Nicole was probably the only person in the whole world who could make Evan Seet put up
with her spite.
Standing in the cooling night breeze, Evan looked up at the dim stars. A shred of gloom

By the time he returned to the bedroom, Nicole had already fallen asleep. He pulled the blanket over and covered her to keep her warm. Then, he lay down beside her and cuddled her snugly.

clouded his gorgeous features as his dark eyes filled with despair.

Regardless of her violence and mood swings, she would always be the woman whom he loved the most.

He would love her forever!

In the Levant Winery.

Levant was shocked when he found out that Nicole had injured Evan. "How's he dealing with it? Are his injuries serious?"

"He's fine, other than that injury on his arm."

"No, I meant... How are things between Nicole and him? Did he scold her or become estranged from her?"

Avril stared at him as if she were looking at a freak. "How do you even have the mood to be concerned about this? Don't tell me that you've still got feelings for her. She has taken Hallucinogen, and that means she can't live for long. Aren't you aware of that?"

Levant ignored her words and persisted with his queries. "Has Evan left her yet?"

""

Avril heaved a sigh. "You know how much he loves her. Do you really think that he would leave her? Not only did he not leave her, but he also kept the truth from her. He forbade anybody to tell her about the Hallucinogen and how he got his wound!"

Levant was at a loss for words.

"Is he really treating her well? Does he really not care about his own safety? All for the sake of staying by her?" Levant was surprised.

He can't really sacrifice his life for her, can he?

"Levant, listen to me. Stop being so obsessed with her. You should forget about her and pay more attention to Tiffany. I met with her yesterday, and she kept asking about you. I can tell that she has missed you very much. But perhaps she thought she didn't deserve to be with you, so she was very cautious with her words."

"Nicole..."

"F***ing hell! Stop that! Did you not hear what I just told you?"

Levant drooped his head and shot her a cold glare. "You are the one who should listen to yourself! Or else, I'll tell Dad that you sneaked out to meet Sir Musgrave!"

"You...You're taking my kindness for granted! She's not the one for you! You have no future with her! We don't even know how much longer she can live. Even if she's able to live a long life, you won't be the one who's meant for her anyway."

" ...

He side-eyed her and turned around to walk away.

"Where are you going? You are not going to visit her, are you?"

Avril sighed, but a doubt suddenly crossed her mind. He is obsessed with Nicole, and I am obsessed with Stephen, but who was the more obsessive one?

Of course it's Levant!

She was confident that she was in control of her feelings towards Stephen.

The way Levant held on to his loved one was nothing like Murphy. Instead, he reminded her of Stephen.

Now that she thought of it, she realized she was not the person whom Stephen loved the most. It was Rosalie, Nicole's mother, whom he loved, not her!

"I won't lose to a person who died ages ago. I refuse to accept defeat! Stephen, we shall see how things will end up!"

Back at the Imperial Garden.

When the butler informed Evan about Levant's arrival, he told the butler to chase him out.

"Tell him we don't have time for him!"

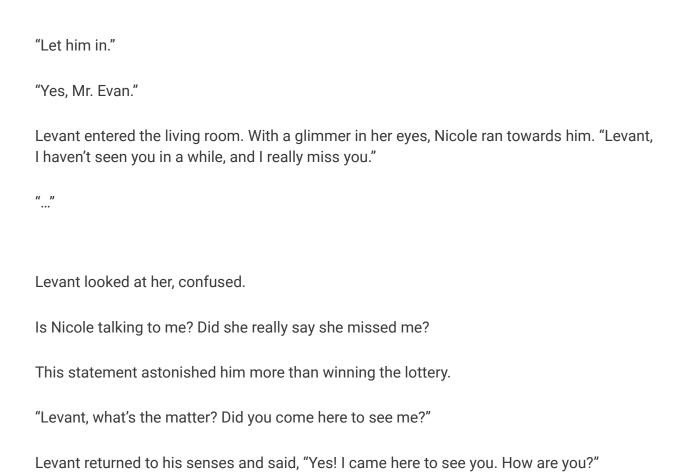
"Yes, Mr. Evan."

