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Nicole looked back at Juan and Kyle, reluctantly loosening her grip on Evan's arm before unsteadily lowering back to her seat next to them.

"Weren't... Weren't both of you taken away by that jerk Evan? How are you two here?"

"Mommy, we-"

"Mommy is drunk. There's no need to explain," Kyle interjected.

Then, a mysterious light entered Nicole's eyes as she looked at the two of them.

"Kids, let me tell you a secret. Your Daddy always goes... kaboom!"

Identical grins appeared on Juan and Kyle's faces. "Mommy, Daddy isn't a bomb. He's not going to explode."

"Yes, he is! He..." She trailed off and teetered slightly as she leaned forward to smack the back of Evan's head hard.

Evan whipped his head back to glare at her, gritting out through his teeth, "I'm going to kick you out if you don't stop messing around, Nicole!"

Nicole was stunned for a moment before bursting into a fit of laughter. "See! He's going to blow his top off now, isn't he?"

The grins on the twins' faces grew wider and they joined in her laughter.

Mommy is so cute when she's drunk.

Much more interesting than when Daddy is drunk.

Evan shot an icy glare over his shoulder, and the twins who were giggling instantly covered their mouths with their hands.

When Nicole saw their reaction, she frowned unhappily. "Are you two afraid of him?" she asked both Juan and Kyle.

The boys exchanged looks but did not say a word.

"Mommy is here, so there's... there's nothing to be afraid of. Mommy will protect you, boys. If he dares to bully you, I'll send him flying towards the North Pole!"

Evan glanced fleetingly at the blabbering mess that was Nicole. *So, is this how she gets when she's drunk?*

She puts up a tough front?

Finally, the car gradually came to a stop in front of Summervale. Juan and Kyle hopped down from the car.

Meanwhile, Evan carefully helped Nicole down the car.

"Don't... Don't touch me!"

A moment ago, she was clinging onto me like her life depended on it, but now she doesn't want me touching her.

Women are so fickle.

And drunk women are just as fickle.

Faced with this uncooperative woman, Evan directly scooped her up and marched towards the elevators.

Then, he carried her all the way from the elevator to her apartment.

Maya and Nina were utterly shocked when they saw this. *Why is Mommy being carried back home?*

Juan and Kyle walked in together. When they saw the mess at home, they were equally shocked.

"Was there a robbery here?"

Nina was just about to answer when Maya extended a chubby hand to nudge her quiet.

Then, she said in her adorable voice, "She used the Nina Strike, and I used the Maya Punch. She didn't win though, because the Maya Punch is more awesome than the Nina Strike!"

Everyone was speechless.

The things at home ended up being the victims, scattered all over the place as if a war had just broken out.

Nina gave Maya a flat stare before returning her gaze towards Nicole, who was dead drunk, and asked worriedly, "What's wrong with Mommy?"

Juan gestured her to a corner and recounted the earlier events.

Maya padded after Evan on her short legs and followed him into Nicole's bedroom.

Evan gently placed Nicole on her bed and was about to straighten when Nicole suddenly clutched onto his shirt.

Caught off guard, Evan fell forward and landed directly on top of her.

The position they were in was too suggestive to be anything but.

With her face was only inches away from his, he could see her lashes fluttering against her cheeks. She looked at him through half-lidded and hazy eyes, but they were still mesmerizing nonetheless. And her plump lips were rosy and slightly parted in a tempting way.

The softness of her chest was pressed against his chiseled pecs, causing his heart to race.

Is this woman teasing me on purpose?

Evan stared intently at her, his Adam's apple bobbing in his throat as lust filled his attractive eyes.

Witnessing a scene such as this one, Maya's eyes widened in shock and she opened her mouth to shout, "Uncle Evan, you... you'll crush Mommy like that. Get up! Quickly, get up!"

Nina rushed in immediately after hearing Maya's loud voice.

"Meanie! Stop bullying Mommy!"

Then, she climbed onto the bed and pushed Evan away with all her might.

"Your Mommy is the one who doesn't want to let me go." Evan had a helpless look on his face.

Nina took a closer look and blinked in surprise. Mommy is holding tightly onto evil daddy's shirt.

