

Nicole pursed her lips.

Suddenly, she remembered something and took out her phone to call Jacob Cook.

“Who did you ask to deliver the flash drive?”

Jacob did not know why Nicole was suddenly asking this, but he still answered honestly.

“It’s Xandria. Everyone in the department is busy checking the accounts, so Xandria is the only one who can run errands.”

“You gave her such an important thing?”

Nicole was suddenly furious. ‘Is Jacob Cook senile?!’

“She... Although she’s new, she’s your relative. I told her that this is very important and that she must give it to you personally. I thought that she’ll be more dependable than outsiders...”

Jacob stammered as he explained. He felt very apprehensive.

Ever since Nicole brought people to knock him down, Jacob felt fearful of Nicole.

Nicole snorted coldly. ‘More dependable than others?’

Her tone was cold as she mocked him. “Do you know who she gave it to? She gave it to our rival, Eric Ferguson. Mr. Cook, if our secrets get leaked, you don’t need to investigate further and can get out of Stanton Corporation with her.”

After that, Nicole hung up the phone and walked out with big strides.

Eric held the flash drive and frowned slightly. He did not seem to know what this was.

Chapter 721 Fire Her

Eric was just about to find a laptop to plug in the flash drive when Nicole's warm hand reached over and took it away.

"Mr. Ferguson, this is mine."

Eric raised his eyebrows. "I was just wondering why your person gave this to me."

Nicole laughed and did not say anything.

Of course, it was only because Xandria wanted to offer everything to Eric.

"She's blind. It won't happen again."

Before Eric could ponder about what was wrong with Nicole's tone, he watched as Nicole took out her phone.

She called Logan directly.

"Tell the HR department to fire Xandria now."

Logan did not ask any questions and dared not delay for a moment. He immediately did as he was told.

From the beginning, Logan had a feeling that Xandria could not stay too long in Stanton Corporation.

Xandria just walked out of the hotel lobby when she received a notice that she was dismissed and that she did not need to go back to the office again. Her name was completely removed from the company's system.

She panicked and was confused.

When Xandria called back to ask for clarification, they did not even bother to answer her calls.

Xandria used to flaunt her identity as Nicole's relative and acted like she was above others, so she left a bad impression on her colleagues.

Once Xandria left, everyone was happy.

Xandria had no choice but to call Jacob.

Jacob had been warned by Nicole and was apprehensive. Hearing that Xandria was fired, he immediately felt relieved.

Luckily, he was not implicated.

"Mr. Cook, is this the company's mistake? Can you call the company to ask about it? I didn't do anything wrong..."

Jacob was speechless and told her frankly without any euphemism in his tone from before. "Who did you just give that flash drive to?"

Xandria was stunned. "I..."

"Eric Ferguson is our rival in this project, but you gave him such a confidential document. Xandria, betraying company secrets is against the law."

Xandria's face turned pale with fear. "Mr. Cook, I saw that he was there and Ms. Stanton wasn't, so I entrusted him to pass it on to her."

"Xandria, I can't stop you from wanting to climb up the social ladder. I've been in the company for so many years and I'm not so blind to this point. There's no problem with the company's decision to dismiss you. If you have objections, you can sue the company."

After that, Jacob hung up on her. He felt like he was really unfortunate to have met Xandria.

Xandria shuddered in fear. She immediately understood that Nicole must have also been in the hotel just now. Otherwise, the procedure would not have gone through so

quickly.

She felt guilty but more anxious. She did not dare to make a big deal out of it as she was afraid that she simply had no power to retaliate if the Stantons decided to go against her.

Thus, Xandria accepted her fate and went back to the office to do the formalities.

Nicole finished handling everything and went over to Eric. "Let's go."

Eric got up. "Where to?"

"I had someone book a restaurant."

Eric was speechless.

Nicole walked in front. Eric chased after her and said in a deep and cold voice, "This time was an accident. I'll get Mitchell to handle all the damages."

Nicole smiled. "No need. I've already taken care of it all."

"Next time, I'll definitely make you a meal that you love."

Today, Eric finally learned that cooking turned out to be quite difficult.

However, he liked challenges and overcoming difficulties, so he wanted to learn.

Nicole heard this and forced a smile.

"Mr. Ferguson, don't force yourself. I understand your good intentions."

'Please let the kitchen go!'

The restaurant that Logan booked was a fine-dining restaurant, so as per usual, they booked out the venue.

Nicole did not want others to see her and Eric eating together.

She simply ordered what she wanted to eat and handed the menu to Eric.

Eric did not even look at it and said, "I'll have the same thing."

Nicole raised her eyebrows and gave him an odd look.

She only ordered a fruit salad...

Chapter 722 Late to Poach

Eric sat there feeling relaxed. His posture was somewhat carefree. “What do you plan to do next? When will you go back?”

Nicole smiled meaningfully. “Soon. If it goes well, I can go back tomorrow morning.”

If everything went smoothly, Hector Leach and Lincoln Zelman would be arrested. Then, she could return to her office and get Jacob Cook to stay back to handle the acquisition.

Eric thought that he had talked some sense into her. His face turned gentle.

“Don’t worry. It’s good that you’ve made it this far for your first try.” 1

Next, it was time for him to deal with Mr. Lewis.

Eric was not bothered to negotiate with Lincoln Zelman.

To test Lincoln Zelman’s bottom line, they must exert pressure on him. This pressure must come from Mr. Lewis.

The best way to deal with a rogue was to be more roguish than him.

Eric was unlikely to pay Lincoln Zelman a lump sum. He wanted to change the situation drastically and had already arranged for everything.

At this thought, Eric’s phone suddenly rang.

It was Mr. Lewis.

Eric glanced at Nicole, who did not seem to care.

Thus, Eric did not avoid her and picked up the call in front of her.

Hearing what Mr. Lewis said, Eric was first shocked. He then raised his eyes to look at Nicole. His eyes gradually became dark and deep.

In the end, Eric said a few pleasantries with a calm face and hung up the phone.

Nicole could roughly tell from Eric's reaction what Mr. Lewis said.

She won this game.

There was silence for three seconds.

Eric opened his mouth and suddenly let out a light laugh. He narrowed his eyes and said in a deep voice, "Nicole, you always manage to surprise me!"

It was surprising enough that she could win against him while he was not paying attention.

Nicole sat there smiling and spoke slowly, "Are you sure it's not a shock?"

Eric's attitude was a bit unexpected. He was not furious, nor was he pretending to be generous.

He looked normal.

Eric pondered for a while. "Do you know what Mr. Lewis said?"

"I can guess." Nicole was frank.

She had made it this far, so there was no reason not to give the project to Stanton Corporation. Otherwise, that would mean that Mr. Lewis and Eric made a private deal.

If Eric's opponent was someone else, Mr. Lewis might still consider helping him out.

However, Stanton Corporation's background was no weaker than Ferguson Corporation. Once unfair insider trading was involved, Stanton Corporation's reaction

would directly affect Mr. Lewis' future career.

Thus, Mr. Lewis had no choice but to be impartial.

Eric rubbed his glabella. He laughed out loud and had undisguised appreciation in his gaze.

“Hector Leach has been arrested. The people who went to arrest Lincoln Zelman are already on their way. Zico Company is ready for a power shuffle. In less than a day, you've turned the situation in Sand City upside down. You won.”

