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When she got there, it was completely empty.

This was preposterous!

This estate was her property. She couldn't believe how difficult it was to search for someone on her territory!

She wanted to order her men to search Sir Musgrave's residence as well, but she knew he would not be happy to see a crowd of people descending upon his home.

Besides, he had already ordered the employees around the estate to protect those four kids.

Hence, she made her way to his study room to explain everything to him.

"...those kids made Daphne suffer so horribly. I have to make them pay the price for it! Nicole Lane must have ordered them to do that. Otherwise, how could a few children their age cook up such a horrible plan? The scars on Daphne's face might even be permanent! You have to team up with me on this!"

Seeing his wife boil with rage, Sir Musgrave fell into deep thought.

From his few interactions with Nicole, he refused to believe that she would instigate her own children to do something like this.

Those children of hers were smart and innocent at the same time. Likewise, he had doubts that they would do something so cruel without a reason.

"There must be a reason for this. Do you know why they did this?"

Hearing this question, Lady Musgrave felt rather stunned.

She knew perfectly why the kids had done that. It was because Daphne took her orders and arranged for people to kidnap Nicole and the children away from the residence. She had tried to send them away.

Those children must have found out and retaliated like a bunch of rabid wolves.

However, there was no way she was going to tell Sir Musgrave about this.

She thought deeply about how to reply. Eventually, she said, "It's probably because those kids haven't been raised properly. That's the only reason why they could've done something so preposterous."

""

Sir Musgrave looked very, well, grave. Evidently, he didn't believe her explanation.

The wife continued indignantly, "You have to settle this debt for Daphne! She's my niece, and she calls you Uncle Stephen out of respect! How can I stand to see her being bullied like this on this estate? What am I supposed to tell her parents? Do you want to start a war with my maiden family over a matter like this?"

There was a deeper and more sinister meaning to her innocuous statement. Left with few options, Lady Musgrave decided to use her maiden family to threaten her husband.

She was insistent this time.

"I'll settle this matter for you. Please return for now."

"Alright. I'll go back and wait for your good news!"

Lady Musgrave turned around and swept out of the room.

Sir Musgrave remained silent, thinking deeply. He ordered his servant to call Nicole and the kids over. The man wanted to understand what exactly was going on.

After a short while, the servant returned and reported, "Sir Musgrave, they're in the drawing room. Lady Musgrave's men dare not enter."

Sir Musgrave felt a little surprised. Those children were really smart—they came to his residence, knowing that it was the only place in the estate where Lady Musgrave didn't have jurisdiction over.

It seemed like he had to make a trip to the drawing room himself.

Shortly, he arrived at the courtyard. Seeing that the lights were on, he entered the room straightaway.

His sudden appearance shocked the children.

Maya blinked her large eyes and exclaimed, "Grandpa, what are you doing here?"

Here, Nicole finally realized that her children had been referring to Sir Musgrave all along.

"This is Sir Musgrave. You need to address him properly." Nicole turned around and gazed respectfully at him. "They're just children. Please excuse their rudeness."

Hmm? Did Mommy say he's Sir Musgrave?

So he was the most important man on this estate. No wonder he had introduced himself as the owner of the place during their first meeting.

The children thought he was the owner of this residence, but his influence actually extended beyond that. He was the owner of the entire estate.

Sir Musgrave looked at the adorable children, who stared back at him with their large, round eyes. A warm smile appeared on his cold, handsome face.

"No worries. I don't mind the way they address me. Don't you think it's very affectionate? I like these kids."

So they could actually address Sir Musgrave as Grandpa?

He even felt affectionate towards them and liked them very much.

Wow! Instantaneously, the children felt even closer to him.

Maya looked at him happily. Suddenly, she blurted out a question. "Since you're Sir Musgrave, can you keep that old witch and that horrible Daphne in check?"

Nicole froze in shock. She reached out a hand and pinched Maya on the cheek, hard.

How could she call Lady Musgrave an old witch in front of her own husband?

"Maya, watch your mouth!"

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Looking at her anxious mother, Nina mumbled, "Mommy, it's okay to call her the old witch. I did it in front of him before."

She did it before? Oh my goodness...

Nicole felt her head spin at once.

What else did the kids say in front of Sir Musgrave?

"Sir, please don't mind them. They're just kids."

However, it seemed like Stephen didn't mind the kids calling his wife the old witch.

Under the soft, warm lights, he gazed at Nicole. Smiling bashfully, she looked gentle and captivating. She's very much like Rosalie.

