

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 626

He bent over to check, and sure enough, there was a handful of hair lying on the floor before him.

He froze. That's a lot of hair...am I suffering from hair loss?

But this looks really bad!

He looked at his reflection in the mirror and was shocked to find that his face had turned about three shades darker.

Wait...is my hair losing its color as well?

His heartbeat quickened.

Suddenly, Nicole let out a loud yelp from outside, making him whip his head around to face her. "I..."

What the hell is going on?

"Mr. Seet! You must be seriously ill! Let me check your pulse!" she screeched.

Evan paled at her words. She might be right...there's no way I could lose so much hair if I had been healthy!

He stuck out his hand obediently, and glanced at her serious expression apprehensively. What if I'm actually ill? She'll be so worried for me...

Nicole, on the other hand, felt proud of herself as she pretended to check his pulse.

Should I come up with some serious illness to scare him?

Wait...I probably shouldn't do that...I'll regret it if it comes true!

"Good news, Mr. Seet. Your illness doesn't seem to be a serious one," she said in the end.

"What is it?" Evan asked hurriedly.

Nicole pondered over it for a moment and said, "Why don't you tell me the places you went just now? It'll help me in my diagnosis."

The places I went?

Nicole's words put Evan on high alert. Is she trying to interrogate me?

Did Levant spike my tea?

I don't think he would do such a thing...

He decided to stick to his lie. "I went to visit the kids and spent a few minutes with them downstairs. I didn't go anywhere else."

"Did you go alone?" she asked.

"That's right," he answered, nodding.

Nicole pouted. "You're lying!"

Huh? Why is she so sure? Evan frowned.

"You're sick with the lying bug! Now go and quarantine yourself!" she yelled.

Huh?

Lying bug?

Evan turned around and picked up the handful of hair in the shower to inspect it. The strands seemed to be of similar length to his own, though their black color faded after a few rinses to reveal the original yellow color underneath.

That's not my hair!

In fact, isn't this Nina's fake hair?

He whipped around to stare at Nicole, who stared back for a few seconds before bolting out of the bathroom.

I shouldn't have revealed my true intentions to him!

Evan washed the ink out of his hair and walked into the bedroom afterward, only to find Nicole bundled up in the sheets like a giant burrito.

"Are you coming out? If not, I'm going to dig you out like a potato," he warned.

Nicole remained silent, as though she did not hear what he had just said.

Evan reached out to pulled the sheets off her, but Nicole stubbornly refused to let go of them.

"Isn't it hot in there?" he asked, exasperated.

"It's all your fault, Evan!" she retorted. "Stop lying to me! You went out to meet your mistress, didn't you? You liar!"

My mistress?

Did she think that I had been cheating on her?

Did she just call me a liar?

Looks like she won't have a problem accepting her true identity then...

I'm sure she'll be fine!

She's not the kind to scream and cry at the slightest shock after all...

Evan could tell that her past misfortunes had made her more resilient, so he decided to come clean with her.

"Get out of there, and I'll tell you where I went," he said.

"Say it!" Nicole yelled, tossing the sheets aside to reveal her flushed cheeks.

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After hearing Evan's story, Nicole stared at him incredulously.

"Why do you care about me so much, Evan?"

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"You're my wife, so I must protect you at all costs," Evan said.

"I understand everything now. I would like to ask Sir Musgrave why my mother was so fond of him, since my mother isn't around anymore," Nicole said, sighing.

"Alright then. I'll keep you company tomorrow," Evan promised.

"Sure," Nicole said. "We should go home after this. Seet Group and Lane Corporation are still waiting for us."

At that moment, Evan realized just how considerate of a person Nicole was.

In order to return home without any regrets, they absolutely had to settle things with Sir Stephan, Nicole's biological father.

Evan had his suspicions that Nicole agreed to meet Stephen purely for the sake of their family businesses, but he decided not to dwell on that thought for too long.

He pulled Nicole into his embrace gently, as though she was some sort of precious treasure.

Nicole traced circles on his broad chest, sending shivers down his spine.

"Are you up for it?" he asked, grinning.

Nicole glanced at him and shook her head, pretending to be disinterested in what he had just suggested.

"Then why are you tickling me?"

"Let's do it."

