Russell was the person Evan respected most. A mere mention of him would make Evan more cautious.

Chasing Sofie away like this would only aggravate the conflict Evan had with his grandfather.

But I can't be blamed if she leaves at her own will.

Evan cast a sharp gaze at her and spoke nonchalantly.

"Since it was my grandfather who sent you, you can stay. But it'll be tough being my assistant. I hope you can manage."

Sofie was internally delighted. As long as I get to remain by his side, I'll have the chance to win his heart!

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

I'll manage. I have to.

"I'm not afraid of working hard, Evan. I'll do it as long as it makes your grandpa happy."

Nicole fell silent.

Her eyes fell on Evan before shifting to Sofie.

She noticed the goading look in Sofie's eyes. It's obvious what she's thinking.

That profound look Evan had displayed—he clearly had a trick up his sleeve.

I can't wait to see what he does to this woman. Let's find out how long she'll be able to take all this.

After pondering for a while, Nicole got up. "I still have something to take care of at Lane Corporation, Mr. Seet, so I'll be taking my leave now."

Despite being curious about what Evan would do to Sofie, she figured it was better not to be involved in this mess.

It's not worth the trouble she might cause me after being pissed off by Evan.

It's best if I flee.

Yet, someone just had to stop her.

The man quickly walked toward her and grabbed her wrist.

"Did I say you could leave?"

Nicole was speechless.

Before she could answer, Sofie put on a pitiful face. "Do you not like seeing me, Ms. Lane? It was Mr. Russell who insisted on letting me come. I hope you'll understand."

Huh?

When did I ever say I didn't want to see you?

You're even bringing up Mr. Russell? So you're implying that if I don't understand you, that means I don't understand him?

As I expected, things are different when you have someone backing you up.

Nicole let out a cough. "Well, I wouldn't dare leave now that you've said that. In that case, I'll stay."

She gave Evan a glance before returning to her seat.

Not expecting the woman to turn back, Sofie silently gripped her own fists as a cold gaze surfaced in her pupils. *Is she doing this on purpose?* 

I didn't even mean what I said. It's not like anyone can stop her if she chooses to leave!

She clearly just doesn't want to go, but she's putting on an act just to seduce Evan. What a sly vixen!

Evan returned to his seat too, seemingly pleased with Nicole.

Then, he turned to Sofie. "Ms. Lane hasn't had breakfast. Buy her some food."

What?

I have to buy Nicole Lane breakfast?

But I'm here as an assistant. I'm not here to serve her!

"Evan, should I really be doing such a-"

"This is part of an assistant's job. If you don't want to do it, feel free to leave anytime."

Leave?

No way!

I'd just be letting go of this golden opportunity. I can't leave!

Fine! I just have to buy her breakfast.

"Okay, Evan. I'll go."

Sofie left the president's office, her anger building up the more she thought about this. She immediately gave Lisa a call.

Lisa was dumbfounded to hear what had happened.

Evan's actually treating Sofie this way? And he even brought Nicole to work?

Isn't he openly going against Mr. Russell and the entire Seet family, then?

This is outrageous!

"I'll complain about this to Russell. I can't stand seeing you suffer like this."

"Is that really okay, Aunt Lisa? Didn't you tell me to bear with it?"

"There has to be a limit to how much one should take! I told you to bear with it back then so you could win Evan's trust. It'd be easier for you to achieve your goals if you can make him let his guard down. But now, your nemesis is right in front of you, acting all high and mighty! Why should you have to bear with this? If you keep letting things slide, that vixen's going to end up as the young lady of the Seet family!"

Lisa continued, "Provoke her. Get her worked up so she'll lash out at you, then you'd have every right to tell the old man about it. Do you understand?"

Sofie gave it a thought and nodded. "Got it, Aunt Lisa."

"Go on, now. Get her a special breakfast set."

Special breakfast set?

Something that can piss Nicole off?

"Okay, Aunt Lisa. I know what to do now."

Hanging up, Sofie calmly walked out of the elevator with a glint in her eyes.

Fifteen minutes later, she returned to the president's office with the breakfast she had gotten.

"I've bought Ms. Lane's breakfast, Evan," the woman said gently with a curl of her red lips. "She should eat it while it's hot."

Evan nodded and turned to Nicole. "Have your breakfast."

Nicole's eyes glowered slightly as she gazed at the breakfast on the table.

She left so unwillingly, but now she's all smiles after getting me my breakfast? Could something be up?