"It's alright. I came to find out what happened between Daphne and the kids."

Nina was the first one to step forward. Staring at the man, she replied indignantly, "She's a bad woman! She sent someone to prank us by pouring flour on me and making me look like a white puppy. It's so embarrassing!"

Juan then added, "I was drenched all over because she made someone pour water on me from above. She even asked someone to put us in a sack. I don't know what she was trying to do to us."

Maya complained as well, "She hit my head with a ball, and it hurts so much."

Kyle kept silent. I'm the lucky one who didn't get pranked; I actually escaped the ordeal safe and sound.

Looking at his mommy, who didn't utter a word, he spoke on her behalf. "Our Mommy was pushed into a pond. If the water was deeper, she would've drowned."

"That's right! An eye for an eye. We must take revenge!"

Nicole still didn't say a word but she didn't stop the kids from telling the truth.

At that moment, her curiosity was piqued. I wonder what Sir Musgrave will do after knowing these things.

In an instant, Stephen's face turned grim and his gaze was frigid.

I didn't expect Daphne to treat the kids this way. She even pushed Nicole into a lake. How terrible!

My wife even demanded justice for Daphne. Now I see that Daphne has brought it upon herself. She got exactly what she deserved!

Just as he remained quiet in contemplation, Evan and John walked into the courtyard.

Oblivious to Stephen's presence, John announced before entering the room, "Ma'am, the old witch has retreated. She won't be doing anything tonight so you can bring back these smart kids."

Stephen turned to look at the door.

The old witch is certainly my wife's nickname. But who is this Ma'am? Is it Nicole?

When he was still feeling puzzled, he saw the two men stepping through the door.

Stephen's presence surprised Evan, and John froze for a moment as well.

Though Evan had stayed at the estate for quite some time, he had only seen Stephen from afar several times. This was his first time encountering Stephen face to face.

Just now, Evan had removed his ugly mask because he didn't want to expose Yoda's true identity in case he ran into Lady Musgrave. Now he was showing his real, incredibly dashing face.

"Who are they?" Stephen asked inquisitively.

Previously, Nicole lied to Stephen that she was in love with Levant so she could stay at the estate. She did so to cover up her actual intention, which was to search for her biological father.

My lie will be busted if I tell him who Evan really is. And he'll probably suspect that I approached Levant with ill intentions and have us investigated.

She hesitated for a second before answering, "They're my bodyguards."

What? Bodyguards?

Stephen's piercing eyes landed on Evan right away.

This man carries such a domineering and elegant vibe. There's no way he's just a bodyguard.

"Your bodyguards?"

With his eyes on her, Stephen gave her a meaningful smile. Judging from the way they addressed her and from Evan's demeanor, something just didn't sit right with him.

Despite having no idea why Stephen smiled, Nicole flashed him a smile, too.

The scene of Stephen and Nicole exchanging glances with a smile made Evan feel uneasy.

It seems like she's trying to please this man intentionally.

Clenching his fists, Evan gazed at her with his cavernous eyes while questioning in an icy voice, "Am I your bodyguard?"

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Nicole felt her chest tighten at his question.

It's safest to say that you're my bodyguard. I'll be in trouble if finds out you're the man I love and the father of the kids.

In order to appease Evan, she nodded, fluttering the lashes of her twinkling eyes. "Yes, you're my bodyguard."

The man secretly gritted his teeth. How could she say this? Is she embarrassed to admit that I'm her man? Or does she have other ideas in mind?

Fury was evident in Evan's gaze despite his effort to suppress the intense rage within him. On the other hand, Nicole seemed flustered, as if she were trying to conceal something. Observing the two, Stephen's brows drew together.

After a brief moment of silence, he suddenly looked at Nicole and asked, "Since you and Levant are in love with one another, why don't you both get married right away? Then my wife will no longer pick on you and the kids because you're her daughter-in-law."

Marry Levant?

Why does Stephen bring this up all of a sudden?

Nicole was dumbstruck.

Stephen eyed her intently and observed her reaction. A realization hit him when he saw her shocked and anxious face.

I've heard that Nicole intentionally keeps a distance from Levant these days. The way they treat one another is nothing like a couple in love. Other than that, she also secretly tries to scout out some incidents of the past at the estate. I guess she has a hidden agenda, and the appearance of these "bodyguards" has confirmed my suspicion.

Meanwhile, Evan's expression became cold as ice at Stephen's words.

Looking daggers at the woman, he asked in a cold tone, enunciating every word, "Are you and Levant in love with one another?"

