

# Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

## Chapter 1252

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“Dad, I found out Crystal Rose is my biological mother and your ex-wife. I just want to know why she abandoned me and left you! Please tell me everything. If not, I’ll investigate it when I get back.”

Murphy held his tongue for a moment. “Fine, since you insist on knowing, I’ll tell you.

“Portia and I were childhood sweethearts. I always knew she liked Stephen and wanted to marry him. She went as far as to use her family’s power to separate Stephen and Nicole’s mother by force. Then, she made the elders in the Ankins family pressure Stephen into marrying her.

“I know we were destined to be apart throughout our lives. Therefore, I married Jordyn – your mother – after Portia got married to Stephen. “I was told that Stephen was unable to forget Nicole’s mother, and he ostracized Portia throughout their marriage. Portia thought time could slowly make his love toward another woman fade away, but she was wrong. Stephen had always been in love with that woman and that wouldn’t change.

“One day, Portia got into a fight with Stephen and ran away from the estate. We bumped into each other, and I brought her back to Wicked Palace when I saw the sadness on her face.

“During that night, we talked and drank. Soon, we became drunk and let our lust take over our rationality. Unfortunately, your mother saw us in bed together. “Your mother was a strong-willed woman. I was merely together with Portia once, but she insisted we had always cheated on her in secret. She wouldn’t listen to my explanation and wanted to leave the house. Not only that, she was determined to go to the estate and tell Stephen about us as well.

“That was when I hit her out of anger. Then she brought you along and left the house. “I underestimated her resentment. I thought she brought you along with her only because she was afraid to lose you. Never in my life would I have thought she was sending you to an orphanage. “When I found out about that, Portia had already adopted you and brought you back to the estate.”

Murphy’s narration of his past had left Levant with a heart filled with complicated emotions.

“If you knew I was at the estate, why didn’t you bring me back to Wicked Palace?”

"I didn't have the time to take care of you even if I took you back. I'd much rather have Portia take good care of you than to leave you with my servants. Portia promised to take care of you as her own. Throughout these years, I've always had my people look after you discreetly. I know you grew up in a kind family and were treated well by Stephen and Portia."

Listening to Murphy's explanation caused Levant to sneer coldly. "I think Jordyn and you are truly the perfect pair. No matter how nicely you put it, the two of you were selfish pricks who didn't take care of your child."

Murphy was stumped. "You can think of me as a selfish man, but at least you grew up in the estate and had enjoyed life thoroughly."

"Are you saying that I should thank you?"

"No. I know I failed as a father, so I won't have the right to complain about you not taking care of me when I'm old."

"You better keep in mind what you just said!"

Murphy was speechless. Will you really not care about me in the future?

Levant continued lecturing Murphy, "You cheated on her with another woman and she discovered it. Who in the world would accept that? She was wrong for abandoning me, that's for sure. But you're not any better than her!"

"I told you that was a one-night stand because I got drunk!"

"A one-night stand? You..." Levant was riled up when he heard Murphy bring up that incident again, but then he remembered having the same experience where he mistook Tiffany for Nicole and slept with her.

The more he thought about that, the more he lost track of his emotions.

If he hadn't made the same mistake, he could be in the right and scold Murphy confidently for wronging Jordyn back then. However, he was in the wrong, too.

"Now I'm beginning to suspect my habit of having a one-night stand is all coded in my genes! I inherited it from you!"

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For an instant, Murphy was at a loss for words. He then expressed his disagreement strongly. "This isn't about genes! If you ask me, I think you were

just not strong-willed enough, and that's all on you. Don't you try to blame it on your father!"

Levant was rendered speechless. Now that his child with Tiffany was growing up fast, there was no point in playing the blaming game.

"Well, I've told you all you need to know about my history. Now that you know Crystal Rose's your biological mother, what are you planning to do about it?"

"I don't care about her resentment toward you, and I certainly don't care about her intention to murder you. However, I will never forgive her for abandoning me to an orphanage!" yelled Levant right before he hung up the phone call.

