

Chapter 421 Future Father-In-Law

Clayton pursed his lips. His dark eyes reflected a cold light.

The car arrived at the hospital, but they did not get out. Instead, Luca went inside.

In less than five minutes, Luca called Nicole.

“Miss, I’ve caught him.”

Nicole’s eyes flickered. She heard another pleading voice coming from the phone.

It was a stranger.

Clayton took over her phone and asked, “Did Paul send you here?”

It was straight to the point.

Clayton suspected that it was Paul Newton too.

“No, no, no... It’s not Mr. Newton!” The voice was sharp and panicked as he deliberately tried to cover up something.

However, the words “Mr. Newton” exposed everything.

Without hesitation, Clayton took out his

Without hesitation, Clayton took out his phone and dialed a number.

"Catch Paul Newton. Don't let him get away."

The person on the phone hesitated for a moment.

"Mr. Ferguson is here and has already caught Paul Newton before us."

A surprised look flashed across his eyes. "Oh? Alright then."

Clayton hung up the phone and looked at Nicole.

"It seems that Mr. Ferguson found the target long ago. He's a step ahead of us."

Nicole looked puzzled. She had been around Eric for the past few days, but she did not know that he had been investigating this matter and even found the mastermind so quickly.

On second thought, Eric was never a passive person. He had suffered such a big loss this time, so how could he sit still?

Perhaps he had been secretly investigating it from the very beginning.

investigating it from the very beginning.

"Wanna go take a look?" Clayton suggested.

Nicole smiled. "No, thanks. Send me back."

She was not interested in a small minion.

Nicole wanted to wait for the big fish to take the bait.

Clayton nodded, turned to instruct his driver, and got out of the car. The driver would send her back while he went into the hospital.

Since the mastermind was found, there was nothing to worry about.

However, Nicole still felt vaguely gloomy.

Business should be about interests. Those who were capable could get more, but why did it have to involve someone's life?

Assassination, car crash, extermination, hitmen...

These people were ruthless.

Soon, they arrived at Imperial Gardens.

When Nicole entered the door, Toto had already returned.

already returned.

He cheerfully greeted her. "Ms. Stanton, I made you a cup of fruit tea. It's very refreshing and healthy!"

Nicole was not in a good mood. She shook her head and suddenly remembered something. "When did you come back?"

Toto smiled. "Mr. Ferguson said that he needed to attend to something and went out, so he got me to come back to watch the door so that you won't be home alone. Look how gentle and considerate Mr. Ferguson is. He's such an understanding man."

Nicole rolled her eyes and frowned. 'Did that mean Eric personally went to find Paul Newton?'

She did not say anything about this. Toto simply handed her the brewed fruit tea.

"Ms. Stanton, it's Chairman Stanton's birthday in a few days. Mr. Ferguson takes this very seriously because he said that Chairman Stanton is his most respected elder, his role model in life and business. He spent the last few days cracking his head for Chairman Stanton's birthday present..."

present..."

Nicole frowned. Her attention was diverted.

"What does he have to worry about my father's birthday anyway?"

'Does he have nothing better to do?'

Toto walked over to her. "Mr. Ferguson is just thinking of you. He wants to show his respect as well. After all, it's a big deal, so we mustn't be sloppy about it."

Nicole pulled the corners of her lips. "Tell him not to worry. My father knows that he's respected."

"If the gift isn't thoughtful, how will Chairman Stanton be happy?"

Nicole paused in her footsteps. 'Is he trying to ask me about my dad's preferences? What a question!'

She smiled. "My father only has three major hobbies in life: fishing, counting money, and cursing!"

Toto almost slipped and fell down the stairs.

Looking at Nicole's departing back, Toto's heart trembled. They could not cater to

Looking at Nicole's departing back, Toto's heart trembled. They could not cater to any one of Floyd Stanton's hobbies!

Should Eric turn into a fish to get caught?

Dumb idea!

