

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 490

“I only need one thing from you,” Levant began. “Don’t worry; it’s not something you can’t do. You most definitely will be able to as long as you have the will to do it.”

“What is it?” Nicole asked.

Instead of replying to the question right away, the man raised his glass of wine gentlemanly. “Have a taste. I brought this from the winery.”

She immediately noticed something from his words. He had used the word “brought,” which stated that he was indeed the owner of Levant Winery.

Without any change of expression, she toasted her glass with his, and he drank all of his wine in one big gulp, while the woman only took a small sip.

It sure is a good wine...

“Ms. Lane, do you know why I didn’t ask you to pay for the broken wine?”

“I remember you saying it’s something that cannot be purchased with money.”

“You’re right. It’s one-of-a-kind, which is why you’ll have to return something of equal value.”

Something of equal value? She frowned, realizing that he might ask for something impossible.

Levant noticed the change in her expression and smiled. “What I mean is, the thing I want is something only Ms. Lane could provide.”

What could it be? Something impossible... Or something extremely weird? Nicole began to wonder. “Mr. Levant, what is it that you want from me?”

“It’s simple, really. I want you to live the rest of your life happily.”

Nicole silently widened her eyes, and it felt like the man was teasing her. What does my happiness have to do with you?

“Mr. Levant, that doesn’t count as a request, now does it? Is there anything else you would like?”

Levant looked at her, gentleness evident in his gaze. After a moment of silence, he picked up the roses and walked towards her. “Ms. Lane, what I want is for me to be a part of your happiness from now on. I want to be the male lead in your life story.”

Is he confessing? Nicole couldn’t believe her own ears and smiled bitterly. “I-I’m sorry, but I’m already married.”

Levant’s face seemed to sink as he nodded. “I know. But I also know about the accident, and that makes you a single woman now, Ms. Lane.”

The mention of the accident stirred something in Nicole deeply; her face turned pale almost immediately.

“The president of Seet Group... He really is an outstanding person. A perfect match for Ms. Lane,” Levant continued. “I’m truly sorry for his passing.”

“He’s still alive in my eyes...” Her voice was soft but filled with emotion and sincerity.

He was stunned by her tone and quickly tried to comfort and soothe her. He then changed the topic and formally introduced himself, “Ms. Lane, I’ll be frank with you. I’m a disciple of the Manson family, and my father is a duke in K Nation. I can assure you that my wealth and social standing are on the same level, maybe even better than Seet Group. Ms. Lane, you still have a long life ahead of you, and I only hope that you’ll choose the best for yourself.”

Nicole was taken by surprise when she learned about Levant’s background. Never had she ever thought he was the son of a duke. She finally understood why Sheila had warned her to be wary of the owner of Levant Winery.

Yet, she was also puzzled as to why a man with such high social standing would be interested in her. There are literally endless numbers of women lining up to be his wife, so why pick me? Is he trying to pull a prank on me?

The surprised expression on Nicole's face made Levant's heart leap. From his point of view, women's ways of thinking were all the same. All of them dreamt of marrying a man from a prestigious family, and he was confident in that as he was royalty.

He believed that Nicole was simply putting up an act and would later do all she could to make him, a man of wealth and social standing, fall for her.

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Levant was sure he could achieve what he came for soon.

At the same time, the four children stood outside the room next to Yoda. Their faces twisted in anger when the bodyguards would not let them in.

"Why can't we go in? We want to see our Mommy!"

"Mommy? Get lost! You brats are going to spoil Mr. Levant's plan!" one of the bodyguards scolded.

Juan and Kyle shot silent glances at each other before turning to Yoda and asking what was going on.

Yoda took his phone out and typed the situation. It a simple sentence: *Mr. Levant wants to make your mother his wife.*

Make Mommy his wife? No can do! Who is this Levant dude anyway? Mommy belongs to Daddy!

At that, the children grew even more furious. Juan tightened his small fists, his mind set on not letting anyone take his mother.

