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Maya blinked her eyes in surprise as Nina managed to remember a lot more information than her.

She made up her mind to eat more walnuts to boost her memory from then on.

"Let's go back and tell Mommy this."

"Alright."

The girls cast a furtive glance in the direction of Yoda's face before taking to their heels. They rushed back to their room so that they could relay what they just heard to Mommy as soon as possible. They were sure they had done some pretty laudable work.

"Nina, wait for me!"

"Run faster! Why're you moving as slow as a bear?"

"I am not!"

After yelling at Nina, Maya tried her best to catch up with Nina.

Meanwhile, Nicole let out a heavy sigh of relief as she walked out of Levant's room.

Levant was in a good mood that day as he invited Nicole for a tea-tasting session. However, Nicole appeared distracted throughout the entire thing as she had been thinking about ways that could lead her to the jerk who dumped her mother years ago.

During the tea-tasting session, she even made use of the chance to ask Levant whether Daphne was an acupuncturist and who was her master.

Yet, Levant only shook his head with a smile in response.

It was obvious that he was not going to reveal any information about Daphne's master to her. All Levant wanted to achieve at the moment was to get married to Nicole as soon as possible. Thus, Nicole would be wrong if she thought Levant was the man who could help her in looking for her biological father.

But then again, why is he unwilling to help me with that?

Nicole couldn't help but wonder. Forget it, I'll do the digging myself.

She then returned to her room at a quick pace. At the sight of Nicole, Nina scuttled in her direction and repeated the conclusion she reached to her.

Nicole was puzzled after listening to Nina.

"They're going to put on an act in front of Daphne to make her appreciate Daddy's help and lust after him? Now, John is arranging for Daddy to meet Daphne later tonight?"

Nicole knitted her brows in confusion. Thinking of Maya's previous question regarding seduction, her heart gave a lurch.

Is Evan going to seduce Daphne so that she will fall in love with him and do everything as he says?

Otherwise, why does he have to meet her at night and show her his face without the mask on?

I'm sure it's because he knows his face is attractive enough to lure Daphne to bed!

With that thought in mind, Nicole couldn't help but start picturing how their secret rendezvous would play out. In the bright, moonlit night, the two would meet each other at somewhere secluded in the estate. While Evan flirted and seduced her, Daphne would be so smitten by him that she would not hesitate to throw herself into his arms. Then, they would start getting lovey-dovey and intimate with each other.

Damn it!

Nicole could barely control her temper as her anger began to hit the ceiling.

Evan, I can't believe you're interested in a woman like Daphne! Your taste in women is horrible!

"Do you know what time they're going to meet each other?" Nicole asked the girls through gritted teeth.

Maya shook her head. "They didn't mention the time just now."

They didn't mention the time?

Fine, I'll just spend the entire night watching him then.

If I really catch him doing anything to Daphne...

"Evan Seet, you'd better watch out!"

Thump! A loud noise was produced as Nicole landed a punch hard on the table next to her. Seeing this, Nina and Maya exchanged glances as both of them thought there was something not right with Mommy's reaction.

At dusk, Nicole entrusted the kids to Sheila before exiting her room hurriedly and making a beeline for Evan's room.

When she reached there, she hid herself at a secluded spot which provided her a perfect angle to spy on Evan.

Her eyes were glued on his room without blinking.

Evan Seet, I have to watch how you're going to make Daphne lust after you!

After watching his room for more than an hour, the sky slowly darkened and lights around the estate were turned on to illuminate the place.

Nicole started mumbling to herself, "Why isn't he leaving his room? Did Maya and Nina hear him wrongly just now?"

Just as she was doubting the information she received from the girls, she spotted someone walking out of Yoda's room.

Nicole could tell the owner of the body at one glance.

It was none other than Evan.

He was dressed as a bodyguard of the estate and he was not wearing the human skin mask.

Is he really going to seduce Daphne?

Evan Seet, you're so shameless!

As he was walking away, Nicole quickly followed him all the way to the garden.

Evan stopped at one of the pavilions in the garden where he stared at a huge round-shaped object on the ground contemplatively.

It was a habit of Daphne to take a stroll in the garden after dinner and she would always walk past the pavilion. So, Evan chose that to be the venue where he was going to put on a scintillating performance later.

