

## Chapter 536 There's Nothing Wrong With a Meal

Nicole pursed her lips and raised her eyes just in time to meet Eric's gaze. They coincidentally smiled.

Eric's voice was cold. "Since the system data and the chip records are both normal, there's only one thing that can be abnormal."

Everyone looked at him silently and nervously.

Eric said, "The test car."

For a long time, everyone was silent and did not make a sound. They were shocked, but they had no choice but to accept Eric's words.

"What could be wrong with the car?"

Eric pursed his lips. "The car was specially customized, but the components that work hand-in-hand with the AI system were custom-made by a different company. Has anyone checked this?"

No one made any sound.

However, there was no doubt that a

However, there was no doubt that a breakthrough had been found in this accident.

“Meeting adjourned.”

Eric spoke and immediately ended the video conference.

Nicole’s eyes fell on the man’s face. She did not say anything, but she had the same thought.

She did not expect Eric to have the same idea as her.

Nicole raised her brows. “It’s probably a problem with the brakes.”

Eric said, “How clever.”

Nicole rolled her eyes. That went without saying.

She stood up. She felt like the clouds would soon be dispelled to reveal the sun, so her heart suddenly felt a lot lighter.

“Let’s have a meal together,” Eric suggested.

Nicole said, “I’ve refused so many times. Can’t you tell that it’s because I don’t want to eat with you?”

want to eat with you!

Eric froze for a moment before smiling. "I can't tell. What's wrong with a meal?"

Nicole had already experienced his roguish attitude and was really speechless. She snorted lightly and simply left.

There was good news from Gerard Lichman a few days after the meeting.

As expected, they were right. There was nothing wrong with the AI system. The real problem was with the car's brakes.

It was the latest braking system developed by a company in Liberty which claimed to be the best of all luxury cars.

Considering the superior performance of autopilot driving, every component was equipped with top-level configuration, so this superior technology would naturally not be left out. Thus, this technology company was chosen without any hesitation when the tender was put out.

No one expected this cutting-edge technology to be the cause of the struggle for the autopilot car.

As soon as the matter was found out,

As soon as the matter was found out, Gerard immediately returned to Mediania with the verification report from the relevant departments. He also sent a lawyer's letter to that company while he was in Europe.

However, in order to protect the company's secrets, the other party requested to not make the investigation public and refused to disclose the core patent of the braking system.

In an instant, the difficulty of the investigation was raised to the point where it was impossible to proceed.

Gerard's always gentle and calm temperament was cold with a rare show of anger. He went to Ferguson Corporation as soon as his plane touched down.

He threw the related documents on the table, and his expression was extremely unpleasant.

Eric, who was at his desk, looked up faintly and said in a cold and clear voice, "Why don't you go back and have a rest?"

"I'm not in the mood!"

Gerard took a deep breath. "I learned

Gerard took a deep breath. "I learned through many insiders that the braking system Liberty Technologies developed was used in luxury cars with very good sales. It turns out there were more than a hundred braking accidents, but every time someone tried to expose them with a lawsuit, they would use all kinds of methods to suppress the accident and resolve it. That's why there was no negative press about it so far."

"You went there personally?" Eric's voice was light.

Gerard sneered. "The funny thing is, they didn't care about me at all. I brought out all kinds of evidence, but they insisted that it was a problem with our autopilot system. Does that group of self-righteous capitalists really think that they can hide this from the world for the rest of their lives? I'll tell Ms. Stanton about it and get her opinion."

"Don't tell her."

Eric's eyes were cold and heavy.

## Chapter 537 Petty ●

The office was silent for a moment.

Eric raised his head and met Gerard's confused gaze.

"I've had people investigate that company already. They're backed by bigwigs in Liberty's political party, and their shareholders are business leaders from various countries. Don't try to confront them, and don't involve Nicole in this either. I'll see what I can do."

At those words, Gerard glanced at him with a dark gaze.

A few seconds later, he could not help but ask, "This company has strong momentum and complex capital sources. There's no reason for you to look down on them."

He had known Eric for a long time, but Eric's ability and background could not be easily summarized. His investments which the media reported about were just the tip of the iceberg.

In the beginning, Eric was interested in J&L Corporation only because the core R&D team in Gerard's hands was tenacious and

team in Gerard's hands was tenacious and innovative enough. At the early stage of investment, he was just watching the growth potential of J&L.

What he did not expect was that Eric also invested in a rival company of J&L back then.

After all kinds of trials and tribulations, the one who survived in the end was Gerard's J&L Corporation. That was how he walked to where he was here, step by step, and got to know Eric better and better.

