he hung up, Rocky started to feel a little uneasy.

His old man had already ordered him to stay away from Summervale.

Recently, Rocky had been so swamped by work that he hadn't had time to drop by the clinic. It had been a long time since he last saw Nicole.

If he went to her house now, Evan would be extremely displeased.

However, it had been so many years, and Nicole remained the only woman Rocky had ever loved and thought about marrying.

If he simply gave her up to another man now, he would never forgive himself for the rest of his life.

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After agonizing over it for a while, Rocky decided to drop by and visit her. However, for the sake of Yan Group's reputation, he promised himself that he wouldn't butt heads with Evan Seet this time. Instead, he would soften his attitude towards that man and treat him like a friendly acquaintance.

After all, given his current situation, he couldn't afford to let Ian pick on another one of his mistakes again.

By the time Rocky arrived at Summervale, Nicole and Evan were already gathered around the dining table with the four children. A steaming pot of beef stew had been set down in the middle of the table.

Seeing him, Nina exclaimed joyfully, "Uncle Rocky, you're here!"

Nicole looked quite surprised by his arrival, too. "Rocky! I didn't think you would suddenly drop by for a visit. Why don't you have dinner with us?"

Rocky smiled and shifted his gaze to Evan.

"Mr. Seet, may I join all of you for dinner?"

His words made Nicole feel a little perturbed.

After all, this house belonged to Rocky. Why was he behaving like a guest and asking permission from Evan first?

Evan shot him a look and said coldly, "You're not welcome here."

He couldn't be bothered to be polite to Rocky.

To Mr. Seet, this was the most polite he could be with his love rival, especially one who was shameless enough to show up at Nicole's door.

Rocky stood in the doorway, aghast. Before he could say anything, Nicole jumped in and snapped, "Mr. Seet, how could you be so impolite! This place belongs to Rocky. What's wrong with him staying for dinner?"

Is Nicole still unaware that Evan Seet bought this apartment from me?

Rocky smiled blandly. "Nicole, you're wrong about that. This place belongs to Mr. Seet now. He bought this apartment from me."

Rocky seemed to place an emphasis on the word 'bought'.

Nicole swung around to look at Evan in shock.

No wonder he had taken it upon himself to behave like the owner of this place and refurbish this entire place a few days ago! He was now the owner of this apartment!

However, he had never spoken a word about it to her.

Evan had bought her a house, helped her out with her struggling family business, and taken such good care of her kids...

Why had his attitude towards her undergone such a huge shift recently?

Nicole couldn't make any sense of it.

Rocky continued, "Since Mr. Seet doesn't welcome me here, I'll make a move first. Nicole, I'm afraid I won't have time to drop by the clinic these few weeks. If you have any issues, give these people a call. Although their acupuncture technique isn't as good as yours, they can do other things for you."

As he spoke, he handed her a stack of name cards.

Nicole looked at him with gratitude. "Thanks, Rocky."

"No worries. I'll take my leave now. Have a good dinner."

"Wait!" Nicole said. "I'll send you downstairs."

Nicole followed him downstairs and watched as Rocky drove off in his car. When she turned around, she saw Evan standing right behind her.

"Mr. Seet, why did you come downstairs too?"

"Let's go back upstairs and continue our dinner."

Evan's expression was a little ugly as he said this. He turned around and stalked off in the direction of the elevator as Nicole trailed behind him.

In the elevator, Evan started pointing out everything that was wrong with Rocky.

“Coming over so late at night? Ha, he must have had an ulterior motive! If he wanted to pass these name cards to you, he could’ve sent them to your office or to the clinic. Why did he need to deliver them to you himself?”

Nicole looked Evan in consternation as he continued to rant and rave. She wondered again if something had happened between both men in the past.

If not, why would Evan, with his cold, aloof personality, have so much to complain about when it came to Rocky? Whenever he got the chance, Evan relished in tarnishing the other man’s reputation. He had even bought over Rocky’s house...

