

## Chapter 61 Junk

At that moment, Nicole felt that when Ian was serious, he could hook her heart and soul, and she was lost in thought for a while.

'He's not the same frivolous Young Master as he was three years ago...'

Nicole panicked and quickly gathered her composure. She did not want him to notice her abnormality. No matter who it was, Nicole did not want to get caught up in a whirlpool of love again.

"Carter, you're getting better at coaxing women now, huh?"

Ian was slightly stunned. He laughed and took a step back. "No one else is qualified enough for me to coax."

"Right... If your girlfriends lined up, they could probably circle the globe, so they're the ones coaxing you..." Nicole raised her eyebrows and looked at him teasingly. Everyone knew about Ian Carter's messy love life.

Ian grinned. "That's all in the past. You know that those are fake. I'm innocent..."

"Alright. Thank you for comforting me, but I'm really tired..."

Nicole did not want to fall into another man's tenderness. Not to mention, Ian was her close friend for many years, so she did not want to lose this friend.

Seeing that Nicole was not as downcast as she was earlier, Ian went over and stroked her head. His gaze was gentle and doting. "I'll leave then... Take a good rest."

When Ian was not being frivolous, he had such a mature, reserved, and noble temperament that it was difficult not to get lost in.

'What a devil!' Nicole cursed in her heart.

She looked away and saw the emerald pipe on the table that she left on the table. Nicole hooked her lips, went over, picked it up, and looked at it. Her smile gradually turned cold. She then casually threw it aside and went to her room.

If Old Master Ferguson knew that his beloved family heirloom was being treated like this, he would be furious!

Nicole slept until 10:00 pm and got up to see Grant's message. [I have something to deal with and will be abroad for three days. Look after the company.]

She thought, 'Brother trusts me so much t

o take over for a few days? Why is he not worried?’

Nicole thought that Grant would be on the plane by now, so she did not call and sent him a text message. [If there’s any trouble, you can’t blame me! Also, dearest big brother, please be prepared to clean up my mess... Hahaha!]

She instantly got a notification of a new message.

Grant helplessly replied to his sister. [Just don’t go bankrupt. Everything else is still tolerable.]

Nicole was relieved and suddenly remembered the pipe in the living room. She jumped out of bed, turned on the lights, chose a good angle, and took a close-up photo of the emerald pipe. She then posted it on her social media.

[Just bought this little junk for everyone to admire!]

'If I'm unhappy, why should others be happy?' Nicole thought.

Soon, Yvette and Ian shared her post, which reached Eric Ferguson's circle in no time.

Everyone saw that Old Master Ferguson's family heirloom had become a "little junk" in Nicole's hands.

Nicole ate a snack and went back to sleep again, naturally unaware that her photo made Old Master Ferguson so furious that he lost his appetite.

When Nicole woke up at 8:00 am, she received a call from Yvette in a daze.

"What is it?"

"I shared your post last night and there

are so many people asking to buy that pipe for a high price! Someone offered up to \$60 million!"

Nicole was wide awake and laughed. 'Wow... It doubled overnight. I guess it's worth more than I imagined.'

"Well, I have no intention of selling. It's just for everyone to see."

Yvette laughed out loud. "I recognized one of them and dug deeper. Guess what? That guy only did as Keith Ludwig instructed. It looks like this is Eric Ferguson's intention. They probably can't sit still any longer."

Nicole raised an eyebrow. 'Just as I expected... Do they think I'm an idiot to sell it?'

After chatting with Yvette for a bit, Nicole saw that it was almost time and got

ready for work. She could not slack off since Grant was not around.

She planned to drive to the office, so she went to the garage to pick a car. The luxury cars that her father ordered for her had already arrived, so her garage looked like a luxury car exhibition. Seeing all these flashy cars made Nicole a little speechless. After walking around, Nicole was dazzled.

One of the most low-profile cars was a gray Porsche Cayenne. Although it was quite expensive, the design was not as flashy as the rest of the cars in the garage.

'I'll take this then!' She thought.

Once Nicole sat in the car, the butler at the Stanton mansion saw the footage in the garage through the remote monitoring system and called her in a

hurry.