Evan grabbed her wrist and stared into her eyes like how a predator would ogle at its prey. "You should have said it earlier!"

Huh?

The cold darkness outside contrasted greatly with the fiery atmosphere inside the bedroom.

Satisfied, Nicole fell asleep while leaning against his muscular body.

The next day...

She woke up abruptly when the sunlight trickled into the room. Her entire body felt like it was aching all over, but she managed to turn around and glance at the clock before closing her eyes again in defeat.

It's still early...just give me ten more minutes...

Evan stared at her in mild amusement as he wondered if he should wake her up.

Never mind. I'll let her sleep for a while more.

"Mommy!"

"Daddy!"

"Mommy! Daddy! Open up!"

"It's time for breakfast!"

The four little ones clawed at the door and screamed at the top of their lungs, prompting Evan to open the door and shush them. "Mommy's still sleeping!"

"Mommy's still asleep?" they chorused before clambering onto the bed to stare at Nicole.

"Wait...what's wrong with Mommy's neck?" Maya asked, noticing the hickeys on Nicole's neck.

Nina pushed the sheets aside and yelped in horror. "Look! Mommy's injured!"

"D-Did Daddy do this?"

The four kids exchanged looks and turned around to glare at Evan simultaneously.

"Daddy! Why did you hit Mommy?" Nina demanded.

Even Maya, who had been the closest to Evan amongst the four of them, had puffed up her cheeks in anger. "Daddy! You're the worst!"

The two boys studied Evan with much anger in their eyes, and it made Evan cower in fear.

I should have covered her up just now!

How the hell am I supposed to explain those hickeys to them?

"I-It's not what you think..." Evan stammered, glancing at Nicole desperately. Wake up! I need your help!

Nicole, however, did not even stir.

The four kids continued to attack him.

"Daddy is a meanie!"

"Daddy! You can't bully Mommy!"

"That's not nice of you, Daddy!"

"You must apologize to Mommy!"

Nicole opened her eyes to the sound of her children snapping at their father. "W-What's going on?" she asked, voice thick with sleep.

"Mommy! Daddy bullied you, didn't he? We'll teach him a lesson for that!"

Nicole scratched her head in confusion.

Evan glanced back and forth between the kids and Nicole, visibly panicking.

The kids held on to his arm, trying their best to force an apology out of him.

"Daddy didn't bully me," Nicole said, still confused.

"No, Mommy! You see those bruises? Daddy definitely beat you!"

Bruises?

Nicole took one look at the hickeys on her body and hid her face in her hands. No wonder they're acting like this!

How did they see it? How careless of me!

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She racked her brains for a reasonable excuse.

“Um...it’s fine! Mommy just had an allergic reaction!” she said in the end.

The kids exchanged looks, still not completely convinced.

Nicole pulled out her vitamin pills from her bag and gulped down a few in front of her kids to convince them, and it worked wonders.

“Sorry, Daddy,” Juan said, rubbing his head in embarrassment. “We didn’t mean to call you a meanie...”

Kyle and Nina lowered their heads in shame, while Maya walked over to her father and stuck out both her thumbs at him apologetically. “You’re a goodie, Daddy! You’re the best goodie in the world!”

Evan rolled his eyes. “Get out and eat your breakfast!” he growled at the kids.

The kids exchanged fearful glances and filed out of the room obediently.

Nicole glared at Evan. “Can’t you be more gentle next time? This is so embarrassing!”

Evan simply huffed and replied, “I don’t think so! Sorry!”

“Get out!”

After breakfast, Nicole put on a turtleneck sweater to cover up the hickeys before leaving to go to the estate with Evan.

Stephen had not expected them to visit him again, but he was happy nonetheless.

He took them to the tea room for some mid-morning tea.

“This is the house your mother wanted. I hope you’d like it too,” Stephen said.

That piqued Nicole’s interest. She stood up to take a look around and was surprised by a painting of her mother hanging on the wall right behind a screen.

During her first visit to the estate with her kids, she was awed by its minimalistic interior that looked nothing like the lavish mansion she had envisioned.

No wonder it’s so simple...it had all been for Mom!

No wonder he forbade everyone from visiting this place!

“What happened between you and Nicole’s mother back then?” Evan asked tactfully.

