02/07/2021 by Novel Heart

Davin waved his hand in front of Blake's eyes.

Snapped out of his trance, Blake answered sluggishly, "The chubby one."

"It's Maya?"

A smile spread across Davin's face. This little girl is adorable. She even treated me to shrimp crackers at the slum before. I have to reward her, so that she'll continue describing our arrogant president with more creative words.

"What was Evan's reaction at that time?"

Just as Davin was prying information out of Blake, they saw Nicole walking downstairs with her luggage while muttering in rage.

What's going on? Is she leaving?

Davin raised his brows in shock while a mystified look appeared on Blake's face. After exchanging glances, they hurriedly approached her.

"Ms. Lane, what are you doing?"

"I'm leaving."

"Why?" Davin asked in doubt.

Nicole refused to tell him. "Ask your brother." With that said, she walked away with her luggage.

Neither Blake nor Davin knew the root cause of her departure, thinking that it was about Maya and Nina's kindergarten.

Davin was stunned for a split second, then he promptly advised her, "Don't worry, Nicole. I'll make the arrangements for Maya and Nina. I promise the two girls will start attending the Grant Kindergarten tomorrow, if not today. We can't blame Evan, because he doesn't know that Maya and Nina are..." They're his daughter.

Before Davin finished talking, Nicole turned to glare at him. Her piercing gaze was full of warning and threat, and Davin bit his tongue right away.

Why is he talking about this in front of Blake? Is he trying to hint everyone who Maya and Nina's dad is? That'll definitely put me in a tight spot!

"My daughters are okay with attending regular kindergarten. There's no need to transfer them anywhere else."

"No, we'll have to transfer them anyway. Please calm down..." Davin paused abruptly and peeked at Blake. "Go ahead and get back to work. I'll talk to her."

"Okay, Sir. Please persuade Ms. Lane to stay. Both Kyle and Juan are very fond of her as well."

"I got it. Do what you need to do."

Then Blake walked away, leaving only Davin and Nicole in the living room. Only then the two started talking freely.

"Nicole, why don't you tell Evan that he's Maya and Nina's dad? Then all of you can truly reunite as a family. I'm sure Evan will treat all his children equally. He..."

"Let me warn you. If Evan ever gets to know that Maya and Nina are his daughters, I'll make you regret it," Nicole interrupted Davin in mid-sentence.

"Why? You both are already staying together. The next step should be..."

"So what if we're staying together? Evan just kicked me out. He even wants to snatch Juan's custody from me. Evan Seet is such a jerk!"

Nicole gritted her teeth in fury.

"What? Juan's custody?" This news caught Davin by surprise.

It's only been two days since I, the genius matchmaker, was away from the Hillside Villa. I wanted them to spend more quality time together as a family, so that Evan and Nicole could bond with one another. How did it turn out this way...?

"Don't worry, Nicole. I'll always be on your side."

Nicole lifted her head to look at him. "It's fine to have you on my side, but don't you ever address me as your sister-in-law again."

Davin gulped and went speechless.

Sophia called me last night asking about Evan and Nicole's relationship, and I assured her that she'll get their wedding invitation when she returns from her vacation. I even asked her for a global limited-edition supercar as a reward.

But looks like, it was all just a wishful thinking.

If the two become estranged from each other, Sophia will think that I lied to her, then she'll not let me off the hook.

Sigh... Davin heaved a sigh in exasperation.

Evan, why do you drag me down with you every time you stir up trouble?

That's just my luck.

"Nicole..."

Nicole shot daggers at Davin, who then gently slapped his own cheek right away. "No, no, I should call you Ms. Lane. Now we have to think of a way to stop Evan from getting Juan's custody."

When Nicole was packing her luggage earlier, she thought of taking all her children away with her. However, on second thought, this wasn't a long-term solution.

The kids prefer to live in the country, so they'll probably refuse to move overseas again.

Besides, Evan has brought Kyle up here since young. Hence, it'll be impractical and so cruel of me to take him away from his dad.

Yet, I can't bear to leave him here alone.

So I'm left with only one option, that is to stay in the country with my kids, and to fight for Juan's custody.

"But I know my limits. I don't have what it takes to stand against Evan..." she blurted out while looking up at Davin.

Staring back at her with a solemn face, Davin said, "Nicole, we can't fight with him directly, but we'll have to use our wits."

"What do you mean?"