Should Eric give him cash?

Lame!

Should Eric offer himself up as a punching bag?

Impossible!

Chapter 422 Can't Be Careless

Toto was sitting alone in the living room, sad and heartbroken about Eric when he heard a movement from the door.

Eric came back.

Toto greeted him with excitement.

“Mr. Ferguson, you're back! You still insist on going out to work when you're not fully recovered. You're really the most dedicated and successful person I've ever seen...”

Eric cleaned up Paul Newton, so he was in a good mood, but as soon as he entered the door and heard these words, his face suddenly turned glum.

This level of puffery was really something.

Eric held back his anger and asked in a cold voice.

“Is Nicole back?”

“Yes, Mr. Ferguson. I noticed that Ms. Stanton's not in a very good mood. I don't think you should find trouble for yourself ...”

Eric shot a sidelong glance at Toto.

Eric shot a sidelong glance at Toto.

That cold gaze made Toto shiver.

Toto coughed lightly and hurriedly remedied the situation.

“The banquet earlier was such a big scene that’s straight out of a TV show, but I think that without you, it lost some luster ...”

Eric indifferently rolled his wheelchair inside and did not want to listen to Toto’s chattering.

‘What kind of person did I hire?! If it weren’t for his special task, I’d have kicked him out long ago!’

Toto did not get to finish his words. He ran over in two steps and pushed Eric’s wheelchair.

“But Mr. Ferguson, I think that you should have a sense of crisis... That Clayton Sloan really has very good conditions, and his attitude towards Ms. Stanton is pretty special. You can’t be careless!”

At the banquet, Toto could clearly feel everyone’s respect and fear towards Clayton Sloan. That man’s temperament

everyone's respect and fear towards Clayton Sloan. That man's temperament was also on a par with Eric.

However, such a man was surprisingly gentle and modest to Nicole, helping her in every way. How could they ignore it?

Eric rubbed his temples. He said in an irritated tone. "Fine. Go ahead with whatever you're supposed to do."

He did not take Toto's words to heart.

Clayton gave Nicole special treatment because she saved his son during that terrorist attack on the streets of Europe back then.

Due to this, Eric was confident that Clayton could not possibly harbor any bad intentions for Nicole.

As for feelings, Clayton's wife died in that attack, so how could he forget about her in a few years?

When Eric was about to go into the study, he suddenly paused and went to Nicole's room.

He knocked on the door and waited quietly for a while.

Nicole stood in the doorway with a face

Nicole stood in the doorway with a face mask on. Her arms were crossed over her chest.

“Mr. Ferguson, you’re really energetic, huh?”

After going out to catch Paul Newton, he could still come back and chat with her.

Eric lowered his eyes for a moment. When he looked up at her, his gaze was gentle.

“There’s good news that I can’t wait to tell you. I’m sure you’ll be happy.”

“You found the murderer, Paul Newton?”

Her voice was dull without a hint of surprise.

Eric froze for a moment. He then gave her an appreciative look.

“So, you already know, huh? How clever!”

“Did you hand him over to the police?”

Eric smiled slowly.

“There’s no hurry. It’s too merciful to hand him over now. I’m going to swallow his company whole and let him watch his life’s work crumble before sending him to jail. Do you want to take out your anger?”

... jail. Do you want to take out your anger?

Nicole paused. "You've already done everything that needs to be done, so what else can I do?"

"Okay. It's better not to get your hands dirty."

At that moment, Nicole seemed to be able to feel the cold vibes enveloping Eric.

Eric's eyes fell on her.

Thinking of what Toto reminded him, he did not mince words of praise.

"Our Nicole is really beautiful and smart. Most importantly, you're so kind..."

Any woman who heard this would undoubtedly feel her heart blossoming, right?

The corners of Nicole's lips twitched as she looked at Eric with disdain.

"Yeah, that's why I'm too good for you."

'What nonsense is he trying to pull so late at night?!' Nicole thought.