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According to his plan, the round-shaped object would rolled away from the pavilion toward Daphne when she reached the area later.

As for himself, he would act like he only passed by the area by chance. When he spotted the rolling ball, he would lunge forward and stop it from hitting Daphne. Then, he would pretend to be injured because of the ball.

The final part of the plan, which was also the most crucial one, involved convincing her to seek help from her acupuncture master. In that way, Evan would be able to find out her master's identity and to see whether he was Nicole's biological father.

While waiting for Daphne the protagonist, he used the time to run through every step of his plan in his mind to familiarize with them.

He glanced at his watch and reckoned Daphne was on her way over to the garden.

Immediately, he hid himself somewhere off the beaten track.

Eight minutes later, Daphne indeed arrived at the garden as per his expectation.

Just as Daphne was reaching the middle of the garden, the huge ball indeed rolled out from the pavilion at a high speed in her direction.

Meanwhile, Nicole was stupefied when she saw that. Just moments earlier, she caught Evan staring at the round-shaped object, but she had no idea that the thing would move by itself and charge toward Daphne all of a sudden.

Is Evan actually trying to injure Daphne to avenge my grievance instead of seducing her?

A surge of warmth filled up her heart in an instant. Just as she was straining her eyes to see whether the round-shaped object was going to hit Daphne, Evan suddenly materialized out of nowhere and grabbed the ball to stop it from hitting Daphne.

Seeing his reaction, Nicole's eyes widened in shock.

Seems like I was overthinking just now. This is nothing but a well-planned scheme of Evan made in an attempt to seduce Daphne!

Daphne, who was scared stiff by the rolling ball, gaped at Evan in consternation.

"I-It's you again?"

"Yes." Evan nodded at her.

"Bring more bodyguards over here now!"

After giving out the instruction to the maids, Daphne approached Evan.

"Are you alright?" she asked him worryingly. "I'm fine!" "It must have been fate that you happened to be here and saved my life, don't you think so?" The way Daphne stared at him was full of affection. Evan did not answer her. This isn't fate but a pre-arranged show! Several bodyguards rushed to the scene in order to move the huge ball back to the pavilion. Noticing that Evan was flinging his arms uncomfortably, Daphne asked, "Are you injured?" "It's nothing serious." "You're injured because of me... Now, please follow me back to my room and I'll get the doctor to check out your condition." Evan hesitated for a second. His plan would be a success if Daphne were going to get her acupuncture master to give him treatment. While watching them go, Nicole was tearing the petals in her hands into pieces resentfully. I must say Evan's plan is quite brilliant. After what took place just now, I'm sure Daphne is going to see him as her benefactor from now on. So, this is how he made Daphne see him as her benefactor and lust after him. Unable to accept Evan's behavior, Nicole hurried off to catch up with them.

Evan Seet, don't you think you can keep me in the dark of what you're going to do to Daphne

because I've witnessed everything!

I have to make sure he knows I was there just now!

On their way back to Daphne's room, she asked, "Hector, how long have you been working as the bodyguard here?"

"I'm a new recruit."

"No wonder. I don't remember seeing such a good-looking bodyguard like you before this."

Evan remained silent and did not respond to her comment.

If it weren't because he needed to track down Nicole's biological father as soon as possible so that they could bring the kids home earlier, he would rather not have anything to do with a woman like Daphne.

Would Nicole be touched when she knew that he had made such a huge sacrifice for her sake?

"Hector, have you ever thought of being promoted to much better role than the bodyguard?"

Evan shook his head.

Although he had been maintaining a poker-faced expression, he did respond to her questions.

To Daphne, Evan was much better than Levant who obviously loathed her.

In her opinion, he could turn out to be the type of man who was quiet but knew how to express his love through actions.

"Whoever gets to be your wife will be very happy for the rest of her life," Daphne remarked all of a sudden.

Evan paused in his tracks. Could John's prediction turn out to be correct? Is Daphne actually interested in him?

Meanwhile, Nicole was inching closer to them, looking incensed. Suddenly, she froze and stopped moving.

Oh, I'm still an idiot to Daphne!

It would be out of her character if she just strutted over and blocked their path like a normal person.

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Thus, she had to approach them in a way no normal person would.