Following that, Levant contacted Stephen to confirm the truth behind Murphy's story.

Stephen explained he had always felt something was going on between Portia and Murphy, especially after Jordyn told him how she had witnessed the two of them together.

Additionally, Murphy and Portia were childhood sweethearts. Therefore, he was certain they got together behind his back, despite not knowing when they began to do so. Stephen attempted to convince Portia to file a divorce with him so she could get into a serious relationship with Murphy. Yet, Portia swore Stephen was her one and only love and refused to divorce him.

"I don't really know all the details about what happened back then, but that's about everything I know."

With that, Levant confirmed that Stephen's story roughly lined up with Murphy's.

Throughout the years, Stephen had always disliked Portia. It seemed his love toward Rosalie wasn't the only reason behind his detest toward Portia, but because the latter had slept with Murphy.

It didn't matter if it was on purpose. It was still considered a betrayal.

"Levant, is there anything else I can help you with?"

"No, there isn't. I'll pay you a visit soon."

"All right."

After ending the call with Stephen, Levant hesitated to call Portia but concluded that there was no need to do so. Murphy's and Stephen's words were more than sufficient for him to understand the truth of what happened back then.

Nonetheless, no reason could justify his biological mother abandoning him at an orphanage.

Jordyn had lost him the moment she abandoned him. He would never forgive her for that!

Just when Levant was catching his breath, his phone rang again. Picking up the phone and seeing Davin's name on the screen, Levant knew Davin was about to try convincing him to return. He rejected the call instantly.

Davin looked at the call that was immediately rejected and was frustrated.

"The heck? What's the meaning of this? He just hung up on my call without even picking it up!"

Draven sighed. "Mr. Davin, I'm sure Mr. Levant knew you were about to persuade him to return to Nepenthe Valley. That's why he hung up on you."

"Of course I must try my best to convince him! If he doesn't come back, Nina will never get the help she needs!"

"Mr. Davin, since Mr. Levant wouldn't listen to you, how about we think of another way?" Draven proposed.

Davin asked curiously, "What do you have in mind?"

Draven leaned toward Davin and whispered, "If verbal persuasion won't do the trick, we can do it the hard way and force him to return like this..."

"Are you sure that's okay?" After listening to Draven's idea, Davin looked at the latter worriedly.

"I don't know if it's okay. All I know is that was the only plan I could come up with. Do you have a better idea, Mr. Davin?"

The only reason I had that idea was all because of Mr. Evan too!

Davin considered the proposal briefly and agreed. "Well, I'd do anything for Nina's sake. We'll stick with your idea, then. First, I want you to pinpoint his current location."

"Yes, Mr. Davin."

After a short while, Draven found Levant's whereabouts and sent the location to Davin directly.

"Huh. He sure knows how to enjoy life by feasting at a luxurious restaurant. But all of that will end soon since he'll be returning to Nepenthe Valley to eat with us," Davin muttered. Turning to Draven, he instructed, "You can take action whenever you find an opportunity."

"As you wish, Mr. Davin."

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Draven hid in a dark corner, waiting for his chance to carry out the plan. As soon as he saw a waiter serving steak and wine to Levant, he went to the waiter and initiated small talk.

“Excuse me, may I know if the guest in room 3081 is there?”

“I think so.” The waiter turned around to look at the room, then replied.

While the waiter was looking away in the other direction, Draven swiftly slipped a few drops of sleeping drug into the wine.

“Oh, I see. Thank you.”

“You’re welcome.” Holding the serving tray in his hand, the waiter walked away. Soon, he arrived at Levant’s room and knocked on the door. “Sir, here’s the food you ordered.”

“Hand it to me,” answered Levant as he grabbed the tray from the waiter, then slammed the door shut.

Draven was secretly delighted. He believed Levant would faint soon after he consumed the wine. When that happened, he could finally transport him back to Nepenthe Valley.

An hour later, Draven changed into a waiter’s uniform and knocked on Levant’s door again.

