

Chapter 211 How Is She the Big Picture?

Although Nicole did not want to receive Eric Ferguson, he was already here, so she had to maintain superficial politeness.

Logan held open the door of her office.

Nicole walked in with big strides.

She exuded such a confident and elegant aura and carried such superiority that made her so unattainable that others could only look up to her and sigh in admiration.

Eric watched her back as she pushed the door in and was slightly stunned.

This scene suddenly felt so familiar.

That image deep in his mind surfaced for a while.

In the darkness, the woman in the red dress whose face could not be seen, and

the light that pierced through the night.

The light rushed out from the gap in the door and spilled out everywhere with such abruptness.

He frowned slightly. That was back when he was in Europe.

‘Why did I suddenly remember this?’

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“Mr. Ferguson, please come in...”

Logan extended his arm and politely reminded him.

Eric walked in and swept a glance.

The furnishing of Nicole’s office was very minimalist.

The details had a little girlish temperament.

There was a sculpture in front of her desk. A pink rose was stuck onto that sculpture’s head that made it look playful

and vivid.

‘So, this is what she looks like when she’s working...’ Eric thought.

Nicole sat on the large soft sofa and sank inside, looking comfortable and casual.

“Mr. Ferguson, why did you come to see me?”

Nicole looked at him seriously.

If Eric did not have any serious business, she would kick him out.

Eric’s gaze was dark and sullen.

“Have you thought about our cooperation for that piece of land?”

Nicole raised her eyebrows. ‘That’s what he’s here for.’

“Is such a small matter worth a personal trip from you, Mr. Ferguson?”

‘Does he have nothing better to do?’

Eric’s face was sullen and cold. His

temperament was calm and cool.

He did not hesitate.

“It's good to make a decision early. We shouldn't delay this.”

Nicole's finger tapped lightly on the side of the sofa.

She suddenly thought of that woman who had kicked her out of the Carter family's good graces.

Nicole believed that what just happened had something to do with Chloe Snyder.

If Nicole's relationship with the Carter family was ruined, the one who would benefit most from this and the most popular candidate for Ian's wife would be Chloe Snyder.

‘Hmph...’

After some thought, Nicole looked at Eric.

“I'm willing to cooperate, but I have one condition.”

Eric's eyes were deep like the dark ocean.

There was not a single crease on that handsome and perfect face.

He would agree to whatever conditions he wanted.

"I don't care what private agreement you've reached with Chloe Snyder. This project can only have me or her."

Nicole's attitude was resolute, and her demand was clear, although it did sound a bit unreasonable.

Who was she to ask Eric to kick out another partner?

This was completely irrational.

Eric frowned slightly as he was puzzled. His calm and cool temperament showed a rare trace of confusion.

Nicole laughed and did not hide the coldness on her face. "Eric Ferguson, I know that you're only asking Stanton

Corporation to join this time because you more or less want to make amends.”

He did not make a sound.

There was silence.

Nicole pursed her lips, picked up the coffee in front of her, and took a sip, then gently put it down.

“I accept your compensation.”

Eric looked up abruptly.

He was stunned for a moment.

Her calmness was somewhat unexpected.

“You’ve thought it through?” Eric’s voice was deep.

“But I won’t work with Chloe Snyder, so she must be out. Of course, this is also your only chance to make amends.”

As soon as the project was done, everyone was even.

There was no need to bring out such an

unpleasant past and chew on it over and over again.

In the end, the only one suffering was Nicole.

The atmosphere was silent for a while.

It was clear that Eric had the upper hand in this project, but Nicole sounded so righteous while stating her condition.

Apart from Nicole, no one else could speak like this in front of Eric Ferguson.

“Why?” Eric asked. ‘She and Chloe shouldn’t have much interaction, right?’

Nicole let out a cold laugh and said it as a matter of course, “I just simply hate her as a person, nothing else.”

‘So, don’t even mention the big picture... How is Chloe Snyder the big picture?’

Chapter 212 The Lost Ring

Eric's face was taut. After a moment, he nodded his head in agreement. "Okay."

He unconditionally agreed with the compensation she asked for although dealing with it might be a bit troublesome.

However, Eric finally felt relieved. 'She's willing to accept my compensation, so does that mean our relationship is still salvageable?'

Nicole was not surprised by his agreement.

At that moment, she stood up and walked behind her desk.

"I'll have someone work out the details with Ferguson Corporation. Let's keep this cooperation private and confidential for now..."

Eric had the same thoughts. After all, the

project had just started, so it was not appropriate to be too high-profile.

Looking at Nicole's actions, she was probably about to send him out the next second.

Since things between them had just started to ease up, it was better to avoid any unpleasant arguments.

Eric stood up after some thought. "Then ... I'll head back..."

Before he could finish his sentence, his eyes were affixed to an adult-height bronze tree sculpture behind Nicole.

His face instantly stiffened.

If he was not mistaken, this bronze tree was designed by a famous sculptor from Sweden that had a modern twist on Central European ornamental sculpture.

It was a unique design in the world, so naturally, it was very expensive.

However, what shocked him most was not the tree.

The branches stuck out diagonally. There was a bright refracted light coming from one of the branches near the window.

It was a diamond that was attached to a ring.

