

Chapter 641 He and I Fell in Love Over Time

After a long silence, a deep and upset voice finally came from the living room.

"When did that happen?"

When they turned back, they saw Kai's bloodshot eyes that were filled with restraint and shock.

Julie laughed and looked indifferent. "Not long ago. Roman and I have known each other for so long. We got along well, so we decided to be together. I guess we fell in love over time."

Kai's handsome face was incredibly gloomy. His fists were clenched tightly, so much so that the veins on his arms were bulging.

He was exasperated.

Nicole saw the bad situation and immediately cleared her throat. "I just mentioned it in passing. Jules, you should've told me earlier, then I wouldn't have asked."

Julie smiled and glanced at Roman with a gentle smile.

"I asked him to come over so that I could tell you."

Julie did not expect to be interrupted by Nicole's sudden question.

Nicole said, "Congratulations! I'll always support your decision."

"Thanks."

Nicole smiled and felt a little complicated. She thought, 'Poor Kai...'

She found an excuse to send off Julie and Roman.

Then, she turned back and looked at Kai's red eyes.

Nicole pursed her lips and sighed.

"K, just forget it..."

One was her bestie, while the other was her brother. What else could Nicole do?

Kai's face was cold. "No! I won't just let her go. We have to break them up!"

Nicole was speechless.

She could not understand the concept of regret after losing someone, nor could she explain it.

'Do all men have this kind of inferiority complex?!

"I'm not gonna help you. You're on your own!"

'Why do men not cherish their women when they're with her and only think that the woman is valuable once they lost her? That's ridiculous!'

Nicole took her bag and prepared to leave, but Kai called out to her in a hoarse and repressed voice. "Lil N..."

Kai's eyes were red as he looked at Nicole silently for a full three seconds. He took out his wallet from his pocket and handed it to her. "Feel free to swipe all my cards! You're the only one who can help me now..."

Nicole did not know if she was enticed by the money, but she suddenly felt soft-hearted when she saw him like this.

He did not seem like he was just playing around.

Nicole took out a black card with no limit and patted his shoulder.

"Fine. I'm not doing it for the money, I'm doing it for you and Julie, for the sake of your happiness."

The corners of Kai's lips twitched as he spoke against his will, "Thanks, sis..."

Nicole laughed. She certainly did not lack money, but she would not refuse money that fell from the sky!

These limitless cards were like bricks for her to become the richest person in the world. She would not miss a single piece!

Since she took Kai's money, she had to help him.

Nicole asked Kai about his past with Julie so that she could think of the right way to approach this.

Kai was very reluctant, but under Nicole's coercion, he finally opened up.

"She's your classmate. I had no interest in her at first, but she came to me and said that she fell in love with me at first sight."

This love at first sight compared to falling in love over time really seemed a bit sloppy.

"I didn't want to be with her back then. At that time, my ex-girlfriend kept pestering me, so I wanted to use Jules to drive my ex away..."

Nicole listened to his sob story. Every time Nicole could not bear to listen to it, Kai would embellish himself and think that what he did was reasonable.

After a while, his face turned a little gloomy. "I won't let that pretty boy get his way!"

Nicole pursed her lips. "You're a scumbag!"

Once Kai heard Nicole scolding him, he touched his nose and hastily spoke before Nicole changed her mind. "Is one card enough?"


Nicole was speechless.

Seeing that Kai was so sincere, Nicole came up with a few methods to go about this.

"First, you need to calm down for a while. Wait for Julie and Roman to have problems, then take advantage of the situation to shoot your shot. Then we'll see how it goes..."

Actually, Nicole was not hopeful for Kai.

If she was Julie, she would not have chosen Kai.

'All men are scums!' Nicole thought. 

Chapter 642 Bad Idea

Kai questioned Nicole's methods, but since Nicole was Julie's bestie, she would understand Julie best. Thus, Kai had no choice but to half-heartedly do as he was told.

Nicole was on the trending topics for three days, during which Stanton Corporation's and Ferguson Corporation's stocks soared to such heights because of Nicole's hype alone. Everyone was envious.

Many high society ladies followed in Nicole's footsteps and intentionally got paparazzi to sneak shots of them. They also wanted to use this opportunity to become bigwigs in the business and entertainment circles.

Unfortunately, none of them created much of a splash.

Every time one was photographed, it would be brought out and compared with Nicole.

[How can they be so shameless to buy the trending topics with that figure? Do they think that we're stupid?]

[They can't even compare to our career-focused President Nicole!]

[These high-society ladies should just concentrate on spending money. How can commoners like us afford such big diamonds? They even hired people to create fake accounts to compliment them saying that they're goddesses on earth. Do they think that we're blind?]

.....

Thus, when the board proposed to let Nicole wear their new product for street photography again, she refused.

Nicole did not want to use the same method a second time because being too deliberate would only turn people away.

Thus, for some time, Nicole purposely avoided the possibility of being on camera. She would also let Grant attend some public occasions in her stead.

Ferguson Corporation.

Just as in the past, Old Master Ferguson would go to the office every once in a while, to show his face. One reason for it was to remind the old shareholders to abide by the rules. The second reason was to keep an eye on Eric's movements.

The spies that he had placed around Eric at the beginning were almost gone.

As time passed, the old man felt like he was losing control over Ferguson Corporation, let alone his grandson.

However, Old Master Ferguson still had some power in the company, so no one dared to neglect him.

When Eric came out of a meeting, Mitchell reported that Old Master Ferguson was waiting for him in his office.

Eric wrinkled his eyebrows and walked in.

"Grandpa, why did you come over?"

Old Master Ferguson's eyes were shrewd and sharp as he looked at his grandson and grunted. "We have reached an unprecedented level of cooperation with Stanton Corporation? Why didn't I know about such a good thing?"

He threw the magazine on the table.

Whether it was the online media or the newspapers and magazines, all of them covered the cooperation between Ferguson Corporation and Stanton Corporation, which was made to sound like the strongest union in the business world.

Eric put one hand in his pocket. His gaze was dark and gloomy for a moment. "Don't you know now?"

"Nonsense!"

Old Master Ferguson was exasperated by Eric's attitude.

"Since Nicole mentioned the cooperation between both our companies to the public and didn't avoid the gossip between you two, it means that you still have a chance. Since you don't want to consider other women, then you need to marry Nicole again."

Old Master Ferguson unapologetically stated his purpose of coming this time.

Originally, Old Master Ferguson had given up on the Stanton family, but a simple photo of Nicole could make Ferguson Corporation's stock skyrocket, which showed that this woman's potential should not be underestimated.

If Nicole married into another affluent family, they would become Ferguson Corporation's rival. Instead of this, Old Master Ferguson would rather Nicole marry into the Ferguson family.

Hearing this, Eric's face turned a little dark. He laughed lightly.

"Now that the Harrison family is out of the game, you're setting your eyes on the Stanton family again? You sure change your allegiance fast!"

Before this, Old Master Ferguson was busy introducing Eric to various high-society ladies for a marriage alliance. Since Ivy Harrison's scandal was public knowledge, Old Master Ferguson changed his mind just like a businessman.

Old Master Ferguson was so angry that his face turned red. "Bastard! I'm just doing this for your sake! Do you not want to marry her anymore? Did you give up on her?"

Eric fell silent.

Old Master Ferguson's tone softened. "This is the best of both worlds. I'll make this marriage happen even if I have to risk my reputation."

Eric's eyes narrowed slightly. His gaze was cold and sullen. "No need. Don't interfere in my affairs with her."

Eric knew very well that once others intervened, it would only make Nicole more resistant.

Old Master Ferguson laughed coldly. "I won't embarrass us by going to the Stantons. I'm just here to give you a suggestion."

Chapter 643 Irrevocable

Eric frowned while Old Master Ferguson spoke unhurriedly.

"With your slow and indirect methods, I'm afraid that she'll only take one look at you when she's unmarried at 40 or 50 years old. By then, it'll be too late and you'll just waste your time for nothing. It's better if you can do something irrevocable and get her pregnant, then she'll have no choice but to be with you."

Eric's face was cold and sullen for a moment.

His eyes were sharp and cold as he looked at Old Master Ferguson. His voice was icy. "She's Nicole Stanton!"

Nicole was not a pushover that would not fight back when she was bullied.

With the whole Stanton Corporation behind her, was she a regular woman who could be controlled at will?

Offending Stanton Corporation would just leave both companies in defeat.

Old Master Ferguson let out a cold laugh.

"Of course I know that she's Nicole Stanton. It's because of her identity that the Stanton family can't afford to lose their reputation. We can only use this necessary means to force them to let Nicole marry you." 🗨️

Eric stared at the old man for a few seconds and sneered. "Oh? Then what kind of necessary means do you want to use?"

Old Master Ferguson raised his eyebrows. "Kidnap, date rape, accidents... Isn't it easy to deal with a woman? As long as the media caught the two of you having a fling, she won't be able to separate herself from you again. The Ferguson family will then come out to apologize to her so that she won't feel so bad. Then, everything will be fine.

When the time comes, you can get your sister to come back. It's been long enough, so I think Ingrid learned her lesson." 🗨️

When Eric heard this, he was shocked. A dense chill exuded from his heart.

How dare the old man use such a despicable and underhanded tactic on Nicole?

Although Eric had such thoughts when he was angry, he knew that if he really did it, Nicole would probably kill him, let alone forgive him. That was simply a pipe dream!

Thus, Eric would not even think about it.

Seeing Eric's silence, Old Master Ferguson felt a little smug.

"Don't think about how underhanded it is, just as long as it works... Unless you want to stand by and watch her marry someone else and bear another man's children? That would be setting a strong enemy for our family!"

To Old Master Ferguson, the Stanton family's position was either cooperation or competition.

Right now, they each had their own strengths, but if Nicole married someone else, the Stantons would no longer have a cooperative relationship with the Fergusons.

What was more, Old Master Ferguson saw Nicole's ability in the past two days and was even more reluctant to let such a woman end up with another family.

There were so many benefits that Nicole could bring to the Ferguson family.

"Grandpa." Eric raised his narrow eyes that were cold to the core. His voice carried a bitter chill. "Don't try to hurt her. I won't agree to it."

"What?"

Eric's tone was frigid. "If you're bored, go fishing, travel, or play chess. In short, you

don't need to interfere in my affairs with Nicole."

Old Master Ferguson's face was ugly as he narrowed his eyes. "Don't tell me that you don't want this?"

"I do, but I'll use my own methods. I won't be so despicable and shameless to do something irrevocable."

Eric's voice was extremely cold.

Eric was a gentleman and would not treat a woman like this, especially Nicole.

There was tension between the grandfather and grandson pair. Old Master Ferguson narrowed his eyes as he glared at Eric. He was infuriated.

"Fine, if you don't do this, don't regret it."

Old Master Ferguson sneered. He had already made up his mind.

Just as he stood up and took two steps, Eric called out to him before he could leave.

The old man was secretly smug as he thought, 'This kid is still too young. As long as the method works, who cares about the process? Eric must've regretted it!'

Eric's voice was hoarse and stern as he said, "I'll have someone take care of you 24/7 without leaving your side. If you dare to do anything behind my back, you'll be sent abroad for a period of convalescence, just like my mother."

"Boom—"

Chapter 644 Book Out the Venue

Old Master Ferguson's body shook viciously. He turned back and stared at Eric with a deadly glare, seemingly in disbelief.

"You..."

Eric called for someone to come in. "Send the Old Master back to the Ferguson Villa."

After that, Eric did not look at his grandfather again.

Old Master Ferguson's face was red with anger. Eric was the grandson that he was most proud of and the heir that he had spent all his efforts to train.

Eric was different from his father, Charles Ferguson, who was conservative, cowardly, and had no ambition.

Since Eric was young, he was smart and bold, so Old Master Ferguson focused on cultivating Eric to be his successor. The company was handed to Eric when he was of age, surpassing Charles. Thus far, Eric was very outstanding.

Until now, Old Master Ferguson suddenly felt that he had grown old.

He did not have any ability to make Eric listen to him anymore.

After Old Master Ferguson left, Eric sat on the chair tiredly with his brow knitted. The dim light seemed to swallow him up.

Mitchell came in with some documents. "President..."

"Speak."

"There's news from abroad, some confidential information for you."

Mitchell handed over the sealed file. It was a secret and channel that even Mitchell

could not pry into.

Eric lifted his eyes. "Got it. What is Toto doing these days?"

"That useless fatty should be thrown into the Seine!" Eric thought.

Mitchell hesitated for a few seconds. "He's rearing fish for you in Imperial Gardens in the fish tank that you bought from the foreign auction, but five batches of fish have already died..."

The air had a chilly silence.

"Get him to come to work tomorrow and be my bodyguard."

Mitchell froze, then nodded without a change in expression before he left and closed the door behind him.

'Bodyguard? In case of danger, Toto will be the first to run!'

However, Mitchell dared not question Eric's decision.

A new bar opened in Atlanta. Thus, Yvette, who loved to have fun, had to go check it out.

Yvette called Nicole just after work to grab a drink together.

When Nicole arrived at the bar, there was no raucous and lively music, nor was there a group of handsome men and women dancing, which was somewhat depressing.

'Is this even a bar?!'

The inside of the bar was extremely sad with miserable music that made people dispirited.

Nicole walked around inside and saw quite a lot of people. 'Why didn't anyone comment on this environment? How is this happy hour?'

The bar manager saw Nicole, who was dressed exquisitely. Although in the dim light, he did not recognize Nicole, he could tell from her handbag and watch that she was the ultimate rich woman in town.

He hurriedly welcomed her. "Miss, what service do you need?"

"Change the music. It's horrible!"

The bar manager froze and shook his head in embarrassment.

"A customer booked out the venue tonight, and this is the music he asked for..."

As a bar manager, he also knew that this kind of music was dreary and unfitting, but the customer paid and specified that they could continue accepting other customers with the condition that the music must not be changed.

"Would you like to go to a private room? You can't hear the music there..."

Nicole pursed her lips and shook her head. "No, the box does not have this feeling!"

Yvette did not arrive yet.

She sighed and ordered several bottles of high-quality liquor for hundreds of thousands of dollars, then sat at the bar counter, waiting for Yvette.

The bar manager saw this and asked, "What other requests do you have?"

"How much does it cost to order a song? Should I book out the venue or the whole night?"

Nicole was adamant about changing the song because she felt like she would probably be so depressed that she might actually jump off the building if she listened to it again.

The bar manager thought about the customer who was drunk in the private room and

succumbed to the enticing power of money.

"Miss, it depends on your mood."

The mood to spend!

Nicole smiled in satisfaction, took out the card that Kai gave her, and slapped it on the table.

"Put on 'Staying Alive' by Bee Gees!"

Chapter 645 Rich Woman With Strong Preferences

The bar manager was stunned by Nicole's.

Such an elegant and young woman wanted to listen to this old-fashioned song?

However, since she was the paymaster, her words were decree!

The bar manager dared not to show his surprise and looked at her with a smile as if he was looking at a mountain of gold.

"Of course! What else do you need?"

"Anything I need can be satisfied?" Nicole raised her eyebrows.

"Our customers' needs are our motivation to improve ourselves."

The bar manager smiled. Everything could bow to money.

Nicole said, "Turn up the volume then! Who can hear it with such a low volume? The lighting is also too dark to see anyone. Also, I want the blueberry cheesecake from Katelyn's and luwak coffee from Banley's..."

She pursed her lips and thought that she should not go overboard. "That's all. Is that possible?"

The bar manager looked at her dumbfounded for a full minute.

He instantly regretted saying those words.

However, thinking about how she used hundreds of thousands of dollars on alcohol in such a spendthrift way and the black card slapped on the table, he immediately smiled. "Of course! These are small matters. I'll get someone to buy them immediately!"

Nicole was in a good mood. It was really rare to meet such a good-tempered boss, so

she decided to be a frequent patron in the future.

In less than a minute, the depressing music was changed. "Stayin' Alive" by Bee Gees resounded deafeningly through the bar.

The customers in the bar had not yet gotten out of the mournful atmosphere from the depressing music earlier when they were plunged into an upbeat atmosphere in the 1970s.

Yvette, who came late, was startled to hear such old-school music.

She ran to Nicole and looked at the people on the dance floor dancing to this music.

How strange!

"Nikki, is this a bar or a 70's disco?"

Nicole's bottle of wine was almost empty. She turned to look at Yvette with misty and dazed eyes.

"Yeah, what took you so long?!"

Nicole waved and pointed to the cake in front of her with a smile.

"The bar manager has a really good service attitude! He can satisfy all my needs, so we should come here more often in the future."

Yvette looked at the several bottles of expensive high-quality liquor laid out in front of her and twitched the corners of her mouth.

'No, I don't wanna come back here!'

Yvette was about to say something when she suddenly heard a loud curse and commotion from the stairs.

"I've already booked the venue, yet you dare to change the music at will?! I can make

you go out of business!"

It sounded a bit familiar, and that person seemed drunk.

"What rich woman? You can't afford to offend a rich woman, but you can afford to offend a young master like me? I'd like to see which crazy woman wants to listen to such an old song! My wife divorced me, 'Stayin' Alive' is the last song I wanna listen to!"

"Young Master Ludwig... Mr. Ludwig!"

Yvette tugged on Nicole's clothes. Nicole also heard the cursing and swearing at the stairs. She took a glass of wine, walked over, and wobbly leaned in the corner, watching the drunken Keith Ludwig appear out of the blue.

Keith was having a drunken fit and had pent-up depression that he did not get to vent out.

While he was on the way to look for trouble with that rich old woman, he saw Nicole standing in the shadow of the moonlight, looking at him with a cold gaze.

Seeing that icy gaze, Keith stumbled. 'That rich woman with such strong preference is actually Nicole?!'

When Keith wanted to take a step back, the person who was trying to stop Keith from behind did not stand firm and accidentally pushed him.

"Ah—" Keith let out a miserable cry and tumbled down the stairs.

He felt dizzy, light-headed, and giddy.

Keith fell to the ground and wailed in pain. "Stayin' Alive" was still looping in the background, which made his head feel like exploding. He felt incredibly miserable.

Chapter 646 Girls Should Not Get Into a Group Fight

The bar manager rushed down to help the person up. "Young Master Ludwig!"

Everyone surrounded Keith in a tight circle.

Nicole snorted coldly while Keith trembled.

The surrounding people gossiped as they watched.

"It's over... Young Master Ludwig isn't someone who could be offended! He certainly won't let go of this woman..."

"Yeah, will Young Master Ludwig call the police and falsely accuse her?"

"Manager, what should we do? Should we give this woman away?"

Keith struggled to open his eyelids and unlocked his phone.

"Call and ask my wife to pick me up... This song is very good. Don't look for trouble!"

Keith could not afford to offend Nicole, so he had to disassociate himself from her.

At that thought, Keith somehow passed out.

The bar manager shuddered and picked up Keith's phone to make a call for someone to pick him up.

Nicole said in a cold and clear voice, "He's divorced, so get his friend to come and pick him up."

With that, she found Eric's number on Keith's phone and threw it back to the bar manager.

She then took her bag and left the bar with Yvette.

The bar manager was apprehensive as he had some mental struggle on who to call. He called the contact named "Wifey" first.

However, it was disconnected in less than a ring.

It seemed like this man was really divorced.

The next thing he did was call Eric Ferguson.

Eric heard this and was not bothered with the drunken Keith, so he sent someone to pick Keith up and did not show up himself.

Once Nicole and Yvette came out of the bar, a cold gust of wind made them shiver.

The two ladies looked at each other and smiled.

"You're almost drunk. I'll send you home..." Yvette looked at the time and suddenly remembered that she did not drive. "Where's your car?"

Nicole replied, "My driver sent me here."

Yvette blinked. "What a coincidence... Me too!"

Nicole took out her phone and comforted her. "I'll get my brother to pick us up. You can stay at my place tonight..."

As she said this, a shadow suddenly flashed past them. Nicole did not notice it because the alcohol delayed her reaction speed. After that, her hand was empty.

In the shadows opposite them, a few colorful-haired punks flashed a malicious smile.

Nicole and Yvette looked at each other.

They met trouble.

This bar was newly opened and was still unclaimed territory, so naturally, gangs

would target the area.

"Yo, these two chicks are pretty hot! Wanna have some fun with us?"

They whistled like hooligans and looked like they were determined to get what they wanted.

It was two weak ladies against a group of gangsters. They were adamant like hungry wolves that came across little sheep.

When Nicole's phone was stolen, she mostly sobered up. Her eyes were cold and stern as she stared at them.

"Give me back my phone."

"What will you do if I don't give it back? If you kiss me, I can consider it..."

Nicole's face was glum. These minions were no match for her.

However, Yvette did not know how to fight, so Nicole was afraid that Yvette would get hurt accidentally if they were to get into a fight.

While Nicole was hesitating, the hooligan who talked the most suddenly screamed and fell on the ground while holding his head.