Eric had always underestimated Nicole too much.

In just four hours, Eric used this time to prepare the ingredients for their dinner while Nicole arranged and executed everything.

Eric thought that Nicole would rest because she would be scared and tired from the events earlier. ①

However, Nicole did not do any of that.

Her movements were unbelievably fast, and her reactions were calm and swift. No one could accomplish what she did.

This was the woman he liked, excellent, bold, intelligent, and courageous. ②

He lost and was utterly convinced.

Nicole lowered her eyes and smiled faintly. “I know. Thanks for conceding.”

Eric squinted his eyes as he smiled.

“Nicole, if you come to Ferguson Corporation, I'll definitely give you the best treatment.”

What a great opponent!

Nicole raised an eyebrow. “If you come to Stanton Corporation, I’ll give you the best treatment too.”

Eric’s heart suddenly felt bitter. She was originally his, but he lost her.

She was a hidden treasure, but Eric threw her away like a piece of scrap metal. 2

Now, Nicole had Stanton Corporation backing her and would never rely on him unconditionally.

“Excuse me, your meal has been served. Please enjoy.”

The waiter pushed the cart over, put two plates of fruit salad on the table, and politely retreated.

These two people paid a lot of money to book out the venue, but only ordered two fruit salads.

Sure enough, rich people only ate according to their mood!

Eric looked at the fruit salad in front of him and froze for a moment.

He did not hear what Nicole ordered earlier and only wanted to eat what she ate. As a result, this was all she ordered.

Chapter 723 Third Wheel

Nicole cheerfully finished her meal. When she saw Eric's inability to eat, she was in a better mood.

She took several millions of compensation money from him, so this meal was well worth it.

Nicole was in a state of exaltation!

Back at the hotel, Nicole started to pack her suitcase.

She explained the rest of the matters to Jacob Cook and got on the plane home the next day.

Everything was smooth sailing with Jacob probably because they had specially informed Mr. Lewis to help out when needed. After Lincoln Zelman was arrested, Zico Company's affairs were officially handed over to the investigation team. As soon as the accounts were released, they started talking about the acquisition.

Lincoln Zelman did not last very long and admitted everything after a few days of interrogation because the evidence was too overwhelming.

Nicole purposely gave herself two days off, leaving all the company's affairs to Grant.

She made an appointment for a beauty treatment with Yvette. The two of them strolled around for a while before sitting down to rest.

Once Yvette heard about Nicole's experience in Sand City, she was very impressed.

Especially when Yvette heard that Nicole won against Eric, Yvette had even more admiration for her bestie.

“If this thing gets out, Eric will be laughed at!”

Nicole rolled her eyes at Yvette. “Don’t go out and talk nonsense! The relationship between Stanton Corporation and Ferguson Corporation is still quite balanced. Once broken, some people with ulterior motives will definitely take advantage of the situation.”

She did not want to spend more energy on maintaining the relationship between them.

Their current relationship was not too far nor too close. It was just right.

“Then did he lose willingly?” Yvette asked afterward.

Nicole smiled. “So what if he’s not willing? It’s a fact that he lost. With Eric’s status and ambition, he would not be so flustered to do something out of hand just because he lost one project.”

Eric might just lose his appetite for a bit.

Yvette could not help but laugh. “He might be sad about it, but I can’t believe he can lose. Maybe if you weren’t the opponent, he wouldn’t have lost so easily.”

This nudged Nicole to her senses.

Her presence itself was the most distracting to Eric. He was worried about her safety, so he did not put all his attention on the project.

If it had been someone else, the result might have been different.

What a shame...

Yvette thought about it and concluded. “He’s probably distracted by your beauty and can’t extricate himself.”

Nicole rolled her eyes again. “Carelessness is also a lesson. More such situations will happen in the future, so this is considered a chance for him to adapt to the feeling of losing...”

Yvette gave her a thumbs up. Only Nicole was capable enough to say such words that would make people die from exasperation.

She suddenly thought of something and looked at Nicole. “Oh right, why is it that every time I look for Jules, I’ll meet your third brother? Is he not filming anymore?”

Nicole raised her eyebrows. It looked like Yvette was even more dull-witted than her to not know about what happened between Julie and Kai.

“How is filming more important than dating?”

Yvette jumped up in shock and shouted, “OMG!”

Nicole put up her index finger in a shushing gesture and told her to keep her voice down.

“Don’t you think that your reaction is a little too overboard?”

Yvette sat back down, dumbfounded. “I never would’ve imagined that Kai and Jules are dating!”

That Greek god was so down-to-earth when he was dating.

Nicole sighed. “He’s probably still pursuing Jules. I don’t think he won her over yet.”

Yvette shook her head. “Tsk tsks... No wonder... Every time I eat with them, Kai just glares at me like he wants to bore a hole through my face. It makes sense now! When I asked them to go to the movies, Kai only bought two sets of popcorn... I guess he was implying that I should leave?”

Nicole could not help but laugh. Yvette was really an ignorant scatterbrain. She thought that Kai was probably furious with Yvette for being their third wheel for so long.

Just as she was about to say something, Nicole's phone rang. It was Floyd.

Floyd wanted her to go home because Clayton came to pick up Lil Michael.

Chapter 724 Return in Style

Nicole frowned and agreed to go home.

After parting with Yvette, she went straight to the Stanton Mansion.

Clayton was in the living room with Kai and Floyd. Floyd had always appreciated Clayton's gentle and modest nature that was not arrogant. His reserve and calmness made him seem very reliable.

As soon as Nicole went into the house, she saw Lil Michael dragging his small suitcase and coming down the stairs reluctantly. His eyes were red.

"Pretty Lady..." Lil Michael ran over aggrievedly and hugged Nicole.

Nicole hugged him back and suddenly felt very sad.

Lil Michael lived in the Stanton Mansion for so long that he had long been a part of their family.

However, they were clear that Clayton's feelings for Lil Michael were much more profound.

Clayton stood up and smiled at Nicole.

"The problems abroad held up many days of Michael's schooling. I've enrolled him in school, which will start soon, so it can't be delayed further."

Floyd sighed at the side. He was very reluctant.

"There are many good schools in the country. Must you send him to school abroad?"

Clayton patiently explained, "His curriculum is specially tailored abroad. There's no such service here, and Michael has already adapted to the speed of learning overseas.

If he suddenly switches curriculum, all his schoolwork will be delayed.”

His academic planning for Michael was specially customized by professionals from the best schools. Clayton also hired the best teachers for Michael that ordinary schools could not compare to.

Floyd looked at Lil Michael reluctantly. The boy went over obediently and wrapped his arms around Floyd’s neck.

“Uncle Floyd, I’ll come back to visit you often! I’ll finish all my lessons as soon as possible and inherit my daddy’s entire estate, then I can come back in style and be with you forever! No one can separate us again!”

Clayton stood there and sucked in a breath of cold air. ‘Huh... What a big ambition! He might as well have wished for me to die early!’

Floyd was amused and coaxed the boy before sending them off to the entrance.

Clayton stood by the car and looked at Nicole, seemingly hesitant to say something because he was concerned about the presence of so many people around them. Finally, he just lowered his eyes and smiled.

“Goodbye, Nicole.”

Nicole nodded. She suddenly remembered something and said, “Wait a sec!”