"Miss, do you need a driver? He can be there in five minutes."



## Chapter 62 It's Just a Car

To the butler, Young Lady Stanton should not drive herself. She should be chauffeured around wherever she went. Otherwise, it was considered his dereliction of duty.

Nicole laughed and said, "Mr. Anderson, there's no need for that. I can drive myself to work. Don't worry."

She did not say much and hung up the phone. She drove the car out of the garage and went to the office.

There was no traffic, so she had a smooth journey. However, Nicole was a little perplexed why other cars on the road were actively avoiding her. Even when she was waiting at a red light, the cars in front and behind her were several

meters away.

'Is it because I'm a female driver?' Nicole thought.

When Nicole got to the office, she gave her keys to the parking valet and went into the lobby. From the corner of her eye, Nicole noticed that Samantha Lindt was glaring at her indignantly with an undisguised resentment.

Nicole was baffled. 'Did she find out that I'd given Grant the recording? She shouldn't know so soon...'

"Ms. Lindt, why didn't you go upstairs when you're already here?"

Samantha coldly snorted and looked askance at her. "Mr. Stanton must really like you to give you such an expensive car. It has to be more than \$2 million, right?"

'Otherwise, how can Nicole afford to buy a Porsche Cayenne? Looking at the features, it's also the highest specs!'

Nicole frowned and remembered something. She laughed lightly and flipped her hair to the back. "It's just a car. Why would I need someone to buy it for me? I can afford it myself..."

She gently swept a glance at Samantha's reddened face and went to the President's private elevator as if nothing had happened.

'Did she think that she can buy me off with a used Audi?' Nicole thought.

Logan met Nicole upstairs and briefed her about the meeting later.

Nicole walked into the conference room in her high heels. Samantha also went in at the same time. Nicole swept a glance at

the crowd and saw that everyone was present. "Let's begin."

They had reached a consensus with J&L Corporation on the direction of this cooperation. The rest was about the in-depth details. All their profits and interests lie in these ubiquitous details. Every little detail entailed huge profits, so they needed to discuss more.

Some of the shareholders were also department heads. They were already very dissatisfied with the parachuted Nicole. Thus, they were not so proactive with Nicole since Grant was not around.

Those shareholders argued on a few aspects and delayed progress. When Nicole's people proposed an idea, they would excuse themselves and shirk off the responsibility. She swept a glance at the group and knew that they were just

here to watch a show.

Samantha Lindt just sat on the side and sneered. Micah Zielinski also attended the meeting, which was rare, but he did not say a word. He watched as the others put Nicole in a difficult position and smiled like an old fox.

"Vice President Nicole, you're still young after all. Although you managed to take this J&L Corporation's project, it's still not mature in this field and it's uncertain whether it'll make or lose money. Thus, we naturally won't dare to risk too much. Vice President Nicole, you have to understand how the rest of us feel about it..."

Nicole hooked her lips. "Understand your feelings? Mr. Zielinski, do you mean that you want to break our contract with J&L Corporation?"

Micah Zielinski was stunned for a moment and thought, 'How did it turn into me wanting to break the contract? Grant Stanton will kill me when he returns!'

"Of course not! It's just that Mr. Stanton is out of the country, so we can't make this decision. Why don't we put it on hold and wait for the President to come back..."

'He wants to stall time? Every minute is an opportunity and crucial in this new field of development. If Stanton Corporation loses dominance and no longer have a say in this project, it'll be pointless even if we're involved in it.' Nicole thought.

Nicole lowered her head and smiled. Her eyes darkened and her face grew cold as she looked at the people at the table.

"So, all of you won't work if Mr. Stanton doesn't come back? Are you going on

strike?"

Everyone did not expect the always good-tempered Nicole to suddenly get angry. Although Nicole looked like a pampered mistress, she was certainly not easy to fool.

"All of you are the best in the industry. If you repeatedly delay the progress just because the boss isn't here, will you bear the final losses? Can you afford to? Which company will want to hire such people?"

Nicole's gaze was cold and stern as she swept a glance at the people in the room.

'They want to give me a hard time in Grant's absence? It's a pity that I'm not a pushover!'