"Wait, " Nicole disagreed, "It's been a while since I last met him. I miss him. Let him in."

Silence ensued.

The butler froze on the spot and looked back and forth between his two masters. He didn't know to whom he should listen but eventually decided to wait for Evan's instruction.

Evan stared at her with a cold expression. Is she still having a mood swing? Eventually, he gave in to her request. He was curious. Now that Levant is here, how are you going to behave, Nicole?



Nicole nodded vigorously. She gave Levant a warm welcome and showed him to his seat. She then asked the maid to serve him tea, all the while completely ignoring Evan's existence.

Levant was pleased to receive such hospitality from Nicole. Although he did not understand the change in Nicole's attitude toward him, he was truly enjoying every second of this treatment.

Evan watched their interactions coldly. He was really starting to entertain the idea of marching over and grabbing Levant by the collar to kick him out of the Imperial Garden.

"Nicole, if you have the time, do visit the winery. They included new delicacies to their menu, so you should head over to give them a taste and see if you like them."

"She doesn't like the food at Levant Winery!"

Evan blurted out before Nicole could respond. He stalked up next to Nicole and looked down on Levant with his piercing gaze, emitting an air of a king's aura.

Levant, who was sitting in Evan's direct line of gaze, suddenly felt oppressed. Nicole's warm hospitality was certainly a sharp contrast to Evan's cold attitude.

He found himself wandering between fire and ice. There was Nicole, whose smile was as warm as the spring breeze, but there was also Evan, whose glare was as cold as ice.

They have always been in harmony with each other. They have never been at odds like they are right now. What happened? Could it be that they are really going through a rough patch? If that's the case, isn't this the perfect chance for me to mess up their relationship and get between them?

Levant watched their actions keenly while silently celebrating this discovery. "Nicole, would you like to go?" He asked again.

"Of course! Let's go now!" Nicole exclaimed, shooting a glare at Evan while she spoke.

Evan's face instantly paled. He came to a sudden realization that Nicole's contrived acts were aimed at his annoyance only.

What is she trying to do?

He studied Nicole carefully and noticed that she was looking at him with utter disgust. His heart clenched like someone had just stabbed him with a knife.

He could not understand Nicole's sudden hatred toward him. He furrowed his eyebrows slightly, lost in thought.

"I didn't have breakfast, and I do feel a little hungry right now. Let's go," Nicole urged.

Levant was overjoyed. He turned to Evan and asked calmly, "Mr. Seet, you don't have a problem with that, do you?"

Evan's face darkened, and the anger in his deep-set eyes was eminent.

Nicole did not dare to look at him. She knew she was contrived! But being contrived was the only way to make Evan hate her and eventually leave her.

"No. Let me grab a change of clothes then, we can go together."

Levant was speechless.

He really did not want the man's company!

Nicole stood up all of a sudden and bellowed at Evan, "Why bother! You treat me like your prisoner and keep me under your close surveillance every single day! I'm sick of this! I don't want to see your face! Levant, let's go!"

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Nicole's rave, filled with bellowing anger, came as a shock to both Evan and Levant.

How could Nicole talk to Evan like that? Was there really trouble in paradise?

While Levant was lost in his own world, he could hear Nicole calling out to him, "Hurry up already!"

He came to his senses and followed Nicole out of the living room. He wanted to look back at Evan, but he didn't dare to. Even without having to look, he knew that the man left behind would surely be staring daggers at him, wishing to butcher him with his glare.

It was only after they left the Imperial Garden and got in Levant's car that Nicole shed her pretense. Levant took the initiative to strike up a conversation with her, to which she responded wearily, and all her enthusiasm from before had vanished.

The only thing she could think about was how crushed Evan must have been by her attitude a while ago.