A rock was thrown at his head, and blood was flowing profusely.

The person who came slowly from the entrance of the bar with a black shirt and pants looked completely different from his usual gentle and modest temperament.

'Clayton Sloan?'

Nicole blinked and thought she was hallucinating. Clayton had such a ruthless look that for a moment, she surprisingly thought that he was Eric.

Clayton dusted off his hands as if the rock he touched earlier was dirty.

"Mr. Sloan?"

Nicole was a little surprised. She was in the bar earlier but did not even see Clayton there.

Clayton smiled gently at her. "Ms. Stanton, please wait for a moment. I'll send you back later." 🗨️

Those punks saw that Clayton was alone, so the fear earlier turned into anger. They then screamed and rushed up to Clayton.

Nicole was just about to help Clayton out, but Yvette pulled her back with a deadly grip.

"Nikki, don't be impulsive! You won't be able to get a boyfriend if you get into a group fight like this!" 🗨️

Chapter 647 Pretty, Give Me a Chance

Nicole suddenly froze at Yvette's words.

Yvette came next to Nicole and explained in a whisper.

"These people are no match for that guy. Just rest assured and give him a chance to perform!"

Nicole frowned.

Not even a minute later, the situation reversed.

Those colorful-haired hooligans screamed miserably. Some fled while some yelled to call the police.

Nicole said, "Is it their first day in the gang? Why would they call the police?"

Yvette also looked at those hooligans with disgust. "These gangsters just get weaker by the year. How can such wimps be in a gang?"

Clayton still looked gentle and elegant, but his clothes were a bit messy, so he looked a bit more cold and unrestrained.

Yvette waved her hand. "Hey handsome, you're not hurt, right?"

Clayton smiled implicitly. "No."

He looked at Nicole, picked up the phone that was thrown on the ground, and handed it to her.

"Your phone is broken. I'll buy you a new one."

Nicole took over her phone. It was indeed broken and turned off.

"It's alright, Mr. Sloan, you've helped me enough today. Thank you."

Nicole had a spare phone in the Stanton Mansion, so even without this phone, there was no need to buy a new one at the last minute.

"No worries. Having this opportunity to heroically save you beauties is all I can ask for."

Clayton's sleeves were casually rolled up. The light shone on his body, illuminating his muscular forearms and firm torso. He looked very different from his usual refined and gentle appearance.

At this time, his gentle eyes were rippling with warmth and delight, dispelling the cold and ushering in the light.

"I was fortunate enough to hear the song that you picked, Ms. Stanton. It's a great song. My friends and I were so into it that I almost couldn't make it in time to send you off..."

Nicole asked, "When did you come to the bar?"

"I was already there when you came." Clayton smiled with his eyes.

Nicole was a little embarrassed and wanted to burrow into the ground.

The moment Nicole went in, she was like a parvenu flaunting her wealth to the fullest.

'Oh no... My noble, cool, elegant, and beautiful goddess-like image is ruined! Had I known that there were acquaintances here... Sigh...'

Clayton's smile deepened as he reached out to point to a car parked not far away. "I'll send you ladies home..."

Nicole subconsciously wanted to refuse.

Clayton looked at Yvette, who was next to Nicole. "Hey pretty, give me a chance?"

Yvette raised an eyebrow and pulled Nicole along. "Okay! Since you know each other, there's no need to be polite."

Nicole gave Yvette a blank look and helplessly followed.

As soon as Yvette got into the car, she told Clayton her home address, intending to give Clayton and Nicole some time alone later.

Clayton looked at Yvette with gratitude. His big hands held the steering wheel as he smiled and answered Yvette's various tricky questions.

Yvette's affinity for gossip was too strong. While talking with Clayton, Yvette sent messages to Nicole. 📩

[Are you very familiar with this guy?]

Nicole replied. [You're familiar with him too. He's Lil Michael's Dad.]

Yvette could not hold back her foul mouth for a moment. "F*ck!"

The atmosphere in the car froze for a moment.

Yvette hurriedly changed the subject. "Mr. Sloan, thank goodness you're there just now. You fought well." 📩

'Turns out this flirtatious, wealthy, and handsome man is an old man with a child?' 📩

In the blink of an eye, they arrived at Yvette's apartment.

Yvette was reluctant to get out of the car.

"Nicole, give me a call when you get home!"

Yvette pursed her lips. She was not comfortable handing over Nicole to an old man who had a child.

Nicole saw through her bestie's thoughts.

"Okay, goodnight."

When Clayton and Nicole were alone in the car, Clayton could not help but laugh.

"Ms. Stanton, that neighborhood has been a little rowdy lately, so you shouldn't go there too often..."

Nicole pursed her lips. "I was careless."

She had never encountered this situation before probably because she usually went out with more people. Ian would also be there, so with more people, no one dared to mess with her.

Clayton thought about it and offered. "If you want to go, you can call me anytime."

Chapter 648 Little Sycophant

Nicole raised her eyebrows. "Mr. Sloan, I didn't expect that you like going to bars."

Clayton frowned. "Did I give off the impression that I like quiet places?"

"You just look like the type that listens to symphonies..."

Clayton said, "Are you saying that I'm old and lonely?"

Nicole pursed her lips. "Don't be so self-abasing."

Clayton was speechless.

In the next second, the two of them involuntarily laughed out loud.

Ten minutes later, they arrived at the Stanton Mansion.

Yvette probably gave them a call, so Kai stood shivering at the door, waiting for Nicole.

The butler opened the gates, so Clayton drove straight inside.

Kai sneezed and went over to open the door for Nicole.

"You're back so late and you're drunk?"

Nicole raised her eyebrows and went around to reach out. "Mr. Sloan, come in for a bit. Lil Michael should still be awake." 🗨️

Since he saved her, there was no reason to send him away after he drove her home.

Clayton pondered for a moment, nodded, and followed him in.

"Sorry to bother you then."

Floyd Stanton was watching TV in the living room. He carried Tigger in one hand while he hugged Lil Michael with his other arm, looking very at ease.

Clayton saw this scene and did not expect his son to adapt so well to staying here without any feeling of strangeness. It was surprisingly harmonious.

Lil Michael wore tiger print pajamas. When he saw Clayton at the door, he waved. "Hi, Daddy!"

Clayton was speechless.

Floyd heard the commotion, stood up, and smiled. "Mr. Sloan, thanks for sending Lil N back. Please, sit."

Clayton politely and humbly greeted Floyd and said, "You're welcome, I was just passing by."

He looked at his son and smiled helplessly. "Sorry to have bothered you these days. He must be very naughty, right?"

Floyd said, "Eh? No, Michael is the most obedient, well-behaved, and loveliest child I've ever seen!"

Clayton looked at Floyd's heartfelt praise of Lil Michael, who was happily lying on Floyd's arm and wiggling around.

'This pampering trick again! No wonder everyone loves him...' Clayton thought.

Nicole returned home and warmed up. The butler handed her a small hand warmer. Nicole hugged it and sat on the sofa with a wool blanket draped over her legs. She looked lazy and relaxed.

"Mr. Sloan, don't worry. Feel free to leave Lil Michael here. Our family is very fond of him!"

Lil Michael proudly raised his chin toward Clayton. 'See, Pretty Lady complimented me!' 🗨️

Clayton's eyes turned. "I think we've disturbed you all for too long. Michael, why don't you come back to the hotel with me?"

Lil Michael shrank nervously in Floyd's arms. "No, I don't want to!"

Floyd comfortingly patted Lil Michael's small shoulders.

"Aww... Poor baby, it must be uncomfortable living at a hotel. Just live here then! Mr. Sloan, you can come over often to see Michael. Living in a hotel is really inconvenient. We can't let the child suffer and he needs proper education."

Clayton, who was just lectured, did not know what to say.

'How many bad things did Lil Michael say behind my back?! Why do I feel like I've abused my child?' Clayton thought.

The butler came over with a few mugs of hot chocolate. "Mr. Sloan, have some. It'll warm you up at night."

Clayton sat on the side and thanked him as he took a mug.

Everyone was holding a mug of hot chocolate. Before they finished drinking, Lil Michael fell asleep.

Floyd asked Kai to carry the boy upstairs to his room.

This was clearly not the first time Kai did this, so he could only oblige.

Clayton got up in a hurry. "I'll do it..."

As soon as Clayton touched Lil Michael, the boy twisted his tiny body and muttered, "No, no... I don't wanna leave..."

Clayton rolled his eyes and felt speechless when he saw that his son was pretending to

be asleep.

Chapter 649 Fatherly Love

Floyd Stanton cooed on the side. "Don't worry, you don't have to go. Baby, go upstairs and sleep."

Lil Michael obediently muttered and settled down. Clayton carried his son. While lying on Clayton's shoulders, Lil Michael pointed to the stairs.

"I wanna go back to my room to sleep!"

Clayton was speechless. "Do you have to be so obvious when pretending?"

Nicole smiled as she looked at Lil Michael's petulance. Everyone suddenly quieted down as they were afraid of waking the boy up.

It looked like no one could tell that this Lil Michael was just acting.

Clayton stiffened his body and could only carry him upstairs cautiously as Kai led the way.

Once they got to Michael's room, Kai watched as Clayton skillfully tucked the boy in bed and could not help but sigh.

"Sigh... Fatherly love..."

Clayton froze for a moment. After Kai turned away, Clayton faintly glanced at Lil Michael's face.

"Little sycophant!"

Lil Michael rolled over, obviously not wanting to hear his father talking.

Clayton went downstairs and watched the three Stantons talking and laughing.

Nicole said something, which made Floyd lose his temper that he took the pillow next to him and threw it at Kai's head.

Kai muttered aggrievedly, "Clayton has such fatherly love, what about our family?!"

Floyd was so angry that he wanted to hit Kai. "You destroyed the jade I've treasured for many years, and you still expect fatherly love?! Watch how I'll beat you up!"

Clayton coughed slightly to make his presence known, so Floyd suppressed his anger and exchanged pleasantries with him.

"It's getting late, so I won't bother you any longer. Chairman Stanton, thanks for taking care of Michael. I'll come over another day to pay my respects."

"Oh, don't worry about it. Our family is missing a small child. I have so many children, but none of them can please me. Feel free to leave Lil Michael with me..."

After a few more words, Clayton left the Stanton Mansion. Nicole also went upstairs to rest. The wine she drank earlier finally kicked in and made her a little dizzy.

Kai followed Nicole and asked, "Should I ask how Julie's doing?"

Nicole raised an eyebrow. "No. You both need some time to cool off. If you keep bothering her, she'll only hate you more!"

It was better to let Julie date Roman without worries.

Kai looked at her. "You're right!"

.....

The weather got colder as it was almost the New Year.

Ferguson Corporation.

Eric's narrow eyes carried a chill as he leaned back in his chair and held a cigarette between his fingers with his arm resting on the armrest. "Have you thought of something?"

Toto shivered as he sat on the side and looked at the book in his hand – “100 Ways to Keep Your Wife Happy”.

He somehow killed a few batches of fish, so Eric made Toto come over to be with him every second of the day as a bodyguard. ❶

Toto was initially quite confident that Eric and Nicole could reconcile, but the man did not go by the book, and the woman did not fall for any tricks, so Toto was all out of ideas. ❷

“M-Mr. Ferguson... I think that I have no talent in this business. Maybe I'd better give up...”

Eric coldly snorted as his icy eyes swept over Toto. “Do you want to be fed to fish in the Seine?”

“I think I can still try again!”

Toto forced a smile. ‘Staying alive is still more important!’

He had been studying books all day and finally came up with a foolproof plan.

“Mr. Ferguson, you must create a pining and restrained image now. Don't go wandering around in front of Ms. Stanton because you miss her, but be melancholy because you miss her so that you can get her attention!”

Eric touched his glabella. His voice was cold and deep. “How melancholy?”

.....

The next night.

Clayton very diligently came to pick up Nicole from work with the excuse that he wanted to see Lil Michael.

Nicole had no reason to refuse, so she agreed.

She also offered to treat Clayton to dinner to show her gratitude for his help last night.

Clayton gladly agreed.

Chapter 650 Mr. Ferguson's Chicken Soup for the Soul

After dinner and seeing Lil Michael, Clayton was a little hesitant to speak.

"Ms. Stanton, I'm going abroad to take care of some things and won't be back until after the New Year, so I'm sorry to put Lil Michael in your care again."

Nicole raised her eyebrows. "That's not a problem, but why so sudden?"

Usually, there were many things to get done before the New Year, but a person of Clayton's status would not be that busy.

Clayton smiled. "There are some problems with a project abroad. The partner intends to break the contract, so I have to attend to it personally." 🗨️

Nicole nodded in understanding. "Okay then. You can go ahead. Don't worry about Lil Michael. He'll stay here. You can video call if you miss him."

Clayton smiled faintly as his eyes flickered. He still did not manage to say some things.

He had a rough idea of how this problem with the project came about.

"That person will really do everything. He wouldn't touch the project involving Nicole's interests and extended his reach to my foreign projects... Eric Ferguson is really possessive over Nicole and doesn't want anyone near her, huh?" Clayton thought.

Clayton chuckled and looked as gentle as usual, without a trace of doubt on the surface.

Naturally, Nicole did not think about the underlying meaning. After saying goodbye, she went back into the house.

She did a face mask and lay comfortably on the balcony as she hugged Tigger and read

up on global stock trends.

The phone beside her rang, but she was too lazy to look.

Nicole patted Tigger's little butt. "Check who's calling?"

Tigger's artificial intelligence system automatically sensed it. "It's Auntie Yvette..."

Nicole raised her eyebrows. "Answer it."

Tigger answered the call for Nicole.

Yvette's voice came through. "Hahaha! Nikki, have you seen Eric Ferguson's post?"

Nicole frowned. "I've long blocked him!"

Moreover, Eric Ferguson rarely posted on social media. Even if he did, Nicole did not want to see it because it was better to have fewer personal interactions between them.

Yvette's laughter went more out of control. "Then he totally missed the mark! Hahaha..."

Nicole was curious. "What happened?"

Yvette took a screenshot of Eric's post and sent it to Nicole.

Eric posted a photo of his side profile that someone else took of him. He was standing in his office as he looked up at the sky at a 45-degree angle.

The caption was, "Life is finite, but I hope that I can give you infinite happiness, N.S."

Nicole saw this and was shaken.

Her face mask fell off in an instant.

'Damn it! This son of a b*tch is going crazy again!'

Nicole immediately unblocked Eric and read the comments from the post, which was quickly gaining traction.

[Wow! Mr. Ferguson's heart is really as generous as the sea!]

[Wishing you both a long and happy life together!]

[Infatuated Mr. Ferguson, we believe that Ms. Stanton will be able to see your heart one day!]

[Finite life, infinite love. Mr. Ferguson is so philosophical!]

.....

Nicole was so angry that her breathing started to get out of control.

Her face was blue as she made a phone call.

Ferguson Corporation.

Eric sat in his office with a complicated and ugly face as he stared at his phone.

He was enveloped in the dim light. His gaze was questioning.

"Are you sure that she'll take the initiative to contact me after I post this?"

Toto found this chicken soup for the soul from the internet and even took the picture from a specific angle to make Eric look melancholy. He then confidently waited for the result.

"Don't worry. Ms. Stanton will definitely take the initiative to contact you!"

Eric's gaze was gloomy. He frowned until his eyebrows formed a straight line. His fists

were tightly clenched.

The words were so sappy that Eric could not even bear to look.

With the increasing comments on this post, Eric was afraid that his arrogant and indifferent image would be completely ruined.

Eric felt like he was being unfaithful to his character.

Chapter 651 Boss Temperament

Toto looked at Eric's glum face and patiently explained, "Mr. Ferguson, if you only make this post visible to Ms. Stanton alone, it'll be useless if she blocks you. Although this is a little drop in your character, you must endure this for the sake of Ms. Stanton!"

Eric was annoyed, but he kept telling himself that everything was for Nicole.

One minute...

Two minutes...

Eric waited until his patience was almost exhausted. His face was getting darker by the minute. If Nicole did not call him, he would first delete that post, then chop Toto into pieces! 🗑️

Just when Toto felt the chill down his spine to the soles of his feet, making his legs go limp, Eric's phone rang.

Toto finally breathed a sigh of relief and handed Eric his expensive phone apprehensively. "When Ms. Stanton talks to you, don't be too aggressive or enthusiastic, and don't take the initiative to apologize or delete the post!"

Eric pursed his lips and did not say anything as he calmly took his phone.

His heart was pounding with excitement.

"Hello?"

Toto was satisfied as he looked at Eric with admiration. "Mr. Ferguson is really great! He can maintain his high and mighty aura no matter what. All he needs to do is keep up this domineering boss temperament!"

"Eric Ferguson! Did you get kicked in the head?! It's fine if you post that sappy sh*t

for yourself, but why pull me into it? Don't even try to say that it's not about me because that's my initials! Even an idiot will know who you're talking about. Hurry up and delete that stupid post!"

Nicole's tone was cold and impulsive. She sounded very angry. If it was not for her status, she would have cursed that son of a b*tch, Eric Ferguson!

Eric's face was dark and heavy. His cold brows were knitted. His hand that was holding the phone tightened.

On the surface, he looked calm, but his tense face betrayed his nervousness.

Hearing Nicole's words, Eric was expressionless as he said, "I won't delete it."

"What?!"

Eric repeated it and sneered. "Only my girlfriend can tell me what to do. Are you implying that you are?"

Eric, who had always been lowly and submissive in front of Nicole, suddenly stood his ground.

While he was happy, there was also a hint of nervousness.

He waited for Nicole's answer.

The woman on the phone cursed impatiently. "Crazy bastard!"

After that, she hung up the phone.

Eric was speechless.

His narrow eyes permeated a faint chill at this time as he looked at Toto.

Toto was shaken and scratched his head. "Uh... You're right, Mr. Ferguson. Regardless of Ms. Stanton's reaction, we can't delete it!"

Eric laughed lightly. His gaze converged slightly as he curled his fingers and tapped on the desk.

“This is your last chance, understand?”

Toto subconsciously shuddered. “Understood!”

He killed five batches of Eric’s fish. Each batch had several fish worth several million each, which Toto could not afford to pay back.

.....

Nicole ignored Eric’s sudden neurotic behavior. These days, Eric had been posting on social media or sending her text messages just to make his existence known.

No matter how slow she was, Nicole could tell that this was Eric’s way of trying to get back together with her.

‘Hah! I won’t fall for it!’

Thus, Nicole did not respond to any of Eric’s messages.

The only communication link between them was Logan and Mitchell being middlemen to relay their messages.

Gerard Lichman sent out an invitation to Nicole and Eric for the scheduled meeting that was held regularly at J&L Corporation.

It was compulsory.

When Nicole arrived, she saw that Eric and Gerard were the only ones in the meeting room and frowned slightly.

“Didn’t you notify Mr. Sloan?”

Chapter 652 Dislike

Clayton Sloan was needed the most in such a meeting, but he was absent.

The meeting room was well heated, but a light chill could still be felt.

Gerard Lichman smiled. "Mr. Sloan is still abroad and can't attend the meeting. We'll send him a copy of the minutes afterward."

Nicole frowned but did not say anything. She took a seat and looked at the prepared materials.

Eric tried very hard not to look at her, but his gaze still landed on her anyway.

Nicole was like a gravitational vortex that Eric could not ignore. He would want to see her from time to time.

When Eric heard her mention Clayton, he could not help but sneer.

'He should be abroad now trying to salvage the project... He deserves it because I dislike the way he's hovering around Nicole.'

Listening to Gerard's report, Eric's cold and solemn attitude made others feel more pressured.

Gerard looked at those two people who did not communicate with each other and felt apprehensive. Every meeting was like a psychological war.

Finally, the arduous meeting was adjourned.

Gerard coughed slightly. "This project will still continue at the end of the year. The research for our psychological testing device has reached the final stage. I was thinking that we should take advantage of the New Year to launch this new project."

Nicole said, "We haven't tried it yet, and it hasn't been tested, so it's more prone to a total loss if something goes wrong when it's launched to the market prematurely."

Eric did not say anything, which meant that he acquiesced to Nicole's opinion.

Gerard wrinkled his eyebrows. "But this project is already very mature. A regular polygraph that's used in the police station is the most low-level psychological testing equipment. What we are researching now is hundreds of times more advanced than the polygraph!"

Nicole's voice was dull. "What's the rush, Mr. Lichman? Why can't we wait until after the New Year?"

Why did he want to create more work for everyone at this time?

Gerard stroked his forehead and did not know whether to laugh or cry.

"Ms. Stanton, you sure are bold. Everything can be left aside until after the New Year and until you've had dinner, right? You..."

Eric interrupted Gerard in an icy voice. "Gerard, watch your words. Who do you think you're lecturing?"

Gerard shut up in an instant.

