As he thought to himself, he suddenly heard a miserable shriek downstairs.

It was Sofie.

What did the four children do to her to make her scream like that?

Out of curiosity, Evan walked out of the study room in time to see Nicole hurriedly rushing down the stairs.

When Nicole reached the first floor, she saw Sofie clutching her head in utter fear as her body shivered uncontrollably.

There was a snake beside her.

Nicole was shocked too. When she took a closer look, she discovered that there was something strange about this "snake". In fact, it looked a bit familiar.

She had to admit that the snake looked very realistic. Nina was the artist behind this and with her talent in drawing, everyone would have mistaken it as a real snake.

Nicole had prohibited Nina from taking it out as she was scared that it would scare others.

Never did she expect Nina to terrorize Sofie with it.

When Nicole turned around to look at Nina, she coughed lightly. "I wanted to use it to brew a soup! I didn't expect it to escape. I'm going to capture it now, wash it and prepare to boil it."

After speaking, she even sighed. She walked towards Sofie with the snake dangling from her hands. "Ms. Sweeting, don't be scared. After I boil it, I'll let you drink the soup and eat its meat."

"No, no, no. I won't eat it."

Sofie was too afraid to even glance at it and she did not even dare to move. While her teeth chattered, she clutched her head in between her knees. Only after Nina took the snake away did she finally heave a sigh of relief.

Before Sofie even felt completely relieved, Maya crouched and moved towards her, hiding a giggle behind her hand.

Sofie, who had barely recovered from her fear, suddenly felt a chubby hand grab her hand.

Immediately, her heart started to pound frantically again.

She raised her head and looked at Maya warily.

"Don't be scared." Maya looked at her as she giggled.

For some reason, Maya's smile caused Sofie to feel uneasy. But she's just a child. What can she even do to me?

Sofie's scarlet lips curved upwards into a forced smile. "I'm fine." As she spoke, she pulled her hand away.

Maya fished out a packet of Oreos from her pocket and passed it to Sofie.

"Ms. Sweeting, here are some cookies for you to calm yourself down."

"I'm not eating it!"

Sofie eyed the biscuits in Maya's hands disdainfully. How can an adult still eat cookies? This is so childish and unbecoming of a noble lady! Plus, who knows if the biscuits from Maya's pockets are clean?

Sensing Sofie's scorn, Maya turned her head angrily. "Nina, she doesn't want to eat cookies. Instead, she wants to eat the snake's meat and drink its soup. Bring her a bowl!"

When Sofie heard the word "snake", she felt a chill ran through her entire body. Glancing at where the snake was earlier, her heart pounded frantically. "No, I don't eat snakes either."

"If you don't, then eat the cookies!" Maya passed the cookies towards her. "Here, take it!"

Sofie had no choice but to take over Maya's cookies and tear the packet apart.

At the same time, she cursed under her breath. Can't this brat tell that I'm disgusted by her? Yet, she's still so 'enthusiastic'. How irritating!

"Eat it!"

Sofie forced herself to take a bite of the cookie. However, after chewing on it, she spat it out.

She scrutinized the packet repeatedly. This Oreo is different from how it normally tastes...

When she turned around, she saw that Maya was giggling with her head lowered. Undoubtedly, she must have done something!

"What did you make me eat?"

"Cookies!"

"Why does it taste different?"

"I ate the cream and replaced it with toothpaste. That's how toothpaste-flavored cookies taste like."

"You!"

So I was eating toothpaste! Sofie glanced around furiously for a cup to rinse her mouth.

Coincidentally, Juan walked over with two glasses of beverages.

He took the glass of transparent water for himself, while passing the glass of coke to Sofie.

She frowned. I doubt this rascal would treat me so kind. He must have poured away half of the dark-colored coke and added some soy sauce. That must be it! How dare this rascal try to trick me?

"Give me your glass of water!"