"Mommy, let go."

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Nina could not pull off Nicole's hands on her own, so she called Maya over to help her.

The girls began prying Nicole's fingers off Evan's shirt.

When Juan and Kyle came in to see what was happening, they felt that their sisters were being too nosy.

"Just let Mommy do whatever she wants."

"Yeah. Mommy wanted to hold Daddy's hand since we were in the car."

"No. Mommy will be crushed like this!"

Maya argued with a pout, then continued prying away Nicole's hand from Evan's shirt.

With Nina's help, they were finally able to loosen Nicole's grip.

Evan could finally get up, breathing a sigh of relief after he straightened himself.

"Daddy, can we stay here to take care of Mommy tonight, please?"

"Yeah. Mommy is so drunk now. What if something happens to her?"

Juan and Kyle looked at him with concern for their mother gleaming in their eyes.

"Well then, she shouldn't have gone out drinking in the first place!"

Evan was fuming slightly as he growled at Nicole, who was now lying unconscious on the bed.

He glanced at Nina and Maya who were sitting beside her. *It's indeed not safe to leave a dead-drunk woman with two kids home alone.*

Maya blinked her big eyes as she regarded him seriously and countered, "Mommy went out to earn money so that she can take care of us!"

Evan was taken aback and his heart ached for some reason. *Isn't Rocky taking care of the girls?*

How can he neglect his own daughters and let his woman go out to drink with other men for money? Where is the logic in this!

Unless the girls aren't Rocky's daughters? Then...

Evan could not make sense of anything. He stayed silent for a while before telling the kids, "All of you go and rest. I'll take care of her."

Juan and Kyle sighed in relief when they saw that their father agreed to stay back and take care of their mother.

"No. You'll bully Mommy."

Nina opposed it, insisting that she watch over her mother in person.

Maya froze for a while before rubbing her round tummy. "Uncle Evan, I'm hungry. Can you cook for me?"

"Haven't you had your dinner?"

"Mommy cooked some spaghetti for me before going out, but... I'm hungry again."

Evan glanced at the time. At the restaurant earlier, Juan and Kyle were too focused on Nicole, so they had not eaten much of their dinner. Thus, Evan went to the kitchen to make some carbonara spaghetti for them.

After he was done, the kids sat around the dining table to enjoy the meal.

Nina initially refused to eat, adamant to look after their mother. However, under the persuasion of Juan and Kyle, she joined them at the table and started eating.

After eating, Nina was determined to guard their mother. However, exhaustion overtook her and she fell asleep by the bed after half an hour.

Evan carried her back to her own bedroom and tucked her into bed.

When he noticed her makeup practice dummy, he could not help but be slightly impressed. *This little girl is quite skilled at makeup. In fact, she has a talent for it.*

But she's so arrogant. I wonder who she takes after.

"Your Daddy must be really bad-tempered too!"

Right after he said that he heard Juan and Kyle giggling behind him.

"Daddy, you're right."

"Daddy, you really do have a very bad temper!"

Evan let out a disapproving grunt, failing to detect the double meaning behind their words as he coldly retorted, "Well, at least it's not as bad as hers!"

The twins looked at each other.

"Nina's temper is exactly like yours."

"Yeah! She took after Daddy!"

"Stop spouting nonsense and go to bed. Now!"

The twins did not know what to say.

Juan sighed softly. Daddy is usually really smart, but he can be an idiot at times too.

He can't even see the truth that is right before him.

Kyle was also at a loss for words as he pursed his lips together. In the end, the boys went back to their bedroom with their heads bowed.

Evan cleaned up the kitchen and the dining table before returning to Nicole's bedroom.

As soon as he entered, he heard Nicole muttering in a low voice, "Water... Water... Need water..."

Evan quickly poured her a glass of water, then propped her up against the headboard before bringing the glass towards her lips. "Here. Drink."

Nicole cracked open her eyes and accepted the glass, gulping down the water as if she had just walked ten miles in a desert.

After she quenched her thirst, she gazed at Evan with a smile. "You're so nice. Hug, hug."

Evan's heart thumped in his chest. He took the glass back from her hand to put it on the bedside table.

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Nicole's hand shot out to grab his arm and she looked at him with misty eyes.