She took a bank card from upstairs and hurried down, then handed it to Clayton when Lil Michael was not looking.

“What’s this?”

Nicole chuckled. “It’s a back-to-school gift for Lil Michael. Don’t refuse it. It’s our custom here to start the new school semester with an allowance!”

Clayton felt a little baffled. “So, he’s supposed to take a bank card to school?”

He figured that Nicole would not just give a small sum of allowance.

Nicole tilted her head with a smile. “Us Medianians are generous people, so we must let Lil Michael’s international friends see our strength.”

Floyd nodded at the side. “Yes, just take it. What’s this small amount anyway?”

Clayton had no choice but to accept it on behalf of Lil Michael.

He somehow felt like Lil Michael reaped a lot more than just some love and pampering after staying with the Stantons for a few days.

After saying goodbye, Clayton went to the car and sent the bank account number to his assistant to check how much money was inside.

It was a whopping \$900 million!

Clayton instantly remembered that black pearl necklace that cost \$880 million.

Nicole even gave an extra \$20 million as a thank you gift.

At once, Clayton did not even know what to say. His eyes were somewhat deep, and he could not help but laugh.

Nicole really refused to owe anyone any favors.

However, there was still a long way to go, and he still had plenty of opportunities.

Lil Michael was still immersed in sadness and disappointment. It would be a long time until he could meet his pretty lady again, so he was dispirited.

“Daddy, what did Pretty Lady give you just now?”

Clayton raised his eyebrows and put the card away. “She bought you a lot of practice books and asked me to pass them on to you.”

“Oh, but I don’t want it...”

At that moment, Lil Michael's despondency was on the verge of collapse.

Chapter 725 Have the Skills to Be Single

Nicole turned around and went into the living room just as she saw Kai humming a tune and walking to the kitchen.

That was strange.

On normal days, Kai would not even step foot into the kitchen if Floyd did not force him to.

What was wrong with him today?

Floyd was sad for a while and sat in the living room, watching TV. He was recently into a period drama.

Nicole was just about to join her father when she heard someone coming down the stairs.

Maverick was walking down the steps as he sighed inexplicably.

‘Mav is home?!’

“Mav, did you come home alone? Molly didn’t come back with you?”

Maverick’s face stiffened. This was obviously poking his sore spot.

Floyd lifted his eyelids and did not want to speak.

Maverick touched his nose. His elegant face had a hint of embarrassment.

“I’m going back to the research institute tomorrow because it’s about time to get back to work. Molly’s staying at home for a while longer.”

Nicole nodded and watched as Maverick walked toward the kitchen.

Kai cheerfully came to greet Nicole. “Lil N, I made some milk tea. Come and try

some...”

Nicole was speechless.

‘How can he offer me such a fattening drink at this time of day?! I don’t wanna get fat!’

Before Nicole could walk to the kitchen, she heard Maverick speaking slowly.

“This liquid has a lot of trans-fatty acids, which will increase cholesterol levels and cause cardiovascular disease. It can even lead to cancer in the human body...”

‘Great... My appetite is completely gone now.’

Nicole silently turned around and did not drink it.

Kai was silent for a few seconds. He was speechless for a moment before he said,

“Mav, you really have the skills to be single!”

Maverick came out looking crestfallen. His face became gloomier.

Kai hummed a tune while he walked out and handed the cup to Floyd.

“Dad! I made this for you!”

Floyd did not even look at it and took a sip.

“It’s not too sweet...”

Kai chuckled. “Jules doesn’t like sweet drinks, so just make do with it.”

The corners of Floyd’s mouth twitched. ‘Huh... Does he want a beating again?!’

.....

In less than a week, Jacob shared some good news.

Lincoln Zelman, Hector Leach, and others from Zico Company embezzling assets and

falsifying accounts were brought to court. They were prosecuted and sentenced to three years in prison.

The next step was for Stanton Corporation to restructure Zico Company.

Since Zico Company was united against Stanton Corporation's staff at the beginning, Nicole had little sympathy for them.

They had received unemployment benefits and no longer had any contracts with the company, yet they still wanted to follow in Lincoln Zelman's footsteps to take advantage of others.

Therefore, only ten people still had employment contracts with Zico Company.

These ten people that remained were staff from the lowest pay grade. If they left, they would get substantial severance pay.

Thus, they all chose to leave.

Once the dust settled, Nicole let out a sigh of relief.

Nicole would go to keep an eye on the project when it started. The rest was not a difficult matter.

Stanton Tower.

Nicole was sipping coffee and looking at the status report sent by Jacob Cook.

Suddenly, her phone rang.

It was Yvette.

“Go look at Eric's new post! Hahaha...”

Nicole's heart thudded.

She had a bad feeling that the son of a b*tch Eric Ferguson did something to annoy her

again.

Nicole subconsciously clicked on her social media account. Sure enough, the latest post on her newsfeed was Eric's.

“I'm so blessed to be able to bake for you!” ①

The accompanying picture was a variety of desserts – peach pies, strawberry tarts, chocolate mousse cake, blueberry cheesecake, etc...

It was shaped into a perfect heart.

This time, he was quite euphemistic and did not spell out her name directly.

However, this picture of desserts shaped like a heart was already enough to stir up conversation.

Chapter 726 Basic Hobby

Eric was afraid that others might not know that the picture was meant for Nicole.

Nicole was speechless and cursed him a million times in her heart. 'This son of a b*tch is crazy! Can't he just focus on being a good boss? What's the point of him always thinking about conquering the kitchen? Also, why does he have to involve me and drag me into his sh*t from time to time?! What the hell!'

There were all sorts of praises below Eric's post.

[Mr. Ferguson, the desserts you made look amazing!]

[That's awesome! How blessed would it be to try Mr. Ferguson's cooking?]

[Sincerity is the key to success!]

.....

Nicole grunted. 'Haha! If I give them this "blessing", will they dare to take it?'

After a while, Keith finally could not help but ask what was on everyone's mind.

[Honestly, did you really make these with your own hands?!]

At least there were still people who were not willing to blatantly lie.

Not long after, Eric finally replied.

[No, but I tasted them myself.]

The answer was simple and concise.

Everyone finally shut up.

In the evening, Nicole left work.

The receptionist called out to her.

“President, someone sent you a delivery.”

Nicole raised her eyebrows. She did not remember ordering anything. Logan would usually be in charge of her deliveries.

After walking over to take a look, Nicole saw a delicate little food box.

She opened it and saw that it was filled with desserts.

Nicole’s face changed drastically. ‘Damn it! That annoying Eric Ferguson keeps haunting me!’

She smiled and pushed it back to the receptionist. “You haven’t had dinner, right? Take it back and eat it.”

The receptionist was flattered. ‘OMG! These desserts were intended for President Nicole. She’s so down to earth!’

“Thank you, President!”

After Nicole left, the receptionist opened the box and saw that there was a note inside.

Someone had written in fluid and beautiful handwriting with a fountain pen.

[I’ve held back on a lot of unspoken words, but I couldn’t hold back missing you. – Eric Ferguson.]

The receptionist suddenly stiffened. ‘OMG... What did I just read?! This actually Mr. Ferguson’s gift to President Nicole? Mr. Ferguson is capable of writing such cheesy and romantic words?!’