"T-This is mine. Kids are not allowed to drink carbonated beverage. You should drink it, Ms. Sweeting."

Juan placed the glass of coke on the table, while gripping the other glass tightly.

This time, it seemed even stranger to Sofie.

She strode forward and snatched the glass of water away from Juan's hand. "You're learning all the wrong things as a kid. Don't think that I don't know what you're up to."

With that, she drank the water in one gulp. However, at the next moment, she spat everything out.

"Wow, you're so amazing! It's like a fountain." Blinking her large eyes, Maya clapped for Sofie as the latter took a breather.

Suddenly, she felt like her eyes were burning. She pointed at Juan and questioned furiously, "What did you make me drink?"

He replied honestly, "Nail polish remover, with a few drops of wasabi. This isn't meant for you! You could've drunk the coke, but you insisted on snatching it away. You have no one to blame but yourself."

A bitter and exasperated look crossed Sofie's face. If Maya didn't play a prank on me first, I wouldn't have felt uneasy and snatched it away.

"Yeah, if you keep thinking about snatching someone else's things, you might end up missing the good stuff." Crossing her arms over her chest, Nina glanced at Sofie haughtily. The mingled taste of toothpaste, nail polish remover and wasabi was too pungent, causing Sofie to feel extremely uncomfortable. She could not be bothered to argue with Nina any further. Instead, she sprinted to the kitchen to rinse her mouth. It took her a long time before coming out.

When she entered the living room, she saw the children giggling with a delighted expression on their faces. Immediately, fury rose within her.

"Kyle, you're making life difficult for me on purpose, right?" Sofie pointed at Juan while gritting her teeth, wishing for nothing more but to beat him up to vent her anger.

"You can't even recognize who I am. Indeed, I'm the one who's making life difficult for you, but I'm not Kyle!" Juan exclaimed as he pointed at himself.

Sofie was stunned. Could he be that bastard child?

"I'm Kyle. I haven't even done anything, but you're scared already?"

As Kyle spoke, he walked in from outside and passed a phone to Sofie.

"Why is my phone with you?"

"You dropped it on the floor when you were dodging the snake. As it became dirty, I told someone to wash it for you."

Wash it...

Sofie widened her eyes in shock. Grabbing her phone, she swiped on the screen...

However, the dark screen showed no response. After a few more tries, she was certain that her phone was completely ruined. This bastard did not merely wash it. He probably submerged it inside a fish tank! He broke my phone on purpose!

Sofie clutched her phone as she glared at Kyle furiously. The videos and photos of Evan, which she went to great lengths to film secretly, were saved in her phone.

Yet, all her efforts and most treasured items had disappeared just like that!

This rascal deserves a beating! Consumed with rage, Sofie raised her hand and aimed a slap at Kyle.

Kyle did not have time to dodge such a sudden slap. When her hand was about to land on his handsome face, someone suddenly grabbed Sofie's wrist.

When she raised her head and met Nicole's furious gaze, she was momentarily stunned. It's her. Nicole, also known as Dr. Tussaud. This woman is really something, huh?

She scrutinized Nicole carefully. She's quite pretty. How shameless is she to wear pajamas here? She's definitely a seductress! The news and trending searches with reports about Evan and this woman have gone viral already. A woman of her status does not deserve Evan!

"Let me go!" Although Sofie tried to struggle free, Nicole strengthened her grip on her wrist.

"Mommy, she wants to hit Kyle. You mustn't let her go!" Maya glared at Sofie furiously.

Evan watched everything unfold from the second floor. His cold, arrogant face remained expressionless throughout.

However, when Sofie raised her hand, his expression instantly turned grim.

When Nicole immediately grabbed Sofie's wrist, his eyes widened slightly. His clenched fists relaxed as he stared at the two women, standing opposite each other.

"Kyle, apologize to her!"

"Apologize? That's it? He did it on purpose!"

"The father is responsible for the child's behavior too. You can go after his father to get even, but you shouldn't hit him!"