"I'll find a way to let you stay here, but you need to do your part after that. The huge disparity between you and Evan makes it impossible for you to compete with him. Therefore, we have to use a soft approach. Maybe you can try acting coquettishly to persuade him. If it doesn't work, we'll have to come up with another method then."

Acting coquettishly to coax Evan into letting me stay? That's too difficult for me!

Thinking of Evan's ice-cold expression, Nicole believed that he would never respond to her coquettish act.

He'll probably think that I'm a lunatic.

Anyway, Davin is right. There's indeed a huge disparity between Evan and I.

"Ms. Lane, please bear with Evan for Juan's sake. I'll make a call now, and I promise Evan won't kick you out again for the time being. Please rest assured and stay."

"Who are you calling?"

"Sophia."

Only Sophia can help us now.

Davin took out his phone while heading outside to the courtyard.

After Sophia picked up the call, he made sweet talk to flatter her before he got to the point.

"Mom, Evan and Ms. Lane are now at the critical stage of their relationship. Ms. Lane is about to leave the Hillside Villa for a very long time because of a patient.

I'm afraid that all our efforts will be in vain if she leaves. Evan wants her to stay, but he's too shy to ask her. We really need your help to make her stay. Please call and tell Evan that you want Ms. Lane to stay. Is that alright?"

"Well..." Sophia hesitated for a moment, then she answered firmly, "Okay, I'll call the both of them for your brother's sake."

"Mom, I'm counting on you. This is the turning point of their relationship."

"Consider it done." With that said, Sophia hung up the phone.

Afterward, Davin let out a sigh while staring at his phone. If Sophia knows that I'm lying this way, she'll surely want to pull my ear so badly.

Soon after, Nicole received a call from Sophia.

Deep down I know that Mrs. Seet is calling to make me stay at the Hillside Villa.

And I really need this now.

That's why I have promised her that I'll consider staying.

Meanwhile, Davin gave Nicole a thumbs up. "Ms. Lane, you did the right thing. There's no way Evan will disobey Sophia, so I'm sure he'll beg you to stay."

But Nicole did not agree with his words.

It's impossible that Evan will beg me to stay since he's so aloof and domineering.

It'll be good enough if he just stops chasing me away so hastily, so that I can convince him.

After calling Nicole, Sophia dialed Evan's number.

"What? Mom, what did you just say?"

"I said, by hook or by crook, you must get Dr. Tussaud to stay. I'm bringing a friend back, and I want to meet Dr. Tussaud for medical treatment once I come home. And I've called and told her about this already."

"Even so, why does she have to stay at the Hillside Villa? You can give her a call when you're back..."

"Evan, don't be silly. I'm actually helping you. If you can't make her stay, I'll deal with you when I come home."

She's helping me?

How is that so?

Evan felt puzzled. Just when he was about to ask her further, Sophia commanded him conclusively, "You have to make her stay. It's a must!" Then she instantly hung up on him.

Watching his phone screen turn dimmer, Evan's expression grew cold.

This is strange. What a coincidence. I chased her out before I left for work. Then, shortly after I arrived at the office, my mom called and asked me to make her stay.

Hence, there's only one possibility. Nicole must've complained about me.

It's pointless for her to complain. I'll kick her out when I get home later.

No, I'll go home to kick her out now!

Consumed by rage, Evan stood up and marched out of his office.

The Maybach whizzed along the road back to the Hillside Villa.

After getting out of the car, he hurriedly strode toward the living room. He was eager to confront Nicole.

In the meantime, Nicole was sitting in the living room, reading about acupuncture. Her heart skipped a beat when she saw Evan stepped in with a sullen face. This doesn't look good. Judging from his expression, he is up to no good.

"Why are you still here?" Evan questioned her in an icy tone.

Nicole froze briefly. I knew it. There's no way he'll ask me to stay. Luckily, I've come up with a strategy.

"I wanted to leave, but I promised Mrs. Seet to stay and wait for her return. She needs my help to treat a patient."

"No need. You may leave now," Evan retorted in an indifferent tone, and his eyes were full of disdain.

Thinking that she backstabbed him, Evan felt disgusted.

Nonetheless, Nicole was keeping her cool. Putting the book on the table, she glanced up at him. "It doesn't matter what you say. I've promised Mrs. Seet, so I'll wait for her to come back. I'm a woman of my words."

Immediately, Evan's reaction was like he had just heard a hilarious joke. "A woman of her words? Are you?"

"Of course, I am."

Nicole lifted her head and stared intently at Evan, and her gaze was unswerving.

Evan's voice was stuck in his throat.

