

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 191

Nicole was easy-going.

Evan tapped his fingers on the table. "Okay, what do you want?"

"I'm making buffalo wings. So I'll need to borrow some chicken wings and condiments."

"Very well. You'll have to pay me back three times for every ingredient that you take."

Nicole looked up at him.

Can he be any more unreasonable? Breathe, Nicole. Breathe.

"And I'll need to take a fish," she continued.

"Very well. That's ten fishes for one."

Ten? You might as well ask me to pay you back with a fish pond!

Nicole pursed her lips. "Mr. Seet, don't you think you're a little more demanding than a loan shark?"

"Forget about it then!"

It'll take a long while if I were to travel to and fro just to get the ingredients...
Fine, I'll just bear with it!

"I'll also need to borrow some boneless pork meat."

"I don't have that. But I can send someone to get it for you—if you can accept the price."

Evan didn't really like to eat pork, so he was sure that there wouldn't be any in the kitchen.

"How much?"

"Six hundred!"

Is this an attempt at open robbery?

Nicole goggled at Evan, who remained indifferent.

His unreasonable demands were straining her patience. Thinking about the funds she had in her hands, she took a deep breath, turned around, and walked out of the room.

"What a bastard. Just say so if you don't want to lend them to me. You didn't have to go to such extremes," she grumbled as she headed back to the rear house.

"Mommy, I'm hungry. When can we eat?" Maya whined, rubbing her rumbling stomach.

Nicole looked at the kids apologetically. "Hmm, let's make something else today and tomorrow I'll make your favorites. How's that?"

The kids exchanged glances and nodded understandingly.

Nicole got busy in the kitchen. And once dinner was ready, she joyfully called the children to the table, "Let's have spaghetti with meatballs tonight, shall we?"

The kids sat around the table and watched as Nicole served the food on the table. The thick aroma wafted in the air, stimulating the glutton in their stomachs.

"Let's eat. It's really yummy."

Seeing that Maya was stuffing food in her mouth, Nina reminded her to eat slowly and chew her food if she wanted to lose weight.

Maya gave her a look, and only then did she slow down.

Kyle and Juan looked at each other, seemingly wanting to say something, but they held their tongues.

"What's wrong? You don't like pasta?"

"No, Mommy. Daddy probably hasn't eaten either. I was wondering if we could ask him to join us," Juan said and Kyle nodded in agreement, thinking that Evan had certainly never tried such delicious pasta.

Remembering Evan's indifference from before, Nicole wondered if he would have the effrontery to join them at the table.

"I don't think your Daddy likes pasta."

"No, Mommy. Daddy likes pasta too. Let Daddy eat with us, please."

"Yes, Mommy."

Nicole thought about it and gave a thoughtful snort, "You kids go ahead and call him then."

It's natural if he doesn't want to come. But if he does...

I must get it even with him!

Ten minutes later, Juan and Kyle pulled Evan into their little kitchen.

Nicole was very surprised to see him.

Looks like I've underestimated him.

"Mommy, Daddy's here."

"The kids forced me to come," Evan started immediately when he saw her.

"I knew it," Nicole laughed. "I knew that you wouldn't enjoy eating my food. So, there's a seat over there. You can sit and watch as we eat."

Juan and Kyle looked at each other. Huh? Is Mommy not allowing Daddy to eat?

"Mommy," Juan whined, trying to gain affection by acting in a cutesy manner.

Worn out, Nicole turned around and served Evan with a plate of pasta.

With that, the family started digging in.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 192

Evan frowned. How delicious can this be? But it does smell good.

Looking at the kids eating like coyotes, he picked up the cutleries and took a bite with the intention of having a taste.

This is actually not bad...

Evan took another bite and soon finished the plate of pasta.

Watching as Nicole refilled the children's plate, he lowered his head and handed his plate over.

Nicole took his plate and refilled it with a poker face, a thought occurring in her mind.

After dinner, while the children went to watch TV, Evan was about to leave when Nicole stopped him.

"How was the pasta, Mr. Seet?"

"Not bad."

Although it tasted great, Evan refused to shower her with words of praise.

Not wanting to haggle over this matter with him, Nicole came straight to the point.

“Mr. Seet, you can’t possibly think you can get away with this for free, right? You had two plates of pasta so that’s six hundred for one plate and one thousand and two hundred in total. You’re welcome.”

“One thousand and two hundred for two plates of pasta?” Evan looked at her strangely with a spurious smile.

Nicole nodded.

Well, I learned this from you. Since you were that calculative just now, I simply learned from the best!

