

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

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Davin was still denying everything. “No! What are you blabbering about? I don’t get you at all.”

“I don’t care whether you get me. When it comes to searching for Crystal Rose, you can forget about being a part of the action,” Kyle said before he left.

Davin was very surprised. Kyle had clearly been tricked into staying on in the office to handle the problem. How did he suspect that I was the mastermind after spending merely half a day in the office?

This kid is really not easy to deal with!

No, I definitely cannot allow Kyle to go to Nepenthe Valley to search for Crystal Rose! I have to convince him! He then quickly followed after Kyle. “Kyle, listen to me...”

Kyle just walked away and seemed to completely ignore Davin’s shouts.

Did that brat really not hear me? He is completely ignoring me!

Davin was getting anxious. “What’s wrong with you, Kyle? We didn’t get along when you were young, and you are still behaving like this now that you have grown up? Not only did you eavesdrop, you just barged into my room like this! How much ruder can you be?”

Kyle stopped in his tracks and glared at him. “If I’m rude, what about you when you left the company in that mess? Were you polite? Where are your principles? Where is your...”

Upbringing. This word was stuck in Kyle’s throat when he saw Sophia walking down the stairs.

It did not seem like a good idea to tell his uncle that he lacked upbringing in his grandmother’s presence. She probably would not be happy to hear that.

“Kai, I’m your uncle. You can’t speak to me like that.”

Kyle sniggered. “I don’t want to speak to you like that either. I have always been like that since I was young and you should have gotten used to it by now.”

Davin frowned and spoke to him seriously, "I can still ignore the fact that you spoke to me like that when you were a child, but you are a grown-up now. You can't speak to me like this and neither should you go against my orders."

Kyle looked conflicted. "You can't do that. We have never gotten along so why are you forcing it?"

This little brat, how dare he speak like that?

"Fine, just leave the search of Crystal Rose to me. In the meantime, you take care of Seet Group and don't disappoint your daddy when he comes back."

"It's very difficult to locate Crystal Rose. I am afraid that you may not have the intelligence for it."

Looking indignant, Davin said, "How dare you look down on me? In order to prove my ability, I have to go on this mission."

Kyle sized him up and sniggered confidently, "Pfft, it'd be a miracle if you can survive the trip!"

"Why? Are you planning to tie me up and stop me from going?"

Kyle fell silent for a while before nodding his head meaningfully, "Hmm, this could be an idea too..."

Davin continued arguing with him. Meanwhile, Sophia felt completely helpless at the sight of them fighting.

"Stop fighting, you two. What's the point? Nina is changing now and says she is heading out to meet someone. I don't think it is safe to let her go out on her own. Who is going to accompany her?"

Davin and Kyle exchanged glances before pointing at each other and saying simultaneously, "He can go!"

Sophia sighed. "Both of you will go with her!"

Both of us?

Together?

Davin was rather worried about Sophia's suggestion

"Mom, just get Kyle to go on his own. What if we get into an argument and can't keep an eye on Nina?"

Kyle cast him a sideways glance and said, "Oh, you don't have to worry about that at all. I will be focusing on our mission and I won't stoop to your level."

Davin was not happy to hear that. Does that mean that Kyle still wants to go with me?

“Davin, you should show a good example as an uncle since Kyle has said this. Stop being at odds with your nephew. This is a perfect opportunity and I think you two should go together.”

Sophia had just finished speaking when Nina appeared downstairs.

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Davin immediately greeted her. “Nina, who are meeting? You look so dressed up and pretty!”

Nina smiled and said gently, “I’m going to meet my teacher.”

“Teacher? Which teacher?”

“Mr. Sanders.”

From Nina’s shy look, Davin could already deduce who she was heading to meet. It must be Chris Sanders.

“Nina, we will go with you.”

Nina hesitated and said, “There is no need. I’ll be back before you know it.”

“In that case, do take care, Nina.”

As they watched Nina leave the living room, Davin and Kyle exchanged glances before tailing her immediately.

Nina sat in the car and could not stop rubbing her fingers together. What would it be like to meet Chris later?

