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Standing by her side, Davin chimed in, "Mom, I bet he's doing this to tease my sister-in-law. Her happiness is all that matters at present. As long as it puts her in a good mood, I'm sure he's willing to go to extreme lengths."

Sophia heaved a sigh. That makes sense. It must be because Nicole has been having hallucinations.

She then casually asked Evan, "How's Nicole feeling? Are her emotions are stable?"

"She-she's fine." Evan took a quick peek at Nicole before coming up with an excuse and hung up.

When Nicole heard Sophia enquire about her health so gravely, she felt bizarre.

Could it be... I... I really have some sort of... "madness"?

"Nicole, you should go take a rest."

"Alright."

She rose to her feet and headed upstairs, lost in thought.

Evan proceeded to the study room to tend to company matters before he joined her in the bedroom.

Nicole had just finished washing up and was seated on the bed using her phone. She tried hard to search for the video clip the woman showed her, to no avail.

Evan took a seat beside her and grabbed her phone. "Hey, you can't keep using your phone. It's bad for your eyesight. I think you should just stare at me. I'm a glorious sight to behold."

That tickled Nicole. With his chiseled features, Evan was undeniably attractive.

She lay in his embrace and reached out to trace his face with her hands.

As her fair and slender fingers marked out Evan's face, it ignited the desire in him.

He caught hold of her wrists unexpectedly and whispered to her ear, "I think we should do something else." The feel of his warm breath against Nicole's ear left a tingling sensation.

"What is it that you want to do?" She pretended to be coy as she questioned.

In a matter-of-fact tone, Evan responded, "The best indoor exercise there is, of course."

Nicole simply shut her eyes and acted as though she was asleep.

He cast a look in her direction and teased, "If you're not going to cooperate, you leave me no choice but to turn to force."

She deliberated for a moment before muttering, "Take a shower first."

"No. By the time I'm done, you may have fallen asleep."

She then got up from the bed and said, "I'll go with you."

Satisfied with her response, he headed for his closet. Holding his pajamas in one hand and Nicole's hand in the other, he sauntered to the bathroom.

"Help me bathe. There'll be rewards," Evan said as he filled the bathtub with water.

"What rewards?" Nicole prodded.

"You'll know in a while."

Hmph! He's always goading me.

Unmoved by his offer, Nicole rolled her eyes and stayed put.

Evan lifted his brows guizzically and devised a plan.

He stripped naked and got into the bathtub, before letting out a cry.

Nicole frowned and cast him a look of concern.

With a pitiful expression, Evan gazed at her and stated, "Gosh, my hips hurt. I don't think I can move anymore."

Wasn't he just fine a moment ago?

She continued to stay there, studying him with her brows furrowed.

He uttered out another cry and pretended to complain, "My feet hurt too. I think my legs are cramping up."

Nicole looked a little bemused.

For someone who's known to be largely impassive, the expression Mr. Seet had on was too exaggerated.

"Does anywhere else hurt?" Nicole asked.

After pondering for a moment, he replied, "My back. My back is aching. My whole body is in immense pain."

Nicole took a look at his handsome face and began roaring with laughter.

"What're you laughing at?" asked Evan, puzzled.

"Mr. Seet. At this moment, your behavior reminds me of a woman. A woman who's on her period is exactly like this."

"Don't tell me you're on your period," frowned Evan.

Despite the somber look on his face, he was all right with being poked fun at. As long as Nicole was in good spirits, that was all that mattered.

Then, she said, "Whether my period is here or not, you can come over and confirm for yourself."

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Silenced ensued.

What is there to check!

It was obvious that Evan was waiting for Nicole to scrub his back.

I can't just do this for free!

"Mr. Evan Seet, I can perform this service for you seeing that we're quite close. Each scrub will cost one hundred. Cheap, right?" Nicole offered.

For someone like Evan, the amount she asked for was nothing and he accepted her proposition instantly. "Sure, count along then."

Nicole nodded with satisfaction and picked up the towel.

"One hundred, two hundred, three hundred..."

"Wow! Slow down there."

At the speed she was going, Evan felt Nicole was using him like a washboard instead of actually helping him.