They were the ones fighting and killing each other in the business world, and Eric was the one who strategizes.

Eric abandoned past prejudices. His thinking pushed him to the forefront, and his ability was truly worthy of admiration.

His power also extended far abroad, so there was no reason why he would ignore the rapid development of Liberty's technology.

Furthermore, Eric did not want Nicole to know about this. What was he afraid of?

Gerard's questioning eyes were focused o

Gerard's questioning eyes were focused on Eric. Eric's eyes gradually became cold. His whole body was shrouded in an overwhelming chill.

His lips curled into a cold smile. "I have plenty of money, but I won't invest in foreign technology. If I did, you wouldn't be where you are now, Mr. Lichman."

Eric's voice was extremely cold. He was unwilling to explain more. The distance with Gerard instantly widened and a sharp barrier formed, making Eric seem so cold, gloomy, and mighty.

Gerard froze for a moment. His lips moved as he suddenly remembered that Eric used to be in the military, so a suspicion like that was simply an insult to Eric's character.

He felt like he must have lost his mind to speculate against Eric like that.

They had worked together for a long time and could laugh and joke regularly, but the gap between Eric and him could not be compared.

In an instant, a heavy regret settled in Gerard.

Gerard.

Just as Gerard was about to apologize, Eric said in a low voice, "Mitchell, see Mr. Lichman off."

The intercom was cut off, and Mitchell immediately appeared at the door, speaking respectfully and politely, "Mr. Lichman, this way, please..."

Gerard's throat bobbed. Before leaving, he said, "Sorry, Eric. I was too petty."

Only Eric was left in the office, his gaze faint and dim.

Gerard was an excellent manager and researcher, and a rare all-around talent. They would not fall out with each other because of a few words.

However, the air was still chilly.

Eric's expression did not ease up.

He suddenly thought of Nicole. If it was her, she might not think so.

She would always be loyal to her faith and what she knew.

Eric began to miss her after going a few days without seeing her. It was like a compulsion, an addiction that he could

not help.

However, he did not dare to appear in front of her too often because he was afraid that she would be annoyed.

It seemed like there were no opportunities for them to meet recently. After thinking about it, he decided to create an opportunity instead.

Mitchell came in to report on his work but hesitated when he saw Eric's heavy mood.

Trembling and jittery, Mitchell finished the report and waited to be lectured.

After a long time, Eric stroked his chin with one hand and frowned. "What's Ms. Stanton busy with lately?"

Mitchell was stunned for an instant before breathing out a large sigh of relief.

### Chapter 538 Make Her Drink

"Ms. Stanton is investigating the cause of the accident. She's also following up on Stanton Corporation's internal business dealings, but since it involves the secrets of Stanton Corporation, I didn't send anyone to investigate in depth."

Eric let out a faint "mm" with an expressionless face.

Mitchell thought about it before quickly saying, "Ms. Nicole will be dining with a few partners at Green Club tonight..."

Green Club was a luxury private nightclub under Ferguson Corporation. It was generally not open to the public, and its membership was strictly selected.

Thus, Mitchell was able to obtain first-hand information.

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In the evening, Nicole arrived at Green Club as promised.

This place was very private and was preferred by many businessmen and celebrities.

celebrities.

However, the price point starting at seven figures a night was not something that the average person could afford to spend.

A few of the business partners were all prominent people in their circles. Since they had the intention to get drunk, they naturally would not want reporters to see their intoxicated appearances, which was why they chose this place in a heartbeat.

Nicole was here on behalf of Grant, who was on a business trip. She did not pay attention to the venue.

When she arrived at the reserved private room, most of the people were already inside.

At the door, she put on an easy-going smile.

As soon as she entered, everyone greeted her familiarly. Nicole did not dawdle and sat at the head of the table, getting straight to business.

“Everyone has worked hard for a year. I hope that our future cooperation will be sincere and united!”

She gulped down a glass of red wine and

She gulped down a glass of red wine and then told the secretary to refill her glass with juice. Everyone who saw this did not insist on her drinking. All kinds of pleasantries and greetings were raised, and no matter how rude they were, they made sure not to offend Nicole.

If it were an ordinary woman, she would just be a side piece added to the table, and it would be normal for hands and legs to roam.

However, the woman in front of them was the princess of the Stanton family and the CEO of Stanton Corporation. No one would dare to show a hint of contempt for this heiress.

Everyone talked and laughed for a long time. Nicole sat there patiently, saying a word from time to time. She talked calmly but not coldly. Occasionally, she discussed the details of a partnership with the people next to her...

Her phone rang.

Nicole quietly went out to answer the call and get some fresh air.

