

Chapter 528 She Wants to Be Mrs. Ferguson

A trace of disdain and indifference flashed in Eric's eyes. Ivy did not miss the trace of emotion in his face and instantly felt like her heart was stabbed.

She felt a painful convulsion.

Eric raised his head and looked at her.

"The reason why you were dismissed from Stanton Corporation should be clear. Ferguson Corporation won't accept an employee who can't even pass the internship period. Also, with all due respect, don't compare yourself to Nicole. You're from completely different worlds."

The difference was as stark as heaven and earth. What was there to compare?

His words were too straightforward, not caring whether Ivy's self-esteem would be hurt or not. Her face swiftly paled.

Even Mitchell felt some pity for her.

Unexpectedly, not only did Ivy not leave, but she also stood there and looked pitifully at Eric, her fists clenched tightly.

without a trace.

She seemed to realize that Eric might know the truth about her. He might know that she was an illegitimate daughter.

Those packaged identities and conversations were taboo when it came to real nobles.

She pretended to be a high-society lady for so long, but Eric could tell at a glance that she was a fake.

How could she even dream about being Mrs. Ferguson?

The countless taunts in her head stabbed her like needles. She bit her lower lip, unable to hold it any longer, and was just about to turn and leave...

Suddenly, Mitchell's voice cried out in surprise.

"Ms. Stanton, Mr. Lichman?"

Nicole and Gerard realized that they came at the wrong time and were just about to leave, but they were a step too late.

They more or less heard the words earlier. It had to do with Nicole.

Eric's face changed. He swiftly got up and

Eric's face changed. He swiftly got up and walked over with a smile.

"I'm really lucky to be able to see you twice today!"

Without a doubt, those words were said to Nicole.

Gerard turned his face on the side. He just felt like an invisible person.

Nicole frowned and took a step back, keeping a distance from him.

"Mr. Lichman said there's urgent business. We need a meeting."

Eric's face calmed down and he turned to Mitchell. "Prepare the conference room."

"Understood."

Mitchell put down the things in his hand and was just about to leave the office when he suddenly remembered that there was another person present. He turned around and said, "Ms. Harrison, Mr. Ferguson will be going to a meeting. You ..."

She could not move for a long time as she was dumbfounded and terrified.

Nicole was neither angry nor mocking. Her calm attitude made it seem like Ivy was nothing to her.

That kind of disregard was the deadliest.

Turning around, Ivy saw a low-key but expensive Porsche stop at the entrance. A man dressed smartly got out of the car and opened the passenger door for Nicole.

His tender and earnest look was strikingly similar to Eric's.

Nicole got into the car. "I'm afraid I'll have to ask for your help regarding this accident. Our people in Europe won't be able to suppress the public outcry for us. At least, it's better if fewer people know about this until the facts are investigated clearly."

With Clayton's ability, it was no problem for him to control public opinion as well as the stock market in Europe.

Clayton nodded while driving.

"I understand. I'll ask my friends over there to keep an eye out. I'll also suppress the news in the stock market."

I understand. I'll ask my friends over there to keep an eye on it. I'll also suppress the news in the stock market."

Nicole smiled. "Thank you. Why don't I treat you to dinner?"

Clayton smiled gently. "I'm very happy that you thought of me, but... Just dinner?"

Chapter 532 A World of Two

Nicole faintly froze as Clayton's eyes flickered. "Michael has been harping on about you for a long time. Why don't you come and cook for him as a show of gratitude?"

Nicole breathed a sigh of relief. "Sure!"

Lil Michael could not sit still once he heard the good news.

The nanny said, "Wouldn't it be better to wait at the hotel?"

The bodyguard said, "We can't let them be together alone. Something will definitely happen if two adults stay together!"

Lil Michael nodded in agreement, so he insisted on going with them to shop for ingredients at the supermarket.

As soon as he got out of the car, he saw Nicole and Clayton standing together and laughing. Clayton casually bought an ice cream cone and handed it to Nicole, who took it with a smile. She took a bite and nodded approvingly.

nodded approvingly

The nanny said, "A talented man and a beautiful woman. What a perfect match!"

The bodyguard looked at her with disdain. "Whose side are you on? Young Master is a better match for her!"

Lil Michael said, "That's right!"

He excitedly ran to the other side, lifted his head, and buried himself in the Pretty Lady's arms. 'Wow, she smells so good!'

"Pretty Lady, did you miss me?"

Nicole looked at the head of fluffy curls in her arms and could not help but laugh. She tousled his hair and felt her heart melting into a puddle of goo.

"Of course I did. I missed you so, so much."

Lil Michael raised his head in satisfaction after getting the answer he wanted and inadvertently glanced at his father. His provoking look seemed to say, 'Look, you can't do this!'