It was his lost wedding ring!

Eric's breathing stopped for a moment.

His face was tense and extremely shocked.

That thing that he felt great remorse after losing appeared here?

Nicole saw that Eric had not left yet and raised her head insouciantly.

"Mr. Ferguson, since we're done talking ..."

Nicole frowned slightly when she saw the expression on his face.

Eric took a few steps forward and stood in

front of her. The corners of his lips trembled slightly.

The oppressive feeling in his chest at that moment made him feel so lost and heavy like he was falling into an abyss.

His eyes were deep and dark as he stared at Nicole.

Nicole's subconscious reaction of resistance, doubt, and disgust made his eyes sink slightly.

He stood in front of her and reached out to touch the pair of rings that were hanging on the branches of the bronze tree.

Nicole noticed his movement. Her face instantly became cold and sullen.

Without hesitation, she reached out and pushed him away, which made Eric stumble a few steps back.

His fingers were now further away from the pair of rings.

The man's eyes were deep and sullen with pain and complexity in them.

Nicole's voice turned cold. "Mr. Ferguson, you may leave since we're done discussing."

If he stayed any longer, she was afraid that she would just beat him up.

Her lowly self in that suffocating past was the last thing that Nicole wanted to recall.

She did not want to suffer for the rest of her life just because she fell in love with Eric Ferguson for those few years.

"Nicole, why is my ring here?" His mellow voice was a little hoarse as he asked with difficulty.

'Didn't I lose it? Why is it here?' Eric thought.

Before the elation of finding his lost ring had reached his eyes, Nicole's cold resistance was already mocking his

wishful thinking.

“Mr. Ferguson, this is my ring, not yours.”

What did he give her for their marriage besides those two documents?

Nicole was the one who bought the ring.

The pain was also hers to bear.

The hope that Nicole handed to him was discarded by him like trash.

Then, what did it have to do with him now?

The corners of Eric’s lips were tightly pressed into a straight line.

The deeply hidden pain, remorse, repression, and forbearance in his eyes came flooding out.

“I’m sorry...”

It sounded simple and solemn.

Besides this apology, Eric no longer knew

how they could overcome the past.

Nicole hooked the corners of her lips in disdain. "There's no need to say these useless things. I've already seen your sincerity when you agree to my conditions."

That was enough for her.

They were all adults, so there was no need to say such sentimental, worthless words.

It was better if they could just settle this with money.

Yvette was right, who would say no to money?

Eric's eyes were filled with complex emotions.

Nicole's indifference pierced his heart.

Eric looked away from Nicole and stared at that somewhat familiar ring.

The pair of rings looked brand new as they shone in the sunlight.

Eric asked again, “How did it end up here?”

Chapter 213 She's Lying

Eric was curious why his lost ring would be in Nicole's possession.

Nicole's eyes flickered slightly. She was obviously unwilling to answer this irritating question.

However, she was even more unwilling to get entangled with Eric Ferguson.

She simply told him.

"I thought you knew..."

'You should know...'

"This ring was returned to me one morning by Wendy Quade. She said that you had too much to drink the night before and slept at her place, then casually just threw it aside. So, she personally returned it to me."

Nicole would probably never forget that confrontation.

That was the first time that Nicole felt such despair about their marriage.

Nicole was lost in sadness, depression, and anger back then.

Luckily, she managed to walk out of that darkness in time.

Looking at the flicker of confusion and pain in his eyes, Nicole sneered with contempt.

‘Perhaps I was mistaken. Eric Ferguson is a cold-blooded animal without feelings. How could he feel any pain because of me? Even if he did have any feelings, they’re not for me. What’s the point?’

Nicole glanced at him with cold indifference.

“Mr. Ferguson, you must’ve hated me three years ago. My gift must’ve been a burden, so there’s no need to give you the ring again...”

Nicole felt that it was ridiculous when she said it out loud.

“No.” His voice was extremely low.

The emotions in Eric’s eyes shattered a little.

His body was tense, and the air pressure around him was extremely low.

It was frighteningly cold.

Eric could not even recall when he had spent the night at Wendy Quade’s place after drinking.

This never happened, so it was all Wendy Quade’s lies.

Eric’s chest surged with pent-up anger. ‘This damned liar Wendy Quade! I really shouldn’t have been so kind to her!’

He frowned tightly.

Eric hurriedly spoke.

“She’s lying... I definitely didn’t spend

the night at her place, much less find her after drinking..."

His heart was in a panic.

Nicole smiled faintly and was unconcerned.

"Is that so?"

She obviously did not believe him.

However, she did not want to go into it.

No one could prove how true it was.

Moreover, she was no longer interested in what happened between them back then.

The rest of Eric's words were suddenly stuck in his throat.

Nicole did not care for his explanation.

"I know you hate me. Nicole, if there's a better way to compensate you, I'd like to."

Eric's voice was low. His gaze was deep as he looked at her.

He stopped talking even though there was more he wanted to say to her.

However, he could only say so much to her at this moment.

Nicole hooked the corner of her lips indifferently.

She did not take his words to heart at all.

“The fact that you can agree to my conditions is already a very good compensation. When this project is done, we won’t owe each other anymore.”

