

Adorable 301

[Chapter 301 You Must Be Careful](#)

"Long time no see, Miss Swift. What are you doing here?" Eliana greeted Nicole politely.

Wasn't Cheryl the leading actress of the play? Why was Nicole, who was always at odds with her, here?

"I'm here as a guest performer. What about you? Why are you here?" There was slight confusion in Nicole's eyes.

Feeling a bit embarrassed, Eliana averted her gaze. How could she tell her former boss that she was now working for her archrival?

"Cheryl ordered a bracelet from the Moran Group. I'm her designer. She asked me to come here today."

Eliana hesitated for a while but finally decided to tell the truth.

Nicole raised her eyebrows in surprise, but there was no dissatisfaction on her face. But Esteban, her agent, immediately frowned and looked unhappy.

"I didn't expect you to be so good at compromising, Miss Pierce. You're still willing to work for Cheryl regardless of previous grievances. Didn't she cause you a whole lot of trouble in the past?"

Esteban's words were so harsh that Eliana didn't know how to answer. After his last remark, an all too noticeable pause followed.

"Esteban!" Nicole glared at her agent. She said in a serious tone, "Why are you so narrow-minded? Eliana is just an employee. She doesn't get to choose clients."

Eliana didn't expect that Nicole would stand up and speak for her. She didn't know what to do.

Nicole then turned around and offered Eliana an invitation.

"Miss Pierce, despite our dispute before, after our last cooperation, I've seen that no matter who you style or design jewelry for, you always perform very well. I appreciate your work ethic and spirit. I hope we get to work together again in the future."

Eliana couldn't help feeling moved by Nicole's praises. They meant a lot coming from someone like her.

Staring at Nicole's eyes, Eliana could tell that she was being serious and sincere.

Eliana didn't expect that after their previous cooperation, Nicole would consider her a friend. It was such a pleasant surprise.

"Of course. I actually look forward to it."

With a smile on her face, Eliana shook hands with Nicole.

At that moment, the two of them had a feeling of appreciation toward each other.

"You said Cheryl asked you to come here. Where is she? Why hasn't she come to meet you? Is she trying to make things difficult for you?"

Nicole knew her sworn enemy well.

"No, no, I just arrived. Cheryl asked me to go to her dressing room. I was trying to look for it," Eliana explained.

"Oh, I see. Let me point you to the right direction then." Nicole raised her hand and pointed out Cheryl's dressing room. "It's this way. Turn left at the first corner, take a few more steps, and then you should find it."

"Thank you so much."

Eliana felt lucky and grateful that she had run into Nicole. Otherwise, she would've wasted a huge amount of time looking for Cheryl.

When she was about to walk away, Nicole suddenly stopped her.

"Eliana, I have to remind you that Cheryl is very vindictive. If you have ever offended her in any way, you must be careful."

In Nicole's opinion, if Cheryl knew that Eliana had worked for her before, she wouldn't let Eliana go so easily. She might even be plotting something terrible.

Feeling a tightening sensation in her chest, Eliana kept Nicole's words in mind.

Eventually, Eliana found Cheryl's dressing room. She knocked on the door and then realized that it was ajar.

She pushed the door open and stuck her head through the crack.

"Hello? Anybody here?"

Eliana went straight in.

Cheryl wasn't in the room, but there was a familiar person sitting there.

It was the man with whom Cheryl had been having an affair.

"You're the beautiful lady that I'd seen last time. Fancy meeting you here. It must be my lucky day."

The man's eyes lit up when he saw Eliana, and he strode toward her immediately.

Reflexively, Eliana stepped back. Her heart began to race.

Before she could walk back out, a large group of reporters rushed into the room. Camera flashes lit up the room in an instant, sending Eliana in a daze. Everyone took photos and videos of her and Cheryl's lover.

"Miss, what's your relationship with Mr. Willard Hancock of Harmony Group?"

"Did you know that Mr. Hancock has a wife and children? You're a third party that's destroying a man's family."

Eliana was stupefied.

Who was Willard Hancock? What third party?

What were they talking about?

[Chapter 302 The Heroine Of A Scandal](#)

The swarm of reporters blocked the door of the dressing room.

But shortly after the reporters showed up, the man named Willard quickly fled the scene under the cover of his bodyguards.

Now the only person all the reporters could target was Eliana.

Eliana thought that the media deeply misunderstood her presence in Cheryl's dressing room. She wasn't Willard's mistress.

"No, you don't understand. I don't know that man. I don't know Mr. Willard Hancock at all. I'm here for Cheryl."