She tousled her hair and made it a mess. Then, she plucked two flowers and kept them in her grasp. Putting on a blank look to make herself look like an idiot, she tiptoed her way in their direction.

In the meantime, Daphne posed Evan another question, "You're still single, aren't you?"

He did not answer her as he was not in the mood to entertain her pointless questions. Instead, he only kept his eyes straight on the road ahead.

Just then, Nicole scurried toward them and landed a punch on Evan.

When Evan spun around and saw her, surprise was written all over his face.

Meanwhile, anger was evident on Daphne's face when she saw Nicole. "What is an idiot like you doing here at this hour?"

Nicole shot a fleeting glare at Evan first before she started giggling foolishly.

Damn, why does my voice sound so croaky?

Nicole did not really lose her mind, so it was hard for her to laugh when she saw her man spending time with another woman.

Thus, she stopped forcing herself to smile before she walked up to them and seized Evan's arms.

"W-What are you doing? Let go of him now!"

Since Nicole had already snatched Levant away from her, Daphne would never allow Nicole to do the same thing to Hector again.

However, it seemed like Daphne's words had fallen on Nicole's deaf ears as she went on to sink her teeth into the flesh of Evan's arm.

Then, she snapped, "Ass*ole, this is the punishment you deserve!"

Instead of pushing her away, Evan put up with the pain and let her be.

Judging from the glare she just shot him and how hard she was biting him, he knew the silly lady was being jealous.

Yet, for some reason he was pleased, because it showed how much she cared about him.

"Let him go now!" Daphne was ready to summon the maids over to haul her away.

Nicole only let go of his arm when she felt that her anger had been alleviated. She then made a run for it the next second.

"I really should teach that fool a lesson some other time!"

Suddenly, Evan turned around and gave her a penetrating gaze.

Daphne's heart skipped a beat under his gaze and she couldn't help but wonder whether what she just said was wrong.

"Ms. Ankins, may I ask you a question?"

"What is it that you want to know? I happen to have some questions for you too. You may ask me first!"

"I heard that your acupuncture master is famous for his skill. May I have the honor to have him check my pulse?"

My acupuncture master?

Pfft! Daphne burst out laughing all of a sudden. "Who told you the rumor?"

Evan was rendered speechless. Rumor?

He furrowed his brows in disbelief.

Is that a mere excuse because she isn't willing to speak truthfully?

Seeing he was unconvinced, Daphne gave him a detailed account of how the rumor eventually came about.

After listening to her narration, Evan finally understood what the matter was all about.

As it turned out, there was a bodyguard working at the estate who had some health problems. His life was saved by a mysterious person who gave him an acupuncture treatment.

The moment the bodyguard regained his consciousness, Daphne was the first person he saw and she happened to be holding a packet of silver needles left behind by the mysterious acupuncturist. That was the reason why the bodyguard assumed Daphne to be the one who saved his life.

Just like that, the rumor that she was an acupuncturist started spreading among the people at the estate because she did not bother to make any clarification.

Evan's face looked extremely glum upon knowing the truth.

To his utter dismay, the information which they had thought to be an important clue turned out to be nothing but a rumor.

How ironic was that!

Just as he was about to walk away, Daphne spoke, "Now, it's your turn to answer my questions."

Evan did not respond to her.

After instructing the maids to give them some space, Daphne looked at Evan with a smug expression. "Are you interested in becoming the most respectable man in this estate?"

Surprise flickered in Evan's eyes as he was at a loss for words.

He was both baffled and shocked by the question she posed.

Seeing his confused expression, Daphne explained, "I think we're somehow destined to be together. Since Aunt Portia is going to make me the future duchess, you will become the future duke if you marry me."

Evan remained silent as he did not quite get what she meant.

As Evan still looked puzzled, Daphne decided to tell him all about her plan. After all, she needed to make sure he was on the same page with her if they were going to marry each other in the future.

Fate had arranged him to meet her and save her life. In Daphne's opinion, he was the perfect man sent by God to take care of her in Levant's place.

"Let me share with you a secret – Levant isn't Aunt Portia's biological son and they aren't related to each other. Meanwhile, I'm Aunt Portia's niece and she adores me."

Evan was stunned to hear that.

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"Do you mean Levant is actually Sir Musgrave's illegitimate son?"