## Chapter 63 Undermine Her

The meeting room was dead silent for a full minute.

Micah Zielinski's face was red and did not expect that Nicole would turn the gun on them. He said, "It's not..."

Nicole interrupted him without a care. "I believe that you've all received notice this morning that I'm managing everything in the company in Mr. Stanton's absence. I'm in charge of this project, so from now on, if you don't want to be a part of it, hand me your letter of resignation immediately. Your positions will be replaced by your deputies. I will explain everything to Mr. Stanton."

The people in the room were shocked and silenced. They had all stepped over



each other to climb to their department head positions and their deputies were eyeing their spots. It was a sought-after position, so no one dared to act rashly at this moment.

Although they could not stand the fact that Nicole had parachuted into her Vice President position, they could all tell how much Grant Stanton supported her since the first day she arrived. They knew that they could not afford to offend Nicole.

They all began to regret getting incited by Micah Zielinski to pull Nicole off her high horse.

The air in the conference room was cold and suffocating. No one dared to make a sound. Micah Zielinski also felt that he had lost the momentum as no one dared to make things difficult for Nicole at this time.

"Planning Department, can you come up with the proposal by today?"

The Head of the Planning Department, Don Smith, was named and raised his head sharply. "Yes, Vice President Nicole. The Planning Department will come up with the best plan in the fastest time possible immediately after this meeting. We certainly won't delay the project's progress."

Those who had climbed to these positions were all old-timers who were shrewd and adaptable.

Since Nicole gave them a chance, they would take it. Otherwise, it would be their loss.

Nicole nodded in satisfaction and looked at the others. Her voice was not as stern anymore. "What about the other

departments?"

"We'll research it immediately. We won't let the company down!"

"Yes, same here."

"Of course, we've been prepared for this a long time ago. We'll do a good job!"

.....

Everyone's declaration of support instantly eased the atmosphere in the meeting room. Nicole did not look so ice-cold anymore and resumed her gentle temperament as they continued the discussion.

They were in fact all well prepared for the meeting. After all, they were all capable and sensible enough to manage their respective departments in such a large corporation.

Micah Zielinski and Samantha Lindt, who had been deliberately neglected, sat on the side with glum faces.

Nicole did not care about them because their days in the company were numbered anyway.

Towards the end of the meeting, Nicole saw that it was almost time and said, "Although the core research team is from J &L Corporation, we must also be prepared. I've previously discussed this with Mr. Lichman. Even though we won't be involved in the development of the core technology, he has agreed for us to send over two researchers to participate in the later development. We'll provide two of our best-performing and reliable staff, so let's start looking for suitable candidates. HR should pay more attention to this as well."

Nicole was very satisfied with today's meeting. At the end of the meeting, everyone wanted to stay and talk to her for a few minutes to build a closer relationship. Nicole responded to every one of them and smiled warmly, so much so that she seemed like a completely different person from her stern and cold persona earlier.

Logan hurriedly came over and whispered in her ear. "Vice President Nicole, the Chairman of Ferguson Corporation is here."

Nicole raised an eyebrow. 'That's quick... Turns out Old Master Ferguson is more fretful than I imagined...'

After all, Old Master Ferguson was the Chairman of Ferguson Corporation, so Nicole could not ignore him out of respect for their company's relations.

Nicole nodded and left the conference room.

"Is he waiting in the guest lounge?" Nicole asked.

Logan shook his head. "He went straight to your office."

Nicole was slightly surprised, but she knew that Old Master Ferguson only came for the emerald pipe that was now with her.

She lowered her head and laughed, then pushed the door in. However, she did not expect Ingrid Ferguson to be sitting next to Old Master Ferguson.

"Rude! How can you come in without knocking first?" Old Master Ferguson sat upright on the sofa and looked at the woman at the door with a cold face.

'Is he trying to undermine me? I've just

gone through this sh\*t in the meeting and have to bear with this again?’

“Chairman Ferguson, I never knock when I come into my office.”

## Chapter 64 Please Make an Appointment in Advance

Nicole said while she walked to the chair behind her desk and sat down. She threw the documents on the desk and turned on the computer.

