"There's no need."

Evan stubbornly dragged the two little ones to the changing room.

After changing back into their attire, he brought them back to the Hillside Villa.

As he walked into the living room, Sophia looked at him bewilderedly. "Evan, what happened to your clothes?"

He then lowered his gaze and stared at his clothes. "What's wrong, mom?"

"Take your clothes off."

Frowning, he took off his top. A huge drawing of a devil could be seen at the back of his shirt.

The devil was malicious-looking with its extended fangs and claws.

It was a vivid drawing, and even the fangs could be seen clearly. Below the drawing, three words were written: The Devil Himself.

In an instant, Evan's face clouded with anger. As he looked down at Kyle and Juan, both of the children had an innocent face.

Sophia was curious about who was the one who had the guts to mess with her son. He was known as "Lucifer" in the industry for his relentless and merciless tactics.

Whoever did this had the heart of a lion!

"Evan, who did this?"

Squinting his eyes, Evan recalled when Nina sneaked into the president's office and doodled on all the documents. Upon observing the devil drawn on his shirt, he was certain that it was the work of that little girl.

This weirdo is always finding trouble with me! The mother and daughter pair is my nemeses!

"Mom, I know what to do. I'll make them pay."

Nicole can't even educate her children properly; she should take responsibility and be lectured for allowing this to happen!

Nina the weirdo was this daring. Evan did not mind teaching her a lesson on how to behave!

Seeing how furious Evan was, Kyle and Juan gazed at each other. They knew someone was going to be screwed.

Should I tip her off?

Juan crept into the bedroom and called Nina to ask about this.

When confronted, Nina was silent for a moment.

She was feeling slightly guilty but she retorted stubbornly, "Did you see with your own eyes that I drew it?"

"It better not be you. Daddy is very angry. He said he wouldn't forgive the person who doodled on his shirt. Whoever did it should be careful."

After ending the call, Nina was uneasy. However, she convinced herself that she would face Evan head-on if he bullied her and would never back down.

The next day, Nina and Maya woke up early in the morning to pack their stuff, ready to move to the Rose Garden.

"Mommy, do we still need these?"

"If you need it, bring it along. Or else we'll have to buy new ones."

"Mommy, there's so many houses at Rose Garden. Why don't we rent out a few and make some money?"

Nicole turned around to look at Nina, surprisingly. She was not expecting her child to know a thing about financing.

"No, we can't do that. Juan has inherited the Rose Garden from Mr. Seet. It's inappropriate to rent it out."

Besides, Evan was extremely unhappy to learn that they were moving in. He even tried to stop them.

Hence, it was impossible to rent it out. The idea was rejected immediately.

Although her financial situation was not the best and she was struggling to make ends meet, she had planned her next steps.

"Don't you two worry. I will work hard. One day, you won't have to be troubled for money."

"Mommy, we just want to be with you. It doesn't matter if we are poor or wealthy."

"That's right. All we ask for is to be with Mommy."

Nicole was contented with how sensible her daughters were.

On the other hand, it seemed like Evan only cared about the two sons. When can he treat the girls the way he cares for the boys?

The thought flashed through her mind. She then looked at Nina and Maya, asking, "Do the both of you want to be like Juan and Kyle?"

Puzzled, they stared at her; the two little ones did not understand what she meant.

"What I meant is, if I let Evan know that you're both his daughters, then he'll treat you like how he treats Juan and Kyle. Would you like that?"

Nina shook her head without hesitation.

"Mommy, if he finds out, he'll surely separate us. I don't want to be apart from you."

"Me too. I want to be with Mommy forever."

Feeling like she owed them, Nicole reached her hand out and patted their heads.

She knew better than anyone how it felt to lose her mother. Growing up under the care of her step-mother and being abused, those were the dark days. Hence, she was afraid that her daughters would leave her and go through what she had experienced.

Women were naturally vulnerable, but mothers were resilient.

She swore to protect them well.

Moving to the Rose Garden was a new beginning for her to start anew and face life positively.

After packing their luggage, Nicole drove her lousy car and brought her daughters to the Rose Garden.

To her surprise, they were stopped just after they set foot into the courtyard.

"What are you doing?"

"Ms. Lane, Mr. Seet has said that he'll be staying in the main house while you stay in the rear house."

"The rear house?"

The rear house was initially built for the maids and butlers. Although it was not as good as the main house, it was much better than the slum she rented.