Clayton pursed his lips and reached out to yank him off of Nicole's body.

"Pretty Lady wants to eat ice cream. Don't

bother her."

Clayton advised him in a gentle tone, but Michael refused!

'Daddy's just jealous that I can hug Pretty Lady! He's so jealous!'

"Pretty Lady likes it when I hug her. Hmph!"

Nicole laughed. The bickering between the father and son pair was quite amusing.

"It's fine. Let's go in. What do you want to eat, Michael?"

Lil Michael thought about it very seriously. Something too simple would not work, but he was afraid that she would not know how to cook complicated dishes. How conflicting!

Nicole naturally did not notice Michael's struggle as she looked at the goods around her. It had been a long time since she cooked, so she was a little rusty.

If it was too simple, it would not be able to convey her sincerity, but if it was too hard, she might not know how to cook it. How conflicting!

The three people's appearance in the mall

The three people's appearance in the mall immediately attracted the attention of the surrounding people, and many eyes followed them closely.

"Wow, he's so handsome. They're the most striking little family of three that I've ever seen!"

"That little boy looks mixed, right? He's so adorable!"

"He's so handsome. That woman looks really familiar too. She's beautiful..."

.....

Clayton's expression softened for a moment when the chattering voices reached his ears. He stared at the tall and slender back in front of him with deep and dark eyes that were filled with patience.

Lil Michael snorted angrily. 'What family of three? Pretty Lady and I are a couple! How could Daddy, that old man, deserve such a beautiful lady?' 1

Nicole stopped for a moment in the produce and meat section, thinking very hard. Fortunately, Clayton saw her hesitation and quickly helped her out.

restoration and quietly helped her out.
"Let's eat something simple. How about steak?"

'Steak sounds great!' Nicole breathed a sigh of relief and looked down to gauge Michael's opinion.

Lil Michael grinned up at her. "Sure! I love steak!"

The three of them shopped for ingredients for a while before going back to the hotel suite where Clayton and Lil Michael were staying.

Lil Michael focused on eating his ice cream in the living room. Clayton, who had gone to the study to deal with an urgent work situation, finally came out and went to the kitchen.

The kitchen in the suite had a semi-open design. Nicole was very familiar with grilling steak and did not notice Clayton's arrival.

Clayton rolled up his sleeves. "I'll prepare some sides."

Then, he started to work skillfully.

Nicole subconsciously looked at him. His usual cold and modest look was gone.

Nicole subconsciously looked at him. His usual cold and moderate look was gone.

Now, Clayton looked more down-to-earth and refined.

Her heart suddenly skipped a beat.

She was dazed for a second when the hot oil suddenly splattered on her wrist. She subconsciously exclaimed in alarm and stepped back, falling right into a warm and firm embrace.

Chapter 533 He's Very Experienced

At the moment Nicole was lost in thought just now, she seemed to realize that the situation in the kitchen was somewhat ambiguous yet warm.

At least, was this not the married life she dreamed of before her divorce?

However, the man was Clayton instead of Eric. Her heart did not seem to be so attached to the past anymore. 1

The sudden pain on her wrist came as an afterthought. Clayton held her as he led her to the faucet to rinse her wrist under running water.

Their posture was intimate and slightly ambiguous. Nicole tried to pull her hand back, but Clayton thought that it was because her wrist hurt, so he was gentler in his movements. He loosened his grip on her arm, held the spot where she was injured, and blew on her skin, looking distressed.

Nicole looked at him. The man in front of her was unfathomably gentle.

There was a slight tremor in her chest as i

There was a slight tremor in her chest as if she had been shaken.

She hastily lowered her eyes, withdrew her hand, and smiled faintly. "It's fine. It doesn't hurt anymore."

Nicole immediately concealed the panic in her heart.

Her wrist had just been splattered with a drop of oil. Only a blinding red patch was left behind after it was rinsed in cool water. However, it was very obvious on her fair and soft skin.

Clayton frowned as a trace of chagrin flashed in his eyes.

"I shouldn't have let you cook... It was thoughtless of me."

Clayton pulled her wrist and walked out as he spoke, the action somewhat forceful. It was clear that he would not let her stay in the kitchen anymore.

Nicole smiled faintly. In fact, she experienced many such accidents in the past, but she always gritted her teeth and endured the pain. The sense of accomplishment after cooking made her feel happy, especially since every meal

accomplishment after cooking made her feel happy, especially since every meal she made was just for Eric.

However, Eric would never know that.

“What happened to Pretty Lady?”

Lil Michael trotted over and looked with dissatisfaction at his father, who was holding her hand.

