

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo Chapter 1616

Chapter 1616 I Wish To See Her

Nicole wondered if Juan had agreed to it willingly or was reluctant about it.

“Yes, he agreed. He suddenly understood in the face of death and agreed willingly!” Evan explained to dismiss Nicole’s concerns.

“Really? That’s wonderful! Once Nina’s matter is resolved, I’ll go with you to make sure that he fulfills his promise,” Nicole said.

“Sure!” Evan answered.

As the temperature rose in the bathroom, Evan and Nicole clung to each other, enjoying the wonderful night with each other’s company.

The following morning, Evan woke up and immediately called the group assigned to protect Rose to ask about her situation.

Draven answered his call and said, “Mr. Seet, Rose stayed in her room the whole night and did not come out. I assure you that she is safe and sound.”

“That’s good. You must make sure that she is safe!” Evan replied and proceeded to give further instructions. “You should find a way to confirm whether Rose is Nina.”

“Yes, Mr. Seet! Should we try to get a few strands of her hair for you to carry out a DNA test?” Draven suggested.

Evan remained silent for a moment and answered, “It doesn’t have to be that troublesome. I have something with me which you can give to Rose when there is no one else around. See whether she accepts it. You don’t have to say anything!”

“What is it?” Draven asked.

Evan did not answer his question but instructed, “You can come here to collect it later.”

“Yes, Mr. Seet!” Draven answered.

After ending the call, Evan took out a necklace and an earring. Murphy had fished these out of a river and gave them to Evan.

These are Nina’s. Draven only has to give the necklace and earring to her. He doesn’t even have to say anything. If she accepts them, we will know the truth without saying anything.

Soon, Draven came to collect the items.

Nicole was worried whenever she thought about Nina. “Evan, I can’t stop thinking about Nina. Even though I know that she is safe and that we have agreed to let her avenge herself, I’m still worried. I wish to see her. Can I sneak a glance? I’ll make sure that she doesn’t see me.”

Evan understood Nicole’s concern for Nina. She had not seen Nina for a long time, so it was understandable that she was worried.

It pained Evan to see Nicole like this. Therefore, he considered for a moment and said, “Sure. I’ll go with you to see her. However, we have to see her in secret. If we meet with her openly, it will ruin her plan for revenge. She has disguised herself for the sake of this plan. Furthermore, she will never admit that she is Nina even if we meet her.”

Nicole recalled Nina’s usual appearance. According to Evan, Nina now looked strange in her outlandish get-up. She could not resist comparing the two and sighed sadly.

Nina put all her effort into avenging herself. I wonder what her grudge is. What wrong did she suffer?

“Don’t worry about it. I’ll pretend not to know her so that I don’t ruin her plan! I’ll look at her from afar. All I want is to see her,” Nicole said.

“Good. She will be at the bar tonight, so I’ll bring you there. Since the bar will be crowded and noisy, I don’t think anyone will notice us. We won’t cause her trouble,” Evan explained.

“All right. I’ll go with you tonight.” Nicole looked forward to seeing Nina.

After the discussion, Evan waited for Nicole to change her clothes, and they headed to the estate together.

The estate was where Nicole’s father lived. They always visited him whenever they came to K Nation. They would have dropped by much earlier if they had not been rushing to search for Nina.

The moment they entered the living room, they saw the duke having tea. He did not seem surprised to see them at all. It seemed that he was expecting them.

“Dad!” Nicole greeted him affectionately.

“Dad, how have you been?” Evan asked with concern.

Nicole’s father looked at them and said, “I’m well. I’ve been expecting both of you. Please sit down.”

“How do you know that we are in K Nation?” Nicole asked.

“I heard about it from Juan and Kyle when they called me. They are very thoughtful. They asked about my health and inquired about Nina. They also mentioned both of you,” the elderly man answered.

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Chapter 1617 She Has Passed Away

“They were worried when they didn’t hear anything about Nina, and they thought that you and Evan would be devastated if you two knew about it. Thus, they called me, hoping that I could give them some information.”

“I did not expect them to be this caring and concerned about us,” Nicole said. Hearing that, her father said, “Yes, they are both good kids with great potential. I think Kyle will have no problem managing Seet Group. Juan can choose to help him or do what he wants. Whatever he is interested in, he will excel in it.”

Nicole glanced at Evan and said, “I don’t care about that. He is not a kid anymore, so he should marry and have children soon. My three other children are all seeing someone. Only Juan remained single.”

