Pleased that her plan was going well, Sylphiette continued with her act and giggled shyly, "Tye, you're making me shy!"

"I'd prefer Mr. Seet. It's better if you call me by my name." Evan strode towards his bedroom.

Sylphiette stood rooted to the ground as she contemplated on how to call Evan. At last, she followed him and called out affectionately, "Evan!"

Nicole came to the main house in hopes of finding out if Evan was the owner of the drawings.

However, she was surprised to see Sylphiette with Evan when she reached the main house.

"Why are you here?"

Sylphiette gave Nicole a haughty look. "Of course I'm here for Mr. Seet. Oh, I forgot that you asked me to call you Evan." She turned to look at Evan lovingly.

Nicole was appalled by Sylphiette's disgusting expression. How could Evan be associating with the woman who kidnapped Juan?

Her mind buzzed with confusion. It wasn't until Evan asked her what she was doing that she regained her senses.

"Are these yours, Mr. Seet?" Nicole showed Evan the drawings.

He glanced at the drawings and snapped coldly, "Get out."

What does he mean? Is he the one who draws them or not?

Nicole mustered up her courage to stare directly into his eyes. "Mr. Seet, do these belong to you?"

What is she playing at? Why is she so interested in my private matters?

Snorting coldly, Evan replied, "Everything in Rose Garden belongs to me. Are these something from Rose Garden?"

How on earth am I supposed to know? Is it true that he owns the drawings?

Nicole's eyes glistened as she stared at Evan before him. He did not look like the same boy years ago.

The boy was often hurt in the face, but now...

Evan frowned when he noticed Nicole staring at him for a long time. She can't possibly want me to draw her portrait because of the drawings, can she?

"Are you enjoying the view?"

Nicole nodded and smiled subconsciously because she was too mesmerized by Evan's face. She seemed like a perverted flirt to him.

Sylphiette's nostrils flared at the sight of Nicole staring intently at Evan. She finally burst out, "Sis, can you stop staring at Evan like that?"

Realizing that she spaced out momentarily, Nicole hurriedly coughed and continued, "Mr. Seet, these drawings..."

"You can keep the drawings since you like them so much. Stop using it as an excuse to get near me."

Evan had to warn Nicole in case she kept pestering him about the drawings. The last thing he needed was trouble with her.

He didn't have the time to bother himself with someone who dreamed of being his wife.

Nicole replayed what he said in her mind again. *Maybe the drawings don't belong to him? That's why he thinks I'm pestering him!* 

But why can't he just give me a direct answer instead of going round in circles?

Nicole gave Evan and Sylphiette one last glare before leaving the main house.

"Evan, has my sister kept finding excuses to approach you?"

Curious about Evan's answer, Nicole stopped in her tracks.

After a slight pause, Evan replied vaguely, "Of course she has. She's the one who insisted on living here no matter how much I object to it."

Nicole felt her face burned with anger when she heard his reply.

Turning around to glare at him, she retorted, "You are in no place to have a say in my choice to stay here because this mansion belongs to Juan!"

Evan lowered his head to avoid Nicole's furious gaze. *How does she manage to hear me from such a distance?* He couldn't help but marvel.

"Nicole, this may be Juan's but it is also the Seet family's possession. Evan is the director of the Seet Group and of course, he has the power to ask you to leave," said Sylphiette assertively.

"Forcing me to leave? Dream on! To me, it seems like you're the one who should leave!" Feeling annoyed, Nicole spouted her words harshly.

"I'm here for Evan... Evan, look! Nicole is telling me to leave!"

Feeling wronged and humiliated, Sylphiette acted aggrieved in front of Evan.

"Be more polite to Sylphiette!"

Although Evan was warning her, his tone was indifferent.

It was so indifferent that he might as well not say anything.

Nicole glared at Sylphiette. "I will be very polite to her," she said, gritting her teeth.

"You... Evan, look at her attitude..." Sylphiette said as she continued her coquettish behavior in front of Evan.

Nicole could not understand why and how Sylphiette and Evan became close. Reluctant to be around Sylphiette's pretentious attitude any longer, she strode out of the room. Sylphiette was staring into Nicole's back with her eyes harboring hatred as deadly as poison.

It seems that to achieve "happily ever after" with Evan, I would have to obliterate this obstacle called "Nicole" as soon as possible.

The more Nicole thought about it, the more confused she became. *What did Sylphiette do to earn Evan's affection?* 

Even the way they call each other is so intimate.

Nicole scanned her surroundings, making sure there was no one around. Then, she tried to mimic Sylphiette by calling out Evan's name in a bashful and pretentious way. *Holy crap! It's so gross.* She was so disgusted that she had goosebumps all over her skin. *I suppose only Sylphiette is able to act like this.* 

"Mommy, are you calling for Daddy?"