“Are you gonna pay in cash or are you gonna make an online transfer, Mr. Seet?”

Evan sniggered inwardly.

I knew this woman wouldn’t let me eat for free. But it’s just one thousand, so who cares.

“Online.”

“Okay.”

At that, Evan took out his phone and transferred the money to Nicole.

“Thank you, Mr. Seet,” Nicole said, accepting the money unceremoniously.

“Please come again.”

Evan looked askance at her and walked away.

Gazing at his receding figure, Nicole let out a long sigh.

Well, that was easy. I can buy a lot of ingredients with this money. Ah, it feels good to let off some steam and earn money at the same time.

Nina looked at Juan and started talking about how Evan had turned Nicole down on her idea of using the unused room to make money by treating people with acupuncture.

Juan scratched his head.

“You want me to talk to Daddy?”

“It’s useless to talk to him. I heard he has a lot of respect for his grandfather, right?”

“You mean, great-grandpa?”

“Yeah! What is great-grandpa like?”

Juan was all praise when it came to their great grandfather, talking about how nice he was to him and Kyle.

“Which means great-grandpa is a good man,” Nina concluded.

“Yeah, you want to see him?”

“No, I’m just asking.”

“Wait, if great-grandpa agrees, then Daddy can only agree as well,” Juan mused, taking this matter to heart.

The following night, as Juan talked to Kyle about the miracles of acupuncture on purpose, Russell, who overheard their conversation at the side, burst into laughter, “You two know about acupuncture at such a young age?”

“Whenever grandma is not feeling well, Mommy would treat her with acupuncture, great-grandpa. It works pretty well.”

“Yeah, great-grandpa. Have you heard of the miracle doctor, Dr. Tussaud?”

Russell nodded upon deliberation.

“Is your Mommy related to Dr. Tussaud?”

“Great-grandpa, our Mommy is Dr. Tussaud.”

Russell’s spirits lifted. He didn’t expect the woman who gave birth to his two great-grandsons to be the famous miracle doctor.

“Mommy’s acupuncture can save a lot of people,” Juan sighed. “But Daddy, he...”

Upon learning about Evan’s refusal in giving Nicole an extra room, Russell immediately gave him a call and reprimanded him severely, “You should support her work in healing the sick and saving lives. Tidy up a few more rooms for her. Who knows if Rose Garden becomes famous because of her medical skills someday. How amazing this is!”

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 193

Evan didn't really care whether Rose Garden gets famous or not. But the fact that Nicole encouraged the kids to complain to Russell made him very unhappy.

Back at Rose Garden, he approached Nicole once again regarding having her move out of Rose Garden.

"It doesn't matter if you need a lot of rooms. I can provide them, but not at Rose Garden."

"I don't get it, Mr. Seet. Why are you so eager to get me out of Rose Garden?" Nicole asked, staring straight into his eyes.

After a moment of silence, Evan said, "Because of...someone."

"Who is it?" Nicole asked curiously.

"A woman," Evan said huskily.

"What kind of woman?" Nicole asked again, feeling as if she was actually prying too much.

"What does it have to do with you?" Evan replied with a question of his own, looking blankly at her.

Nicole shook her head. "Nothing! I'm just asking."

Evan clammed up, only asking if she agreed to move out, and if she did, the location and price wouldn't be an issue.

She was silent for a moment. Then, raising her head and looking at Evan seriously, she said, "Mr. Seet, I've thought about it and... I don't agree to move out. But since you care about this place so much, I can take a step back and it's fine that you provide another place for me to use as an acupuncture treatment room."

"Nicole Lane, why do you insist on staying in Rose Garden?"

Nicole looked at him, her face darkened. "Because of one person."

The tone of her answer was exactly the same as Evan's when he answered her just now.

"Who is it?" Evan frowned.

"A man."

Evan gazed at her through squinted eyes.

Is she copying me or...

"A man? It can't be me, right?"

Nicole's eyes widened in surprise. Is he still suspecting that I have an agenda against him?

She shook her head fervently. "It's not you. It's someone who cared for me."

To the extent that he didn't mind getting beaten up just to protect me.

Evan thought she was fabricating wild tales the more he listened to her.

How could someone who was very good and kind to her have anything to do with Rose Garden?

Rose Garden was the Seet family's private property.

Before he was born, his great-grandfather had used his first pot of gold to build this place.

No one was allowed to enter Rose Garden beside the Seets and the Seet family's servants. Therefore, Nicole and that someone she spoke of couldn't have anything to do with Rose Garden.