Daphne sneered, "I bet he wishes he were. He isn't related to Uncle Stephen too and he's only his adopted son."

Evan went speechless as he was taken aback by what he just heard.

Never had it occurred to him that Levant was not blood-related to anyone from the Musgrave family.

Although the investigation on Nicole's father had reached a dead end, the effort Evan made that night was not completely in vain as he had successfully obtained a juicy secret from Daphne.

At last, he cast Daphne a cold glance before walking away.

Daphne was puzzled by his reaction. How can he not say something after I have shared such a huge secret with him? Does he need some time to process my suggestion which is going to be life-changing for him?

"Hector, I'm sure you will come back and knock on my door soon! No man will let slip such a good chance to have a meteoric rise to wealth and fame! Meeting me might just be the luckiest thing that has ever happened in your life!"

Watching Evan's back, Daphne's eyes gleamed with excitement as she was sure he would come back and beg her to marry him soon.

She did not have a single clue who exactly was the man she was dealing with.

Indeed, having unrealistic expectations and being arrogant and overconfident were capable of clouding one's judgement.

. . .

Nicole was back to her room. At the thought of Evan and Daphne spending time together, she couldn't help but feel upset and frustrated.

She expected Evan would notice her anger just now and follow her back. But to her chagrin, he was nowhere in sight.

"Evan, you should just spend the rest of your life with Daphne!"

Juan was flummoxed when he saw how livid Nicole looked.

Why does Mommy look so pissed after coming back from outside?

"Mommy, did Daddy do something that made you angry?" Juan asked tentatively with some hesitation in his eyes.

Reaching out to caress his head, Nicole shook her head gently.

In her opinion, she ought to keep the issues in her relationship with Evan between them and not let them affect the kids.

"I'm fine and your Daddy didn't make me mad. Now, it's time for you to go to bed, little boy."

Yet, Juan looked not the least bit convinced.

It was because he heard it very clearly how Mommy had been cursing Daddy under her breath just now.

He was sure Daddy must have done something that let Mommy down.

However, he did not probe since Mommy was not in the mood to talk.

The world of adults is so complicated. I'd better remind Daddy to do something to cheer Mommy up tomorrow.

Back in his room, Evan mulled over what Daphne just revealed to him.

If what she said was true, that Levant was not Sir Musgrave's biological son, it meant that he was not related to the Musgrave family by blood. Therefore, it meant that the DNA test conducted between Nicole and Levant before they came to K Nation was actually meaningless. The DNA test was highly likely Levant's scheme to confuse them.

Perhaps, Nicole's biological father was not a distant relative of the Musgrave family, but a lineal descendant of the family.

Yet, Evan couldn't figure out why Levant had been so eager to marry Nicole when he was trying so hard, but at the same time stop her from finding out the truth about her biological father too.

In the end, he decided to get John to run a thorough investigation on Levant by making use of their connections in K Nation. He wanted to know everything about Levant, including his family background.

After a phone call with John, Evan made his way to the bathroom to take a shower. When he removed his shirt, he noticed the bite mark on his arm – a masterpiece by Nicole. Without him realizing, his face was breaking into a faint smile.

She got the wrong idea and was jealous to see him spending time with Daphne – this was the perfect proof to show how much she cared about him.

Thus, he made up his mind to have a heart-to-heart talk with Nicole tomorrow.

The next morning after breakfast, Nicole started pondering over all the clues that could lead her to her biological father.

Before she could come to any useful conclusion, Evan visited her room.

After seducing Daphne with his good-looking face last night, he was back as Yoda again with the human skin mask on. Nicole couldn't help but worry whether his mind was as fickle as his face.

She rolled her eyes at him before walking back to her bedroom.

Is she still angry with me?

Just as Evan was thinking whether he should follow her into her bedroom, Juan spotted him and quickly ran up to him. Good-naturedly, the little boy reminded Daddy to make an effort to cheer Mommy up because Mommy was pissed.

With a grim expression, the little boy asked, "Daddy, are you good at cheering a woman up?"

Evan shook his head after some deliberation.

"You can start practicing by trying to cheer a kid version up first then."

Juan giggled and pointed in the direction of Maya's bedroom.

The sound of Maya crying could be heard intermittently the next second.