Nicole jumped in shock when she heard Juan's sweet and adorable voice. Turning back, she could see Juan with his big obsidian eyes looking at her with amusement.

Nicole's face heated up instantly. She was not calling for Evan; she was just trying to mimic the actions of that pretentious woman.

"Juan sweetie, you misheard. Mommy did not call for your daddy," she said, feeling embarrassed.

*My hearing is phenomenal; how could I be wrong?* Juan blinked his eyes in confusion.

"But Mommy, I really heard you calling out 'Evan'..."

Juan mimicked her seductive tone.

Flustered, Nicole quickly covered his mouth. "Juan, you've heard it wrongly, I swear. Don't say that again, you hear me?"

Before Juan could express his thoughts, another 'Evan...' in a similar tone could be heard across the room.

"Nina, mind your words," Nicole admonished.

"Evan..."

Mimicking others, Maya too called out the name with a grin on her face. Although her tone was not as coquettish as the others, it was audible enough for Evan, who was walking along the hallway, to hear.

He stopped in his tracks and frowned. Meanwhile, Nicole was holding a finger to her mouth, trying to silence her children.

"Mommy, I learned it from you," said Maya confidently while looking at Nicole.

"I didn't say it so loudly." Nicole looked back at Maya with a serious expression.

"Yeah, you need to say it in a gentler manner," Nina interrupted while Juan demonstrated by calling out again, "Evan..."

Watching the kids calling his name in such a suggestive way, Evan's expression immediately turned dark.

What a weirdo Nicole is! What is she teaching the kids?

This is terrible parenting!

Just as Evan was about to get into a fit of rage, he heard Kyle call him 'Daddy', which in turn attracted everyone's attention in the room.

Taking in Evan's darkened face, Nicole could sense a ferocious storm approaching. Feigning ignorance, her lively eyes flickered as she quickly put on an awkward smile. Then, she turned her back on Evan and sprinted her way into the rear house.

All of the kids exchanged looks. *Even Mommy has to run away, so what are the chances of us standing up against Daddy?* With that, they ran off frantically too.

"Lucky rascals!" Evan gritted his teeth.

He had an extremely important business to attend to, which was a discussion of a major development project. If not for that, he would definitely catch Nicole and sew her mouth up in front of the kids.

After reaching the rear house, Nicole breathed a sigh of relief. Suddenly, Maya asked her, "Mommy, why is that wicked woman who kidnapped Juan together with Daddy?"

"You'll have to ask your Daddy this," said Nicole.

Maya pondered for a while and replied, "I think that wicked woman is planning to kidnap children again. This should be why she's coming near us."

"Maya, we are without Daddy's charms, so it is obvious that the witch is here for him."

Juan and Kyle concurred with Nina.

Juan continued with his analysis, "In other words, she wants to steal Daddy from Mommy and therefore..." to which Kyle chimed in, "We cannot let her have her way."

Maya blinked, all wide-eyed, "But, what are we to do? I don't want Daddy to be with the witch. I want him to play with me."

"Daddy would be able to play with you if we could chase off the witch," Juan declared quite assuredly – a sentiment Kyle seconded as he nodded in approval.

Nicole, who had been looking on, was quite bewildered by the audacity of these kids. She went on to confront them with a stern warning, "Your father will handle his personal affairs on his own, so I will not have the lot of you getting into any funny business here. Have I made myself clear?"

Gracious. Someone is going to steal Daddy from us, and Mommy would not let us intervene? Unbelievable!

The four kids looked briefly toward Nicole and seemed to acknowledge her warning. Then, they used hunger as a pretext to lure her away to the kitchen before they resumed their conferring behind closed doors.

"I'd say, we should let the witch..."

"I think we could..."

Each expertly tried to one up the other as they proposed one devious scheme after another.

The discussion extended over the day as the kids were determined to not let Sylphiette off easy.

Nicole was contemplative as she busied herself with her meal preparations. Who owned the painting? And apart from inquiring, what could help establish the identity of the boy, Tye, from years back?

As she pondered, something struck her. She recalled that back in the day while attempting to aid Tye, she had mistakenly bitten him on the shoulder. If Evan was Tye, should he not have borne tooth marks on his shoulder?

Was he bitten on the left shoulder, or the right?

Nicole thought carefully and concluded that it was on the left.

With that in mind, she just needed to figure out a way to inspect Evan's left shoulder in order to ascertain his identity. "Evan, do you think just by outright denying it, I would not be able to discover whether you are the owner of the painting or not? Ha! Just you wait!"