"Kiss, kiss."

Thereafter, she leaned in and puckered her lips to offer him a kiss.

Her soft and rosy lips were so close to his.

Evan's heart skipped a beat as his gaze zeroed in on her lips. *This woman is teasing me again.*

She's drunk now and doesn't know what she's doing. If I really go along with her, will she bite my head off when she sobers up?

Evan could not help but recall how incensed Nicole looked when she held him accountable for his actions back then.

World War III would no doubt break out between them. And since neither one of them would be willing to retreat, it would be a never-ending battle.

He shuddered involuntarily at that thought. Thus, he decided to adhere to the code of chivalry and refrain from taking advantage of a drunken woman, allowing Nicole to sleep peacefully.

Despite his noble decision, Nicole unabashedly cupped both of his cheeks and leaned forward.

Evan frowned as he watched her lips inching closer, and his heart pounded vigorously against his ribcage.

Two seconds later.

Retching sounds echoed through the room.

The kiss he had fantasized about was utterly ruined, and instead, he was covered in vomit.

Evan's usually arrogant face instantly darkened and the temperature in the room seemed to drop a few degrees.

"Nicole Lane!"

He gritted his teeth and got up to quickly take off his coat.

Nicole raised her head to look at him with a faint smile. Suddenly, she lowered her head to throw up again.

Looking at the scene before him, Evan felt a headache brewing behind his eyes.

This woman's drunken antics are seriously on a whole different level!

Evan went to the bathroom to clean himself up, then hauled Nicole to the shower to wash off the vomit stains on her clothes.

Nicole was very uncooperative in her intoxicated state. She thrashed and flailed her arms in the air as if she were a drowning cat, getting water all over Evan in the process.

"Stop moving!"

"You... What are you shouting for, you jerk!" She snapped back and pinched Evan hard.

Evan's face turned extremely gloomy. He had to suppress the anger coursing through his veins to successfully help her change into her pajamas and haul her back into the bedroom.

Then, he flung her onto the bed.

Whenever this crazy woman drinks, even if it's only a single drop of alcohol, I'll have to get as far away from her as possible.

He was beside himself with rage tonight!

The next day.

The sunlight illuminated the soft white sheets on the large bed and caused Nicole's fair and rosy cheeks to take on an ethereal glow.

Her long and thick lashes quivered slightly as she slowly opened her sleepy eyes.

The headache that was the result of a hangover made her extremely uncomfortable. She got up into a sitting position and massaged her temples with her fingers.

"You're awake?" A rich voice came from the bedroom door all of a sudden, scaring the daylights out of her.

She looked towards the door. When she saw it was Evan, shock was written across her features.

"Why... Why are you here?"

"Have you forgotten? You were the one who asked me to send you home."

Nicole was slightly stunned. Fragments of what happened last night emerged in her mind.

Her complexion grew paler by the second.

"Have you remembered something?"

The moment Evan asked this question, Nicole snapped her head up to look at him with mild embarrassment. "Last night, I... I didn't do something as absurd as hugging you, did I?"

Evan solemnly nodded his head. "You did."

Ugh...

How embarrassing!

"[...."

She could not tell if the scene playing in her mind, the one where she latched onto his arm and inched forward to kiss him, was real or just a dream.

She looked at him awkwardly and wore a smile that looked more like an ugly grimace as she asked, "I... I didn't try to... kiss anybody, did I?"

"You did."

Evan pinned her with his eyes and confirmed her worst nightmare in a deep and resolute tone.

Nicole clamped her lips shut as her face turned a crimson red.

This is so embarrassing! How am I going to live this down?

"Did... anything else happen?"

Right after Nicole asked this, she looked down at the pajamas she was wearing, then at the newly changed sheets. Suddenly, her heart dropped to her stomach.

Oh God. Could something intense have happened?

She nervously peeked at Evan. "Did you help me out of my clothes?"

Evan nodded.

"And you... changed the sheets too?"

Evan nodded again.

"You... You b*stard! What did you do to me?"

Evan's face instantly clouded over with anger.

"I think you should dig through that brain of yours and recall," he paused before growling out, "what you did to me!"

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What I did to him?

