"You're the one they sent me?"

In a luxurious suite, Nicole Lane extended her hand and shoved the surprised man onto the bed.

The next thing he knew, she had straddled him.

Lifting her slender hand to pat the man's face, her eyes gleamed brightly with satisfaction as she cooed, "Well, you're quite easy on the eyes!"

The woman's breath reeked of alcohol, causing Evan Seet's features to contort with disgust.

There were plenty of women who tried to seduce him, but this was the first time he encountered one who used such a method.

It was practically unprecedented!

The woman's fair and slender arms were wrapped tightly around his neck as she leaned closer to him. "Kiss me!"

"Are you sure you wanna do this?" Evan avoided the woman's rosy lips and calmly asked.

"That's enough nonsense! Are you a real man?"

How can she still be asking this question at a time like this?

Evan narrowed his eyes a fraction before abruptly rolling them over. With a dark expression on his face, he stared at the woman beneath him.

"Am I a real man, you ask? You'll be sure to find out in a moment!"

"Ahh!"

In the next second, a searing pain tore through Nicole's body.

The next day.

Nicole woke up aching all over. The moment she opened her eyes, she took in the opulent design of the room she was in with a frown between her brows.

This is...

She sat up abruptly.

Right then, the heart-wrenching scenes from last night played in her mind like a movie.

That's right.

The night before, she had witnessed her beloved Zach tangled up in the sheets with another woman. Thus, out of spite, she had found herself a gigolo to retaliate against him.

"This is payback, you filthy scumbag!"

"What are you mumbling about?"

A deep and sexy baritone voice sounded from behind Nicole and startled her train of thoughts.

She lifted her head to see a man coming out of the bathroom with a towel wrapped around his waist, concealing his most treasured asset.

I have to admit. This man has an amazing figure. It's no surprise that he's a gigolo!

"Why haven't you left yet?" Nicole asked.

Evan's lips arched into a mocking smile. "Because I'm curious. Now that you've successfully seduced me, how do you plan on holding me responsible for you?"

In the past, all those women who approached him were always trying to hold him accountable for whatever deeds were done the night before. He had heard this phrase so many times that he could probably hear it in his sleep.

Yet, to his utter shock, this woman in front of him gave a response so different than the rest – Nicole gave him an eye roll. "Why the hell would I want a gigolo to take responsibility for me?"

With that said, she got dressed and swiftly took out one thousand in cash from her bag before pompously throwing the stack of banknotes onto the bed. "Here's your pay. Make sure you keep it well. Your service last night wasn't too shabby."

Evan's eyes darkened when he heard her words. Service?

Does this woman have a death wish?

As he was still seething with fury, Nicole was already making her way out.

"Stop right there!"

Evan gritted the words through his teeth with a dark and dangerous undertone in his voice.

At that moment, Nicole paused mid-step and glanced back at him with a strained smile. "Is that too little? Well, I'm sorry, but you're only worth that much!"

"You-"

"Anyway, I'll be leaving now. Ciao!"

She waved her hand and practically made a run for the exit. As Evan watched the door slam shut, the scowl on his face deepened.

"You're one dead meat, woman!"

• • •

Nine months later.

"Waaahh!"

The sound of multiple babies crying filled the operating room.

Looking at the little creatures waiting to be fed, Nicole started to panic a little.

This was her first time being a mother, and she had given birth to four babies at one go!

Just as she was racking her brain for a way to unlock her "supermom" abilities, an interview on the financial news channel caught her attention.

Nicole's eyes almost popped out of their sockets when she saw the handsome and lavishly-dressed man seated in the middle.

What the hell is this? Even gigolos can be on the financial news channel nowadays?

With a bewildered expression, she listened to the interviewer's question. "Mr. Seet, rumor has it that you've been searching for a particular person for a very long time, but to no avail. Could you enlighten us about this person? Our viewers may be able to provide you with some valuable information!"

Evan turned towards the camera, his gaze turning solemn. "I'm looking for a woman. She left some money with me, and I'd like to give it back to her – a hundredfold!"

A hundredfold!

The last two words were emphasized.

Following that, he also briefly described what the woman looked like.