Looking at Nicole's indifferent face, Gerard's complexion changed slightly. He suddenly regretted speaking out of turn.

Nicole was not someone he could snark at.

Gerard pursed his lips. "I'm sorry. I unconsciously got too carried away because I was just talking with some friends abroad recently about some of the conventions and habits of us Medianians. In Mediania, the New Year is indeed an important holiday, but globally, it's just a regular day. The fact that our research bore results earlier than

others means that we have the upper hand to set the direction for this industry in the international arena. Now, Liberty is also going into the same research direction as us, so in case..."

Gerard stopped mid-sentence. He clearly got some news and seemed a little anxious.

Nicole did not look angry and faintly hooked her lips.

"Mr. Lichman, we shouldn't jump the gun. Even if we do launch first, we'll end up being a laughing stock if we make a mistake."

Gerard frowned and looked at Eric.

Eric's brow was sunken as if he was in deep thought.

Three seconds later, Eric agreed with Nicole.

"It must go through at least thousands of experiments before it can be released on the market."

When something new got released to the market, it would need to withstand the public's questions and tests to prove its real strength.

They should not rush to launch just because they wanted to be the first globally.

Gerard's eyebrows twitched. He sighed helplessly and could only agree.

"Then, would you two like to experience the psychological treatment process for yourselves?"

Chapter 653 Psychiatrist

Gerard Lichman watched with great interest. The greatest result they achieved for this psychological testing device was the collection of the world's most notable cases and processes of treating various mental illnesses. The data from the tests could be used to peer into the patient's deepest emotional fluctuations and thoughts. It would further guide the patient with self-healing techniques.

What made this different from regular therapists was that the treatment process would not involve another human.

It would be an honest and balanced dialogue between the human and machine. 🗨️

Artificial intelligence as a "psychiatrist" would have enough data and settings so that the patient would trust the artificial intelligence system for targeted treatment and psychological intervention.

Regardless of the patient's past and issues, there would be no betrayal or risk of privacy exposure, which was extremely attractive to the patients.

The results of this research would certainly cause a huge sensation in the world.

Nicole was very interested in this research and was eager to try this.

After all, an experienced psychiatrist could control the patient's psyche, but how could a machine do it?

Gerard Lichman smiled at Eric and Nicole. "This way, please..."

Eric did not think too much about the machine prying into his privacy. When he was in the army, he underwent strict and intense psychological training. Thus, he would not be easily disturbed by people and circumstances.

Before he could refuse, Nicole already stood up.

Eric held back his words of refusal, straightened his shirt, stood up, and followed them out.

The laboratory was surrounded by airtight, gray-colored walls that looked like they were made with special materials.

Nicole and Eric stood in the doorway. The two of them were close together, but there was no communication between them.

Even Gerard was secretly amazed that Eric would give up so many opportunities to talk to Nicole.

Someone wearing a white lab coat came out of the room and nodded at them. "It's ready."

Gerard extended his arm. "Let's go together."

Surprisingly, it could accommodate two people at the same time.

Nicole did not think much about it and walked inside. It turned out that there were two separate rooms inside.

She subconsciously walked into one of them, while Eric walked into the other.

When Nicole heard the sound of the door closing, she was slightly stunned.

It was an automatic door. A gentle male voice that sounded magnetic came through from the speakers. "Hi, Ms. Stanton. Nice to meet you."

The room was originally a more casual white decor, but when the man spoke, it somehow changed into Nicole's favorite color, a light smoky gray that was simple, clean, and high-end.

The tatami mats, tables, and chairs in the corners also became a soft style that she liked. All of these changed so inadvertently and gradually.

Nicole was secretly surprised. 'The system can even pry into one's inner preferences to set a comfortable and safe environment according to their preferences?'

She could not help but feel awed, but out of consideration for the system, she did not show a trace of surprise or praise.

Looking out of the window, Nicole could see small hanging on the tree branches, wild and beautiful. The field of flowers was spectacular.

She stood there and could even smell bursts of floral fragrance.

Nicole suddenly came out of her trance and realized that it was now winter, so this scene must be artificial. However, this room was part of the system, and it gave off such a realistic feeling.

"Ms. Stanton, please have a seat."

That voice rang out again, gentle and soothing, like a sincere friend.

"Don't worry, Ms. Stanton. I only analyzed your preferences based on your dressing style. The artificial intelligence psychological detection system can't peek into a person's heart. It can only be used as an aid for mental health recovery."

Nicole paused for a moment. "Can I go see the man who came in with me?"

Chapter 654 Have Pity on Him

Somehow, Nicole felt that Eric coming in here was more mysterious.

The system paused for a moment, obviously not expecting Nicole to have such a request.

In less than ten seconds, someone came in the door.

It was Gerard Lichman.

He looked at Nicole with a smirk. "According to the rules, you can't, but since you're President Nicole Stanton, we'll make an exception."

Nicole raised her eyebrows and thought, 'I guess it's enough for one of us to try it out. I don't wanna be a guinea pig...'

Gerard snapped his fingers to automatically reset the system. The wall in front of them slowly became transparent.

Nicole faintly glanced at Gerard and curled her lips. "This wall material should be pretty costly, huh?"

Gerard smiled and lowered his voice. "We use the world's highest-quality materials so that it's safe and secure."

She looked at the man standing on the other side of the wall. His hawk-like eyes examined the surroundings.

The environment he was in was bright, like the villa in Imperial Gardens.

Nicole could not help but frown.

In the next second, the man's eyes suddenly turned to look at them through the wall.

Nicole's heart trembled as she subconsciously clenched her fists. 'He could see me?'

Gerard reassured her from the side. "Ms. Stanton, don't worry. He can't see us, nor can he hear us."

Nicole sighed in relief.

She looked at Gerard with an indifferent gaze. "You can leave."

Gerard was dumbfounded.

Nicole said, "Do you think that Eric will let you go if he found out that you're snooping around his psyche?"

"But aren't you also..."

Nicole laughed lightly. "I'm not worried."

Gerard pursed his lips. 'Right... I'm the one who should be worried! Fine...'

He instantly lost the mood to snoop around.

Gerard smiled as he left, and Nicole faintly withdrew her gaze.

Eric's line of sight soon moved away.

Nicole watched Eric's movements. He seemed to have heard something because his face became a little dazed as he smiled.

Earlier, Gerard only said that Eric would not be able to hear them and did not mention that she would not be able to hear Eric either.

'Damn it! I can't hear anything...'

Nicole felt like a bucket of cold water was poured over her head. Her desire to pry into Eric's psyche was instantly doused.

She dawdled for a while and just wanted to leave when she suddenly saw Eric looking in her direction. His eyes were red as he shouted, "Nicole!"

Although she could not hear his voice, the way his lips moved when he said her name was clear.

Nicole's heart shook for a moment.

She felt like she could actually hear his voice.

However, he clearly could not see her.

In the next second, Eric took two steps back with a pained expression.

Nicole pursed her lips and could not bear to look any longer. All those past memories that she deliberately kept hidden were hooked out by Eric one by one in an unending streak.

She did not like this feeling and even regretted her stupid move.

Nicole immediately returned to her indifferent and calm expression and walked out of the room decisively without another glance at Eric.

Gerard was leaning against the wall on the opposite side, instructing his employees in a low voice.

When Nicole came out, Gerard was a little surprised, then the corners of his lips curled into a playful smile.

"What'd you see?"

Nicole pursed her lips. "If you wanna know, go see for yourself..."

"I don't have the guts, but why are you out so soon?"

Nicole said, "I'm not interested in continuing to watch it."

Gerard said, "I'm really curious who Mr. Ferguson is tangled about."

Eric was such a fearless man, so who would he feel torn about?

In fact, Gerard already had a vague answer in mind, but he wanted to know what the woman in front of him was thinking.

Nicole suddenly thought of the moment when Eric shouted her name.

Her tone was cold. "I can't hear anything."

Chapter 655 What the Hell Are You Talking About?

Gerard and Nicole went to the lounge to drink tea. To be precise, they were listening to Tucker's report.

Halfway through, Gerard received a phone call and went out. Nicole sat there slowly drinking tea.

After less than fifteen minutes, Nicole vaguely heard Eric reprimanding voice.

Nicole paused and got up. Before she went out, she heard Eric speaking to Gerard in a cold tone.

"What bullsh*t intelligent psychiatrist is that? It can't solve my problem so it asked me to forget it? Do I need it to tell me that forgetting can solve the problem?!"

Gerard asked, "Then who does it want you to forget?"

"Get lost!"

Nicole sat back in her seat, half-hugging her arms.

Eric and Gerard walked in one after the other. Eric obviously looked unhappy. "This project should be postponed. The system is rigid and not flexible enough. It can't even guess one percent of the human psyche, so how is it supposed to shock the world?"

Gerard looked bitter and aggrieved.

Nicole pursed her lips. "Find a few world-class experts to try it out according to their standards so that we can determine when the most appropriate time is to market it."

Gerard's eyes lit up. "That sounds more like it! It's pertinent."

Eric pursed his lips. His gaze was sunken as he looked at her and did not speak.

Gerard looked at Eric. "Mr. Ferguson, what do you think about Ms. Stanton's suggestion?"

Everything would depend on Eric's opinion.

Eric raised his eyebrows and looked up at Nicole with a smile. "What she said."

Sure enough, the only one who could make Eric change his mind was Nicole.

Nicole looked up and met his gaze.

Eric smiled and probed. "Who was on your mind when you went in? Who can't you get over?"

There was a pause for a second.

Nicole's eyes deepened. She suddenly laughed. "I didn't go in."

Eric froze and instantly turned to look at Gerard.

Gerard trembled, lowered his head, and played dead, not daring to make a sound.

There were a few seconds of silence.

The coldness on his body accumulated and dispersed after.

He asked, "Then, do you want to know who I was thinking about?"

The man's eyes were extremely deep as he looked at Nicole.

Nicole pursed her lips and smiled faintly. "Nope."

She was not interested.

Eric could not even bring himself to smile.

What he had just experienced inside was the scene he was most afraid to face.

It was extremely similar to the memories he remembered, very believable.

Back when Nicole filed for divorce, she sat there crying alone. He wanted to go up and comfort her, but she could not see him.

It turned out that her heartbreak back then felt like this.

He was really scared.

The system said that it could guide Eric to forget the past and forget Nicole. ❶

He did not allow it. The pain of forgetting Nicole would be even more unbearable than having his heart gouged out.

Eric looked at her with his deep eyes. He suddenly laughed. "Nicole, you're really..."

'Really harsh for not giving me even the slightest opportunity...?' ❷

Before Eric finished his sentence, Nicole coldly glanced at him.

Suddenly, Eric's heart jumped. His words took a turn. "Really... Too beautiful!"

Gerard was speechless. 'What the hell is Mr. Ferguson talking about?'

Nicole also did not know what to say.

Logan sent Nicole a few messages, so Nicole excused herself and left beforehand.

Eric laughed again with some helplessness and resignation, but the desire to conquer in his eyes did not diminish one bit. 'What can I do if she's cold to me? I'll still go to her if she hooked her fingers. She really crushed my pride, but I'm still willing to hold her up.'

Ferguson Corporation.

Keith sat in the lounge in dismay, waiting for Eric to meet him.

It had been almost three hours.

As soon as Eric returned to his office, Keith ran over clumsily and covered his chest in pain.

"Ferg, my heart is breaking..."

Chapter 656 You Can't Save Her

Eric frowned. He hated seeing Keith like this.

"You're so annoying. Get out!"

Keith felt even more despair. 'Where's the brotherly love?!'

Eric sat there and said in a cold tone, "What do you want? If you have nothing to say, then leave."

'Does he think that my office is a bar?' Eric thought.

Keith pursed his lips and looked very haggard.

"Why aren't you upset at all? We're both in the same boat and have the same predicament! You can't chase Nicole, and I can't get my wife back."

Eric raised his eyes and reached out to rub his glabella.

'Ugh, he's so annoying!' Eric thought.

"So what?"

'Does he want me to hug him and cry together?!'

Keith paused. His eyes were still a little red.

"She blocked me, so I can't contact her anymore. What should I do?"

Eric was speechless. He had experienced everything that Keith was experiencing. 'Tsk, he can't even bear this?'

He looked at Keith with disdain and thought that Keith was incompetent.

"Figure it out yourself!"

Keith covered his face and looked depressed. "Can you ask Nicole to say a few good words for me? After all, she's now my wife's major shareholder, so what she says will be effective."

As soon as Keith's ex-wife was mentioned, Eric had barely any good impression of her.

Ever since their remarriage banquet became the joke of the century, the one who was hit the hardest was Eric.

That was because Eric had absolutely no reason to convince Nicole to turn back to him.

It was all Livia Lehman's fault!

Eric snorted coldly. His low voice carried an undisguised chill.

"Do you think that it's possible?"

Stop daydreaming!

Eric would not give another chance for Nicole to get close to Livia.

When Keith heard this, he became even more upset.

"Right, it's impossible. As soon as Nicole talks to Livia, Livia might just leave the country!"

Eric glared at Keith. 'Livia is a bad influence on Nicole!'

Keith suddenly remembered something and pursed his lips. "Oh right, I wonder if Nicole's fine that day when I was drunk."

"What do you mean?"

"Didn't the manager ask you to pick me up that day when I was drunk?"

Eric frowned and seemed to recall something like this.

However, this was a small matter, so he did not put much thought into it.

"What does it have to do with Nicole?"

"Nicole is the one who asked the bar manager to contact you. I heard that the entrance of the bar that just opened had a lot of punks that specialize in picking up and harassing drunk girls. Nicole also encountered them when she left."

"What?" Eric's tone turned icy in an instant.

His aura became sullen and gloomy as he looked at Keith with grim eyes.

Keith pursed his lips. "You didn't know? I heard that someone came to her rescue and beat up the group of punks pretty badly. Oh right, someone said that it was Clayton Sloan. The situation was urgent, so you can't save her even if you go!"

In a flash, Eric's face had an overwhelming gloom and an indescribable coldness and ruthlessness, so much so that it was really difficult to look straight at him.

Eric's chest heaved violently when he found out that he should have been there. He missed the chance to save her.

This feeling was disappointment mixed with a strong hatred.

Keith carried on and lamented his sorrow as if he just wanted to find someone to talk to.

However, Eric did not have the slightest intention to share his experience with Keith, so Keith felt disappointed.

In the end, Keith could only leave in sadness.

Half an hour later.

Eric called Mitchell. His tone was harsh.

"Contact Keith and buy that bar. If there are any punks nearby, beat them all up!"

"Yes, sir." Mitchell wondered if Eric was doing this for the sake of buying the bar or for beating people up.

Chapter 657 Newly Promoted Budding Young Actor

Nearing the New Year.

Nicole handed over the company's affairs to others and engaged in more social activities.

They arranged some unimportant events in the days before the New Year since everyone would be busy after the New Year.

Grant was dealing with their overseas business while Nicole handled the domestic affairs.

Floyd brought Kai and Lil Michael to do some New Year shopping. The superstar was often photographed going in and out of major supermarkets around the city.

Maverick also had some time off from his research institute, but he was never in the mood to celebrate the New Year. Floyd had to call Maverick several times to make sure that he would be home for the New Year.

Finally, it was New Year's Eve.

Nicole gave everyone a holiday and was the last one to leave the office.

As soon as she went downstairs, she saw Clayton standing at the door.

After a long time of not seeing him, Clayton was still so gentle and modest, which gave off a very comforting feeling.

However, there seemed to be an imperceptible gloom in his eyes.

Upon closer look, Nicole felt like she was mistaken.

Clayton smiled. "I wanna pick up Lil Michael, but my car was driven away by the driver. Do you mind giving me a ride?"

Nicole raised her eyebrows. Of course, she did not mind.

In the car.

Nicole drove them. Clayton received a phone call and looked a little impatient.

"Now? Alright then."

After Clayton got off the phone, he looked at her.

Nicole asked, "What's so urgent?"

"There's a private auction with a collection that I've been eyeing for a long time..."

Nicole chuckled. "It's still early, so let's go over and take a look."

Generally, such private auctions were not open to the public. The timing was also very random and depended on the mood of the host.

The items sold were mostly collectors' items, which were put up for auction for some reason and were very rare.

Clayton looked at her gratefully. "Ms. Stanton, you're so beautiful inside and out. I wish you all the best for the new year!"

Nicole laughed. "I'd rather you wish that I'd soon become the richest person in the world!"

Clayton paused for a moment and laughed.

What a realistic wish!

They arrived at the auction venue, which was a private clubhouse.

Clayton showed his identification, and the two of them went straight in.

There were not many people, but there were quite a few people inside that were

familiar faces to Nicole.

When the acquaintances came over to exchange pleasantries, Nicole politely greeted them.

Nicole swept a glance and was stunned to see an unexpected person.

Old Master Ferguson!

The old man was surrounded by people. He was the center of attention because of his high status and undiminished power.

So many people went over to greet Old Master Ferguson that they could form a human wall.

Old Master Ferguson also saw Nicole. His sharp eyes narrowed as he appeared in front of Nicole.

He looked at Clayton, who was next to Nicole, with obvious displeasure on his face, but he quickly covered it up.

"Nicole, what a coincidence to see you here at this auction. This gentleman looks familiar. Is he another budding young actor that you're promoting in the entertainment industry?"

There was sarcasm in his words.

Clayton laughed and was not the slightest bit angry. He was courteous.

"Sir, my name is Clayton Sloan, and I'm not from the entertainment industry."

Nicole's face was unpleasant because she knew that Old Master Ferguson was deliberately giving them a hard time.

She nodded detachedly and took Clayton's arm to leave.

Old Master Ferguson's face was clearly unhappy.

"Nicole, I haven't seen your father in a long time. Say hello to him for me. I'll visit the Stanton Mansion after the New Year."

According to the Medianian culture, people who had dealings with each other were bound to visit each other for the New Year.

In the past, the Stantons and Fergusons had no relationship, but this year was different.

They were in a cooperative relationship.

Nicole held back the discomfort in her heart and forced a smile. "Chairman Ferguson, you're most welcome to visit us."

Old Master Ferguson said, "If you see an item that you like, don't be polite and consider it a New Year's gift from me, your elder."

He really held on to the look of an elder, but Nicole really did not care for it.

She hooked her lips. "No need. The partnership between our families has always been a balance of interests, so how can I take advantage of the Ferguson family?"

Chapter 658 Mr. Ferguson in the Center

Nicole's words were a slap in the face for the Fergusons. When she was married to Eric Ferguson, the Fergusons were afraid that she spent a penny more of their money.

Now that she was divorced, Old Master Ferguson wanted to give her an expensive New Year's gift?

That was a little too ridiculous.

The old man also heard the taunt in Nicole's words. His expression changed dramatically, and the furrow between his eyebrows deepened.

Just when Nicole thought that he would burst out in anger, Old Master Ferguson laughed.

"We're family, so there's no such thing as taking advantage. You're still too young, child."

Nicole raised her eyebrows in surprise, but she did not intend to look into the old man's change in attitude.

She glanced at Clayton, who tacitly went forward to hold her waist gently.

"Let's go in. Goodbye, Chairman Ferguson."

Nicole and Clayton's interaction was intimate and was very piercing to Old Master Ferguson.

'Clayton Sloan? Hah! What kind of person dares to compare with Eric?' The old man beckoned to someone, who immediately came forward.

"Get Eric to hurry up and come to the auction."

His subordinate immediately understood. "Yes, sir."

Nicole was feeling a hint of discomfort because of that hand behind her back, but she still had a faint smile plastered on her face.

Once inside, Clayton withdrew his hand very decently and touched her gently with his arm.

Nicole breathed a sigh of relief and smiled tacitly as she took his arm.

They stood in the dim light. The whole venue looked mysterious and grand.

Only a beam of light in the middle could be seen hitting the cylindrical podium.

The distance made it easy to see the auction items clearly, but it also carried an expensive sense of distance.

It started in less than five minutes.

In total, there were only three auction items.

The first was an antique vase from the 16th century that looked well-treasured with a strong sense of history.

This was unsurprisingly taken by Old Master Ferguson, who always liked to collect these valuable antiques.

The second item was a bidding contract.

This was getting interesting.

Nicole raised her eyebrows.

A contract that won the bid but was transferred again came with both risks and benefits.

It seemed that Clayton's purpose was this contract.

As expected, Clayton raised his hand to increase the bid.

Just when it came to \$230 million, there was no one left to compete with Clayton.

After all, very few knew the contents of this contract. Thus, they might lose their family's assets if the contract comes at a loss.

"\$230 million going once! \$230 million going twice! \$230 million..."

"\$300 million!"

A familiar and indifferent voice came from the entrance with undisguised dominance and chill.

"It's Mr. Ferguson?"

"Mr. Ferguson is here?"

"Mr. Ferguson is also interested in this contract?"

.....

Everyone consciously gave the center seat to Eric.