.....

When Nicole received the call, she was already on the way back.

She did not look at it and picked it up when the phone rang.

“Hello, who is it?”

“Nicole, how are the desserts?”

‘This damned Eric Ferguson!’

His voice was warm, deep, and pleasant to the ear.

Nicole paused for a moment. “Mr. Ferguson, can you not have such a basic hobby?”

‘Please let go of the kitchen! Let me go too!’ Nicole thought.

Eric laughed in a low voice. “I’ve already learned to make desserts. Toto always had good cooking skills, so I’ll certainly learn well.”

He was obsessed with cooking. It seemed that his defiant energy was used in the kitchen.

It just seemed so strange no matter how she looked at it.

Nicole speechlessly rolled her eyes. “Then... I wish you success in your learning.”

Eric paused. “I’ve started to do those things that you used to do just to experience how you felt back then. Nicole, I’m really sorry that I’ve hurt you so much.”

There was silence on the phone for a few seconds.

Then, Nicole hung up the phone.

They had not reached the point where they could calmly talk about the past.

Not mentioning the past was already the limit.

Eric looked at the blacked-out screen and keenly felt every bit of Nicole’s change in

emotion. She was avoiding the issue because she was very sad.

That sadness was like interlocking knives that cut his body.

This was all retribution.

Toto came out of the kitchen. He finally managed to clean up the expensive mess and hoped that Eric could dispel his love of cooking.

In the past few days, Eric broke many sets of porcelain tableware. Countless appliances also went bust in Eric's hands.

Eric was the number one destroyer in the kitchen. It was simply toxic!

Chapter 727 Be Steady

Toto coughed. “Mr. Ferguson, it’s all cleaned up. Do you...”

Eric nodded indifferently. “Have someone replace the broken microwave oven. Don’t work with this brand again. Their quality is just garbage!”

The corners of Toto’s lips twitched as he thought, ‘You’re clearly just using it the wrong way!’

“Yes, sir.”

Although Toto thought that in his heart, he still readily agreed to whatever Eric said because whatever the boss said was always right.

“By the way, I heard Mitchell say that a woman who knows you wants to work for Ferguson Corporation, but you were busy all day...”

Toto frowned as he thought of what Mitchell told him before leaving the office. Mitchell instructed him to make sure to mention this matter to Eric.

Eric looked indifferent. “What woman? I don’t know her.”

Toto understood and immediately relayed Eric’s original message to Mitchell.

Two days later.

Gremlin Club.

The weather was still a bit chilly. Everyone was wrapped in thick clothes when they were out.

However, people like Nicole, who was extreme in her pursuit of beauty, did not care about the weather.

There was a party in the gentry circle. Both Nicole and Eric were invited.

Nicole wore a long black body-hugging dress with puffy sleeves that made her look playful and lively. The dress accentuated her slim waist and long legs. Her style was very unique.

It was sassy and demure. These two styles were not clashing on her.

After Nicole got out of the car, she scanned the surroundings. She saw Julie, who also just arrived.

Nicole went inside.

Julie went over to hold Nicole's arm. "I haven't seen you for a few days! I almost couldn't wait to run to your house to look for you!"

Nicole clicked her tongue and joked with her casually.

"To see me or my brother?"

Julie rolled her eyes and gently pinched Nicole as a warning.

"Don't talk nonsense!"

Nicole's smile deepened. Julie did not seem to be averse to this kind of joke, so it meant that Kai still had a chance!

"I'm not! I'm really looking forward to the day when you become a part of our family!"

Julie laughed. Her smile instantly tightened.

She seemed to be apprehensive because she was worried about something.

"I heard that Roman went to look for you several times?" Nicole paused and asked her.

Between them, there was nothing they could not talk about.

This kind of topic was private to others, but to them, it was something to gossip about.

They got into the elevator.

Julie sighed and sneered.

“He’s just asking for it. Originally, if he’d used his little bit of influence, it wouldn’t have been a problem for him to mingle in a smaller circle, but this guy actually got high on drugs at a very important show. At that time when he was kicked out, he’s also ostracized in the international arena. He had nowhere to go, so he came running back to me to apologize and admit his fault, looking so wretched and miserable.”

Nicole shook her head. Her heart was cold and indifferent.

He was doomed eternally for that one misstep.

Roman was originally quite promising, but he was ruined.

“Then you can’t falter! Such a man will only drag you down!” Nicole took the opportunity to speak.

Nicole could not bear to have someone exploiting her third brother’s flaws.

Julie gave her a speechless look.

“He has no value anymore. Do you think I’m stupid? I’m not foolish enough to spend my own money trying to train someone else’s man. Do you know how many people are jealous of his smooth development over the past few years? As soon as Roman’s drug scandal is exposed, his rival will immediately take the opportunity to crush him. By then, no one will be able to hide his scandal and he’ll have no other way out but to withdraw from the circle.”

Julie spoke in a relaxed tone without any semblance of sympathy.

Nicole was finally relieved.

However, this made sense. No wonder Kai was so attentive to go to Julie's office lately.

It turned out that Kai was afraid that Julie would rekindle her love with Roman.

Nicole smiled and asked her, "Then what do you think of my brother...?"

Chapter 728 It's Bullsh*t Destiny

Julie paused and interrupted Nicole.

“Lil N, I’m not gonna lie to you. I do still have feelings for Kai, but... That kind of feeling is like standing on the edge of a cliff with a knife hanging overhead. It’s so uncertain and scary. I can’t handle another loss like that, so I’d rather not go through that.”

This kind of relationship was different from her relationship with Roman.

Julie was always indifferent and wary of Roman. She always knew that their relationship would come to an end, but with Kai, her heart was moved.

Nicole was silent for a moment. She smiled and nodded.

She understood that a partner was more important to Julie than anything else because he would be her only family for life.

However, who could guarantee that the flirtatious and amorous Kai would always give Julie so much passion and love?

People who did not have the slightest sense of security would not easily trust and give away their hearts.

Julie did not want to be abandoned once again.

Nicole took a deep breath. Just then, the elevator door opened.

They walked out.

“No matter what, I will always be on your side, Jules. Just follow your heart.”

There was no need to be caught in anyone’s persuasive words or feelings.

Julie nodded. The two ladies looked at each other and smiled.

Soon after, Julie's smile stiffened.

"Mr. Ferguson?"

Eric stood there with a cold and reserved aura. He was tall and was really too conspicuous in the crowd.

Nicole looked back.

Eric was looking at her with a smile as he walked over. "What a coincidence!"

'Coincidence my foot!' Nicole thought.

They had a lot of common friends in the circle, so they would usually get invited to the same events.

Intentional avoidance would just attract attention.

Nicole nodded and smiled perfunctorily. "It is quite a coincidence..."

Eric said seriously and solemnly, "It must be destiny that we keep meeting."

Nicole's smile stiffened.

Julie could not help but burst out laughing. 'He must be out of his mind!'

Nicole forced a smile and pulled Julie to go around Eric. "Let's go say hello to them."

Eric lowered his eyes to conceal the disappointment in them. Soon after, he looked up again with cold, harsh eyes as the people in front approached him to exchange pleasantries.

He looked completely different in a split second.

Keith saw that there was a crowd and took the initiative to come over.

“Ferg, don’t be discouraged. I’ll definitely help you!”