Later on, he highlighted an important fact. "Even her family doesn't know where she is. Thus, whoever provides me useful clues, you shall be generously rewarded with an amount of no less than one million!"

One million... just to find me? Isn't this man being overly generous?

A heavy sense of foreboding clawed at Nicole's chest. After checking his background, her heart turned cold.

Crap! This man isn't a gigolo!

He's the president of Seet Group International - Evan Seet!

But I was so daft that I even called him a gigolo... Oh god, what have I done?

Looking at the man's icy face in the interview, Nicole shuddered involuntarily.

It'll be over for my babies and I if he finds me!

No, I can't let that happen. I must think of a way to prevent that from happening.

Sometime after the interview, Evan received a special gift.

His frosty eyes deepened as he looked at the gift in his arms – it was a baby swaddled in garments. With a puzzled expression, he asked, "This is?"

"Mr. Seet, this is the child born to the woman you were looking for. She died in a car crash and left only this child behind."

Five years later.

At Y City's airport.

Nicole's face was completely covered behind a pair of shades and a face mask. In fact, she was so wrapped up that she resembled a mummy.

She wondered whether the man who wanted to "give it back to her a hundredfold" had continued searching high and low for her over the past five years.

If it weren't to save a certain someone, she would never risk coming back.

She dragged her suitcase forward with a pounding heart, and her pace quickened the more she walked. Meanwhile, the three little ones behind her tagged along as they tried to match her pace with their stubby legs.

Suddenly, a high-pitched voice sounded loud and clear behind her, "Mommy, you're walking too fast. I'm getting hungry just trying to keep up! I feel like eating chocolate, cupcakes, French toast, and -"

"Shhh..." Nicole looked back and put a finger to her lips, afraid that they might attract too much attention – unwanted attention.

The voice belonged to a girl named Maya. She was Nicole's youngest child and a glutton through and through.

"Behave, Maya. Mommy will bring you to get some dessert later, okay?"

Maya's eyes lit up, and she nodded enthusiastically.

Standing beside her was Nina, who was a carbon copy of Maya. She shook her head in an adult-like manner and heaved a deep sigh. "If you keep eating this much, you'll become a fat pig! We should take care of our body, Maya."

Maya turned to glance unhappily at Nina. "Don't say it like you don't eat!"

"That's called tasting. I only have one bite!"

"One bite still counts!"

"No, it doesn't!"

"Yes, it does!"

"No, it doesn't! Tell her, Juan!"

Nina couldn't take it anymore and seek for her brother's help.

Abruptly being put in a tough spot, Juan scratched his head, unsure of what to do.

Since Nina and Maya were both his sisters, so he didn't know who he should help.

"I think... you're both right!"

Hearing his reply, both Nina and Maya rolled their eyes at Juan and harrumphed loudly before storming ahead.

"Alright, that's enough now, kids. Come on."

Nicole gently rubbed Juan's head, to which he nodded and trailed after her.

Among the three, Maya was the smallest in size. Fuming and stomping forward without looking where she was going, she accidentally bumped against a woman's leg and fell back onto the floor.

"What the hell? Are you blind?"

Maya looked up at the woman who looked like she wanted to bite her head off.

This lady is so fierce.

"Maya! Are you okay?"

Seeing her sister being knocked down, Nina rushed forward and helped Maya up. Then, she gave the woman a once-over.

Although the woman was very beautiful, she couldn't hold a candle to their mother.

Besides, Nina didn't like how rude she was, and it was clearly written all over her face.

"Why are you looking at me like that? Apologize!" The woman yelled at Nina.

"I'm sorry, ma'am!" Maya said in her cute voice and looked at the woman with large eyes that gleamed with sincerity.

Nina, on the other hand, gave her little sister a flat stare. What is Maya doing? Why did she apologize!

"You too! Apologize to me!" The woman ordered Nina in a superior tone.

However, Nina stared unflinchingly at her and stood there without saying a word.

"What's going on?"

"What's wrong?"

A man and a woman's voice sounded in unison.

One of the voices belonged to Nicole, while the other...

The other voice sounded rather familiar to Nicole, so she instinctively looked up, and her heart almost stopped. She hastily bowed her head, cursing vehemently in her heart.