Why am I arguing with this shameless woman about this? It's only a waste of my time.

"Mr. Seet, I won't be leaving anytime soon. If you insist on chasing me out, please call Mrs. Seet then. I'll leave if she lets me."

"The Hillside Villa belongs to me, so I have the final say."

"Y-You're Mrs. Seet's son, so she gets to decide. You must listen to your mom!"

"You!"

Evan's expression turned sulkier. I wish I can throw her out of the door right away.

"I'm staying upon Mrs. Seet's request. By the way, you don't need to ask the maids to chase me out too. Mrs. Seet had warned them not to touch me, or else she'll not let them off when she returns."

Nicole had only one goal in her heart right now. I have to stay no matter what, only then I can try to change Evan's mind about Juan's custody.

It seems like this woman will not leave easily. Evan's gaze darkened. Suddenly, he stepped forward and grabbed Nicole's wrist.

"What are you doing?" Nicole became cautious at once.

"Let's go." Evan started dragging her, as if he were taking out a trash.

"I'm not going anywhere." Nicole swiftly bent down and wrapped one arm around a table leg.

Juan, Mommy can't lose you, so I'm going all out for your sake. And I don't mind trampling on my own dignity.

It's true that all parents will do anything for their children. Now I have gained a deeper insight into parents' love.

When Evan saw that, he leaned forward to pull her arm off the table leg.

"Let go!"

"No way!"

Nicole would not budge as she clutched the table leg with all her might. As a result, Evan let go of her wrist and prepared to carry her with both his arms. However, Nicole instantly gripped the table leg with both her hands even tighter.

Evan tried to move the table away but to no avail.

As he got furious, he even wished to saw off the leg of the table.

"Are you really staying here?"

Knowing that he would definitely look ghastly at this moment, Nicole turned around to avert his gaze.

Meanwhile, he heaved a sigh and said grumpily, "Alright, I will make sure you regret your decision and beg to leave later!"

Once he finished, Nicole couldn't help but feel somewhat nervous.

What is the jerk planning to do? Will he torture me?

After Evan went upstairs furiously, she immediately put the table away. Then, she ran back to her bedroom and locked the door.

At this moment, her heart was thumping.

I'm staying here now, but terrible things might happen next. Davin asked me to act cute shamelessly to persuade Evan, yet...

Will Evan do something to force me to leave before I can say or do anything?

Since it was a lot more difficult than she thought, she was rendered clueless.

At this moment, Davin coincidentally called her when she needed help the most. She quickly answered the phone without hesitation.

"When I came to the office, I heard from John that Evan went home. How was it? Did he ask you to stay? Did he talk nicely to you? And did you deliberately find fault with him to vent your anger?"

"Do you think Evan is you? He wanted to drag me away like a dog! My god, I couldn't stay here if I weren't brazen-faced enough."

"What? He went overboard this time. Wait a minute. I'll complain to Julia now."

However, after Davin gave it some thought, he felt that it wasn't a good idea to complain to Julia because Sophia would know the truth too.

"Ms. Lane, I have an idea. Since you have pulled yourself up by your bootstraps to stay in the house, I'm sure you can persuade him to let you stay. Don't play hardball with him because that is when he will get provoked. I'll send some suggestions to you later. Please take a look and make it as your reference."

Nicole heaved a sigh as she couldn't think of a better idea and replied, "Alright."

Once Davin hung up the phone, he hopped into his car and flipped through several e-books about the strategies to "tame" a president stored in his phone. Then, he wrote down some of the conclusions seriously and sent them to her in a text message.

On the other hand, Nicole was rendered speechless after reading his message. She felt that the so-called strategies weren't about persuading Evan. Instead, they were about how to pretend to be innocent, pure, and weak to arouse his sympathy.

Can I fool Evan with these tricks? I'm more worried that these will backfire on me once he thinks I'm seducing him!

After giving it some thought, she decided to give it a try because custody of Juan was of utmost importance.

She deliberately put on light makeup to look more like an innocent lady. Then, she put on a pink jacket and looked at herself in the mirror repeatedly.

Nonetheless, she didn't feel that she looked gentle or weak in any way. Since she had to work and raise the three kids by herself for many years, she trained herself to be strong mentally and physically.

"It's difficult! No way, I have to put on makeup again."

After nearly an hour, Nicole was finally satisfied with her look and opened the door.

Much to her surprise, she saw Evan standing right in front of the study and staring at her.

Bang!

She immediately went back to her room and closed the door.