Remembering Rocky’s unpleasant tone from just now, Nicole suddenly realized that Evan must have forced Rocky to give up that apartment to him!

She turned around to look at Evan suddenly. “Mr. Seet, did you have any ulterior motives when you bought Rocky’s house from him?”

Evan shot her a look. “No.”

Yeah right, Nicole thought.

Everyone did things to fulfill an ulterior motive. That was especially so for the business-minded, calculating Evan Seet.

“Mr. Seet,” she said, “isn’t it quite inappropriate for me to live in your house without paying you any rent?”

Her words rubbed Evan the wrong way.

So she was happy to live in Rocky’s house free of charge, but she refused to live in his without paying rent?

Perhaps Nicole was closer to Rocky, after all.

Well, Evan thought bitterly, my attitude towards her has been quite horrible. I deserve this!

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Trying his best to suppress his raging emotions, he said in a gentle tone with a half-smile, "Kyle and Juan will be staying over very often, so you'll be able to see them if you live here."

Is that so?

Is he doing this for Juan and Kyle?

How deep is his fatherly love!

Nicole asked nothing else. When the elevator's door was open, the two walked out and went back to the room one after another.

Meanwhile, the kids were getting impatient while waiting.

"Mommy, can we eat now?"

"Yes, let's eat now."

Juan, Kyle, and Maya's eyes lit up instantly, looking like three little hungry wolves that were ready to pounce on their food.

On the other hand, Nina lowered her head in dejection.

I thought Uncle Rocky would challenge the evil Daddy and fight for Mommy. But he was scared away after saying only a few words. The evil daddy even bought this place.

Uncle Rocky is so timid. Such a coward.

He dares not to fight for the woman he loves. I mustn't be like him when I grow up.

"Nina, eat your food," Nicole urged when she saw that Nina got the spaced-out look.

Only then did Nina took her spoon and started eating.

After a while, Evan picked up a few pieces of beef and put them on Nina's plate.

Usually, she would give the beef back to Evan without thinking twice. However, this time, she hesitated. Should I put the beef back on the evil daddy's plate?

But truth be told, I really admire his boldness and determination.

In the end, she picked the beef up, put it into her mouth, and started chewing with much relish.

Her reaction put a hint of a smile on Evan's face.

Nina seems much friendlier to me now.

Evan promptly seized the opportunity and suggested taking them to the amusement park or the zoo during the weekend.

Juan and Kyle were over the moon while Maya jumped up and down in excitement.

Yet, Nina froze for a moment before saying, "But I would like to go for painting lessons. Painting gives me inspiration, which will improve my makeup skills."

Immediately, Evan took out his phone and called John, asking him to find out the best art academies in the city for Nina to choose one according to her preference.

A faint smile appeared on Nina's usually distant face.

I guess the evil daddy is not that evil after all...

Alright, I'll go then.

“Okay, let's eat first. Nina, you're too slim, so please eat more meat.”

Nicole put some meat on Nina's plate, but Nina picked the meat up and put it on Maya's plate with a grin.

“Mommy, I like eating vegetables, so I'll give Maya the meat.”

Feeling happy, Maya thanked Nina and praised her for being a thoughtful sister.

She even promised not to hit Nina with her signature Maya Punch anymore.

After dinner, Juan and Kyle executed their secret plan. They discreetly slipped into the bedroom and pretended to be asleep.

After a while, Evan entered the room. He heaved a sigh when he saw the two boys on the bed. These two little rascals didn't even know how to fake sleep. They're squeezing their eyes shut so hard that it's obvious they are faking it.

He stretched out his hand to pinch Juan's little butt.

Despite the pain, Juan kept his eyes shut tightly. He gritted his teeth, enduring the pain.

Then Evan turned to pinch Kyle, who then tried hard to stifle a scream.

“Your acting skills are so bad. If you keep pretending this way, your Mommy will surely chase the three of us out.”

The two boys instantly opened their eyes and stared at him.