She had replayed their reunion in her mind over and over again. In the meantime, she had constantly thought about ways to improve herself.

When she saw that they were arriving at the cafe, her phone suddenly rang.

It was Nicole.

Mommy?

Why would Mommy suddenly call me?

She picked up the call hesitatingly.

Then, a familiar gentle voice came from the other end of the line. "Nina, where are you?"

"Mommy, I-I came out for a coffee."

"Coffee? Don't drink it yet. Daddy and I are back and we just got home. He has gotten lots of gifts for you, so come back and see if you like them!"

Nina gripped her phone tightly as she found herself trembling.

How could it be so coincidental?

Aren't Mommy and Daddy only coming back in a few months' time? Why do they suddenly come back without warning?

"What's wrong, Nina? Why aren't you talking?"

"Mommy, can I come back a little later? I-I want to go and buy something."

Nina felt that her mother would definitely oppose it if she said that she was going to meet Chris. Therefore, it was easier to just lie.

"What are you buying?" Nicole asked her.

Before Nina could reply, Sophia spoke up for her.

"Nina has an appointment with her teacher Mr. Sanders, so don't rush her."

Nicole frowned. Mr. Sanders... Chris?

Didn't Nina already decide to cut all ties with him and to slowly forget about him? Why would she go and see him again out of the blue?

Apart from Nicole, Evan was feeling rather suspicious too.

He immediately took over Nicole's phone and commanded her sternly. "Nina, come home right now!"

Nina was taken aback. It was rare for Chris to be back and I am just meeting him for a coffee. It's not like we would be doing anything out of line. Daddy didn't need to react like this!

“Daddy, I’m about to reach the cafe. I’ll come back in half an hour, alright?” Nina begged.

“Nina, you should know very well that he is the last person that you should be seeing! Listen to Daddy and come home!”

Nina was caught in a dilemma.

“Evan, you don’t have to rush her. Davin and Kai are following her and they will protect her secretly!”

Sophia’s attempt to mitigate the situation infuriated Evan immediately.

Kyle and Evan are following her?

Fine, Kyle did not know anything about Chris and Nina. However, Davin knew everything that had taken place between the two of them. How could he still allow Nina to see him?

This is so utterly disappointing!

Evan hung up and immediately called Davin.

Davin picked up the call and asked casually, “Evan, what a surprise! Are you having fun with Nicole? You look like you are having such a good time! When I have the time, I’ll bring Sheila for a vacation too...”

“Bring Nina back to Imperial Garden immediately! Otherwise, I’ll break your leg when I see you!”

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Evan instructed him coldly while Davin was completely taken aback.

Why did Evan suddenly make this request? How did he know that Nina was not at Imperial Garden?

“Evan, there is good reason for Nina to be out. Just enjoy your trip and don’t worry about things at home. I’ll make sure that everything is alright!”

“I’ll be waiting at Imperial Garden. If I don’t see the safe return of my daughter within the next twenty minutes, you will bear the consequences, Davin Seet!”

Imperial Garden?

Evan is at Imperial Garden?

He turned to Kyle and said, "Y-your daddy is home?"

Kyle was surprised too. "Why would Daddy suddenly come back?"

Davin sighed. "Your daddy has really given us a surprise this time! Oh, I don't think we can hide Nina's incident from him. Let's just bring Nina back before discussing any further."

With that, Davin sped up to chase the car Nina was in. With a swift and skillful drift, he stopped the car from going further.

When the driver saw that it was Davin blocking his way, he immediately alighted from the car to greet him.

"Mr. Seet, do you have any instructions for me?"

"Turn back to Imperial Garden. Mr. Evan is back. Send Ms. Nina home now."

When Nina heard that, she alighted from the car and begged Davin to allow her to see Chris. "Uncle Davin, I promise that nothing will happen. I am only going there to meet him briefly. He is waiting for me right now."

"Nina, it's not that I don't want to help you, but your daddy has commanded me to bring you back. Don't worry, as long as he knows the truth, he will agree to let you two meet. Chris won't head back to K Nation so soon since he deliberately made this trip to see you. If he doesn't see you, he will definitely not leave. The most important thing now is to rush back to Imperial Garden to explain everything to your daddy."

