

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 426

A silence ensued.

Is she leaving?

Sophia was slightly taken aback.

As she was still considering how to broach the subject, Nicole had unexpectedly come out to announce her own departure.

Sophia suddenly felt an aching in her heart for the pitiable Nicole.

Nonetheless, is anyone to be blamed for all of this?

“Where do you intend to go? Is there anything that I can help you with?”

“Mrs. Seet, I’m going overseas and I don’t know when I’ll be back. Nevertheless, no worries. Even if I were to return, I shall not seek to make things difficult for you and Evan. I only ask that...”

“What would you like from me?”

“That you might allow my request to visit my children at any given point of time. I hope that you’ll allow me to meet with them in secret.”

Bless the hearts of all parents in the world.

Nicole cannot bear to abandon her children, but she cannot do otherwise either, in consideration of Evan’s circumstances. The young woman’s thoughtful gesture left Sophia, a mother herself, deeply moved.

“You can rest assured that I’ll take very good care of them. Furthermore, I will definitely make them available whenever you wish to see them.”

“Then, I’m glad.”

Sophia reached out and held Nicole's hand. "You really don't have to go overseas. For you to go to a place so far away by yourself..."

"Mrs. Seet, I'll be going for a reason."

Sophia pressed her for an answer. Nicole took a moment to consider it before she decided to share it with her.

There was a moment of brief silence after that.

"Did you mean it?"

"Yes. I suspect that the culprit was not my mother."

"If it wasn't your mother, then you and Evan might be able to..."

When Nicole saw that Sophia's eyes had lit up, she found it difficult, to speak truthfully.

In the end, she decided to be upfront about it.

"Mrs. Seet, if it weren't my mother, it could have been my father. Hence, no matter what, the Seet family will not be likely to change how they feel about me."

Between Nicole and Evan lay a lost life as such. It was an immutable fate.

The light in Sophia's eyes then dimmed.

Sophia then sighed. "Please don't be upset with me. I'd never wanted things to turn out this way. Unfortunately, the entire Seet family is coming down hard on Evan. As a mother, I really don't want to see my son... Please forgive my selfishness."

Nicole forced out a crooked smile.

Being in a similar position herself, she was able to empathize with Sophia.

As soon as Sophia left Summervale, Nicole wasted no time before she headed straight for the airport.

Before she embarked, she took care to send Evan a message.

"I'll be going away for work. I will return in a few days' time. Please take care good of the kids!"

When a restless Evan saw her message, he paused and wondered why was Nicole traveling for work during such a time.

He remembered that she had asked for his support in this regard the previous night.

Work.

Is it really for the purpose of work?

Evan pulled out his phone and dialed a number.

“Mr. Seet, Lane Corporation has received a major project overseas. Ms. Lane was anxious to secure it so she has decided to travel there personally.”

Having heard that from Nicole’s assistant, Evan’s doubts were temporarily put to rest.

When Sophia returned to the Seet Residence, she shared the news of Nicole’s departure with Jonathan and Russell. As for the underlying reasons and her whereabouts, she did not breathe a word about them.

Sophia assumed that all the Seet family wanted was for Nicole and Evan to be separated, so they should have been reasonably satisfied, now that this objective had been realized.

Jonathan and Russell both received this news with some degree of misgiving.

“What about Evan? Did he agree to her leaving?”

Sophia glanced at Jonathan. “Do you mean to say that Evan doesn’t need to part from Nicole if he is not amendable to it?”

Her words were met with silence.

Jonathan coughed.

“As you can see, it doesn’t really matter what he thinks, so long as it makes the rest of you happy.”

Sophia shot Jonathan a blank stare before she took herself upstairs.

Russell exhaled. “Heaven’s will is unfathomable. Hopefully, Sofie will be able to assist Evan in forgetting about Nicole.”

At the Sweeting residence.

Sofie had mixed feelings after learning that Russell had permitted her to join the Seet family, on the condition that Evan was agreeable to marrying her.

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She was excited for the opportunity to become the young lady of the house of Seet.

Unfortunately, she was not optimistic that she would be able to convince Evan to marry her.

