

## Chapter 426 Stay With Me

Nicole felt bad to receive a handful of diamonds for nothing.

When she got back into the car, she sat in the backseat with Eric while Luca and the driver sat in the front.

Eric closed his eyes, but he was exuding a cold vibe. He did not say a word.

Nicole suddenly remembered that Eric had asked her to try out the dishes, yet she did not give any feedback.

She coughed slightly and said, "Actually, the chef of this restaurant is pretty good. The ingredients are definitely high quality. What do you think?"

Eric frowned slightly. His expression eased a little.

"Yeah, I'm glad you like it."

Nicole breathed a sigh of relief. After all, she could not just eat a free meal for nothing and make him so angry in the process. Nicole looked at Luca through the rearview mirror.

"Luca, what do you think?"

“Mr. Ferguson!”

Toto greeted him cheerfully.

“Ms. Stanton, Mr. Ferguson, you’re finally back! I was worried that the dinner will affect your beauty sleep, so I made some floral tea that’ll help with digestion.”

He went forward to take Nicole’s shoes while recommending his homemade tea.

Seeing Eric’s glum face and cold gaze, the three male doctors felt inexplicably nervous and stiff.

Nicole smiled. “Okay. Let me get changed first. I’ll come down later.”

She looked at the three doctors and said in a gentle voice, “You guys can go upstairs for the examination. Luca, go with Mr. Ferguson.”

Luca nodded and was just about to walk over when Eric stopped him. He looked at Nicole and said, “I want you.”

Nicole rolled her eyes at him. ‘He really never forgets to boss me around!’

Toto came up to her. “Ms. Stanton, you should go with Mr. Ferguson. Otherwise, h

Luca, what do you think?

Luca said, "It's just average. Looks nice but doesn't fill the stomach."

Nicole was speechless.

Eric glared at Luca coldly and felt stuffy in his chest.

"Get Toto to make some dinner for you then."

'Toto?!' Luca pursed his lips. "That's not necessary."

Luca would rather starve to death than get annoyed by Toto's incessant chattering.

Back at Imperial Gardens, the doctors who came to do a checkup on Eric had been waiting for a long time.

Toto happily chatted with them. The atmosphere was lively as several of them gathered around to play some games on their phones. They did not notice the sound of the car engine in the driveway.

Luca opened the door while Nicole pushed Eric inside.

The four people in the living room kept away their phones and stood up in an instant.

should go with Mr. Ferguson. Otherwise, he might be embarrassed to tell the doctors about his condition.”

‘Then why won’t he be embarrassed to tell me?!’

Nicole did not want to dwell on it and conceded. It would not take too long anyway.

She pushed Eric into the elevator and went upstairs. The three doctors hurriedly followed.

For Eric’s convenience, they purchased a lot of medical equipment and placed it in the consultation room at home, which came in handy for the examination.

They helped Eric onto the bed. Eric still could not move his legs. It had only been a month since the accident. It would take a few months for Eric to regain full mobility.

The attending doctor asked the accompanying doctors to get the instruments ready while Eric took off his shirt to reveal his strong and lean upper body. The doctor carefully checked Eric’s heart and lungs’ function.

Then they cut open his pants to check on

Then they cut open his pants to check on the recovery of his right leg.

During the examination, Nicole subconsciously turned away.

Eric pulled Nicole's arm and said in a deep voice, "You can't leave. Stay here with me ..."

A second later, Nicole turned her back on him.

"Fine. Let go."

The three doctors looked at each other and dared not say a word.

Eric had no intention of letting go of Nicole and looked at the attending doctor.

"Continue."

The attending doctor pursed his lips. "We can put down the curtains..."

This room was originally designed to filter the sunlight from different angles during different times of the day. The gauze curtains were light and convenient and could block Nicole's view from Eric.

The attending doctor did not expect Eric to glare at him fiercely at his proposal.

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Nicole immediately said, "Yes, put it down now. Luca..."

## Chapter 427 Held the Wrong Person

While the attending doctor was doing the examination, Eric had to let go of his hand for a moment. 1

In less than a minute, Eric did not hear Nicole's movement and urged.

"Nicole, give me your hand..."

Eric's voice was weak and pitiful.

The doctors thought to themselves, 'Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Stanton have such a good relationship... It's such a surprise that Mr. Ferguson is so clingy!'

A moment later, a hand reached over. Eric saw it through the corner of his eye and immediately grabbed her wrist. His heart was racing, but he felt at ease.

He dared not caress her hand for fear of angering her.

Seeing that she compromised, all the grievance he felt earlier quietly dissipated.

The examination lasted ten minutes, during which time Eric's heart was pounding violently.

When it was over, he suddenly heard

When it was over, he suddenly heard  
Toto's voice coming from outside.

"Ms. Stanton, are you sure you only want  
one small cup of tea? Let me serve you  
another cup..."

