Argh, I got betrayed by John! He told me that he'd help me and report Evan's every action back to me, but why do I feel that he's acting more like a double agent! Evan definitely knows about me asking John for the passcode to his office! Don't tell me he'll change the passcode?

Just as Nicole was lost in thought, she heard John remind Evan that it was time for a meeting. Evan then instructed him to take the documents and leave without him.

"Alright, Mr. Seet."

Evan got up and stared at his seat. Whenever he left the office, he would push the chair back in. However, it was not the case this time. Did she tamper with my chair, hoping that I'd fall? What a foolish woman!

After scanning the room once, he left the office, lost in thought. He then quickly locked the door to the office and keyed in the password.

Nicole crept out of the break room after she could no longer hear his footsteps and continued sabotaging his office.

When she had completed her plan, she laughed triumphantly, "There, all done! Evan, you'll be in for a big surprise!"

She headed out, only to realize that she was unable to open the door.

What's going on?

She started panicking when every attempt was incorrect.

Darn! Evan must have changed the password! Did he change it to prevent me from entering? Or... Don't tell me that he knew I was inside all along!

Nicole's heart started to beat erratically. What now? How do I leave?

Half an hour later, the meeting ended.

When Evan thought about the woman locked in his office, he smirked. It'll take more than that to get back at me, dumb woman! I'd like to see what else you can think of besides tampering with my chair!

He then headed to his office.

Nicole sighed. She had tried all means to break out but to no avail.

If only Juan was with me. Hacking the passcode would be a piece of cake for him! Too bad he's at school though. I can't possibly ask him to come all this way... Argh, it's not like Evan won't be returning. He'll be back after his meeting! This door will open for me soon enough.

True enough, there was a clicking of the door and she quickly hid inside the break room once again.

Evan smirked when he saw the messy documents on his table.

He called John and ordered, "Get Tussaud to my office immediately!"

"Yes, Mr. Seet!"

John hung up and sighed. How much Mr. Seet must love Tussaud to want to see her so urgently?

On the other hand, Nicole frowned. What on earth is Evan thinking?

Moments later, John rushed into Evan's office and reported, "Mr. Seet, Ms. Tussaud isn't in the office and the translation department said that they didn't see her today."

"She isn't here? Didn't you say she gave you a call?"

"That's right. Maybe... maybe Ms. Tussaud is preparing the surprise for you and came late! Mr. Seet, are you looking forward to it?"

Looking forward? I know this woman like the back of my hand. What's there to look forward to her petty tricks?

"Of course I am. I've prepared a big surprise for her myself."

"What surprise is it?" John queried.

Evan scoffed and glanced at the documents on his desk and shot John a glance.

John picked them up and his face fell.

"Mr. Seet..."

"What about it?"

"Mr. Seet, you'll be causing Ms. Tussaud a lot of trouble this way. In fact... she'll never have a peaceful day again!"

Nicole frowned. What does he mean by that? I'll never have another peaceful day?

"Don't you think this will be a great surprise to Ms. Tussaud?" Evan's charismatic voice brought Nicole back to her senses.

She focused on listening keenly.

John was stunned and his expression soured. Shouldn't the relationship between Ms. Tussaud and Mr. Seet be improving? Why did things end up this way?

"Mr. Seet, please reconsider. Even if the Lane Corporation was meant to close down, you shouldn't implicate Ms. Tussaud..."

Nicole frowned. Close down the Lane Corporation? Does this mean Evan wants to target the Lane Corporation next? Even so, what has that got to do with me?

"John, you've worked for me for quite some time. Surely you know Ms. Tussaud's real identity?"

John was taken aback by this and replied, "Mr. Seet, you started a search for a certain Ms. Lane four years back and placed a reward in the range of millions for whoever that found her. Even though you never said it outright, I knew that Ms. Tussaud was Ms. Lane some time ago..."