When Lisa saw how dispirited the woman had appeared, she gave Sofie a tongue lashing for her fecklessness.

“Sofie, if you want to capture a man’s heart, you need to employ a bit of trickery.”

Trickery was something that I had attempted before. Unfortunately, it was to no avail.

“Aunt Lisa, how did you managed to get married to Uncle Adam? Would you be willing to teach me?” Sofie implored with sincerity.

Before Lisa could answer her, however, Sofie’s mother interjected.

“Sofie, you have just asked the right person. Your Uncle Adam’s ex-wife had borne him a son. Nevertheless, such a factor couldn’t perturb your aunt from usurping her. Your aunt is truly a master at the pinnacle of this art form, she is...”

Lisa cleared her throat and rolled her eyes at Sofie’s mother.

What usurp? You make me sound so despicable!

“Enough talk of the past! They are irrelevant to the matter at hand. What we should be focused on is solving Sophie’s problem!”

It may be true that Lisa had clambered her way up as a mistress, but the effort that she had to put in on all fronts and the hardship that she had to endure on this path was known only to herself.

Having those unbearable and unglamorous days of yore forced back into her consciousness, Lisa was soon put in a foul mood.

Anthony shot his wife a stare and she obediently bowed her head.

“Lisa, I’ll be counting on you to guide Sofie.”

“Rest assured that I would do my utmost best for Sofie, so long as she is willing to listen.”

With that, Lisa went over and whispered into Sofie’s ears.

“Aunt Lisa, do I have to?”

“This is how you can get Evan to lower his guard against you. You have to exercise patience and do exactly as I say.”

Sofie paused before she nodded.

Evan headed off to collect Maya and Nina from the kindergarten before going to pick Kyle and Juan up.

On the way home, Maya suddenly asked, “Daddy, didn’t you mention this morning that we were going to the Imperial Garden?”

Maya had been harping on the matter the entire day.

She had been fantasizing about how Imperial Garden would look like, and whether it had beautiful gardens and rockery.

“Daddy thought that we should wait for Mommy to return before we can move there together.” His words were met by Maya’s disappointment as her rotund eyes were peeled wide open.

“Must we really wait for Mommy?”

Juan and Kyle were in favor of waiting for their mother, as was Nina.

Maya pouted and counted with her stubby fingers the number of days that would pass before her mother was due to be back.

From that moment, she prayed very hard for her mother to return home soon.

Evan’s phone rang. It was a call from Sophia.

His mother had wanted him to come home for dinner and she specifically mentioned that his father and grandfather would be expecting him.

Spinning his head around to meet his children, Evan soon asked, “Shall we have dinner at the Seet Residence?”

Maya was the first to give him a nod of approval.

Since her mother was away and there would be no dinner at home, she would rather opt for a ready meal over waiting for her father to cook.

Soon enough, the other three children concurred.

Off went the car, as it sped towards the Seet Residence.

Evan was in for a rude awakening when he stepped into the living room.

Apart from Jonathan and Russell, he was graced with the presence of an unwelcome guest-Sofie Sweeting.

What is she doing here?

Evan's chiseled face turned cold as he looked guardedly toward Sophia.

Sophia rose to her feet and came close to Evan before she whispered into his ear, "Sofie is here as a guest of your grandpa."

Why would Grandpa have invited her?

Evan pondered and then suspected that his grandfather had intended to displace Nicole, hoping to bring Sofie and himself together.

Grandpa's thinking has become quite ridiculous as of late.

The four kids exchanged knowing glances with one another when they spotted Sofie. They remembered how she had been a thorn in their side when they stayed at the Hillside Villa with their mother.

They had once plotted on how they would deal with Sofie.

All of that contributed to the reason that they had retained such a poor impression of her.

After they had greeted their great-grandfather and grandfather, they went straight upstairs to play with Sophia.

The four kids basically did not give Sofie a second glance, as they seemed to have seen right past her, as though she was invisible to them.

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Sofie took Lisa's lessons to heart. *I must learn to endure this and wait for opportunities to emerge.*

Hence, she refused to take that slight personally as she started to laud praises upon the children instead.

Her measured response was well received by Russell.