Besides, there were perks in staying at the rear house; Nicole would not have to meet Evan that often.

She planned to prioritize earning money over wasting her time with him.

"Okay. We'll stay at the rear house."

The messenger was astonished by how promptly she agreed, which was different from how Evan described her. According to Mr. Seet, she was no pushover; he was unexpectedly wrong this time.

After arriving at the rear house, Maya and Nina were unsatisfied with the relatively smaller rooms. They both thought that the rooms in the main house were better.

"We're staying here for free. We should be grateful for having a roof over our heads. If we insist on staying in the main house and fight with Evan, Juan will be placed in a tight spot."

She could not bear to see her son being torn between his mother and father over something as trivial as where to stay.

"Mommy, I understand. This room is not too bad. It's much better than our old room."

"That's right. We can clean the vacant rooms and get them ready for Mommy to treat patients in there."

"Wow. Mommy, are you going to resume your profession as a miracle doctor?"

Nicole nodded. There's nothing bad about being a miracle doctor. Aside from saving lives, the income is quite decent. Before this, I was afraid that the children would be affected and it was really inconvenient as nobody could take care of them. Now that they're more sensible and are attending kindergarten, I have time to treat people with acupuncture.

"That's awesome! Mommy is going to earn lots of money!"

"We should say that Mommy is going to save a lot of lives."

"Alright. Let's start unpacking."

"Okay, Mommy."

The two girls did not feel an ounce of tiredness; they even refused when Nicole asked them to get some rest.

Nicole and her daughters were busy and in full swing cleaning up. Evan, who was currently in the main house however, was puzzled.

Logically speaking, Nicole was not the kind of woman who gave in easily.

She should have fought to stay in the main house. Why did she agree to stay in the rear house?

Curious, he got up and went toward the rear house.

When he arrived, he saw that all the vacant rooms had been cleaned.

Well. How many rooms does this woman plan to stay in?

"Are you going to stay in all these rooms?"

As she raised her head, she met Evan's puzzled and contemptuous gaze. Stunned, she wondered why would he be bothered with which rooms she stayed in.

Is he going to ban me from staying in the rear house as well?

"Mr. Seet, you're living in the main house while I'm staying in the rear house. Hence, we won't be having any interactions at all. Don't you worry about how many rooms I clean."

Ha! This woman talks like she owns the rear house. Dream on!

"Indeed, I stay in the main house, but my maids will be staying in the rear house. So you may only take three rooms for yourself and your daughters."

"Mr. Seet, how many maids do you need?"

"Kyle, Juan, and I all need personal maids. There are also maids to clean the garden, cook, and buy groceries. I'll be having a chauffeur and security guards as well. You can do the calculations on your own."

Nicole was speechless.

Is this bastard planning to move everything and everyone from Hillside Villa? Why can't he just stay at the villa instead of making such a big fuss? There's something wrong with his brain!

Upon thinking of this, Nicole looked at him with a peculiar expression. She then took a step back followed by another, as did Maya and Nina.

Evan frowned. He did not know what she meant by that.

"What's wrong? Are you going to move out now that you know this isn't the place for you?"

"No, no, no. Don't get me wrong, Mr. Seet. I'm just keeping a distance from a mentally ill person."

Evan could not think of any reply to that.

His expression darkened instantly. Great. She still has the guts to insult me indirectly. It seems like I have been too kind to her.

"You may have two rooms for the three of you. One for sleeping and one for cooking. You're not allowed to use the other rooms."

Nicole lifted her gaze and gawked at him. Evan Seet, I hate you! He must have had this in mind for a long time. His goal is to make my stay here as

uncomfortable as possible. Fine. I'm not scared of you. Let's see who will win in the end!

Maya and Nina were both shocked.

Bad Daddy. Why is he so calculative? Mommy's plan to treat patients is down the drain. What can we do?

Nicole thought that he would leave right after he had his way, but he glared at Nina with sharp eyes.

"Children need to be educated since young. If you can't handle it, I don't mind helping."

From his tone and expression, Nicole understood what he meant but she had no idea what trouble Nina had caused this time.

She paused for a moment. "Don't worry, Mr. Seet. I will educate my children on my own and I won't allow anyone to bully her. If you do anything to her in the name of education, I will never let you off!"

Bully her child? Is she trying to be funny? Is she not aware of how weird her daughter is?

Evan sneered at her coldly, "Rest assured. I will give you a good reason whenever I lecture your children on your behalf. You will have no excuse but to allow it."