Nicole was impressed by how polite he sounded. I would have just asked him why he abandoned my mother!

They had agreed to let Evan ask all the questions, and Nicole’s role was just to sit in silence and listen.

Stephen closed his eyes as the memories raged on inside his mind. How should I go about with this?

After a short while, he looked up at Nicole and rasped, “Your mother had been the one who took the initiative.”

Nicole frowned anxiously, but she managed to keep her cool after looking at Evan’s calm expression.

“My mentor knows about this.”

“Can you hurry up?” Nicole demanded, her temper threatening to blow its top.

“Sure,” Stephen said, staring at the painting of Nicole’s mother Rosalie. “Since Rosalie’s watching, I shall tell you the whole story.”

With that, the truth that laid untouched for years was finally unearthed and dusted.

Twenty years ago...

Stephen Musgrave had been Wesley Monroe’s best disciple, and he had first met Rosalie Wells during an acupuncture session for a patient suffering from stomachaches.

Rosalie was a daughter of the renowned Wells family, and she had been impressed by his acupuncture skills.

“Can you teach me how to do acupuncture?” she asked Stephen eagerly after the session was over.

Stephen hesitated before he replied, “I need to ask my mentor about this.”

Even so, he proceeded to teach her a few techniques of acupuncture without asking for permission from his mentor.

Rosalie had taken a great interest in acupuncture, and she pleaded Stephen to become her mentor.

Stephen, on the other hand, introduced her to his mentor Wesley, who was moved by her compassion and impressed by her intellect. He agreed to take her on as his disciple in the end.

From then on, Rosalie and Stephen learnt acupuncture under their mentor together, and as time went on, Rosalie found herself falling for him.

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However, knowing full well that he did not have the authority over his own love life, he decided to ignore all of Rosalie's attempts to woo him at first.

Unfortunately, Rosalie had an iron resolve, and her efforts merely intensified.

Two months later, she finally decided that she had had enough, and she confronted him directly. "Stephen Musgrave! Just tell me if you're interested in me or not!"

His truthful answer would have been 'yes', since all he could think about all day was how determined she was and how much he admired her for it.

Even so, he had no choice but to reject her, since he knew that there was no way his parents would approve of their marriage.

Devastated by his rejection, she spent the next few days cooped up in her own room before returning home.

It was only after her departure that Stephen finally realized just how deeply in love he had been with Rosalie.

He decided that he no longer wanted to live under such restrictions anymore, and he set out to look for Rosalie.

When they finally met, their emotions got the better of them, and Rosalie ended up getting pregnant.

When Stephen heard of her pregnancy, he decided to marry her.

However, Rosalie could tell that something was bothering him, but he refused to tell her the truth no matter how many times she tried to ask him about it.

The last thing he wanted was for Rosalie to find out that his parents had forbidden him from marrying her.

In the meantime, he started to make plans to elope with Rosalie should his parents try to intervene. He figured that starting a small clinic of his own would be more than enough to support his family once the child was born.

However, Rosalie suddenly suggested that they break up one day, much to his dismay.

“Are you serious, Stephen Musgrave? Can’t you tell that I was just messing around with you? The kid’s gone, and I’m marrying the man I love. Stay away from me from now on,” she told him.

Stephen was shocked, for he had not seen that coming.

He was sure that he had convinced her to stay.

In order to find out if she had been lying, he followed her around until he ran into the man she had been talking about.

The man loved her and treated her like a princess.

Rosalie had pointed her finger at him and yelled, “I’ll only love the ones who’ll love me back! You don’t have the right to force me to be responsible for your life! You’re so shameless, Stephen Musgrave!”

He took in the disappointment in her eyes as she spoke, and it reminded him of how he had naively believed her when she told him that she was different from all the other girls out there.

As he gawked at her, the man beside her stood up and put on his coat before dropping yet another bombshell on him. “Did you actually think that the child was yours? How stupid! The child was mine, not yours!”

Stephen did not know what to say in return.

Dejected, he returned to the estate after witnessing how happy Rosalie seemed in the man’s embrace.

Soon, news of her marriage got to him, and it smothered the very last spark of hope he had.

Just a few months later, his parents forced him into an arranged marriage with his current wife.