“It’s good that you like them.”

Sofie smiled in satisfaction and thought about launching another round of compliments for the four kids.

It was at this moment when she heard Evan proclaim loudly, “I don’t need you to like them!”

Stunned, Sofie was at a loss for words.

The atmosphere soon turned awkward.

Then, Jonathan shot Evan a look.

Russell also reprimanded Evan for his choice of words.

Evan got to his feet, unable to contain the frustration that was mounting within him.

“Grandpa, Dad, I’ll head upstairs to check on the children.”

“Evan...”

Russell halted him in his tracks. “Your father and I will go to them. You shall keep Sofie company.”

With that, he gave Jonathan a look and the two of them made their exit.

Evan suddenly felt that his surrounding was stuffy. He was deliberate, in avoiding all sorts of eye contact with Sofie.

Sofie interlocked her fingers as she reminded herself of what her aunt had told her.

You must learn to withhold your own desires. Being too blatant about it would make others wary, causing you to detract from your purpose.

Hence, the first step in veiling her true intentions was to...

Sofie’s red lips curled into a smile. “Evan, I know that you are not fond of me. I’m only here at your grandfather’s request. Don’t worry about it. I swear that I won’t pester you as I have done before.”

Evan looked askance at her and wondered if she had truly reformed herself.

The doubt in his eyes was picked up by Sofie’s keen eyes.

She put on a laid-back demeanor. "You don't believe me? What I've said is true. I'm currently seeing someone."

With that, she unlocked the display on her cellphone screen and unreservedly showed him a photograph that she had prepared beforehand.

"See. That's him. He may not be as good-looking as you are, but he treats me well."

She was met with silence.

Evan took a glance at the photograph which featured Sofie at dinner with another man.

The man's tasteful dressing caught his eye. Though Sofie's beau may not have been exceptionally good-looking, he could still be considered much better than average.

Evan's eyes widened as he thought that it was a good development for Sofie.

"Congratulations. I hope that you'll be able to make the most of it."

The broad smile that Sofie wore on her lips was not completely reflected in her eyes.

Nonetheless, she shrouded herself in a picture of a bliss. "Thank you, Evan."

Evan nodded in acknowledgement.

Sofie was glad to see that Evan had become less hostile toward her. She considered it to be a positive first step.

Deciding against overstaying her welcome, she asked Evan to go and accompany his own children before she gathered her things in preparation to leave.

Sofie also made it a point to tell Evan. "Please inform your father and grandfather on my behalf."

Evan nodded in silence.

He felt as though a huge weight had been lifted off his chest as he watched Sofie who had turned to walk out.

Following to that, he strode upstairs.

Russell was telling the children a story. The eyes of the four kids were sparkling, as they listened on in engrossment.

It was a great joy in life to be surrounded by generations of offspring.

Yet, Evan's heart was full of uncertainty as he wondered what Nicole was up to.

He felt a sudden urge to hear her voice.

Evan acted upon that impulse immediately. Hence, he went into the study and gave her a call.

Owing to the time zone differences, it was late into the morning across the borders of K Nation when Nicole had alighted from her flight.

She picked up right away when she saw that it was Evan.

“What’s happening?”

“I’ve just arrived. How are the kids?”

As natural as it was for her to worry about being so far from her children, Nicole was prompt to ask, as it was their first time being apart from one another.

Evan nodded as he related how absorbed they were, listening to their great-grandfather’s storytelling.

Seems like Mr. Seet is getting on well with the children.

Upon learning that, Nicole felt better at ease.

“When would you be returning?”

“I’ve only just arrived here. Seeing as such, it might take me a couple of days, at least.”

“How many, exactly?”

Evan persisted with his questioning. He wished for nothing more than to have Nicole back the very next day, or much preferably, immediately.

“We’ll have to see. I’ll probably be back only when my work here is completed.”

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Nicole gave him a vague response.

In the midst of speaking, Evan was about to say something when Nicole abruptly made an excuse, swiftly ending the call.

Evan frowned. *She's getting bolder, huh? How dare she hang up on me?*

Finding a place to stay, Nicole hurriedly sought to fill her stomach before she phoned Sylphiette.