She tried hard to explain herself to the clamoring crowd, but no one listened to her.

The reporters were still asking various questions all at once. The sheer chaos their voices created drowned out Eliana.

Eliana could only protect her eyes from the constant flashing of the cameras.

"Enough!"

At this time, a female voice suddenly silenced the crowd.

"Don't you have rules to adhere to as journalists? This is a shooting site, not a place for you to barge into and make a fuss just to get a scoop. Any member of the media that dares to disturb anyone from the shooting crew are going to be held responsible."

In an instant, everyone turned around.

It was Nicole who spoke. She came over aggressively with a legion of bodyguards behind her.

All of a sudden, the reporters fell silent.

Nicole's bodyguards dispersed the crowd and carved a path for Nicole and Eliana.

"Why didn't you leave?"

Looking at her savior who appeared out of nowhere, Eliana almost burst into tears.

Nicole was so cool.

Nicole reached out for Eliana's hand and dragged her out.

Considering Nicole's identity as a famous star and the massive size and strength of her bodyguards, the reporters could only watch and kiss their big scoop goodbye.

Nicole towed Eliana all the way to her car.

As soon as the two of them got in, Nicole ordered the driver to drive away.

Sitting in the car, Eliana leaned against the seat and breathed a long sigh of relief.

"I finally escaped."

Then, she seemed to remember something. She suddenly sat up straight and took out her phone to call Cheryl.

The line just kept ringing, and no one answered.

Staring at her phone in her hand, Eliana gnashed her teeth together and knitted her brows.

"You were doing useless work. You were framed by Cheryl."

With a sneer, Nicole took the phone from Eliana and hung up.

"I know."

Eliana closed her eyes and chuckled mirthlessly.

Her mind was in a mess. Obviously, someone had sent her into a trap today. Except for Cheryl, she couldn't think of anyone else who would do such a thing.

But there was another question whose answer she couldn't figure out.

"Why do you think Cheryl did that? Is it because I know her secret? Is that enough reason for her to go through great lengths just to set me up?"

"More than that."

In such a short time, Nicole had figured out Cheryl's intention for framing Eliana.

"You know what, there are many netizens who suspect that Cheryl only secured the female lead role in the play because of her sugar daddy. I think that's why she set you up. Not only does she get to take her revenge on you, she also puts an end to the rumors about her having a sugar daddy. Two birds, one stone."

Hearing that, Eliana felt her blood run cold.

She had thought that Cheryl wouldn't dare do anything to her because she knew her secret.

She didn't expect that Cheryl would turn the tables on her.

Eliana thought that she was having a really bad day, but she would soon find out that she was barreling toward something even worse.

"Bad news, Eliana! Check Facebook!"

Nicole put her phone in front of Eliana.

The news had already taken social media by storm, and the photos of Eliana and Cheryl's sugar daddy, whose name was Willard, were all over the Internet.

In the comments, a group of online rumormongers were defending Cheryl and slandering Eliana.

Some people who didn't know the truth had even begun to dig up Eliana's background and past.

Chapter 303 The Vortex Of Public Opinion

Eliana's phone rang continuously, but she was caught in a whirlpool of thoughts, which prevented her from answering it.

Clearly, it was the paparazzi calling her.

If they dug any deeper into her life, they could easily find out that she was a mother of two kids, and that the father was a gigolo.

When that happened, she would have to face unimaginable consequences.

Fearing the consequences, Eliana immediately called Nana.

As soon as the call was connected, Eliana heard Nana's anxious voice.

"Why did it take you so long to call me, Eliana? What happened? Do you know that you're a trending topic on Facebook? People are saying that you're a mistress! Did those people try to hurt you?"

Nana was really stressed after she learned the news. She actually took a day off from work to relax, but she couldn't even rest for a while.

Although their faces weren't shown in the news articles, there was only a thin blur that was covering their faces, which barely hid their identities.

It was also mentioned that the woman involved in the scandal was a designer at the Moran Group, and anyone who knew Eliana could tell that it was her from just a glance.

If the media really revealed Eliana's identity, then their family could never see another peaceful day.

"Calm down and listen to me, Nana. Go straight to the kindergarten and pick up the kids. I don't think they should go to the school until this dies down. I want you also to stay home at all times and take care of them."

While saying that, Eliana was also trying to calm herself down because if she lost her composure, she would be putting her children in danger.

"That's exactly what I had in mind too. I already picked up Aileen and Adrian from school as soon as I heard the news. But what about you? Do you have any ideas on how to solve this matter?"