Nicole sat on the sofa. “It’s nothing. I just got scalded by some oil. But the kitchen...”

The steak was going to burn!

Clayton pressed on her shoulders. “I’ll get someone to handle it. Don’t move...”

Nicole was a little embarrassed. She was asked to cook but she messed it up.

Hearing the words, the maid came out of her room and finished what Nicole started without any sense of presence.

Clayton found a first-aid kit and tried to apply the salve on her personally.

Lil Michael stared at the little red spot anxiously.

Nicole felt like they were making a fuss out of nothing. “I’ll do it myself.”

out of nothing. I'll do it myself.

Clayton raised an eyebrow. "You don't trust me, Ms. Stanton?"

Nicole smiled somewhat helplessly. "It really doesn't hurt anymore."

It was just a slight tingling pain that could be ignored.

Clayton did not believe her and placed her hand on his knee. The two of them were sitting very closely.

He bowed his head and gently daubed her wrist with ointment. The string of words on the packaging showed that it was probably brought back from abroad. The salve felt cool on her skin. It was very comfortable. Even the tingling feeling was gone.

This was quite a good brand.

However, after the cool feeling passed, Clayton was still holding her hand. His body warmth spread to her arm, which gave her a tingling sensation and made her feel a little stiff.

She lowered her faintly flickering eyes and wanted to leave. If she continued to stay, she might really get addicted to this

feeling.

To the side, Lil Michael could not bear to watch anymore. 'Why is Daddy not letting go yet?'

He broke the silence in the room.

"Pretty Lady, does it still hurt? My Daddy has a lot of experience in taking care of girls. If you feel uncomfortable, just say it ..."

The room plunged into silence again.

The ambiguity in the air just now disappeared without a trace.

Clayton's movements stiffened slightly. His gaze was cold and sullen as he stared at Michael, who had succeeded in his scheme. 'Maybe it's been too long since I gave my son a beating...'

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Chapter 534 Hard to Chase

Nicole curled her lips, and she inadvertently retracted her hand. "It doesn't hurt anymore."

She looked at Clayton, whose face was tinged with slight anger, and the conflict in her heart disappeared.

Lil Michael reminded Nicole that Clayton was an exceptional man, so there must be countless people who would surround him. Nicole did not know anything about him except for his deceased ex-wife.

How could she think of him as a blank sheet of paper?

Nicole returned to her senses in time, never dragging her feet.

Clayton slowly and methodically put down the first aid kit. He could not discipline his son with Nicole around, so he had to maintain a decent smile.

However, there was no trace of warmth in his smile.

He withdrew his gaze, looked at Nicole, and explained patiently, "That's impossible. My family doctor in Liberty

impossible. My family doctor in Liberty was a very lazy person, so I had no choice but to learn first-aid knowledge by myself.”

Nicole smiled faintly, her attitude was polite and slightly detached.

“It’s really fine. It doesn’t hurt anymore. This ointment is very effective...”

Clayton stiffened and lowered his head, seemingly at a loss. When he looked up again, his eyes were modest and light again.

He picked up the ointment as if nothing happened. “I’ll go get you a new one later.”

“It looks like you’re very well prepared, Mr. Sloan.”

“I have a child, so I have to be prepared at all times.”

Saying that, he gave Lil Michael a meaningful look.

Lil Michael stuck his tongue out and hid behind Nicole.

He was not to blame. He noticed his father’s attitude that did not harbor good

father's attitude that he did not harbor good intentions towards his Pretty Lady. If this continued, he would have a stepmother soon!

.....

After dinner, Nicole said her goodbyes.

Clayton personally sent her back to Stanton Mansion, and thoughtfully stopped not far away.

The night was cool and still. The streetlights stretched their shadows.

Clayton said, "Don't worry about the public opinion and the stock market. Nothing will happen until the case is investigated clearly."

Nicole said, "Thank you."

"You've already thanked me many times."

Nicole looked at him. "Mr. Sloan, there's a piece of land in the Capital. Are you interested?"

Clayton looked at her with deep eyes, his gaze faintly stiffening. "What do you mean?"

"As repayment."

As repayment.

A repayment that drew a clear line between them.

Clayton was stunned for a few seconds before slowly exhaling.

“Ms. Stanton, it’s so hard to chase you...”

Nicole raised her eyes to meet his gaze. He smiled, his temperament seemed to meld into the darkness, and his voice was firm.

“Forget the land. I think that such a beautiful night is much more noteworthy.”

After Clayton left, Nicole went back inside. Her mood gradually calmed down until not a ripple was left.

She took off her jacket and high heels and was ready to wash her face when her phone chimed.

Nicole picked it up.

Clayton: [It’s very hard to chase you, but it’s even harder not to. Sweet dreams.]