After hanging up, she walked past a room on the way back. The door was slightly

After hanging up, she walked past a room on the way back. The door was slightly ajar, and the light inside spilled out. Nicole suddenly heard a familiar voice.

“No, I really can’t drink anymore. Mr. Zahn, please...”

Surprisingly, it was the crying and pleading voice of Ivy Harrison!

Mr. Zahn?

Had Ivy fallen to such a state?

Nicole did not want to meddle and lifted her foot to leave.

A second later, she heard a loud slap followed by the lewd and playful laughter of a man.

“Didn’t you ask me to come? Yet you’re not drinking now and spoiling my fun? I’ll break the contract with Stanton Corporation if you drink this, Ms. Harrison. You should know what to do, right?”

Nicole suddenly remembered that Mr. Zahn was a partner that she snatched from Harrison Corporation.

As she hesitated, someone suddenly

As she hesitated, someone suddenly jumped to the door and tried to run out, not expecting Nicole to be standing by the door.

Ivy's tear-streaked face was still smoky red from the wine. Her eyes were confused for a moment before she immediately grabbed Nicole's arm and dragged her into the room.

"Ms. Stanton, please help me. I really can't drink anymore..."

She cried as if the one forcing her to drink was not Mr. Zahn but Nicole.

Nicole frowned, withdrawing her hand with ice-cold eyes. She glanced at the person on the sofa. Mr. Zahn was so drunk that he could not even recognize her anymore.

"Who is this woman? She's quite good-looking. Don't think I'll let you off if you find me another woman. Ms. Harrison, if you don't serve me well, I won't sign the contract!"

Mr. Zahn muttered drunkenly, surveying Nicole at the door with lustful eyes. "You look familiar. Are you a celebrity?"

### Chapter 539 Help Me Drink

Nicole's expression darkened as she turned to leave. This room smelled terrible!

However, behind her, Ivy very untactfully pounced on her again.

"Don't go, Ms. Stanton. Don't go! As you can see, I'm about to be kicked out of the Harrison family because Stanton Corporation stole the contract from Harrison Corporation. My family won't let me off if I don't get this contract back."

Nicole sidestepped her and said with a cold voice, "Let go."

Ivy looked up at her drunkenly. Even if she was drunk and bolder than before, she still could not help but let go when she saw Nicole's cold and sullen gaze.

"I told you before. Everyone is responsible for their actions. Unless there are greater interests involved, Stanton Corporation won't give up their interests just because I pity someone."

Nicole's thought process was clear. She also knew that there was nothing to say to

Ivy.

Ivy was trying to find a way to get Mr. Zahn to break the contract, right?

If they really broke the contract, then Ivy was skillful, and Nicole had nothing to say about it.

However, the premise was to preserve the interests of Stanton Corporation.

Ivy's lips trembled as despair gradually filled her eyes.

"To you, it's just a matter of raising your hand. Why do you have to force me to the brink?"

Ivy could not help but cry out in a hoarse voice.

Nicole looked speechless and annoyed. Ivy was the one who walked herself to the edge of a cliff. What did it have to do with Nicole?

Nicole was not a charity, so why did she have to give alms to others?

On the sofa, Mr. Zahn staggered to his feet while holding a wine glass.

"Come, have a drink."

"Come, have a drink."

Ivy looked at the glass in fear, as if she knew that the wine in it was not ordinary.

"No, Mr. Zahn. I really can't drink anymore..."

Mr. Zahn snorted coldly. His intoxicated eyes shifted to Nicole's body with a greedy and nasty look.

"If you can't drink, then let that new celebrity drink instead. If she drinks this glass for you, I'll agree to break my contract with Stanton Corporation. How does that sound?"

He coaxed lustfully.

Ivy was instantly tempted.

She turned her head to look at Nicole expectantly, clasping her hands together in a plea. The joy in her eyes was undisguised.

"Ms. Stanton, it's just a glass of wine. Just drink it for me. You won't lose anything by drinking it."

Nicole glanced at Ivy in amusement, her eyes cold and icy.

"Drink it for you? How bold are you? No

"Drink it for you? How bold are you? No one has dared to let me drink for them before. Ms. Harrison, I suggest you wash your face and try to understand who you are."

Then, Nicole stepped forward to open the door to leave.

She was truly disgusted. However, Ivy was like a piece of bubblegum stuck on her shoe, unable to be shaken off.

Before Nicole could touch the doorknob, Ivy blocked her hand like she had gone berserk. She leaned her back against the door, shutting it tightly.

Ivy glared straight at Nicole as if she would not give up until she reached her goal. Her face was red and slightly crazed.