Clayton did not have any reaction. There was no regret or anger as if he had already expected it.

Nicole pursed her lips and stood there without making a sound.

After Eric came in, he looked at Nicole for a moment before he coldly swept a glance at Clayton with a ruthless intent in his eyes.

However, Eric withdrew his gaze and looked at the host with indifference and detachment.

The host reacted and immediately said, "\$300 million going once..."

Clayton had no intention of competing with Eric.

Nicole even felt anxious for him. "Are you still bidding?"

Clayton smiled warmly as he looked down at her. "Ms. Stanton, are you feeling anxious for me?"

"You're not?"

"It's useless to be anxious."

Clayton collected his smile and glanced at Eric.

His company's capital flow had already been restricted, and this contract could not go through his private accounts. Otherwise, it would attract unnecessary attention.

With the current situation, Clayton could not compete with Eric on a contract for the time being.

Eric should know better than him too.

Nicole saw this and stopped speaking.

If Clayton wanted this contract, Stanton Corporation could lend a helping hand, but he did not mention it, so Nicole had no reason to rush to make an offer.

"\$300 million sold!"

Chapter 659 Do You Not Like It?

"Congratulations, Mr. Ferguson!"

"Congratulations..."

.....

Everyone seemed to be interested in this brief exchange, but it was quickly forgotten.

The third item in the auction was an astonishingly beautiful string of black pearls.

It was a vintage necklace with three 15 mm black paragon pearls that had a natural bronze hue to it. It was precious, rare, elegant, and flawless. There was not even a reference price on the market because it was shockingly expensive and rare.

The necklace was lying in the white box, emitting a cold light.

Everyone in the venue seemed to hold their breaths.

Industry experts knew that this necklace was worth a fortune.

The value even exceeded the sum of the previous two auction items!

After a moment of silence, the host smiled. "There's no starting price, so please bid freely."

There was no question that this necklace had no marked price.

After some commotion, people began to bid one after another.

"\$10 million..."

"\$20 million..."

.....

Nicole only stared at the necklace for a moment. It was impossible not to be amazed, but she also knew that even if she bought this, it would only stay on the shelves with little practical use.

What was more, Nicole did not want to come to the limelight in today's auction.

Just as Nicole was thinking carefully, Clayton, who was beside her, suddenly raised his hand.

"\$50 million."

Nicole was stunned.

Immediately after that, Eric's low voice rang out. "\$70 million."

Clayton continued. "\$80 million."

Eric followed. "\$100 million."

The value of this necklace was different from the last bidding contract. The last one was a money-generating business, and this was a collector's item.

This necklace was already considered very expensive to be auctioned at this price.

Clayton had no intention to be modest and surprisingly raised his hand again. "\$150 million..."

The crowd sighed.

Except for Eric and Clayton, no one wanted to continue the bid.

Eric's aura was stern. He did not let up at all. "\$200 million..."

He just spent \$300 million on the bidding contract, and now he wanted to take out another \$200 million to buy this necklace.

Everyone sighed at Eric's powerful background and staggeringly strong financial standing that was not to be underestimated.

Just when everyone thought that Clayton would give up, he smiled with gentle eyes.

"\$300 million..."

The atmosphere was extremely heated. Everyone did not dare to make a sound.

There was no doubt that this was the top auction price for this string of black pearls. This value, at \$300 million, was enough to become the news headlines.

Nicole could not help but look over to Clayton.

"You want to buy this?"

Clayton's bid for the contract stopped at \$230 million and was snatched away by Eric, but he wanted to spend \$300 million to buy this necklace?

Nicole's throat twitched slightly. Not only her, but everyone found it a bit unbelievable.

Clayton lowered his head and smiled at her.

"Well, it's pretty, isn't it?"

'Just because it's pretty?' Nicole thought.

"\$400 million..." Eric's tone was icy.

Nicole looked at Eric, whose face was glum and looked like he was determined to get what was in front of him.

The so-called price was just a string of numbers for Eric.

Seeing the two men's confrontation, Nicole could really feel their financial strength.

She looked at Clayton and thought that he was simply no match for Eric Ferguson.

Nicole hesitantly spoke, "Mr. Sloan, I don't think it's necessary to buy this..."

Clayton froze for a moment. "Do you not like it?"

Nicole was stunned. 'What does it matter if I like it or not?'

With such explicit words, Nicole was a fool if she did not understand Clayton's intentions.

Chapter 660 Mysterious Big Shot

When Nicole heard Clayton's words, her heart thumped. She suddenly felt very complicated.

She looked at Clayton and suddenly understood that his purpose for attending the auction today was not the contract, which was the second auction item, but this string of black pearls in front of her.

All of a sudden, Nicole felt a little touched.

In the next second, Clayton raised his hand again. His voice was gentle and calm, without the slightest pressure.

"\$500 million..."

Eric's harsh eyes swept over, and Clayton met his gaze with just a faint smile.

The two men's temperaments were clearly very different, but at this time, they were on par and uncompromising.

Nicole understood that Eric might just want to compete, targeting Clayton, who was beside her.

She opened her mouth and wanted to stop this unwarranted game of dispute.

However, she heard the host shockingly interrupting the bidding.

"Ladies and gentlemen, a mysterious bid came in from a foreign channel for \$880 million. Is there anyone who would like to bid a higher price than this?"

When the words fell, there was silence all around the room.

Even Eric's face sank.

So did Clayton's.

Nicole, however, was relieved.

It was not that she could not afford this. It was probably a small amount for Eric and Clayton.

It was just that when she watched them bid, she felt extraordinarily awkward.

No matter who won the bid, it would not end well.

Eric and Clayton were both hesitant to continue bidding.

Nicole cleared her throat and spoke in a warm voice.

"Since there's a mysterious big shot abroad who wants it so much, I think it must be of great significance to them, so I think it's better to let them have it."

The crowd hurriedly echoed.

"Yes..."

"Ms. Stanton is right!"

"That foreigner might be a friend, so let's not create unnecessary conflict."

.....

Eric was also torn. He did not want to let Clayton get his way because Clayton probably wanted to use this as a show of goodwill to Nicole.

However, Nicole did not look like she was interested.

'Forget it, I'll let that foreigner have it.' Eric thought.

The host said, "\$880 million going once! \$880 million going twice! \$880 million sold!"

The dust settled.

The third auction item was sold to the mysterious big shot who refused to disclose their real name, so everyone secretly speculated without any clues.

Clayton returned empty-handed. He did not feel regretful but a little guilty.

At the moment, he had several important projects that were in precarious situations, and their international partnership needed urgent repair. Thus, he could not rashly continue bidding lest he offended a friend.

"I'm really sorry, Ms. Stanton. It was meant to be a New Year gift for you."

Nicole was stunned. She then quickly shook her head and smiled. "It's too expensive, Mr. Sloan. I wouldn't dare to accept it."

Just as she said this, she saw Eric walking towards them.

Eric's gloomy eyes swept over Clayton and landed on Nicole.

"Are you going out for New Year's?"

Eric said casually and naturally.

Nicole raised her eyebrows. "No."

Eric was satisfied with this answer. "Are you having dinner at home for New Year's Eve?"

Generally, affluent families like theirs would not miss the opportunity to gather and would usually have New Year's Eve dinner together. Some even chartered hotels to celebrate the New Year.

However, Nicole's family was extremely homey. They usually ate New Year's Eve dinner at home.

Some of the maids were on vacation, leaving only the butler and an older maid, so the task of preparing for New Year's Eve dinner this year fell on Kai.

Nicole nodded and was just about to leave when Eric suddenly spoke.

"I have a document in my car that Gerard asked me to pass to you. Come with me to get it."

After that, he left, looking tall and upright.

Nicole frowned. 'This guy with his bossy attitude... Who does he think that he's ordering around?'

Chapter 661 You Bit Me

Nicole rolled her eyes, but she did not intend to fight with Eric here. She looked at Clayton.

"Wait for me. I'll be right back."

Clayton nodded. "I'll get the car."

Nicole agreed and handed Clayton her car keys before following Eric.

Eric had just walked to the car when he turned to stare at Nicole with his dark and deep eyes.

"What gift do you want?"

Nicole's eyes narrowed. Her tone was dull. "Where are the documents?"

"Tell me what you want first."

"You lied to me?!"

Nicole sneered, then turned around and walked away.

Eric pursed his lips. The moment she left, he suddenly reached out and tugged her arm, pulling her backward and pressing her against the car.

He propped one hand behind her. His gaze was cold and sullen as he looked at her. His cool breath surrounded Nicole and was the source of the burst of chills she felt.

The driver in the car shuddered and thought, 'Should I pretend that I'm invisible?'

Nicole looked at Eric with a dull expression. Her tone was icy.

"Eric Ferguson, are you crazy?"

Eric's jaw was tense. The suppressed emotions in his eyes unconsciously leaked out.

"I've been crazy for a long time, Nicole. Why are you getting so close to him again?"

Eric looked at her and reached out to touch her face, but Nicole dodged it with a tilt of her head.

He lowered his eyes and hid his disappointment. His fingers caressed her earlobe and gently pinched it.

Eric let out a light laugh next to her ear. His voice was magnetic, mellow, and seductive, but with a burst of coldness.

"It's not just today's bid. If he doesn't know how to cut his losses in time, I can sooner or later make him lose all his power abroad."

Nicole suddenly raised her eyes and looked at him. Eric's stern and paranoid face did not look like he was joking.

Eric saw her surprised look and thought that she was very cute. His heart was slightly moved.

He lowered his head and wanted to kiss her.

Nicole subconsciously wanted to turn away, but a large hand tightly pinched her chin.

The next second, his cool lips covered hers with an unquestionable ruthlessness. A faint minty flavor put her in a trance for a moment. This was the taste of Eric's aggressiveness.

Nicole suddenly felt a chill throughout her body as she shivered slightly. She looked at him as if she was not the one involved.

Eric's eyes were bloodshot as he stared at her. The corners of his eyes were slightly

red.

He was angry and more upset.

However, he could not tell her that he was sad, so he wanted to punish her in this intimate way to show her his dissatisfaction and distress.

Eric saw Nicole's calm eyes and felt his heart shrinking fiercely. Nicole was not angry or sad.

She just looked at him like he was a stranger.

Suddenly, Eric bit her hard on the lips.

Nicole's eyebrows knitted up. She shuddered in pain and slapped him.

"Slap—"

Eric's face had five distinct fingerprints. It was quite wonderful.

The atmosphere was stagnant.

He hissed as his eyes sank, but he soon flashed a light and loose smile.

He touched her lips that he bit with his long fingers. Her light lipstick instantly became a bright red, which made her already delicate skin look even fairer.

Nicole kept an aloof, high, and mighty temperament. Her eyes were cold as she glared at him.

She looked furious.

On the contrary, Eric was extraordinarily happy, as if his gloomy mood from the auction earlier was swept away.

A kiss for a slap, fair and square. 🍷

Eric looked at the wound on her lips and started to feel heartbroken.

"Does it hurt?" He asked in a low, hoarse voice.

Nicole saw how Eric's mood changed from being angry, sad, and now sympathetic.

"Why didn't I realize before how much this son of a b*tch can act?"

She laughed in exasperation. It was cold as hell.

"It doesn't hurt. Why don't you bite yourself?"

Although Eric was scolded, he was even happier.

He came closer to her and said in a deep and cold voice, "You can bite me."

Chapter 662 Scared to Be Seen

Eric's irritating face was right in front of Nicole's eyes. Nicole looked at it with cold eyes and was not polite.

When Eric let down his guard, Nicole lifted her leg and kicked him fiercely.

Eric's leg with the old injury trembled violently, which made him take two steps backwards. He looked at her in shock.

She really kicked him hard!

Nicole's gaze was icy cold. He was finally a safe range away from her, which was reassuring. ❶

She reached out and touched her lips with her slender fingers. She wiped away the blood in a swift motion and made it seem like those traces never existed at all.

Her gaze landed on him without the slightest heartache or guilt. Instead, she sneered.

"Are you a dog? Eric Ferguson, if this happens again, I'll cripple your leg."

Her tone was extremely cold. She was not joking.

Eric's eyes flinched.

He used this tone when he was lecturing others, but now, Nicole used it to lecture him.

Nicole was not bothered to glance at him and turned to leave as she wiped her lips in disgust.

Eric held his injured leg and smiled coldly.

"Are you scared to be seen by Clayton?"

Nicole paused for a moment, then left without the slightest hesitation.

Eric narrowed his eyes. A hostility rose fiercely in his eyes.

Eric's driver finally stopped playing dead and stumbled out of the car to help Eric.

He saw everything that happened from the inside of the car and thought, 'Ms. Stanton is really brutal!' ❷

"Mr. Ferguson, are you alright? I'll contact the doctor to wait at home..."

Eric's eyebrows converged. He waved away the driver's hand and went into the car.

There was still a long time to come. Eric did not believe that Clayton would marry Nicole so soon.

"Contact Mitchell. Tell him to investigate who bought the black pearl and buy it back."

The driver nodded. "Yes, sir."

No matter how he looked at it, he felt that such a beautiful black pearl necklace should be worn by Nicole.

Only she was worthy.

.....

Nicole got into the car with a cold frown. Clayton, who was the driver, turned to look at her.

Suddenly, he saw that her complexion was off. Her lips were more gaudy than before and somewhat swollen.

He was stunned for a moment. However, he quickly regained a gentle and warm gaze as if nothing happened.

Clayton smiled and asked, "You didn't get the documents back?"

Nicole froze and saw her two empty hands. 'What bullsh*t document! I will never trust that son of a b*tch again!'

"No."

Clayton smiled and started the car. "It seems that Mr. Ferguson is jealous."

Nicole raised her eyebrows and laughed coldly. "He's just crazy!"

After a while, Nicole asked him, "Didn't you want that bidding contract?"

Clayton smiled gently without any emotion.

He seemed to anticipate that she would ask this.

"Yes, but it's not a must-have."

Nicole paused and thought of Eric's warning words earlier.

"If you need it, I can get it back for you."

Clayton's smile deepened as his voice unconsciously turned gentle.

"No need. Even if I get that contract, I currently don't have the time or heart to care about it. I still have to go to Liberty after the New Year because there's some trouble there."

Nicole's chest sank slightly and subconsciously associated it with Eric.

"Is it a big problem?"

"It's a small problem. A few friends wanted to disband, so we gotta divide the assets properly..."

Nicole nodded and breathed a sigh of relief. 'That's good...'

They arrived at the Stanton Mansion.

The butler had already decorated the Stanton Mansion inside and outside in a cheerful manner. Kai took Lil Michael to the swing in the yard.

Floyd was standing at the entrance, talking on the phone in a very loud voice as he contacted some relatives to come over for the New Year.

As soon as Clayton and Nicole got out of the car, Lil Michael's eyes lit up. He ran over and left Kai behind.

"Daddy..."

Clayton's heart felt warm. He immediately squatted down, intending to carry Lil Michael and spin the boy around.

However, Lil Michael changed his direction and jumped into Nicole's arms.

"Pretty Lady! I miss you so much! I haven't seen you since last night..."

His father, who he had not seen in half a month, was speechless.

Chapter 663 What Happened to Your Lip?

Nicole carried Lil Michael for a while and spun him around. She ran out of strength, so she put him down and stroked his soft curly hair.

"Lil Michael, go say hello to Daddy."

Lil Michael nodded obediently and went to Clayton, then cupped his father's face and planted a big kiss on his cheek.

"Daddy, I miss you so much..."

The boy's tone was so perfunctory!

Clayton's smile looked like he was trying to cope with it. He had a feeling that he raised an ingrate.

"Although I don't quite believe it, since it's the New Year, I forgive you."

He reached out and pinched Lil Michael's cheeks as he laughed.

Lil Michael bounced around and went back to Nicole's side, taking her soft, pretty hand as he squinted his eyes.

"Pretty Lady, I prepared a gift for you! It'll come soon..."

Nicole blinked. "I have a gift for you too!"

Floyd hung up the phone and stood there as he beckoned to them. "Come on in! Don't let Lil Michael catch a cold!"

The forgotten Nicole was speechless.

Kai ran over gleefully. "Haha! You're out of favor!"

Nicole rolled her eyes. "Sour grapes!"

Kai froze and felt like beating his sister up.

They walked over. Clayton greeted Floyd politely, to which Floyd nodded in response. Floyd swept a glance at Nicole's face and stopped for a moment.

"Lil N, what happened to your lip?"

Originally, everyone did not notice it, but when Floyd mentioned it, everyone looked over.

Nicole unnaturally pursed her lips and glared at Kai, who was smirking.

"I accidentally bumped into something."

Kai smiled playfully. His gaze swept over Clayton, who came over with Nicole.

"This excuse is a bit far-fetched, right?"

Floyd's face was cold as he kicked Kai. "You dare to talk to your sister like that?!"

Kai raised his hands in surrender and smiled humbly. "Dad, I was wrong!"

Nicole snorted coldly and walked inside.

In her heart, she cursed Eric Ferguson a million times.

Floyd looked at Clayton with a complicated gaze that was clearly not as amiable as just now.

Clayton only lowered his head and said nothing.

Lil Michael puffed up his cheeks in anger as he looked at Clayton with disdain.

"Daddy, I won't forgive you if you bully Pretty Lady!"

Clayton was dumbstruck and looked at him. "Do you still know your last name?!"

Lil Michael snorted arrogantly. "I will uphold justice regardless of blood relations!"

The butler welcomed everyone inside. He keenly noticed that the corners of Nicole's lips were bruised, but looking at Nicole's face, he did not dare to ask anything more.

"Miss, what would you like to eat?"

Nicole said, "No need, I'll just have a cup of coffee."

"Okay."

The butler politely went to ask Clayton, "What would you like to drink, Mr. Sloan?"

"The same, thanks."

The butler did not need to ask Floyd and Kai since they had been eating and drinking at home all day.

Floyd coughed and looked at Clayton.

"Mr. Sloan, did you come to pick up Michael?"

Clayton pursed his lips and nodded. "Yes, according to custom, we shouldn't disturb you for New Year's Eve."

Lil Michael's features were scrunched up as he was nervous.

He did not want to leave.

This was the first New Year's Eve with his pretty lady, so he wanted to countdown with her.

Floyd looked at Lil Michael longingly. In fact, he wanted Lil Michael to stay.

However, if the boy stayed back, Clayton must also stay.

Their relatives would come over in a moment, so if another man and child counted down to the New Year with them, gossip would certainly spread.

It would not be good for Nicole.

Chapter 664 You're the Big Shot

Just when Floyd was torn, Clayton's phone rang. Clayton's expression changed when he saw the number.

Clayton stood up, excused himself, and walked out to answer the phone.

Floyd looked at Nicole with difficulty.

Nicole's expression was light. She could not see what Floyd was thinking because her mind was not there.

Kai also did not know about Floyd's dilemma.

In less than half a minute, Clayton walked in with a gentle face and waved toward Lil Michael.

"Susan wants to talk to you. Come and take this call."

Susan was Lil Michael's maid.

Lil Michael frowned as he went over. 'Why didn't Susan contact me directly?'

He looked at his empty wrist. 'Oh, right... My watch just fell into the swimming pool!'

The boy followed Clayton out the door.

When he reached out to take the phone, Clayton did not give it to him. Instead, Clayton's smile somewhat faded.

"Just now, there's a foreign transaction that came from you that's \$880 million. What did you buy?"

Lil Michael lazily squinted his eyes. "Daddy, you tricked me to come out just to say this?"

Clayton glared at him. "Isn't this amount worth asking?"

Lil Michael replied, "I just bought a New Year's gift."

Clayton asked dubiously, "For me?"

The boy smiled slyly. "Daddy, what do you think?"

Obviously not!

Clayton looked at his son, speechless.

"It's for Pretty Lady, of course!"

When Clayton heard that it was for Nicole, his face instantly softened.

"What did you buy?"

Lil Michael's eyes rolled around playfully. "A black pearl necklace!"

Clayton's face stiffened.

"So, you're the mysterious big shot?!"

\$880 million for a black pearl necklace.

Everything matched up. It was such a coincidence!

That black pearl necklace that gained all the attention at the auction was finally auctioned off by the mysterious big shot from abroad.

Even Eric did not continue to compete with the bidding.

Clayton did not expect that the mysterious big shot would turn out to be his son.

Lil Michael looked at his father in confusion. "What mysterious big shot? I'm a big shot just by buying a necklace?"

Clayton's expression suddenly became complicated. For a moment, he did not know what to say.

Even he, as a father, lost to Lil Michael completely.

"Taking my money to please a girl... What a good son, huh?"

However, thinking that it was for Nicole, Clayton had nothing to say.

He had intended to give this to her in the first place, but his son got to it first.

Clayton was speechless.

After a while, Clayton's mood eased.

"Daddy can't stay here for the New Year because I need to go to Liberty later. Do you wanna come with me or stay here?"