Seeing Nicole remain unmoving, Sofie gave her a sincere glance.

"I bought this especially for you, Ms. Lane. It'd be a waste of Evan's kind intentions if you don't eat it. Please give it a taste. I can get you something else if you don't like it."

Hearing that, Nicole became even more skeptical.

She'll buy me more food if I don't like this one? Is she really that kind?

Nicole locked her gaze on the lunch box, genuinely feeling rather curious.

Then, she got up and opened it.

### Bones?

What the hell? Two huge bones with no meat on them at all?

Is she thinking of making me chew on it like a dog?

She turned to Sofie, demanding an explanation.

"Bone broth is good for you, Ms. Lane. You should drink lots of it."

Broth?

"There's no broth. All I see are two bones."

"Don't panic, Ms. Lane. The broth is in the lower compartment."

Sofie moved the top compartment aside to reveal the next layer of the lunch box. Indeed, there was broth inside it.

Is this really bone broth? It's pitch-black.

It doesn't look quite like bone broth to me.

Seeing her frown, Sofie smiled. "Do you not like bone broth, Ms. Lane? In that case, have some fish. It's fresh out of the water."

She took the broth compartment out. Inside the lowest compartment was a medium-sized fish.

Huh?

Something doesn't seem right.

Nicole took a closer look and was taken aback. Holy sh\*t! It really is fresh.

They must have taken it straight out of the water and tossed it right into the pot to have it cooked.

The fish's belly was bloated. All its internal organs are probably still intact.

Seeing the woman's expression turn ghastly, Sofie hid a smirk. "The bone broth and fish are highly nutritious, Ms. Lane. I bought them just for you. If you're not happy with what you're seeing, I'll go buy you something else."

Then, she immediately began to keep the food away.

Buy me something else?

It's definitely going to be as inedible as what you've just bought.

You're deliberately making things hard for me, aren't you?

"It's fine. I'll head down and eat soon."

"You're not going to eat this at all, Ms. Lane? Isn't it a bit of a waste? Or do you not want to eat this because I'm the one who bought it?"

What?

Are you trying to force me to eat this?

Dream on!

Nicole stared at her and scoffed. "It's a waste? Then why don't you eat this yourself, Ms. Sweeting?"

Sofie's expression instantly took a turn. "What's wrong, Ms. Sweeting?" asked Nicole. "Won't you eat something you bought?"

Sofie began to stammer. "I-I have a fixed time to have breakfast," she explained. "I won't have an appetite after that time passes."

Nicole was speechless.

Pahh!

The food's clearly inedible!

I knew she wouldn't be so kind.

Evan, who had kept his head buried in his work, suddenly frowned as he felt the atmosphere tense up. *Nicole isn't usually this picky, so why—* 

The man looked toward the food. Upon noticing the two bones, the soup that didn't seem fresh, as well as the fish that hadn't been gutted, his face instantly turned solemn as he gazed at Sofie.

"You bought this just for her?"

He emphasized on the word 'just'.

Sofie turned pale. She initially only wanted to irk Nicole and start a fight with her, but she didn't think Evan would interfere so quickly.

But that's fine too.

If they gang up on me, I'll tell Mr. Russell that Nicole instigated everything.

I'll put all the blame on her. Mr. Russell will surely blow his top.

Sofie immediately put on a sad face. "I didn't know Ms. Lane wouldn't like these things, Evan. I'll go get something else."

"Hold it."

Evan called out to her. "If I remember correctly, Sofie, you love eating fish and chewing on bones. So why don't you finish everything here?"

Sofie fell silent.

Me? She shuddered as panic surfaced in her eyes.

H-How could I eat this?

The broth wasn't even pure bone broth. It was old, but the urine of a child mixed with it was certainly warm and fresh.

She had rewarded a child for urinating into the bone broth.

Moreover, not only had the fish not been gutted, but all the ingredients used were stale. One would surely have an upset stomach if they were to consume all this food.

No. I can't eat any of this!

She hastily refused. "I've said this earlier, Evan, but I can't eat after my breakfast time has passed."

Evan couldn't be bothered with her nonsense. With one phone call from him, John came in with two bodyguards.

"What can I do for you, Mr. Seet?"

"Serve Ms. Sweeting her breakfast."

John was puzzled. He looked at the food on the table before glancing at Sofie.

Sofie looked frantic by now.

"No, Evan. I won't eat it. I really can't. I'm not hungry."

"But you specially bought it. Wouldn't it be a waste if you don't eat it?"