"Eight hundred, nine hundred, one thousand..." Nicole slowed down her pace.

However, it did not take long for her to gradually revert to her original speed and force.

Evan was not enjoying her service at the moment, but Nicole was very delighted about it. "I think this is a good job. I could make a lot if I do this for you every day."

He turned around to see the woman behind him revving up as the count increased. He chuckled, "You're not the only one who's going to make a lot of money. The hospital's going to rake it in, too, if you keep scraping my skin like this."

Nicole was speechless.

She then realized she had been going too hard on Evan's back and immediately slowed her hands down. Her mouth, however, was still unyielding. "Well, it's out with the old and in with the new. New skin can only grow if we get rid of the old skin."

Evan was quiet. Is that so!

At that instance, his thin lips formed a sly grin and his eyes brightened up.

When Nicole was at the ten thousand mark, Evan suddenly stood up and pulled her into him.

Splash!

"Evan, what are you doing?" Nicole was caught off guard.

Evan pinched her peachy cheeks and said, "You should be done right? It's my turn now. Ten thousand... That would equate to a hundred times, but I'll double that as payback."

As soon as he finished, Evan carried Nicole and walked out of the bathroom.

"Evan! You're still dripping wet!"

"Wait, Evan. Wait!"

"Evan Seet!"

Nicole was speechless yet again; she truly regretted her violent actions in the bathroom.

It was karma. She could only let Evan have his way with her because it was pointless to fight back.

The next day.

The morning sun shone into the room and onto their white bed. Nicole was sound asleep, her skin as tender as a baby's.

Evan was staring at her quietly as he raised his hand, wanting to caress her adorable face.

However, he stopped just before his finger could touch her because he was afraid to wake her up. Retracting his hand, Evan continued to look at her endearingly with a smile on his face.

All of sudden, Nicole sat up and shouted as if she had been awoken by a nightmare. "Nina!"

"What's wrong?" Evan was worried.

"I-I just had a dream,"

"What was it about?"

Nicole took some time to recollect herself; she then raised her head towards him.

"In the dream, I bit Nina's arm off and there was blood everywhere. Her cry was so vivid..."

Hearing what she said, Evan's expression slowly darkened.

Nicole noticed the change and asked cautiously, "You think this dream will become real?"

Evan gazed into her eyes and held her hands. "No! that will never happen."

Nicole kept quiet but made a mental note. She wanted to confirm whether there were bite marks on Nina's arm.

"Evan, I miss them. Can we go see them?"

He nodded. "I promised you yesterday that we'd go see the kids, so we're definitely going to do that. But first, let's have breakfast."

Nicole responded with a nod.

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After having breakfast, Nicole changed into a casual outfit and headed to the Seet Residence with Evan.

On the way there, Evan received two emergency calls from John. The content of their conversation confused Nicole.

Evan had told her that the company had finished all of its major projects, hence he was not busy. However, the phone call with John was all about such projects. It was obvious that the company needed Evan.

Why is he not in the office but here with me?

As soon as the question came to her mind, an answer emerged.

It's because of my "madness". There's no other explanation besides this.

Instinctively, she clenched her fists to calm herself down.

When they arrived at the Seet Residence, all four children were present as it was a weekend. The moment Nicole showed herself, they all sprinted towards her.

Juan was the first to reach her. "Mommy, you look beautiful today; your face is brimming with energy." He then flashed a bright smile and continued, "I'm going to catch a bad person with Uncle Davin, so I'll be off now."

"What bad person?" Nicole probed.

Juan stuck out his tongue playfully and answered, "The bad person who got Mommy into jail."

Nicole kept quiet.

She figured that Juan was talking about Susan.

Juan's going to catch Susan?

Nicole turned towards Evan. Knowing what was on her mind, Evan explained, "Juan's tracking skill is top-notch so we should utilize his strength and train him further."

Makes sense. And since he's with Davin, Juan will be safe from harm.

She gave Juan a pat on the head and told him to be careful. "It's alright if you don't succeed, okay? Safety first."

Huh? Does Mommy not think I can catch her? I'll have to prove myself then!

After seeing Juan and Davin off, Maya approached Nicole and did a twirl. "Mommy, do you notice anything different?"