This woman is trying to pass the blame to me?

An unnoticeable smile appeared on Evan's lips. He was eager to see how this series of events would conclude.

Sofie was stunned. Get even with Evan? Can I? Impossible! I don't even dare to. I only dare to slap Kyle because Evan isn't here. Otherwise, I won't even dare to scold him, let alone hit him.

Bearing that thought in mind, her anger gradually dissipated. "Let go. I won't hit him."

"If you dare to touch me, I'll make you regret it!" Kyle glared at Sofie menacingly.

Nicole understood why Kyle had such a hostile attitude towards Sofie.

She had witnessed how Sofie treated Kyle outside Grant Kindergarten.

Kyle had been bullied by Sofie during the time she fetched her to and fro kindergarten. As Juan was the one who helped Kyle solve the problem, Kyle did not get the chance to vent his anger yet.

Naturally, this day was the perfect day for Kyle to take revenge on Sofie.

Looking at how Kyle was treating her like an enemy, Sofie's heart skipped a beat. She suddenly realized her mistake.

No matter what, Kyle was the only child of the Seet family and also Evan's precious son. If she fell out with him, it would be even harder for her to marry Evan in the future.

Hence, she should be more careful with him.

After all, there would be plenty of opportunities to teach this rascal a good lesson behind everyone's back.

"Kyle, I was too anxious earlier. The business information on my phone was lost because of you, so I became angry. I'm sorry."

Sofie's attitude took a drastic turn, which was unsurprising.

"What a hypocritical woman!" Kyle glared at her, not wanting to watch her act anymore. He spun around and walked towards his room.

"Kyle, are you forgiving me? I..."

Kyle's bedroom door slammed shut.

Only then did Sofie pursed her lips sulkily and turn around to look at Nicole. "Is Kyle your child?"

"Yes!" Nicole replied unhesitatingly.

Sofie's scarlet lips curved into a smile as she whispered beside Nicole's ears, "No wonder! I was wondering where his annoying personality came from. So he inherited it from you, huh?"

Nicole smirked.

From how quickly Sofie's attitude changed, she knew that Sofie was just a manipulative b\*\*\*\*. She was as annoying as Sylphiette, who always acted so innocently and saint-like.

"Kyle's personality takes after his parents, Mr. Seet and I. Does that disappoint you?"

Nicole decided to give Sofie a taste of her medicine. Since this b\*\*\*\* is irritating me, I'll act in the same manner towards her.

"Hmph! Don't get so full of yourself just yet. After all, you're not married to Evan. He won't want a woman like you."

Nicole's heart skipped a beat. Although Sofie's words sounded unpleasant, it did not necessarily mean that she was wrong. Evan probably won't want a woman like me.

However, to prove that she was not intimidated, Nicole clenched her fists and replied nonchalantly, "At least I'm staying here! What about you? I stand a better chance than you, don't I?"

"You!"

At that moment, Sofie felt that Nicole's pajamas were exceptionally glaring.

Suddenly, her eyes sparkled. With a slight smirk playing on her lips, she yelled and toppled backwards.

Nicole watched as Sofie fell. Initially, she wanted to help Sofie, but she had second thoughts after that.

With her arms crossed over her chest, Nicole watched in amusement as Sofie fell onto the ground.

Then, as expected, Sofie tried to put the blame on Nicole.

Instead of accusing Nicole of pushing her, Sofie accused her of...

"It's not Mommy. You fell yourself."

Maya, who was standing the closest to them, saw everything clearly.

"You're defending her because she's your Mommy. Ouch! My waist hurts. Something stabbed my head just now. It hurts so much!"

Stab her? Nicole burst out laughing. Looks like Sofie has investigated my background. It's not surprising though. After all, the trending news reports are all plastered with pictures of me, Evan and the children. Anthony Su, Sofie's father, met me through a friend before. Hence, Sofie definitely recognized me as Tussaud, the adept acupuncturist. But how dare she accuse me when there's not even a single needle in sight?

