

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 541

“Whose maid is this?”

Levant glanced at Nicole’s outfit wordlessly. He didn’t know how to introduce her to his father. She had kicked up such a big fuss, so if he introduced her as his girlfriend, his father might kick her out at once.

If that happened, all his efforts would be wasted!

He knitted his brows and answered, “She’s my maid.”

“Your maid?” Stephen repeated dubiously.

The young girl doesn’t seem like an obedient maid in our household.

Besides, Levant’s maid would’ve recognized me. She has accused me as the intruder earlier.

Stephen knew Levant was lying, but he didn’t expose his son. He glanced at Nicole before leaving the hallway.

Once he left, Nicole heaved a sigh of relief.

Levant came to her and asked why she was dressed in a maid uniform.

“I wanted to get used to the surroundings, so I put on a maid uniform to not disturb others.”

“Is that so?”

The twinkle in Nicole’s eyes told him she was lying.

However, he didn’t press on and told her to go back to her room.

The moment Nicole returned to her room, she texted Yoda to find out if he had returned to his room safely.

Yoda: Yes, I'm back in my room. I saw you entering your room. Sleep tight!

Nicole: I can't sleep. I just accused Sir Musgrave as the intruder. Will I get into trouble?

Yoda mused. Well, she definitely thinks and acts differently.

He replied: I'm here, so don't worry.

Nicole: Don't harm Daphne for now. I got her hair. We need to make sure if she is my half-sister.

Yoda: Of course she's not. Stop overthinking.

Nicole: How can you be sure?

Yoda: Let's wait and see.

Nicole didn't reply to his last text. She flopped back on her bed and stared at the ceiling.

Sir Musgrave's intimidating figure came to her mind once again.

"Mom, if Sir Musgrave is your lover back then, that will be easy. I'd be able to find him after entering the estate. But as you didn't tell me anything, it's hard to find my birth father. But don't you worry, I won't give up. I'll continue my search tomorrow!"

After muttering her thought, she picked up her phone and scrolled to a photo of her and her kids.

My handsome and cool Kyle, cheeky Juan, snobbishly cool Nina, and adorable Maya.

Her lips curved up as she gradually fell asleep.

Stephen sat in his study as he gazed at the moon, who was appearing behind the clouds. Sorrow filled his gaze.

“The reckless girl whom I met tonight resembles you a lot,” he murmured to the moon.

He stood there for some time before he went back to work.

The next morning, Nicole paced around her room listlessly.

She handed her hair and Daphne’s hair to Yoda. He’d help her to get a DNA test. He’s been gone all morning. He should be back by now.

Just then, someone knocked on her door.

Without hesitation, she yanked the door open.

But when she saw Levant’s face, the smile on her face froze.

“It’s you?”

“Are you expecting someone else?”

“I-I thought you were a maid.”

“Without your permission, the maids wouldn’t disturb you. It’s a rule in this household.”

Levant walked into her room and sat on the leather sofa.

“Nicole, what are you doing today? Let’s spend some time together.”

“You’re free? Sir Musgrave doesn’t need your help?”

“Working isn’t as important as spending time with you.”

“Don’t say that.”

“I have an hour. After that, I need to go back to work.”

An hour?

I can't stay with him in this room for one hour. Otherwise, someone might get mad when he returns.

"Let's take a walk around the estate."

"Sure."

They were strolling along the hallway when someone stood in their way.

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"Levant," Daphne called out.

Her gaze fell on Levant before shifting to Nicole. Immediately, it turned malicious.

Levant looked at the woman beside her and greeted. "Mom!"

Nicole studied the middle-aged woman, who still looked great for her age. She was fair and curvaceous; her figure clad in a delicate dress.

"Nicole, meet Lady Portia Musgrave."

At his words, Nicole bowed down politely. "Lady Musgrave."

Portia glanced at Nicole and concluded she didn't like the latter.

After all, Nicole had moved into the Musgrave family's estate suddenly. It must be because she was after their family's wealth and status.

"Not everyone can move into the Musgrave Estate. Stop bringing any peasant home."

Peasant? Is she talking about me?