After that, Nicole took a sip of the tea. She complimented the tea, saying that it tasted good and was fragrant.

She then put the cup on the table and turned to her father. “Dad, why are you looking at me like this? Do I have something on my face? Or do you think that I’ve grown thinner? I’ve been busy at the hospital lately. Furthermore, I’ve been worried about Nina and haven’t had much appetite or sleep. Perhaps I have lost some weight.”

Her father did not take up what she said. Instead, he sighed and looked at her with confusion. “Why do you rush Juan to marry and have children? You can’t force love. Why rush him when he hasn’t met the right person? Marriage is a lifelong matter. You must let him marry someone he loves so that he won’t regret it.”

He then paused for a moment before continuing, “In the past, your mother and I... I could not choose to marry the one I love. That is why my relationship with your mother is filled with regrets. Nicole, this is my advice to you. Do not force him to marry. I think Juan will do well in life. Who knows, he might find a woman he loves and marry her. If you force him to get married too soon, you might ruin his chance of happiness. You could ruin his life forever! Being forced to marry someone does not lead to happiness. How will you be happy if you see Juan unhappy in his marriage? Therefore, you might as well let him marry later and leave everything to fate!”

Upon hearing this, Evan became silent for a moment before nodding. "Dad, you're right. We won't force Juan if he is really against getting married. However, since he's a grown man now, we still hope that he will give marriage some consideration!"

"It's normal for parents to worry about their children. I'm glad you understand what I'm talking about. No one can force love! Anyway, let's not talk about Juan anymore. We should discuss Nina. Is there any news about her?" the duke said.

"Yes! Someone set Nina up, so she wants to avenge herself. We decided to let her walk her path. Since she wants to do this, we will let her. It's a chance for her to grow so that she can face any challenges in the future," Evan answered.

The duke poured more tea into their cups and said, "You have my support. Do you need me to do anything?"

"Dad, it's all right! We shouldn't interfere, since we have decided not to get in her way. Evan has already arranged for his men to protect her. She will be fine," Nicole said.

"That's good."

Nicole glanced around the large living room. She noticed that it was clean and tidy, but she could not see any servants.

Therefore, she asked curiously, "Where are the servants?"

"I hired workers to work on the two gardens at the backyard, so the servants are helping them. Do you need them for something?"

"No, Dad..." Nicole mumbled in reply.

Nicole's father looked at her puzzledly. Nicole was usually an easy-going person. Now, it seemed that something was bothering her. "Nicole, is something on your mind?"

"Dad, where is your wife, Portia?" Nicole had not seen her for a long time. She noticed that Portia did not show up even when her father was severely ill. Therefore, Nicole was curious.

The duke was silent for a moment before letting out a heavy sigh.

"What happened?" Nicole asked curiously.

"She... She has passed away!" her father answered.

"Passed away? When did it happen?" Nicole asked.

Nicole and Evan were shocked by the sudden news of Portia's death.

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Chapter 1618 Death And Burial

The duke did not rush to answer Nicole. Instead, he took a few sips of his tea before explaining the matter.

It turned out that Portia had been living with her family for the past two years. Three months ago, the duke had suddenly received news that she had drowned after falling into a lake.

At the same time, there were rumors that Portia was too bad-tempered and stubborn, leading to quarrels and disputes with her brother and sister-in-law. For that reason, she had become depressed and drowned herself in the lake.

Some also said that her brother and sister-in-law had done something to shame her. Portia had sacrificed herself for her family for years and finally realized that her sacrifices were in vain. And because of that, she had grown depressed and drowned herself in the lake. Moreover, the duke heard that Portia had a big row with her brother and sister-in-law before her death. The Ankins family was embarrassed by what had happened, so they kept everything to themselves.

Therefore, no one knew the truth behind Portia's drowning.

Although Evan and Nicole both disliked Portia, they were still a little sad to hear about her sudden passing.

It was disheartening to know someone died this way in her old age.

"Dad, where did they bury her?" Nicole asked.

Her father's expression immediately turned solemn. "The Ankins family reported her passing to me. We had divorced before her death. Seeing that we had lived together for many years, I bought her a burial plot."

"What? The Ankins family was not even willing to pay for her burial?" Nicole was shocked.

The duke sighed and said, "Yes, that is why I believe the rumors that she drowned herself because she had a hard time when staying with her family."