Nicole gave her daughter's face a slight pinch and remarked, "You look thinner and your body looks fitter. Maya, you have lost quite some weight."

"Wow, Mommy. If even you noticed, that means I really did lose weight! Yes! Hahaha!"

Maya had been trying to lose weight for years now. The fact that she was finally seeing results greatly excited her.

Kyle looked at Nicole and handed her the music box he made. "Mommy, you should listen to relaxing music like this more often. It's good for you."

"Thank you, Kai."

Nicole felt bittersweet as she accepted his gift.

The sweetness came from seeing how mature and thoughtful Kyle had grown to be. The bitterness, however, stemmed from her realization that something was definitely wrong with herself. It was severe enough that even the young kids were showing signs of concern.

"Mommy," Nina called out, "Mommy, look. I learned some new makeup techniques today. The teacher also said I'll definitely grow up to be a superstar in the makeup world." She showed her mother photos of her work after making her proud announcement.

Nicole looked at her skinny daughter. "I believe your teacher, and I believe you can definitely make it, too."

Hearing her mother's acknowledgment and encouragement, a dazzling smile lit up on Nina's face.

All of a sudden, Nicole held up Nina's slim hand. She could not stop herself from looking at the child's shoulder.

I'll need to help her change clothes if I want to check whether there are any bite marks. Thank goodness we were at the mall just now and I bought her some clothes.

"Nina, Maya. Mommy bought you some new clothes. Let's go try them out and see if they fit."

The girls gladly agreed since they loved getting new clothes.

While they were changing, Nicole noticed a deep bite mark on Nina's shoulder. She had come mentally prepared but was nevertheless stupefied by what she saw. A sense of shock and heartache overcame her.

"Nina, what happened to your shoulder?"

Nina looked at her scar and realized she had made a huge mistake. Oh, no! Mommy's not supposed to see this!

She immediately picked up a T-shirt and tried to slip it on. However, Nicole stopped her and gently touched the bite marks. "Does it hurt?"

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Nina shook her head violently. "No, Mommy."

"Who... Did this?" Nicole sounded nervous, as if she already knew the answer upon noticing the mark.

It's me, isn't it?

In spite of that, she still wanted to ask.

"Mommy, it was... Maya. Maya did it. We were fighting over something and she bit me."

At that moment, Maya had just come out of the dressing room with a new outfit on. Her eyes widened in disbelief from what she just heard. "Nina, what are you..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Nina managed to make eye contact with her with a wink. Maya paused for a split second and immediately caught on, fully accepting the role of a scapegoat.

"Mommy, it was me. We fought and I bit her like how I bite down on drumsticks."

Nicole kept quiet.

The only thing she could do was force out a sorrowful smile. How could a bite mark from a ten-year-old child look like this?

Nicole had no more doubts in her mind. Instead of pressing for truth, she helped Nina put on her new clothes.

It's clear that something is wrong with me.

For Evan to not go to the office and accompany me wherever I go, he must be worried about me.

Nicole was oblivious to why she had the "madness", but she knew one thing: it was terrifying. Terrifying enough for her to snatch other people's children and to lose sight of everything and attack her own daughter.

After confirming her suspicions, Nicole quietly went downstairs with the girls who were in their clothes.

Sophia saw Nina and Maya and was delighted by how beautiful they looked.

Nicole was all smiles as she chatted with Sophia, but in actuality, her anxiety was through the roof.

She needed to get to the bottom it.

Will I have another episode of this madness? Why can't I remember what happened?

At Imperial Garden.

Juan and Davin were keeping their eyes on a maid there.

"Juan, don't you think she seems different from yesterday?"

"I think she was thinner yesterday, Uncle. She looks chubbier today but the face is exactly the same."

"Not bad! I heard Kyle has good observation skills, but you're just as good." Davin was impressed.

Juan smiled in response. "Uncle, do you think the maid has a twin sister? Like Maya and Nina?"

Davin snorted. "I doubt she has any twins. Something's definitely fishy about that face of hers."

"Uncle, do you think someone could be impersonating her?"

"Oh, Juan!" He grinned. "Let me show you something. Are you up for it?"