How rude is that.

Nicole looked up at a stern Portia. Daphne, who was standing behind the duchess, was looking at her triumphantly.

"Mom, Nicole's my friend. Please don't say that."

"Levy, are you talking back to me over this woman?"

"No, Mom. This isn't how we treat a guest."

As Levant insisted on defending Nicole, Portia wasn't about to argue with him. She shot a disgusted look at Nicole before leaving in a huff.

She stared at their retreating backs as her expression clouded over.

Last night, I accused Sir Musgrave of being an intruder. Today, I met Lady Musgrave who seems to despise me. This family and I are destined to be archenemies.

I need to find out who my birth father is and leave as soon as possible.

"Don't take my mom's words to heart."

“It’s fine.”

Nicole shook her head. Let her be. After all, it’s obvious Lady Musgrave won’t approve of Levant going after me.

What more, I have also offended Sir Musgrave last night. Both Sir and Lady Musgrave hate me now.

I haven’t even come up with a plan to make them hate me yet.

As they walked, Nicole spoke, “Levant, I have a question for you.”

“What is it?”

“I think Daphne likes you. Isn’t she your cousin? How can you marry her, then?”

Levant’s expression blackened as he turned to face her. “You’re right. I won’t marry her because I love you.”

“No, that wasn’t what I meant. She knows you are her cousin, but she still wants to marry you. Aren’t the two of you related?”

Daphne resembles Lady Musgrave, so the latter should be her aunt. They are obviously related.

Levant said nothing.

Nicole glanced at him. As he seemed troubled, she didn’t press on.

After a while, Levant told her he had to go back to work and left.

Nicole promptly returned to her room. She wondered why Levant didn’t answer her question.

When she returned to her room, Yoda was already waiting for her.

She immediately urged him to reveal the results.

“You’re not related to her by blood.”

“Seriously?”

“Yes!”

Then who taught her acupuncture?

The maids have no idea, and Levant won’t tell me either. I need to find out myself, then.

Meanwhile, an upset Daphne accompanied Portia back to her room.

Portia sat on her custom-made armchair and sipped on the fresh milk served by her maid. She glanced at her niece and asked, “What’s wrong?”

“Aunt Portia, there’s something going on between Levant and that lady. Do you think he’ll marry her?”

“Marry her? Of course he won’t,” said Portia.

“I think Levant really likes her. She’s different from those socialites who used to fawn over him. I’m terrified.”

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“Don’t worry. I can assure you, the dukedom is going to be Levant’s. You’ll be the next Lady Musgrave. No one is going to take that away from you.”

Daphne hesitated. She glanced around anxiously before whispering, “Aunt Portia, I heard Uncle Stephen has a daughter. Will she—”

“That’s just a rumor.”

“What if that daughter does exist? What if she returns? She’s Uncle Stephen’s daughter. Will Levant and I end up with nothing?”

“Don’t worry. If that daughter exists, Levant will get rid of her. After all, all he wants is to be the next duke, right? He won’t give the title up easily.”

Aunt Portia’s right, thought Daphne. Levant won’t give up on the dukedom.

“I hope I’ve worried for nothing.”

Portia took Daphne’s hand and comforted her. “Daphne, I’ve always treated you as my daughter. I didn’t give birth to Levant, so I need to be cautious around him. The only way to be Lady Musgrave is to make him fall for you, do you understand?”

“Aunt Portia, I understand. Don’t worry, I’ll take good care of you.”

“Alright then. I trust you.”

“I shall leave now. I’m going to prepare some snacks for Levant.”

“Be observant. If you think Ms. Lane is an eyesore, just send her away.”

“Got it,” Daphne answered with a smile as a ferocious glint appeared in her gaze.

Everyone who will threaten my future must die. I'll clear all obstacles blocking my path.

At night, the Musgrave Estate was brightly lit.

Nicole left her room to go for a stroll in the garden. She couldn't wait to bump into Daphne.

I can ask her where she learnt her acupuncture skills.

That might be a clue.

She was enjoying her stroll when footsteps suddenly sounded behind her.