As expected of Evan's personal secretary. He guessed my identity a long time ago! Ever since my pregnancy, I've cut all ties with the Lane family. All these years, I haven't had any ongoings with them at all. The Lane family can go bankrupt for all I care! They have nothing to do with me!

Nicole's doubts were soon answered by Evan.

He tapped the table gently and turned around to stare in the direction of Nicole's location. He then explained slowly, "Then you should know that my goal is to put the blame for the fall of Lane Corporation on Nicole. That way, I can get Zane,

her father, to teach her a lesson and act like a proper father. Isn't that killing two birds with one stone?"

Nicole's face fell.

She did not want to be involved in the Lane family's matters. If Evan pushed the blame onto her, even if Zane remained silent, her stepmother, Sylvia, and her stepsister, Sylphiette, would never let her off!

Darn! Evan is skillfully giving my enemies an excuse to do me in!

"You son of a b*tch!" Nicole cursed. She leaned backward and hit her head against a bookshelf, dislodging a book. The sound of the book hitting the ground caught Evan and John's attention.

"What's that?" John inquired.

Evan smirked, "Probably just a rodent."

John was puzzled. "Mr. Seet, surely you must be joking. Why would there be rats in your office?"

"Let's have a look then."

With that, the two of them headed toward the break room. When she saw the two approaching figures, Nicole panicked. What now? If Evan finds me here...

She could not find a proper hiding place in such a small room.

She had no choice but to hide under the table and pray that they could not see her.

When they entered the room, John saw her immediately and frowned, "This is..."

"See? I told you there was a rodent, didn't I?"

Rodent?

John was speechless. This is a human, alright. Judging by her hairstyle, it's probably Ms. Tussaud.

"Get out here!" Evan commanded in an icy tone.

Nicole exhaled sharply and cursed her bad luck.

She forced herself to remain calm.

Okay, just relax... If anything, it was Evan who started it first! He forced me to eat that disgusting cake, and now, he's trying to use the Lane family to sabotage me! I'm the victim here! I should be confronting him, not the other way around! That's right! There's nothing to be afraid of! How dare he call me a rodent! What should I call him...?

As she thought of this, Nicole scrambled out from under the table, straightened out her clothes, puffed out her chest, and stared Evan in the eye.

"I didn't think you were a disgusting creep who would sneak into someone else's office," Evan spat with contempt.

Nicole dusted her blouse, took a deep breath, and steeled herself to retort. She roared fearlessly, "You're the disgusting one here! Evan Seet, you're absolutely shameless! You're a schemer who gave my enemies a chance to get back at me! You're nothing but a complete scumbag!"

No one had dared to insult Evan before or call him out by his full name. Evan was livid. This woman must be tired of living!

Nicole felt the overwhelming pressure from Evan and was momentarily taken aback. She balled her hands into fists. I can't back down now. I mustn't show my fear!

She mustered her courage and pointed at Evan, "You're a pathetic excuse for a man!"

She bellowed every single word at the top of her lungs.

When John saw Evan's sullen expression, he hurriedly pinched herself. Ouch! Seems like I'm not dreaming... someone actually lashed out at Mr. Seet! What on earth is Ms. Lane thinking? What now? Will Mr. Seet just kill her on the spot?

The next thing he knew, Evan had placed his hands around Nicole's neck and growled, "You have a death wish, don't you? I'll kill you!"

Nicole's eyes widened. She struggled frantically, flailing her arms against his body.

Evan slowly tightened his grip around her neck and Nicole found it difficult to breathe.

She felt that she was on death's door...

"Mr. Seet, don't..." Don't kill her!

"Get out!" John was silenced by a single command and a cold glare from Evan.

He could not find the courage to say another word.

His heart pounded against his chest when he saw that Evan was serious this time. Ms. Lane, why did you dig your own grave like that?

As Nicole's face slowly turned blue and tears escaped her eyes, Evan's heart suddenly ached and his grip loosened...

She was asking for it! She deserves this!

Evan told himself that he could not let this darn woman off...