Keith blinked. Only after having experienced it himself did he understand how regretful it was to lose a sincere relationship.

His beloved Livia handled a few great cases and gained online fame. She became a representative of divorced independent women.

Livia was living a good life, but what about him?

Keith thought about it and went over to Nicole.

“Ms. Stanton, it’s been a while...”

Everyone saw Young Master Ludwig approaching and made way for him.

Nicole raised her eyebrows. “Yes, Mr. Ludwig. Do you need something?”

“We’re friends, or at least acquaintances. Can’t we just chat casually if I don’t need anything?”

Keith’s habit of pestering and being naturally close to others did not change one bit.

Nicole laughed.

“Sure we can! I still have your nudes on my phone. From time to time, I’ll take a look at it. That’s quite interesting, don’t you think?”

Keith’s face stiffened and turned glum. The excitement in his eyes was instantly annihilated. ‘Sh*t, I’m screwed! I’m not worthy to talk to Nicole... We’re not even on the same level.’

“Ms. Stanton, you must be joking...”

He bowed his head in dismay, hesitated for several seconds, and did not leave. He braced himself and pleaded.

“Ms. Stanton, can you say a few good words for me in front of Livia? I’m truly repentant now...”

Nicole took a sip of red wine, looking indifferent and elegant. Her temperament was extremely calm.

She asked, “Do you think that’s possible?”

Keith subconsciously shook his head.

Nicole laughed. ‘He clearly knows the answer. I guess he was also kicked in the head...’

Chapter 729 On Purpose

Keith walked away dejected.

Eric shook his head and watched. Keith looked so smug when he went over to Nicole, but when he came back, he looked like this. Nicole was really amazing!

She could even clean up such a shameless guy like Keith Ludwig.

The people not far away came over to exchange pleasantries and noticed Eric's obviously different attitude. They were enthusiastic and polite.

"Welcome, Mr. Ferguson..."

Eric raised his glass in gesture. Before he could retract his hand, someone next to him suddenly crashed into him.

The red wine poured all over his body.

The disgust in Eric's eyes had not yet faded when the person who crashed into him was about to jump into his arms.

It was a woman.

At once, his gaze darkened and turned cold. He was quick to take a few steps back to give way for the woman to fall.

He did not want this woman to touch him.

In front of Nicole, moral integrity was the most basic quality he had to keep.

"Ah..."

After a miserable scream and a clatter, there was finally silence.

Xandria had clearly calculated the angle and position she needed to be in to fall into

Eric's arms accurately so that she would not look bad in front of so many people.

However, who knew that the man who was standing there had taken a few steps backward so quickly?

Xandria fell straight to the floor and bared her teeth in pain.

Soon, a crowd gathered around her.

"She's wearing a uniform, so she's a waitress here, right?"

"Yeah, why is this person so fidgety? She almost hit Mr. Ferguson. She really has no eyes!"

"That's right. Where's the supervisor? Why didn't they come out?"

.....

Xandria waited for a day at Ferguson Corporation, only to be told that Eric did not know her and would not see her.

Since Xandria left Stanton Corporation, she had nowhere to go. How could a top student like her who had studied abroad just settle for a small company?

Thus, Xandria thought about targeting Eric.

Eric had met her before, so how could he say that he did not know her?

Xandria learned with great difficulty that Eric would attend this party today, so she managed to get in. Even if she was just a waiter, she would find a chance to appear in front of him as long as he was there.

She did not expect that Eric would be so unchivalrous as to let a woman fall to the floor.

He did not even give her a hand.

The surrounding waiters came over to help Xandria up.

The supervisor also hurried over to apologize.

“Sorry, everyone! I’m sorry, Mr. Ferguson. This person is new and fidgety. I’ll deal with it immediately.”

Eric’s eyes were cold and sunken. He looked very unhappy because his clothes were soiled, which was what he could not tolerate the most.

Xandria looked soft and weak as someone helped her up. Under the supervisor’s gesture, she looked at Eric aggrievedly.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Ferguson. I really didn’t mean to do this.”

In her eyes, she seemed to be complaining that he avoided her.

Eric’s gaze was harsh and frigid. He did not even look at her and put the glass aside, then turned to leave.

Xandria hurriedly called out to him. “Mr. Ferguson, don’t you remember me?”

Eric’s footsteps lurched. Hearing these words, he glanced back.

That face was ignorant and unfamiliar.

Did he see her before?

With that glance, Xandria was a little heartbroken, but she did not forget to remind him.

“I opened the door for you on New Year’s Eve at the Stanton Mansion. Two days ago, handed over a flash drive to you...”

Eric pursed his lips. “Those two people are the same person?”

“You’re... Nicole’s cousin?”

“Yes, yes, yes! Mr. Ferguson, you really have a good memory!”

Xandria beamed with excitement.

Chapter 730 Make Her Pay for It

That supervisor on the side heard this. His heart suddenly thumped.

His face changed slightly.

Nicole was present at the event. How could he ask Nicole's cousin to be a v

Could it be that a high-society lady wanted to experience life as a commo

On the other side, Eric pondered for a moment. His face was indifferent a
the supervisor next to Xandria.

Eric took off his soiled jacket and said in a stern tone, "Let her pay for it."

The words were brief and concise without another word of nonsense.

Originally, Eric did not want to make a big deal out of it, but since it invol
Nicole would probably come forward.

That way, he could have the opportunity to meet with her alone.

Eric was secretly gloating over his brilliant idea.

The supervisor looked at Eric incredulously, but he dared not question th
immediately responded after showing his surprise.

The luxury Italian hand-made blazer that Eric wore was a limited-edition
globally. One jacket was at least seven figures.

If that waiter earlier was not a daughter of an affluent family, she would n
afford it.

Xandria froze in place. She had not even had a chance to seek employment
was already burdened with a huge debt.

How could she afford to compensate Eric?

“Mr. Ferguson... Mr. Ferguson...”

Xandria shouted at him, but Eric was indifferent, cold-faced, and hard-hearted. She was not at all moved.

This woman’s little tactics earlier showed her bad intentions. Anyone with a discerning eye could see that the woman did this on purpose.

Xandria thought that it could be a romantic moment, but it turned out that Eric did not take the bait.

She was very anxious.

Everyone watched this scene and was puzzled. The always generous Eric suddenly became so fixated on this matter.

However, on second thought, this woman was Nicole’s cousin, so it made sense.

Eric just wanted an excuse to chase his ex-wife, right?

What a great show!

“Xandria, since Mr. Ferguson has decided, you should be able to afford to pay for his clothes, right?”

Since she was Nicole’s relative, a piece of clothing would not be a problem for her.

Xandria’s face turned pale as her hand started to sweat nervously.

“I...”

She looked around in a daze with red eyes.

Nicole and Julie were on high ground and watched the whole scene. They just found it very funny.

Xandria could not afford this, yet she still dared to pour red wine over Eric.

When Xandria spotted Nicole, her eyes lit up.

“Cousin...”

Everyone looked at Nicole, and everything was going according to Eric’s script.

Mr. Ferguson was really amazing.

Nicole picked up her phone and looked at Julie with a smile. “It’s too annoying here. Let’s go somewhere else?”

Julie raised her eyebrows. “Sure!”