Yet, there was no response from the other side of the door. Draven used the door card he obtained earlier to unlock the door and saw Levant collapsed in a chair.

Was the sleeping drug too strong or did he drink too much?

“Mr. Levant...” Draven gently shook Levant to wake him up. Upon confirming that Levant was fully unconscious, Draven made a phone call.

Later that night, Levant regained his consciousness with a heavy feeling lingering in his head. He was stunned to see a wooden roof above him the moment he opened his eyes. After a short while, he sat up from the bed.

Beside the bed sat Evan, Davin, Draven, Nina, and Monica, who were all looking at him.

"You... Why am I here?"

Davin coughed lightly before beginning his scripted speech. "Levant, we're awfully moved by your actions. You were thinking about helping Nina while drunk, so you returned to Nepenthe Valley. I always knew you were full of love! I knew you wouldn't watch Nina suffer. You're such a saint, Levant!"

At the end of the speech, Davin gave Levant two thumbs-up to praise him further.

However, Levant looked completely dumbfounded after hearing Davin's words.

He sank into his thoughts for a moment and turned to Davin in bewilderment. "Did you just mention that... I returned to Nepenthe Valley on my own will?"

"That's right!" Davin gave him a thumbs-up as reassurance.

Levant tried to recall where he was last night. He merely remembered drinking alone and feeling dizzy afterward. A few moments later, he started seeing double of his wineglass and gradually faded out of consciousness.

He just couldn't recall coming back to Nepenthe Valley by himself. Moreover, judging from his muscle memory and his hostility toward Crystal Rose, he felt the absurdity of his actions as well.

As soon as Davin noticed the suspicion on Levant's face, he exchanged a glance with Draven, to which the latter immediately understood and explained, "Mr. Levant, I didn't believe you would return to Nepenthe Valley at first, too. I thought I was hallucinating until I walked toward you and discovered that it was really you! You're such a kind-hearted man!"

Levant was clouded with doubt. He stared at Draven and asked, "How did I return to this place?"

"You found a driver to send you to the valley's entrance, then walked into Nepenthe Valley by yourself. However, it appears you might've been too drunk to walk straight. Luckily, I met you halfway while I was running errands for Mr. Evan with a few other bodyguards."

Levant brows furrowed together. How did I call a cab while being heavily intoxicated? I even directed the driver to send me to the valley's entrance and walked into the valley all by myself...

"How did you know I called a cab?"

Draven was stunned for a second before he muttered, "You told me about it in a daze when the bodyguards and I brought you back."

Never mind the possibility and logical aspect of the matter, Levant believed he would never return to this place of his own free will.

However, seeing how confident Davin and Draven were, he had no reason to suspect anything else. After all, if he didn't return by himself, why would he be here?

"Levant, I am eternally grateful for your help toward Nina. It means a lot to me, and I promise to repay this debt I owe you in the future."

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Levant sneered, "You're thanking me too soon. I must've been way too drunk to have returned to this place. How about this? I'll leave immediately, and you can pretend that I was never here! Does that sound good to you?" With that said, he began putting on his shoes.

Davin was devastated at the situation, as he had spent an inordinate amount of effort to have Levant return to this place.

Out of panic, Davin crouched and snatched the shoes away from Levant.

"What are you doing, Davin?"

"Levant, since you've already returned, and we've all shown our gratitude toward your kindness, isn't it a little rude for you to leave again so soon?"

"I don't care if I'm being rude. I must leave Nepenthe Valley as soon as possible! Give me my shoes!"

"No!"

"Hand them over now!" Levant howled.

"I'm a man of my words and I will not back up this time!"

"Davin Seet!" Levant clenched his teeth and began chasing Davin barefoot.

Davin took off quickly, holding Levant's shoes in his hands as he ran away from the house while shouting, "Come and get them if you can! You can leave when you get your shoes back!"

"Davin, stop right there!"

Just as Levant was about to trail after Davin and exit the house, he saw Crystal Rose appear in front of him along with a few other women.

"Levant, you're back?" said Crystal Rose.