"Ha! If she could return from the dead, I wonder if she would regret all that she did before. She had done everything for the sake of her family. I heard that when she left, she even took away many things from the estate, including your saving and some jewelry..." Nicole said.

Nicole suddenly remembered Gillian Snow, a character in a novel by Camina Larson. After her divorce, Gillian received a substantial divorce settlement which she gave freely to her family. However, once her family finished spending her money, Gillian finally realized how heartless they were. They quickly turned on her and were cruel to her.

“I believe she regretted what she did before her death. Sometimes, it is hard for people to see the true nature of their loved ones until the end of their lives. That’s enough. Let’s not talk about Portia anymore. I want to speak to you on an important matter,” said the duke solemnly.

Nicole wondered what her father wanted to say.

“When I bought the grave site for Portia, I also considered myself. Nicole, when I’m dead, can you bury me with your mother? We were never able to get married while she was alive. Therefore, I wish to rest with her in death. That way, I can keep her company, and she will not be alone.”

Nicole could not help feeling sad when he mentioned her mother, Rosalie.

Mom had a tragic life. If she knew that Dad wanted to be buried with her, she would be happy, right?

“Dad, I understand, but you are still healthy. I’m sure that you can live for a few more decades, so you should not talk about this,” Nicole said.

“Still, I think it is better to discuss this with you earlier. You are my only child. Please bury me with your mother, and I’ll leave this estate to you. All I have will be yours,” her father said.

“Dad, I don’t want anything from you. Please live well. I firmly believe you shall live for a few more decades and reach a hundred years old!” Nicole insisted.

Right after she had spoken, she saw a woman walking in with dirt-covered hands.

“Oh, there’re guests?” the woman asked with a clear voice and stood watching them from nearby.

“Avril?” Nicole looked at her in surprise. She was Murphy’s daughter and Levant’s sister. She used to try to woo the duke.

Is she here to woo him again?

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“Yeah, I’m Avril! I was helping to plant the flowers at the back. You know, I did everything by myself that my hands were covered in mud! But I think it’s worth it! Just look at the blooming flowers! It feels great to stand there and smell the scent of these colorful flowers.”

She returned to Stephen’s side and smiled as she asked, “Why don’t you go ahead and see for yourself once you’re free? I’m sure you’re going to like it as well! In the future, let’s put furniture in the garden, and we’ll have our afternoon tea there. We can watch the flowers and then the sunset. It’ll surely be one of the most enjoyable things to do in life.”

Nicole and Evan exchanged glances in silence as they were confused by the duo’s relationship. They wondered if Stephen had accepted Avril’s feelings.

Meanwhile, helplessness was written all over Stephen’s face. “You dismissed the gardener I hired and insisted on tending the garden for me. I don’t even know how I should thank you. How about this? Let me know what you need, and I’ll give it to you. Think of it as your compensation.”

Staring at Avril in the eyes, he started naming a variety of luxurious brands, asking her to choose whatever she wanted so that he could return the favor for her service.

Yet, Avril rejected him outright with a heartbroken expression on her face. “What do you mean by this? I haven’t spent the entire day sorting things out in the garden for something as superficial as those! All I want is to spend some quality time with you in the garden! I just wish to make your day! How could you bring up the suggestion to compensate me for my service? What am I? A maid or something?”

“No! I’m not treating you as a maid!” Stephen explained.

“Really? If that’s not the case, then what is it?”

“I think of you as a valuable guest of mine! It feels bad to have a guest sorting things out on my behalf.”

“A guest?”

To say Avril was surprised was an understatement.

I thought he would say I’m his family. Guest or maid are all the same—both are outsiders!

“Why aren’t you thinking of me as your family?” she demanded.

Stephen’s expression turned grim when he heard her question. In a serious tone, he said, “Avril, I’ve told you this repeatedly—you should live your own life and seek your

own happiness. Stop wasting your time on me because Rosalie's the only one I love. Portia tried for years, yet I still didn't harbor feelings for her. Therefore, stop wasting your efforts on me."

"No way! I'm not going to give up, and you can't chase me away! I'll still come over tomorrow and the day after that. Anyhow, I've taken care of everything in the garden. All that's left is for you to join me there for the session I have in mind. No one can sway me, not even my father, because he doesn't even care about me anymore! I get to do whatever I want. Just you wait!"

Having said that, Avril stalked out.