They would never have anything to do with each other again.

After Nicole finished speaking, she called Logan on the intercom without waiting for Eric’s response. “Send Mr. Ferguson out.”

“Yes, President.”

Logan came up to knock on the door in less than a few seconds.

Sensing the strange atmosphere in the office, Logan did not show any other reaction.

He was respectful and courteous. "Mr. Ferguson, if you please..."

After Eric Ferguson left, Nicole sat in her office for a long time, silently feeling the residual warmth Eric left in the air.

She had finally drawn a distinct line with the past that she had once coveted so much.

Since it was her unrequited love, she must learn to let go.

So what if she had knocked into the wall?

That would not change the fact that he did not like her.

Eric Ferguson would never like Nicole.

Nicole picked up the ring on the branch of the bronze tree and opened the window.

Chapter 213 She's

**Without hesitation, she drew her hand
back slightly and threw out the ring.**

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Chapter 214 On the Wrong Side

Ian Carter and Old Master Carter both felt a little strange about Nicole's sudden departure.

Nicole had never been so impolite before.

Under Old Master Carter's probing eyes, Gillian finally could not hold back and told them everything, that the painting was a fake and about Chloe's fondness for Ian.

When Old Master Carter heard this, he was fuming.

His daughter-in-law, Gillian, had always been well-behaved and never caused trouble. Thus, he was satisfied with her.

He did not expect that Gillian would make such a mess of things.

How could he not be angry?

Old Master Carter asked experts in the

industry to find a photo of “The Blazing Sun” that was exhibited in the World Museum, then showed it to Gillian.

This painting was Mr. Wilhelm’s creation at the peak of his career.

Every inch of this artwork meticulously brought out the beauty and grandeur of the full painting.

Therefore, after some deliberation, Mr. Wilhelm decided not to add his signature to this painting. Thus, “The Blazing Sun” became his only creation without his signature.

As a result, this was his most valuable piece of work.

Upon learning this, Gillian’s face went pale.

She thought about how she had humiliated Nicole earlier. ‘What a stupid mistake!’

“But... Chloe Snyder...” Gillian hesitated

and thought that Chloe must have meant well.

Old Master Carter was a shrewd man. He snorted coldly and said, “She became the Head of the Snyder family before she was eighteen years old. You’ll never be able to imagine what she’s capable of. Not to mention, Ian doesn’t like her. Even if he does and they get married, it’s uncertain whether our company will eventually be bought over by Snyder Corporation.”

The moment these words came out, Gillian’s face instantly turned glum.

How could such a strong and capable woman look up to her as a mother-in-law when Gillian was merely a mediocre high-society housewife?

Gillian almost overlooked this detail about just how difficult their future would be if Ian were to marry Chloe.

“Dad, I...” Gillian’s face was miserably pale. If she had known earlier, she would

not have said those harsh words to Nicole.

“In the future, you just need to stay away from Chloe Snyder. Any cooperation regarding our companies will naturally be handled by Ian and his father, so what are you worrying about?”

Old Master Carter rebuked Gillian. “Also, you’d better find an opportunity to apologize to the Stantons. Whether it’s West City or Atlanta, Stanton Corporation is the partner we can’t afford to lose!”

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Stanton Corporation.

Nicole had just finished a meeting when she received a call from Kai.

“The Carters sent you a lot of gifts... Weird, huh?”

“Ian?” Nicole asked in surprise. ‘He usually just sends them to my office...’

“No, it’s from Mrs. Carter.”

'Gillian?' Nicole was puzzled and frowned a little. 'Maybe she finally found out about "The Blazing Sun"?'

Unfortunately, it was too late.

Nicole had already placed that painting in her father's study, and he loved it so much.

However, if it was for what happened last time, Nicole did not really care.

After all, Nicole knew that it was Chloe Snyder's trick. She would not really cut off ties with the Carter family because of that.

If Nicole cut off her ties with the Carters, Chloe Snyder would have achieved her goal.

Nicole chuckled. "Okay, get Mr. Anderson to send an appropriate return gift."

"Okay," Kai said lazily.

At that moment, Logan knocked on the

Chapter 214 On t
door and came in.

“President, Ms. Chloe Snyder is here and wants to see you.”

Nicole raised her eyebrows. ‘She’s fast... How unexpected.’

Chloe Snyder was certainly not like Ingrid Ferguson, who would cry and make a scene to humiliate herself when she was annoyed.

Thus, Nicole was curious. “Invite her in.”

“Yes, President.”

Chloe walked in with grace and a strong aura.

She had a coldness about her that could not be ignored.

Nicole smiled. “What a rare visit, Ms. Snyder.”

Chloe went in and sat across from Nicole.

The two women’s temperaments were so

strong that it felt like they would clash as soon as they met.

“Anything to drink? Coffee or tea?”

“No need.”

Chloe was certainly not in the mood to drink now.

Nicole raised her eyebrows and signaled to Logan, who nodded and left the room, closing the door behind him.

“Nicole, I don’t like beating around the bush, so I’ll get straight to the point. Did you make Eric Ferguson kick me out of that development project? You’re also the one who made Mrs. Carter stop answering my calls from that day onwards, right?”

Chloe’s gaze was harsh, and her face had a hint of anger.