Evan gave John a glance.

John immediately understood his boss and turned to the two bodyguards.

With that, one of the guards held onto Sofie as the other brought the bone broth before her.

"Please enjoy, Ms. Sweeting."

As the thought of the child urinating into the broth surfaced in her mind, a petrified Sofie shook her head violently.

"I won't drink it, Evan. I'm done being your assistant. I'll leave. I'll leave right now!"

Seeing how apprehensive she was, Nicole pursed her lips. What on earth is inside that broth?

She'd even rather give up on getting close to Evan instead of drinking it.

However, the more Sofie refused, the more Evan wasn't willing to let her off.

"You don't have to be my assistant anymore, but you'll still have to eat all of this food."

The moment their boss' words fell, the two bodyguards immediately got to it. They began to pour the broth over Sofie.

Half of it splashed onto her body, whereas the other half went straight into her mouth. Not a single drop remained in the lunchbox.

Sofie slumped to the floor in a daze. She had paid a kid to urinate into Nicole's breakfast, yet she had ended up drinking the broth herself.

Then, the woman looked at her own chest. She gritted her teeth in fury as the stench of urine silently wafted into her nostrils.

"The fish hasn't been deboned, Mr. Seet. Should I feed it to her anyway?"

Evan remained silent. Silence implied consent. Understanding his boss' intentions, John turned to the bodyguards once again.

But just as the men were about to feed her the fish, Sofie got up with a stagger and dashed out of the president's office as though her life was at stake.

"Should we go after her, Mr. Seet?"

Evan glanced at Nicole.

"Forget it. She won't do it again now that she's learned her lesson."

Besides, it wasn't like he could really force her to swallow the fish.

Evan smirked casually. Nicole isn't stone-hearted enough. Showing enemies mercy is no different than treating oneself cruelly. Looks like she still has some lessons to learn.

Sofie ran into the elevator, fearing that Evan had sent his men to chase after her. Then, she hurriedly called Lisa again.

"Save me, Aunt Lisa!" she wailed into the phone.

Lisa, who had been awaiting Sofie's good news, tensed up in the blink of an eye. What's going on? Why is she asking to be saved?

"What's wrong, Sofie?"

"I'm running for my life, Aunt Lisa! I'm still at Seet Group now. I don't know if I can make it out of here. Help me!"

"Seet Group? Okay. I'll be there right away," Lisa responded as soon as she heard Sofie crying through the phone.

She rushed over to Seet Group with Adam.

Adam began to grumble about Sofie, wondering how someone like her would ever be able to win Evan over.

Lisa turned and glared at him. "If she were capable enough to do everything herself, we wouldn't be able to control her! We're helping her precisely because she's a bimbo! If she ends up marrying Evan, she'll be *our* pawn. Helping her now means helping ourselves!"

"Okay, okay. Don't be so loud. Someone might hear us."

"Seriously, why are you such a coward? You keep worrying about what you say. We'll be able to say whatever we want when we rise to power."

Adam rolled his eyes at her. Even if we rise to power, that mouth of hers will be our downfall.

I have to find a way to change her!

The two caught sight of Sofie's car before arriving at Seet Group.

"See? What's with all the fuss? If Evan really wanted to kill her, she wouldn't have had the chance to call you for help."

"Alright, alright. Let's go back and find out what happened."

Upon returning to Adam's place, Lisa bumped into a tear-stricken Sofie. The latter woman looked like she had gone through a lot.

After crying, Sofie took a shower and got changed before explaining everything that had happened.

Lisa slammed a hand on the table. "Such insolence! Come with me. I'm going to tell Russell about this."

"What should we tell him, Aunt Lisa?"

Lisa crossed her arms as her eyes twinkled. "I'll do the talking. All you'll have to do is cry. Remember to look as miserable as possible."

"Okay." Sofie nodded fervently.

The three of them arrived at the Seet Residence.

They got Jonathan to specifically call Russell over.

Sophia watched Sofie bawl her eyes out, puzzled as to what was going on.

Adam silently sat on the arched sofa as though anticipating a good show from Lisa.

"What's going on?" asked Sophia.

Immediately, Sofie knelt before Russell.

In a state of bewilderment, the elderly man hurriedly asked what had happened.

Lisa deliberately evaded the serious matters and whitewashed all of Sofie's actions, claiming that the latter had been asked to serve Nicole like a slave.

Sofie was so kind to buy Nicole some fish and bone broth for breakfast, but Nicole didn't like any of it. That woman had thrown a fuss and even gotten Evan to pour the bone broth all over Sofie.