Nicole felt like her heart was about to fly out of her chest at any moment.

No way, right? I couldn't possibly have... forced myself onto him after getting drunk, could I?

She widened her eyes and glared at Evan the next second.

"You... You could've resisted. I'm only a woman, plus, I was drunk. You, on the other hand, are a strong and fully grown man. I couldn't have overpowered you unless you let me. You could've-" she paused abruptly.

"Evan Seet, you definitely intended to take advantage of me, right? Otherwise, why would allow something like this to happen?"

Evan was rendered inarticulate.

He narrowed his eyes into slits at her.

What does this woman think happened?

After Nicole berated him for his actions, she noticed that Evan was looking at her with narrowed eyes and an odd glint in his gaze.

Is this b*stard really just going to stay silent?

She snatched up a pillow and hurled it at him. "How dare you take advantage of me, you perv!"

"I suggest you think long and hard before assuming anything. Perhaps you wished something had happened, but maybe things didn't happen the way you think they did?"

Nicole was slightly dumbfounded. She raced through her mind to find the missing pieces.

She remembered that someone had sprayed water onto her with the showerhead and that she seemed to have hit that person. Everything after that came up blank, so she assumed she had fallen asleep.

"So you mean, nothing happened?"

"What? Are you disappointed?"

Nicole was taken aback. B*stard! You're the one who's disappointed!

So this b*stard was able to remain unaffected even when a barely conscious and attractive woman lay right before him? Is there something wrong with him?

When thoughts like this appeared in her mind, she quickly gave herself a mental slap. Nicole Lane! Where's your dignity? Don't become a laughing stock in his eyes!

"It's good that nothing happened then," she mumbled under her breath.

Suddenly, she lifted her head again to ask, "Then why did you change me out of my clothes?"

"Your alcohol tolerance is crap. You puked all over the place and it was f**king disgusting!"

So that's why.

Nicole's whole body stiffened and mortification lined her features.

No matter how she looked at it, Evan really did help her.

After some deliberation, Nicole offered him a sincere smile.

"Mr. Seet, I'm really sorry about what happened. And thank you for helping me too."

"You tortured me the whole night. Do you really think a simple thank you is going to cut it?"

Evan's anger had not subsided yet and he pierced her with his cold gaze.

"If our sons and I hadn't run into you last night, you would've been..." he trailed off.

"Tell me then Mr. Seet, how should I repay you?"

Evan was slightly stunned as he did not expect her to be so serious. "Bring the Lane Corporation documents to me at the company."

He did not wish for her to sell herself for the sake of that shabby company, Lane Corporation.

After saying his piece, he turned around and left.

That's it?

Does he intend for me to repay him or is he planning to help me?

That jerk Evan wouldn't have come up with some kind of evil scheme to trick me, right?

However, Lane Corporation was already at the point beyond salvation. Lane Corporation would no doubt receive infinite benefits from a collaboration with Seet Group, that is if she could pull it off.

Hence, even if he was setting a trap for her, she had to go.

Nicole pondered about it as she got out of bed and went to the dining room. When she saw that there was milk and pizza on the table, the edges of her mouth lifted up into a smile.

Did Evan prepare breakfast for me?

Looks like he prepared breakfast for the four kids too, so that they wouldn't go to school on an empty stomach.

I never thought that someone with his personality would know how to take care of others.

After washing up, she jovially sat down and began eating. The pizza was delicious, with a texture that was soft on the inside and crunchy on the outside. She was rather impressed by it!

I didn't think you'd know how to cook, Mr. Seet!

When she was done eating, she decided to sort out the Lane Corporation documents.

She was going to meet Evan this afternoon. Seet Group had very high standards for companies that wished to collaborate with them. Thus, she had to know all the details like the back of her hand, in order to at least have a chance at success!

However, she could not shake off the feeling that something bad was about to happen this afternoon.

At noon, she picked Maya and Nina up from kindergarten. When Maya walked into the apartment and found that Evan was nowhere to be seen, she pouted unhappily.

She tipped her chin upwards to stare at Nicole with large, expectant eyes. "When is Daddy coming back?"

Nicole thought about it for a while before saying that he would come when he brought Juan and Kyle over the next time.