"Of course I'm staying!"

Lil Michael spoke decisively.

Clayton should have known the answer, but he only humiliated himself by asking this question.

He pursed his lips and walked in again, then shamelessly asked the Stantons to take in his heartless little ungrateful son.

Floyd heard this and thought that it was just to his liking.

"No problem! You can let him stay in our house without worry. We'll definitely take good care of him!"

Floyd almost raised his hand and swore.

Clayton smiled gently. "Then sorry to trouble you, Chairman Stanton."

He looked at Nicole with tender eyes. "I'll see you after the New Year."

Nicole nodded. "See you next year!"

Originally, Nicole was wondering what kind of urgent matters he had that he needed to leave at this time.

However, Nicole looked at the blonde-haired boy and suddenly realized that Clayton raised Lil Michael overseas, so the New Year was not that big of an occasion as it was in Mediana.

To Clayton and Lil Michael, the New Year was probably just a normal day.

Lil Michael joyfully sat next to his pretty lady and waved at Clayton.

"See you after the New Year, Daddy!"

Hehe...

Chapter 665 Hit and Scold Me

Clayton smiled and looked at Nicole hesitantly, wanting to say something.

Nicole saw this and stood up, then casually took a shawl and draped it over her body.

"I'll walk you out."

The two went to the door and handed him the car keys.

Clayton was stunned and shook his head with a smile.

"My driver will pick me up soon. I just want to talk to you alone."

Nicole paused for a moment and raised her eyes to look at him. This man was most attractive when he smiled gently, as if the whole world could shine brightly because of it.

She pursed her lips and said in a calm voice, "What do you wanna say?"

Clayton smiled with his eyes. "Nicole, can I call you by your first name?"

Nicole frowned and thought, 'I never said that he can't call me Nicole...'

"It's up to you."

It was just a name anyway.

Without her jacket and only a shawl, she looked so warm.

This warmth made her look softer, and her eyes were relaxed like a girl next door, not the strong and influential woman she was in the industry.

This contrast made Clayton feel a little heartbroken.

He bowed his head and chuckled, "Always calling you Ms. Stanton makes me feel like

"I'm making no progress and that we're not close."

Unconsciously, he told her what was in his heart.

Nicole wrinkled her eyebrows. "We're not very close anyway..."

She remembered that she had made her stance extremely clear and did not lead him on.

"We're already friends, right?" Clayton did not know whether to cry or laugh.

Nicole nodded. She misunderstood him.

"Then you can call me by my name."

The corner of Clayton's lips curled up into a gentle arc. He playfully said her name, "Nicole."

Nicole raised her eyes to look at him and felt that he was being a little weird today, but she could not pinpoint it.

His eyes were bright, gentle, and modest, and reflected Nicole's figure.

At this moment, a trace of strange emotions crossed his eyes.

When Nicole was exploring what it might be, Clayton took a step forward and hugged her. His broad shoulders and warm embrace stunned Nicole.

After she came to her senses, she frowned and intended to reach out and push him away, but Clayton had already let go of her.

Nicole's gaze grew cold because Clayton was overstepping his bounds.

"Mr. Sloan..."

Clayton curled his lips into a bitter and astringent smile.

"I'm sorry. I just feel really dejected that I'm not qualified to intervene even after Eric

Ferguson treated you that way. I admit that I was overwhelmed by jealousy, so you can hit and scold me if you want."

After crossing the line, Clayton had the grace to admit his mistake like a gentleman.

Clayton would never take something by force or deception.

Nicole wrinkled her eyebrows and was a little dumbfounded. For a moment, she did not know what to say.

Eric was certainly hateful, but seeing Clayton like this, Nicole did not know how to respond.

If she kept rejecting him, it would hurt his feelings, especially since they were inextricably linked with a partnership involving all sorts of interests.

Looking at her torn expression, Clayton smiled and reached out to touch her hair, moving gently.

"I'm just making an excuse for my misconduct. Don't get too tangled up."

Nicole breathed a sigh of relief and raised her eyes to look at him. "Mr. Sloan, don't make such jokes in the future."

Such tenderness was too easy to indulge in, and she did not need pampering right now.

Clayton raised an eyebrow and did not answer her words. Instead, he changed the topic.

"If you don't wanna hit or scold me, I'll get going."

He turned his head to the side and saw that his driver had arrived at the entrance of the Stanton Mansion.

Nicole naturally saw it too.

"Have a good trip."

Nicole waved without hesitation and flashed a perfunctory and polite smile.

Clayton laughed. 'She also wants me to hurry up and leave like Lil Michael?'

Looking at her, Clayton's heart felt tickled.

Once again, he went up, cupped her face, and planted a light kiss on her bare white forehead.

Clayton could see it clearly.

Nicole's feelings for Eric were so complex that even she did not know exactly what it was.

She used to love Eric so deeply like a moth to a flame.

Even though her heart was ashen, Eric saved her time and time again, and his words remorse and love still felt like rocks smashing into her heart.

Eric once again barged into her world without question, wanting to redeem himself and apologize.

Nicole heard it, but she dared not and could not respond.

She struggled and hesitated, but in the end, her resentment still took the upper hand.

How could she let herself become a joke?

The pain Eric brought her was enough to sober her up for life.

One would be lucky to meet and have love in their life, but without love, it was not necessarily unfortunate.

Therefore, Nicole did not want to have expectations of anyone anymore, including Clayton.

At that moment, Clayton saw Nicole's struggle. The more she tried to forget Eric, the more Eric's strength became omnipresent.

Nicole's heart was beating violently. Her expression became glum and disheartened.

"Fall in love with another person? Who? You, Mr. Sloan?"

Clayton hesitated for half a second. "It's not impossible."

Chapter 666 Men Have No Prospects

Nicole felt like a feather brushed over her heart. It was gentle and restrained, but with a surging and rich love.

Clayton was happy yet careful.

Nicole was stunned for a moment as she did not seem to expect Clayton to make such a quick comeback again. However, his kiss carried a light scent of fresh grass that could not help but indulge in.

In less than a second, Clayton took a step back. The intense love in his eyes was suppressed and restrained.

His eyes were light as he held a faint smile. His voice was warm and clear, like a spring breeze brushing through her heart.

"Nicole, do you know how to completely forget a person?"

Nicole's body was tense. Her face was slightly cold, and her obsidian eyes were dark and heavy.

She did not want to indulge in the warm embrace of a man she did not know too well.

Thus, her tone carried a warning and detachment. "Mr. Sloan..."

Clayton interrupted her. His eyebrows were sunken. "It's to fall in love with another person."

He told her the answer straightforwardly.

Nicole's heart trembled fiercely, as if her unseen emotions that were suppressed at the bottom of her heart were crushed into dust.

He would love that.

Clayton was like warm water that seeped into her life, wanting to surround her.

Nicole let out a light laugh with a chill in her eyes.

"I won't waste my time on men, like an investment with no prospects that can be listed if I'm lucky. If not, it's just bad luck."

Her words were so blunt. Nicole was very rational.

Emotions and love were troublesome.

Thus, Nicole simply refused.

Clayton's eyes flickered as he took a step forward.

Nicole subconsciously frowned and stepped back to avoid another surprise attack from him.

Clayton's eyes had a slight disappointment. He curled his lips and said in a hoarse voice, "Nicole, I have prospects. You won't lose out if you invest in me."

In the end, Nicole had no confidence in him because she had no sense of security.

Only the Stanton family was her biggest support.

Nicole's eyebrows quivered abruptly, but she quickly regained her composure.

"Goodbye, Mr. Sloan."

She did not want to continue this conversation.

Clayton raised his eyebrows and took a step back.

His eyes were gentle and dotting. "Goodbye, Nicole."

'Goodbye, my Ms. Stanton.'

From the time she rejected Eric, Clayton was confident that he could win her over.

Chapter 667 Stabbed

Clayton was pervasive in Nicole's life, like warm water that soaked through her and gradually became indispensable, which was the best way for him to win her over.

He also did not know how he became so attached to a woman.

It was probably because his love for her was overwhelming.

Therefore, no matter what evil tricks Eric threw at him, Clayton would not let go of Nicole.

As soon as Clayton left, Nicole stood in the cold wind for a moment before heading back inside.

Everyone was once again immersed in the lively atmosphere.

Floyd even rolled up his sleeves and went into the kitchen himself, preparing the ingredients with Lil Michael while the butler helped out with a smile.

As soon as Nicole entered, Kai shoved an apron to her and winked at her.

Nicole then followed him into the kitchen.

Kai did not really expect Nicole to work. He was busy making dessert while Nicole just stood there with her arms wrapped around her, watching quietly.

He chuckled. "Lil N, what did Clayton say to you outside?"

Nicole pursed her lips. When she recalled that hug and kiss just now, her face blushed unconsciously.

"What does it have to do with you?"

"I'm warning you. Although Dad likes Lil Michael, it doesn't mean that he likes Lil Michael's daddy. If the heiress of Stanton Corporation marries an old man with a

child, what will happen to our reputation?"

Nicole snorted and frowned. "What does my marriage have to do with your reputation? It's none of your business who I want to marry."

"Fine, fine... I'm being superficial. True love is invaluable..."

Kai looked like he wanted to gag.

Nicole pursed her lips. "Nothing's going on between us, so don't talk nonsense."

She wanted to clarify her relationship with Clayton.

Kai paused in his movements. "It's New Year's Eve. Shouldn't you pay respects to your friends?"

Nicole laughed when she heard that.

'Friends? Or Julie? I guess that's Kai's real purpose?'

"K, if you miss Julie, just say it. Since it's New Year, you can pay her a visit."

Kai frowned and put down the things in his hand. He solemnly condemned her.

"How can you not do anything when you took my money? That's too unfair! She has no one at home, so she must be so lonely for New Year's. As her friend, you should take the initiative to invite her here for New Year's!"

Nicole was moved by his words. Although Kai looked calm on the surface even after not contacting Julie for a few days, his heart was going crazy.

She took Kai's black card to spend lavishly, but she forgot about Kai's misery.

At once, Nicole felt a little guilty.

"But... What if she wants to spend New Year's Eve with Roman?"

Julie had a boyfriend, so she would certainly want to spend New Year's Eve with her

boyfriend.

Kai glared at Nicole fiercely. She just had to stab him in the heart. What was the use of having this sister?

He looked at her disappointingly and angrily.

"I've checked. Roman went abroad for a fashion show, so Julie is left alone here."

'Nicole really didn't care about her friend!' Kai thought.

Nicole smiled shyly and hurriedly took out her phone. "I'll ask her. Don't worry, I'll definitely pick her up."

The call was answered.

Nicole went straight to the point. "Jules, come to my house for New Year's Eve!"

Julie said, "No, thanks. I plan to go on vacation abroad."

Nicole sighed.

"Jules, don't lie to me. The first day of the year is your mother's death anniversary, so you won't go abroad. We have some relatives coming over in a while, so you're not the only one. I'll go pick you up!"

Julie was silent. "Okay, I'll go by myself. You don't have to come."

Nicole hung up the phone and took a deep breath.

In the past few years, Julie would spend the New Year with her grandmother. When her grandmother passed away, she was left alone.

Floyd would often ask Nicole to call Julie over for the holidays in the past, but ever since Julie and Kai broke up, Julie never came over again.

It seemed that her relationship with Kai had been a thorn in her heart.

Kai ran over with a jolt and looked at Nicole with a sweet smile on his face.

"Lil N, did she say yes?"

Chapter 668 Bad Habits

Nicole rolled her eyes at Kai. "She's coming soon."

Kai regained his spirits and was even more excited to get back to the kitchen work.

Tigger was draped in an expensive Gucci silk scarf, and it had a valuable watch that Kai no longer wanted on one of its legs. The little tiger made its rounds throughout the Stanton Mansion with a big grin on its face.

Hearing Floyd's bold and spirited laughter outside, Nicole was shocked for a moment and went out to see what was going on.

It turned out that her second brother, Maverick, had returned.

Not just him, but also Molly Stewart.

The two of them came inside hand in hand and were obviously in a good relationship. Nicole clicked her tongue.

"I always thought that Maverick would be single for life! Now, he's the first among us to get into a relationship?"

Kai wiped his hands and came out. Seeing this scene, he also felt a sizable blow.

Floyd told everyone to come out and greet them at the door.


Nicole and Kai looked at each other and hurriedly stood there obediently. Even Grant, who was working in the study, was called over.

Tigger stood at Nicole's feet, wagging its tail, and looked up at Molly Stewart. "Mean Molly!"

Molly glared at the tiger, then put on a bright smile and bowed. "Hello, Uncle Floyd. Hello, Big Brother. Hello, Third Brother. Hello, Nikki!"

'Is this the official meeting of the family? Maverick's speed and progress were surprisingly fast!'

Maverick stood on the side and pushed up his glasses. His svelte and calm temperament appeared to be a lot softer.

"Let me introduce you to my girlfriend, Molly Stewart. If you don't have any objections, we intend to get married next year. Even if you do, it doesn't matter." 

Molly stood shyly to the side, a little embarrassed by Maverick's words.

Floyd, Grant, Kai, and Nicole stood there, dumbfounded.

Soon, Floyd reacted and welcomed them into the house with a smile.

Floyd was an old fox, so how could he not know about Molly Stewart's background?

Out of vigilance over Nicole's failed past marriage, Floyd was extremely wary about whoever approached his children.

Floyd felt at ease and approved of Molly Stewart, who was most often seen around Maverick.

Although Molly's family background was not comparable to the Stanton family, Floyd did not intend to put his son through a marriage of convenience.

All that mattered was a clean and ordinary background.

Moreover, Floyd also heard that Molly was a famous female scientist in the physics world and a revered academic.

Floyd suddenly felt relieved.

"Molly, from now on, we're a family, so don't be polite with us!"

Molly did not expect that such a wealthy family like the Stanton family would have

boyfriend.

Kai glared at Nicole fiercely. She just had to stab him in the heart. What was the use of having this sister?

He looked at her disappointingly and angrily.

"I've checked. Roman went abroad for a fashion show, so Julie is left alone here."

'Nicole really didn't care about her friend!' Kai thought.

Nicole smiled shyly and hurriedly took out her phone. "I'll ask her. Don't worry, I'll definitely pick her up."

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"Jules, don't lie to me. The first day of the year is your mother's death anniversary, so you won't go abroad. We have some relatives coming over in a while, so you're not the only one. I'll go pick you up!"

Julie was silent. "Okay, I'll go by myself. You don't have to come."

Nicole hung up the phone and took a deep breath.

In the past few years, Julie would spend the New Year with her grandmother. When her grandmother passed away, she was left alone.

Floyd would often ask Nicole to call Julie over for the holidays in the past, but ever since Julie and Kai broke up, Julie never came over again.

It seemed that her relationship with Kai had been a thorn in her heart.

Chapter 669 Throw a Check and Get Lost

Nicole's face was stiff. 'No way... In order to promote Maverick, Dad is putting all of us down in comparison?!'

Floyd sighed and said, "Maverick is my pride. Molly, you're able to choose him out of so many people, which means that your vision and taste is really one of a kind!"

Everyone's smile was complicated.

Maverick could not hold onto his smile any longer. The corners of his lips twitched a little. "Dad, I've already introduced them to Molly."

Floyd grinned from ear to ear. "That's good. Don't be a stranger here, Molly. We can't let Molly down. After the New Year, we'll definitely hold a luxurious and grand wedding!"

Molly forced a smile and looked at Floyd in a daze. "Uh... It doesn't have to be so soon..."

She did not expect that the threshold to marry into an affluent family to be so low.

'Why do I feel panicky?' Molly thought.

Maverick glanced at Molly and said with a smile, "We're both busy with work, so of course, the faster the better."

Molly nodded in a daze.

Floyd looked very satisfied. He originally thought that Maverick would stay single for the rest of his life and never thought that there was such an excellent girl willing to marry him.

Thus, they should get married as soon as possible, the sooner the better!

Soon, many relatives arrived one after another.

Since their second uncle, Noah Stanton, experienced that blow from Lydia and Jade Smith, he could not lift his head and even lost his career. He was wasting his life away for a long period of time.

Floyd could not bear to see his brother like this and could not sit idly by, so Floyd bought some stocks for Noah and used the dividends to fund Noah's travel around the world to relax his mind.

After Noah returned this time, his face obviously regained his spirits and glow.

Floyd stood up to greet the others, then glanced at Nicole and Maverick. "Lil N, take care of Molly..."

He still felt more at ease with his daughter.

Otherwise, with Grant's aura, he would frighten off Molly, and Kai would only wreak havoc.

Two of his sons were not very reliable.

Nicole nodded heavily and sat down next to Molly.

"Molly, how did you fall for my second brother?"

Molly shyly lowered her head and looked at Maverick from time to time. The affection in her eyes was oozing out, which made them a little jealous.

"The Great God is so excellent. It's my good luck that he fell for me..."

Nicole frowned in surprise.

Maverick glanced at Nicole and raised his eyebrows. "Lil N, you have some credit in this."

After all, Maverick was very annoyed with Molly at the beginning. In his opinion,

everyone who was less intelligent than him was incorrigible.

After Maverick pointed out Molly's mistakes a few times, she was surprisingly enlightened. He thought that she was still quite smart. ●

Floyd called Maverick, who stood up and followed him outside.

Grant's phone had not stopped ringing while he was at home. He picked up the call and went to the study.

Kai went over and pulled Nicole, expressing his dissatisfaction in a low voice.

"Look, Mav is getting married soon! You took my black card and have the cheek to watch me end up single for the rest of my life?"

Nicole curled the corners of her lips and pulled her arm out of Kai's hand, then waved toward the door.

"Jules!"

Kai immediately let go of Nicole and resumed his image of a cool and arrogant Greek god.

Nicole dragged Molly with her and ran away, fleeing from Kai's interrogation.

Kai saw that he was fooled and speechlessly rolled his eyes. 'I bet she's not my real sister!' ●

Nicole took Molly to the garden. Molly was interested in everything and was not so restrained with Nicole. She was much more casual and comfortable.

"Nikki, I thought that your family won't accept me so easily. After all, my family's not rich, and affluent families always have more rules. Before coming, I thought that your father would throw me a check and ask me to get lost!"

Chapter 670 What a Realistic Woman

Nicole could not help but laugh a little.

"You think too much! Everyone in our family adores you, especially my second brother!"

Speaking of Maverick, Molly sighed and tilted her head with her hands together.

"I never dreamed that I'd get to marry my idol! I'll really wake up from laughing in my dreams..."

Molly's smile was full of joy.

The sun was shining today. Although it was cold, it was still radiant and dazzling.

Nicole curled the corners of her lips. "My second brother is the most uncontested person in our family, but he's very busy. If you feel bored, you can come to me. We can go shopping and travel together!"

She implied that Molly should not break up with Maverick just because he was such a busy person.

Molly nodded heavily and rubbed her hands. "Um... Is Maverick rich?"

Nicole was speechless.

After three seconds of silence, Nicole hurriedly nodded.

"Yes, he is. He has dividends from Stanton Corporation's shares, his bonus, and various financial investments. The liquid assets in his name add up to quite a big sum."

Even if it was just for money, they must keep Molly at all costs.

Molly flung her legs as she sat on the swing and laughed. She sighed. "Then I'm

relieved..."

Nicole laughed and was silent for a moment as she did not know what to say.

A set of footsteps came from behind, and Maverick's voice followed. "What a realistic woman!"

Molly stiffened and hurriedly stood up, like a child who had done something wrong.

"G--Great God!"

Maverick stared at her and narrowed his eyes. "If I'm not rich, will you break up with me?"

"No, of course not!" Molly immediately denied it. "All the more reason not to break up with you if you're rich!"

Maverick snickered, but he was not angry.

He stretched out his hand, so Molly hurriedly went over and held it.

Maverick looked at Nicole. "Lil N, I'll take Molly to meet the others. Your friend is here, so you should go over."

'Is Julie here?'

Nicole nodded, lifted her skirt, and ran over.

Julie had a powerful and confident aura.

She wore a limited-edition coat from Milan and had an excellent temperament. Her smile was warm as she greeted Floyd.

Floyd saw Julie as his daughter and let her hang around as she pleased.

Nicole ran over and jumped into Julie's arms.

"Jules! Why'd you get here so late?"

Julie laughed helplessly. "I got here as fast as I could..."

Kai, who was behind Nicole, coughed speechlessly and peeled Nicole away from Julie.

"Lil N, do you not know how heavy you are?!"

Hearing this, Nicole decided to disown her third brother!

Nicole turned to ask Julie, "When will your boyfriend come back?"

She purposely poked at Kai's heart.

Kai's face changed.

Julie looked at the two siblings and laughed. "Probably two or three months. He recently took on a lot of runway invitations, so it's a great opportunity for his career."

Nicole frowned. In the past, Roman was famous in the circle, but he was not to the level of gaining global attention.