In a panic, Nicole lifted her head to see him.

Whoa! His face looks so stern. This is scary... How should I answer him? If I nod, will Evan lose his cool and do something extreme? But if I don't, the excuse I used to stay at the estate becomes invalid. Sir Musgrave will probably think I have a hidden agenda. How am I going to find out my identity then? Oh goodness, why must you give me such a tough challenge? I wish I can draw lots to decide. Now tell me, should I nod or not?

Seeing their mother's conflicted expression, the four kids exchanged glances. Then Maya stepped forward, innocently blinking her luminous eyes at her mother.

"Mommy, I don't want a stepdad. You can't marry Uncle Levant."

Kyle followed and said firmly, "Mommy, I don't want a stepdad, either."

The quick-witted Juan noticed his dad's sullen expression and hurriedly said, "Mommy, quickly tell Daddy you don't like Uncle Levant."

Rolling her eyes, Nina walked over to Stephen and looked at him solemnly.

"Mommy is deeply in love with Daddy, so she won't marry Uncle Levant."

Seeing her kids defending their parents' marriage boldly, Nicole's dilemma was replaced by worry.

Oh, no. Sir Musgrave now knows that I've lied to him. Is he going to deal with me?

Sizing Evan up from head to toe, Stephen asked the four kids, "Is he your daddy?"

"Yeah."

"Yes."

"You're right."

"That's him."

The four kids nodded in unison.

Stephen then turned to look at John. "Did you call her Ma'am just now?"

The kids have admitted it, so I have nothing to hide anymore. John gave him a firm nod.

"Yes, she's our Ma'am."

Stephen's gaze fell on Nicole. "Since you have a husband and kids, why are you still messing with Levant?"

I'm here to find out who I really am! And I have no other way to get into the estate.

When Stephen saw Nicole remaining silent, he asked again on purpose, "Who do you actually love? Levant or this man?"

Urgh... Of course I love Evan.

Nicole's bright eyes landed on Evan and found him staring right back at her with his dark eyes.

Oh my! That murderous look.

Actually, Evan was waiting for an answer from her as well.

If given a choice, who will Nicole choose?

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Nicole contemplated briefly. Then she strolled over to Evan and held his hand. "I love my kids' daddy."

A grin suddenly spread across Stephen's face.

I knew she would choose him. If she chooses Levant, I'll have to investigate why she used Levant as an excuse to stay here.

On the other hand, though Evan seemed calm, his heart leapt with joy the second he heard her answer.

His eyes were fixed on her as he asked, "Did you choose me genuinely?"

Of course, I love you wholeheartedly.

With a faint smile, she nodded.

If I must choose between Evan and knowing my true identity, I'll certainly choose him. He's a thousand times more important than the b*stard who dumped my mom. I can stay ignorant about the heartless man, but I can't afford to lose Evan.

The children were pleased to see their parents standing together.

The scene of the family of six together also made Stephen heave a sigh of relief.

"Alright, you've chosen him, so there should be nothing between you and Levant anymore. Go back and take care."

Despite knowing that Nicole had come to the estate with an ulterior motive, Stephen didn't want to pursue this matter, as the estate suffered no loss.

She and Rosalie look so alike. I would rather think that her sudden appearance is meant to be. But my wife and Daphne will not let them off the hook. If this goes on, they will surely get hurt. It's best if they leave safely.

Nicole could tell that Stephen was hinting at them to leave.

Anyway, I've no reason to stay anymore. I'm grateful that he is letting us go instead of holding me accountable for lying and the kids for pulling tricks on Daphne.

Gazing at Stephen's tall and mighty figure, she felt a sense of familial warmth and care which she had never experienced since young.

To her, this was an absolutely precious feeling.

"We shouldn't hold you back any longer, Sir. Please let Levant know. We'll take our leave now."

It's better that they leave overnight. Otherwise, my wife will make use of her family to seek justice for Daphne first thing tomorrow.

"Have a safe trip."

For some unknown reason, Stephen was reluctant to see her go.

Perhaps she resembles Rosalie too much.

Yet, she isn't Rosalie. She's only a woman who looks like Rosalie, a passerby in my life. And she has her own life to live.

Evan caught a glimpse of the reluctance and affection in Stephen's gaze on Nicole, and a wave of agitation washed over him.

Not only does Levant want to marry Nicole, but Sir Musgrave is falling for her, too? We can't stay here any longer. She is so attractive to men. Should I lock her up in a cage once we reach home?