"Maya, go upstairs with your sister. Mommy has to deal with Aunt Sofie."

Nina glanced at Sofie. "Let's go, Maya. I'm sure Mommy can do it!"

Both of them went upstairs, while Sofie shrieks of agony became louder.

As she desired, Evan emerged after hearing her howls.

With a cold expression, Evan looked down at her in contempt, not saying a word.

"Evan, my head hurts. Ms. Lane stabbed me with a needle just now. She..."

"I stabbed you?" Nicole smirked coldly. "You're right! I stabbed, pushed, hit and bullied you. What's next? What do you want?"

She wanted to see if Sofie's tricks were going to unfold like how she imagined.

"Evan, look at her! She's simply so mean!" With that, Sofie burst into tears, as if she had been wronged. Looking at how miserable she looked, Nicole almost felt guilty.

Although everything else was fake, her tears were real.

Is she trying to arouse Evan's pity by crying?

Upon that thought, Nicole scoffed. "Are you made up of tears? Mr. Seet, bring a piece of tissue over quickly and wipe her tears away."

Evan did not see clearly how Sofie fell. However, he did not like it when Nicole behaved so haughtily. Does she really think that she's the female owner of this house and has nothing to fear? She only managed to stay here because of Juan. Yet, how she's acting right now is getting under my skin. This will not do. Regardless of who's right or wrong, I must make her realize the bitter truth.

"Apologize to Sofie!"

Nicole was taken aback by Evan's words.

Why should I apologize?

However, when Nicole thought about it again, Evan had always misunderstood her. If he suddenly believed her, it would be abnormal. Furthermore, Sofie was crying so pitifully now.

Still, the fact remained that this was not Nicole's fault. If she could prove her innocence, why did she have to be the scapegoat?

Crossing her arms over her chest, Nicole rebuked defiantly, "It's not my fault so why should I apologize?"

"You admitted just now that you stabbed, pushed and bullied me!" Wiping her tears away, Sofie glared at Nicole.

Nicole was at a loss for words.

She only said that on purpose because she wanted to see if Evan would take pity on Sofie!

A mocking look flickered in Evan's eyes. This foolish woman only knows how to shoot her mouth off. Let's see how you can prove your innocence now.

"Evan, you heard it too. She admitted it herself."

"That's right, you admitted it yourself," agreed Evan as he stared directly as Nicole.

"|-|…"

Hah! Indeed, Evan, that jerk, is siding with Sofie. Is he trying to join forces with her and pin the blame on me? Dream on!

Nicole's eyes sparkled. "Mr. Seet, if I can prove that I didn't stab her, how would you deal with this incident?"

Looking at Nicole's confident look, Evan frowned. Does she have any evidence?

He turned around and looked at Sofie. "If Sofie really accused you, I'll make her apologize to you and promise not to step into Hillside Villa ever again."

Evan was already infuriated when Sofie tried to hit Kyle earlier.

Hence, he no longer wanted to see this woman again.

Sofie was dumbfounded.

On the other hand, Nicole was secretly overjoyed. Since the four children hate her so much, this is a great opportunity to stop her from coming.

"How's that, Ms. Su? Do you dare to take up the bet?"

Sofie was stuck between a rock and a hard place. If she agreed to the request, then there was a huge chance that she would have to apologize and stop coming to Hillside Villa.

However, if she refused, she would be implicitly admitting that she accused Nicole on purpose.

"Say something! I still need to take care of the kids, so I have no time to waste on you."

"I promise. I'm sure that Evan will seek justice for me."

Hah! Did she graduate from an acting school? How can she act so well? She's still so stubborn even on the verge of her demise.

Evan looked at Nicole. "Tell us what evidence you have."

Chuckling, Nicole raised a finger and pointed upwards.

"The evidence is right there!"