The voice gradually approached.

"No, thanks. I'm done." The voice was  
faint and gentle.

For a moment, the room became silent.

Nicole's voice came from outside the  
door, then whose hand was this?!

The doctors unconsciously looked at Eric,  
who was lying on the bed.

Eric's tightly closed eyes shot open with a  
dense chill.

The hand that he was holding moved  
unconsciously. Eric's body suddenly  
became tense.

Eric felt like he was scalded and retracted  
his hand rapidly.

His tone was icy. "Who is it?!"

Eric was exuding a bone-chilling coldness.

The curtain was opened.



The curtain was opened.

Luca's fierce face looked stifled and aggrieved as he was withholding his frustration.

He was very restrained and silent.

Luca withdrew his hand and gritted his teeth.

"Mr. Ferguson, you touched me first."

'For the sake of Ms. Stanton, I must put up with it!'

His job as her bodyguard sure was tough...

Under everyone's shocked gaze, Luca turned around and walked out of the room. His strong build was extraordinarily imposing.

At this moment, Nicole walked in with a smile.

"Is the checkup done?"

Eric glared at her fiercely. His face turned red with anger.

The people around noticed the sudden chill that Eric was exuding and dared not stay for a moment longer. They quickly left the room.

left the room.

Nicole went over and sat down. Seeing Eric's red face, she frowned and reached out to touch his forehead.

"You don't have a fever. Are you feeling uncomfortable?"

Eric gritted his teeth and glared at her. His eyes were bloodshot.

Last time, it was the bath. This time, it was holding hands.

Both times were with Luca!

Eric was vexed, but he could not vent out his anger because he was wrong for trying to take advantage of her.

"My heart is uncomfortable!" Eric said through clenched teeth.

Nicole put down her hand and flashed a nonchalant smile.

"Mr. Ferguson, did you just hold hands with Luca and refuse to let go?"

Eric's face turned even redder.

Nicole said, "It's okay. I won't say anything."

anything.

She reached out and took out his black pajamas, draping it on him. "My dad's birthday is in a few days, so I'm going back home for a while. You won't have a problem with that, right?"

Eric silently looked at her. He suppressed the waves of emotions with his tongue pressed against the inside of his cheek.

"No."

Nicole nodded with satisfaction. She turned around and got Toto to help Eric wash up.

She knew that Eric would not object because she believed that Eric would not want to see Luca for the time being.

Hahahahaha!

Toto ran in happily and thought, 'What an honor it is to serve Mr. Ferguson!'

"Wow, Mr. Ferguson! Your body is amazing..."

Eric's face was expressionless and taut. He shot Toto a look with a warning.

Seeing that Eric was unhappy, Toto changed the topic.

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changed the topic. ●

“Mr. Ferguson, your candlelight dinner  
with Ms. Stanton is very romantic, right?  
Did she get moved to tears?”

Eric closed his eyes tightly. ‘Deep breaths  
... Just bear with this idiot a little longer...’

## Chapter 428 Hello, Father-In-Law

Before Eric went to bed, he gave Toto an ultimatum. Eric wanted his relationship with Nicole to improve within a short period, so Toto stayed up all night and finally came up with a good idea.

In the blink of an eye, it was Floyd Stanton's birthday.

Nicole did not bring much with her when she moved to Imperial Gardens, so she did not bring anything with her when she left.

She happily stood at the door and waved goodbye to Eric.

'Finally! I don't have to see him for a while ...'

Nicole was so excited that she could spin in circles.

Eric watched her leave with gentle eyes. After she was gone, his eyes became sharp and cold as he glared at Toto.

"Are you ready?"

Toto nodded with confidence. "Of course! Don't worry. This time, as long as you get along with your future father-in-law,

along with your future father-in-law, you'll definitely get into the Stanton family's inner circle. By then, it won't be far-fetched that you'll become one big happy family!"

Eric's eyebrows furrowed on his expressionless face, but the corners of his lips curled slightly. He looked much more relaxed.

Toto continued, "Such an outstanding and unique person like you is simply a rare gem! Chairman Stanton will certainly understand your sincerity. Most rich people only have money, but you're not just rich. You're so handsome and filial, and simply perfect in every way!"

"Shut up," Eric spoke indifferently.

"Okay." Toto turned around and went to make preparations.

Floyd Stanton's birthday party was a low-key yet luxurious reception on a cruise ship by the bay. They invited some close friends, relatives, and business partners.

Grant and Kai were busy greeting the guests. Maverick also made a rare appearance.

appearance.

Nicole did not forget her promise to Molly Stewart and invited her to the party. Molly was extremely excited to attend.

Floyd and Maverick had not seen each other for some time, so they were catching up when they saw Nicole dragging Molly in while they were talking and laughing. Maverick was slightly stunned to see Molly.