Nicole let out a sigh discreetly as she watched the woman's departing figure.

A few seconds later, she turned around and asked, "Dad, actually, it isn't a bad idea for someone to keep you company. Besides, Mom has passed away for so many years. Don't you feel lonely?"

"Nicole, I'm not alone because she lives on in my heart despite being away from us for so many years. It feels like she has never left because of the fond memories we've had throughout the years. On the contrary, I've never once listened to Avril seriously, even though she's such a chatterbox. Isn't it obvious that your mom's the only one I love?"

Stephen wrapped up his speech with a contented look, looking forward to the day when he reunited with Rosalie in the afterlife. After all, having lived till such an age, he knew that his days were numbered.

Nicole was at a loss for words because he turned out to be far more uxorious than she had thought.

What will Mom think if she knows about this? Would she be delighted?

Once she snapped out of her train of thought, she voiced, "Dad, I think Mom would want you to move on and live a blissful life without her!"

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Chapter 1620 Meeting Nina

"I'm living quite a blissful life as we speak! All right, let's put my matter aside. Are the two of you staying for dinner?"

Evan forestalled Nicole and replied, "We can't because there are a few projects that require our attention. We'll drop by and pay you another visit tomorrow."

"All right."

Even after leaving the estate, Nicole still looked evidently troubled.

Seeing that, Evan smiled and asked, "What's on your mind?"

"I'm wondering the reason Avril is so persistent in courting Dad."

After all, he has turned her down more than once. She knows her efforts are fruitless, yet she refuses to give up. What is she thinking about? Has she fallen deeply in love with him?

Instead of answering her question, he asked, "What about your father? Why is he so persistent in staying loyal to your mother?"

As Nicole went dead silent, he added, "Love has no reason. Everyone has someone they love, one they could never let go of. When it comes to any other things, efforts will pay off, but not romance."

"But you can't deny that sometimes, someone's effort does bear fruition in a relationship," she retorted.

"Are you sure the affection the couple has for one another is genuine if that's the case?"

Once Nicole recalled Levant and Tiffany's relationship, she remarked, "They could still spend their lives together even they don't love each other! If Dad's willing to accept Avril's feelings—"

"The proper terminology you're looking for is cohabiting. However, do you think it's possible when he has never once opened up to Portia in spite of her effort throughout the years? What makes you think Avril is different?"

Nicole thought Evan had a point. Thus, she made up her mind to talk some sense into Avril in order to stop her from wasting her time on her father.

Shortly after the meeting with their business partners from K Nation, Evan discussed with Nicole their upcoming agenda to see Nina at the bar in the evening.

He exhorted Nicole to only watch from the side. She was not allowed to talk to Nina for fear of causing trouble for their daughter.

Nicole responded with a nod, but her mind was all over the place as she wondered just how bizarre Nina's appearance was.

Still, she could not suppress the excitement of seeing her daughter in person and eagerly awaited nightfall.

In the evening, Evan brought her to Vamped.

“We’ll find an inconspicuous seat later. No matter what you see, you have to remain calm.”

“Don’t worry. I only wish to see Nina; I won’t do anything.”

Shortly after she reassured him, he signaled her to turn around.

Following his gaze, Nicole saw a young woman dressed in a revealing outfit and high heels.

On top of her smokey makeup, she had flamboyant hair. Even though it was not rainbow-colored as Nicole had dreamed, there were at least three different colors.

In short, the young woman was nothing similar to Nina in her memories.

Unable to believe that she was her daughter, Nicole asked, “Evan, are you sure she’s Nina?”

“I’m almost certain.”

With that, she swept her gaze across the young woman. Nina, your style change is crazy! Even when I’m standing before you, I can’t even bring myself to believe you’re my daughter!

The couple had their eyes glued to the young woman and saw her grabbing a seat at the bar and getting herself a glass of wine.

While swiveling the wineglass, she scrolled through her phone and made a call.

At that sight, Nicole asked, “Who is she calling?”

“Let’s not poke our nose into her business as long as she’s all right. She can do whatever she wants.”

Instead of replying to Evan, she fastened her gaze at their daughter for some time before asking, “How long is it going to take until she gets her revenge?”

The man pondered for a moment and answered, “Nina doesn’t like to drag things on. I’m sure it’ll only take her a few more days at most.”

“Once she gets her revenge, let’s take her away with us! I can’t watch her keep this act up!”