Nicole looked at it but did not respond.

The other one was from Eric. [Nicole, there’s a package for you at home. Shall I

there's a package for you at home. Shall I send it to you tomorrow?]

Nicole casually replied. [No need. Throw it away.]

Then, she turned off her phone and got ready for bed.

.....

The next day.

Nicole got up early in the morning and went to the office. She was still worried about the cause of the autopilot car accident. She had to solve it as soon as possible.

The person that J&L Corporation sent to Europe was Molly Stewart, which made Nicole feel a lot more at ease because Molly was an expert.

Insider news from Europe came, saying that they were beginning to evaluate whether the AI chip should be withdrawn from the market.

The case became more urgent, and time was of the essence.

On the day of the video conference, both Nicole and Eric participated.

Nicole and Eric participated.

In the conference room with a wide field of view, Nicole looked at the demonstration on the big screen.

The air conditioning was set to a low temperature, so it was a little cold. Eric saw that she was only wearing a thin dress, so he took off his suit jacket and walked over.

Nicole did not even move as she said indifferently, "I don't want it. Save it."

Eric and the others in the meeting room were speechless.

Chapter 535 Save It

Soon, the staff noticed this scene and wordlessly raised the temperature of the air conditioner. The temperature in the room rose to the right temperature.

On the big screen.

An AI car and a real car were competing on the road, using the same chip and system from the accident.

The AI car on the screen showed superior skills in different kinds of roads, whether it was on mountains, flat land, or bumpy waterways.

When approaching a traffic light, it would slow down. It also slowed down when there was rain.

When there were obstacles in front of it, it would bypass it flexibly.

When people were crossing the road, it would wait patiently.

When encountering an unexpected situation, the automatic alarm would activate.

It was gentle, calm, but very dynamic,

It was gentle, calm, very dynamic, giving the AI driverless car all the advantages that humans had. Even in an extreme situation where human intervention caused sudden deceleration of the car, it overcame the inertia and stopped the car with maximum agility, completely obeying orders.

In the simulation, its performance was excellent, even perfect.

However, in this one experiment, it lost control in the real simulation.

Everyone was carefully observing the changes in the vehicle, refusing to let go of the slightest hint.

Nicole propped her chin up and looked at the screen, trying to find out what was wrong.

However, all of the data values were within the normal range.

Across from her, Eric looked at Nicole for a while before turning his attention to the large screen.

His eyes were dark and obscure, and his expression sank slightly as he looked at the demonstration on the screen as well a

the demonstration on the screen as well as the records of the out-of-control vehicle.

The meeting room was silent. The sound of the collision from the video reminded them of the tragedy of this matter.

The same was true in Europe.

When the video ended, someone on the other side could not help but ask, "Did anyone see anything?"

No one made a sound.

Nicole knocked on the table. "Ms. Stewart, please give us your analysis."

She was talking to Molly Stewart.

In this field, she had the absolute authority to speak.

Molly said, "All aspects of the chip's performance are normal and respond between the 0-1 range, which is close to the optimal value. At the time of the accident, the AI chip issued an instruction to turn 30 seconds before the crash, but the car lost control. 10 seconds before the imminent impact, the system issued another instruction to stop immediately, but the vehicle still went out of control."

another instruction stop immediately, but the vehicle still went out of control..."

"You've just said a whole bunch of nothing! The AI controls the vehicle movement, so when something goes wrong with the vehicle, it must be the problem of the AI system." A man could not help but say furiously.

"Your technology is immature. Don't try to fool us with theories. If everything was working within optimal values, how did the accident happen?"

Another person spoke up.

"I think everyone should calm down. Why don't we wait till the matter settles slightly before we discuss it again? I think that we should ask someone to visit the researcher in the hospital..."

.....

The discussion was chaotic.

Nicole frowned and looked at Eric's cold and stern face across from her. His eyes were sullen as he stared at the video, meticulously staring at a point of observation.

observation.

According to her understanding, Eric should be deep in thought. Otherwise, he would have lost his temper already.

Nicole pursed her lips and impatiently interrupted the discussion. Her voice was extremely cold, carrying an iciness that could not be underestimated.

“Gentlemen, the purpose of this meeting is to investigate the cause of the accident, not the aftermath.”

Everyone looked at each other but remained silent.

Nicole spoke again. “Ms. Stewart, are you sure that there’s nothing wrong with our AI system?”

If it was not a problem with the AI system chip, then it was time to shift their attention to other directions.

Molly hesitated for less than three seconds before nodding decisively.

“There’s no problem.”

Her verdict made everyone else dissatisfied.

If it was not a problem with the

dissatisfied.

If it was not a problem with the
technology, then who would take the
blame?