A few more years passed before his mentor Wesley informed him that Rosalie had given birth to his daughter, which finally revealed the truth to him.

His parents had tried to break them up, but he had adamantly refused. As a last resort, they sought out Rosalie and told her to leave him.

The truth about his family background came as a massive shock to Rosalie, as she had thought that he was just the son of one of those rich businessmen. She began to feel inferior to him.

She figured that culling the relationship as soon as possible would be the best option for both of them, and therefore she decided to put up an act before him when he went to find her that fateful day.

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When he was done with the story, Stephen looked at Nicole apologetically. "It's all my fault! If I hadn't believed her, we would have lived happily ever after..."

Nicole merely stared at her mother's painting in silence.

"I'm sure my mother didn't make the decision on a whim," she said after a long moment of silence. "She felt inferior to you, and she didn't want you to get into trouble because of her."

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“Nonetheless, she suffered so much because of our forbidden relationship,” Stephen said with a sigh. “She didn’t want to do it, but she ended the relationship somehow.”

Nicole noticed the sadness in his eyes and pursed her lips.

What if Mom had known that he was from the Musgrave family? Would she still be so madly in love with him?

I’ll never know the answer to that question.

Besides, the one who ended the relationship with a white lie had been Mom, not Sir Musgrave or his family...I don’t think it’ll be fair to say that he abandoned her.

Nicole continued to stare at her mother’s painting, thinking about just how much Rosalie had loved Stephen.

Her marriage to Zane Lane was probably just the final movement of her act, since it was the nail in the coffin to make Stephen lose all hope.

Rosalie’s love for Stephen had hurt her deeply.

She had wanted to sacrifice her happiness to give Stephen what he deserved as the son of a duke, but the truth turned out to be very different.

Stephen and Portia did not have any kids together, and he spent his days staring at Rosalie’s painting in this corner of the estate.

Nicole found their love almost suffocating.

Even though she did not know if her parents had done the right thing or not, she knew for a fact that she could never make such a huge sacrifice for the person she loved.

Nonetheless, she no longer hated Stephen.

However, she still found it difficult to call him 'Dad', for he had a part to play in her mother's suffering.

"I'll visit your mother, Nicole," Stephen promised.

Nicole remained silent, though she no longer tried to force him into apologizing at her mother's grave.

She turned to face Evan. "Shall we go home now, Mr. Seet?"

Wait...she' wants to leave now?

Why is she so eager to leave?

"Nicole, can you stay here for a few days? You could keep...keep your mother company," Stephen pleaded.

He had wanted her to keep him company, but he decided at the last second that he did not have the right to tell her such a thing.

She doesn't think that I'm her father anyway..

Evan glanced at Nicole. She doesn't hate Sir Musgrave anymore, so she'll regret it if she didn't get to spend some time with him.

But...how am I going to convince her to stay without aggravating her?

He came up with a plan.

Time to mobilize the kids!

He whipped out his phone and sent a message to John.

Twenty minutes later, the four kids appeared at the estate just as Nicole was trying to take her leave.

Jeremy and John had told them what to do on the way there. “Kids, help us make Mommy stay at the estate for three days. Daddy said that he’ll buy all of you gifts if you succeeded!”

The four kids thought about it for a moment before concluding that it was worth it.

“Deal!” they chorused.

As for Nicole, the kids’ arrival shocked her. “Why are the kids here?”

Kyle stared at her with a grin on his face. “Mommy, I like this place! I want to stay here just for a few days more.”

Juan smirked. “I want to investigate the architecture here and build a castle just like this when we get back!”

Nicole stared at them in disbelief. Didn’t you ask me for money to buy a tablet just a few days ago? Who gave you the idea to build a castle this time around?

Who taught you to be so arrogant and boastful?

Nina crossed her arms in front of her chest. “Mommy, the only way for me to get new makeup is to stay here! Do you understand?”

Nicole was confused.

What has staying here got to do with makeup? Is someone going to give it to you?

Evan grimaced. They're going to expose my plan at this rate...

To his horror, Maya did exactly what he had feared all along. "Mommy, Daddy totally didn't get us to stay, and those two uncles totally didn't bribe us with gifts on the way here. We want to stay, and that's that!"