Thinking about this, he regarded her with increasing contempt, making her feel uncomfortable all over.

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

"I'm really curious. Is this nonsense of yours a skill that you were born with, or is it something that you developed later in life?"

You're the one who's spouting nonsense.

Evan had always looked at her through the veil of his own preconception.

But what was the point of arguing with someone who didn't believe in her in any way?

"Anyway, I'm not moving out of Rose Garden, Mr. Seet. I hope you'll find a place that is suitable for me to use as an acupuncture treatment room. Otherwise, I'm just gonna use the extra room at Rose Garden," Nicole said, staring fixedly at him. "Now, good day."

Evan gave her a sidelong glance, got up and walked out.

This woman sure is stubborn. She's still hoping to become Mrs. Seet, isn't she?

How can I make her drop the idea forever?

At night, after putting the two children to bed, Nicole was sitting alone at the table, compiling books on medicine when her phone suddenly rang.

"Nicole, it's me."

Zane?

Nicole's heart thumped.

"What do you want?"

"Your mother's death anniversary is in a few days. Could you come back? I'd like to have a chat with you."

Mom's death anniversary.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 194

Having heard those words, Nicole felt a sharp pang in her heart. Her mother, who was highly cultured and steeped in propriety, had devoted herself to supporting Zane just so he could make a name for himself in the industry.

She had even cleaned out her father's company for his sake. But what did she get in return?

Her mother's experience had taught her a lesson that one should never humble herself and go against her own principles for love.

"Nicole, say something."

"What do you want to talk about, dad?"

"Nicole, I know you're living a comfortable life now with Mr. Seet, but you can't just forget about us. Sylphiette is your sister and her marriage was ruined because of the Lane family's bankruptcy. Life has been terrible for us. Could you please tell Mr. Seet to have mercy on us and give us a chance to rise again?"

"Okay, but first, you have to answer my question."

Sensing that there was hope, Zane quickly replied, "What is it, Nicole? Just fire away and I'll answer without reserve."

"How did my mom die?"

There was a brief silence from the other end of the line.

“Why are you asking that? Your mother died of an illness. You know that.”

“An illness?” Nicole sneered. “You think I’ll believe that? You and Sylvia had earnestly wished for mom and I to die, so you also got me a tomb when you bought one for mom; you’d even set up a tombstone for me, assuming I was dead when you didn’t even find my body! Dad, who on earth would do that as a father?”

“Wasn’t that a misunderstanding? After finding out that you were alive, I brought you home, didn’t I?”

“And you should know better how I was treated when you brought me home! Oh, don’t worry, Dad. I’ll definitely have a good chat with you on my mom’s death anniversary!”

At that, Nicole hung up the phone, her resentment growing deeper.

Remembering the time when she went to her mother’s grave and saw her picture next to her mother’s tombstone, she couldn’t believe that Zane and Sylvia were so eager for her to die.

She had destroyed the picture on the tombstone and gone to look for Zane in a fit of rage.

Seeing that she was still alive, Sylvia’s face darkened and she had been muttering about how it was a waste that she was still alive when the tombstone was all set up.

Zane didn’t stand up for her back then, but neither did he chase her away, as he needed to protect the company and his image.

From then on, she had been treated like a servant and bullied relentlessly by Sylvia.

She could endure these for the time being, but for once, she was determined to get to the bottom of the cause of her mother's death. She was certain that Sylvia and Zane couldn't get away with it.

Five days later, after sending the kids to the kindergarten, Nicole dropped by at the florist's to buy her mother's favorite flower and bought her favorite fruits before heading to the cemetery.

But little did she expect her car to suddenly break down halfway, making her heart sink into her boots.

She got out of the car, called a car mechanic, and stood waiting by the roadside for half an hour until she saw a familiar-looking car coming this way.

Isn't that Evan's Maybach?

As if she saw a glimmer of hope, she waved desperately at him, but he simply sped past her.

What the hell? Is he blind?

'Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away'— what nonsense! He's a jerk who doesn't even help his neighbor! And we're not even neighbors! We live under the same roof!

She was bellyaching when the mechanic arrived.

The car was soon repaired and after paying, she continued her journey toward the cemetery.

Upon arriving at the cemetery and parking the car, it suddenly began to drizzle.

Unconcerned, she carried the flowers and fruits and walked toward the inside, but after taking a few steps, she unexpectedly bumped into Evan head-on.

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 195

“Hi Mr. Seet! Fancy meeting you here! To whom are you paying your respects?”

But before Nicole could finish talking, Evan walked away with a sour expression on his face.