He turned his attention to Nina after saying this. The latter's heart was racing, feeling threatened by his cold gaze.

Nicole rolled her eyes at Evan as he left. She then looked over her shoulders and warned them, "You should stay away from him. Don't prank him. He's waiting to catch you red-handedly."

Maya nodded. "But, Mommy, Daddy has only given us two rooms. How are you going to treat the patients? Why do we have to listen to him every single time? Can someone teach him a lesson?"

Teach him a lesson?

Nicole sighed. Perhaps only Mr. Russell would be able to do that. However, it was not like they could meet Mr. Russell.

Even if they managed to see him and complain to him, he most probably would stand on his grandson, Evan's side.

They were a family after all.

Hence, Nicole could only do as he said since she was staying in his house.

"Maya, I will make other arrangements regarding treating patients. Let's decorate the room for now."

"Okay."

Nina was silent the whole time. Numerous ideas flashed through her mind. Evan was so fierce when he lectured me. I will be thrilled to draw his face into an ugly monster!

However, it was all in her imaginations. It was too dangerous to do it.

I'll wait till I'm older before doing it. He won't be able to pick on me by then!

After cleaning the room, Maya and Nina played in the courtyard while Nicole started preparing lunch.

"Nina, go to the main house and see if Kyle and Juan are around. Ask them what would they like to have for lunch. I will cook it for them."

Nina's heart pounded frantically upon hearing that. Refusing to go to the main house where Evan was in, she entrusted the chore to Maya.

Maya agreed to it at once and ran toward the main house.

Evan was enjoying the scenery in the pavilion. A swell of emotions surged on his face as he stared at the arbor without blinking.

Maya circled the main house but Kyle and Juan were nowhere to be seen. She then headed towards the pavilion.

"Uncle Evan."

To prevent him from knowing that she was his daughter and be separated from her mother, Maya greeted him after some thinking.

Her voice had pulled him back to reality. Looking over his shoulders, he asked, "Yes?"

"Where are Kyle and Juan?"

"They're both at the Hillside Villa. Do you want to play with them?"

Maya nodded fervently.

Interestingly, Evan did not find this chubby little girl annoying. He curled his lips and smiled. "Should I bring you to the villa to find them?"

She nodded first before shaking her head when a thought dawned on her.

"You don't want to go?"

"I want to be with Mommy." She then turned her gaze to the roses. "Uncle Evan, can these flowers be made into a wreath?"

Arranging flowers into a wreath.

The gleam in Evan's eyes shimmered. It had been a while since he last made one.

Evan was lost in a daze for a split second as he looked at Maya's blinking eyes. The hoyden must have been as cute as Maya when she was young.

She was twelve when I met her...

The thoughts flashed before his eyes once again. Evan then reached out to hold Maya's hand. "I'll make a wreath for you to wear on your head, okay?"

"Is it pretty?" Her clear eyes blinked in anticipation.

"Yes. It's very pretty," Evan answered in all seriousness.

"Okay!"

Maya nodded gleefully. She picked her favorite flowers from the rose arbor while holding Evan's hand. He then started weaving the wreath patiently.

She watched in adoration the making of a pretty wreath. Her eyes gleamed as the wreath was miraculously made from scratch.

"Wow. Uncle Evan, you're amazing! This is so pretty! Thank you."

The smile on his face was from the bottom of his heart. He then carefully placed the wreath on Maya's head.

Maya touched her wreath gently with her chubby fingers. "Uncle Evan, I'm going to show this to Mommy!"

She walked gingerly to the rear house, afraid that she would drop the wreath accidentally. It was as precious as a crown.

Upon setting foot into the rear house, Maya exclaimed, "Mommy, Mommy, look at my wreath! Isn't it pretty?"

As she walked out of the kitchen and saw the wreath on Maya's head, Nicole grinned brightly.

"It's really pretty."

Maya went to her and whispered delightfully, "Daddy made this for me."

Evan did it for her? I never knew that he could make a wreath.

Nicole was surprised.

Once upon a time, there was that someone who could make pretty wreaths too.

Looking at how happy Maya was, Nina was dejected.

Daddy is nice to Kyle and Juan. He even made a wreath for Maya now. But when it comes to me... It seems like I'm the most unlikeable amongst all of my siblings.

Disheartened, she hung her head low and went to her room.

Nicole saw her lonely figure when she turned around. She felt uneasy and instructed Maya to bring the wreath and play with Nina.