As she spoke, she propped her hands on the desk in front of Nicole.

An oppressive gloom enveloped her.

She was really deserving to be the President of Snyder Corporation who had gone through all sorts of hell in the industry.

If it was anyone else, they would really be intimidated.

Unfortunately, that person sitting opposite her was Nicole, who was completely unfazed.

Chapter 215 I'm a Woman Without Morals

Hearing this, Nicole raised her eyes and absently smiled. "I admit to the first one. As for the latter, you've really wronged me..."

Nicole smiled devilishly with a hint of gloating in her eyes.

Sure enough, Gillian probably knew that she was duped.

'Gillian did not even answer Chloe's calls? How ruthless...'

Chloe Snyder's eyes were cold and stern. She kept pressing on. "Who are you to get Eric Ferguson to kick me out of that cooperation? Do you know how much effort I had to put in just to get into the market in Atlanta and form that connection?"

She did not bother to work with small

companies and went straight to Ferguson Corporation.

It took some effort to obtain Eric Ferguson's good impression and trust.

Surprisingly, Nicole swept all her efforts away with just a few words.

How could Chloe not be angry?

Nicole let out a light laugh with a disdainful expression.

"Your effort is telling Eric Ferguson that you can make Ian completely give up on me?"

Chloe's face stiffened as a flash of shock crossed her eyes. 'How did she know this?'

The cold smile at the corners of Nicole's lips gradually expanded.

"Ms. Snyder, your effort is really quite unbelievable, huh? I'm rather curious where you got the confidence that you

can capture the heart of the amorous
Second Young Master Carter.”

Although Chloe Snyder came prepared
and had a clear understanding of
everyone’s preferences and personalities,
she was too overconfident.

If Ian did not like her at the beginning,
how could he like her now?

Nicole did not want to meddle in their
matters, but Chloe just had to drag her
into this.

“How do you know?”

Knowing Eric’s temperament and
character, he would not inform a third
person about such a conversation.

Seeing Chloe’s astonishment and shock,
Nicole took out her phone and waved it in
front of her.

“Well... Coincidentally, the day you and
Eric Ferguson were talking in the bar, I
have a friend sitting next door who just

happened to hear your conversation.”

That person was surprisingly Julie Nixon.

Julie only remembered this a few days later and immediately called Nicole to tell her about it.

Everything became clear at once.

Chloe's face gradually stiffened. She was silent and finally looked at Nicole with cold and sunken eyes.

Even after being exposed, Chloe was still composed.

“I've underestimated you, Nicole.”

Chloe thought that Nicole was just a rich girl who grew up under the protection of her father and brothers.

Even if Nicole was in a position of power in Stanton Corporation, Chloe thought that Nicole would not be familiar with the treacherous nature of the business world.

Unexpectedly, Chloe was played by Nicole.

“Ms. Snyder, I think that you just overestimated yourself.”

Nicole raised her eyebrows and unconsciously laughed lightly.

“You think that you can marry Ian just by provoking my relationship with the Carters and saying a few bad words to Mrs. Carter?”

Chloe’s face turned glum from Nicole’s blunt words.

She could not help but let out her feelings.

“Nicole, you were also in love with Eric Ferguson before, so why can’t you understand my feelings? I’ve been in love with Ian for ten years now! I never get sad whenever I see him with other women, only you!”

Chloe gritted her teeth. Her face was pale.

Her expression carried such sorrow and resentment.

“The way he looks at you is different from others. If you don’t like him, you should let him go. Why lead him on and give him hope? Why do you want to stop me from liking him?”

Nicole looked at Chloe’s near-hysterical loss of temper and forbearance.

She narrowed her eyes and collected her expression.

Under that calm gaze, there was a sullen coldness.

‘She resents me because of this?’

Nicole could not help but sneer.

‘Is this another encounter of moral kidnapping? What the hell?’

Nicole tapped a finger on the desk and reminded Chloe.

“Ms. Snyder, don’t even think of trying to morally kidnap me. It won’t work because I’m a woman without morals.”

Chapter 215 I'm a [REDACTED]

Nicole had never lost an argument before.

Chapter 216 Had Enough of Pretending to Be Sick

Nicole thought, 'Chloe had a crush on Ian for ten years? No wonder she's so aggressive and resentful towards me...'

She looked at Chloe's stiff and collapsed face and felt a little sorry for her.

Nicole sympathized with this woman, but she did not regret anything.

She looked at Chloe seriously. "Ms. Snyder, please don't impose your emotional failure on me. Your fruitless crush and Ian's dislike for you aren't caused by me. I am also not a third party who destroyed your relationship, so I'm not obligated to accept your condemnation."

It was not like whoever was most pitiful had the advantage.

Nicole and Chloe were not the same.

Although they both had unrequited love for someone, at least Nicole had tried to fight for it. She had anticipated Eric's feelings openly before.

On the other hand, Chloe had never fought for Ian's love in the past ten years.

"But he likes you..." Chloe glared at Nicole.

Nicole shook her head. "Ms. Snyder, can you please be more reasonable? So what if he likes me? What did I do wrong? Your love for him is unrequited, so why don't you let him go?"

Why did Chloe have to find some ridiculous excuse for not getting her way?