"Sure! I'll play along."

Davin approached the maid and stood by her side to inspect her.

"Mr. Davin, anything I can do for you?" The maid felt uncomfortable from his scrutiny.

"Let's go upstairs and help me pack things up; I'm moving here."

"Understood."

She did not dwell on his words and followed Davin to his room at the end of the top floor. Juan followed behind, waiting to see the show.

Once they entered the room, Davin signaled for Juan to close the door.

Bang! The door slammed behind them. "Mr. Davin, what's going on?" The maid was startled and looked at Davin cautiously.

"Calm down. I just need to ask you a few questions."

"Okay. Ask away, Mr. Davin."

Instinctively, the woman tightened her grip on the edge of her shirt, revealing how terrified she actually was.

Davin looked down at her sternly. "Before that, though, let's make things clear." He paused for a moment.

"I ask; you answer. Only the truth and nothing else. If you lie, this is the top floor and it wouldn't be hard to claim that you've slipped and fallen off while cleaning the window. No one will suspect a thing. Even if they do, it will just be some extra expenses for our family."

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The maid turned anxious and started stammering, "M-Mr. Davin, are y-you threatening me? I-I have children and my mother to feed. Please, Mr. Davin. You can't do this to me."

"Nothing's going to happen as long as you tell me the truth." Davin gave an intimidating warning.

"Anything, Mr. Davin." The maid was sweating buckets by now. "Ask me anything you want. I'll tell you everything."

"Alright! Now, did you come to Imperial Garden the day before yesterday?"

The maid was astonished. Has Mr. Davin found out about it?

She kept quiet. She had been handsomely rewarded and it would be unwise for her to spill the beans. Her life would be on the line if she said anything,

Seeing that the maid was still hesitating, Davin roared, "Speak if you want to live!"

It shook the maid to the core. Her legs immediately gave way and she fell to the ground on her knees. "Mr. Davin, m-my life will be in danger if I say anything!"

"Your life's in danger right now!" Juan became annoyed.

The maid was stumped. She looked at the window in front of her and took a deep breath.

"Alright! I'll talk!"

"It was a woman," she continued, "She gave me a large sum of money and told me she just wanted to see Mr. Evan. She said she missed him and that she could do my job for a few days while I treat it as a short holiday. I thought about it and had wanted to reject her because I didn't want to cause any trouble. However, she then threatened me with my life as well as my family's lives. I had no choice, Mr. Davin. It was either that I take the money or my head would roll."

"So you took the money?" Davin asked.

"I figured she just wanted to see Mr. Evan up close, which I could understand. After all, there are so many beautiful women out there who long to be with him. She'll work in my stead for a few days and I... I could..."

"A few days? Do you know what happened during those few days? Do you know who she is?" Dayin scoffed.

The maid did not know what to say.

"If you want to redeem yourself and stay alive, you'd better cooperate with us to catch her."

"Mr. Davin, just tell me what I need to do." It took her a while but she realized Davin was right—she would only be safe if they caught the woman. And nothing mattered more than her own safety.

With that, Davin and Juan looked at each other with smiles on their faces. The only thing they needed to do now was to wait for the woman to appear.

"Uncle, what will you do once you catch that bad woman?" Juan asked on their way downstairs.

"Torture. Some cold, hard torture before I hand her over to the police. This isn't just for your mother. It's for your great-grandpa, too!"

"Uncle, I think we can start our revenge before she appears."

"What do you have in mind?"

"Uncle, we can..."

Juan went through his plan and Davin gave him a thumbs-up. "Juan, I'm really impressed by you! Let's do it."

"I think Nina, Maya, as well as Kyle could help out, too. After all, we're all Mommy's children and I'm sure they definitely want to be a part of it."

"Why not? With the four of you, she's certainly going to experience the time of her life."

Late in the night, Nicole lay in her bed and quietly stared into the darkness.

She had a lot of questions in her mind that needed answers.

It felt as though the whole family was hiding something from her; she desperately needed to find out what was going on.

In Nicole's eyes, Evan was imprisoned, day and night, shackled to her. Since he did not want her to know the truth, she needed to conduct her own investigations behind his back.