Leaving the courtyard, they went back to their room to pack their belongings.

"Mommy, you can't investigate who your daddy is anymore. What should we do now?" Juan asked as four pairs of innocent eyes stared straight at her.

The children seemed very concerned about this.

Trying to sound as carefree as possible, Nicole replied, "It's okay. I don't care who that heartless man is. Besides, we can always investigate again in the future when there's a chance."

Evan's lips curled up. "What if I say you'll know soon?"

Nicole froze at his words. She turned around to look at him. Did he find some clues?

"Evan, tell me if you know anything. Don't keep me in suspense."

Why can't he tell me directly instead of keeping me guessing?

"Is that the right attitude to ask for something?" Evan questioned while looking at her.

Urgh. Am I the one with a bad attitude now? He's getting so full of himself. What kind of attitude does he expect from me?

After much thinking, Nicole wrapped her hands around his arm with a flattering smile. "Mr. Seet, you're a kind man. In fact, you're the best guy in this world."

The four kids turned to glance at her flirtatious expression. They were amazed by her flexibility and how thick-skinned she could be.

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"Really?" Evan furrowed his brows, surprised by her sudden change of demeanor.

"Yes! A kind man like you never keeps things to himself. Tell me now."

"I'm not a kind man, so you're not being truthful." He was dissatisfied with her response.

Nicole frowned. What should I say to please him, then? I can't be telling him that he's the biggest meanie in the world.

"John, please take the kids and get going. I need to talk to my wife." John immediately did as per Evan's instructions.

The four kids immediately scurried off. After walking some distance away, Juan asked curiously, "What's Daddy and Mommy going to talk about?"

"I don't know. The way Mommy praised Daddy just now made me blush." Nina covered her cheeks with her hands.

Walking behind her sister, Maya asked, "Why were you blushing?"

"I couldn't stand the flattery. Mommy is so thick-skinned, lying through her teeth like that."

Juan replied, "It doesn't matter that Mommy is thick-skinned as long as Daddy likes it."

"That's right. I just wish that they'll be fine together, so we won't need to worry about them. My little heart has gone through too much; I need to eat more to nourish my system."

Nina rolled her eyes at Maya. She's going to become as fat as a beached whale.

However, she dared not to poke fun at her sister after experiencing the powerful Maya's Hammer.

Trailing behind the kids, John eyed the little ones with a strange look.

Mr. Seet's kids are so sensible and mature. They behave as if they're grown-ups. I also wonder what Mr. and Mrs. Seet are talking about.

Meanwhile, Nicole looked at Evan and asked sincerely, "What do you want me to say so that you'll be satisfied?"

Evan's thin lips curled up in an enchanting smile.

Just as she figured out what the man was about to do, he had already forcefully pinned her to the wall.

"Evan, what are you doing?"

With an arm against the wall, he leaned closer to her ear and asked, "Should I lock you up when we get home?" His voice was cold yet alluring.

The lashes of Nicole's big, watery eyes fluttered.

What does he mean? Why does he want to lock me up out of the blue? "Who gives you the right to lock me up?" The man placed another hand on her waist and squeezed it gently. "Because you've been naughty." Naughty? Is this a valid reason? He's just trying to frame me! "Nonsense! I'm as docile as a sheep," Nicole refuted him in all seriousness. In an instant, Evan's gaze on her changed. How can she say those words unabashed when she's so aggressive? Fidgeting nervously under his piercing gaze, she turned her head aside. "You... You said I'll get to know who my dad is soon. Did you find any clues?" "I found an important person. Everything will be revealed as soon as we see him." An important person who's related to this matter? Nicole mulled it over for a moment. Suddenly, her eyes lit up. Could it be him? "Is... Is it Wesley?" Evan gave her a nod. "Are you surprised?" Yes, I'm really surprised. Once I meet Wesley, I'll be able to uncover the identity of my biological father, the b*stard who abandoned my mom! And I'll make him regret it. "How did you find him?"

Evan gave her an enigmatic smile. No matter who she wants to see, I'll find the person for her.

Nicole was totally bewitched by his charming smile.

"Evan, you're so good to me; let me repay you."

Wrapping her arms around his neck, she closed her eyes bashfully and pouted her lips in a tantalizing way.

"Is that all?"

Obviously, Evan was looking for more.

"Is this not considered repayment? What else do you want?"

He reached out and gently pinched her ivory cheek. "Of course not! The repayment I want from you is..."

While speaking, his hand was already trailing along her body.