As anxiety grew bigger and bigger in Nana's heart, she was on the verge of tears. How could her best friend's life become so miserable?

Ethan had kidnapped Eliana the day before yesterday, and now, she was being slandered online as someone's mistress.

After all, no one would be able to take continuous blows like that.

"I'm fine, Nana. You know me well, don't you? I've been through a lot in life to know what to do, so don't worry about me and just take care of the kids for me. I will handle the rest," Eliana comforted her as though nothing bad was happening.

But the moment she hung up, her expression darkened. She was too worried to even think straight.

It was her first time dealing with such a problem, and even though she seemed confident on the surface, she was really clueless.

Nicole, who was sitting beside her, became shocked when she heard her mention about kids over the phone.

'So she actually has kids, huh?'

Although she was a bit curious about the matter, she did not ask about it because she knew that everyone had secrets that they would rather no one found out.

"Eliana, don't panic. People might be searching the internet for information about you. And your house might not be a safe place anymore, so I think that it's best if you move out to a different place sooner than later. You can find a safe house and lay low until the mess dies down a bit."

Nicole offered her a sincere suggestion.

"Move? Is it that serious?" Eliana asked.

With a serious expression, Nicole handed her phone to Eliana and said, "Take a look at it yourself."

With each passing minute, more people were becoming curious about the exposure of Willard's mistress.

And the netizens cursed Eliana without even knowing the whole story.

"All the mistresses will die a miserable death!"

"Such villains need to be punished for destroying people's families so casually!"

"I can't just sit by and watch that bitch ruin someone's life. Is there any way to find out that shameless slut's identity and help out the wife?"

Every post and comment that Eliana read made her more terrified.

She even saw a post about Nicole helping her. It was one of the trending searches online.

With a look of guilt in her eyes, Eliana raised her head and glanced at Nicole.

But before she could say anything, Nicole said, "You don't have to worry about me. I have already experienced such things before, but I must warn you that this situation will only get worse and not better. Unless... Something bigger happens, and diverts everyone's attention."

Upon hearing that, Eliana felt like she was falling into an endless abyss of darkness.

What could she possibly do to calm the raging storm now?

All of a sudden, an idea occurred to her.

Maybe... She could ask for Maurice's help. With his power, she might be able to solve the problem.

However...

Before she could even finish pondering, her phone rang again.

Looking at the screen, she saw that it was a call from Erica, whom she had not seen or spoken to in a long time.

Eliana was confused. Why was Erica calling her at such a critical time?

[Chapter 304 An Absurd Request](#)

Was Erica just calling her to gloat?

Eliana didn't want to answer the phone, but Erica didn't give up and kept calling.

Eliana had no choice but to pick up the phone.

"Finally you get your retribution! Tell me, Eliana, did you ever think about finding yourself in this situation?" Erica's voice was sharp, and her cackle was harsh.

Hearing her through the phone, Eliana could imagine how she was beaming with triumph.

"Is that all you want to tell me? If it is, I'm hanging up now."

When Eliana was about to hang up the phone, Erica suddenly said, "Do you think I should make you more popular by telling the media about your two little bastards? I'll make your whole family famous."

"You wouldn't dare."

Eliana felt her heart leap to her throat. She clenched her jaw and tightened her grip on her phone.

"Would you like to find out?" Erica asked in a voice that dripped with menace. "But you know what, I'm feeling a bit generous today, so I'm going to give you a chance. Come meet with me before too many people become familiar with your face. Don't tell anyone else about our meeting, or I will expose you immediately."

After saying that, Erica hung up the phone, leaving no room for Eliana to bargain with her.

Erica's vicious words echoed in Eliana's ears. She was so anxious that she'd started shaking.

"What's wrong, Eliana?" Noticing that Eliana had turned white as paper, Nicole patted her on the shoulder.

It wasn't until then that Eliana snapped back to her senses.

"Nothing. I was just thinking about something."

Eliana didn't dare to tell Nicole the truth. She couldn't gamble with her two children like that.

Soon, her phone beeped, signaling a new text message.

Erica sent her the address.

"The third private room of Twilight Cafe, No. 327 Downwind Road. Come on time. I won't wait for you if you're tardy."

"Nicole, can you do me a favor? Can you send me to No. 327 Downwind Road right now? I have something very important to do."

Holding her phone tightly, Eliana began sweating profusely.

Something was wrong. Judging by the expression on Eliana's face, Nicole thought something bad must have happened.

Frowning, she asked Eliana what was going on, but Eliana kept silent.

Nicole had no choice but to compromise.