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"What happened to Maya?"

"She has a sudden craving for chestnut cookies early this morning. However, the cookie is a secret recipe of the chef at Imperial Garden, so no one knows how to make it here. She's throwing a tantrum now because she can't have it."

Evan fell silent to ponder over the situation before striding off toward Maya's bedroom.

Maya, whose hair was disheveled, was sitting on the bed with her face scrunched up bitterly. She looked like she had been starved for days.

Seeing Evan walking into her room, she immediately launched into another round of wailing.

"What's the matter?"

Maya, who wanted Evan to carry him, stretched out her chubby little arms to him invitingly.

Evan scooped the little girl up and wiped the tears on her face.

"You have to stop crying."

Maya immediately toned it down obediently. "Daddy, I really crave for chestnut cookies a lot!" she croaked.

"You'll get to have it when we're back to Imperial Garden, alright? No one here knows how to make the cookies."

Without responding to him, Maya pouted her lips and fiddled with her fingers glumly.

Evan tried to divert her attention from the cookies by asking her to get dressed.

She picked up a pretty coat and stared at it with her eyes widened with inspiration. Then, she showed it to Evan.

"Daddy, don't you think the color of this coat look a lot like the color of chestnut cookies?"

Evan did not answer her.

Maya, who failed to elicit a response from Daddy, went on to get dressed.

Then, she got out of bed and put on a pair of slippers before walking out of her room. Just then, she saw Juan and Kyle having a good time playing Lego.

Maya scurried over to them. "What are you guys playing?"

"Our figurines are battling with each other."

"Will the winner be rewarded with chestnut cookies?"

Both Juan and Kyle were rendered speechless.

The boys exchanged a glance before walking back to their bedroom. In their opinion, staying as far away from Maya as possible when she was obsessed with chestnut cookies was the best policy.

Maya turned around and spotted Nina making her way over to her, eating a banana. Immediately, Maya ran up to her and asked, "How does the banana taste like?"

"Of course it tastes like how bananas usually taste," Nina answered her matter-of-factly.

"Can you do something to make it taste like chestnut cookies?"

Nina was at a loss for words. You certainly have some wild imagination!

Seems like Maya's craving for chestnut cookies is in urgent need of fixing.

Just then, Evan walked over to Maya and caress her head. "How about I bring you out and buy some for you?"

Maya looked up at him and nodded enthusiastically.

Evan pointed at Nicole's bedroom. "Go and ask Mommy whether she wants to come along with us."

Moving her chubby legs, Maya sprinted to Nicole's bedroom and knocked on the door.

Nicole answered the door and stared blankly at the little girl. "Yes?"

"Mommy, we're heading outside to get some chestnut cookies. Would you like to come along with us?"

Nicole caught a glimpse of Evan who was standing nearby. Just as she was about to turn Maya down, Kyle, Juan and Nina suddenly darted over to her.

"Mommy, we're going out with them too."

"Mommy, why don't you come with us too?"

"Mommy, please come with us!"

Judging from how the kids were badgering her, Nicole knew they would continue to pester her if she said no.

However, Evan was going to be there too...

She was worried that her anger might get the better of her and she might lash it out at Evan in front of the kids. She did not want such a thing to happen as it would adversely affect the kids emotionally.

"Mommy, just look at how obsessed Maya is with chestnut cookies! Please do come with us!"

"Exactly. Isn't Maya your favorite?"

Seeing how hard the kids were trying to convince her and the tears in Maya's eyes, Nicole decided to sacrifice herself for the sake of her kids.

Nicole seldom visited the shopping malls in K Nation. The only thing she knew about them was they usually nestled in the center of several busy streets which came with busy traffic and thick crowds.

Strolling along the streets, she held Nina with one hand and Maya with another to make sure they were safe.

Meanwhile, the two little girls were busy marveling at their surroundings as everything looked new and interesting to them.

"Mommy, there are so many restaurants and eateries here."

"Mommy, do you think they sell the same cosmetic products available in our country too?"

Staring at the two girls, Nicole understood they were dropping hints about the things they wanted to have.

"Just tell me what you want and I will buy them for you."

Maya extended one chubby arm and pointed at a shop nearby.

"Mommy, why don't we go and check out that dessert store?"