Chloe had to put all the blame on Nicole just so that she could feel better about herself?

What kind of bullsh*t thinking is that?

Nicole used to think that Chloe would be

an honest and decent person since she was so revered in the business world.

She did not expect Chloe to be so nasty and underhanded.

Nicole did not want to continue babbling with her.

“Ms. Snyder, our conversation can end here. If you want, I can ask Ian out for you so that you can just be open with him. We’re all adults, so you should be able to accept whatever the results may be. If it works, it works. If it doesn’t, there’s no point in wasting everyone’s time. What do you think?”

Nicole thought that her proposal was the most appropriate.

Rather than Chloe doing everything unilaterally without ever knowing if she had any hope, it would be much better to be open about it and get a clear answer.

A momentary hesitation flashed in Chloe’s

s eyes, but it disappeared in just an instant. “You just want to embarrass me in front of him, don’t you?”

Once Nicole heard this, she knew that there was nothing else she could say to Chloe.

Nicole shrugged her shoulders. Her eyes were slightly cold. ‘Forget it... She doesn’t appreciate it...’

“Then just do whatever you please. I’ve already done my part. You can’t interfere with the business here, and you have no place in this market.”

Chloe would not get anything if she stayed.

Nicole’s send-off was simply too obvious.

There was no place for Chloe Snyder in West City.

Chloe’s gaze was cold and stern as she glared viciously at Nicole.

She had such a strong aura. The air pressure around her was very low.

Chloe said, "Fine. Then don't blame me for being ungracious."

Nicole raised her eyebrows and met Chloe's gaze without fear.

'Since when has Chloe been gracious in the first place?'

"Logan, send off our guest."

Chloe Snyder was strangely quiet for a while.

Logan brought news that Chloe had gone back to her company's headquarters in Cali.

Nicole felt a little surprised. 'She went back just like that? That's unexpected... But that's also good for me. I can finally have some peace and quiet...'

At a business cocktail party.

Nicole and Yvette attended the party together.

Coincidentally, they ran into Ian and his mother, Gillian.

Gillian was obviously stunned when she saw Nicole.

However, Gillian quickly regained composure and went forward with a smile to take her hand. “Nicole, I’ve missed you these days. I asked Ian to invite you over many times. Why didn’t you come to visit us?”

Nicole thought to herself, ‘That’s because I don’t wanna find trouble for myself...’

However, Nicole still behaved graciously. She looked so glamorous as she smiled perfunctorily.

“Mrs. Carter, I’ve been busy recently. Not to mention, Ian’s sick, so he should rest properly.”

Gillian saw that there were no hard feelings on Nicole's face, so she breathed a sigh of relief.

She wanted to bring up "The Blazing Sun" again, but she was too embarrassed to do so.

Nicole also did not mention it on her own accord.

Thus, Gillian could only endure the heartache and regret silently.

After some pleasantries, they finally turned the page.

Ian came over, so Gillian excused herself.

Nicole finally took off her fake smile and rolled her eyes at Ian. "Have you had enough of pretending to be sick?"

Ian flashed a devilish smile. He looked so suave and frivolous. "Miss me?"

Chapter 217 Her Blind Date

Nicole flashed Ian a cold smile.

He could think whatever he wanted.

Nicole wanted to tell Ian about Chloe Snyder, but after some thought, she decided against it. 'I can't even solve my own problem...'

Yvette greeted others and quietly came over to pull Nicole's wrist. "Nikki, I saw Eric Ferguson!"

Nicole frowned slightly. It was not strange for Eric Ferguson to show up here.

Although Nicole did not want to see him, there was no need to make a fuss about it.

Yvette pursed her lips and continued, "My mom's forcing me to go on a blind date with the man standing next to Eric Ferguson!"

Nicole had a mouthful of wine that she

had yet to swallow and almost choked to death.

Ian also looked shocked.

It took a while for Ian and Nicole to register what Yvette just said. 'Yvette Quimbey actually agreed to go on a blind date?!'

Yvette sighed. "My mom forced me to go. Anyway, I don't like him, but our families are talking about a marriage alliance..."

Nicole was anxious for Yvette.

Ian looked envious and winked at Nicole. "If only our families can be so feudal... How great would that be, huh?"

Nicole and Yvette shouted in unison, "Get lost!"

'How is he still in the mood to gloat?! He really is the worst friend of the year!'

"Nikki, you have to help me!"

Nicole pursed her lips. "Of course, I

wanna help, but..."

'I can't possibly go to the elders of those two families and declare war, right?'

Yvette's eyes lit up. She leaned into Nicole and told her the plan.

The corners of Nicole's lips twitched. 'This flaky Yvette! She wants me to take the initiative and create a scandal with her blind date?!'

Nicole said, "Hey, your bestie's reputation is already in tatters, but you still want to add insult to injury?!"

Yvette tugged at her helplessly. "But besides you, I can't think of a more suitable person... If it was just any woman, their family would've kept things under wraps. Only you have the ability to intimidate them into not acting rashly!"

Ian saw the two ladies whispering and did not know what they were plotting.

At this time, someone came over with a drink and dragged him away.

Nicole looked torn. "But... If others find out..."