"I didn't wish to come back, and I don't want to see you or speak to you at all. I'm leaving now!"

"Levant..." Crystal Rose caught the stubbornness on Levant's face, then glanced at his bare feet. "The roads nearby are rocky. Come in and wear your shoes before you go."

Levant looked around and realized Davin was nowhere to be found. Darn it, where did Davin disappear to in such a short time? I guess I should head back inside for now.

Meanwhile, Evan, who had noticed Levant and Crystal Rose entering the house, decided to leave the two of them alone to talk. He motioned for the others to leave the room, and Nina carefully closed the door behind her.

"Daddy, do you think they'll end up arguing with each other?"

"I suppose so. Let's head back." In Evan's opinion, it wasn't a big deal as long as the argument could help solve the problem at hand.

"All right! Daddy, what do you think Mommy is doing right now?"

"Are you missing Mommy? I'll bring you home to see her as soon as you're cured of the poison, okay?"

"Okay!"

Meanwhile, Levant sat on the bed with his back to Crystal Rose in the room. He had no desire to speak with the woman who had abandoned him mercilessly when he was a child.

"Levant, I understand you hate me, but I—"

"I don't care about how you feel, and I don't hate you at all. After all, why should I hate you? Who do you think you are? My mother? You're undeserving of that title!"

You were already dead to me the moment you abandoned me!

Crystal Rose felt as if her heart was pierced by sharp knives because of Levant's words. Her lips quivered as she struggled to find words to say to him.



If I had a choice, I would never have abandoned my son!

"Levant, I really had no choice but to do what I did back then..."

"So what? That doesn't make it a proper excuse for you to abandon me! You have every right to hate my dad for cheating on you, but why did you choose to abandon me? I was only a child. What did I do wrong?"

"Levant, please let me explain... Please listen to what I have to say before you continue..." Crystal Rose teared up as she pleaded for Levant's attention.

"Explain? What else do you need to explain? You abandoning me is a solid fact. You don't have to waste time and energy looking for more excuses. I won't listen to them! Leave!" Levant stomped toward the door and flung it open. He yelled furiously, "Leave! Leave right now!"

Seeing how stirred up Levant was at the moment, Crystal Rose understood there was nothing she could say to calm him down. She wiped her tears and left the room without another word. Later, she instructed Davin to return Levant's shoes to him.

"If you pass him the shoes now, he'll leave immediately. You might never be able to see him again after he leaves this time," reminded Davin.

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"Well, you can't leave him barefooted forever, right?"

Davin looked at Crystal Rose and let out a deep sigh. He could clearly see her heartfelt concern toward Levant.

"I'll return his shoes then. Will you still be curing Nina after Levant leaves?"

Crystal Rose hesitated, reluctant to part with Levant. But what could she do if he insisted on leaving? She would accept any outcome as long as he was happy. "Give him his shoes. He can do whatever he wishes to do. Don't worry. I'll still cure Nina."

Davin's brows knitted together. Crystal Rose doesn't seem like an unreasonable woman at all. I'm sure she wants Levant to stay more than anyone else. However, she's not forcing him to do so. It seems she cares about Levant's feelings, after all. If that's the case, then why would she...

"I can tell that you care about Levant a lot. Why did you abandon him at the orphanage back then?"

"Back then..." Crystal Rose smiled bitterly. "Back then, I was poisoned, and I thought I wouldn't stay alive much longer. To my surprise, I encountered a master to cure me of the deadly poison. She was the former Lady of the Valley, and she brought me back to Nepenthe Valley to cure me."

The truth was revealed. Davin finally understood the reason Crystal Rose stayed at Nepenthe Valley and changed her name.

"How were you poisoned?" Davin continued asking.

In that instant, Crystal Rose's eyes filled with burning contempt. "Someone poisoned my drink."

"Who did that to you?"

"Who? Who else would dare to poison me at Wicked Palace? Of course it's Murphy!"

Her answer disconcerted Davin. He couldn't believe how cruel Murphy was to have poisoned his own wife!