Witnessing a complete change in her attitude, Levant finally understood the situation. Nicole's enthusiasm towards him just now had been a show to spite Evan!

"Were you using me just now?"

Levant spoke in an indifferent tone, pulling Nicole's thoughts back to the present. She shot him an apologetic look and said to him piously, "I'm sorry."

" "

Levant's thin, delicate lips curled up into a mocking sneer. Nicole, I don't blame you. I feel happy even though you took advantage of me.

The car sped all the way to Levant Winery.

Avril was just about to head out when she saw Levant and Nicole coming back in a car, with Evan nowhere to be seen. A look of surprise found its way to her face.

"Why did the two of you come back together?"

"Why can't we?" Levant retorted.

Stunned, Avril replied, "Of course you can! I just wasn't expecting it."

They went up to a private room, with Avril's curious gaze fixated at their backs. Evan's fiancée is dining with her suitor, Levant. I wonder if Evan knows about this.

As Levant's sister, she knew that Levant and Nicole relationship would never lead anywhere, which was why she sincerely hoped that the two would not get too close and comfortable with each other. Therefore, after some consideration, she phoned for Evan.

The call was answered quickly.

"Mr. Seet, did you know that your wife is dining with Levant..."

"...right now?" Evan hung up her call before she could finish her sentence.

She stared blankly at her phone screen, wondering what in the world was going on.

By the time she got to the Seet Residence, she was still pondering over Evan's intention of hanging up on her. Perhaps he didn't believe me?

She brought up that matter in front of Sophia later. When Sophia learned that Nicole was at Levant Winery, she decided to meet her.

"Sophia, if you want to meet her, you should let her come to you. You are the elder here, so you shouldn't have to seek her out!"

"That won't do. We can't have her showing up at the Seet Residence," Sophia said with concern.

"Why?" Avril asked.

Sophia did not provide an answer, opting instead to dismiss her with a sentence. "You'll know someday." She then sought help from Avril and Murphy.

Murphy readily agreed after hearing her request.

"Sophia, don't you worry. I'll call Levant."

"Right, I only need half an hour. Have Levant occupied elsewhere for that period."

Sophia showed up at the Levant Winery according to plan. Levant had received an emergency call out of the blue and thus had to excuse himself. Sophia seized that opportunity to slip inside and greet Nicole.

"Nicole, how are you doing?"

How am I doing?

Nicole knew what she was referring to. Sophia was talking about her "madness".

"Sophia, I'm well aware of my condition. Whatever it is that you have to say, just put it out there. I'm all ears."

That statement stunned Sophia. "Why, Nicole, you're a bright child. In that case, I won't beat around the bush..."

Sophia told her her piece of mind, leaving Nicole in a daze, having rendered speechless, long after she had finished her speech.

"Nicole, I know you would probably be against this arrangement. In fact, you might even resent me. B-But I can't afford to care about all these. Parents will never stop worrying about their children, after all. I just don't want my son's life to be in danger. "

" ...

Nicole's eyes watered and she lifted her head up to look at the older woman. "Sophia, I don't blame you. I just... I just can't bear to leave him... and our children."

"I know. I understand that. I'll take good care of them. If you really miss them, I will send you videos. We can still keep in touch, but Evan... Whenever I think of him being in danger, I just can't eat or sleep well. D-Do you understand how I feel?"

Nicole wiped her tears away. "Don't worry, I won't let him know where I am."

Sophia had not expected Nicole to be so cooperative. She held the younger woman's hand tightly as she grieved.

Nicole, I'm sorry. I really wanted you to live happily with Evan. I had really hoped that the two of you would eventually get married, but I really can't stand by and watch my son live in constant peril. I'm a selfish mother! I can understand if you blame me or resent me for everything that I have done to you. I'll make sure that you'll be well taken care of. I won't let you be treated badly in any aspect of your life.