It's that man from five years ago! Freakin' Evan Seet!

What a pathetically small world! I can't believe I ran into him the second I step foot in this country!

"Evan, this kid is plain rude. She won't apologize even after bumping into me. Just look at her..."

Evan tipped his chin down to glance at Nina. She was fair-skinned, and her clear eyes had a stubborn glint to them.

With her head still lowered, Nicole peeked at Evan, who was staring intently at Nina, all the while praying that he wouldn't perceive the similarities between Nina, Maya, and her.

God help me! Please!

She muttered a silent prayer under her breath.

Juan, who noticed how odd his mother was behaving, followed her line of sight and studied Evan with slightly narrowed eyes.

That's weird.

This man... kinda looks like me?

Juan's curiosity was piqued. He was about to walk forward to examine his lookalike more closely, but Nicole caught his arms before he could take a step. She then fished out a child-sized mask and hastily covered his little face with it.

My dear boy, please don't cause me any trouble!

If Evan sees your face... It'll all be over! You'll lose your beloved Mommy forever!

Even though Juan couldn't understand the intention behind his mother's actions, he didn't go any further. Hence, allowing Nicole to pull him tightly towards her.

"Is this your child?"

Evan's deep and magnetic voice almost caused Nicole to jump out of her skin.

She nodded stiffly but did not dare make a sound for fear that he would recognize her voice.

"You should discipline your child from a young age, or she'll grow up to become an uncivilized person!"

"Who are you to say that? This lady was the one who spoke rudely to Maya first! If she didn't go around bullying kids, I would've said sorry ages ago."

After that, Nina raised her chin and returned Evan's gaze without a trace of fear in her eyes.

"This child of yours is a feisty one, huh!" The young woman standing beside Evan gaped at Nina with a startled look on her face.

Evan's mouth lifted slightly around the edges. This little girl seems to be very well-spoken, and her headstrong personality reminds me of someone.

She reminds me of...

At that thought, he peered even closer at Nina's snowy-white face.

Then, he transferred his gaze to Maya.

Finally, his eyes fell upon Nicole, who was covered from head to toe.

These two children look so similar to that woman. Could their mother be...

Nicole looked up just then. When her gaze met with Evan's keen ones, her grip subconsciously tightened on Juan's clothes.

Evan's gaze deepened, and he strode towards Nicole. Every step he took filled her racing heart with dread.

Oh, God! What should I do?

What if this bastard insists on seeing my face?

She could hear her rapidly beating heart that was going to fly out of her chest any moment now.

Evan came to a stop right in front of her and fixed her a penetrating stare.

It's over. It's all over.

I'm done for!

"You-"

Evan was interrupted by Juan the moment he spoke.

"I need to pee. I can't hold it anymore. I need to pee."

Juan cutely tugged on Nicole's sleeve. Although he had no idea what was going on, he could feel his mother's anxiety.

Since Mommy is scared of this man, I'll help Mommy to get as far away as possible from him.

Nicole never expected Juan to be so quick-witted. She was taken aback for a split second but quickly altered her voice and said, "Alright. Mommy will bring you to the toilet."

With that, she hauled Juan away and fled as if her life depended on it.

Huh? What's going on?

Nina and Maya exchanged glances before hurrying after them.

Evan intended to go after them, but the woman, Sofie, called out to him.

"Forget about it, Evan. An apple doesn't fall too far from the tree. Seeing how uncultured the child is, I bet their mother isn't too far off either, so there's no need to try reasoning with people like them."

Evan glanced back at Sofie and recalled what Nina had said.

He then let out a humorless chuckle, and a sardonic smile appeared on his lips.

"Well, I don't think the child was being unreasonable. Also, she's not necessarily the uncultured one."

After he was done saying his piece, he lifted his foot and walked forward.

"What do you mean by that, Evan? You can't possibly believe a kid's words over mine, right? The two of us grew up together, so we're practically family!"

Family?

Even though the Sweeting family was close with the Seets, he had zero affection for the eldest daughter of the Sweeting family. If he didn't urgently need the valuable information they had on a certain person, he would never have agreed to pick her up from the airport.