This time, he seemed to be so viral. All of a sudden, his net worth soared and he booked major shows non-stop. Even the media began to notice Roman, an international supermodel.

Roman only booked those shows from Julie's contacts. It seemed that in order to promote Roman, Julie spared no effort.

"Let's go inside to talk. I'll make you coffee."

Kai gritted his teeth and stared at Nicole.

What an annoying sister!

Nicole and Julie walked in together and went to the small balcony on the second floor. They sat down and watched as Floyd greeted the guests with a smile on his face.

Kai was not far away grinding coffee. From time to time, he would pay attention to the ladies' movements.

Nicole pursed her lips. "Is Roman reliable?"

Chapter 671 Lose Money

Nicole and Julie were close enough that they could talk about everything.

Julie raised her eyebrows. "Who knows?"

"Then why'd you invest in him so much? Aren't you afraid of losing all your money?"

Julie curled up the corners of her lips lightly. "If I promote him, he can earn far more than what I invested in him. Also..."

She paused for a while. Her tone was somewhat cool. "If I can hold him up high, I can also let him fall to his death."

As soon as Nicole heard that, she understood.

"You don't have feelings for him?"

Julie laughed. "I do have some feelings for him, but interests are more important."

"Good point."

Once the two ladies looked at each other, there was no need to say anything more.

They had a tacit understanding.

Kai still had high hopes then.

However, Nicole also felt some sympathy for Kai. With this trend, even if Julie and Kai were dating, Kai would be the passive one that would be bullied.

As Nicole was thinking this, Kai served them coffee and sat between the two ladies.

The two women were a little stunned. Kai smiled and said, "I just learned how to make

coffee. You won't believe it until you see it with your own eyes."

Julie chuckled. "Then we're really blessed to have this opportunity. Thanks, K."

Nicole laughed. Kai's hypocritical attitude of trying to be servile yet lofty was just so degrading.

However, when she received Kai's warming gaze, Nicole dared not show it.

Nicole propped her chin up with one hand and watched Kai make coffee with great interest along with Julie.

She thought, 'I'm such a good sister...'

Kai moved skillfully to make coffee for them according to their preferences.

Nicole liked more milk and less sugar, while Julie liked less milk and less sugar.

She had to admit that Kai's hands with well-defined fingers were like works of art. His every move was very aesthetic.

Kai's hands were indeed very ornamental.

No wonder he never used hand models for his scenes. No matter when the camera zoomed in on his hands, every detail was impeccable.

God really favored Kai!

Nicole secretly thought to herself as Kai finished making Julie's cup of coffee.

The taste of coffee was mellow and rich. The coffee beans were brought back from New Zealand and were priceless. It smelled like money.

Julie reached out.

Kai raised his eyes and smiled at Julie.

"Wait a minute."

He picked up the coffee cup with his left hand and another cup with his right hand, then carefully drew a little robin with the milk froth.

The wings of the bird were very lifelike.

What a cute little animal!

Nicole looked on in shock. Julie also froze slightly.

Kai smiled and pushed the cup of coffee over. "Try it. This milk is special. It's low fat and has no sugar."

He was really out to impress Julie.

Julie smiled and took it. "K, this coffee art is so professional!"

She was just being polite, but Kai's smile grew deeper because of these words.

"It's nothing. You can always come over if you feel like drinking coffee."

Nicole coughed, which made Kai instantly notice her presence.

Kai added another kind of rich milk for Nicole. It was a brand that she drank on a regular basis.

Just when Nicole was expecting Kai to make her another coffee art, Kai already pushed the cup of coffee to her.

The coffee in front of Nicole looked so plain without any frills.

The difference could not be more obvious!

Nicole frowned and looked at Kai. 'Is he even my brother?!

Kai casually urged her. "Drink it quickly. Don't let it get cold. It'll be a waste!"

Nicole forced a smile. 'Is this how he treats his sister?!

Chapter 672 Lil K and Lil N

Julie could not help but laugh. Seeing that Nicole was about to flip the table, she hurriedly eased the situation.

"K, Lil N has waited for so long for your coffee art. How could you forget this step?"

Kai frowned and looked at his troublesome baby sister.

Since Julie requested it, he could not just deal with it simply.

"Fine, I'll draw one for you..."

Nicole smirked and coldly snorted. "I want an owl!"

Kai's hands stiffened. 'I don't know how to draw an owl!'

Kai practiced dozens of times for Julie's robin before he was able to do it.

His face changed dramatically, and he almost wanted to flip the table.

"This Lil N only knows how to make me look bad! I knew that I shouldn't have put my hopes on her! If my happiness lies in her hands, I'll probably be single for life!" Kai thought.

The atmosphere was quiet.

The laughter downstairs and the awkward silence upstairs formed an extremely stark contrast.

Julie took a sip of coffee before noticing the tension flowing between these two siblings.

"Ahem... That might be a little difficult for Kai..."

Kai laughed as he glared meaningfully at his sister.

"I know how to draw an owl. It's just that I think it'd be more appropriate to draw you a black card, right, Lil N?"

He was indirectly reminding Nicole that even after receiving his black card, she still dared to make things difficult for him? 'Lil N, you'd better know your limits!'

Nicole pursed her lips and felt suffocated all of a sudden. That black card was limitless.

For the sake of money, Nicole would let this go.

"Right... I know that Kai knows everything. What's a mere owl anyway?"

Nicole's attitude suddenly turned 180 degrees as she smiled brightly.

They tacitly stopped pressing on about the coffee.

"Lil N, Lil K, come down to receive the guests!"

Floyd shouted from downstairs. Nicole and Kai were shaken.

"Lil K?"

Nicole was fine with her nickname because she was used to it, but Kai's face looked like he ate a fly, yet he dared not spit it out. It was very amusing.

That was because this came from his beloved father.

Julie was laughing until she was breathless.

Nicole and Kai looked at each other, and the two of them let out a long sigh in their hearts. They instantly got on the same page.

The group of relatives that they only saw once a year were here.

Julie stifled a laugh and waved at them. "You guys go ahead. Don't mind me. I'll be

here drinking coffee."

The two siblings could not even pretend to not have heard their father.

Kai stood up calmly, but he felt extremely unpleasant in his heart.

"I've told Dad many times not to call me 'Lil K'! Why didn't he call Mav 'Lil M' then?!"

Nicole was speechless. "Why doesn't Dad ask Grant to come out and 'receive the guests'?"

That was because Grant would not laugh and exchange pleasantries with those relatives. He would only throw cold water on them when they were joking.

Over time, Floyd simply ignored Grant. When they had guests, it was up to him to come out or not.

How nice!

As the two siblings complained to each other, they arrived downstairs and already had a bright smile plastered on their faces.

It was professional and perfunctory.

Floyd came into the house with a dozen people. The smile on his face could not be hidden.

"Lil N, Lil K, greet the guests..."

Nicole and Kai looked at each other. The two of them instantly became nervous and said in unison, "Hello, Uncle Noah..."

Noah Stanton nodded, looking to be in good spirits.

He swaggered over to the living room and sat on the sofa.

What about the rest?

The siblings looked at each other awkwardly because they did not recognize anyone else.

Floyd glared at his children for not living up to his expectations. He smiled as he walked over and said, "This is your eldest maternal aunt's husband. This is your second maternal aunt's husband. This is your maternal grand-aunt. This is the daughter of your deceased uncle from your maternal grand-aunt's side of the family..."

Chapter 673 Stoned to Death

Kai and Nicole felt like they were props. Their faces were stiff from smiling, but they still had to keep smiling and greet the guests.

Nicole did not even smile so much when she was with business partners. She felt like she was about to get facial cramps.

Kai was a famous movie star that had an aloof and noble image and was worshipped by everyone, was still subjected to this torture.

After the introduction of a number of relatives, Floyd also felt that his mouth was a little dry.

Fortunately, the butler was extremely tactful to hand over a cup of tea. "Chairman Stanton, the coffee and refreshments are ready..."

Floyd hurriedly welcomed them into the house.

"Quick, quick... Please come in. Make yourselves at home!"

Floyd then gulped down a large cup of tea.

Then, without changing his face, Floyd led Nicole and Kai inside.

Floyd hurriedly introduced his daughter that he was most proud of.

"This is Lil N. She's taking care of our company. Grant is just an auxiliary. Our Lil N's net worth put her in the global Forbes list. She's famous!"

The crowd looked on with envy and jealousy, which made Floyd feel prouder.

Floyd smiled. "My second son doesn't like to meet people. He's a scientist and won a few world-class awards. He also participated in a few national confidential scientific research projects and won a few honorary titles internationally, but he's not great in

other aspects."

Knowing that Maverick did not like this kind of occasion, if Maverick came out and said something earth-shattering, their New Year would be ruined.

Thus, Floyd only explained Maverick's absence and focused on his two most boisterous children, Nicole and Kai.

Their grand-aunt went over and pinched Nicole's cheek.

"Lil N, you've been on the trending topics every few days. Who are you really with? I think that young actor Fabian is a little too immature. Is Xander really Eric Ferguson's substitute?"

Everyone looked at Nicole with curiosity. Some teasing, some playful, but all of them waiting to watch a show.

Grand-aunt asked what was on everyone's mind.

For a moment, the room fell silent.

This time, Floyd almost could not hold back.

Just when Floyd was about to ease the situation, Nicole swatted her grand-aunt's hand carelessly. Her face was calm, and she had a faint smile as she said, "You seem to be more worried about this than the reporters..."

Although she had a smile, her voice was cold.

Nicole did not need to care about such distant relatives.

It was just that Floyd liked to have more people around for a lively atmosphere, so he wanted everyone to gather together.

Kai secretly gave Nicole a thumbs up from the side. "You go girl! Nicole can really talk back to elders so righteously! Good job!"

If Kai were to do this, Floyd would probably whip him on the spot.

Everyone obviously saw Nicole's dismissive attitude.

Earlier, Floyd mentioned that Nicole was the real boss of Stanton Corporation, so no one dared to say a word of objection.

Moreover, Floyd did not intend to scold Nicole.

Everyone's gossipy mood instantly vanished.

Floyd hastened to save the day. "How can you believe the rumors on the internet? Lil N is only fooling around with them. It's nothing serious!"

Kai raised his eyebrows and looked at his father in shock. 'How is this saving the day?! This is making it worse!'

Nicole was also speechless for a moment. The corners of her mouth twitched, but it was useless for her to explain any further. 'Forget it...'

The grand-aunt sighed. "Although it's not great that Lil N is divorced, we have money, so it shouldn't be difficult to find another man who's divorced. Worse comes to worst, just relax the conditions, even a man with a child will be fine..."

Nicole thought, 'Hah! Why didn't she just say that I should be stoned to death?'

Chapter 674 Sing for Us, Superstar

The atmosphere once again plunged to freezing point.

Nicole was no longer bothered to say anything else and left. Kai also followed closely behind.

The siblings went back to Julie. Kai saw Julie's forlorn side profile and said, "Let me play you a song..."

There was a piano on the second floor that no one usually used. Floyd only put it there because the space looked too empty.

Kai walked over to the piano and sat upright, like a prince that came out of a fairy tale. His face and temperament were enough to stun a crowd.

The next second, the delicate sound of the piano flowed from his fingers eloquently and elegantly in gentle and flexible movements. His fingers that touched the black and white keys were well-defined and extremely attractive.

On the balcony of the second floor.

Hearing the sound of the piano, Nicole could not help but sigh.

'Poor Kai!'

Julie frowned. "Is Kai playing the piano?"

Nicole raised her eyebrows and nodded.

Julie listened carefully for a while. Her expression was a little complex.

"How could he play this serenade with such resentment and hatred?"

Nicole was surprised that Julie could hear this.

She unconsciously laughed and thought, 'Julie is really Kai's confidant!'

As they were talking, Tigger climbed up from somewhere and looked at Nicole with a pair of big, watery eyes.

It looked so aggrieved.

"Mama, Mean Molly bullied me!"

"Tigger knows how to complain?" Nicole picked it up with one hand and stroked its soft tiger fur.

"I'm not going to get rid of her for you. You have to be nice to Molly because from now on, she's a part of our family!"

Tigger blinked its big eyes and shook its tiger whiskers with a grievance. 'Oh, no! I don't want to be related to Mean Molly!'

Julie picked Tigger up and stroked it for a while. "It's so warm like a real tiger!"

"Except for not being able to eat, it's no different from the real one!" Nicole smiled dotingly.

Tigger was immersed in his own sadness. Even with a lot of praise, it was still unhappy.

Its head drooped down as it chanted. "Break up! Break up! Make them break up!"

'I don't wanna be with Mean Molly!' Tigger thought.

Nicole and Julie laughed.

"Do you want to die, Little Traitor?!"

Molly gnashed her teeth. Her angry voice came from the side.

Nicole raised her eyebrows and watched as Tigger cowered in Julie's arms as Molly

gradually approached.

Tigger was really scared!

Molly picked the tiger with one hand and looked at it threateningly. "You'd better be careful. Or else, I'll turn you into a mouse!"

"No, no, no... I don't wanna be a mouse! Mama, save me!"

Tigger's four legs stirred in the air. It was so scared that it became a kitten. How pitiful!

Nicole felt soft-hearted and carried Tigger.

"Molly, don't scare Tigger..."

Molly pursed her lips. "If you spoil it like this, it'll imitate human personality traits and will only be more conceited."

No wonder.

Even if that was the case, no one could bear to discipline this little cutie.

Nicole squinted. "It's okay."

Molly sat opposite Julie. The two of them nodded at each other. "I'm Molly Stewart."

"I'm Julie Nixon."

Nicole saw this scene and felt a little strange.

In the future, would they both be her sisters-in-law?

It was fated!

Nicole flashed a meaningful smile.

Molly looked at Nicole and spoke hesitantly, "Nikki, the Great God has always been bad at handling interpersonal relationships. I didn't even greet the group of relatives downstairs. They won't have a problem with me, right?"

Chapter 675 Sweet-Tongued and Diligent

Nicole paused for a moment. "Of course not! They're very open-minded. You don't have to bother about what others think. Just follow my second brother's temper."

In the Stanton family, no one dared to show Maverick attitude.

Molly sighed with relief and smiled.

"That's good. After all, this is my first time here. My mother saw that I must be sweet-tongued and diligent, then wait for the marriage to be finalized."

Molly sighed and continued, "But there's simply no chance for me to perform!"

Nicole and Julie were stunned.

Julie could not help but laugh. "Mav's girlfriend is so real, huh?"

Nicole laughed and thought, 'Molly was even more realistic earlier in the garden. She didn't hide her yearning to marry into a wealthy family.'

However, this kind of realness made people feel comfortable. It was much better than those sycophantic high-society ladies.

"Molly's very cute. My second brother hasn't been attracted to girls since young. He likes Molly so much because her personality surpasses all human females!"

Molly instantly straightened her back again and laughed unconsciously.

"Nikki, don't be so blunt when you compliment me. I'll feel embarrassed!"

Tigger, who was nestled in Nicole's arms, could not resist peeking his little head out. It poked at Molly's true colors.

"Mean Molly's a liar!"

Molly rolled her eyes and shot a warning glance at this stupid tiger.

Tigger was scared again and hid in Nicole's arms.

It was scared to death.

Everyone was talking and laughing and did not notice that someone had gone up to the second floor and found them by following the sound of their laughter.

"Cousin, you're here..."

Nicole raised her eyebrows. There was a decent-looking young lady in that group of relatives earlier, but Nicole had little impression and did not know who she was.

It was New Year's Eve, and this cousin was invited by Floyd, so Nicole did not show her attitude.

Nicole smiled. "Cousin?"

That girl came over and introduced herself sweetly. "I went to study abroad and rarely came back for the New Year, but before I left Mediana, I came every year. I'm Xandria. We grew up together..."

Nicole thought about it for a while and did not remember who she was.

However, Nicole smiled. "Right, Xandria..."

Xandria nodded excitedly. 'It's good that she remembers me, then it'll be easier for me to say what I came here for.'

Instantly, Xandria's gaze was drawn to Tigger, who was in Nicole's arms. "Is that a tiger?!"

'OMG! I've only heard of people rearing horses, birds, and even monkeys... The Stanton family even dares to rear a tiger?! The hobbies of these rich people are really beyond the imagination of us commoners!' Xandria thought.

Nicole laughed. "This is an artificial intelligence robot that looks like a tiger. It's not real."

As she said this, Nicole patted Tigger. "Tigger, say hello."

Tigger lazily poked its head out and gave her a cute look. "Hello, Madam!"

Before the young Xandria could get excited, she was a little flustered when she heard that address. "A talking tiger? You can call me Miss instead of Madam..."

Xandria reached out and wanted to carry Tigger, but Tigger was not bothered and shrunk in Nicole's arms motionlessly, playing dead.

Xandria's awkward hand was raised in mid-air. She looked at Nicole and asked, "Can I carry it?"

Nicole paused for a moment. Although she was not very willing, it was just a hug.

Thus, Nicole handed Tigger over to Xandria, who happily took it over. Xandria was surprised and stroked it. She suddenly thought that it would be great if she could take it home.

Chapter 676 I'm Very Fierce

Xandria said, "It's so soft, just like real fur! It's also warm. If it didn't talk, I would've really thought that it was a real tiger..."

Nicole smiled and raised her eyebrows. After all, she felt the same at first.

"Where did you buy this robot tiger?" Xandria asked.

Nicole frowned. "Someone else gave it to me."

Xandria asked excitedly. "Who?"

For a while, no one said anything.

Nicole glanced at Xandria faintly, her smile fading.

She already showed her dissatisfaction by being quiet.

Xandria was just too nosy.

However, Xandria was untactful and asked, "Since it's from someone else, why don't you give it to me? It's so cute! If I post it online, it'll definitely shock the world!"

Nicole faintly pursed her lips. Her voice was flat as she said, "Since it's from someone else, I can't just give it to anybody."

Xandria said, "Why not? This is nothing to the Stanton family. You can even keep a real tiger if you want..."

Why be so calculative because of a robot tiger?

Xandria really liked this tiger very much.

Nicole's smile was obviously a lot colder.

"Whether or not I'm interested in keeping one is the most important thing. Give it

back to me."

Nicole reached out and indicated her attitude.

Xandria was very reluctant and took two steps back with Tigger in her hands. She tried to think of something.

"Nicole, your father has always been generous to us, so why don't we go ask Uncle Floyd?"

Xandria thought that Floyd, who generously took care of them and even paid for her tuition fees abroad, would agree to give away such an ordinary robot tiger.

Nicole's face sank. She did not even bother to show any courtesy. "Give it back."

Her hand was outstretched, and her tone condensed. She exuded a chilly aura around her.

Although Xandria was a little afraid of Nicole, she thought that as long as she could have this little tiger, she would definitely go viral online. By then, she would be famous!

Xandria hugged Tigger tightly, not wanting to let go, then turned around and wanted to run downstairs.

Molly, who had been sitting there watching the scene, finally could not help it and stood up as she slapped the table.

"Little Traitor, how can you get taken away without knowing to resist? Are you a weak chicken?"

In a flash, Tigger snapped to its senses and jumped down from Xandria's clutches into Nicole's arms.

"I'm a fierce tiger!"

Nicole felt that her arms were full before she calmed down and stroked Tigger, encouraging its bravery earlier.

Tigger had pretty good fighting power!

Xandria's arms were empty. Her face turned pale as she looked at the wound on her arm. Her eyes suddenly turned red.

"You... You actually scratched me?"

Xandria held Tigger too tightly earlier. To break free from her arms, Tigger had to go into attack mode before it went into defense mode.

Tigger lifted its head and suddenly felt majestic.

"Attack level one, combat power level one, reaction speed level one. I'm a smart tiger and I won't follow you home!"

Tigger hated this woman.

Molly smiled with satisfaction on the side. "The tiger I designed isn't just to look and act cute. If it doesn't have some combat power, how can it be the king of the forest?"

Xandria was surprised as she looked at Molly. "You designed it?"

She suddenly remembered that when she was downstairs, Floyd introduced this woman as a famous world-class scientist.

For a moment, Xandria was a little disillusioned.

"Then... Can you design another tiger that won't scratch people?"

"Will you pay for it?" Molly asked her calmly.

"Uh... Money?"

Chapter 677 Manipulative B*tch

Xandria was a little surprised.

Molly said, "The cost of a tiger like this is at least nine figures. If you don't pay for it, do you expect me to give it to you?"

Xandria's face turned pale. She was shocked by this figure.

She looked down at the expensive tiger and instantly did not dare to touch it.

"We're all relatives. Can't it be cheaper?" Xandria muttered.

Everyone present looked shocked when they heard this.

'How can she even say that?!' Nicole felt speechless. 'How can I have such relatives?'

Julie lowered her head and drank her coffee without speaking.

Nicole looked away and pretended not to know Xandria.