The following day, as Nicole was leading the kids through the front yard after returning from school, she saw Sylphiette badgering Evan to help her weave a garland. "Evan, I can't quite reach those flowers up there. Will you be a dear and give me a lift?"

"How dare you ask Daddy to hold you, you witch?" The kids fumed. Having exchanged knowing glances, all of them then ran in the direction of the trellis.

While Juan and Kyle pestered Evan to join them for a Lego building session, Maya stubbornly held on to the half-finished garland and kept it from everyone else. Amidst the commotion, Nina shot a dirty look sideways at Sylphiette.

Sylphiette was incensed at this unexpected disruption. Despite wanting Nicole to remove her four little rascals from her presence right away, she had to restrain herself from flying into a rage in front of Evan. Turning toward Nicole, she eked out a smile, "Nikki, I suspect that the kids should have homework to attend to. Since Evan and myself have work to finish up, do you think..."

Before Nicole could respond, Juan chirped, "Our homework from school is a parent-child bonding session, so we have to play with Daddy!"

Sylphiette was slightly flustered at their continued fixation at hogging Evan's attention, "Could you not do the same thing with your Mommy?" With that, she looked purposefully at Nicole, who appeared quite amused at Sylphiette's eagerness to avail herself of their company.

The more Sylphiette wanted to be rid of them, the more resolved Nicole was to not grant her that satisfaction. "To a child, there is a difference in the nature of the love coming from each parent. Sylphiette, would you really bear to deny the kids of their father?"

Nicole's final statement sounded as much a line of lamentation as it did a questioning.

Sylphiette was cautiously aware that Evan loved his son dearly and if it occurred to him that she could not share in his devotion to his children, that could seriously diminish his esteem of her.

Nicole was definitely wicked. No wonder her parents told her to be careful of this little witch.

Sylphiette rubbed her fingers with so much force that she almost peeled off her skin. Quickly, she forced out a smile.

"Nicole, what are you saying? How could I think that?" She fidgeted and stuttered, "I-I'm j-just afraid that Evan would be over-exhausted. He has just returned from the company after all."

How could this woman use Evan's tiredness as an excuse? Nicole did not want to argue with her any further and rolled her eyes at her.

With a sweet voice, she bent forward and spoke to the children, "Why not all of you go play with each other? I'll call all of you to come and have dinner once I've finished cooking."

The children cheered and hopped around as they answered with "Okay!"

As she was about to leave, Evan called out to her.

"Let Kyle and Juan stay. As for the other two, take them with you."

Evan glanced at Nina and Maya with his charming eyes.

Since the last time he took Maya for a delicious dinner, Nicole had complained and even mentioned that he might sell Maya off.

Now she wants me to help her take care of the kids? Not a chance!

Nina looked at Evan with a trace of arrogance in her expression. Rolling her eyes at him, she turned around and walked off in a huff.

On the other hand, Maya stood rooted to the spot as she was reluctant to leave. Pouting, she rubbed her chubby hands together. Her gaze slowly filled with anguish.

Doesn't Daddy like to play with me?

Daddy is a meanie! A big fat meanie!

Nicole's gaze moved from Nina who was walking away indignantly to Maya. She knew well that the latter yearned for her father's love very much.

Sighing, she walked up to the little girl and reached out to pat her head. Then, she brought her toward Evan.

"Mr. Seet, Maya really likes you. Do you remember the garland you had woven for her? She carefully kept it without letting anyone touch it. If I've offended you in any way, you may find fault with me. But please, I hope you won't have any bias toward the kids."

She's also your daughter. If you don't like her, she'll be very sad about it.

Evan lowered his gaze and saw Maya's reddened eyes. He thought of the time when they were at Clare's Place. Maya had blinked her large eyes as she chomped down on her food happily, and then she had called him 'Uncle Evan' in the most adorable manner. He also thought of her worshipping look at him as he wove the garland for her.

Suddenly, the image of the brat from the past looking at him appeared in his mind.

Although his cold, hard face did not show much change, he warmly reached out a slender hand toward Maya.

The girl looked up at him as an innocent grin crept across her tiny face.

"Uncle Evan, I like to play with you."

"Then let's play together."

Seeing that Evan had taken Maya's hand, Nicole said with much emotion to him, "Thank you."

The man said nothing but went into the house with Maya, Kyle and Juan.

A smile started playing at the corner of Nicole's mouth when she saw this scene.

However, this smile was especially disgusting to Sylphiette who was gritting her teeth off to the side.

"Smug, aren't we? Nicole, don't you think you're despicable to use the kids to get near Evan?"