Old Master Ferguson, who was ignored, became even more infuriated and coldly snorted.

"Nicole, I've underestimated you all this while. It looks like you're quite capable. No wonder you took the initiative to get a divorce. Turns out you've already found your next target. As soon as you divorced Eric, you became the Vice President of Stanton Corporation. It looks like Grant really values you..."

Nicole laughed and looked at the



Fergusons. Ingrid was obviously frightened and did not dare to speak, but the old man came prepared.

“Didn’t your family force me to get a divorce? Chairman Ferguson, you call me back to the Ferguson Villa every week just to lecture me about how lowly and unworthy I am of your high and mighty Ferguson family. Now that we’re divorced, you should be happy about it. Why did you still take the initiative to come to me?”

Nicole did not forget that Old Master Ferguson only got her to go to the Ferguson Villa every week, not for a family reunion, but to embolden Quinn and Ingrid to torment her even more physically and mentally. This was so that Nicole could feel the disparity between herself and the Ferguson family.

It was also because of Old Master Ferguson's connivance that Quinn and Ingrid went all-out to bully Nicole. All of the servants at the Ferguson Villa also looked down on Nicole because of it.

'Shouldn't they be celebrating that their joke of a daughter-in-law willingly retreated?' Nicole thought.

"What do you mean by that? Are you trying to dig up the past? Is this how you should be talking to your elders?" Old Master Ferguson was very dissatisfied with Nicole's attitude.

'How dare this obsequious woman from back then talk back at me?! Such mutiny!' Old Master Ferguson thought.

Nicole snorted. "This is my office, so there's no such thing as elders or juniors. There are only superiors and

subordinates. I'm only receiving you right now because you're the Chairman of Ferguson Corporation, so if you have something to say, get to the point. Please don't waste everyone's time. After all, you didn't make a prior appointment and I don't have much time as I still have a lot of things to deal with."

She purposely looked at her watch and looked at the grim-faced old man without an expression.

'Who is he trying to throw a tantrum at? Does he think that I'm still the same stupid woman from three years ago?' Nicole thought.

"Nicole, how dare you talk to Grandpa like that! Do you want him to faint from anger at his old age?!" Seeing this, Ingrid hurriedly rebuked Nicole. 'Nicole actually thinks that she's above everyone?'

Nicole glanced at her and laughed lightly. "I have nothing to do with your family anymore. Do you expect me to stoop so low and put up with your crap? Did you come here uninvited just to get yourself worked up? If that's the case, I'm sorry for my poor hospitality. I'll get my assistant to send you off."

'I didn't beg them to come over, so how dare she act so righteously?' Nicole thought.

Ingrid panicked and looked at Old Master Ferguson. "Grandpa, I..."

Old Master Ferguson was very shrewd and knew that Nicole did not like being abased. He let out a cold grunt and got to the point.

"Alright, then I'll be frank with you, Nicole. My daughter-in-law and this girl stole my

family heirloom just to show off and didn't think that they'd get played by you. The emerald pipe is my life. State your price. How much do you want to let go of it?"

Nicole raised an eyebrow. "Oh, so you came because of this..." She deliberately stretched her sentence. "I've already said that I'm not selling that thing."

Old Master Ferguson's face was glum. His body became tense as he glared at her. "Just state your price. I don't care how much you ask for. If you miss this opportunity, you'll never get it again!"

Nicole knew that Ferguson Corporation was rich, but she was not poor either and did not need this so-called opportunity.

"Chairman Ferguson, didn't you also give me the same opportunity to state my price when you asked me to divorce Eric i

n the beginning? I didn't state my price back then, and I certainly don't want your money now."

They had all thought that Nicole only married Eric for money. Thus, in their three years of marriage, except for the money Eric gave her after every blood transfusion, the Ferguson family did not let her touch a penny of their money and watched her like she was a thief. Nicole was well aware of it all.

Old Master Ferguson's face was grim. His face sank and his breathing became heavier due to anger.

"Nicole, you just hate our family and want to make things difficult for us, huh? You deliberately kept the emerald pipe from Grandpa, right?"

Ingrid was agitated and shouted at Nicole, wanting to expose Nicole's vile

intentions.