"Sophia, I left the house with Levant. If I leave just like this, it'll cause trouble for Levant and the winery. Let me stay at the Imperial Garden for one more night. I'll leave tomorrow. Is that alright?"

She had taken enough advantage of Levant and she did not want to hurt him again.

Furthermore, she wanted to see Evan just one last time.

Once she left, she didn't know if she would ever see him again. She did not know how much longer she could live either.

...

Sophia empathized with her struggles and reluctance to part. She uttered, in between sobs, "Alright. I trust you. I know you don't want to hurt Evan either. I understand how you feel."

. . .

By the time Nicole got back to the Imperial Garden, Evan was already waiting for her on the brown sofa. His deep-set eyes lingered on her frame upon seeing her return.

"You're back! How's the food at Levant Winery?"

His words carried a strong pang of jealousy, setting the green-eyed monster free in the living room.

Nicole nodded. "It was nice."

"You don't have to eat there anymore. You'd be able to savor the same dishes here, right at home."

As soon as he said that, another figure entered the living room and nodded at Nicole politely. "Good day, Mrs. Seet. From now on, you can order food that you wish to have, and I shall have it prepared. I was a chef at Levant Winery, but I would be working at the Imperial Garden from now onwards. I can make all the signature dishes from the winery. Feel free to order whatever you like."

Nicole was rendered speechless.

Evan actually poached Levant's chef? How thoughtful of him.

Unfortunately, she would not be able to enjoy his kindness any longer. Just thinking about that made Nicole's heart twinge with pain.

"Are you satisfied with this arrangement?"

"Yes."

She replied rather flatly before heading to the bedroom upstairs.

Evan's heart sank as he watched her leave. Was she really satisfied, or did she have other thoughts?

Over the course of dinner that evening, Nicole persisted in her indifference.

Evan made an effort to deshell some prawns and placed them into her bowl. "Have some more."

Nicole glanced up at him. At that moment, she was conflicted. Before departing, should she leave Evan with happy memories to remember her by, or should she hit him exactly where it hurts?

Happy memories would warm his heart whenever he thought about her. However, that warmth would seem insignificant compared to the pain of losing her.

Hurting him could make Evan heartbroken and resent her. In that case, Evan would never want to remember her. Even if he did lose her, he would not be too upset. He would completely get over her in due time!

How should she do go about this?

"I'm full."

Nicole put down the bamboo chopsticks and went up to the bedroom. After a heated debate with herself, she finally came to a decision.

Better a little less than a long sorrow. I have to make Evan hate me!

She sent a message to Sophia in secret, asking for the older woman's cooperation with her over this matter.

Sophia was shocked when she had received the message.

She replied: Are you sure you want to do this? If you proceed with this, Evan will misunderstand you. He'll be heartbroken.

Nicole texted back: This is the only way for him to give up on me. He'll never want to see me again. It's perfect!

Sophia reminded her: Are you sure about this? The two of you can still be together in the future if your illness can be cured by some miracle, but this misunderstanding wouldn't be resolved that easily.

Nicole breathed in deeply. Miracle? Will there ever be one? She did not want to count on it!

She ended their conversation with one last message: Please take care of my children. I'm willing to do this for your son. My children are in your hands. Thank you!

Sophia felt a dull pain in her heart. She was grateful to Nicole for doing this.

This way, Evan would hate her for several years. After that, when he had forgotten about her, perhaps he would still be able to meet another woman. He would not have to die alone.

She secretly made up her mind to treat the four children like her precious darlings. With her there, no one would ever dare to think about laying a single finger on them.
The next day.
Evan received a sudden call from John early in the morning. A mishap had occurred to their company funds. Hackers have stolen a huge sum of money from their accounts.
"Who did this?"
"Mr. Seet, we had investigated the incident. The money eventually landed in Mrs. Seet's hands."
"What?"
Evan refused to believe the information.
Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1025
It was then that he turned around to find the bed empty.
Where's Nicole?
He immediately got out of bed to look for her.
Just then, his phone rang again, this time from Davin.