Eric felt dejected and went back to his room to sleep.

Chapter 423 More Handsome and Richer

Early the next morning, Nicole received a call from Kai. ①

“Newton & Co’s bankruptcy happened so suddenly. Is it related to Eric Ferguson?”

Nicole knew that Grant would notice, but he should not have received this news so early since he was abroad.

She calmly told Grant that Paul Newton was the mastermind behind the car accident. Grant was silent for a full minute. His voice turned incomparably cold.

“Make sure Luca’s always with you and don’t let your guard down. You don’t need to interfere with the rest. Just wait for me to return.”

Nicole agreed and chatted for a while before she hung up the phone.

She focused her efforts on the new project and went to J&L Corporation early in the morning.

Tucker was too inexperienced, so he faced some difficult issues and did not know

some difficult issue and did not know how to make certain decisions. Nicole took all day to teach him patiently. In a blink of an eye, it was already evening.

The sun was setting outside the window, dyeing half of the sky red. It was beyond beautiful.

Nicole stretched her back and intended to leave work.

As soon as she left the office, she saw the man sitting in a wheelchair with an imposing aura. His sharp and defined features made him look so unapproachable and cold even when he was not standing tall.

Gerard Lichman, who was sitting next to Eric on the sofa, saw Nicole and raised his eyebrows.

“Ms. Stanton, you’re finally off work!”

His tone was very relieved.

Gerard loosened his tie. Just because Eric wanted to wait for Nicole to get off work, he purposely came over in the afternoon and looked through all their projects and accounts. Eric’s sharp eyes picked out many faults. He was better than

many faults. He was better than professional auditors!

If Eric stayed any longer, Gerard would probably lose his mind.

Once Eric saw Nicole, his eyes instantly became gentle. He looked up at Nicole with a warm smile.

“You’re just in time. There’s a French restaurant that opened nearby. Why don’t you come with me to try out the dishes?”

“Why do you want me to try out food?”

Nicole was annoyed.

Eric looked at her aggrievedly. “Didn’t we agree that you’ll take care of me?” 1

His look made her look like a scum that abandoned him.

The people around them could hardly believe their eyes.

Nicole did not want to endure the tormenting gaze of the crowd.

In an instant, she went up to push Eric’s wheelchair and threw her bag to Luca.

“Let’s go and try the food then.”

Nicole felt guilty after all.

Luca followed expressionlessly and took the wheelchair from her at some point.

Nicole did not even realize it, but Eric did and could only hold back his anger.

When they were about to get into the car, a small human darted over.

“Pretty Lady! I miss you so much...”

Nicole paused in her footsteps and saw Lil Michael running over excitedly. He hugged her legs and whined in a baby voice, “I haven’t seen you for a long time! I miss you so so so so much...”

She stroked his curly hair and felt her heart melting into a puddle of water. She squatted down and hugged his soft, chubby little body.

“Lil Michael, I miss you too. I heard your daddy say that you’ve been studying hard. You’re such a good boy!”

Originally, Lil Michael was very displeased with his father, who arranged for someone to look after him 24/7, making sure that he would do his homework. He finally managed to speak

for someone to look after him 24/7,
making sure that he could do his
homework. He finally managed to sneak
out to look for Pretty Lady. When he heard
this, the resentment that built up in his
heart these few days instantly dissipated.

'Pretty Lady is praising me!'

Lil Michael hugged Nicole's fragrant body
and curved his eyes with joy.

"Yes! I'll grow up to be more handsome
and richer than Daddy!"

'By then, I can finally stay with my pretty
lady without any interruptions!'

Next to them, Eric snorted and glared at
the kid coldly. He was disdainful of this
child's blind confidence.

"That's enough. We should go now."

Lil Michael looked at his pretty lady
nervously. "Where are you going? I wanna
go too!"

Chapter 424 A Small Gift

Nicole tousled Lil Michael's hair. She adored this boy, so she would never refuse him.