“Daddy, you don't want to leave too?”

“Daddy, do you want to stay as well?”

“Nonsense! I'm only teaching you how to pretend to be asleep.”

With that, he peeked over his shoulder at the room's door. Then he patiently gave the two boys tips on how to fake sleep.

Noticing that they had learned well, he even reminded them to act more like it in front of Nicole.

The moment Evan left the room, Juan pulled Kyle up from the bed. "I think we should ask Nina and Maya to pretend to be asleep too."

"Why?" Kyle asked in surprise.

Juan said with a giggle, "Just think about it. If Nina and Maya sleep in their room, and we sleep in this room, then Daddy and Mommy will have no choice but to sleep together. Am I right?"

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Hearing Juan's suggestion, Kyle said, "You're right."

The two boys quickly went to Nina and Maya to convince them.

With only a few drumsticks and a promise that Evan would treat her to a delicious meal, the two boys successfully lured Maya to gladly jump on board.

Though Nina was hesitant at first, she decided to cooperate with them since Evan helped her to find the best art academy.

After much discussion, the four kids began to fake sleeping simultaneously.

In the meantime, Nicole had just finished cleaning up and was walking out of the kitchen. Her brows knitted together when she realized that all the little ones had disappeared.

They should be playing as usual at this time. Why is it so quiet? Where are they?

Out of curiosity, she went to the toy room, but only to find a few toys scattered around on the floor of the empty room.

Leaving the toy room, she saw Evan staring at the financial news channel intently on the couch. "Where are the kids?"

Evan darted a glance at her, shaking his head. "I don't know."

Nicole frowned at his reply. Then she walked to Juan and Kyle's bedroom.

Opening the door, she saw the two boys lying motionless on the bed.

Are they asleep already?

Why do these two rascals sleep so early today?

She walked to the bed and pulled a blanket over them. After staring at the boys for a moment, she tiptoed out of the room.

Nina and Maya sleep late usually, so they should be playing right now. Then she made her way to the girls' room.

A look of astonishment appeared on her face the moment she stepped into the room.

Are the girls sleeping already?

That's weird!

Worry that they might have fallen ill, she strode over to them and touched Maya's forehead. Thank God she's not having a fever.

Next, she turned to touch Nina's forehead. Nina is fine as well.

What's going on? Why did the four of them go to bed so early simultaneously?

Covering the girls with a blanket, she tiptoed out of their room too.

She mumbled curiously to Evan, "That's strange. Why do the kids sleep so early today?"

Evan let out a cough awkwardly. "Children usually sleep early, don't they?"

"But Nina and Maya have never slept this early before."

Evan quickly made up a random excuse to brush her off.

It's on me that Juan and Kyle are pretending to be asleep now. But I'm surprised to see Nina and Maya being so cooperative.

The two girls are quite thoughtful too.

"Since the kids are asleep. Take a seat. I need to talk to you."

Evan's words made Nicole squirm nervously. Wondering what Evan wanted to talk about, she carefully walked to the couch and sat beside him.

"Mr. Seet, I should thank you for your help in relation to Lane Corporation."

Despite feeling anxious, Nicole thanked him while looking at him sincerely.

Evan gave her a faint smile. "We've talked about this in the office. Let's talk about something else."

"Something else? What do you want to talk about, Mr. Seet?"

I've so many questions in my head. What happened to her after I left the Rose Garden? How was her life after returning to the Lane family? In her heart, what does she think about the boy, Tye, and me, Evan Seet?

Deep in contemplation, Evan's voice was stuck in his throat.

Nicole refuses to talk about her past. She even hides the truth that she is the little girl back then. If I were to ask her directly, she may avoid my question or try to cover up the truth again.

Evan gazed intently at Nicole, trying to find the right words.

“Before getting the Lane Corporation, I remember you told me that your dad and your stepmother erected a tombstone for you when you were still alive. So I guess you had a hard time living with the Lane family, am I right?”