After whispering to Kyle, Juan turned to Nina and Maya. 'We'll distract the bodyguards. You two go in with Yoda to protect Mommy.'

"Okay!" the girls agreed readily.

Kyle turned to look at Yoda. "Won't he get chased out if he goes in?"

They had been taught by their father to never judge a book by its cover, but it didn't mean that the man inside the room held the same principle as them. Yoda could not protect Nicole if he were to get chased out of the room.

"I have an idea." Nina grinned.

"Makeup?"

Nina nodded. Juan and Kyle immediately ran out of the bar and came back not long later in cartoon bear suits. Other than a distraction, the bear suit could hide the "secret weapon" they had prepared.

Maya looked at her brothers enviously – she wanted to put on such a cute outfit too. "I want a bear suit too!"

Nina quickly stopped her little sister. "The suits are for them. They need to perform in it."

Maya slowly nodded as if she had understood the situation. "Then... Can I put on the suit when you're done?"

"Of course! You wait here and enjoy the show while I put some makeup on Yoda, okay?"

"Okay!" Maya nodded obediently and continued to stare at her brothers.

The two children in bear suits hopped towards the bodyguards and waved at them.

"What is this? An ad?" The bodyguards discussed the odd situation amongst themselves when they saw the kids approaching them.

Kyle and Juan smiled cunningly under their disguise as they began their performance. They rolled around on the floor and hopped around the place, looking as cute as ever. The bodyguards' hearts warmed at the sight.

As the adults let their guards down, the two kids took out the powder they had hidden under their suits and scattered it over them before taking off quickly.

"What the hell? What is this?"

"I don't know. It must have been a prank."

"Those brats!"

Suddenly, one of the bodyguards began to wail. "F*ck! My body is itching all over! What's happening?"

"Me too. It's like there are millions of ants on my body!"

"Argh! What the heck is this?"

"That must have been itching powder!"

"The type people use to pull dirty pranks on others?"

"That's the one! Not only will it cause hypertension, but it'll also... Sh*t! You guys wait here. I'm going to wash this off!"

"I'm going too!"

"Wait for me!"

All the bodyguards ran to the washroom except one, who remained standing outside the door, scratching his body.

With Nina's help, Yoda was soon transformed into a waiter.

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Yoda walked up to the remaining bodyguard, who was scratching his body non-stop, and whispered, "Do you want to know how to stop the itch?"

The bodyguard looked up at him in amazement. "You know how? Tell me!"

Yoda smiled and brought his palm down on the guard's head, knocking the latter unconscious. It's easy. You won't feel the itch if you're out cold.

The man then pushed the door open and turned to nod at Nina.

The two little girls beamed and ran into the room, with Yoda following closely behind them. What they saw made their jaws drop.

"Ms. Lane, please accept these roses from me. They represent my undivided attention to you," Levant said affectionately as he handed the bouquet to Nicole.

Before the latter could open her mouth to refuse, the two girls came rushing to her side.

"Mommy! There you are!"

"Mommy, you forgot your debit card. We brought it here for you!"

The mother looked at the card, her expression darkening. I didn't forget it; I just don't plan on using it anymore...

However, since her children came all the way here to give her the card, she forced herself to smile and patted their heads.

Maya quickly scanned the room, and she soon spotted all the food on the table. She couldn't help but gulp at the sight.

“Are you hungry?” Nicole turned to Levant. “Will it okay for my daughters to join us?”

“Of course. I’ll treat them like they’re my own.”

His words irritated both Maya and Nina. We don’t need you to do that! We only need one daddy!

Nina pouted and fixed her gaze set on the roses. “Mister, what are you doing with all the flowers?” the little girl questioned as she crossed her arms.

“Yoda, what are all these?” the girl asked while staring at Levant with a look of suspicion.

“Mister, Mommy already has Daddy. You can take her away from him,” Maya stated blatantly.

Things had turned awkward for Levant because of the little girls’ statements. Your daddy is dead, and your mommy needs someone to take care of her.

He was about to say that when Nicole interrupted, “You girls have got it all wrong. Mr. Levant is just treating me to dinner.”