"It's lucky I survived this incident. He must pay for what he did, and I want him to pay for it with his life!"

Davin was too stunned to speak. He had assumed her drive to seek vengeance on Murphy was caused by his betrayal toward her. However, it appeared there was more to this story than he had expected.

Uncle Morris, how could you be so ruthless toward your wife? This is a life we're talking about!

"That's enough. Return his shoes to him. It's inconvenient for him to stay barefooted." Crystal Rose left as soon as she reminded Davin to return the shoes to Levant.

With a mind full of worries, Davin wandered to Levant's house. Should I inform Levant about Crystal Rose's backstory? If he knew, would he shift his hostility toward another target? Will he develop resentment toward Murphy instead? After all, Levant's relationship with Murphy is way closer than with Crystal Rose.

After some deep contemplation, Davin was still unsure whether he should speak the truth as that would likely hurt Levant and Murphy's relationship.

"What are you doing just standing there? Are you that obsessed with my shoes?"

Levant's teasing pulled Davin back to reality from his inner conflict. He tossed the shoes in front of Levant and forced an unnatural smile onto his face.

After wearing his shoes, Levant looked up at Davin and was immediately confounded by the latter's awkward expression.

"Why were you willing to return my shoes? Did you come up with a new idea to stop me from leaving?"

Davin shook his head in silence.

He had asked Draven to bring Levant to Nepenthe Valley solely because he needed Levant to get help from Crystal Rose to cure Nina. Now that she had promised to lend a hand even if Levant left, it was no longer important for him to stay.

"You're free to go. I won't make you stay any longer if you don't want to."

Startled by Davin's response, Levant stared at him and asked, "Don't you want Crystal Rose to cure Nina?"

"Don't you worry about that," Davin replied with a strange expression on his face, then glanced at Levant. "Compared to curing Nina, I think you should worry about your father. I'm certain Crystal Rose would never give up on her mission to seek revenge on Murphy."

Levant stayed quiet. Hmph. Revenge?

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Levant scoffed. "Don't you think the twist of events in my family is too ironic, considering the relationship between my family members? My father betrayed Crystal Rose, so she abandoned me. Then I hate her for doing that to me, while she hates my father. I don't accept her as my biological mother, yet she wants to kill my father. What a series of melodramatic plot twists! There's no love in this household, only hatred and vengeance!"

Davin stood off to the side and wondered if Levant would feel bad when he discovered Murphy's wicked intention to poison Crystal Rose to her death.

"Fine, I'll leave right now. Please take care of yourselves. This woman has no heart, so you can imagine what she'll do to you. After all, she was cruel enough to abandon her own son. Be wary of her imposing onerous terms on you in exchange for her help!"

You're mistaking Crystal Rose for a bad person. She did what she did for a painful reason. It must have been difficult for such a heavily poisoned woman to abandon you in an orphanage. I'm sure you'll find out the truth someday.

As Levant opened the door to leave the place, he bumped into a woman in white, who was standing outside the door and glaring at him.

"Get the hell out of my way!"

"Are you leaving?"

"Yes. Now get out of the way!"

"I have something to tell you."

"Did Crystal Rose send you? I'm not interested in what she has to say. I'm not interested in hearing any of it!"

Suddenly, the woman in white let out a burst of laughter. "Are you really not interested? Or are you just too afraid to hear it?"

"I simply don't give a d\*mn about the lies she made up to defend herself!"

"She's your mother. Aren't you curious why she abandoned you and came to Nepenthe Valley? Don't you want to know how she became Crystal Rose?"

"I don't care!"

"Even so, you must listen to her story before you leave. After that, you're free to go. If not, you will regret it for the rest of your life," advised the woman in white.

She then started narrating Crystal Rose's story to Levant, "If Crystal Rose hadn't been fatally poisoned, she would never have had the heart to hand you over to an orphanage. The orphanage's dean was her best friend, and she gave the dean her entire life savings just to ensure you were going to be well-taken care of. She expected she only had a few days left before she met her end.