As Sofie's eyes looked up in the direction of Nicole's finger, her heart skipped a beat and her face paled.

She suddenly saw a surveillance camera above her head!

Why is there a camera in Hillside Villa's living room?

Evan smirked. He had deliberately installed these surveillance cameras to monitor Nicole when she was taking care of Kyle.

He did not expect them to end up helping her instead.

"Sofie, do you want to apologize and leave now, or decide after Mr. Seet watched the surveillance footage?"

The color had completely drained from Sofie's face.

I have just reconciled with Evan, but am I going to lose the opportunity to get closer to him now? No way!

She clenched her fists. At the next moment, she suddenly scrambled up and sprinted towards the wall. With a loud thud, she collapsed onto the ground and fainted.

What the heck? Nicole was stunned.

She had no choice but to secretly exclaim. Sofie is really a tough nut to crack!

In order to avoid apologizing or reviewing the surveillance footage, she actually slammed her head against the wall until it bled.

When Sofie woke up at the hospital, she pretended that she remembered nothing.

Upon noticing Evan, she deliberately asked in excitement, "What happened? Evan, why are you here?"

Anthony doted on his daughter. Although he dared not complain to Evan, his intent was made very clear. After all, Sofie got injured at Hillside Villa. All his words pointed at the fact that Sofie was the victim.

Evan could not be bothered to explain. After the doctor said that there was nothing wrong with Sofie, and that she just needed to rest well, Evan left directly without saying a word.

Although her head hurt a lot, Sofie felt that it was worth it as long as she could still go to Hillside Villa.

Next time, I won't be so stupid... Watch out, Nicole and the rest of the children!

When Evan returned to Hillside Villa, Nicole walked towards him briskly to ask about Sofie's condition. "Is her forehead severely injured?"

Evan turned his head around and glanced at Nicole. "Why are you asking that?"

### "[…"

As Sofie's head was bleeding profusely earlier, Nicole thought that she should at least enquire about her.

Looking at how Nicole was at a loss for words, Evan replied coldly, "I'm afraid that you'll be disappointed."

"What do you mean?" Nicole lifted her head and looked at him in shock.

"She's fine." With that, he walked directly up the stairs.

Nicole's worries finally disappeared after hearing that Sofie was fine.

However, when she ran both of Evan's sentences through her head, she suddenly realized something strange. Did Evan mean to say that I'm hoping for something bad to happen to Sofie?

"What do you mean? Who are you to say that about me?" asked Nicole, raising her head and glaring at Evan's back as he walked up the stairs.

However, Evan had already gone far. Without turning around, he strode into his study room directly. What a jerk! He always misunderstands me.

Nina walked over and gazed at Nicole. "It's none of your business what happened to that evil woman. After all, she banged into the wall herself. You don't have to concern yourself with her matters."

Nina's words stumped Nicole. Yeah, perhaps I shouldn't have asked. But Sofie sure is something, huh? She could control her strength so well that she would only bleed, but not hurt her internal organs. If this woman can bear to be ruthless to herself, the children and I must take extra precautions against her!

When Nina returned to the bedroom, Maya was just taking off her clothes. The latter then ordered anxiously, "Nina, shut the door quickly."

Staring at her chubby stomach, Nina scoffed coldly, "Even if the door's left open, no one will look at you."

Maya raised her head and glanced at Nina as the latter continued teasing, "You look like a pig when you're taking off your clothes. Who would want to look at you?"

Maya became unhappy when she heard that. "Nina, I'm telling you this seriously. Don't call me a pig anymore."

"But you look like one! Why can't I say it, then?" Nina glanced at the chubby Maya. Then, she took off her coat and tossed it aside.

Furious, Maya yelled at her, "You're the pig!"

I'm like a pig? What a blatant lie! Nina turned around to look at Maya. "I'm not a pig, but you are definitely one! What's more, you're a stupid and fat pig!"