“Really?” Nina rolled her eyes back.

The mother nodded while Levant smiled faintly. Looks like I’ll have to think of a way to handle the children. I have to take it slow and leave a good impression first.

With that in mind, he noted what Nicole had said. He was simply buying her dinner – as a friend.

Seeing how sincere he was, Maya decided to believe him and shifted her attention to the food instead. Nina, on the other hand, didn’t believe him at all. But the girl decided to keep her mouth shut because, at the very least, the man seemed to have a good attitude.

“Come on. These are some snacks I brought from Levant Winery. Try them,” Levant offered.

After taking a bite, Maya beamed happily. “Mister, everything tastes really good!”

“Is that so? You’re welcome to come to my winery anytime you want. You can enjoy all sorts of delicacies there.”

Being the foodie Maya was, she was immediately attracted by the offer and nodded excitedly.

Levant then poured another glass of wine for Nicole. "I'm confident that the product from my winery can leave a lasting impression."

Nicole only returned him a smile and turned to her daughter. "Maya, slow down. You'll choke yourself."

After filling the woman's glass, Levant was about to pour some into his when Yoda approached him and offered to pour it for him.

"The waiter here sure is well-educated," Levant stated after scanning the waiter.

Yoda's heart skipped a beat. He quickly filled Levant's glass and took a step back.

"Ms. Lane, shall we have a toast?"

Nicole hesitated before picking her glass up. As she took a small sip, she heard the man sitting across her spit his drink out.

Upon seeing his pained expression, Nicole hurriedly asked if he was okay.

"I-I'm fine..." Levant quickly shook his head and turned to glare at Yoda.

The wine has turned oddly bitter. Only the waiter and I touched the bottle, so did that man add something to the wine?

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The more he thought about it, the more he was sure that the waiter had indeed added something to his drink. He glared angrily at the latter and etched his face into this mind so that he could take his revenge later on.

Seeing the man's anger, Yoda couldn't help but grin. Didn't you say your wine can leave a lasting impression? Well, I hope the drug that will cause a lot of pain will give you just that.

After Maya had her fill, Nicole made up an excuse to leave. As soon as she was out, Levant immediately ordered his guards to look for the waiter that had just served him. Yet, no matter how hard they searched, the waiter was nowhere to be seen.

Yoda had been prepared for such actions taken. He had gone to the bathroom to remove his disguise before the dinner ended. Now, he walked out the bar through the main door as the guard who had come to the restaurant with his employer.

When they returned to Imperial Garden, a sense of worry hit Nicole. She could not understand the reason behind a person like Levant taking an interest in her. Could he have some ulterior motive? There's no way he's actually interested in me.

"But what could he want?" Nicole mumbled to herself. She lowered her head to check herself out, noting to herself that even though she wasn't ugly, she also wasn't the type that would attract the attention of several men.

Plus, she already had four children. From a man's perspective, a single mother like her would never be their first choice as a wife. Even if she were to go after Levant, she would only be seen and treated as a maniac.

The more Nicole thought about it, the more questions appeared in her mind. In the end, she came to a conclusion to stay away from Levant as far as possible.

Levant suffered the whole night in his mansion because of the drug Yoda had slipped in. The tingling effect still lingered on his tongue as he cursed angrily and tore his paper fan apart.

Initially, he had planned to make out with Nicole after getting her tipsy, but her children had come out of nowhere and ruined his plan. In addition to that, his drink was spiked, and the person who had done such a thing to him was nowhere to be found. All these events only served to infuriate him further.

Could it be... that the Manson family is trying to stall me? Looks like time isn't on my side. I have to get Nicole by my side as soon as possible.

He steeled his mind and called Nicole to invite her to Levant Winery. He was sure that she would accept his invitation at all cost after he had disclosed his information to her during the dinner they had. Yet, the call ended with him feeling surprised when she turned him down saying she was busy with work.

He paced back and forth, trying to find an explanation to her attitude. His conclusion was that she was trying to act distant so that he would fall further for her.