"Evan, something had happened to Mom."

"What is it?"

"She got hit and the perpetrator ran away."

Evan couldn't respond.

The news came to him like a bolt from the blue. After sitting in stunned silence for a moment, Evan quickly queried for the hospital that his mother had been admitted to.

He rushed to the hospital and found Sophia lying on the bed covered with scars and wounds, her legs supported by braces. That sight caused him distress.

"Mom, how are you feeling?"

"Evan, you're here. The doctor said my injuries are serious. I'm afraid it might take several months for my legs to recover," Sophia said weakly.

"Mom, who hit you? Can you remember the license plate number?"

"Yes..." Sophia stuttered.

"Mom, tell me!"

"Evan, I don't remember the exact numbers on the license plate, but I think my eyes must have been playing tricks on me. After I got hit, the passengers in the car got down to check on me. The woman I saw looked like Nicole, and there was a man next to her, but I must have been mistaken."

Nicole?

Evan furrowed his eyebrows. He had not seen Nicole since getting up in the morning, and he could not find a single trace of her even after searching through the whole Imperial Garden. It can't possibly be a coincidence, can it?

It was then that Davin walked into the room and showed Evan a short video.

"Evan, the footage in the surveillance camera at the scene where Mom was hit had been modified. There was a hidden camera a short distance away, and the perpetrators had not found it, so it hadn't been tampered with. The footage isn't very clear, but it'd do. You should have a look."

Evan examined the video closely. The car that had hit Sophia was too far away from the camera, so the license plate number was unclear. The car itself, however, was eye-catching. It was a limited-edition Bugatti Veyron.

Next, he saw someone with whom he was extremely familiar.

"Evan, isn't that Nicole?" Davin questioned, eying the figure in the footage.

Evan did not answer. He had spent several years with Nicole, day in and day out. He was the person who was the most familiar with her, so he was sure that the woman in the video was Nicole.

Right then, one of the camera lenses suddenly faced Nicole. He immediately zoomed in and found himself looking at the panicked expression on her face.

"Evan! It really was Nicole! It really was her!"

Boom! A bolt of blue came crashing down on him for the second time in a day.

Nicole hit Sophia?

He immediately pulled out his phone and called Nicole, but her phone was off. He could not reach her no matter how hard he tried.

It was really Nicole in the car, but whose car was it? There was a man in there too. Who was he?

A cluster of doubts flooded his mind. Evan's face turned pale as his deep-set eyes filled with shock.

For a long time, the silence was the only thing that filled the ward. It was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

After a moment of dead silence, Evan spoke, "Keep up the investigation! Find out who the owner of that car is!"

"Got it, Evan."

"Evan, was it really Nicole who hit me? W-What's going on here?" Sophia asked with her glance fixated on her son.

"Mom, it can't be her. I'm sure it's not her."

"I don't think it's her too. Perhaps we should conduct a thorough investigation before jumping to conclusions."

Evan didn't respond.

He arranged for Sophia to be taken care of in the hospital before driving back to the Imperial Garden. He heard from the maid that Nicole had yet to return.

He found Nicole's mobile phone on the dressing table.

Did she forget to take it with her, or did she leave it here on purpose?

Evan turned on the phone. He read through all of Nicole's WhatsApp and contact records but did not find anything suspicious.

Nicole, where are you?

Three days passed with no news from Nicole.

A week passed, and still, nothing.

Two months passed. Evan had mobilized every last ounce of manpower he had to search for Nicole, to no avail. She seemed to have vanished into thin air.

Evan would look at Nicole's picture, overwhelmed by dread and suspense. Nicole, where are you?

He thought about Sophia's car accident, the money hacked and stolen from the company account, the luxury car that suddenly appeared as well as the man on board. Although Evan had not figured out what was going on, he wholeheartedly refused to believe that Nicole was the one behind this chain of events.