"Don't worry, no one will secretly film you here. Just make sure that other people can see you!"

All they had to prove was that this man was a sleaze who even dared to hook up with Nicole.

Yvette urged Nicole, so she could only concede with clenched teeth.

'Ugh, fine! For the sake of my best friend, I'll just have to be the bad guy...'

Nicole was determined to help her friend. She picked up the corner of her long dress and went in the direction Yvette pointed her to.

Eric Ferguson and Keith Ludwig were sitting there with another person

opposite them.

'Colton White?!' Nicole paused in her footsteps.

That man hated her the most back then.

He was Yvette's blind date?

Nicole looked around and did not see anyone else besides the three of them.

It must be Colton White...

After some thought, Nicole did not want her best friend to get married to this scourge.

He did not deserve Yvette.

Nicole took a deep breath, carried her dress in one hand, and held a glass of wine in the other.

She walked over slowly.

Keith noticed that Nicole was walking over to them. He excitedly and nervously nudged Eric's arm and winked at him. “

Ferg, looks like Nicole really meant it. She's willing to forget the past and actually took the initiative to come over to you..."

Seeing the woman with the slender figure and delicate features walking over slowly, Eric's eyes lit up.

Eric looked calm and cool with a slight frown.

Hearing Keith's words, Eric held some hidden anticipation.

His heart was racing.

In the blink of an eye, Nicole arrived in front of them.

"Nicole, are you looking for Eric? We won't disturb you then..."

Keith said as he stood up and pulled Colton to leave.

Eric sat there steadily and waited for Nicole to speak.

Nicole swept a cold and dull glance at Eric

like he was an insignificant figure.

Her gaze bypassed Eric and landed on Colton White.

“Mr. White, let’s grab a drink?”

The three men were stunned.

Keith looked at Colton and Nicole with astonishment.

On the side, Eric’s body gradually emitted an oppressive chill as he stared at Nicole.

Colton frowned. Although he was shocked after knowing Nicole’s identity, he was not as cowardly as Keith.

Nicole had nothing over him, so he did not need to care about Nicole’s mood.

“Why would I grab a drink with you?”

Colton spoke coldly.

Keith nodded woodenly. “Yeah, what can you two even talk about anyway?”

Nicole raised her eyebrows and flashed a

suggestive smile. “There’s nothing to talk about before, but who’s to say there can’t be something in the future...”

Chapter 218 Not a Good Person

Nicole's words once again made the atmosphere stagnant.

Eric's grim eyes swept over Nicole and Colton.

His coldness was frightening.

"Nicole, what are you trying to do?" Eric could not help but ask.

Eric had already done as Nicole asked to kick out Chloe Snyder from the project and involved Stanton Corporation in it.

She had said that this was the compensation.

Since he had already compensated her, they no longer owed each other.

Thus, he was qualified to start anew with her, right?

Eric was curious why Nicole was looking

for Colton White out of the blue.

Nicole gently glanced to the side at Eric.

Her voice was cold. “Mr. Ferguson, although we’ve cleared our past grudges, it doesn’t mean that you’re qualified to tell me what to do. Got it?”

They were not even friends, so he should not pry into her affairs.

Nicole’s words made Eric’s face gloomy.

His eyes were dark and heavy as he stared at her.

Nicole turned away insouciantly and stared at Colton.

She hooked up her lips into a charming smile and directed it at Colton.

It was so enchanting, seductive, and natural.

“Mr. White, shall we have a moment alone?”

Colton White wanted to ignore this woman because he did not know what she was up to.

“Nicole, what do you mean?” His voice was cold and aloof.

Nicole hooked her lips into a suggestive smile. “Can’t you see? I’m interested in you...”

‘I’m already so direct... Is he blind?!’

The three men’s faces changed dramatically.

Keith widened his eyes in shock. ‘Nicole is interested in Colton? But... Colton is the one who looked down on her the most when she was married to Eric! What about Eric then?’

When Eric heard these words, the air around him dropped to a freezing point.

His aura was so chilly that it could not be ignored.

It was even somewhat terrifying.

Colton White froze in place. He had such a complex expression as he stared at Nicole in horror, as if he had just seen the devil.

‘Did I... Did I do something wrong? Is this woman trying to get me killed?!’

The other day after Eric found out that Colton had treated her badly in the past, he gave them the cold shoulder and ignored them for a long time.

They finally took this opportunity to reconcile their relationship after so long.

As a result, Nicole threw this bombshell at them.

Colton looked panicked and lost as he looked towards Eric.

Just when he was about to speak, Nicole pulled Colton’s arm and left.

After Colton returned to his senses, he tried to break free of her hand.

Nicole dragged him to a place with many people.

Thus, Colton's resistance had attracted a lot of attention.

The interaction between the two of them looked quite ambiguous.

The surrounding people looked over with prying eyes like they were waiting to see the drama unfold.

“Nicole, don't think that I'm afraid of you now that you're the heiress of Stanton Corporation. If it's not for Eric...”

Colton stopped mid-sentence.

He looked cold and uninterested as he continued, “I'm not interested in you, so you'd better just give up.”

To Colton, his friendship was more important!

Nicole could not help but lower her head and let out a light laugh.