"Uncle Davin, he is waiting for me."

"Nina, listen to me. If he doesn't see you, he will keep on waiting. The most urgent thing now is to go and see your daddy. Come on!"

Nina had no choice but to call Chris and return to Imperial Garden.

The moment they entered the living room, they saw Evan sitting cross-legged on the brown couch. He glared at them resentfully with a frosty face.

"Evan, we are back."

Davin stared straight into Evan's chilly eyes and his heartbeat started racing.

Evan is looking at me as if I have kidnapped his daughter! There was a reason why Nina went to see Chris. Should she explain herself quickly?

Nicole walked up to Nina and looked at her from head to toe. "Nina, you look rather pale. Are you ill?"

Nina shook her head. "Mommy, I'm fine. It's just that I get tired easily lately."

Nicole caressed her face gently. "Come and sit here." She then turned her gaze on Kyle. Since Kyle began school, it has been a good number of years since she had seen him.

"Kai, you have grown so tall. You are looking more like your daddy now."

"Mommy, you've lost weight."

Kyle looked at Nicole with tears brimming in his eyes. Throughout all these years of separation, he had imagined this reunion with his mother more than once.

Now that it was really happening, he did not know what to say.

"Mommy is fine, it's just that this pregnancy is affecting me quite badly. I'll be fine after a while."

From the side, Davin could not help but ask, "Nicole, why did you and Evan come back suddenly? Weren't you supposed to come back only after a few months?"

Nicole was about to reply him but Evan interrupted her. "We knew that you'd be up to no good, so we rushed back!"

Me... up to no good?

Stop jumping to conclusions, Evan! You don't even know what is going on here!

"Evan, I've something to tell you. Let's go to the study."

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"Sure. I have a bone to pick with you too!"

Davin pursed his lips. I haven't had it easy all this while either. Were all my efforts for naught? Instead of praising me, the first thing he says is that he has a score to settle with me. Is he even my brother?

As the two men got up and headed to the study room, Kyle and Nina sat next to Nicole and listened to her recount her experience during the trip.

Although Kyle was all ears, Nina was clearly distracted. She was too preoccupied with her thoughts about Chris. I wonder what he'll think when I don't show up?

Over in the study room, Davin told Evan everything that had happened while he was away.

By the time Davin stopped talking, Evan's expression had turned unusually grave.

"Why didn't you tell me all this earlier?" Evan demanded.

Davin hurried to explain. "I was going to tell you, but Kyle wanted you and Nicole to have a good time. He's such a considerate child. He was afraid that if we told you, Nicole would worry, thus affecting her health and her pregnancy. Anyway, you came back at the right time. There's a serious problem we need to resolve. In order to heal Nina, we'll need Resurrecting Herb from Wicked Hill and Exquisite Flower from Jade Hill. Oh, and also Crystal Rose from Nepenthe Valley. I was able to find some information about the first two ingredients, but I'm afraid it won't be that easy to obtain Crystal Rose. I couldn't find out anything about it."

"Crystal Rose?" Evan echoed, falling into deep thought.

Why does that name ring a bell? However, I vaguely recall that Crystal Rose was someone's name, not the name of an herb!

He frowned as he pondered the matter.

Seeing that Evan remained silent, Davin cleared his throat and said, "We only thought to let Nina meet with Chris because of her condition. We want her to live every day to the fullest in the time that she has left. That's why we thought about letting Chris come over to accompany her.

Besides, Chris really does like Nina. There's no denying that he used her in the past, but now...he really has fallen for her. When Nina went to meet him in K Nation, he was protective of her and did not allow her to help him. As a result, he suffered a crushing defeat in the power struggle with his sisters."

Evan snapped out of his thoughts and shot Davin with a piercing gaze. "Nina is only sixteen years old. It's still too early for her to be involved in a romantic relationship. Right now, we should be directing all our attention to finding a way to cure her!"

"That's a given. But, it wouldn't hurt to make Nina happy, even if it's just for a day. We just wanted to help," Davin muttered.