Molly blinked. "Huh? I don't work at a farmer's market, so you can't bargain with me."

Xandria lowered her head in disappointment just as Floyd came upstairs holding Lil Michael's hand.

"Lil N, Lil Michael was just playing outside. Take him to wash his hands..."

Nicole stood up at the right time. "Okay!"

Xandria did not let go of this opportunity. Even if she had no money, Floyd was rich and could buy it for her!

She hurriedly ran over and covered her wound. "Uncle Floyd..."

Only then did Floyd notice her presence.

"Xandria, you're here too. You girls have fun then..."

Floyd turned around and left, not noticing what was wrong with Xandria.

"Uncle Floyd, this fake tiger scratched my arm..."

Xandria stomped her feet as tears of grievance came out of her eyes.

The other three girls sat there, dumbfounded.

Lil Michael blinked his eyes in confusion.

Once Floyd heard this, he glanced at her raised arm and narrowed his eyes. "Where?"

Xandria put her arm to his eyes and pointed to the red mark.

"Here!"

"I can't see it clearly because I have bad eyesight. Don't worry, just put on some ointment and you'll be fine. It's a fake tiger, so you won't even need a rabies vaccine!"

Floyd laughed heartily and waved at Nicole.

"Lil N, get someone to find some medicine for her."

Before Nicole had time to speak, Xandria was anxious and quickly said, "Uncle Floyd, can you please buy me one of these robot tigers?"

It was direct enough, so direct that one could not refuse!

Floyd was stunned for a moment before he refused her with a serious tone.

"Of course not! This tiger has a propensity for violence. This time, it's just your arm."

What if it scratches your face the next time?"

Xandria was dumbfounded by this excuse. For a moment, she did not know what to say.

The other girls just wanted to applaud Floyd.

Indeed, the older, the wiser.

Faced with such a little manipulative b*tch, Floyd sure coped well and did not fall for her tricks at all.

After Floyd left, Nicole looked at Xandria and smiled. "You can go downstairs and find our butler to get the ointment."

Xandria was still a guest after all, so Nicole still had to have basic manners.

If they had a fallout, it would ruin Floyd's New Year mood.

Once Xandria left, everyone breathed a sigh of relief and laughed in unison.

What a wonderful scene!

Lil Michael cheerfully hugged Tigger and gave it a big kiss. "Big Tiger, you can accompany me to wash my hands!"

Tigger was smug as it was praised by Lil Michael. The word "Big Tiger" made Tigger revel in its status as the king of all beasts.

"Okay!"

Lil Michael put the tiger on the ground. Tigger wagged its tail and strutted away arrogantly with its head held high.

Everyone saw this silly tiger and could not hold back their laughter.

Everyone adored the tiger. Only Molly showed her disdain. "This stupid tiger really

changes its attitude fast!"

Chapter 678 Impossible to Go Through the Back Door

Nicole laughed. “Tigger is our family treasure!”

Molly raised her eyebrows and sighed helplessly.

“I saw that you guys bought a scarf worth tens of thousands of dollars for it and that watch has to be millions, right? Tsk, tsk... this little traitor only resents the poor and loves the rich!”

Friendship among women came very suddenly. After that manipulative b*tch Xandria made such a scene, Julie and Molly naturally got a lot closer to each other.

The sky gradually dimmed, but the entire Stanton Mansion was lit up and decorated to be extra lively and beautiful.

Julie looked at the time and intended to video call someone. Nicole subconsciously swept a glance and saw Roman’s name, but no one answered.

She called once again, but it was not answered.

Julie’s face changed slightly.

Nicole pursed her lips. “Maybe he’s busy...”

Julie paused for a moment and smiled a little distractedly. “He doesn’t have a show at this hour. He should be in the hotel.”

Kai coldly grunted as he peeled an apple on the other side.

“Being in the hotel is not scary. What’s scary is being in the hotel with others...”

Nicole and Julie glared at him in unison.

Kai raised his eyebrows and bowed his head. He was just telling the truth...

They talked until midnight. The butler and the maid were busy taking care of the guests.

The buffet was set up in the dining hall, but some of the relatives were picky and wanted to have the food served to them.

The butler was old and tired from walking back and forth. Kai could not stand to watch him suffer and even helped to deliver food for him a few times.

Those people naturally dared not bother the young master of the Stanton family. Thus, they gradually served themselves.

Nicole and Julie were talking when they suddenly heard Kai shouting at the door. “Lil N, someone’s setting off fireworks!”

She looked over and saw that it was probably the butler who set it off.

Nicole walked over to Kai slowly, but Kai hurriedly urged her.

“There’s your name on the fireworks! Is this someone’s confession to you?”

Nicole’s heart thumped and she walked over in a few steps.

The sky was suddenly filled with huge fireworks that were specially customized into various shapes with a three-dimensional effect.

It was visually stunning.

The fireworks completely interrupted everyone’s interest in small talk. Everyone went out to see it.

Huge hydrangea fireworks exploded in the sky. It was so bright that it seemed to light up half the city.

Then, the small fireworks in the middle of those hydrangea fireworks gradually changed to spell out “Nicole”. The surrounding ones did not disappear. Instead, they

glittered like stars and transformed into a string of letters at the bottom that spelled out “Eric”.

This time, no one had to wonder who prepared this “surprise”.

Eric already wrote the answer in the sky.

Nicole was shocked to see Eric’s name and felt a lump in her throat.

The fireworks did not disappear, but once again transformed into a cartoon of Nicole’s face. It was so lifelike with a faint smile. In the dark sky, this portrait was extraordinarily conspicuous.

This fireworks display had many twists and turns. It used the latest technology to create the most shocking and beautiful picture during this New Year.

It was at this point that it suddenly started to snow heavily.

Paired with the fireworks, it looked colder and more beautiful.

Nicole’s heart was not amazed by the beauty of the huge fireworks, but she almost had a gag reflex from exasperation when she saw Eric’s name. ①

Eric always did inappropriate things at inappropriate times, yet he thought that he was amazing.

‘Ugh...’

Chapter 679 Someone Is Confessing

Everyone exclaimed in shock. “OMG! Nicole, did you get back together with Eric?”

“It’s too beautiful! Mr. Ferguson is so romantic!”

“This fireworks show isn’t cheap. Mr. Ferguson is confessing his love to you again.”

“Mr. Ferguson is so attentive!”

A few younger girls looked on with envy and jealousy. “I wonder if Mr. Ferguson is coming. Nicole, say yes to him! This is so romantic...”

.....

Kai looked at Nicole’s dull and cold face. He pursed his lips and could not help but protect Nicole.

“What are you guys cooing about? Nicole already received such confessions so many times. How can he expect to coax my sister with such a small trick like this? Nicole has seen the world!”

Kai’s disdain was like a bucket of cold water that was splashed on the heads of those that were cheering.

To them, this scene was enough to move them to tears, but to Nicole, this was very common.

The gap between them was too obvious.

Julie laughed. “Yeah, didn’t we prepare fireworks, too? Mr. Anderson, hurry up and set them off! If the snow gets heavier, it won’t look nice anymore.”

It seemed that the only way was to use another

by Eric Ferguson.

The butler understood and immediately went out to set off the fireworks.

Unexpectedly, he saw someone at the door.

Even after Nicole secretly cursed Eric, her heart could not stay calm, but she desperately suppressed her emotions.

Julie scrolled through social media and saw that everyone was talking about the fireworks. Those people who were unaware, all now knew about it.

“Lil N, Eric did this intentionally, right?”

Nicole looked at it, pursed her lips, then picked up her phone to call Dominic Young and calmly instructed him.

“Get the PR team ready. I don’t want tonight’s matter to get out.”

There was no doubt that this play by Eric was not just for her, but to declare his sovereignty.

However, Nicole did not let him have his way.

She wanted to douse this hype.

Nicole coldly snorted and hung up the phone. Her phone rang again.

Looking at the caller ID, Nicole became infuriated.

She went upstairs while answering the phone.

“Eric Ferguson! Have you been kicked in the head?!”

She tried her best to lower her voice.

Eric did not expect Nicole to scold him as soon as he called her and felt a little

aggrieved.

His voice was somewhat soft, mellow, magnetic, and charming.

“You saw it? Is it nice?”

“I didn’t see it. It’s not nice!” Nicole was angry.

Eric was silent for a few seconds. “Then I’ll have someone redo it again!”

Nicole’s eyebrows jumped. “You dare?!”

“Wasn’t that embarrassing enough?”

Eric laughed in a deep voice. “No, I’ll listen to you.”

This compromise could really crush one’s heart and make it tremble viciously.

Nicole’s chest felt stuffy. Her tone was icy as she said, “Your fireworks show will only make more employees work overtime during the holidays. Eric Ferguson, don’t be a smart*ss.

The man on the other end of the phone was silent for more than ten seconds.

Only then did he let out a sigh.

“I didn’t mean it. I just wanted to make you happy. Happy New Year, Nicole!”

Nicole paused for a moment. “If there’s nothing else, I’m hanging up.”

“Now that I think back on those four years, it seems like we’ve never spent the New Year together. I wasn’t even in the country during the New Year.” Eric’s voice was low and raspy with an incomparable sense of remorse. 2

Nicole sneered. “How could you be in the country when you either went abroad on business or on vacation with friends just to avoid me?”

Eric would only leave her behind on important holidays, leaving her alone to face the

rest of the Ferguson family who was not friendly to her.

Quinn would complain that it was because of Nicole that her son did not come home for the New Year, and the other Ferguson family members would belittle her even more.

Nicole never wanted to recall all those forbearance and humility ever again.

She was really miserable back then.

Chapter 680 I'm Already Here

The other end of the call was silent. Every second of listening to Nicole's careless condemnation was tormenting for Eric.

Although it had been such a long time, every word she said was like a knife that cut out his heart little by little.

Eric was looking for every bit of pain at such a joyous and harmonious time.

It was as if that would alleviate his guilt.

When Nicole was impatient and wanted to hang up the phone, Eric suddenly spoke again. His voice was a little mute.

"Nicole, I want to see you."

Nicole was speechless. "But I don't want to see you!"

"I'm at your door. Can you let me in?"

Eric did not give Nicole the opportunity to refuse. He sat in the car and saw so many people in the courtyard under the snow. Fireworks rose in clusters and looked so beautiful and dazzling.

That liveliness did not belong to him.

Nicole paused in her footsteps and thought, 'What day is it? Isn't the Ferguson family busy with their own celebration?'

She pursed her lips. "I won't open the door. Hurry up and get lost."

Eric let out a light laugh and started the car again.

"Too late. Someone has already opened the gates..."

Nicole stiffened. The call was already disconnected, so she hurriedly walked down the road.

She did not believe that the butler would let Eric in without her permission.

In the courtyard.

Kai carried Lil Michael on his shoulders. Everyone was talking and laughing not far away.

At the front entrance, the butler watched with difficulty as the Range Rover drove slowly inside.

After stalling for so long, the gates were opened by Xandria, who suddenly ran over.

Mr. Anderson thought, 'How could I explain this to Nicole?'

"No, you can't open the door without orders from the Chairman and Ms. Stanton."

Xandria, who was running over excitedly, looked insouciant.

"Mr. Anderson, that man is Eric Ferguson. We can't afford to mess with him. What place can't he go to if he wants to?"

"But Ms. Stanton is not going to..." The butler patiently explained.

Xandria interrupted him impatiently.

"Enough. You're just a butler, so don't just do as you please. Mr. Ferguson may be here for business. Will you be able to afford any losses? Besides, he's already at the door. Nicole wouldn't be so insensitive as to shut him out, right?" ①

Xandria then ran over and saw the man who had gotten out of the car. His black attire blended in with the darkness, as if he was a king who walked out from the darkness

with a majestic aura.

She went over to Eric with an umbrella, shading the heavy snow for him.

Her face unconsciously reddened.

“Mr. Ferguson, please come in...”

Eric tidied up his collar, nodded slightly, and looked at Xandria somewhat strangely.

“Who are you?”

‘The new maid?’ Eric thought.

Xandria hurriedly introduced herself. “I’m the Stanton family’s relative. Nicole is my cousin.”

Eric nodded and smiled gently. “Hello.”

Luckily, Eric did not ask Xandria if she was the new maid earlier.

Xandria did not expect Eric to smile at her. This was probably the closest she had been to Eric Ferguson, and this kind of admiration made her feel moved.

“The fireworks show just now was really beautiful! All of us saw it. You’re so attentive, Mr. Ferguson.”

Eric walked in with a smile at the corner of his lips. Although he was annoyed with Nicole’s noisy cousin, he remained patient.

It was all for Nicole’s sake.

“Thanks.”

Floyd and the rest saw Eric. Floyd’s eyebrows knitted slightly in surprise.

“Mr. Ferguson, what brings you here?”

Floyd looked at the butler behind him, who looked torn as he glanced at Xandria. Mr.

Anderson could not complain in front of so many people, so he could only lower his head in silence.

Eric had a faint smile. His temperament was reserved, noble, cold, and stern. At this time when he was looking at Floyd, Eric bent at the waist and bowed in greeting.

“Happy New Year, Chairman Stanton. I came to pay my respects.”

Chapter 681 Who Told You to Open the Gate?

Floyd's mouth twitched. The night was not over yet, but Eric was already giving his New Year greetings?

However, Floyd could not just stand still, so he smiled. "Well, thank you. Grant, take Mr. Ferguson to have a seat inside..."

Grant glanced at Eric and held out his hand. "This way, Mr. Ferguson..."

Eric nodded. "Happy New Year, Big Brother."

The smile on Grant's face froze as he frowned. "Mr. Ferguson is very sincere..."

Then, Grant walked in by himself.

Nicole came downstairs and naturally saw Eric.

Her expression instantly soured.

All the relatives looked at the visiting man in surprise. The young girls watched with hearts in their eyes, excited and in high spirits.

Eric stood there, raising his eyes to see Nicole, and his smile finally became gentle from the bottom of his heart.

"Happy New Year, Nicole..."

Nicole pursed her lips. Her eyes were clear. "You're very polite for giving us your New Year's greeting so early, Mr. Ferguson. Forgive our poor hospitality."

Eric smiled. They were already being very thoughtful for letting him in.

How would he dare to ask for more?

"I knew that I made you angry, so I was very apprehensive and was afraid that you

would get even angrier, so I came to the door to apologize.”

Eric originally did not plan to visit. Toto had followed him in the car to watch him set off the fireworks, but after the fireworks show was over, Eric could not help but make a phone call.

When Eric heard Nicole’s voice, he could not control his emotions anymore. 1

In the end, he left Toto on the road and drove here himself.

There was only one thought in Eric’s mind. He wanted to see her!

Thus, he came here, and his heart suddenly calmed down the moment he saw her.

Nicole stiffened for a moment. Who would believe that nonsense?

Grant cleared his throat. “Mr. Ferguson, let’s sit in the side hall. It’s quieter there.”

“Okay. Thank you, Big Brother.”

Grant felt his teeth ache. Big Brother, Big Brother. His head hurt at being called that repeatedly.

When the two of them competed with each other in the business world at the time their interests were at odds, they knew that the other’s methods were not simple.

Grant was too uncomfortable with Eric’s well-groomed look and gentlemanly facade.

1

Grant shot Nicole a look, wanting her to hurry up and send him away because he did not want to sit here with Eric the entire night!

Xandria tried to take the opportunity to go in, but Kai stopped her.

Kai smiled meaningfully. “You’re not familiar with him, so don’t go in and disturb their conversation.”

Xandria looked around and spoke in a delicate voice.

“It’s rare that Mr. Ferguson visits. Wouldn’t it be too rude if I don’t go and greet him?”

Although Kai’s eyes were smiling, there was no warmth in them.

“He’s visiting the Stanton family. Are you a Stanton?”

‘Don’t try to take a mile when you’re given an inch’, Kai thought.

His voice when he said that was not loud enough for one person to hear. Xandria’s face suddenly turned pale.

Kai let out a laugh and said casually, “Xandria, go sit over there and chat with your grand-aunt. The driver will take you back at dawn.”

Eric also knew that he was not welcomed here and was satisfied with just one look at Nicole.

After drinking a cup of tea, Eric did not stay any longer and got up to say goodbye.

Finally, after sending him off, Grant turned around and left.

Nicole turned and saw Xandria standing at the door, staring in the direction of the gate with a longing look. The yearning expression on Xandria’s face could not be any less obvious!

Nicole walked over calmly and passed by Xandria.

Xandria could not help but call out to her.

“Nicole, why did Mr. Ferguson come here? Is he here to beg you to reconcile with him? Are you going to remarry him?”

Nicole paused in his steps. She tugged the shawl on her body.

She raised her eyes and looked at Xandria.

“Who told you to open the gate just now?”

Chapter 682 Let Her Return and Help You

Xandria's face changed. "I-I just... He was at the door. Was I supposed to shut him out? Besides, the butler also agreed."

'It might be better to offer up a scapegoat!' Xandria thought.

Nicole's voice was cold and did not show her any respect at all.

"Really? The butler agreed? Should we call him here to ask if he did?"

Xandria's lips trembled as a trace of abnormality appeared on her face.

"What kind of person is Mr. Ferguson? How could we stop him?"

"I don't need you to tell me what kind of person he is. In the future, don't try to make decisions for matters that have nothing to do with you."

Then, Nicole left without even looking at Xandria.

At that point, Nicole did not want to say even nastier words anymore.

Xandria should be grateful that it was New Year's now. Otherwise, Nicole would definitely throw her out.

Under the heavy snowfall, the corners of Eric's lips were curled into a smile as he drove home.

A half-frozen man finally saw Eric's car.

Toto could not wait to get inside.

He was so aggrieved.

"M-Mr. Ferguson... You can't leave me behind like this. I'll freeze to death!"

Toto was shivering with the cold and the heating in the car could not instantly warm

him up, but it was much better than standing outside and freezing.

Eric hummed in acknowledgment and did not bicker with him, clearly in a good mood.

“I’ll double your year-end bonus.”

Toto perked up. In an instant, he felt that he was not cold anymore...

In Ferguson Villa.

Old Master Ferguson sat in the living room after dealing with the pleasantries on the phone. It was clearly supposed to be a lively day, but there was no joy in the Ferguson family at all.

It was quiet and dull.

Eric’s father, Charles, was already permanently stationed at a company overseas. Charles was used to freedom and did not like that Quinn was trying to control him.

After Quinn was finally sent abroad and he truly became free, Charles would not take the initiative to send himself to the door to be scolded.

In any case, the Old Master had decided to let Eric take over the company. Eric was his son, so Charles had nothing to say about that.

Now, Charles only had one task – to squander money and live his life!

As soon as Eric arrived at the villa, he threw the keys to Toto. “Go home.”

The butler sighed in relief when Eric came in.

“Welcome back, Young Master...”

Eric pursed his lips and walked in. He saw Old Master Ferguson sitting there with a stern face as if deliberately waiting for him.

“Where did you go?”

The Old Master had been very angry lately. Putting aside the fact that his movements were being restricted and he was being monitored, how could Eric not stay here obediently on such a major holiday like today?

Eric really did not respect Old Master Ferguson at all!

Eric said indifferently, “I went for a walk.”

Old Master Ferguson threw the iPad on the table in fury. “You call this going for a walk? Did you go for a walk, or did you go to the Stanton Mansion? You’ve made such a scene that the whole city knows you set off fireworks just to please Nicole.”

Eric’s lips curled expressionlessly. “Wasn’t that what you wanted to see?”

Get close to the Stanton family and make up with Nicole. This was what Old Master Ferguson wanted.

Old Master Ferguson instantly became even more furious.

“I... I didn’t tell you to be so shameless!”

The great President of Ferguson Corporation repeatedly did these little things for the sake of a woman. More importantly, the Stanton family was so dismissive and contemptuous of Eric. How were the Fergusons supposed to show their face in public?

Eric suddenly laughed with a playful chill.

He looked indifferent and harsh.

“Using underhanded means to deal with a woman. That’s what I would call shameless instead.”

His words clearly agitated Old Master Ferguson’s nerves.

The old man stood up with an ashen face, trembling and pointing at Eric. “You...”

Chapter 683 Simp Until There's Nothing Left

Eric's words were clearly a slap in Old Master Ferguson's face!

How dare he?!

The butler at the side saw this and hurriedly stepped up to dissuade them.

“Chairman, don't be angry. The Young Master didn't mean any harm. It's for the good of the Ferguson family.”

The butler looked at Eric. “Young Master, the Chairman's health isn't good, so you shouldn't provoke him. When one reaches a certain age, just slight carelessness might cause them to enter the ICU. It'll be troublesome if that happens.”

Eric hesitated and his expression became less provoking.

“Sorry, Grandpa. You should go up and rest well...”

Eric could only compromise this far.

After all, his grandfather watched him grow up. Eric would not be able to explain himself if the old man really entered the ICU.