"She was fortunate, however, to come across Scarlet Witch, Nepenthe Valley's former Lady of the Valley, who then cured her of the lethal poison. Scarlet Witch also demanded that Crystal Rose agree to some harsh terms. Crystal Rose would have passed away if it hadn't been for Scarlet Witch's intervention."

Never in a million years would Levant have expected to hear this explanation. Crystal Rose was poisoned back then?

"Was she really poisoned? How did she get poisoned?"

"Who do you think would poison her at Wicked Palace?"

Levant was speechless. Did someone poison her? Was it Murphy who did that? Why didn't he mention anything about it when we were on the phone earlier?

Levant's face fell. He couldn't believe what he was hearing.

"She would've gone and sought revenge on Murphy if it hadn't been for Scarlet Witch's cure and the establishment of those harsh terms."

Speechless and appalled, Levant was stunned for a short while before he turned around and went back inside the house. Next, he contacted Murphy on the phone.

This was a serious matter, and Levant wished to know the truth immediately.

Finally, the call was answered.

"What's the matter?"

"Did you poison Jordyn back then?" Levant didn't bother to beat around the bush.

Murphy was puzzled. "Hold on a second, Levant. What are you talking about? Are you accusing me of poisoning her?"

"That's right. What kind of poison did you use on her?"

"You... Where did you even hear that from? This is such a ridiculous accusation!"

"So you're telling me you didn't do it?"

"Of course not! Did Crystal Rose tell you about this, Levant? Is she with you right now? Pass her the phone and let me talk to her for a second. I'll ask her when exactly I poisoned her!"

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Levant was stunned for a moment and went to look for Crystal Rose with his phone. She had said she was poisoned, but Murphy refused to admit it. Hence, he decided to let them confront each other to see if there was really such an incident.

Initially, Crystal Rose was puzzled when she saw him walking in. Before she could ask anything, he handed the phone to her and inquired, "Did he poison you back then?"

Once he finished his question, they heard Murphy's voice from the other end of the phone. "I didn't poison her..."

After so many years, she still could not help trembling the moment she heard that accursed voice that kept reverberating in her mind.

Immediately, she took the phone and cursed while gritting her teeth, "Murphy, you scoundrel! I gave birth to two children for you, but you were in an illicit relationship with Portia and were found out by me. Worried that I might hurt her, you poisoned me and wanted to kill me. What a brutal and heartless man! You should die a painful death!"

"Jordyn, what are you talking about? When did I poison you? Back then, Portia and I were drunk. I explained it to you, but you didn't trust me and insisted on running away from home. Why are you saying that I poisoned you? No such thing happened!"

Hearing that, Jordyn was rendered speechless and sneered. "You won't admit it? Too afraid to own up? What a coward!"

"I'll definitely admit it if I did it, but you can't wrongly accuse me of something I didn't do."

"I wrongly accused you? Back then, I was poisoned by Scelerus. If I hadn't met the Scarlet Witch, I would be dead. It took three years for the poison to be completely removed from my body. Thank God that I'm still alive and have the opportunity to settle the score with you! Just you wait, Murphy! I'll kill you one day!"

Murphy was taken aback when he heard what she said.

Scelerus? It's indeed a type of poison from Wicked Palace, and it doesn't sound like she's making things up. Could it be that she was really poisoned back then? But I didn't poison her! What the hell is going on?

"Why aren't you saying anything? It's because you can't refute me, can you? You won't get away with this! I'll claim your life soon!"

Jordyn handed the phone to Levant with a shaking hand after she finished speaking.

She was emotionally unstable, and if Murphy was in front of her right now, she would definitely do her best to kill him at all costs.

Seeing her distress, Levant was convinced that she was not spouting nonsense. She truly had been poisoned back then.

Shortly afterward, he glanced at the phone, saw that it was still connected, and stated, "Dad, I didn't expect you to do such a thing. You actually poisoned a woman, the woman who gave birth to two children for you. You're too ruthless!"