"It's okay, Eliana. Esteban, let's go to No. 327 Downwind Road right away."

With Nicole's order, the car quickly drove to the appointed place.

When they arrived, Eliana said thanks in a hurry and went straight to the cafe.

She found Erica sitting in the third private room, and she appeared to be growing impatient.

"Wow. You showed up quickly," Erica mocked.

"What does it take for you to keep your mouth shut, Erica?"

Eliana came straight to the point.

"It's very simple. All I want is for you to marry the biological father of your children. Then, I want you to take your little family, leave this place, and never come back. Once you do that, I promise to shut my mouth and let you live in peace. I'll even help you subdue the media."

Erica's conditions confused Eliana.

"Are you insane? How could I possibly find the escort who fathered my children and marry him?"

Eliana stared at Erica, her eyes wide with disbelief. She couldn't believe that Erica just asked her to do something that was next to impossible.

What an absurd request!

How could Erica ask her to marry Preston?

And if Preston and Maurice were one and the same, how could she marry him when he was halfway across the world?

Erica didn't think there was anything wrong with her demands.

"Don't worry. I've already located him for you." Then she turned to the door and ordered, "Come in!"

As soon as she finished speaking, a tall, muscular man in sexy, tight-fitting clothes sauntered into the private room.

"Do you remember him? He's the escort you had a one-night stand with. I especially chose a strong one for you so that you would feel satisfied."

With a complacent look on her face, Erica introduced the man to Eliana. He was an escort she had carefully chosen.

Looking at the man who just walked in, Eliana felt her mind fall into shambles.

How could he be the man she had sex with all those years ago?

She remembered clearly that she spent that night with Preston. She was sure.

Although she wasn't sober at that time, she was certain that the father of her children had a scar on his chest.

[Chapter 305 The Manipulator Behind The Scenes](#)

"You are lying. He is not the gigolo that I remember. Stop with this nonsense and leave me alone."

With a disgruntled face, Eliana strongly rejected the weird man presented to her by Erica.

The stranger's ugly appearance was a stark contrast to the good looks of Aileen and Adrian. How could the three of them be related?

"Erica, I don't know how you convinced this man to pretend to be the gigolo back then. But I'm telling you, there's not a chance in the world that I'll marry him."

"You're one stubborn woman, aren't you? It seems that you won't admit to anything until you see any evidence. Sam, go ahead and tell her who you are."

Erica smirked confidently. How could the person she had personally chosen be wrong?

The strange man named Sam took a few steps toward Eliana and glanced at her from head to toe. With an evil smile on the corner of his mouth, his eyes were filled with lust.

"Miss, I remember meeting you like it was only yesterday. After all, all my clients over the years are mostly rich middle-aged women. It was my first time having a young and beautiful customer like you five years ago. I couldn't believe my luck. You were so alluring that I was more than willing to sleep with you even if I didn't get paid. We had a blissful and passionate time that memorable night. Why don't you just come clean and admit it to us now?"

After speaking his words, Sam licked his lips erotically as if he was having flashbacks of their fiery sexual encounter.

Seeing him like this, Eliana felt sick to her stomach.

"I don't know what the hell you're talking about. Stop spreading lies and stay away from me!"

Eliana immediately backed away, repulsed by Sam's undisguised desire for her.

Even under the constant pressure and witness testimony, this bitch was still playing tricks.

Erica sneered at Eliana's argument. Her patience was running dangerously thin.

"Eliana, stop denying the truth. I know it's difficult to admit it, but here I am, trying to make things easier for you. I'm even kind enough to find a father for your two little bastards. To further sweeten the deal, I can also give you a generous sum of money to take care of your living expenses. If you were smart, you'd better grab this offer and live abroad with your gigolo husband. Don't let me see you again."

How despicable! Erica had called her children bastards again.

The insult finally pushed Eliana over the edge. Her children were her whole world. No one was allowed to hurt them, not even through words.

The expression on Eliana's face became calmness in a snap. She suddenly rushed forward and slapped Erica in the face with all her might.

The severe blow sent a loud and sharp echo across the area.

"Eliana, how dare you hit me?"

Clearly wincing in pain, Erica was shocked by Eliana's actions.

"You had it coming! Respect my children, or I'll slap you again."

Consumed by her anger, Eliana raised her hand fiercely, ready to strike once more.

Erica didn't expect Eliana to hit so hard, so she dodged in fear of getting hurt again.

Because of her sudden movement, a black object slipped out of Erica's ear and fell to the floor. Eliana's eyes suddenly lit up.