With that, Evan completely turned a deaf ear to what Sofie said behind him as he opened the car door to slide in.

Sofie followed suit and hopped into the car while grumbling under her breath, "Evan, that woman was under layers and swaths of clothing. I have a feeling that she must be hiding some kind of secret, or maybe... she's a fugitive!"

"Drive!"

After dropping an order, Evan closed his eyes to relax, treating Sofie as if she was air.

Sofie was at a loss for words.

Seeing how unreceptive he was, Sofie angrily clamped her mouth shut, then switched to a topic she knew concerned him more.

"Kyle's illness..."

After a long pause, Evan replied in a low voice, "As long as we can find the miracle doctor, Dr. Tussaud, he will recover."

This Dr. Tussaud was widely known around the globe.

A few years ago, she had saved the Queen of S Nation, who was terminally ill, with only a few acupuncture needles. Since then, she had shot to fame all over the world. She was rumored to have legendary medical skills that had already reached a divine level.

There was a hint of smugness in Sofie's eyes. Only her father had information on this miracle doctor, so this information could serve as a bargaining chip to make Evan agree to whatever she wanted.

Perhaps she could become a part of the Seet family sooner than expected by using this to persuade Evan into marrying her.

This was also why her father, Anthony, urged her to return to the country.

"Don't worry, Evan. My father will definitely help you find that doctor."

"He'd better." Evan's eyes were ominous.

Kyle's illness cannot be left untreated any longer.

...

The Sweeting residence.

Evan, dressed in an expensive black custom-made suit, was lounging in the main seat of the semicircle leather sofa while drumming his fingers on the armrest.

Sofie's father, Anthony, was obviously the head of the Sweeting family, but sitting next to Evan made him break out in cold sweat.

"Mr. Sweeting, I've done as you requested. When are you planning to divulge the information you have on Tussaud?"

Anthony was a sly old fox. By using the information he had on Dr. Tussaud, he created an opportunity for Sofie to be together with Evan, albeit a slim one.

But if he disclosed the information so easily, he would then lose his chance to get Sofie married into the Seet family.

With that deep in thought, Anthony leisurely took a sip of his tea. "Well, about that. Let's give it some time, shall we? I've received news that this miracle doctor has returned to the country earlier than expected. I have already asked someone to find out about her schedule."

As soon as he finished his sentence, Evan pinned him with a look that could freeze.

His knuckles cracked as he balled his hands into fists. Was this sly old fox lying to me when he said he knew of her whereabouts?

Before Anthony could regain his bearings, Evan had already shot up from his seat and was now taking long strides towards the main door.

"Evan, where are you going?" Sofie frantically chased after him.

"I'll find Dr. Tussaud on my own, so rest assured, I won't be troubling the Sweeting family from now on."

How dare they toy with me!

At a dessert store called Fairy Tale Ice Cream Bar.

Maya stared wide-eyed at the desserts in front of her, practically drooling.

"Mommy, can I have the desserts now?"

"Go ahead!" Nicole could clearly see the eagerness in Maya's eyes.

As soon as she got her mother's permission, she immediately picked up the piece of chocolate cake and began devouring it.

"Hold your horses, Maya. Don't finish it all at once. Mommy will get a take-out box from the staff, and we'll pack the rest of the cake for later, okay?"

Maya nodded obediently, so Nicole got up with the remaining cakes in hand and went towards the front counter.

"Two pieces of cheesecake. Take-out, as usual."

Just then, a cold masculine voice came from behind her.

Why does this person's voice sound so much like that man's?

Out of curiosity, Nicole turned her head to see who was standing behind her. Lo-and-behold, she clashed gazes with Evan.

Time seemed to have come to a standstill right at that moment.

Nicole's expression instantly changed, and her heart started to hammer against her ribcage.

Could this day get any worse? I thought I'd just avoided a major catastrophe, but then I bump into him here again?

She quickly turned back and grabbed the take-out box while trying her best to remain composed as she walked away.

Did Evan Seet recognize me?

He obviously saw me!

If he really does recognize me...

No. Just to be safe, I won't go back to the three kids now lest I expose their identities!

Thus, she casually made her way to another empty table, packing up the remaining cakes before hastening out of the shop with her head bowed.