"Okay!"

Eric's eyes darkened. His voice turned cold. "Does Clayton Sloan even know that you sneaked out on your own?"

Lil Michael shrank in Nicole's arms. He felt guilty.

'This Mean Mister! He's sick but still so annoying!'

Eric gloatingly took out his phone and called Clayton.

"Your son sneaked out and is here with me and Nicole."

What Eric implied was for Clayton to hurry over and take his annoying son away.

Eric deliberately put the call on speakerphone so that Lil Michael could hear Clayton's voice.

Clayton's voice was indifferent and cold o

n the phone.

“Is that so? Then please take good care of him for me. I’m in a meeting, talk later.”

“Beep--” The call was hung up.

The three people froze.

Lil Michael came back to his senses and was so happy that he hugged Nicole tightly, refusing to let go.

“Great! I can be with my pretty lady now!”

Eric’s face turned red with anger. Looking at his black phone screen, he felt a little short of breath.

‘I finally got the chance to date Nicole, but now I have to babysit for Clayton Sloan?! Ugh!’

The four of them, including Luca, headed to the restaurant.

Toto had made reservations early on. The atmosphere was very elegant with dim, amorous lighting, which was best to cultivate romantic feelings.

He even came up with conversational topics for Eric. They should reminisce about the past and look forward to the

future.

They booked out the entire floor so that there were no other guests around. The smooth symphony and dreamy, starry surroundings made them feel like they were in space. It was romantic and beautiful.

If Lil Michael was not around, everything would have been better.

Luca was sitting at a table not far away.

Lil Michael held Nicole's hand and sat in the middle of the two adults. He looked at the flowers and candles on the table and felt a little discouraged.

Eric reached out and handed over a bouquet of blue lilies flown in from Holland. It was incredibly hard to find.

His eyes were gentle as he tried hard to ignore their third wheel, Michael.

His voice was magnetic and low. "This is for you."

'Mean Mister actually prepared a gift?!'

Before Nicole could take it, Lil Michael stood up with a grunt.

"Pretty Lady only likes big white

appreciate the thought, Mr. Ferguson."

Eric put away the flowers and glared at Lil Michael. He was getting more annoyed with this kid by the minute.

Lil Michael's eyes curved into tiny arcs as he smiled happily. He fumbled around his pocket.

"Pretty Lady, I came out in a hurry and didn't get to buy you flowers, but I grabbed a handful of small sparkly stones for you from the safe." 1

With that, he stretched out his chubby little hand and put the said sparkly stones on the table in front of Nicole.

Nicole was dumbfounded for a moment.