Since her back was turned to the crowd, no one could see her expression.

They were standing extremely close to each other, which inevitably made others speculate about their relationship.

Nicole gently raised her eyes and met Colton's cold, hard gaze.

Her eyebrows moved slightly.

Suddenly, Nicole reached out and tugged on Colton's tie to bring him closer to her.

The distance between the two of them closed all of a sudden, so much so that Colton's face almost bumped into hers.

Colton was startled and stopped breathing for a moment.

That stunning and cold face with such a devilish smile was right in front of his eyes.

His heart skipped a beat.

While he was in a daze, Nicole said in a low voice, “Do you really think you’re somebody? I’m not blind. How could anyone who’s friends with Eric Ferguson be a good person?”

Her voice was extremely cold without any fluctuations.

Colton frowned tightly. His face was taut. ‘This woman really has bad intentions!’

Just as he was about to push her away, a strong arm forcefully pushed him away.

Colton, who had served in the army for a while, stumbled several steps back.

He looked up in shock.

The grim-faced Eric Ferguson was standing there.

Eric swept a cold glance at Colton and finally looked at Nicole.

His voice was clear, cold, and deep as he said, “Why wasn’t I aware that you and

Colton are so close to each other?”

Chapter 219 Which Side Are You On?

Everyone saw this scene.

Colton White and Nicole had a close relationship, while Eric Ferguson was annoyed and angry.

For a while, everyone started to speculate what happened between them.

The relationships between elites were truly complicated and ever-changing.

Nicole just thought that Eric's words were amusing.

Who was he to meddle in her affairs?

Nicole kept silent and raised her eyebrows as if she was saying, 'You can guess...'

Colton, on the other hand, explained nervously, "Ferg, I'm not close to her!"

Eric did not look at him at all, much less

listen to his words.

Keith came over from the side and looked at this weird love triangle.

He could not help but speak for Eric. “Not close, huh? You guys looked quite close earlier...”

The corners of Colton’s lips twitched. He furrowed his eyebrows. “Which side are you on?”

‘Is Keith actually Nicole’s spy?!’

Keith was overwhelmed by Colton’s aura. After all, Colton used to be in the army, so he definitely would not be able to win him in a fight.

Thus, Keith shrank his neck and hid behind Eric.

Eric was still waiting for Nicole’s answer.

He looked like he had no intention of letting her leave if she did not say anything.

Nicole saw this and hooked her lips.

There was a hint of playfulness in her eyes.

“Well, we’ve all known each other for three years, so how could we not be close with each other?”

After all, Colton left a deep impression on her for insulting her for three whole years.

Nicole would never forget that.

Keith nodded in agreement. “Right, right ...”

Colton and Eric’s threatening gaze swept over Keith at the same time.

At this very moment, Yvette came over with her phone.

She pretended not to know what was going on and smiled at Nicole.

“Nikki! Your phone is ringing. Do you

want to return the call?”

Nicole breathed a sigh of relief. ‘Finally!’

Without another word, Nicole took over her phone and left.

Yvette quickly followed her.

“How is it?” Nicole asked.

Yvette could not help but laugh. “I got the pic! It’s perfect! Especially the tug on the tie... That’s so cool! Coincidentally, that was the same time Eric walked over looking like the Grim Reaper. Hahaha...”

Nicole breathed a sigh of relief. ‘Great, at least all of that wasn’t for nothing.’

However, on second thought, Eric’s reaction was a little too exaggerated...

Nicole and Yvette intended to go to a secluded place to look through Yvette’s shots of that little act earlier.

When they got to the end of a corridor, they saw several high-society ladies

chatting while walking to the bathroom.

“Nicole kicked Chloe out? No way...”

“Chloe is such a revered figure in Cali and more powerful than most men. How could she get easily kicked out by Nicole?”

Then, they heard Ingrid’s voice answering those girls’ doubts.

“Nicole’s a petty b*tch. I think she’s just jealous to see someone more powerful than her, so she used her family’s power to find trouble with Chloe in business. Chloe didn’t want to bother with her, so she left.”

The other girls looked like they finally understood the whole situation.

Ingrid was very satisfied with this effect and deliberately lowered her voice, but it was loud enough for everyone to hear her clearly.

“Do you want to see that proud b*tch make a fool of herself?”

Everyone looked at each other. No one dared to say anything.

Their families had warned them not to mess with anyone from the Stanton family, especially Nicole.

Ingrid coldly snorted. "Forget it. Even if you girls don't dare to mess with Nicole, I dare to! I just need your cooperation."

.....

Yvette and Nicole looked at each other.

They always hear gossip on the way to the bathroom.

Coincidentally, they even overheard such a wonderful plan!

Yvette and Nicole turned back and found a conspicuous place to sit.

A few minutes later, Ingrid Ferguson and her groupies came over.

They immediately spotted Nicole in the

crowd.

Yvette leaned in close to Nicole. “Should we leave early?”

Nicole hooked her lips. “Let’s play with her first, to kill our boredom...”

Yvette shrugged her shoulders. ‘Okay, someone’s in the mood...’

In the blink of an eye, Ingrid came over alone.

Ingrid did not have her usual arrogant and defiant attitude.

On the contrary, she looked so sincere and humble as she said, “Nicole...”