"That was your mentality when you dated Renee, wasn't it? And how did that turn out? She still hasn't gotten married yet!" Evan retorted.

Davin's face darkened at the mention of his heart-wrenching past.

That relationship with Renee... It did end up hurting her. It was an immature relationship, and there were many irreversible regrets. Such as how Renee will never be able to conceive again. Is Evan saying all this because he's worried that Nina will suffer the same fate?

"I understand your concerns, Evan. I won't meddle in Nina and Chris' affairs," Davin finally said.

Evan looked at him and continued solemnly, "At her age, Nina isn't able to consider all aspects thoroughly. As her uncle, you shouldn't be egging her on. Regardless of the situation, that's something you shouldn't do!"

Davin let out an imperceptible sigh without saying anything. Perhaps I shouldn't have listened to Sheep. It was a waste of time.

Then, he piped up, "But Chris is in K Nation already. I'm afraid Nina won't let it rest until she meets him at least once."

After a moment's silence, Evan replied firmly, "You don't have to bother about that anymore. Oh, and don't let Nicole know about Nina's poisoning for now."

"All right. Nina doesn't suspect a thing. She thinks she has been feeling weak recently because she's sick. She has no idea it's because she has been poisoned. Nicole is pregnant, so it's best if she doesn't know either. Don't worry. I won't say anything."

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"That's good. I'll look into the Crystal Rose matter myself. You and Kyle don't have to worry about it. The both of you should just focus on taking care of the company and doing what you should do."

With that, Evan kicked Davin out of the study room and told him to send up Kyle.

When Kyle heard that Evan wanted to talk to him, he hurried upstairs immediately.

"You were looking for me?" Kyle said as he entered the study room.

Evan gazed at his elegant, poised, and confident son. His eyes lit up, and he looked pleased. "You're all grown up now, Kai."

"I was incompetent. Nina fell for Monica's trick because I didn't protect her well," Kyle lamented.

"That's not your fault! I already know what happened. I didn't call you up here to hear you blame yourself. The most pressing matter now is to gather all the required ingredients for the antidote so that we can heal Nina."

"I've sent the Hidden Masters to look for Resurrecting Herb and Exquisite Flower. As for Crystal Rose... I think it'll be difficult to find it. I sent someone to find out more about it, but there haven't been any updates so far. That's why I was thinking to make a trip to Nepenthe Valley to look for it," said Kyle.

"Are you sure that Crystal Rose is an herb and not someone's name?" Evan asked.

Kyle paused as he mulled over the possibility. Someone's name? If it really is a person's name, is it someone who can cure Nina? So, he thinks that Crystal Rose is someone who can use those two ingredients to cure Nina.

"Why would you think that? Do you know something?" Kyle asked.

"I seem to have heard of the name Crystal Rose before. Your mother is an acupuncturist. Maybe her mentor has heard of Crystal Rose before."

"Well, we'll have to ask her then," Kyle replied.

Evan nodded as he gazed at Kyle. "Leave it to me. You and Davin will be able to handle the company's affairs on your own, right?"

"That won't be a problem."

Although Kyle and Davin did not always see eye to eye, Kyle knew that Evan already had a lot on his plate. Daddy has to investigate the Crystal Rose matter while worrying about Nina's condition and taking care of Mommy. It doesn't matter if I have any disagreements with Uncle Davin about the company's affairs. I don't want to cause more trouble for him. Moreover, Uncle Davin teamed up with the company's board members to stop me from going to Nepenthe Valley and risking my life. So, I suppose Uncle Davin can be considered a good uncle! Because of that, I won't make things too difficult for Uncle Davin. I'll just argue with him occasionally like how I used to. I don't mind managing the company with him.

As Evan came out of the study room, he saw Nicole walking Nina back to her bedroom. The sight of Nina's frail figure sent a pang shooting through his heart.

"You've gotten so much thinner, Nina. Just let Maya know what you feel like eating so that she can prepare it for you," said Nicole.