"Levant, I didn't poison her. Jordyn, even if you were really poisoned, it wasn't me. I know nothing about it. If you hadn't brought it up today, I wouldn't have known about it."

Upon hearing that, Crystal Rose blurted out emotionally, "Stop denying it! Who else knows where the poison is kept in Wicked Palace except you?"

Needless to say, Murphy found it strange as well. Who else could get their hands on Scelerus and poison my wife?

"Jordyn, Levant, I'll investigate this matter and give you an explanation."

"You'd better not be lying about the truth. Otherwise, I'll never forgive you!" enunciated Levant coldly before hanging up the phone.

Looking at him, Crystal Rose wanted to say something, but he left before she could utter a word.

"Levant! Levant, Le—"

At that moment, Levant felt conflicted. Before he found out what exactly happened, he had no idea how to face Crystal Rose.

He just wanted to be alone so he could clear up all these past incidents and figure out how to face each one of them.

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Meanwhile, on the other side of things, Davin told Evan everything, sparing no details. "Evan, I think Uncle Morris has gone too far. No matter what, he shouldn't have done that to his wife! Initially, Levant hated Crystal Rose. Now that he knew how Uncle Morris treated her back then and that she had her reasons for abandoning him, do you think he'll redirect his hatred to Uncle Morris?"

Having said that, he stared at Evan solemnly and inquired, "If Levant really hates Uncle Morris, will he help his mother, Crystal Rose, to kill Uncle Morris?"

Evan's gaze darkened at those words. If Murphy really did do such an unacceptable thing, he should be punished.

However, he knew Murphy pretty well. Although Murphy was hot-tempered and would sometimes use some despicable means to achieve his goals, he had his principles. He was not a cruel and heartless person.

"Let's go and check on Levant first. We'll call Uncle Morris to ask about the situation later."

"All right."

Then, both of them walked toward Levant's room. Coincidentally, Levant came back from outside and saw the two of them. Hiding away the gloomy expression on his face, he pretended to be calm and queried, "What's the matter?"

Davin scrutinized him from head to toe and frowned when he saw that Levant seemed calm and poised. "A-Are you okay?"

"Why wouldn't I be?" Levant tried to sound relaxed.

Being incredibly observant, Evan detected the hint of sadness in his eyes.

"Uncle Morris might not necessarily do such a thing. Everything might be a misunderstanding."

Hearing that, Levant snorted coldly. "Evan, do you think you're the only one who's smart and that others can't tell that there's a misunderstanding?"

Davin's eyes instantly lit up when he heard Levant's words. "Levant, does that mean you also think that Uncle Morris wouldn't do such a thing? I was worried that you would hate him and want to kill him."

"No matter what I'm going to do to him, that's my business. If you've nothing else to do, go and ask Crystal Rose to cure Nina. I'm tired of eating the vegetables from Nepenthe Valley. After Nina is cured, I'll leave with you."

Davin was puzzled as he thought that Levant would be reluctant to leave his mother, Crystal Rose. He had never imagined that Levant would want to leave in such a hurry.

However, Evan felt that the meaning behind Levant's words was that he was willing to get along with Crystal Rose now. After all, before this, the latter could not wait to leave immediately. Leaving with us after Nina is cured? I bet he just said that halfheartedly. By that time, he would probably be reluctant to leave his mother.



"It's good to know that you're fine. I'll go and check on Nina now. You can call me anytime, and I'll chat with you. Although your parents' love story has some twists and turns, I believe your relationship will be smooth sailing."

Smooth sailing? Davin, you're obviously rubbing salt on my wound. My love story is the same as my parents' love story, full of twists and turns! Likely, it'll never be smooth my whole life!

However, he did not want to argue with Davin and said impatiently, "Both of you can leave now. I think I should go and meet Crystal Rose. There are some things that I want to ask her."

"All right. Do you need me to accompany you?"

Levant ignored Davin and shot him a sharp glare before walking toward Crystal Rose's residence.