No matter what, I have to save Ms. Lane's life! There's only one way left...

"Mr. Seet, please think of Kyle! If he learned that his Daddy killed his mommy, he would be heartbroken!"

John risked bearing the brunt of Evan's anger and spoke up.

Kyle...

When Evan thought of his son, his grip loosened even more. Nicole felt that she had just made a round trip to the gates of hell and nearly failed to make it back...

Evan flung Nicole aside and gave her a sharp glare.

"Ah!" Nicole shrieked as she was flung onto the ground.

Argh, my knees and elbows hurt... Is he trying to kill me? He didn't have to use so much force...

Nicole gasped for air and gradually sat upright. She had suffered minor scrapes on her knees and elbows.

Damn that Evan! He's ruthless!

Evan spat in disgust, "Killing you here will dirty my hands unnecessarily. I'll let your father deal with you."

Nicole's heart sank. That's right. Sylvia and the others won't let me off! I won't be able to live in peace from now onwards! What about my kids?

"Also, I'll be demanding compensation for the chair, desk, lights, bookshelves, and everything else you've damaged! If you can't pay up, I'll get someone to demolish your home and force you to sell your daughters!"

Sell Maya and Nina?

Nicole shuddered in fear.

Evan then slammed the office desk, which fell apart easily, and kicked the chair, which broke into pieces.

John stared at this in shock. Did Ms. Lane do all of this?

He then looked at the bottom of the desk and found sawdust there. Did she sabotage this? From the looks of it, her skills were on par with that of a professional!

Gosh, she came prepared to sabotage the office. Don't tell me this is the "surprise" she had in store? Oh my...

"John, give her an estimate of the losses here and get her to pay up immediately!"

"Understood, Mr. Seet."

Evan then stormed out of his office.

John helped Nicole up and asked, "Ms. Lane, are you alright?"

Nicole cursed at John, "You double-crosser! Traitor!"

John was stunned and declared, "Ms. Lane, I really didn't know things were rough between you and Mr. Seet... I wanted to help you because I thought things were getting better between you guys."

Getting better?

Nicole scowled, "I'll never see eye to eye with that cold-blooded psychopath! Not unless hell freezes over!"

John sighed. Looks like I was overly optimistic and read the room wrongly.

Nicole limped towards the lift using the wall as support. John offered her a hand, but was refused by Nicole time and again. When the lift arrived at the first story,

John brought her to the finance department and calculated the losses she was required to compensate.

Nicole stared at the list and grumbled, "Are these made of diamonds? Why are they so expensive?"

"Ms. Lane, these are the actual prices. You can double-check with all of the suppliers if you wish."

Nicole felt her heart ache when she saw the amount she had to compensate. She had to pay hundreds of thousands in addition to the amount she earned from translation. She had intended to save this money for her children to allow them to live a better life.

I can't believe it's all going down the drain like that... what a waste!

Worried that Evan would target Maya and Nina, Nicole paid the amount stated reluctantly.

When she thought of the balance in her account, she shuddered to imagine how she would pull through in the future.

When she left the office, John inquired apologetically, "Ms. Lane, is there anything I can help you with?"

He felt responsible as he was the one who convinced Nicole to return to the company. The documents for the collaboration with A Nation were more or less complete, but he did not expect this sudden turn of events.

John felt terrible when he thought of how she would be hounded by the Lane family after paying such a large sum of money.

Nicole snapped angrily, "Help? Sure you can!"

"What can I help with?"

"Are you really willing to help?"

John was taken aback and responded, "I'll do anything within my ability!"

Nicole scorned, "In that case, help me blow up Evan's office!"

Blow up... Mr. Seet's office? I would never dare to do something like that! Nevermind, forget I said anything. Looks like Nicole won't believe whatever I say from now on.

Nicole limped out of the office with aching kneecaps and saw Juan rushing towards her, out of breath.

She frowned, "What brings you here, Juan?"