Molly did not have Nicole's perfect features and distinguished aura. Instead, Molly was just a simple girl that had a college student youthfulness and a calm and confident temperament.

As soon as Molly saw Maverick, she ran over happily and chatted with him.

Nicole and Floyd went around to exchange pleasantries with other guests. Nicole held a glass of wine with a faint and decent smile plastered on her face.

"Chairman Stanton, Ms. Stanton is really capable to be able to land the Clayton Sloan's project. It makes the rest of us so envious..."

Nicole lowered her eyes and smiled. "That's just good luck."

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Floyd added, "Of course, but mainly ability ..."

The guest said, "Yes, yes, yes..."

Nicole looked at her father and helplessly pursed her lips. She laughed lightly and looked so vibrant and confident.

Not far away, the man who just came on-board saw Nicole's smile and was slightly stunned.

Keith Ludwig, who followed behind, was about to speak when he saw Eric's awestruck face.

He paused for a moment and asked, "Whatchu lookin' at?"

Following Eric's line of sight, Keith saw Nicole and Floyd laughing with another person in front of them.

Eric withdrew his gaze and said, "This cruise ship is quite nice..."

Keith thought, 'Yeah, right... Who is he fooling?'

When Nicole saw Eric on deck, her smile



froze.

“Why is he here?”

Floyd replied, “I invited him.”

Keith pushed Eric’s wheelchair over. Although Eric was sitting in a wheelchair, his powerful aura was not diminished. No one dared to comment about his injury.

He had broad shoulders, long legs, and dignified temperament.

“Happy birthday, Chairman Stanton.”

Floyd nodded and looked at him with a much softer gaze than before.

“Thank you. How are you recovering?”

After all, Eric was only injured because of Nicole.

Eric’s eyes shifted to Nicole. He said with a smile, “Nicole has taken good care of me. Thanks for your concern, Chairman Stanton.”

Nicole rolled her eyes. ‘What a faker!’

## Chapter 429 We're Not Close

Before Keith got on the cruise ship, he saw a few of the latest Ferraris parked on the shore, one of which he had his eyes on for a long time but did not manage to book.

Keith admitted that he was jealous.

“Nicole, did you guys come here in those Ferraris just now?”

Nicole looked at him and smiled indifferently as she flipped her hair back. The diamond earrings on her ear sparkled.

“No, we came in a helicopter.”

Keith was speechless.

Not far away, Miles Kavanagh and Nathaniel walked in.

When Nicole saw them, she went over to greet them.

Nathaniel glanced at Eric and shook his head.

“My second uncle is so useless. He became a cripple but still can't get the girl ...”

Miles said, "Mr. Ferguson's situation is special."

Otherwise, with Eric's conditions, any woman would be soft-hearted and fall for him in an instant.

However, the woman was Nicole.

Nicole looked at them and smiled. "It's been a long time! How are you guys?"

Nathaniel looked bitter. "Since you left the show, it's not as popular anymore. Someone even copied our model, so now my future's in danger..."

Miles hooked his lips. "I'm fine."

Nicole nodded. "I'm glad that you guys are okay."

'Did she just ignore me?!' Nathaniel was speechless. 'What did I complain for then?!'

The three of them walked to the deck to get some air. The night breeze was cool and blew her hair. It was very relaxing.

Nathaniel tried to get Nicole to be a guest on the show and make an appearance from time to time so that it would bring them

time to time so that would bring them more hype. However, he talked until his throat went dry, but Nicole still refused.

Nicole swirled around the wine in her glass. The moonlight reflected in the dark red liquid as it gave off a rich and fragrant aroma.

She raised her eyebrows and smiled at Miles, who was looking at her with a smile. Not far away, Lil Michael ran over excitedly.

“Pretty Lady!”

Nicole looked up and saw Clayton talking to Floyd.

She stroked Lil Michael’s head and said in a gentle voice, “Lil Michael, you came too, huh?”

Lil Michael happily hugged her legs and fumbled for something in his pockets.

“Pretty Lady, this is your gift!”

Nicole looked down and instantly froze.

Lil Michael was holding several gold bars.

‘Gold bars?!’

The gold bars shone brightly in the night.

Dail

Here

The gold bars shone brightly in the night. It was clearly expensive and extravagant.

Nicole pursed her lips and looked at Lil Michael helplessly. 'Where did this child learn his spending habits from?!

Nathaniel and Miles, who were standing next to Nicole, were also dumbfounded.

Nicole looked at Lil Michael and said seriously, "Lil Michael, you should just give me white chrysanthemums in the future, okay?"

She would rather accept white chrysanthemums than such expensive gifts from a little boy.

Lil Michael scratched his head in confusion.

"Pretty Lady, do you not like it?"

'Didn't she like that big gold bracelet I got her? Nanny said that gold bars are classy...'