"I will. Maya took good care of me when you weren't around. She kept making delicious food for me. But I just don't know what's wrong with me. I get tired so easily," Nina answered.

Nicole sighed. She thought that Nina's condition was because her lovesickness had worsened and morphed into depression.

When they were downstairs earlier, Nina had even asked Nicole whether she could go and meet Chris.

After giving it some thought, Nicole had told Nina that she would invite Chris to the house.

Nina had not said much after that.

"I'm tired. I'm going to take a nap," said Nina.

"Okay," Nicole replied. After watching Nina enter her bedroom and close the door, she turned around and saw Evan approaching her.

"I promised Nina that I'd invite Chris over," said Nicole, her voice faltering. She could not help sneaking a peek to see how Evan would take the news.

Evan knitted his brows. "I don't think there's a need for that."

"But Nina really wants to see him. Look at how thin she has gotten. Can you bear to see her suffer even more from being lovesick?"

Evan's expression was glacial, and he did not answer her. She's not feeling well because she has been poisoned. It has nothing to do with Chris. However, I can't let Nicole know about that. It looks like I need to do something about this!

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"Nicole, your priority now should be to get lots of rest and spend time with Maya and the others. I'll take care of this," Evan replied reassuringly.

"How are you going to take care of it?" Nicole pressed. She was worried that Evan would deliberately make things difficult for Chris, which would cause Nina to become even more depressed and ultimately create an even bigger mess.

"Nina is my daughter. I know how to take care of this in a way that will be best for her. Trust me." Evan spoke in a gentle tone, and his expression was serious.

Despite his assurances, a look of apprehension flashed across Nicole's eyes.

Evan reached out and stroked her pregnant belly. "Look at you. You worry about everything. All you need to do is take care of yourself so that you can give birth to a healthy baby."

With that, he pulled Nicole into his arms and was about to head to their bedroom when he heard Davin's frantic cries from downstairs.

"Mom! Mom, hurry up and come over here! Quickly!"

His cries alarmed everyone in Imperial Garden. Wondering what on earth had happened, everyone rushed downstairs to the living room.

"What's the matter, Davin? What happened?" Sophia asked anxiously.

Brimming with excitement, Davin showed Sophia the pregnancy test kit. "Mom, look! Sheila is pregnant! I'm going to have a child too! I'm going to be a dad!"

"Really?" Sophia's delight was evident on her face as she stared at the two clear, red lines on the pregnancy test kit.

She burst into joyful laughter and clasped her hands together, murmuring a sincere prayer. "Dear God, please watch over both of my daughters-in-law. I pray for safe deliveries so that they may bear healthy children. Please keep them safe..."

"That's amazing news! Congratulations, Davin and Sheila!"

Davin turned around and looked at Nicole. "This is a double blessing. Our child will be around the same age as the baby you're carrying, so they'll be able to play together."

"You're right! I'm sure it'll be very lively and fun then! I wish they could be born right now!" Sophia exclaimed.

"Right now? Mom, don't you think you're in too much of a hurry!"

"I've been longing to babysit your children, so of course I'm impatient," Sophia replied promptly.

Sheila bounded down the stairs happily, beaming from ear to ear.

Seeing that, Sophia warned hurriedly, "Oh, dear. Sheila, you can't jump around like that anymore. You're pregnant now, so you have to walk slowly and carefully."

"That's true, Sheep. If something happens to my son, I won't spare you!"

As soon as the words left Davin's mouth, Sophia glared at him and punched him. Davin rubbed his aching arm and asked with an aggrieved expression, "Why did you hit me?"

"Don't you know any better? Since Sheila is pregnant, you should say nice and positive things!"

Davin stared at her speechlessly for a moment. "I was just being honest. You saw her earlier. She's acting nothing like how a pregnant woman should."

Sheila's face darkened when she heard that. So, he thinks I don't act like a pregnant woman, eh? Fine. I'll show him what a pregnant woman can be like. That'll teach him a lesson, and I'll get to have some fun at the same time.

"Davin, I think what you said makes sense. I'm a pregnant woman now, so I should be extra careful. Come over here. Help me to the kitchen to look for something to eat," said Sheila.