Old Master Ferguson's expression did not improve. He sat on the sofa to soothe his emotions.

“You... Eric, I won't care about Nicole anymore. Bring your sister back.”

Eric raised his dark eyes.

Old Master Ferguson's body trembled with anger.

“It's the New Year, but your sister is out there alone. What if something bad happens to her? It's been so long, and she's suffered all the hardships she should. Do you want her to stay outside for the rest of her life?”

Old Master Ferguson loved his granddaughter, but when it came to the interests of the Ferguson family, love became less important.

Ingrid was always getting into trouble, and she did make people fed up with her during that period, so Old Master Ferguson did not have a problem with Eric sending her away.

However, Eric was becoming increasingly disobedient lately, and Quinn and Charles were not around, so there was not a single person around who listened to him.

Old Master Ferguson remembered the good sides of Ingrid now.

Eric frowned slightly. Thinking about it, it had been quite a while. Recently, the people who were watching Ingrid reported that her behavior was quite remarkable.

Her performance was not great, but it was not too bad either.

“Fine. If you want to see her, I’ll have someone pick her up.”

Eric took out his phone and called the bodyguard.

Old Master Ferguson finally breathed a sigh of relief and looked a little better.

After Eric finished making the arrangements, he went straight upstairs, not wanting to stay with Old Master Ferguson anymore. He was afraid that he would anger his grandfather and send him to his grave.

Countless messages came flooding in from his phone.

Eric saw a notification of 99+ messages from Keith alone.

He did not even bother to click into it.

However, his hand slipped, and he accidentally tapped on the latest voice memo.

“Ferg, it’s New Year but you’re still providing entertainment material? Last time, Nicole bought all the LED screens in the city for you. This time, you put on a fireworks

show that the entire city could see. Do you have to be so romantic?”

Eric's hand paused as he snorted slightly.

What did they know?

Another line popped up under the chatlog.

“But I advise you to take it easy. If you keep simping for her, you might end up with nothing!”

Eric's expression darkened again. He exited the chat page with a cold snort. ‘Keith should eat his own words. He wouldn't be able to get back his annoying ex-wife for his entire life! Serves him right!’ 2

The rest of the messages were greetings which he did not want to read a word of.

Logging into the media platform, he saw that the fireworks show that was being talked about less than two hours ago had disappeared from the trending topics. There was no trace of it anymore.

Sure enough, Nicole's people were always skillful with these unexpected situations.

The people from the media who were working overtime tonight were probably furious!

However, there were still a few people who left messages on Eric's Twitter.

[The trending topic was deleted too quickly. We haven't had enough of the drama! Next time there's drama, use official channels instead so that the media can't block it!]

[What a shame. The fireworks show was beautiful!]

[I support you, Mr. Ferguson! But I support my idol Fabian more!]

[I feel sorry and pity you, but I still think you're not suitable for our President Nicole!]

2

.....

Chapter 684 Who's Richer Than Me?

Eric looked at it and laughed coldly, but his face turned red with anger.

Those private messages and comments kept growing.

The media's restrictions caused them to find an outlet here with Eric. In any case, they had to express something!

'Who the hell is Fabian? Am I not much better than that idol? How dare they say that Nicole and I are not suitable? Are they blind?' Eric thought.

Out of so many comments, only a few people supported Eric.

Eric was so angry that he turned off his phone. He was quiet for a moment. 'Damn it, I refuse to accept this!'

He picked up his phone again and looked at all the heart-wrenching comments like a masochist.

Then, he simply replied under the posts.

[What? Why can't I compare to that idol? I have money!] 1

[You have no say whether we're suitable or not. Nicole belongs to me!] 2

[Who else besides me is worthy of Nicole? Who else is richer than me?] 1

[Thank you for your support, but I don't need your pity!]

.....

In an instant.

The heat that was about to disappear once again boiled up like it was being fried.

Eric's response to the netizens pushed him up to the trending topics again.

#EricFergusonOnlineReply#

He did not feel like there was anything wrong with him. Compared to others, his greatest advantage was that he had money. There was no room for rebuttal.

New Year's Eve.

In addition to watching the New Year celebrations, people also watched Eric's replies to the netizens' comments.

The high and mighty President of Ferguson Corporation actually replied to them personally?

That scene was too rare!

The netizens were originally in awe of how mysterious Eric was.

However, although his replies were very impolite, they made everyone find their own fun from it and become tolerant of him.

Eric chatted with the netizens, trying to use his absolute superiority to prove that he was more suitable for Nicole than anyone else.

In the Stanton Mansion.

Nicole did not like to stay up late and only managed to remain awake with a cup of coffee. The people in the side hall were still divided into several tables playing card games, and the rest of the people were laughing and joking, seemingly not tired at all.

Julie hurried over with her phone and nudged Nicole. "You're still in the mood to sleep?"

Nicole frowned. "What's wrong?"

“Look!”

Julie held the phone in front of Nicole, and Eric's name on the trending topics immediately made her awake.

It was more stimulating than ten cups of coffee!

Nicole paled in shock. “He... Has he gone mad?”

Julie was speechless. “What do you think? Everyone was originally not optimistic about you two, but with how Eric is lowering himself and building up a wave of goodwill in front of everyone, people are starting to ship you two now. Some people are even trying to give him advice!”

Nicole pursed her lips. Her eyes were cold. “Those people just have nothing better to do. Why are they worried about a capitalist like him?”

“What should we do? Should we stop it?” Julie suggested.

Nicole paused. “Who would dare to stop Eric? Forget about it...”

“You're not going to care?”

Nicole took out her phone. “I'll ask what other new products are about to be listed. I can't let go of this hype!”

Julie looked at Nicole in surprise.

She was a little speechless.

Nicole really only had money in her mind!

Nicole was much more at ease after the publicity for tomorrow's new product was arranged.

No matter how hot the gossip was tonight, when she appeared tomorrow, the topic would naturally turn around!

She stood up and stretched, then glanced around. "Where's Lil Michael?"

Chapter 685 Her Illegitimate Son

Julie frowned. "Lil Michael was just here..."

Nicole froze and stood up at once. "Let's split up and find him."

She went to the garden where Lil Michael loved to hang around most. The dim lights decorated the garden beautifully. To cater to Lil Michael's preferences, the place was decorated like a fairy tale world.

Nicole walked over and vaguely saw a few figures sitting there, chatting.

Just as she was about to turn around, she heard someone mention Lil Michael.

"Is that child an illegitimate son Nicole had with a man outside?"

"I think so. Look at how the Stantons treat that boy. They listen to everything he says and spoil him rotten. How would they be so kind to him if he wasn't theirs?"

"How could Nicole do such a scandalous thing..."

"Maybe it was because this matter was exposed that she was thrown out of the Ferguson family!"

"But Eric still came to declare his feelings tonight. Why does he still want a woman like that?"

"Hehe, rich families joining by marriage is all for the sake of interests. Any kind of nasty thing can be tolerated. Besides, they can just have their separate affairs after marriage. No one would stop a man from keeping a mistress outside of marriage. Well, Nicole is just blessed to be rich."

"I couldn't tell. Nicole looks so serious and decent, but she's actually so shameless in her bones. Floyd is so unlucky to have such a daughter!"

“Exactly. She’s nowhere near as sensible and pure as our Xandria...”

.....

Nicole stood there, feeling a chill all over her body. She was so angry that she wanted to laugh.

Her entire body was immersed in darkness. For the first time, Nicole felt that she was an incredibly tolerant person.

These people were polite to her on the surface, but they scolded her behind her back.

Haha...

The heavy snow fell on Nicole’s body. She felt that this year was really too interesting.

Just then, Lil Michael, who was in his pajamas, waved to her. “Pretty Lady, I’m here...”

Lil Michael’s words completely startled the two old ladies who were immersed in gossip.

They let out a startled cry and looked back to see Nicole standing behind them with a cold smile.

In the darkness, their faces went deathly pale.

“N-Nicole, w-when did you get here?”

Nicole’s eyes were extremely cold, colder than the snow around them, and her smile was faint.

“Did no one tell you that it’s immoral to talk badly about someone while you’re in their home and eating their food?”

'Oh no, she heard everything!' The two women's faces were as white as paper. Their eyes were full of panic.

"N-Nicole. It's a misunderstanding. It's all a misunderstanding..."

"Yes, we just heard some rumors from somewhere. None of them are true!"

The two women desperately defended themselves, but Nicole only sneered and said coldly, "Rumors? Today was the first time you saw Lil Michael, and the outside world doesn't know about him at all. Where did those rumors come from?"

If they wanted to lie, why did they not make up a clever one?

The two middle-aged women panicked. Their faces went pale as their voices trembled.

"Nicole, you didn't hear anything. We didn't say anything. You must have misheard..."

"Yes yes yes, let's go inside!" One of the women urged.

It was only Nicole alone. If they refused to admit it, what could Nicole do to them?

Denial was the only thing they could do now!

Nicole's face became colder, and the chill in the bottom of her eyes turned frigid.

'Huh...'

The two women ran inside the house in a panic. Floyd was beckoning them to eat some snacks. It was warm and lively like spring in the house.

Chapter 686 Add Some Diamonds

Nicole looked up. Lil Michael rubbed his eyes. “Pretty Lady, I haven’t given you my present yet. Wait a minute...”

She smiled and walked inside slowly.

Floyd looked at Nicole reproachfully. “How many times have I told you? It’s cold outside, so you have to put on a jacket when you go out...”

Nicole smiled and said nothing.

Floyd turned to Kai, who was fawning over Julie, and was immediately furious.

“What if your sister falls sick? Don’t you know how to look out for her?”

Kai was bewildered. “Wha- What did I do this time?”

Julie could not help but laugh and gave Kai a push. “Go get a shawl for Lil N!”

Kai touched his head, obediently took the shawl, and was about to drape it over Nicole.

However, she blocked him and avoided his hand.

Only then did Kai realize that her body was very cold. Her lips were also starting to turn purple.

It was no wonder that Floyd was angry!

“Why did you run out without putting on more clothes? Do you want our beloved father to kill your third brother who treats you the best on this national holiday?”

Nicole forced a smile. “Wait.”

She walked in and stared at the two women who were also frozen.

They cowered, not daring to look up, and huddled next to the oldest relatives.

No matter how slow Kai was, he also noticed that something had happened.

According to Nicole's character, she would not torture her body like this. Unless...

Floyd frowned. "What's wrong, sweetheart?"

Nicole raised her hand, but Lil Michael suddenly ran down the stairs and called out to her excitedly.

"Pretty Lady, Happy New Year..."

She instantly withdrew her hand.

These filthy words should not dirty a child's ears.

Nicole turned around and smiled genially and naturally. "Happy New Year, Lil Michael!"

She would settle the score with the two old ladies after coaxing Michael to sleep.

Nicole gave a side-glance at Kai and smiled. "Help me bring the present for Lil Michael over."

Kai rolled his eyes and breathed a sigh. "You only know how to order your brother around!"

Even though he said that, Kai still went upstairs obediently to get the present.

Lil Michael was one step faster and handed the item in his hands over.

"This is for you, Pretty Lady."

Nicole looked at the exquisite box. It seemed a little familiar.

Lil Michael had always been very generous when giving gifts. He had even given her

gold before. Nicole instantly felt a little uneasy.

Under Lil Michael's expectant gaze, Nicole took the box and opened it.

In an instant, she could hear everyone gasping.

Nicole was slightly shocked as well.

The black pearls she saw at the auction during the day were round and beautiful. Each pearl by itself was already priceless.

However, they were actually here in her hands?

Nicole truly had to be calm before she could hold the box steadily.

An auction price of 880 million!

Even Eric did not continue to bid because he was afraid of the mysterious boss behind the scenes. ①

It turned out to be Lil Michael!

Nicole's mood suddenly fluctuated like a roller coaster.

It was like she was holding a mountain of gold in her hand. It felt like she really did not have anything but money!

"You... You bought this?"

Lil Michael smiled smugly. "I used a foreign account to buy it. It wasn't that expensive. What's important is that you like it, Pretty Lady!"

Nicole's mouth opened wide in shock. "Does your Daddy know about this?"

Lil Michael pursed his lips. "He only found out this afternoon, but... This is from me! It has nothing to do with Daddy!"

He spoke seriously. He had to draw a clear line between Clayton and him. After all, he

was the one who carefully selected the gift.

Chapter 687 Refuse to Acknowledge Them

Nicole did not know what to say for a moment. Lil Michael's gifts really got more and more expensive!

Everyone looked at the necklace and knew at a glance that it was not an ordinary product.

"That must be expensive."

"Yeah, it's beautiful. I don't think I've seen it on the market before..."

.....

Lil Michael smiled. "It's not expensive. It only costs 880 million. I have money anyway, so I want to give it to Pretty Lady, because she's the prettiest girl in the world!"

Floyd laughed. "Oh, you little boy. You have a good eye..."

Floyd was happy whenever anyone praised his daughter.

Everyone instantly looked at Lil Michael differently.

They originally thought that he was just an ordinary child being fostered here.

However, how could an ordinary child give someone a gift worth \$880 million?

Nicole put the pearls away. In a roundabout way, this necklace ended up in her hands. What a twist of fate!

However, she could not accept such an expensive gift. She would give the money to Clayton later.

Lil Michael continued to ask Nicole, "Do you like it, Pretty Lady?"

Nicole smiled. "Yes, I like it a lot."

Just then, Kai came down with a huge model in his arms. Lil Michael was shocked when he saw it.

Kai put it in front of him. "This is the Lego Universe that Nicole specially ordered for you after contacting the Lego company. It's the only one of its kind in this world!"

Lil Michael was about to jump with joy. He held the huge model in his arms.

"Yay! This is great!"

Nicole was relieved to see that he truly liked it.

However, compared to his black pearls, her gift looked a little childish.

Floyd walked over with a sigh and pointed to the model.

"Lil N, you should add some diamonds to the model!"

Nicole also regretted it. "Why didn't I get it bejeweled?"

She handed the necklace to the butler. "Put this in my safe."

The butler did not dare to delay and immediately took it and left.

The envious but restrained looks from the people on the side were not hidden at all.

Turning around, Nicole pulled Lil Michael's hand upstairs. "You can play tomorrow. Go upstairs and rest first..."

Lil Michael was very excited, but he was still a child after all, so it had not been easy for him to stay up this late.

He fell asleep the moment his head landed on the pillow.

After a while.

When Nicole went downstairs, everyone had resumed the lively atmosphere from earlier.

She found the two old women with a clear purpose. They did not dare to meet her gaze.

Floyd walked over. “Lil N, if you really can’t stay up, then go to sleep. It’s enough if your third brother is here!”

Kai, who was already extremely sleepy, was speechless.

Nicole smiled. “No, I still have something important to deal with.”

Floyd said, “What is it?”

Nicole paused. “Dad, don’t blame me if I end up spoiling the fun. I know today is a special day, but I really can’t stand it!”

Floyd was even more confused. “What are you talking about?”

Nicole smiled and walked into the side hall, where everyone was playing cards. The two women next to her grand-aunt were trembling, their expressions completely different from the others.

Nicole raised her chin. “Those two, oh, sorry, I forgot their names— What they said outside was really too unpleasant...”

Everyone heard Nicole’s words and stopped their movements.

The hall was instantly quiet.

Floyd frowned. “What did they say?”

“Why don’t you ask them?”

The two women stood up, panicking.

“We didn’t say anything. Don’t just casually accuse us, Nicole!”

Chapter 688 Sue for Slander

“Yes, yes. I know that you look down on us for being poor, Nicole, but we’re still a family. Why are you so aggressive?”

They still had to bite the bullet and deny it.

Everyone looked at them and then at the cold-faced Nicole.

To the side, Noah coughed twice. “Nicole, don’t be willful. Why are you throwing a tantrum tonight? We’re all relatives here!”

Nicole pursed her lips and laughed softly.

“I know, Uncle Noah. It’s because we’re relatives that my father and brothers are staying up and accompanying everyone to celebrate the New Year instead of sleeping. It’s because we’re relatives that we’re using the best things to entertain them and prepare elaborate gifts. However...”

Her tone changed as she looked at the two women.

“Sorry, but if being relatives means that we can hurt each other, then I’d rather disown them.”

In an instant, the room became even more silent.

No one except Nicole and the two women knew what happened.

“What exactly happened?”

“Yeah, what’s going on? Nicole was fine all night. Why did she suddenly get angry?”

.....

Nicole looked at the two flustered women and narrowed her eyes. “You’re not going to

say, huh?”

The two women said, “What... What did we say? We didn’t do anything.”

Nicole smiled. She already gave them a chance. Since they did not want to admit it, then they could not blame her for being discourteous.

She sneered and looked at Kai. “Third Brother, I remember that there’s a surveillance camera in the back garden, right? Pull up the footage.”

In the Stanton Mansion, there were no blind spots for monitoring in the public areas.

That was why Nicole was not worried about them refusing to admit it.

The two women stiffened fiercely, and their faces instantly turned white.

“Nicole...”

However, it was already too late.

Nicole turned around and left.

Kai’s face was gloomy as he went to get the surveillance footage.

No one was in the mood to play cards anymore.

A few minutes later.

The conversation in the video was laid out in front of their eyes.

Floyd’s expression darkened at a speed visible to the naked eye. He shook in forbearance, and his eyes flashed with ruthlessness.

In the living room, there was no other noise except the smug voices of the two women in the video.

The two women who were already guilty suddenly fell to the ground.

“Nicole, we were just talking. It was all speculation. We weren’t trying to hurt you...”

“Yes, Nicole. We didn’t mean any harm. We’re all relatives. It’s nothing much if we say a few words.”

.....

There was a loud bam.

Grant’s face was austere and chilly as he kicked the chair in front of him.

His patience all night had reached its limit at this moment.

The atmosphere in the living room was frigid.

Everyone was instantly frozen. Their faces paled as their expressions turned ugly.

Although they had little contact with the Stantons, they relied on the Stantons to make a living. Whenever they had difficulties, Floyd would always stick by them and help them.

However, everyone knew that in the Stanton family, only Floyd was willing to pay attention to them.

Floyd’s children did not have much affection for them. After Floyd stepped down as the head of the family, his children would not care whether they lived or died.

Floyd’s purpose for the annual gathering was for them to build up relations with his children. This was an opportunity for them.

They could not and dared not lose the support of the Stanton family. Unexpectedly, two short-sighted women ruined the already slim connection between them.

Floyd gnashed his teeth in anger.

The people on the side looked to the grand-aunt, who could only brace herself and walk up to Nicole.

She pulled Nicole's hand and sighed.

“Nicole, they're all your elders and they're just more outspoken, so don't take it to heart...”

Chapter 689 Can I Beat It Up?

Nicole drew her hand back coldly. Elders? What nonsense.

Were they trying to bind her with morality? No way!

“Sorry, but I’ve already taken it to heart. Since we’re relatives, I won’t call the police, but I would like these two ‘elders’ to leave my house immediately. Otherwise, I’ll sue them for slander!”

At those words, everyone was expecting Floyd to come out and mediate the situation.

However, he was so angry that he had no intention to open his mouth.

Noah also shut his mouth. He was helpless himself, so he would not meddle in the matter.

The grand-aunt was about to say something, but Kai could not hold back anymore and said with an icy tone, “Didn’t you hear Lil N? Are you waiting for a driver to send you back?”

“Kai, how can you say that? Not only are you not advising your sister, but you’re even adding fuel to the fire instead?”

Everyone did not dare to criticize Nicole, but they could still say a few words to Kai, who had worked hard all night.

Kai sneered. “If anyone is unhappy, they can leave as well!”

He sat on the sofa and could not be bothered with them anymore.

Floyd sighed and held his forehead. His expression was extremely ugly.

“Lil N, I’m going up to rest. You can handle this as you see fit.”

His attitude made everything clear.

Once Floyd left, this group of people had no one to rely on. Nicole and Kai arranged for a car to send them away.

The sky lit up slightly.

Only Noah was left. He was very vexed as well.

“My house is out of town...”

Kai smiled. “Don’t be silly, Uncle Noah. This has nothing to do with you. I’ll tell the butler to arrange the guest room for you...”

It finally quieted down.

The ones most removed from what had happened were Maverick and Molly. They went to bed early and had no idea that so many things happened in one night.

The next day, everyone except for Nicole and Kai got up early.

Some people came to give their greetings early in the morning.

Kai had always been sloppy and did not care about anything.

However, Nicole paid attention to her beauty sleep the most. She needed eight hours, and not a minute less!

Julie and Nicole slept together, and they were sleeping soundly.

It was only when Tigger could not resist wanting to go out and join the fun that it bounced around them, making Nicole get up reluctantly.

Julie was also woken up and pinched Tigger. “Can I beat this tiger up?”

Tigger shook its whiskers. “I don’t have pain receptors...”

Nicole laughed. The two of them washed up and put on a face mask before going