Thud!

Nicole ran into a rock-hard chest. She rubbed her head and looked up, only to be met with Evan's gorgeous face that could probably make heaven's weep.

"Still trying to run?"

His voice was bone-chilling as if it came from the depths of hell.

Frightened out of her mind, Nicole skirted around him.

He can't stay here. If the three kids come looking for me...

With this train of thought, she made a mad dash for the exit.

Evan's gaze darkened, and he quickly went after her.

She's running? So, it's really her!

Nicole panted as she ran. When she looked over her shoulder, she couldn't help herself from swearing like a trooper.

Why can't I seem to lose him? Gah! Is he even human? How is he so fast?

During the past few years of staying abroad, she was only given the opportunity to gain medical skills. No one taught her how to escape from a dire situation. If someone did, she wouldn't be running for her life right now!

"Ahhh!"

Suddenly, Nicole was pushed to the ground.

"It really is you!" Evan's demonic voice sounded from above her.

Nicole inhaled sharply from the pain and looked up to see Evan's glacial expression. She was slightly dazed, and an idea came up to her. Instantly, she schooled her features to show a look of confusion. Ah, I know! I'll just pretend to be clueless!

"Who ... Who are you?"

Evan frowned slightly before releasing a cold snort.

"I guess I'll just have to refresh your memory a little bit!"

With that, he hauled her up from the ground and mercilessly dragged her with him.

"H-Help! He's kidnapping me! This is sexual harassment! Help me-"

Nicole's screams for help were cut off when the back of her neck was suddenly karate-chopped. Instantly, her vision went dark, and she passed out immediately after.

Half an hour later.

"Ahhh!"

A bucket of ice-cold water was dumped onto Nicole, waking her up with a jolt while looking like a wet rat.

She opened her eyes and wiped her face in panic. Then, she spotted Evan staring at her with a terrifying expression on his face.

Where am I?

Her eyes darted around the space as memories flooded her mind in raging torrents. Everything's over. I've really fallen into Evan Seet's hands!

"Do you remember who I am now?"

Nicole froze up and shook her head vigorously, still feigning ignorance.

"Does this place seem familiar?"

Nicole's heart skipped a beat. Five years ago, it was in this room that she had assumed he was gigolo!

"No? Then, I guess 'll just have to make you remember!"

As soon as he said that, Nicole was picked up from the ground and thrown onto the bed.

This particular action of Evan's resembled hers from five years ago when she had roughly pushed him onto the bed.

Mimicking her actions five years ago, he got on top of her body and tapped her cheek. "If you still don't remember, then I'm going to..."

Nicole's heart galloped in her chest, and her cheeks heated up.

"No! I-I-I remember now! I remember! You're Mr. Seet!"

Evan released a wicked chuckle before getting off her. He then took off his coat and flung it aside with a look of disgust on his face.

"Good. Now that you remember, any last words?"

"What?"

Does Evan Seet want me dead that bad?

How brutal!

"What happened five years ago was an accident! Mr. Seet, you're the president of Seet Group. You can't take a person's life just because of an accident. It'll ruin your reputation!"

"Don't worry. No one would dare say a single word without my permission!"

"But you can't-"

"You shouldn't even be alive. You died in a car accident five years ago, remember? I'd be doing you a favor!"

Nicole was speechless.

Whatever Nicole planned to say next got stuck in her throat, and she stayed silent for quite a while.

Evan scrutinized her with a vicious gleam in his eyes. What a cruel woman. To fake her death, she was willing to abandon her newborn child.

A woman like her is unworthy to be a mother!

When he thought about all those times Kyle cried for his mother, the bitter resentment he had for Nicole intensified.

Noticing Evan's eyes grow colder with each passing second, Nicole felt that the odds were against her, and her life was hanging in the balance.

She could almost feel the flames of hell licking her skin.

I came back to save a life, not to throw my own away!

If I die, what will happen to my children?

"Died in a car crash! Consider this granting your wish."

Hearing that, all color drained from Nicole's face.

She was about to beg for mercy when Evan's phone rang. He glanced at it and swiftly answered the call.

"Mr. Seet, you must come back quickly. Kyle's condition is worsening."