Sofie was supposed to be Evan's assistant, whereas Nicole was the daughter of the woman who killed Julia. How could she treat Sofie like this? How could she dare show herself at Seet Group and act like a queen?

Sofie had received Russell's permission to be there. The fact that Nicole was treating her like this meant utter disrespect to Russell and the entire Seet family.

Finally, she pleaded loudly, "You have to stand up for Sofie, Dad! Also, if you think Nicole gets to have a say in Seet Group, that means you've forgiven her for killing Mom. I'll kneel before her grave and tell all her ancestors that from now on, we'll welcome Nicole with a smile and treat her—"

Before she could finish, Russell's face turned horribly grim.

"I'm not dead yet!" he roared as he struck the floor with his cane. "No one gets to order the Seet family around! Take me to Seet Group this instant, Jonathan!"

Sophia's chest tightened. The old man was clearly boiling with rage now.

What's going to happen if he goes over?

I can't imagine it.

No. I have to let Evan know.

Just as she was about to head back upstairs, Lisa called out to her.

"Come with us, Sophia."

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"Me? I'm not going."

"Dad is going over just to see Nicole, Sophia. You'd better not tell Evan about this in advance. It'd be a waste of Dad's efforts if she were to run off."

Sophia froze and glared at her.

Russell turned to look at Sophia and ordered sternly, "Come with us. No one is allowed to tell Evan about this. I have to see Nicole Lane today."

Lisa smirked gleefully and walked toward Sophia. "Come on in."

To prevent Sophia from tattling, Lisa deliberately sat in the same car and never took her eyes off her.

Feeling internally thrilled, she couldn't help but imagine how Nicole was going to cut ties with Evan after getting into trouble.

It was either that or Evan would get into trouble too. *If Dad revokes Evan's power over the company, Adam will have a chance to take over.* 

How she looked forward to seeing what was about to happen.

The more Lisa thought about it, the more elated she felt. It was beginning to show on her face.

Sophia shot her a glance and smirked. "What are you so happy about? You might end up shooting yourself in the foot."

Returning to her senses, Lisa let out a smirk too. "We'll soon find out who's the one shooting themselves in the foot, Sophia."

Sophia glared at her. What a pest.

I can't wait to deal with her.

I'll make sure she cries in agony.

"We're almost there, Sophia. You must be feeling so worried now, huh?"

Sophia remained silent and couldn't be bothered with this woman.

Indeed, she was growing increasingly anxious as they neared Seet Group.

She feared that Evan would go into an unreserved head-to-head with Russell.

Finally, the car stopped in front of Seet Group.

The employees were astonished to see Jonathan and Adam escorting Russell into the building.

Mr. Russell hasn't dropped by for years. Why did he suddenly decide to show up today?

His two sons and two daughters-in-law are here too. Something really serious must have happened.

Seeing the elderly man walk into the president's elevator and head straight to the top floor, the employees began to whisper among themselves.

"He's not here because of Sofie, is he?"

"He must be. Sofie looked so miserable when she left, and now he's here just an hour later. It has to be because of her."

"In that case, Ms. Lane's probably in big trouble."

"Let's wait and see. Something interesting is about to happen in the president's office."

The carved wooden door suddenly flew open and Sophia walked in, giving Evan and Nicole a fright while they were in the middle of work.

"What are you doing here, Mom?"

Evan was visibly surprised.

Nicole hurriedly stood up, but before she could say hi, Sophia warned softly, "You're about to get it, Evan! Your grandfather's here."

Just as her words fell, Russell entered the room with the aid of Jonathan and Adam. Right behind them were Lisa and Sofie.

Nicole's heart skipped a beat.

As predicted by Evan, Sofie had indeed tattled on him.

Still, Nicole didn't expect that Sofie could actually get Russell Seet to come over personally.

It looks like we'll have to openly talk some things through.

"Grandpa!"

Evan called out to Russell.

The elderly man fixed his sharp gaze on Nicole as a visible look of fury showed on his face.

Nicole felt as though his gaze could burn a hole through her body.

After a long while, Russell finally spoke up. "Get out, all of you. I want to have a word with Ms. Lane in private."

"But Grandpa-"

Evan felt unsettled, but Nicole cast him a glance, indicating that she would talk things through with his grandfather. Eventually, the man agreed to leave the room.

Everyone else exchanged glances before exiting too, for no one dared go against Russell's orders.