Initially, assuming that Sylphiette would not accept her call, Nicole had even prepared a different phone number to call her. Yet, to her utter surprise, Sylphiette answered the call within three seconds.

"Why did you call me?"

Although she picked up the call, her tone was evidently hostile.

Not bothered by it, Nicole went straight to the point and told her that she wanted to have a chat with her, face to face.

"A chat? Do you know where I am?"

"K Nation."

"You know where I am?"

"Yeah, it's because I'm in K Nation too."

Sylphiette frowned, curious as to why Nicole was here as well.

Has she come with Evan?

After much deliberation, she decided to meet with Nicole.

Sylphiette arrived at the agreed place an hour later.

"What do you want to talk to me about?"

Deciding to take an upfront approach to the matter, Nicole soon pressed forth, "I'd like some clarification from you, pertaining to a certain manner."

Raising her head, Sylphiette glanced at her in obvious confusion. "What is it about?"

"The reason for my mother's death. You'd said that it had something to do with Dad, so I wanted to ask—"

"Why should I tell you?"

"You're right! What are your conditions then?"

Sylphiette was momentarily stunned. *Is she attempting to strike a deal with me?* "Do you have any conditions, in regards to the deal?"

Mulling over it for a while, Nicole merely told Sylphiette to raise her conditions. *If her conditions are within my capabilities, I'll try my best to fulfill them!*

"Really? My conditions are for you to hand Lane Corporation and Evan over to me. Are you willing to do as such?"

*What the f*ck?*

She's actually bold enough to ask for such outrageously greedy conditions!

Does she want to take away everything that I own?

"Don't you think that your conditions are rather excessive?"

Sylphiette flashed her an arrogant smile. "Nicole, seeing that you'd ventured all the way here to K Nation for such a matter, I'll have to say that I'm certain that this is something that is extremely important to you. In light of that, why is it excessive for me to have asked for such valuable conditions?"

Valuable conditions?

Well, aren't they a little too valuable?

It looks like it won't work if I try to negotiate with her. I'll have to come up with another plan.

Not wanting to further waste her time with Sylphiette, Nicole immediately stood up and snapped, "Dream on."

With that, she instantly strode away.

Sylphiette scoffed coldly. *Seeing that she's ventured all the way to K Nation, I'll be willing to bet that she'll definitely refuse to concede that easily. I'm certain that she'll come looking for me again!*

I'll wait for her, in that case!

Making her way out of the café, Nicole soon caught sight of a familiar figure, standing nearby, with his back facing away from her.

Brows furrowed, she curiously approached the figure.

Enlightened by the true identity of the figure, a surprised expression soon crossed Nicole's face.

"Why are you here, Rocky?"

He had recently learned that Mr. Seet had vehemently disapproved of Nicole's marriage to Evan. Hence, he secretly began to observe her every move.

Upon discovering that Nicole was headed for K Nation, Rocky followed her there.

However, as he did not want to disclose to Nicole the true reason why he had come, he merely replied, "I'm here to discuss a business project."

"This is such a coincidence!"

"Yeah. Have you eaten lunch? Do you want to grab a meal together?"

Thinking over his suggestion for a brief moment, Nicole soon agreed.

As she was making her departure, Sylphiette accidentally stumbled upon Nicole and Rocky entering the adjacent hotel. Instantly, her expression was filled with confusion. *Why is Rocky, accompanying Nicole, instead of Evan?*

Driven by her immense curiosity, along with her desire to stir up some trouble, Sylphiette immediately whipped out her phone, snapping some pictures of Rocky with Nicole.

Thereafter, she uploaded them on her story, with the caption: *A coincidental encounter with some acquaintances overseas.*

Afraid that Evan, who had unfollowed and blocked her, would not be able to see it, she had even gone as far as to ask her friends to repost it.

Sofie coincidentally saw her story. After some deliberation, a sudden idea flashed across her mind as she sent the photo to Evan.

To prevent Evan from thinking that she was up to no good, she had even called him. Feigning concern for him, she explained what had transpired.