His face looked as grim as a gambler who just lost all of his money in a bet.

As Evan’s figure got smaller in her eyes, Nicole slapped herself all of a sudden.

“Nicole Lane, remember to never ever say hi to him ever again! Next time you see him, you’re going to pretend he’s made of glass! “

Nicole gave herself a warning and continued ahead.

However, she had only taken a few steps when Evan called her from behind.

She recalled the promise she made to herself and acted as if she had heard nothing as she walked on.

All of a sudden, an angry voice came from behind.

“I don’t mind towing away your wretched car if you don’t want it anymore. “

Nicole was at a loss for words.

She halted in her steps and rolled her eyes at him before stomping her way to her car.

Because she was in such a hurry just now, and adding on to the fact that she had been disconcerted for the whole day, Nicole parked her car in a position that blocked Evan's exit path.

Right after Nicole shifted her car to another side, Evan took off in his Maybach.

"Is this fella okay? He looked so upset! I wonder for whom he came here for today."

Nicole rambled on as she sauntered to her mother's grave.

She placed all of the offerings neatly in front of the tombstone and arranged the flowers into a pretty display.

Out of the blue, Nicole noticed another bouquet of flowers in front of her mother's grave.

It was not the first time she saw another bouquet of flowers at her mother's grave. In fact, in the years before she moved overseas with her children, there would always be a bouquet of flowers at her mother's grave that did not come from her.

If her memory didn't fail her, that occurrence had continued for five years before she went abroad.

Nicole didn't think that after all these years, that person would still be persistent in buying her mother a bouquet of flowers on the anniversary of her death.

Who is this person?

Nicole was really puzzled as to who was the sender of these flowers.

Perhaps, that person has mistaken my mother's grave for someone else's?

The tombstone had a portrait of Nicole's mother embedded in it, and beneath the picture, the phrase 'My Precious' was engraved. Other than that, there were no other etchings on the tombstone, not even the name of Nicole's mother. No one knew what reason Zane Li had for making the tombstone so minimalistic.

Now that the portrait was destroyed, there was indeed a great possibility that someone mistook Nicole's mother's grave for someone else's.

Nicole pitied the person who had been accidentally sending her mother flowers all these years.

"Next time, I'm going to come earlier to catch the guy who's been sending my mom flowers all this while."

After paying respects to her mother, Nicole left the graveyard.

Upon entering Rose Garden, she could see Evan arranging stalks of flowers into a wreath.

Hmm, don't you have work, mister?

Nicole noticed the depressed look on Evan's face and figured that it must have something to do with his visit to the graveyard.

However, Nicole was bemused. *The Seet's family has so much fortune! Why would they ever get a place at such a lousy graveyard?*

Therefore, Nicole had a feeling that Evan was paying respects to someone not from his family.

In any case, Nicole knew she had to avoid Evan at all costs for the rest of the day as he was in a gloomy mood.

Nicole hastily strode to the rear house.

After changing into a fresh set of clothes, she decided to pay both Zane and Sylvia a visit.

Twenty minutes later, Nicole's car pulled up in front of Zane's house.

The Lane family had lost all of its former glamour. Even though Zane was living in a villa, the villa was shabby and nothing impressive. It was merely a roof for Zane and his family to take shelter under.

Nicole hoped that his father was not doing so badly that even his house was rented, or worse still, paid with a mortgage.

Once Nicole entered the place, she found Sylvia glaring at her with her eyes full on enmity.

On the other hand, Zane had a poker face. After all of the turmoil he went through, he learned how not to let his schemes reflect on his face.

"Nicole, you went to pay respects to your mother?"

"Yeah. You didn't visit her grave, right? I have a feeling Mom doesn't want to see you either."

"Watch your mouth, Nicole. I know things have not ended well between your mother and me, but we were once husband and wife after all. I intend to visit her this afternoon."

Nicole scoffed in disdain. She did not care whether her father would bother to visit her mother or not, for he had not treated her mother well at all when she was still alive.

Pfft. As if you actually care for Mom.

“Dad, I can let the Lane family return to its former glory, but I have conditions.”

“Say.”

Zane’s reply was curt.

Nicole did come to her father’s house prepared. “I will be the legal owner of the Lane Corporation.”

“What?”

Sylvia’s eyes were peeled as she glowered at Nicole.

She bellowed in rage, “How can you be so greedy? If you will own everything, I would rather let Lane Corporation just rot in hell! Also, Zane is your Dad! How can you take everything away from him, you heartless little skank!”