Davin frowned. She wants me to help her to the kitchen?

"You were leaping around like a monkey moments ago, but now you want me to help you to the kitchen? You're trying to be a drama queen, aren't you? Uh-uh, I'm not helping you walk there. You're just in the early stages of the pregnancy."

Sheila replied smoothly, "That doesn't matter. It still makes me a pregnant woman. Didn't you say I should act more like a pregnant woman? Is it too much for me to ask you to help me walk to the kitchen?"

Davin was quiet as he racked his brains for a comeback. Suddenly, Sophia punched his arm again.

"Mom! Why did you hit me again?"

"Sheila is pregnant with your child. Is it too much for her to ask you for help? Go on. Go and help her!"

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Davin gazed at Sophia's clenched fist wordlessly, then went over to Sheila reluctantly. Holding Sheila's arm, he helped her walk carefully toward the kitchen.

Sheila was pleased with David's reaction, but she was even more pleased with how Sophia had acted. She turned to Sophia and said, "Mom, I bought some jewelry a few days ago, and I think they'll suit you perfectly. I'll bring them over to your room later."

Davin pursed his lips. She bought the jewelry for her own mother, but now she's going to give it to Mom! Honestly, she's willing to do anything to get Mom on her side.

Sophia chuckled. "That's quite all right. I don't need any more jewelry, so you can keep it. I was thinking about getting someone over to make some maternity wear for you and Nicole."

"Thank you, Mom!" Nicole and Sheila chorused in unison.

"There's no need to thank me. A harmonious family is a prosperous family. As long as the both of you are happy and I can see my sons lead comfortable lives, that's enough for me."

Davin quickly interjected, "Well, I'm not happy with how you dote on Sheep so much. It's as if she's your daughter and I'm just your son-in-law."

Sophia smiled and teased, "Have you only realized it now? You've always just been my son-in-law."

Davin was flabbergasted. My goodness! I can't believe that someone would actually choose her daughter-in-law over her own son. Anything can happen in this world! I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes!

The stunned and confused look on Davin's face caused the others to burst into laughter.

Nicole gazed at Sophia admiringly. Not only does she understand the concept of how a harmonious family makes a prosperous family, but she also knows how to make it a reality. She must be the most intelligent woman ever! I hope I'll be as wise of a mother-in-law as her after Kyle and Juan are married.

When they were in the privacy of their bedroom, Evan asked Nicole whether she had ever heard of Crystal Rose.

"Crystal Rose?"

Nicole thought for a long time before looking up at Evan. "I remember Wesley mentioning that name before. I think she's highly skilled at healing someone who's been poisoned. Why do you ask?"

So it seems that my vague memory was correct. Crystal Rose is a person's name.

"Oh, I heard some people mention her and was just curious. Is she able to heal people from all types of poisons?" Evan asked.

"I'm not too sure. I've heard people say that her poison healing technique is unrivaled and that she can cure one of any poison. However, I don't know the details. Wesley seems to know her, but he never mentioned her much. They've probably just exchanged a few pleasantries and such."

"Oh... Well, if he hardly mentioned her, then let's forget about it. You should get some rest. I still have some things to do," Evan replied.

Once he was in the study room, Evan sent Draven to find out who Crystal Rose was.

The following morning, Draven came back with more information.

“Crystal Rose is a strange woman. She can heal one of any poison, but I’m afraid it won’t be easy to get her to heal Ms. Nina,” Draven reported.

“Why do you say so?” Evan queried.

Draven explained, “I heard that doesn’t just agree to heal anyone. Those who want to seek for her help have to fulfill three conditions.”

“What are the conditions?”

“Since Crystal Rose is a woman, her first condition is that the person seeking for her help must be a woman as well. She only heals women.”

Evan was relieved. Well, Nina fulfills that condition.

“What’s the second condition?”

Draven continued, “The second condition involves three tests she has devised. For every test one passes successfully, she’ll heal that person by thirty percent. Once one passes all three tests, they’ll be ninety percent healed.”

“So, one will only be completely healed if they fulfill the third condition?”