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“Evan, please don’t have any misunderstandings about the photo that I’ve just sent to you. I just think that it’s slightly inappropriate for Ms. Lane to be with another man overseas. She had even posted the photo so publicly!”

Evan frowned. When he heard his phone buzzing earlier, he stole a brief glance at it. Nonetheless, upon seeing that it was a message from Sofie, he decided not to click on it. However, upon learning that it was a photo of Nicole with another man overseas, he immediately hung up the call to look at it.

“It’s him?”

Evan glared at the picture, his eyes gleaming with fury.

Did Nicole go to K Nation with Rocky, or...?

She had arrived at K Nation merely an hour ago! Why is she dining with Rocky? They’ve certainly headed there together!

Otherwise, isn’t this too much of a coincidence?

It’s no surprise that she’d given me such a vague answer when I’d called earlier, asking her when she would return.

Very well! How dare she leave the kids with me, while going on a rendezvous with a man overseas?

The more Evan thought about it, the more furious he became.

Soon, he called John. “Is there a business negotiation that will require us to head to K Nation?”

Thinking about it, John eventually replied, “Mr. Seet, there are three projects that are related to K Nation. However, as we’ve already settled them a few days ago, there are no more open projects left.”

“There is one!”

Is there?

Although he had racked his brains, John could not seem to recall the company having such a project.

“Mr. Seet, there really aren’t any projects left!”

To his misfortune, Evan was persistent, as he insisted, “There must be one!”

John was rendered speechless.

Why is he suddenly asking for a business project in K Nation?

“Mr. Seet, I’ll make a call right now to arrange for it.”

“Good. Book a flight to K Nation for me as well. Do it as soon as possible.”

“Yes, Mr. Seet.”

Hanging up, Evan soon made his way to Kyle and Juan’s bedroom. He informed them that he would be going on a business trip, and he instructed them to take good care of themselves and their sisters.

“Daddy, Mommy has recently left for a business trip. Why are you leaving too?” Juan looked at him, feeling rather puzzled.

I’m going on a business trip to bring your Mommy back!

“I’ll be sure to return, as soon as I can.”

Juan sighed, his expression sullen. *It looks like we’ll have to experience how it’ll feel like, not having our parents by our side; to not have them dote on us anymore!*

Tucking the two boys in, Evan soon walked across to Maya and Nina’s bedroom.

Nina merely nodded at his words, not showing much of a reaction to it.

On the other hand, Maya stared at him, her expression a mixture of surprise and worry.

“If Daddy and Mommy are gone, will anyone bully us?”

“No. I’ll ask Uncle Davin to send you to the kindergarten. He’ll pick you up too. Grandma will also take good care of you.”

Uncle Davin has always been nice to us.

When we’d left Seet Residence after eating there, Grandma gave me a lot of delicious snacks. She had even promised that she would buy pretty clothes for me and Nina!

Uncle Davin and Grandma will take good care of us, right?

Although Maya still felt worried, she gazed into Evan's eyes and reminded him seriously, "Daddy, you must return earlier! If someone bullies me and I'm unable to fight back, I'll call you."

Evan stroked her tiny head. "Okay. I'll always be within reach over the phone."

"You must remember your words, Daddy!"

Making his way out of their bedroom, Evan instantly dialed Davin, asking him to come to Summervale, to take care of the kids.

Upon Davin's arrival, Evan took his departure without any delay. He took a flight to K Nation the very same night.

By the time Evan reached, it was already two in the morning at K Nation.

However, he did not alert Nicole that he had come. Instead, he made haste to discover where Nicole was currently residing, by locating her phone.

Thereafter, he checked in at the same hotel as hers.

He wanted to see what 'business' Nicole and Rocky were here for.

Waking up the next morning, Nicole was quick to dress up as she put on some simple make-up, heading to the restaurant for breakfast.

She ordered a glass of milk and a plate of omelet.

The waiter placed the food down in front of her. While she ate, she pondered over how she could clarify her doubts with Sylphiette.

Just when she was looking very troubled, Rocky approached her. "May I sit here and dine with you?"

Nicole had always treated Rocky as a friend of hers. Seeing that he was acting so politely, she soon found that she had felt slightly uncomfortable.