

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 451

The door to the president's office shut tight.

Only two people remained inside the room. Nicole gazed at Russell with mixed feelings.

He used to be pretty nice to me. Things probably wouldn't have changed if it weren't for that accident.

"Have a seat, Ms. Lane."

Nicole fell silent.

Why is he being so courteous?

She hesitated. It was only after the elderly man took a seat that she sat across him in trepidation.

Seeing how calm Russell looked, Nicole really didn't know what to expect.

Is this what they refer to as the calm before the storm?

"You've given the Seet family four children, Ms. Lane. This is a fact that I've never denied. But your mother killed my wife, and I was hoping you could face this issue head-on. Do you admit to what I'm saying?"

Nicole froze. It wasn't Mom who killed Ms. Julia. It was Zane.

Still, Zane was her father, so to Russell, Nicole was involved no matter what. *There's no point trying to explain things. The outcome remains the same.*

After pondering for a moment, she looked up at Russell and nodded.

"If you have something on your mind, just say it."

"I can never forget that your mother was involved in my wife's death, so I can't see you show up in front of the Seet family. I'm against you being with Evan, and so are his father and uncles. So, please leave Evan. Don't worry; I won't chase you away just like this. I'm still grateful that you bore the Seet family four children, so do tell me what you want as compensation."

"I willingly gave birth to the children, Mr. Seet. I don't need any compensation. Besides, I'm the children's mother; I don't think it's appropriate for you to talk about compensating me."

"The children you gave birth to carry the Seet family blood, Ms. Lane, but you're not fit to marry into the family. Do you understand what I'm saying? Tell me what you want in return for cutting all ties with Evan and the children. From now on, I don't wish for anyone from the Seet family to be associated with you."

Nicole gazed at Russell. Truthfully, she understood why he despised her.

He had lost the person he loved most, after all. It would be extremely difficult for him to let this go.

Still, blood was thicker than water. As a mother, there was no way the woman could cut ties with her own children.

"Are you asking me to cut my own children off completely, Mr. Seet? Sorry, but I can't do that."

Russell had expected this, so he immediately began to name a price.

"Five hundred million. That'll be more than enough for you to live a good life."

Five hundred million?

That's no small amount.

But no matter how much he offers me, nothing could compare to my little cubs.

My children are my most precious things. They're my life.

"Sorry, Mr. Seet."

"One billion!"

Nicole smirked. "It doesn't matter how much you give me."

"Two billion!"

Russell continued to raise the price, refusing to believe that Nicole would never be enticed.

Yet, the woman remained unfazed. She didn't even blink.

"Maybe you think there's nothing that can't be solved with money, but that won't work on me. I'll never agree no matter how much you offer me."

Seeing how determined she was, a look of doubt flashed in Russell's eyes. *Is there really someone who doesn't love money?*

Or is she just too greedy? Does she intend to marry Evan and become the young lady of the Seet family?

Certainly, receiving two billion was nothing compared to being the wife of Seet Group's president.

"Don't be such an ingrate, Nicole Lane! I would've never been this generous had you not given Evan four children! It doesn't matter if you don't want the money. I won't let you see the children anyway! Don't you *ever* think about marrying Evan."

The few people outside the president's office exchanged glances as they heard Russell's yelling.

Lisa peered into the room while muttering, "Dad's livid. Do you think he'd pass out from anger because of that woman?"

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"I wouldn't be surprised," Adam chimed in. "Dad's really old now. What if he collapses..."

Sophia pursed her lips. *Look at how eager they look. They probably can't wait for sparks to fly.*

Jonathan was worried sick too. He gritted his teeth and stared at Evan.

"Look what you've done. You just *had* to keep getting involved with this woman! If something happens to your grandfather because of this, you and that woman won't get away with it."

"I'll take care of this, Dad."

Evan shot Sofie a cold glare before pushing the door open and striding into the president's office.

"Did Dad call him in?" Lisa asked, frowning.

Adam shook his head.

“Oh, God! Nicole’s already giving Dad such a hard time. He’s probably going to lose it if Evan goes in to help her!”

Lisa put on a terrified expression before continuing, “Let’s go in too, Adam. We’ll be the witnesses in case Dad collapses!”

Sophia eyeballed her viciously.