"Ms. Stanton, it's just a glass of wine. Just drink it. I'll let you go if you drink it. As long as I get the contract back, I'll be able to explain myself to my family. I've lost everything! I can't go back to my old life. You were the one who put me in this situation. Don't you feel any guilt at all?"

Nicole looked at her coldly, already losing the last of her patience. Ivy must have taken the wrong meds!

Nicole looked at her coldly, already losing the last of her patience. Ivy must have taken the wrong meds!

Behind her, the wretched Mr. Zahn came over with a glass of wine. The moment his hand touched Nicole's shoulder, she dodged sideways in disgust and kneed his lower body.

"Argh..."

His face instantly changed from red to white as he let out a sharp scream.

Nicole looked sideways at Ivy, whose face was dull and pale with a hint of panic.

"Mr. Zahn... Ms. Stanton, you're too much!"

## Chapter 540 Kick Her

Nicole was just about to throw this woman out when the door was suddenly flung open from the outside. Ivy was pushed to the floor with a cry of surprise.

The next second, a tall and slender figure stood at the door. His cold face looked even colder in the dim light, and his gaze was deep and dark. When his stern eyes glanced over and saw Nicole standing there safely, his frown softened for a moment before furrowing again.

That was because he saw Ivy lying on the ground with the stench of alcohol around her, tugging on Nicole's skirt. Behind her, Mr. Zahn was rolling on the ground in pain.

Eric's arrival completely sobered Ivy up.

Ivy had not moved out of the Ferguson Villa because Old Master Ferguson still had hope for her, and they were just waiting for the opportunity.

She was the one who could not stand the pressure from Eli and Joy Harrison, so she asked Mr. Zahn out to think of a way to get the contract back. That way, the

get the contract back that way, the Harrison family would continue to help her put pressure on the Ferguson family.

Ivy just wanted to leave a way out for herself.

She knew very well who the person in Eric's heart was.

Ivy's drunkenness disappeared instantly, but the next second, she pretended to pass out because of the alcohol. "Save me. I can't drink anymore..."

Nicole was shrouded in a faint chill. She pulled her clothes from Ivy's hand in disgust.

Eric quickly walked over and kicked Ivy fiercely on the shoulder. Ivy clenched her teeth in pain but did not dare to move, pretending to have fainted. 2

Then, she heard him trying to control the coldness in his voice. He said to Nicole, "They didn't touch you, did they? What did they do?"

His words were half-coaxing and half-questioning.

Nicole faintly glanced down and raised an eyebrow

eyebrow.

“They wanted me to drink, but I refused. Logically, Ms. Harrison will soon become a member of your family. Isn't it too ridiculous for her to come out and accompany someone to drink just for a contract?”

Nicole stepped to the side and walked out, ignoring Ivy, who was lying motionlessly on the ground.

She would not let this matter go so simply. Regardless of whether Eric intervened or not, Ivy had succeeded in completely making Nicole feel repulsed by her, so Nicole would not let Ivy off the hook.

Eric looked at the man and woman on the ground coldly as a dim light flashed in his eyes.

Then, he picked up his phone. “Get two crates of whiskey sent upstairs.”

In less than three minutes, several bodyguards came up with two crates of high-quality whiskey. “President...”

Eric was dressed immaculately, but the words he spoke were extremely cold,

words he spoke were extremely cold, causing people to shiver.

“Since they like to drink, give one crate to each of them. Let them leave after they finish drinking. Don’t waste anything.”

“Understood.”

The bodyguards followed Eric’s orders and would not disobey him.

Eric looked at the broken glass next to Mr. Zahn. His eyes became even grimmer.

He had more or less heard of these people’s tactics when it came to women. If Nicole had drunk that glass of wine, he could guarantee that Mr. Zahn would not live to see tomorrow.

A bodyguard opened a bottle of whiskey expressionlessly, grabbed Ivy’s hair to force her head up, and poured the whiskey into her mouth.

Ivy finally could not hold back. She could not pretend anymore.

She cried miserably, her body trembling. It was her first time seeing Eric’s cruel side. It was a side that he would never show to Nicole.

show to Nicole.

“No... I didn't do anything. Mr. Ferguson, let me go. If Old Master Ferguson knows, he won't...”

Pale brownish liquid dripped down the corners of her mouth. Ivy choked and cried as she spoke.

Eric was expressionless. His eyes were terribly cold.

So what if Old Master Ferguson would not accept this?

This woman was thinking too highly of herself.

After that, Eric turned to leave. His pace did not even falter no matter how miserable the cries were behind him.