The two ladies walked out one after the other. Everyone gave way to them. When they walked past Xandria and that supervisor, Xandria stood there aggrievedly.

“Cousin...”

“Ms. Stanton, this...”

Nicole stopped in her tracks and let out a cold laugh.

“I’m not familiar with this lady. Do I need to explain my relationship with whoever that claims to be my relative?”

After that, Nicole bluntly strutted away in her high heels. ‘Screw that distant relative! What a scourge!’

That supervisor’s face changed drastically. Nicole clearly looked displeased. It was his dereliction of duty for having lost two of the most important guests from this banquet.

He told someone to take Xandria out and have her call for someone to deliver the money.

This club's security was very tight. Not even a fly could get out without their permission.

Xandria had no money, but she was also scared to death by the group of people who were so heartless. Thus, she could only call to borrow money from relatives and friends.

Eric was waiting downstairs. He had changed into a new set of clean clothes, so his mood naturally turned for the better.

He waited for Nicole to come over and say a couple of good words for that woman. If so, he would not be so calculative.

About ten minutes later.

Nicole and Julie came out talking and laughing.

She did not look like she was there to look for him.

Eric frowned. His eyes were sunken, and his hard features were immersed in darkness. He pushed the car door open and got out.

"Nicole, I'm here."

Chapter 731 Marriage Alliance

Nicole and Julie were shocked.

Subsequently, Nicole frowned and looked at the man. “Mr. Ferguson, didn’t you leave yet?”

Eric paused for a moment. His expression was a bit cool.

“I’m waiting for you.”

“Why are you waiting for me?”

Nicole was confused. It was a cold day and she still wanted to catch the next party with Julie.

Eric’s eyes were sunken, and his eyebrows were stern. He looked at her and reminded her. “Your cousin soiled my clothes...”

‘I won’t get calculative...’

Before Eric could finish his sentence, Nicole let out a cold laugh.

“She’s not my cousin. If you want to find her, just contact her directly. Don’t go through me. I’m not a fool that will pay for others. If anyone tries to cheat you under the guise of being related to me, please call the police. Thank you.”

Her eyes were nonchalant with a cold undertone.

Nicole admitted that she was disgusted by that woman, Xandria.

Eric did not expect Nicole to react this way. If he had not seen Xandria at the Stanton Mansion, he would not have believed it.

Nicole and Xandria were simply worlds apart.

After Nicole said her piece, she walked past Eric and got into the car.

Julie glanced at Eric from behind and got into the car.

She smiled. "Mr. Ferguson seems to be very disappointed..."

Nicole smirked and sneered.

"He's just disappointed that no one will pay for that multi-million-dollar jacket..."

Anyway, Nicole would not fork out this money because she would rather donate it.

The two ladies went to the bar that they often went to, Tattle Bar.

As soon as they entered, the bar owner recognized them.

"You ladies must've made an appointment with Young Master Carter, right? He's at the usual place."

Nicole was surprised and glanced at Julie.

Ian Carter was there!

That private room was chartered by them. No matter how fully booked the bar was, this room would be reserved for them.

When the two ladies reached the door, they heard the person inside wailing, which sounded heartbreaking and touching.

Nicole was stunned and asked Julie in a whisper, "What's up with him lately?"

Why was Ian in such despair?

Julie shook her head, indicating that she was not aware either.

Ian was still jumping around excitedly screaming about going to see the Aurora

Borealis two days ago in their group chat. Everything seemed fine then.

Hesitantly, Nicole knocked on the door, but there was no response.

She then pushed the door open.

A bottle was viciously hurled at her. “Who allowed you to come in?! Get out!”

Nicole dodged sideways. The bottle smashed on the door and fell to the floor, shattering to pieces.

Ian did not hold back his strength at all.

Julie reminded him. “Will you open your eyes to see who it is?! What happens if you kill her?!”

Ian’s cries stopped abruptly.

He raised his eyes and looked at the two people who appeared in front of him.

“You guys... Why are you guys here?”

Nicole walked over and surveyed his beautiful eyes that were red and swollen like walnuts from crying so much.

On his handsome face, this looked very comical.

“Carter, even actors can’t cry as hard as you did. May I ask what you’re so hung up about?”

Ian looked away awkwardly and rubbed his eyes. “I didn’t cry...”

Julie laughed lightly.

“Aren’t you the one who was just wailing like a banshee? I recorded it!”

Ian glared at Julie fiercely. “You’re so mean!”

Nicole laughed and looked at him.

“So, what’s the reason? Is your poverty alleviation business not going well? Or you can’t sell the produce anymore?”

Nicole still vividly remembered Ian’s high-profile charity some time ago.

Ian pursed his lips. “It’s nothing...”

Nicole straightened up and sighed.

“It’s fine if you don’t wanna tell us. You can continue crying then, we’ll head out...”

Ian looked at Nicole in shock. ‘This heartless woman is just gonna leave like that?!’

Nicole and Julie really took their things and left. Ian paused for a moment and immediately called out to them. He spoke in a crying tone.

“Wait! My family wants me to have a marriage alliance...”

Chapter 732 Cruel Woman

Nicole and Julie stopped in their tracks.

They looked at Ian incredulously.

Nicole calmed down for a moment before speaking. “Hasn’t your family always been quite open-minded?”

The Carter family always favored and pampered their children.

Nicole was aware of that. After Ian’s brother passed away, the Carters’ love for Ian became even more indulgent. Ian could get whatever he wanted. Even if they were mad at Ian, they would hardly reprimand him.

Ian even squeezed out a few tears. “That was before! Carter Corporation’s internal affairs have been a mess ever since Grandpa’s health deteriorated. Everyone began to seize power, and the one that’s been going against us insisted on marrying their daughter to me. Otherwise, he’ll drive our family out of Carter Corporation.”

Nicole was shocked for a while. She was not clear about the internal affairs of Carter Corporation, but she was surprised that the Carters did not notice that a shareholder had seized power to such an extent.

“How did such a big thing happen to your family all of a sudden?”

Ian paused for a moment. His voice was hoarse.

“I’ve never cared about the company’s affairs. The shareholders in the company are my grandpa’s aides, but they suddenly betrayed us. I didn’t even dare to tell Grandpa about it. I’m afraid that he’ll die from anger...”

Nicole and Julie looked at each other, then cast a sympathetic glance at Ian.

Ian, the hand-off boss, encountered a big problem that he simply could not solve.

The three people sat there, thinking hard about a solution. At some point, Ian started crying again.

Julie looked at him with disgust.

Nicole paused for a moment. “Um... Is that woman pretty?”

‘If she’s tolerable, Ian can compromise first and fight back later...’ Nicole thought.

Ian’s cries became more intense. “She’s eleven years older than me and divorced...”

Nicole and Julie were speechless.

Poor Ian!

It seemed that Ian would never compromise willingly.

Julie thought about it and proposed.

“Actually, it’s not impossible to turn this situation around...”

Nicole and Ian looked at her.

Julie smiled. “Just find a more reliable alliance, secretly collect those people’s weaknesses, and crush them slowly. You should prepare yourself for both eventualities.”

The two others were silent.

Where would Ian find a more reliable person to marry?

Julie winked at Nicole. Nicole then pointed at herself, "With me?"

'I need to sacrifice myself?' Nicole thought.

Julie nodded.