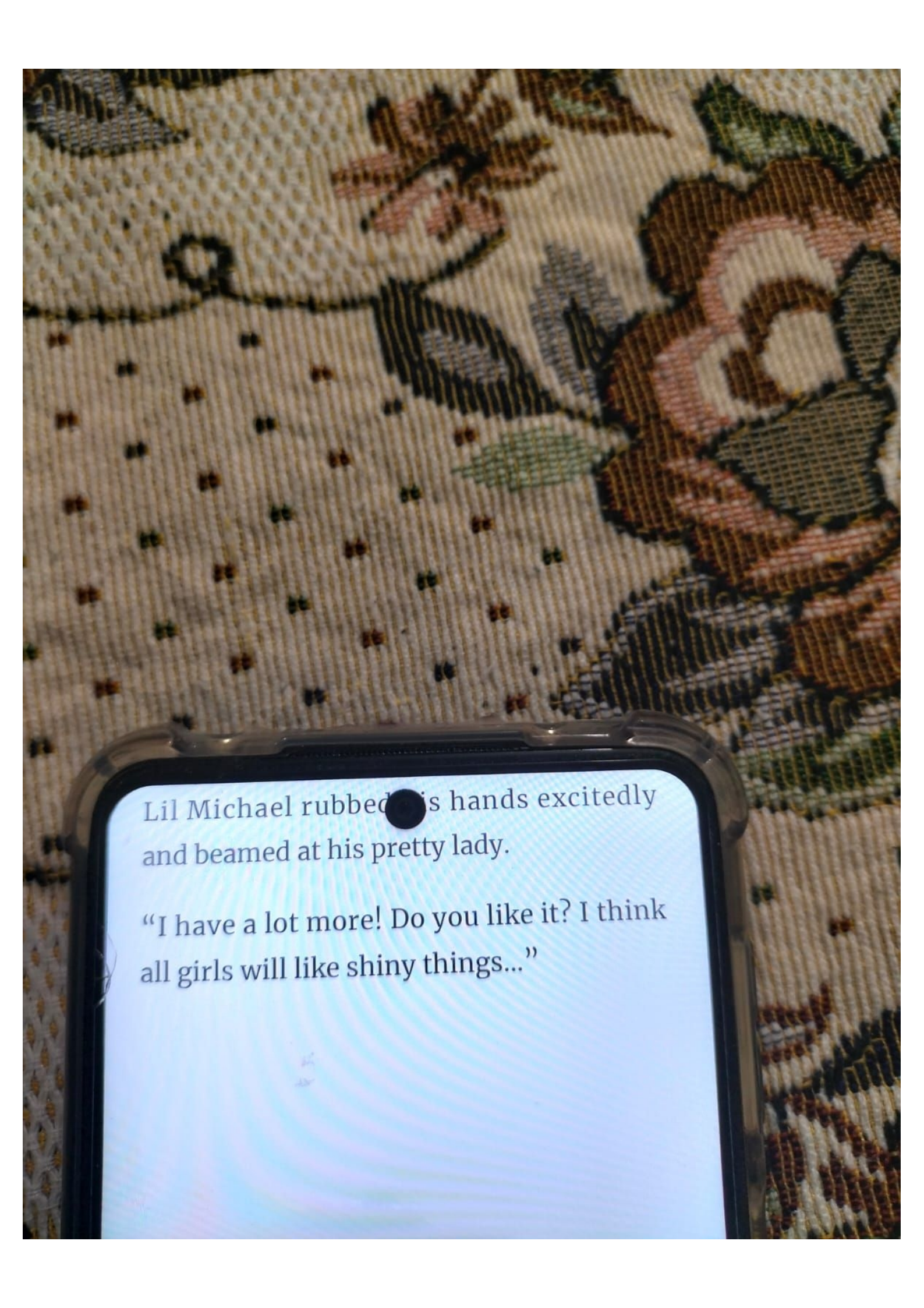
Lil Michael actually brought a handful of diamonds.

They were all uncut big diamonds that were clearly very expensive!

Even in the dim light, the diamond glimmered shockingly brightly as it refracted the surrounding starlight.

It had a faint glow.

Lil Michael rubbed his hands excitedly and beamed at his pretty lady.

A close-up photograph of a smartphone screen. The screen is held in a dark, possibly black, protective case. The phone is lying on a piece of fabric with a complex, multi-colored pattern, including floral and geometric motifs in shades of brown, green, and beige. The screen itself has a light blue background with a subtle, concentric circular ripple pattern. The text on the screen is in a dark, serif font. There is a small black circular mark on the screen, partially overlapping the word "hands".

Lil Michael rubbed his hands excitedly
and beamed at his pretty lady.

“I have a lot more! Do you like it? I think
all girls will like shiny things...”

Chapter 425 Can't Be Too Petty

Eric's gaze trembled slightly as he sat there with his chest heaving.

'Everything I've carefully prepared lost to this kid's handful of diamonds?! How could Clayton Sloan have such a prodigal son?!'

Nicole looked shocked and did not know what to say. These diamonds should be kept well in the safe, but Lil Michael casually put them in his pocket like common marbles.

She chuckled and looked at this ignorant and naive Lil Michael helplessly.