Maya's large eyes grew contemplative. Juan and Kyle only come over on weekends, and the weekend just ended. So, it means I have to wait for another week. When she thought about how long she had to wait, her face became even more sullen.

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"Alright. Mommy is going to make lunch now. What do you both feel like eating?"

Nina gave some thought to it before answering, "I wanna have pumpkin soup, Mommy."

"Okay."

Maya shot Nina an unhappy glare. "I don't wanna eat pumpkin soup. I wanna eat the carbonara spaghetti Daddy made last night."

Evan cooked dinner for the kids too last night?

He cooked for the kids, took care of me, and also sent all four of them to school this morning...

He's acting too out of character!

"Maya, Mommy doesn't know how to cook carbonara spaghetti. So, let's just have pumpkin soup, okay?"

Nicole patiently coaxed Maya.

Maya refused to listen and whined about wanting to eat carbonara spaghetti.

She even suggested to Nicole that she should call Evan to ask him for the recipe.

Under Maya's insistent wailing, Nicole had no choice but to call him and ask for his help.

At that moment, Evan was talking to his grandfather, Russell.

When he saw his screen flashing with Nicole's name, he hesitated for a good few seconds before answering the call.

"What is it?"

"I just have a quick question. Can I have the recipe for the carbonara spaghetti you made last night? Maya is craving for it and doesn't want to eat anything else."

"Just look it up on the internet."

Nicole was stupefied, and she came to the conclusion that Evan was brushing her off because he had had enough of her. So, she replied, "Okay, I got it." Then, she hung up the call.

Evan had actually browsed the internet for the carbonara spaghetti recipe last night.

"You girls wait, okay? Mommy will go make carbonara spaghetti now."

"Okay."

Maya reached up with her chubby hands to wipe away the tears from her cheeks, then plastered a big smile on her face.

"Who was that, Evan?"

"That was Nicole, Grandpa."

"Kyle and Juan's mother?"

"Yes."

Russell sighed softly and said, "I heard that she only stayed at the house I gave Juan, Rose Garden, for a while and moved out soon after. It's not easy being a single mother. Besides, she's Kyle and Juan's biological mother, Evan. I think you should consider it."

A faint smile appeared on Evan's usually stony face. "I understand what you mean, Grandpa."

"I'm glad you understand. Davin called me and said that she was the little girl who accompanied you through all your hardships in Rose Garden back then."

Evan nodded. She was indeed the little girl from back then. However, she no longer relied on him like she used to.

Russell heaved another sigh.

"Fate really does love toying with humans, making even a mistake become right somehow. Look, she gave you two sons. The two of you seem to really be fated. As for her other two daughters, don't think too much about it. Life doesn't always go as planned." Evan remained silent for a while. Is Grandpa persuading me to accept Nicole's other two daughters?

But I haven't found out who Maya and Nina's father is, and whether he and Nicole are divorced. How can I act rashly without knowing any of this?

When Russell saw the pensive look on Evan's face, he earnestly advised, "As long as you are with the person you love, nothing else matters. Your Grandma and I couldn't be together forever. The regret I feel from that isn't something I can ever make up for."

He grabbed Evan's hand and continued, "You're a smart boy, so I don't need to say any more than is necessary. Just remember, you need to cherish and hold onto certain fates."

Evan nodded in response.

He knew how much his grandfather loved his grandmother. After his grandmother passed away, his grandfather could not forget about her until this day.

"I don't know if the culprit from back then can still be found, but I hope I'll be able to seek justice for your Grandma before I leave this world!"

Thinking about past events, a pained expression flashed across Russell's face.

"Don't worry, Grandpa. I'll find out the truth. I'll never allow the killer to walk away scot-free!"

Russell released another heavy sigh as tears gleamed in his eyes.

Meanwhile, at Summervale.

After a lot of effort, Nicole finally finished cooking some carbonara spaghetti and served it at the dining table.

Maya stared at the spaghetti. It looks different from the one Daddy made.

She picked up a fork to taste it and looked at Nicole with a frown. "Mommy, I want Daddy's spaghetti."

Nicole was stunned. Evan is so busy. How can he find the time to make spaghetti for Maya?