Before she could find out who it was, a blow landed on her and she blacked out instantly.

The person picked her up and left swiftly.

Unbeknownst to him, someone who was upstairs had witnessed the entire incident.

The man's brows creased in perplexity. Why would someone kidnap her at night?

I can't believe something like this is happening in the estate.

He summoned the bodyguards at once.

Nicole was brought back to Daphne's room.

"Ms. Ankins, it's done."

"Bring her to the darkroom. Wake her up by splashing water on her. Don't forget to stuff her mouth lest she shouts for help."

"Got it."

Nicole only gained consciousness after a pail of ice water was poured on her.

When her eyes fluttered open, another pail of water was poured down over her head.

“Mm! Mm!”

She wanted to yell for help, but there was a cloth stuffed in her mouth. Her limbs were also tied up.

As the water dripped down her body, she was shivering, thoroughly drenched.

Sh*t! I'm like a helpless animal waiting to be slaughtered!

Did Yoda and my bodyguards realize I'm missing? Will they come save me?

“Ms. Ankins, she's awake.”

The door opened, Daphne stood in front of her with a smug look as she towered above Nicole disdainfully.

“Don't you know your place? How dare you wander around the estate? In the morning, you stuck by Levant's side. Were you on your way to his room just now? What a wench!”

Nicole instantly regretted stopping Evan from ruining this arrogant Daphne's face last night.

Is it too late to repent?

Can I turn back time?

Nicole was praying fervently when suddenly, Daphne took a step forward and grabbed her dripping wet hair. “Tell me,” she demanded. “How did you seduce Levant?”

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Seduce?

I'm a married woman! I'm here to find out who my birth father is. Why would I seduce Levant?

Damn, she thinks I'm her love rival!

Look at how mad she is. If no one comes to save me, I'll die a horrible death. Nicole was about to cry.

"Oh, I forgot. Your mouth is stuffed, so you can't talk. Well, you can write. Bring her a paper and pen!"

She was still gripping Nicole's hair as she flung the latter outward.

Thud! Nicole's hand hit the wall. Her ears were ringing while her head spun from the force of the smack.

Soon, a pen and paper were placed in front of her.

"Write it down!"

You fool, my hands are still tied up!

Nicole glared at Daphne furiously. All she wanted to do now was to scratch the latter's face.

"Ms. Ankings, her hands are tied. I'm afraid..."

Daphne fell silent at her maid's reminder. "Release her. She won't be able to escape as we're all here."

After her hands were freed, Nicole cracked her knuckles. She glanced around, taking in the six burly men and two maids flanking Daphne. Sh*t, it's pretty hard to escape.

What should I do?

How can I escape her this god forsaken trap?

She was panicking when Daphne yelled. "Hurry! Stop dilly dallying!"

Nicole gazed at her before writing on the paper carefully: I didn't seduce him!

"Pfft!" Daphne's anger intensified.

"You didn't seduce him? Then why is he so obsessed with you? Are you defending yourself or calling him a scum? You deserved to be punished!"

As Nicole couldn't reply, she shook her head profusely to insist she really didn't seduce Levant nor did she insinuate that he was a scum.

"You're still trying to denying that?"

Daphne shot her maid a look. Another pail of bucket was poured over Nicole's head, drenching her once again.

Damn it!

I never knew I'd meet a crazy woman here!

Lord, will I die before finding the scum who dumped my mom?

Yoda, Evan, didn't you realize I have gone missing?

Come save me now!

"You'd better cooperate with me. Otherwise," Daphne stepped forward and whispered near her ear, "you have no idea how those women who tried to seduce my cousin ended up in various

accidents. Some lost their limbs, some lost their eyesight. Some even went to heaven. Which one do you prefer?"

Holy shit, this woman is so vicious!

Nicole couldn't help but imagine herself being butchered by Daphne. Those bloody scenes terrified her as her heart thumped furiously.

I don't want to encounter any of those. I want to return to my babies safely.

The odds are against me, and a wise man knew when to back down.

Nicole stared at the paper and pen while making muffled sounds.

"You're going to write your words now?"

Nicole nodded vigorously.