"Not a real marriage, just a signal to the outside world. Stanton Corporation's background is big enough that those people will think twice about it."

Nicole paused and pondered for a moment.

"Actually, I think that if you're really not interested in managing the company, why don't you get professional managers to keep an eye on it for you? You can just take a back seat and still hold power. That way, others won't scheme against you. Of course, this is all for later. Now, it's more important to solve this problem. If you need my help, I can cooperate with you..."

Anyway, this was all an act. Nicole did not feel like she would lose anything as long as it could help Ian.

She could not just stand by and watch him go bankrupt.

Ian sniffled and suddenly reached out to hug his besties.

"You guys are the best! I love you guys!"

Julie and Nicole speechlessly rolled their eyes and immediately pushed him away.

"Don't get sappy!"

They came up with a plan and went back to their own homes.

Early the next day.

It was snowing outside. The ground was white, even the tree branches had a thick layer of snow.

After Nicole got up, she dressed up meticulously and picked an eye-catching dress.

When she went downstairs, Kai took a look and asked, “Are you going on a date?”

Floyd raised his eyes. “Don’t be ridiculous. Your sister’s beauty just can’t be concealed at all!”

Kai was speechless.

Chapter 733 Creating Gossip

Nicole smiled. “There may be gossip about me in the next two days. As long as it doesn’t affect our stocks, just let it be, okay?”

Floyd frowned. “What do you mean by that?”

Nicole thought about it and told Floyd about the Carter family’s situation.

Floyd was silent for a while and sighed. “After Old Master Carter lost his favorite grandson, he had no interest in the company. It’s really pitiful. If there’s anything you guys can do to help, you mustn’t reject them.”

Nicole and Kai nodded obediently.

At Stanton Tower.

As soon as Nicole got out of the car, she saw Ian, who was stopped at the front desk.

He was big and tall and looked dapper in his suit. His charming eyes were glimmering. Ian looked completely different from yesterday’s wretchedness. Ian was an elegant and distinguished gentleman and really deserved to be recognized as a handsome man in the gentry circle.

Ian held a large bouquet of flowers that looked very grand.

The receptionist saw this and dared not let him in because of such an obvious display of love.

As soon as Nicole went into the lobby, Ian breathed a sigh of relief and opened his arms wide. “Honey, I haven’t seen you for a few days. I missed you so much!”

The receptionist nervously took out her phone, ready to get the security guards to come and protect their President Nicole!

She inadvertently swept a glance and saw Nicole smiling brightly and running toward Ian.

The receptionist rubbed her eyes. ‘Am I hallucinating? Is that woman the noble, elegant, reserved, and gentle President Nicole?’

The two embraced each other in public as if they were a pair of intimate lovers.

This happened so suddenly. The information was too much to handle.

People passing by stopped and watched this scene in shock, yet they dared not stare for too long.

Soon, after everyone took in that scene, the couple went into the President’s exclusive elevator hand in hand.

When they reached the elevator, they calmed down.

Nicole asked, “Have you contacted the reporter?”

Ian took out his phone and looked at it. “Don’t worry, they have what they need.”

Ian was in Nicole’s office for fifteen minutes before he left reluctantly.

The news spread in less than half an hour.

At once, a wave of turmoil surged on the internet that had its short moment of peace earlier.

“Nicole Stanton and Ian Carter are childhood friends and sweethearts. The two are suspected to have started dating.”

Nicole looked at the comments below this news article and could not help but smile.

[Wow! They look so good together! What a handsome man and beautiful woman!]

[I'm so envious of Ms. Stanton! She changes boyfriends like she changes clothes. Expensive and beautiful clothes at that!]

[My heart aches for Mr. Ferguson...]

.....

'Very good! The effect is better than I expected!' Nicole thought.

Ferguson Corporation.

Eric came out after the meeting and took his phone from Mitchell.

Mitchell wanted to speak but stopped.

"President..."

Mitchell was so scared.

"Speak."

Mitchell opened the webpage for him. "President, don't be impulsive... This must be some tabloid reporters writing nonsense..." ¹

Eric took a glance. His eyes instantly turned austere and dark. There was an abrupt chill coming from his body.

He fiercely slammed the phone, which broke instantly.

Mitchell warily followed him to the office. Eric's body was exuding a strong hostility.

The emotions that Eric had suppressed in his heart seemed to have found an outlet.

The photo of Nicole and Ian hugging was like a thorn in Eric's heart.

Eric still vividly remembered how Ian pursued Nicole back then.

‘She would rather give Ian a chance than me?!’ Eric thought.

“Take it down!”

Eric gritted his teeth. His eyes were overwhelmingly cold.

Mitchell immediately called the person in charge of the platform.

After a while, the news did not show any sign of disappearing. Instead, the discussion was increasing.

Mitchell braced himself and walked back into Eric’s office. “President... The platform said that Dominic Young from Falcon Entertainment insisted on keeping this on the trending topics.”

This implied that Nicole wanted to be on this trending topic herself.

Chapter 734 Are You Human?

Eric's eyes were cold and stern. The gloom on his face was frightening.

Eric no longer wanted to try to woo Nicole slowly. He just wanted to knock her out and keep her hidden. ①

He clenched his fists. The veins between his eyebrows were faintly bulging. His eyes were sharp and deep, and his voice was coarse and cold.

“Take it down! Or else, crush the platform.”

Mitchell's face was solemn. He immediately nodded.

“Yes, sir...”

Eric did not want to see such news. If Mitchell continued to stay in the room, he would just be provoking Eric and looking for his own death.

In less than twenty minutes, this news vanished just as quickly as it appeared.

Soon, the news of a showbiz couple cheating dominated the headlines and trending topics.

Nicole and Ian's news was nowhere to be seen.

However, Nicole did not mind because those few hours of hype were enough for people's imagination to run wild.

This news did not affect Stanton Corporation's stock, but Carter Corporation's stock shot up because of it.

Eric calmed down and suddenly felt that this matter was a little strange.

If Nicole wanted to be with Ian, why wait until today?

A moment later, Eric looked for Mitchell and asked him to find out more about this matter.

Carter Corporation.

Ian happily sat in the President's office.

At last, no one would tell him what to do and warn him to be ready for the marriage alliance.

However, when Ian looked at his phone again, he could not find the news on the trending topics.

Ian called the platform and asked about it to learn that Eric Ferguson had intervened.

He was so furious that he called Eric. ①

“Eric F*ckerson! You're really too much! When you were competing with Clayton, I was on your team and even said a lot of good things about you in front of Nicole, but you ruined my big plans?! Are you human?!”

Ian did not want to marry that divorcee who was eleven years older than him.

Eric spoiled Ian's plans, which made Ian gnash his teeth.

When Eric saw the unfamiliar number, he thought of hanging up but accidentally answered it.

Ian's voice that was filled with resentment came out in a flurry.

Eric frowned when he heard this. His voice was frigid. “What do you mean?”

“If Nicole and I want to be together, no one can stop us! Do you think that you still have a chance? You threatened the platform to remove my trending topic? Do you know how long it took for us to come up with this? Eric F*ckerson, you're too much!”

I've decided to support Clayton now!"

After that, Ian hung up the phone.

His heart was pounding violently because he was infuriated.

Eric's handsome and cold face was half-hidden in the shadows. His eyes were awe-inspiring. He suddenly thought of something and immediately instructed Mitchell.