Nicole shrugged her shoulders. "Yup..."



## Chapter 65 Manipulative B\*tch

Nicole frankly admitted to it. She would never hold on to someone else's beloved item for no reason if it were anyone else.

However, Nicole absolutely hated the Fergusons and did not want them to live comfortably. Thus, she deliberately bought the emerald pipe to mess with them.

She admitted to all of it since she was not bothered to put up a friendly act in front of the Fergusons.

"Ms. Ferguson, I'm not a kind and weak person. I treat others how they treat me. Do you recall how your family treated me back then? I can't pretend to have lost my memory, can I?"



'Do I look like such a generous and forgiving person?' Nicole thought.

Ingrid was shaking with anger. The words she wanted to say were instantly stuck in her throat. Nicole's frank admission was even more infuriating than a denial.

Old Master Ferguson glared at Ingrid, so Ingrid held back from cursing at Nicole. She took a deep breath, softened her voice, and sobbed as she looked at Nicole with big innocent eyes.

"Nicole, the past was all my fault... I was too young and reckless. You're such a magnanimous person, so please just forgive me. I sincerely apologize for everything I've done. I'm really sorry... I'm willing to do anything to get your forgiveness. I just hope that you can return Grandpa's pipe to him. It's all my fault that got us into this mess. My

mother is grounded and Grandpa also punished me. If you still don't feel relieved, you can slap me twice..."

Ingrid looked up at Nicole, but Nicole was unmoved and even looked at her with a smirk.

For a moment, Ingrid suddenly felt that she could not keep up this act and stood there stiffly.

Nicole stared at Ingrid like she was watching a play while she thought about what a manipulative b\*tch Ingrid was for putting up an innocent act.

Seeing no reaction from Nicole, Old Master Ferguson coughed and suppressed the gloom under his eyes. He reluctantly said, "Nicole, I know that you've suffered a lot at our hands. Ingrid even took the initiative to come over and apologize to you this time, so you can

mention whatever conditions you have.”

‘Apologize? I don’t feel that this is an apology. It was rather like forceful moral kidnapping. How ridiculous!’ Nicole thought.

Nicole faintly swept her a glance. “I don’t accept your apology, nor will I give you the pipe.”

After all that, Nicole was still persistent.

Old Master Ferguson’s expression changed slightly and could not suppress the anger that accumulated in his chest. “Nicole, what exactly do you want to do?”

‘He finally can’t stand it anymore?’ Nicole thought.

“I’m not gonna do anything. Chairman Ferguson, if there’s nothing else, I need to get going.”

Nicole felt tired after dealing with them.

Old Master Ferguson snorted coldly. His eyes had a sharpness in them.

"Don't blame me for being cruel if you don't take this chance that I'm offering."

"Oh?" Nicole raised her eyebrows. "What are you planning to do?"

Old Master Ferguson took out his phone. "I'm curious... Does Chairman Stanton know that Grant is supporting a divorced woman? I still have some relations with the Chairman. Do you think that if I tell him your identity, you'll still get to sit in your position?"

His words were a blatant threat.

Nicole paused for a few seconds. Her smile deepened as she extended her hand. "Suit yourself."

She just felt like laughing and thought, 'He thinks that I'll be scared? Chairman Stanton is my father!'

Old Master Ferguson's gaze was cold. Seeing that Nicole still did not give in, he dialed the number.

Ingrid looked at Nicole smugly as if Nicole was facing impending death. She just stood on the side to watch the drama unfold.

Beep...

After a few seconds, Floyd Stanton picked up with a leisurely voice.

"Chairman Ferguson, why are you in the mood to call me?"

Old Master Ferguson grunted lightly and said, "Chairman Stanton, I heard that you went to Europe for a vacation a few days

ago. You seem to be in a good mood..."

"Yeah, I did. It's nice to travel around now that I'm old. If there's nothing, I'm hanging up because I'm busy fishing right now..."

Nicole raised her eyebrows. 'Dad hates the Fergusons, so why would he waste time on them?'

Old Master Ferguson changed the topic. "Chairman Stanton, do you know that your son has gotten very close to a divorced woman recently?"

"Really? I'm not aware."