Even though her voice was soft, the provocation was clear.

Nicole turned her eyes and sized the woman up and down.

"I'm despicable? Hmm, I wonder what low move you used to get near Evan? In the past, when you kidnapped Juan, he had lost any feelings he had for you. Why did he suddenly change his attitude?"

Guilt crept into Sylphiette's heart as she lowered her eyes, not daring to look at Nicole.

The latter felt strange upon seeing Sylphiette's reaction.

"What? Is your tactic so heinous that you don't dare to say it out loud?"

"No! Evan and I share mutual feelings toward each other. I've long become his woman."

Nicole was speechless.

*Wow, is Evan so fickle in love? How could he be interested in a terrible woman like Sylphiette?* 

She looked up at Sylphiette with a dubious expression and said, "I've never expected that a company CEO like him does side jobs!"

"Huh? What do you mean?" Sylphiette was baffled by the sudden change in topic.

"Who knew that Evan has a side job of collecting junk? Otherwise, why would he go near you?"

"Nicole! Y-You're the junk! You're trash!"

Sylphiette was so infuriated that her face twisted in rage.

"Ah, why are you so agitated for? You look frightful when you're mad after being exposed!"

After speaking, she glanced at Sylphiette and turned to walk to the rear house.

"You…"

If she were not at Evan's place, where she had to put up an act, she would have walked over and given Nicole a hard slap in the face.

I'll get back at her for this!

When Nicole falls into my hands, I must give her several slaps in the face!

"I'll then beat your disgusting face to a pulp!"

As soon as she finished cursing under her breath, she heard Evan cough.

She quickly regained her composure, turned around, and assumed a modest and graceful manner again.

"What about the kids, Evan?"

"I'm going out, so please look after them."

Why should I look after Nicole's brats?

Although she was extremely reluctant deep down, she nodded her head in agreement as she parted her red lips slightly and replied in a gentle tone, "Don't worry, Evan, I'll take good care of them."

"That'll be great."

Sylphiette watched Evan walk away, while the expression on her face turned ghastly. The earlier gentleness disappeared without a trace, and was replaced by reluctance and impatience instead.

She turned to enter the house and saw Kyle and Juan playing with Lego.

From time to time, Juan made faces and giggled, while Kyle stared at Lego with a stern face, his eyes unblinking.

In front of Maya, there was a stack of pastries. She was eating with relish while taking a sip of milk tea every now and then, enjoying herself. Yet, she looked like a stupid pig to Sylphiette.

Why don't they go to Nicole's side to play Lego and eat pastries? Why must they stay here?

I guess I can take this opportunity to get rid of them, so that I have the chance to spend time alone with Evan when he comes back.

With this in mind, Sylphiette immediately walked up to Juan and Kyle. "Are you having fun?"

Looking up, Kyle gave her a cold look. "What do you think?"

"I think you must be having fun. Look at how happy you are."

Kyle stared at her blankly. "You can see that I'm happy?"

Sylphiette took a closer look and found that this cold face was a carbon copy of Evan. It was indeed not easy to see happiness from his face.

She turned and asked Juan, "Is it fun?"

Juan glanced at her. "If you don't talk, we will find it fun. When you talk, it's like there's a fly buzzing around. It's so annoying that we can't have fun."

"H-How dare you call me a fly? How can a small kid like you be so ill-mannered?"

Sylphiette glared at Juan, who turned and grinned at her, saying, "Have you ever seen people showing manners to a fly? Everyone only wants to kill the fly!"

Sylphiette was rendered speechless as the expression on her face changed in an instant.

These brats are indeed Nicole's kids. They're as exasperating as she is!

It's not so easy to deal with these two little weirdos, so I should try to get rid of that stupid pig first.

She turned around and walked up to Maya. Looking at her dirty face, she asked, "Is it delicious?"

Maya nodded her head, as she looked up at her with an innocent face, asking, "Do you want some?"

At this, Sylphiette thought, *At least this stupid pig is normal, and knows that she should share her food. Her attitude is much better too.* 

Smiling, she shook her head gently, "You should let your mommy try."

Hearing her words, Maya thought that she was right. *I should really give Mommy some of these delicious pastries.* 

She looked up at Sylphiette, and said, "Will you help me pack these up? I'll take them back to Mommy."

Nodding her head, Sylphiette hurriedly put the remaining pastries into a bag and handed them to her.

"Alright, go to your mommy now."

Maya took the pastries, and said hesitantly, "I-I still want to bring some other food back for Mommy."

Sylphiette was stunned. What a greedy pig.

"In a minute!"

She simply packed up some of the food in Evan's house and handed them to Maya.

"Take these and go to your mommy."