Nicole chuckled. "I prefer chrysanthemums..."

Lil Michael looked at her with a smirk. "Okay!"

Okay.  
He dashed away in a flash to search the entire ship for white chrysanthemums so that he could give them to his pretty lady.

Nathaniel said, "Tsk, tsk... Nikki, you even charmed such a small kid?!"

Nicole raised an eyebrow. "What can I say ... I can't help that I'm so lovable..."

"Haha!"

The butler hurried in from outside. He saw the two people behind her and spoke in a whisper.

"Miss, there's a woman outside who insists on seeing you, but I don't know who she is."

Mr. Anderson knew all her friends, but he had never seen the woman outside before.

Nicole frowned in surprise and put down the glass she was holding.

"I'll go and check it out."

Nicole walked out with a smile and saw the bodyguard blocking the woman outside. Coincidentally, it was Melanie.

'Huh...'

'Huh...'

Melanie's eyes lit up when she saw Nicole.

"Ms. Stanton, I finally met you! I've been looking for you for the past few days..."

Nicole pursed her lips and guessed what Melanie came for.

Miles Kavanagh!

Nicole's face was expressionless. "I'm not close with you."

Melanie was a little embarrassed. "Well, we've met before, and you're the only one who can help me now."

### Chapter 430 You're the Nastiest

In the beginning, everyone thought that Melanie would marry Colton White, so they sucked up to her in every way.

When Colton married someone else, Melanie suddenly found that she was kicked out of that elite circle.

Thus, no one would help her.

Nicole looked at Melanie with a cold gaze.

She wondered how Melanie got on deck because they were some distance from the shore!

Unfortunately, without an invitation, Melanie was stopped outside by the bodyguards.

Nicole stood there and did not intend to let her in.

"Help you? On what grounds?"

Melanie stood there looking soft and weak.

"Ms. Stanton, although we don't know each other well, you ruined my life, so don't you have any sense of guilt?"

It was clearly reproachful words, but



It was clearly reproachful words, but Melanie acted aggrieved and weak, yet aggressive.

Melanie blamed everything on Nicole. If Nicole had not gone to their private room with Miles that day, Melanie would have been Mrs. White by now.

She was resentful since she fell from glory.

Melanie thought that she could go back to Miles, but Miles did not want to see her.

She was not willing to give up so easily because she was so close to living in comfort.

Nicole was somewhat amazed by Melanie's thick skin and delusional thoughts.

What did she need to feel guilty about?

Nicole asked rhetorically, "Have you ever seen a police officer catch a criminal and feel uneasy about them being punished?"

Melanie's face paled for a moment.

"Your words are just nasty!" Melanie spoke resentfully.

Nicole said, "What you did was nasty."

Nicole said, "What you did was nasty."

"You've been at the top of the pyramid since you were young, so how would you know how hard it was for me to come this far?"

Melanie looked miserable as she sobbed with red eyes.

"Why should I understand how hard it is for you?"

Nicole's voice was very calm. Melanie was at fault for her own misery, so what right did she have to run over here to complain about her life?

It was simply absurd!

Melanie was stunned because Nicole did not fall for any of her acts, so how should she continue?

Nicole said slowly, "Melanie, you screwed up. You should've known that you'd get exposed one day. You weren't framed, so why are you acting like you were wronged?"

Melanie's lips trembled. Her face was pale.

"But... But I was so close! I was just trying to live a good life with Colton..."

Nicole got impatient. 'Why do I have to see this annoying woman on such a good day?'

"I don't have time to listen to your nonsense, so cut to the chase. What do you want?"

Melanie bit her lower lip aggrievedly and looked at her.

"Are you and Miles really together?"

As soon as she heard this, Nicole laughed.

What a scumbag!

Melanie was just lamenting her relationship with Colton White, but in the blink of an eye, she wanted to jump ship to Miles?

If Miles was still the same penniless explorer, Melanie would not have been so desperate to cling to him.

Nicole did not answer her but only smiled slightly. Her clear eyes seemed like they could see through Melanie's deepest thoughts and expose her secrets.

Melanie said, "Miles and I have a strong foundation. For me, he changed his bank

foundation. For me he changed his bank passwords to my birthday and put all the money he earned in that account. He proposed to me six times, but I didn't agree. Did he do any of this for you?"

Her tone was smug as she bragged about the past.

Melanie thought that as Miles' ex-girlfriend, she would be a threat to Nicole, the current girlfriend.

Especially since Nicole was a pampered young lady, she would be able to handle such agitation.

Nicole watched the change in Melanie's attitude and felt the thorns in her words. It was clear what Melanie's intentions were.

Melanie was trying to make her jealous so that Nicole would consciously quit.

'Haha!'

If Nicole was really dating Miles, she would have exploded because of Melanie's words.

However, they were not dating. 1

Nicole's eyes sank as she coldly glared at