You’re not worried about Dad or concerned about trying to calm him down at all. You’re afraid there’d be no witnesses around if he collapses from anger.

You just can’t wait to act as witnesses!

Even Adam could tell his wife sounded insincere, so he shot her a glare.

“Dad’s just fine! What makes you think he’ll collapse? But the way he’s yelling is indeed worrying, so let’s go calm him down.”

Lisa stilled for a moment and nodded.

If one had to describe someone as too ‘carried away’, it would be her.

She smiled sheepishly. *Whoops! That was a slip of the tongue.*

“You’re right! Let’s go take a look.”

The two walked toward the president’s office, but just as they opened the door, a teacup came flying in their direction.

With lightning reflexes, Adam hastily shut the door.

Bang! The teacup crashed into the door and shattered into pieces.

Lisa panted in fright. *That was a close one! It nearly hit me in the face. My face would’ve been completely ruined!*

She patted her chest and turned to Adam. “If he could still toss a teacup this far, I suppose he’ll be just fine. Maybe we should just wait for him out here.”

Gotta look out for ourselves.

Frightened, Adam nodded in agreement.

Inside the room, Evan stared at Russell without a hint of fear.

The atmosphere grew increasingly tense as though a fight would break out anytime.

“Do you really intend to marry her, Evan?”

“Yes, Grandpa.” Evan looked absolutely certain.

Russell hammered his cane on the ground. “But her mother—”

“No! It wasn’t her mother who killed Grandma.”

“W-What did you say?”

Russell stared at Evan in disbelief.

“Zane Lane is the one responsible for the hit-and-run.”

Russell fell silent for a moment before growing even more furious. “And who is Zane Lane? Is he not this woman’s father? Whether it was her father or mother who did it, she’s still involved!”

“It’s complicated, Grandpa, so please let me explain.”

Seeing how persistent Evan looked, Russell figured there was something important his grandson had to say, so he let him.

Evan explained everything he had heard Sylvia say while overseas.

He also told his grandfather about all the suffering the Lane family had caused Nicole.

Finally, he stared at the elderly man. “We shouldn’t involve third parties when exacting revenge, Grandpa. Nicole has nothing to do with the accident. I’ll make sure Zane pays for what he did to Grandma.”

Evan’s eyes flashed with ruthlessness as he spoke.

Nicole’s heart tripped over itself.

She, too, despised Zane. She hated him for treating her like dirt and being cruel to her mother. He had watched Sylvia torment Nicole but never did anything to help.

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To her, she was better off not having a father to begin with.

But no matter how much she despised him, his blood flowed through her veins too.

How does Evan intend to make him pay? Nicole still couldn't help but be concerned.

Russell remained silent for a long time before finally digesting everything that Evan had told him. He now felt even more conflicted.

Would he finally let go of his grudges after Zane paid for it?

Would he think about his wife's death every time he looked at Nicole?

Still, the old man was well aware of how stubborn his grandson was. I brought him up, after all.

Once he's got his mind set on her, he'll never marry any other woman.

Do I really want my treasured grandson to live the rest of his life alone just because of this matter?

Feeling utterly perplexed, Russell gazed deep into Nicole's eyes and heaved a long sigh.

"Why does she have to be Zane Lane's daughter?"

He sounded resentful and heartbroken at the same time.

Before this, he always had a good impression of Nicole and hoped that she and Evan could be happy together. Yet, this had to happen.

But who could be blamed?

Nicole's heart ached as she heard the question and noticed the complicated look in Russell's eyes.

The woman had asked herself the same question too—over and over again. She, too, wanted to know why she had to have a father like Zane.

Why do I have to be his daughter?

In truth, she had no choice but to accept this fact.

Seeing her eyes redden, Evan pulled her into his arms.

“Please don’t make things hard on Nicole anymore, Grandpa. If you don’t wish to see her, I’ll never let her appear before you. Nicole and I won’t expect you to give us your blessing, so don’t worry. We won’t let anyone from the Seet family attend the wedding if we get married, but I have to make her my wife.”

He continued, “As for the kids, she’s their mother, so she has the right to see them whenever she wants. As long as she wants to see them, I’ll make it happen. Of course, you’re their grandfather, so you may see them whenever you wish too. I won’t let my children be affected by grudges from the past.”