"You should put these back where you got them. I can't accept it."

Lil Michael twisted his tiny body and pouted unhappily. He pulled Nicole's hand and asked, "Pretty Lady, you don't like it? I have bigger ones!"

Nicole was once again rendered speechless.

'How should I explain this to a kid?'

She laughed and kept it in her purse.

She laughed and kept it in her purse.

“I like it, but don’t give it away like this next time.”

Nicole would just return it to Clayton the next time she saw him.

Seeing that Nicole accepted his gift, Lil Michael beamed in joy. ‘No wonder the nanny said that this won’t go wrong!’

Lil Michael tilted his head with a smile. “Okay, I’ll listen to you, Pretty Lady. I’ll give you something better next time! Men can’t be too stingy, don’t you think so, Mean Mister?”

Eric’s thin lips were tightly pressed into a straight line. He was exuding extremely cold vibes.

‘Is this little brat mocking me?! I bought this restaurant for Nicole and wanted to name it after her, but I can’t say it now... Now I’m petty?! Ugh!!’

Lil Michael felt a great sense of achievement when he managed to anger Eric.

‘Although Mean Mister is injured, it still doesn’t affect my bad impression of him! He’s just a bad guy who wants to steal my

pretty lady!

Eric was so annoyed and did not want to say another word. Such a nice atmosphere was ruined by this little brat.

All the conversational topics Toto prepared for him were useless in the face of this giant third wheel.

When the dishes were served, Nicole was in a good mood and happily helped Michael with his plate. The two of them got along so well. Nicole was very patient with kids, especially a kid who was so cute to naively give her a handful of diamonds.

Eric's cold gaze was fixed on the two of them. After a while, he could not stand it and finally spoke.

"Nicole, I'm a little upset."

Eric thought that it was better to say it out loud than to hold it in.

What was more, Toto told him that the most important thing between two people was honesty.

He was indeed very upset.

If things went as planned, Nicole would turn her attention to him.

turn her attention to him.

However, after a short silence, Nicole looked at him seriously and smiled.

“Then just keep it to yourself because we’re both very happy.”

If Eric shared his unhappiness, it would just affect their pleasant mood!

Eric was speechless and could hear the sound of his fragile heart shattering to pieces.

Lil Michael laughed gleefully.

After dinner, Nicole and Eric sent Lil Michael back to the hotel.

The boy dozed off during the journey and nestled in Nicole’s arms like a cute kitten.

Clayton Sloan was waiting for them in front of the hotel.

Seeing the sleeping boy, he laughed helplessly and reached out to carry him.

“Sorry for the trouble, Ms. Stanton.”

“Not at all. Lil Michael is so adorable and didn’t trouble us!”

Nicole smiled as she spoke. Eric, who was in the car, rolled his eyes and thought, ‘

n the car, rolled his eyes and thought, 'That kid is my biggest trouble tonight!'

There was a glint in Clayton's eyes. His smile deepened.

"Oh? I'm glad to hear that."

"By the way, this is for you..."

Nicole took out the handful of diamonds Lil Michael gave her earlier. The diamonds glowed in the dim light. It was the embodiment of opulence.

"Lil Michael took these out. He still doesn't understand the value of these things, so you can take them back."

Clayton raised an eyebrow. The corners of his lips curled up into a warm smile.

"That's alright. Since he gave it to you, it's yours. If I take it back, he'll probably disown me..."

After that, Clayton nodded slightly at Eric in greeting.

"I'll head back upstairs then. Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Stanton, thank you so much for sending him back."

Clayton ignored Nicole's surprised gaze

much for sending him back.

Clayton ignored Nicole's surprised gaze and carried Lil Michael away.

Eric did not accept his gratitude and grunted coldly, ignoring them.

Nicole froze for a moment. She speechlessly kept the handful of diamonds.

'So... Lil Michael's prodigal habit originates from Clayton?!'