Interesting! This is much more exciting than those who didn't even try to hide it!

He quickly summoned his driver. "Take me to Lane Corporation!"

"Yes, Sir!"

At Lane Corporation, Nicole let out a sigh as she went through the report. Her company was struggling because all the companies that cooperated with her because of Evan backed out after hearing her late husband's demise.

What a cold world we live in... Sigh... I have to find a way to get out of this mess. But, who can I turn to now?

Just as Nicole was thinking of a solution, her assistant came in. "Ms. Lane, there's someone here to see you."

"Tell that person to make an appointment first!" she ordered.

"There are no appointments scheduled for you today, so he's technically the first to make one, Ms. Lane."

Seeing that it was her first appointment for the day, she asked her assistant to let the person in without asking his or her identity.

When she saw who had stepped into her office, she finally understood the true meaning of stubbornness. The person who had shown up was none other than Levant.

“Why are you here?”

“What? You’re not happy to see me?”

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“No, no, of course not. Please, have a seat.” She forced a smile.

The man scanned his surroundings. It was a simple office that still looked elegant even with its minimalistic design. Even though he found it lacking, he was glad to see that the office was tidy.

He found himself a seat and asked, “What are you looking at?”

“Things I have to do today. Looks like today will be a long day...” Nicole sighed. “Why are you here? Do you need something from me?”

“Not really,” he replied as he stared at her lovingly. “I just wanted to be by your side.”

Nicole instantly felt a chill run down her spine. Is this man delusional?

“There’s no need for that. It feels weird having someone here when I work. Please leave.”

She really hoped he could understand that she was chasing him out politely, yet, things went way different than she had imagined.

He ignored her, thinking she was putting up an act of indifference. “I have nothing else to do. I’ll just stay here for a while.”

Nicole was rendered speechless, and annoyance bubbled within her after her surprise subsided.

Is he for real? The owner of a winery has nothing to do? Heck, how can you be so free when you're the heir to a duke?

Nicole's curiosity had been piqued, but it was rude to ask him about the topic in such a manner. So, she decided to focus on her work instead.

The busy woman thought Levant would leave when lunchtime rolled around, but she was proven wrong when he remained seated as the clock struck noon.

Should I chase him out? Seeing that he'd waited for a whole morning, Nicole decided to do that after lunch instead.

"Mr. Levant, should we grab something to eat?"

"Didn't I tell you to drop the honorifics?" Levant stood up.

Even though she wasn't used to calling him by his name, she seemed to have no choice or say in the matter. So, she nodded. "Come on, let's go."

Nicole led the way, wondering how she was going to chase the man out of her office as she walked.

Levant followed closely behind her. He wondered if she was touched when he had waited for her throughout the entire morning. This is going smoother than I thought.

When they arrived at the canteen, Nicole found a brightly lit spot and sat down. She ordered two dishes and two servings of rice.

"I hope the food suits your taste," she said awkwardly.

The man looked at the dishes on the table and smiled faintly. Is she going to pretend she can eat these unimpressive dishes and prove she's not a gold digger?

"Do you always eat your lunch here?" he asked.

"It depends. I usually eat here when I'm busy."

She would usually head back home to enjoy her lunch with her children, but she was afraid to do so today because Levant might just decide to follow her back.

The man put up a worried expression and said, "You must have it tough..." He then stood up to help Nicole plate some food.

"I'll do it myself." She wasn't used to having another man do such a thing for her.

He watched her as she ate, wondering if she really could eat such a simple meal.

When Nicole was busy raising her four children alone in the past, life was hard for her. There were times when she would have to starve. That was why she could enjoy the simple meal she was now eating.

A few minutes soon passed, and he frowned as he realized she wasn't forcing herself to eat the food. Instead, it was him who found the food inedible.

Nicole noticed his reaction as well and tried her best to hide her smile.

I hope he leaves early to Levant Winery for his meal...

She quickly finished her meal without uttering a single word and then asked, "I think the food here isn't up to your standard. You should go back to Levant Winery and have your lunch there instead."