When Evan mentioned the Lane family and her past, a sense of sorrow and bitterness welled up in Nicole’s heart.

Recalling those dark days, she felt a lump formed in her throat as she looked down and played with her fingers.

“Mr. Seet, why do you ask about this all of a sudden?”

“Just asking,” Evan answered casually.

A wry smile spread across her ivory face.

After my mum passed away, I left the Rose Garden and returned to the Lane family. Sylvia had been very harsh on me, to the extent that I felt it was pointless to live.

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That was the worst time of my life. It was a nightmare which was etched on my memory for life.

During winter, I had to sleep on a wet and cold bed. It was freezing cold that I couldn't stop trembling. No one was there for me whenever I fell sick. If I were lucky enough, I would get some leftover food.

When Sylvia was in a foul mood, she would vent it on me, and I would be scolded, beaten, and punished for no reason. My skin was always covered with bruises.

When things became unbearable, I would remind myself of Rose Garden and Tye.

His heart-warming care gave me the strength and courage to withstand the torment.

I used to wish that I will meet Tye one day so that I can feel being cared for and protected by someone again.

Fate has granted my wish, but it also put an insurmountable gap between us.

It turns out that Tye is now the president of the Seet Group. He's as bright as the Sun, but I'm only a nobody.

Most importantly, in Evan's eyes, I'm only a worthless and crafty woman.

This is because I've left a terrible impression on him ever since my return to the country.

These barriers between us have utterly dashed my hopes and dreams.

"What's wrong? Don't you want to talk about it?" Evan asked when he sensed her hesitation.

Nicole shook her head. "Mr. Seet, there's nothing much to say. Let's talk about you."

Although she didn't utter a word about how hard her life had been, Evan could tell from her red-rimmed eyes that she must have gone through unimaginable sufferings.

His heart couldn't help but ache for her.

"What would you like to know?"

Nicole thought about it briefly before saying, "Mr. Seet, I wonder how it is to be someone like you. Your life must have been smooth sailing. Have you ever been through any tough times in life?"

Nicole still felt odd that someone like Evan had fallen from grace and ended up in the Rose Garden, getting bullied by everyone else.

Her question stunned Evan for a moment. Then he immediately understood her intention.

Looking at her solemnly, Evan answered, "I've had some tough times too. As a member of the Seet family, I would be severely punished for making any mistake. My grandpa once punished me by sending me to the Rose Garden to experience the life of servants."

At the mention of the Rose Garden, Evan's piercing eyes stared intently at Nicole, and he saw a look of realization on her face.

I see. He was being punished at that time.

I was so foolish to think that Tye was a child of a Seet family's servant.

Nicole was dumbfounded briefly. Then she gave him a half-hearted smile and replied indifferently, "It seems like you had a strict upbringing in the Seet family."

"Had you been to the Rose Garden when you were young?" Evan asked abruptly.

Nicole balled up her fist tightly as she shook her head at him.

"I grew up in the Lane family, so I had never been there."

She's trying to avoid my gaze. I can tell from her nervous expression that she's lying.

She has her guard up against me.

I should stop asking her since she doesn't want to tell me.

One day, I'll make her trust me the way she trusts the boy, Tye, so she will voluntarily confess everything to me.

The two sat blankly on the couch, but Evan's piercing gaze never left Nicole.

At the moment, Nicole was a little uneasy and at a loss for words.

She seemed slightly different from her usual self, who would retort without a second thought.

Evan's intense stare puzzled her and caused her heart to beat quicker out of agitation.

"Would you like to have a cup of tea, Mr. Seet?"

"I'm not used to you being so polite to me. You don't have to hide your true self when you're with me. If you want to, you can even shout at me."

How can I do that?

After all, you're the savior of the Lane Corporation. How can I shout at you?

She smiled at him. "Mr. Seet, it's getting late. Feel free to go ahead and do whatever you need to. Juan and Kyle are asleep, so please let them stay over tonight."