Walking to their bedroom, she gave the wreath to Nina. "Let's play together."

She thought of how Evan treated her upon seeing the wreath. Irritated, she threw the wreath onto the floor.

"I won't play with the things he made for you."

Maya brimmed with tears as she witnessed this. It was the first present her father gave her. She quickly bent over and picked it up. "Nina, that's too much!"

After snorting scornfully, she stomped out of the room, bumping into Nicole who was walking in.

"What happened, Maya?"

"N-Nina threw my wreath onto the ground."

Nicole furrowed her brows.

She was bewildered by how much Nina hated Evan— it was to the extent that she would get agitated at the sight of the wreath he made.

Are they each other's nemesis?

In an attempt to resolve this problem, Nicole walked to Nina's side, ready to talk to her. However, the latter was extremely reluctant to talk about Evan and used the excuse of being hungry to chase Nicole away.

Looks like I'll have to pay more attention to Nina in the future.

At night, after lulling the two kids to sleep, Nicole stared dreamily at Maya's beloved wreath, smiling occasionally as she wondered about that person who made the wreath for her back then.

With a ripple in her heart, she walked out of the room quietly, and looking up at the moon, a figure appeared in her mind. She remembered that the rose trellis looked very lovely in the moonlight.

Unknowingly, Nicole found herself in the front yard. She had just stood under the trellis when Evan, who had returned from outside, saw her.

Unable to make out who the figure belonged to from a distance, Evan approached her slowly.

What is this woman doing here at this time? He frowned upon realizing who the person was.

"Sneaky. Here to steal flowers?"

The sudden voice broke Nicole from her reverie. She looked back over her shoulder and saw the man walking in, reeking of alcohol.

Nicole breathed a sigh of relief. "It's not what you think it is, Mr. Seet. I'm just looking around."

"Enjoying the view? At this hour?" Evan questioned her motive, his tone full of disbelief.

Feeling speechless, Nicole swept an annoying glance at him and said, "What else can I do here besides admiring the flowers?"

"You know yourself best," Evan snorted, sizing her up. "You and your little intentions."

Intentions?

Right, there's always a cloud of suspicion hanging over me in his eyes.

Not wanting to bother herself with him, Nicole headed back to the rear house.

Evan regarded her retreating back with a frown, sniffing the smell of alcohol on his body.

Did she just leave? Logically speaking, this woman wouldn't have let go of such a good opportunity.

"Good that you understand your own limits," Evan muttered to himself and walked toward the room.

The following night after school, Evan brought Kyle and Juan back to Rose Garden.

The two children put down their school bags and immediately ran to the rear house. They couldn't wait to see Nicole.

Nicole was overjoyed to see them as well.

"Kyle, Juan, what would you like to have for dinner? Mommy will make it for you."

Juan gave it some thoughts and blurted out a few of Nicole's signature dishes, "Buffalo wings, lemon butter fish and cheesy baked eggplant."

"And pork chop too," Maya quickly added.

"I'll have the greens," Nina, feeling a little down, added in a depressing manner.

"All right, I'll stir-fry some broccoli as well then," Nicole said, then turned to Kyle. "Kyle, how about you?"

Kyle contemplated for a while before asking coolly, "The ones they talked about, are they nice?"

"Of course, they are. Those are Mommy's signature dishes," Juan answered and Maya nodded in agreement.

"I'll have those too then."

"Sure. Now, you guys have fun. Mommy will be in the kitchen."

The kids nodded in unison and Nicole was gratified to see how obedient they were.

In the kitchen, she was at a loss when she saw what was left of her cooking ingredients.

Rose Garden is located in the south of the suburbs and it's far away from the city. It's too late to go grocery shopping now. It's either I borrow some ingredients from Evan and return them later, or I can pay him now to save some time.

At this thought, Nicole summoned up her courage and walked to the main house.

Evan was on the phone so she waited at the side, not daring to disturb him.

"Yes?" Evan looked up at her after the phone call.

"Uh, Mr. Seet, can I borrow a little something from you?"

"What do you want?"

"Ingredients."

"What?" Evan questioned in puzzlement.

"Yeah, like vegetables, meat and some condiments. I want to make the kids their favorite dishes."

Evan fixed his eyes at Nicole. This woman's cooking skill is actually not bad, but to borrow ingredients from me...

"Borrowing my stuff is subject to interest charges."

"No problem. It's only right that you charge me for that."