"Check out what's been going on with Ian Carter and Carter Corporation lately."

The suspicion in his heart was growing, but his intuition told him that this matter was not so simple.

The silver watch on his wrist permeated with a chill.

Soon, a confidential investigation report about Carter Corporation was delivered to Eric.

Eric only read a few pages and immediately understood why this trending topic appeared today.

In an instant, his sullen mood alleviated.

It was all fake!

Although Eric's expression looked a lot better, his chest still felt stuffy when he thought about the eye-piercing photos.

Eric did not even hug Nicole properly, so what right did Ian have to hug her like this?

Thinking of this, Eric snorted coldly.

Mitchell watched with trepidation. Eric's face changed so quickly that even those who knew him best did not fully understand what he was thinking.

“Since Ian doesn’t want to marry that woman, we should help him...”

Eric felt benevolent and charitable.

It was because Ian was a man of vision for supporting him rather than Clayton.

Nicole got off work. Just as they planned, she and Ian needed to be spotted together during these days.

Thus, Nicole left work early and drove herself to Carter Corporation.

Chapter 735 A Woman With Money and Power

Nicole drove Kai's Maserati in a high-profile and weaved through the city.

She parked at the entrance of Carter Corporation and went upstairs smoothly without anyone stopping her.

Nicole opened Ian's office door to see a man and a woman, as well as Ian's mother.

She paused for a moment. Ian saw her and quickly pulled her over.

"Lil N, why'd you just arrive? Didn't we agree to go for dinner? I've reserved a table!"

Nicole looked bewildered. 'Did we? Weren't we supposed to just go out together to let the reporter snap a photo of us on the streets? Now we have to eat dinner too?'

Ian winked at Nicole. The other woman sitting next to the man suddenly glared at Nicole indignantly.

"Ian, you're really with Nicole? You rejected me because you found a woman who's even richer and more powerful than me?"

Before Adeline Zabel was divorced, she would see and hear about Second Young Master Carter at every gentry circle gathering. Ian Carter was flirtatious and handsome and was many times better than those fat and ugly trust fund kids.

Adeline had a long-standing crush on Ian and was obsessed with him. Thus, she rushed to get a divorce and instigated Terrence Zabel to seize power and force Ian's hand in marriage.

Every step was very smooth.

Who knew that there was such an interference halfway through?

Nicole immediately understood the identity of the woman in front of her who looked to be in her thirties. It was Adeline Zabel.

Next to Adeline was Carter Corporation's shareholder, Terrence Zabel.

Nicole raised her eyebrows. 'Indeed, I do have money and power!'

Seeing Nicole, Terrence had some unnatural fear. He tugged his daughter's arm next to him.

"Don't be rude."

With that, Terrence stood up, bowed slightly, and politely extended his hand. "Hello, Ms. Stanton. What a pleasure to meet you."

Someone who could stir up the storm in Carter Corporation was not a simple person.

Terrence was friends with Old Master Carter for many years, yet he still seized power without any regard. It was clear how bad his character was to be able to do this.

Nicole ignored Terrence's hand and smiled coldly.

"Mr. Zabel, although this is our first time meeting, I've heard a lot about you."

Terrence did not mind Nicole's avoidance. After all, he did not dare to offend Stanton Corporation. Moreover, he had heard of Nicole's character.

He retracted his hand and smiled awkwardly.

"Ms. Stanton, you're too polite. Mr. Carter, since you have a guest here, we won't bother you any longer. Adeline, let's go..."

Adeline was extremely reluctant. The bird she trapped was about to fly away again, so she was very vexed.

"Ms. Stanton, will you marry Ian? If not, don't lead him on and cause

misunderstanding!”

Terrence’s face changed slightly. He tried to stop his daughter, but it was already too late.

Nicole raised her eyebrows and snorted coldly.

“What’s it got to do with you anyway?”

A simple sentence revealed all of Nicole’s disdain for Adeline.

Adeline was simply no match for her.

Adeline bit her lower lip and said, “If it wasn’t for you, Ian and I would’ve gotten married!”

Ian immediately jumped out to deny it. “Impossible! Never! I’m the Second Young Master of the Carter family, so why should I marry you, a divorced woman who was kicked out!”

Adeline pointed at Nicole. Her tone was cold and stern. “Isn’t she also divorced and kicked out?”

In an instant, the atmosphere in the office was stagnant.

The silence was deadly.

Nicole’s face darkened. Her eyes were icy and indifferent, but she did not make a sound.

Terrence was so frightened that his face turned pale. He hurriedly opened his mouth to remedy the situation.

“Ms. Stanton, don’t get mad. My daughter is a spoiled and arrogant brat. I’ll be sure to discipline her!”

Ian’s mother snorted coldly and walked over.

“Quit the act, Ms. Zabel. How are you worthy of being compared to Nicole? You Zabels are ungrateful and forced my family into this situation, yet you still have the nerve to make a scene here? You’re more than ten years older than Ian, so you’d better find another family for a marriage alliance. Mr. Zabel, why must our family accept your daughter that no one wants?”

Chapter 736 She Who Holds a Grudge

Ian's mother looked thinner. She probably did not eat or sleep well because of this matter.

Speaking of this, Ian's mother could not hold it back any longer and vented out all her anger.

Adeline's face turned red and was extremely ugly.

Ian's mother's words were so harsh. She was just shy of writing her dislike for Adeline on her face.

Terrence also could not stand it, then glared at Ian and his mother fiercely. He forced a stiff smile and pulled Adeline out of Ian's office.

He could force Ian to compromise, but he could not play any tricks in front of Nicole.

Ian's mother spat fiercely. Her eyes reddened afterward.

She looked at Nicole and walked over.

"Thanks, Nicole. Thank you so much for today. You and Ian..."

Back when Ian was pursuing Nicole, Ian's mother had gone to warn Nicole to stay away from her son.

Now that she thought about it, she regretted it.

In terms of status, looks, and character, Nicole could defeat all high-society ladies hands down.

Why was she so picky?

Being divorced was not the end of the world...

Nicole smiled. She was good at holding grudges and could still remember everything that Ian's mother said to her back then.

Her tone was dull, and her attitude was detached.

“Mrs. Carter, don't worry about it. My father and Old Master Carter are good friends. Ian and I also grew up together, so I ought to help when I can.”

Nicole was not helping Ian because she had feelings for him, so she did not want Ian's mother to misunderstand her.

Ian's mother also heard the avoidance in Nicole's words. She smiled awkwardly and sighed with disappointment.

It was no use to feel regretful.

After all, the Carter family was now in a dire situation, so how could they rehash the past?

Ian did not notice the subtleties of the exchange between Nicole and his mother. He just pulled Nicole over and sat down.

“Thank goodness you came! That Terrence Zabel even dared to question me if I was creating scandals and putting pressure on him. Hmph! So what if he saw through it?”

Nicole laughed lightly. “You can't let your guard down now. You have to investigate what happened as soon as possible.”

Ian's mother knew that she was redundant here, so she did not say anything and silently walked out.

Ian's eyes flashed. “Don't worry, I've already asked people to investigate. His style has always been unrestrained, so it won't be difficult to dig up dirt. As long as there's any improper movement, I'll kick him out of the board.”