Yvette immediately had a gag reflex.

“I’m sorry, I can’t help it...” She raised her hand to explain.

Chapter 220 I'll Let Go if You Lie

The corners of Nicole's lips twitched.

To Nicole, it was a nightmare to hear Ingrid calling her name in that tone.

If Nicole did not find out about Ingrid's plan in advance, Nicole would have doubted her ears.

Ingrid, who was in front of Nicole, kept a polite smile and the etiquette of a high-society lady.

“Nicole, I have something to say to you. Can we talk alone?”

Nicole raised her eyebrows and swirled the grape juice in her glass.

She questioned Ingrid. “What do we have to talk about?”

Ingrid paused for a moment and hung her head. “I've been seriously reflecting on my past behavior these days... I admit

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that I've gone overboard last time, so I'd like to sincerely apologize to you...'

Nicole just nodded with understanding and said, "Oh, okay, then just apologize here. Won't it be more sincere in front of everyone?"

Ingrid's face stiffened.

She forced a fake smile.

"Um... It won't be very appropriate. I still have some things I want to say to you in private."

Nicole hesitantly looked at the large crystal lights overhead that were reflected on the surface of her drink.

The light moving in her glass was surprisingly more beautiful than the real ones above her.

Ingrid saw Nicole's hesitation and immediately added. "It won't be good for others to hear about the things between you and my brother, right?"

Nicole lifted her eyelids. The corners of her lips curled up faintly. "Okay."

She stood up.

Yvette pulled on Nicole's arm and frowned.

She wanted to stop Nicole.

Nicole smiled reassuringly and patted Yvette's wrist, indicating that she knew what she was doing.

She already knew of Ingrid's plan anyway.

Ingrid's eyes flashed with a hint of smugness.

On the balcony of the second floor.

The surrounding leaves rustled in the light breeze.

The hazy band of light from the Milky Way could be seen in the dark sky. The stars were as far as the eye could see.

Ingrid looked innocent thinking that Eric

Ferguson was a taboo subject for Nicole.

Nicole stood there with a slight smirk. 'How childish...'

Ingrid was standing not far away behind Nicole.

Her voice was gentle and harmless. “

Nicole, actually come to think of it, you and my brother are a good match with comparable family backgrounds and you're both from the same gentry circle. Even my grandfather has started to approve of you. Are you really not interested in my brother anymore?”

Nicole glanced at her with a chill in her eyes.

The corners of her lips curled up into a cold and detached smile.

“Are you mistaken? How can your brother and I be a good match?”

Ingrid paused for a moment and said, “You're already the successor and

President of Stanton Corporation. With your current value, how could you not be a good match for my brother?"

Nicole snorted coldly and did not hide the contempt in her eyes. "You misunderstood me. What I meant was, how is your family worthy of being compared to my family?"

'She even has the cheek to presume that her brother is compatible with the successor of Stanton Corporation?'

Ingrid's face froze. A trace of ruthlessness flashed in her eyes.

She gritted her teeth and stood behind Nicole, staring at her intently.

If it was before, Ingrid would have retorted without a second thought.

However, both her grandfather and brother had already warned her many times not to mess with Nicole.

If it were not for Nicole, Ingrid would not

have been humiliated in front of the high-society ladies.

Looking at Nicole's smug face, Ingrid could hold back her anger.

Before this, Ingrid had already noticed that this railing's screws were loose.

Ingrid then deliberately removed them before she asked Nicole to come out.

This railing no longer had any point of support.

A slight nudge would make it collapse.

Since this place was obscure with the surrounding greenery coupled with the darkness outside, no one noticed this.

Ingrid bit her lower lip, looked at Nicole, and suddenly screamed, "Nicole, what's on your back?"

She then pounced on Nicole without hesitation.

Ingrid wanted to push Nicole down from

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the second floor. She did not want to kill Nicole and only wanted to cripple her.

At least, Nicole would be in pain.

It was better if Nicole would be crippled forever.

If Nicole was crippled, would she still be able to be so smug?

Nicole would be humiliated if she fell over like this.

Ingrid thought that as long as she could put Nicole to shame, everything would be worthwhile even if she got reprimanded later.

She used all her strength to pounce at Nicole, but just as her hand grazed Nicole's back, Nicole suddenly dodged to the side.

Ingrid no longer had Nicole's back as a support in front of her and lunged forward from the inertia earlier.

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Ingrid no longer had Nicole's back as a support in front of her and lunged forward from the inertia earlier.

The railing fell off with no resistance, and it was too late for her to regret her actions.

Ingrid's body was free falling.

The cold, harsh wind on her face was a little painful.

Panic and shock overwhelmed Ingrid in that instant.

Ingrid screamed, but just as she was about to fall off the second floor, she was suddenly yanked from the back of her dress.

She looked back.

Ingrid almost forgot that Nicole always had fast reflexes.

She was just relieved that she did not fall from this height and become crippled.

However, she was still scared to be in this situation and position.

Nicole looked at Ingrid with a faint smile

in her eyes. "Ms. Ferguson, did you just try to push me?"

Ingrid was just about to deny it when Nicole raised her eyebrows devilishly and added, "I'll let go if you lie..."