He was a little nervous when he knocked on the door. While he was standing alone in the open space, a lot of thoughts crossed his mind. Even though Crystal Rose had not abandoned him on purpose, he still had doubts and wanted to ask her some questions face to face.

Soon, Crystal Rose opened the door, and the moment she saw him, she was pleasantly surprised.

"Levant, come in!" Her voice was full of the tenderness of a mother.

When he entered the house and looked at the furnishings inside, he felt a sense of peace that he had never had before.

Moments later, she prepared tea for him and remarked, "This is my most prized tea. Try it and see if you like it."

## Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

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Levant accepted the teacup and took a whiff of the tea. It was fragrant and fresh. Then, he had a quick sip. Not only was the tea mellow and smooth, but the aftertaste was sweet too. It was indeed a good tea.

"It's pretty good."

Hearing his compliment, Crystal Rose grinned happily.

Never had she imagined that she would be able to see her son again, let alone make tea for him and listen to him saying that the tea was delicious.

“Levant, what do you want to eat? I’ll cook it for you.”

Meanwhile, Levant finished the tea and gently placed the teacup on the table. Lifting his head, he fixed his gaze on her and piped up, “I came here because I have some questions for you.”

“What is it?”

“How long did it take you to completely remove the poison from your body? When you were talking on the phone earlier, I vaguely heard that you used three years to get rid of it. Is that right?”

Crystal Rose let out a sigh at his question. Even though many years had passed since then, the detoxification process was so painful that it still haunted her to this day.

“Yes. There was no antidote for Scelerus. When Scarlet Witch tried to remove the poison from my body, she kept on experimenting and researching. You could say that I was her test subject. Fortunately, she succeeded, and because of that, I managed to survive.”

“Three years. Why didn’t you leave the valley and look for me after that? Since you hate Murphy so much, why didn’t you seek revenge against him all these years?”

As soon as he finished speaking, he stared at her face intently. Despite growing old, Crystal Rose still had a refined air about her. Upon closer inspection, he could see that his eyes and brows were somewhat similar to hers.

“It was because I lost my memory after I recovered. I forgot who I was, and I didn’t remember what happened before that. Scarlet Witch forbade everyone from telling me the truth. She told me that I was her descendant, and I had amnesia when I came here. She made up a lie so that I would learn the secret art of detoxification from her in peace. Two years ago, she tried a type of poison on herself, but it spread to her internal organs rapidly. There was no antidote to cure her. Before she died, she gave me medicine, and I suddenly remembered everything again. When I regained my memory, she made me swear that I would never leave Nepenthe Valley and forget all the resentments I had. It was her last wish. I know she did all that because she didn’t want me to live in hatred. She was also afraid that I would seek revenge against Murphy because if I failed, I might lose my life. Anyhow, I’m willing to believe that she made me lose my memory for my own good. Nevertheless, because of that, I failed to become a certifiable mother. I’m sorry!”

So that’s why. No wonder she asked Evan to kill Murphy for her when she was removing the poison from Nina’s body. It turns out that she can’t leave the valley.

"If you hadn't lost your memory, would you have come and find me?"

"Yes! I definitely would have," she answered confidently. After staying silent for a moment, she continued, "Levant, it's up to you what you choose to believe, but I would have definitely gone to look for you. I gave birth to you and Avril, and I can give up everything for the rest of my life. I only hope that both of you can live a peaceful life."

"Really? Then can you let go of your hatred toward Murphy?"

In an instant, Crystal Rose's expression darkened. She hated Murphy to the core.

Ever since she regained her memory, she felt a heart-wrenching pain whenever she recalled his betrayal and poisoning, as if someone was stabbing a sharp blade into her heart. It's so painful. How can I let go of that hatred?

"Levant, I'm willing to use my life to exchange for a peaceful life for both you and your sister, but I can't let go of my hatred for Murphy until I breathe my last. You don't know how it feels to be betrayed by the person you love. I hope you can understand. If he didn't hurt me that much, how could I have such unquenchable hatred for him?"