She was petrified by his cold-eyed stare and the stressful depression around him.

After calming herself down, she was worried that her plan would go south if she didn't take the initiative. Hence, she plucked up the courage and decided to stick to her plan.

For one more time, she looked at herself in the mirror and acted pitiful and weak. When she was satisfied with it, she opened the door again.

Meanwhile, Evan, who was still standing in front of the study, sized her up carefully.

What is this troublesome woman trying to do? She banged the door when she saw me earlier. But why is she coming up to me now?

When Nicole came up to him, she lifted her head and said, "Mr. Seet, I was rude earlier on. Please accept my apology. I..."

"It's unnecessary. You can just leave my house now."

Nicole was left speechless.

What a jerk! Didn't you see the tears on my face? How could you have the heart to drive me out?

Unperturbed, she wanted to go on with it and acted even more pitiful.

"Mr. Seet, I really don't have a place to stay. Besides, I still have several kids. I..."

What should I say to play on his heartstrings? Nicole was suddenly lost for words since she didn't jot them down in advance.

Meanwhile, Evan frowned deeply when he looked at her.

Is she trying to make me sympathize with her? Hmph! Not only that she applies makeup, but she is also wearing an entirely different set of clothes. Haha, her intent is too obvious. What a stupid woman! You won't fool me!

He crossed his arms over the chest as if he were ready to watch her show.

On the other hand, Nicole suddenly felt that something wasn't right.

Why does he look like this? Well, am I not pitiful enough? Or is he a heartless jerk?

Since she stopped talking, his lips curled up in disdain when he said, "You can be my maid if you insist on staying here."

"A maid? I'm a doctor who is always busy treating patients. Who are you to make me your maid?"

"Nicole, let's meet halfway. I'll let you stay for the time being, yet you must be my maid. Otherwise... I will feed you to the wolves when you are asleep!"

At this moment, Nicole looked at him while pondering over his suggestion.

Apparently, the jerk wants me to be his maid because he wants to dispirit me! No wonder he said I would regret my decision and leave by myself!

It's a trap! But if I refuse to do it, he definitely won't let me stay.

After a while, Nicole replied, "I can only do half of the tasks of a maid. You should understand that I still have to take care of my four kids and send them to school."

"It's a deal!"

What? Why does the jerk agree with it? Is it still difficult to be his maid even when I will only do half of the tasks?

"Make a cup of coffee for me now."

After Eva finished, he cast a wry glance at her before going into the study.

As Nicole dared not to procrastinate, she went to the kitchen right away.

However, when she put the cup of coffee before him, he touched it and yelled, "It's too hot. Get another cup for me!"

She knew that it wouldn't be that easy. Judging from the way he glanced at her, she expected that he would grab the opportunity to make things difficult for her.

"Mr. Seet, here's another cup of coffee." She put the cup down gently in front of him.

This time, Evan touched the cup and said, "It's too cold. Get another cup!"

Nicole couldn't help but roll her eyes. It's still the same cup because I didn't change it! How dare he say that it's cold?

Unperturbed, she put a thermometer into the cup slowly and said, "Mr. Seet, since you think it's too cold, I will add some hot water into it little by little to make it hotter. You can ask me to stop when you think it's enough. Please don't read your document but focus on the thermometer instead."

The next moment, she grabbed the document from him and put it away.

At this time, he stared at her in disbelief and said, "Is the coffee still drinkable if you do this?"

"Well, since I'm stupid, this is the only method that I can think of. Ask someone else to do it if you're not satisfied with it."

Hmph! You don't really want to have coffee anyway. I can do this all day if that's what you want. Once it's time to pick up the kids from kindergarten, I will stop doing this. I'm sure he dares not to make things difficult for me when the kids are here!

Soon, Nicole began to do it and asked, "The temperature is one degree higher now. Mr. Seet, please touch the cup to check if it is okay."

Meanwhile, Evan stared at her with his piercing eyes. She deliberately wants to ask for trouble! My god, I have underestimated her.

"Mr. Seet, please take a look. The temperature is two degrees higher now because I have added more water. Would you like to touch it to check if it is suitable?"

He stared at Nicole and flashed her a wry smile. Hmph! You're lucky this time!

"Get out!"

Although he spoke composedly, she could clearly feel the tense atmosphere.

But still, she was relieved once she heard the command, which was like a pardon that set her free.

"Since you won't drink the coffee anyway, I'll take the cup out of the room right away!"

Before leaving the study, she turned around and glanced at his cold face again.