"Smart girl. Write the answers to my questions. If you write nonsense, I'll send you to heaven at once."

Nicole nodded in response.

Daphne folded her arms and asked, "Do you really love Levant? Or are you after his status and inheritance?"

Nicole thought about it before she wrote: His status and inheritance.

Daphne was obviously pleased with her attitude. A mocking smile flitted across her lips before she continued, "How did you seduce Levant? Write everything clearly!"

Looking up, Nicole wondered, What? Is she trying to copy me?

Hmm, what should I make up to satisfy her?

Oh, I can just write something she does.

Nicole wrote: Cater to his liking and badger him.

“Bull*hit!” roared Daphne.

Since she moved into the estate, she had been trying hard to cater to Levant’s liking and badgered him, but her tactics had never worked.

If she had succeeded, Levant wouldn’t have brought this b*tch home.

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Nicole knew she had acted too hastily upon seeing how upset Daphne was.

Those were Daphne’s tactics, but obviously they didn’t work on Levant. Hence, she needed to go the other way around.

She wrote: Stay away from him. Avoid him.

Daphne’s boiled with rage at her answer. He won’t even look at me when I’m next to him. If I stay away from him, I’ll be packing my luggage next!

“Are you trying to make me leave so you can marry Levant? You shameless b*tch!”

Nicole shook her head and continued writing: Play hard to get.

Daphne relaxed slightly as she thought Nicole was being honest.

“Be clear about it. How to play hard to get?”

As she wanted more details, Nicole wrote: For example, if he likes to eat grapes, bring some to his room but don't let him eat the grapes. Make him salivate at the sight of his favorite food.

After writing that down, Nicole felt she benefitted from this idea as well.

I wonder if this works on Evan?

Daphne digested her words and thought it made sense.

Then, she decided to try it out.

Since she fell silent, Nicole wrote another sentence: Can I leave now?

Disdain flashed across Daphne's eyes as a strange smile played on her lips.

“Of course you can. But I can't let you leave right away.”

If I keep her locked up, Levant might try to find her. After all, the man is infatuated with her right now.

But if I release her without doing anything, she might tell Levant about what I did to her.

I would've ended her life right here! But, I don't want to stir up trouble.

There is only one way.

She gestured for her maid to bring over a bottle of drug.

Daphne took the drug and handed it to Nicole. “Finish the bottle. I'll release you right away.”

Nicole's brows snapped together in horror.

What is this? Is this a poison to take my life?

Daphne Ankins, you're so vile!

No, there is no way I'm going to take this. I won't!

Daphne's lips curled up into a seductive smile and her tone was softened after looking at Nicole's terrified expression.

Her voice was soft. "Don't be afraid. Go on, finish it. You won't die. You'll only become an idiot. You won't have to worry about the rest of your life. Isn't that great?"

What?

No! I don't want to be an idiot!

Being an idiot is great?

Then why don't you take the poison?

Nicole struggled backward as she yelled Evan's name silently, hoping that he'd come and rescue her right this minute.

"Feed her the drug!"

"Yes, Ms. Ankins!"

The maid took the drug while the bodyguard pinned Nicole down.

She struggled as she cried out for help. Alas, her mouth was stuffed and her voice was muffled.

The bodyguard pinned her down while the maid removed the cloth in her mouth.

"He—" Before she could yell for help, the maid grabbed her mouth and poured the drug down her throat.

Nicole panicked instantly.

Shit, I'm going to be an idiot now!

Dear Lord, why are you doing this to me?

Why?

My kids! Evan...

She was trying hard to carve her memories in her mind so she could remember everything even if she ended up becoming an idiot.

"Send her back quietly."

"Yes."

Nicole was knocked out once again. A burly bodyguard stepped forward and picked her up.

The bodyguard walked by the lake, picking a dark route so no one would notice him. He was on his way back when someone appeared and blocked his path.

"If you want to stay alive, put her down!"

"Who are you?" asked the bodyguard as he switched on his flashlight.

He immediately trembled in fright when he realized who the man was.

"Don't tell this to anyone else. Otherwise..."