I can't believe Mommy recognized me as Juan immediately! I've been living in Hillside Villa as Kyle for the past two days!

He had planned to head over to the office to look for his mother after Davin sent him to the kindergarten.

However, for some reason, Davin was extremely cautious and insisted on sending him all the way to the classroom. The teacher was especially concerned about "Kyle" and kept talking to him. He only managed to reach the office at this timing as a result.

I thought Kyle would reach ahead of time, but seems to me he didn't make it either! From the looks of it, Mommy's been bullied by Daddy again!

"Mommy, did you lose to daddy in a fight? Don't worry, I'll avenge you!"

Nicole's heart leaped to her throat. I can't let Evan know of your existence! I won't let you come into contact with him unnecessarily!

"It's got nothing to do with him. I got careless and tripped on my own! Let's go home."

Juan could immediately tell that Nicole was lying. She wouldn't be in such a rush to get out of here if she had injured herself!

"No way! I'll make him pay the price for treating you this way!"

Juan would not stand for anyone bullying his mother. Mommy worked so hard to raise the three of us, after all. No one can touch her, not even daddy!

"Juan, listen to me. Let's go!" Nicole tugged at Juan and chided sternly.

Juan thought about it and decided to prioritize bringing his mother to the hospital to treat her injuries.

"Mommy, I'll bring you to the hospital."

"There's no need. Mommy's a doctor, remember? I can do it myself."

Besides, I need to be more frugal!

Juan reluctantly brought her home and handed her the first aid kit.

He scrutinized her injury and brought her everything she needed before she could ask.

Nicole felt that Juan was an understanding and caring boy.

After he took care of her wounds, he even made Nicole a glass of milk and said, "Mommy, rest well. I'll take care of things here."

Nicole smiled when she saw that her son was such an obedient child.

When Juan was washing fruits in the kitchen, his smartwatch rang. He answered it.

"Juan, I'm at Daddy's office. Where's Mommy?"

Juan sighed, "You were too late. Mommy got injured!"

"What?"

After Juan explained the situation to Kyle, an icy expression eerily similar to Evan's appeared on his face.

How dare Daddy injured Mommy? If it weren't for the fact that I ran into a bad guy who tried to kidnap me along the way and took too long to escape, I would've reached daddy's office long ago! I wouldn't have let mommy get hurt!

Kyle stormed into Evan's office angrily.

When Evan learned that Nicole had taken Kyle away at the office, he was about to call Nicole to settle the score, only to see Kyle barging into his office.

"Kyle?"

"Why did you hit mommy?" Kyle demanded.

Evan's eyes narrowed. Looks like Nicole complained to Kyle about me again!

Evan was astounded when he saw Kyle's indignant expression. I've never seen Kyle so angry before!

"I asked you why you hit her!" Kyle repeated his question in an icy tone.

John rushed over and explained, "Kyle, look around the office! Everything here was destroyed by your Mommy. Your Daddy was angry..."

"He deserved it!" Kyle bellowed. If Daddy hadn't given Mommy such a disgusting cake, she wouldn't have done anything like this!

Evan's face fell. Kyle was still laughing when we were talking during dinner last night. The moment he met Nicole, he treated me like an enemy! Looks like I can't let Kyle come into contact with that wench anymore!

"Send Kyle to the kindergarten and tell his teacher not to let him go before dismissal!"

"Understood, Mr. Seet!"

"Let go of me! I'm not going!"

John was worried that Kyle would offend Evan and brought him out of the office immediately. He coaxed him and dragged him all the way to the kindergarten.

When Nina found out about Nicole's injury, she was fuming.

"It wasn't him. Mommy fell down accidentally!" Nicole lied. She wanted to let the matter rest so that none of her children would worry for her or get into unnecessary trouble.

Maya sobbed, "Mommy, does it hurt?"

"What good would crying do?" Nina glared at her and stormed into Juan's bedroom.

"Juan Lane! How could you let Mommy get hurt like that?"

Juan turned around and frowned at Nina.