Nicole calmly gazed at Evan. She knew how important Russell was to him.

The fact that he was willing to argue with his grandfather for her sake really moved her.

She gripped Evan’s hand tightly. Perhaps, I was wrong for running away back then.

I should’ve trusted him.

I should’ve believed in the love we share.

With that, Nicole took a step forward. “I understand how you feel, Mr. Seet. Please give us your blessing. You can do whatever you want to make my dad pay for his crimes.”

Russell remained quiet for a long while before asking Nicole to exit the room. Now, only he and Evan remained.

Lisa stared at Nicole with disdain the moment the latter walked out. “What did he say? Did he tell you to leave at once?”

Nicole merely shot her a glare, refusing to answer.

Sophia grabbed Nicole by the hand and dragged her to one side, asking what had happened.

After hearing Nicole explain, Sophia breathed a sigh of relief. “There should still be hope.”

Is there?

Nicole honestly wasn’t sure, but she noticed how gloomy both Russell and Evan looked before she left.

Surely, they were talking about how to get back at Zane.

Back inside the president’s office.

Russell stared at Evan coldly with a murderous look on his face.

“Do you know how to avenge your grandmother?”

Evan fell quiet for a moment. “I do.”

Russell sighed as he recalled Julia’s horrifying death. “Things were really tough when your grandmother passed on. I believe you know what to do to get revenge.”

Evan’s gaze darkened as a look of conflict gleamed in his frosty eyes.

“Don’t worry, Grandpa. I know what to do.”

He understood what his grandfather meant.

Zane will get what he deserves.

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Even so, he had to be careful. He didn’t know how Nicole would think; she was Zane’s daughter, after all.

“Alright. I’ll be waiting.”

Russell appeared satisfied with Evan’s decision.

As the two men left of the president’s office, Lisa immediately walked toward them and pretended to show the elderly man some concern over his health.

“Are you okay, Dad? We heard you yelling in there. You scared us!” Adam carefully observed his father with a filial look on his face.

Then, Lisa shot Nicole a glare before asking, "That woman didn't bother you too much, did she, Dad? When will you get her to leave?"

Russell paused before letting out a sigh.

"It's all been a misunderstanding. Someone else killed Julia. It has nothing to do with Nicole."

Everyone was visibly shocked.

Nothing to do with her? A misunderstanding?

Could there really be this huge of a misunderstanding?

Is this a joke?

Sofie and Lisa glanced at each other, looking completely dumbfounded.

Adam and Jonathan were clearly astonished too.

This is what Dad says the moment he comes out of the room?

That's way too sudden. Something must be up.

Evan understood his grandfather's intentions.

To put it simply, Russell was no longer against Nicole being with Evan. However, Evan would have to avenge Julia's death in a way that satisfied Russell.

Sophia held onto Nicole's hand, assuring her that it was now all in the past.

After finding out what had happened inside the office, she had told Nicole that there was likely still hope. *Now, there really is hope.*

To think that Lisa had put on such a huge fuss but ended up twisting things in Nicole's favor! What a blessing in disguise.

"What should we do now, Aunt Lisa?" asked a bewildered-looking Sofie.

"What should we do? What else *can* we do? We'll just have to take things one step at a time now!"

Sofie was speechless.

"Alright, let's not stand around here anymore. It's time to go home. Let Evan work in peace."

"See you, Grandpa."

"Hurry up and get back to work, Evan," said Sophia before walking away with Russell.

Lisa grew increasingly livid. Feeling utterly challenged, she finally clenched her fists, took a few steps forward, and blocked Russell's path.

The elderly man jumped in fright.

"What are you doing, Lisa—"

"Sofie's gone through so much, Dad. You're being too kind to Nicole! Even if someone else was responsible for Mom's death, you have to defend Sofie!"

Russell paused for a moment before nodding lightly. "Oh, I completely forgot about this."

He turned to Sophia. "Evan brought this up inside the president's office earlier. There's a piece of fish in there that hasn't been touched. He said Sofie had bought it for Nicole. Bring it over and let Lisa eat it."

Then, he turned back to Lisa. "Talk to me when you're done eating the fish."

Lisa was dumbstruck.

Sophia nodded and hurriedly turned back.

Her blood boiled with rage as she returned with the fish.

How dare Sofie tries to feed Nicole something like this? I'm going to make her pay!

She caught up to Russell. "I'd be happy to watch Lisa eat this fish, Dad."

Earlier, Lisa had acted all high and mighty. She even made sure Sophia couldn't warn Evan in advance about Russell's arrival.

Now's my chance to get back at her. I'm not going to let her off so easily. If she thinks I'm an easy target, she's dead wrong.

Russell nodded.

"Do as you see fit."

"Thank you, Dad."

As Russell, Jonathan, and Adam got into their car, Lisa wanted to follow suit.

However, Sophia held her back.

"What's the rush? We'll leave in the same car."

Lisa cast Sophia a glance. Seeing Russell's car slowly drive into the distance, she could only murmur to herself as she followed Sophia into another vehicle.

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Lisa wouldn't have insisted on sharing the same car had she known this would happen.

She pretty much only had herself to blame now.

After they entered the car, Sophia began to wave the ungutted fish in front of Lisa.

"You'll have to eat this fish sooner or later, so you may as well eat it now."

Lisa glanced at the fish, which was now staring back at her wide-eyed. "I-I-I'm not eating that!" she stammered.

"Dad says you have to."

Sophia deliberately brought the fish toward Lisa's mouth. The fishy stench made the latter's stomach churn.

"Are you okay, Aunt Lisa? She can't eat this fish, Ms. Sophia—"

Sophia's eyes darted to Sofie, who was seated next to Lisa.

"Then why did you try to let Nicole eat it?"

"I... This is all a misunderstanding. I—"

"Another word of nonsense from you, and I'll let you eat this fish in her place!"

Sofie kept her mouth shut after glancing at the fish and Lisa.

The car was stopped countless times on the way back to the Seet Residence. Every time Sophia waved the fish in front of Lisa, the latter would exit the car and throw up.

Lisa looked completely ashen by the time they arrived at the Seet Residence, as though she had just gone through hell.

“I want to go home!” she wailed. “Take me home, Adam!”

“What happened?” Adam asked, concerned.

“That fish! Sophia tried to make me eat the—”

Before she could tattle, Sophia picked the fish up again.

“The fish is right here. You haven’t eaten it yet! I’ll bring it over to your place and watch you eat it.”

Once again, the smell of the fish wafted into Lisa’s nostrils.

“Ughh…”

Feeling disgusted again, Lisa hurriedly dragged Adam away. “Let’s go! Now!”

I’ll lock the door once we get home, and won’t open it no matter who comes!

Sofie hastily followed them.

Sophia was overjoyed to see the trio scurry off like rats.

She then tossed the bag containing the fish onto the ground. “Get rid of this,” she instructed the maids.

“Yes, Ma’am.”

After bringing Russell back to his room, Jonathan began to ask what had happened earlier.

If someone else had killed Mom, who could it be?

Russell sighed. “Evan will take care of this.”

“Who on earth did it?”

After a few moments of deliberation, Russell finally answered, “Zane Lane.”

“It was him?”

Jonathan was taken aback. “But he’s Nicole’s father, so it still has something to do with her—”

“Zane will pay for what he did to your mother, Jonathan. As for Nicole, Evan truly loves her, and she’s also the mother of the four children. Let’s not drag her into this matter anymore.”

“But still, she’s—”

“That’s enough! You’re well aware of Evan’s temper. Do you intend to let him spend the rest of his life on his own?”

Jonathan said nothing more. All he wanted now was for Zane to pay for his sins.

Night fell.

After picking the children up, Evan and Nicole headed straight for Imperial Garden.

The villa had an exceptionally unique, fresh, and unconventional style. It’s simple yet symmetrical designs were well-integrated, and the building’s interior and exterior complemented each other well.

Not only was it cleverly designed and comfortable, but it could also make one’s heart flutter with joy.

The children were elated to see the beautiful villa.

Kyle and Juan began to run around. It wasn’t long until they vanished without a trace.

Maya danced with delight. “It’s so pretty, Daddy!” she exclaimed with wide eyes.

“Do you like it, Maya?”

“I do!”

Those twinkling eyes of hers showed exactly how she felt.

Nina walked along while asking, “There are so many rooms. Will I get one just for me to play with my makeup?”

“You can do that in any room you like. The villa belongs to you guys,” replied Evan.