'Damn it!'

Erica's face changed dramatically. With a worried expression, she immediately squatted down to pick the thing up.

To her dismay, Eliana acted quicker and beat her to it.

'Wait a second. Erica had been wearing a Bluetooth headset all this time?'

In an instant, Eliana's questions had finally been answered.

She now understood everything.

No wonder something felt amiss.

Erica despised her very much. If she had a chance, she would kill her without hesitation. How could she come up with such a complex plan to force her to get married and give her a sum of money to live abroad?

It turned out there was a cunning manipulator behind the scenes who instructed Erica to get close to her.

"Give that back to me right now, Eliana!"

Seeing the Bluetooth headset was in the hand of her enemy, Erica hurriedly tried to take it back.

But it was too late.

Eliana had already put the Bluetooth headset on her ear.

It was now her chance to finally discover the identity of the mysterious manipulator behind the scenes.

"Erica, why are you not speaking? Are you still there?"

It was a woman on the other end of the line. Eliana's jaw dropped in shock.

Her voice sounded vaguely familiar. It was the same voice of the woman who had sent someone to follow Eliana and the children last time. And she had heard the voice somewhere.

Without a doubt, Eliana knew she was now closer than ever to finding out the truth.

As long as the woman spoke a few more words, Eliana would definitely recognize her.

Holding her breath, she waited for the woman to say something.

But it seemed that the woman on the other end of the line sensed something was wrong and quickly hung up the call.

'No! I almost had her.'

Taking off the Bluetooth headset, Eliana questioned Erica loudly, "Is the woman on the call responsible for this deal? I assume she ordered you to come here and confront me."

A trace of guilt flashed across Erica's eyes. Eliana had her trapped.

"Of course not! No one tells me what to do. I came up with the idea myself."

As expected, Erica would never reveal the truth. She was not stupid. Once the fact was exposed, she would suffer greatly. Aside from the money, there was so much more at stake here. She could not afford

to fail.

Eliana gritted her teeth in frustration. She had thought that Harriet was already a tough nut to crack. But then she met Erica.

Because the sly woman was still unwilling to divulge any useful information, things suddenly seemed hopeless for Eliana.

She tightly clenched the Bluetooth headset in her hand and trembled with anger.

Seeing that Eliana was at her wit's end, Erica regained her arrogance and sneered, "I'm such a gracious person that I'll give you enough time to think about my offer. Be at the Civil Affairs Bureau in the morning the day after tomorrow with your decision. If you don't show up, I will announce to the whole world that you are not only a shameful mistress but also have two children with a gigolo. Let's see how you will deal with the consequences then. It sucks to be you, doesn't it?"

[Chapter 306 Stand Up For Eliana](#)

After driving Eliana to the cafe, Nicole returned to the shooting site. Her mind wandered the entire trip.

She was still thinking about Eliana.

Nicole believed that Cheryl was behind everything that just happened.

Noticing that Nicole was staring into space, Esteban knew that she was thinking about meddling in other people's business again.

He sincerely advised, "You don't have to worry about Eliana. Let her deal with her problems herself. Don't you know that your involvement in her mess is already the Internet's top search? You might not succeed in helping her, and you're going to get yourself in trouble. It's not good for your reputation."

Unfortunately, Nicole didn't want to listen to Esteban.

"Enough, Esteban. I know the potential consequences, but I will still stand up for Eliana because she's my friend."

Eliana was more than just an acquaintance to Nicole at this point.

She was her friend, and if her friends were in a pickle, she would be there to help.

Meanwhile, Cheryl was happy to see the news all over the Internet.

Not only did she get rid of the stain on her name, but she also took revenge on Eliana. Everything went along so perfectly.

"Come here," Cheryl said, hooking her finger at her stylist. "Put two more powder on my face. Make me look weak and innocent."

The stylist did as Cheryl ordered.

Then, Cheryl tried her best to look pitiful and called her assistant over to take a few photos of her.

Cheryl carefully selected two photos and used an application to edit them for half an hour.

After the process was completed, she posted the photos on Facebook with satisfaction.

"God is fair. The truth has finally come out, and my name is finally cleared."

The post caused a stir as soon as it dropped on the platform. Cheryl's fans began to celebrate in the comments.

A great deal of netizens that were deceived by the so-called rumors about Cheryl began to trust her again.

After that, Cheryl casually browsed the comments on her post and said with a smile, "Now no one will suspect me again."

"Of course. You are really smart."

Cheryl's assistant stood aside and beamed at her boss. When she was about to praise Cheryl again, she saw Nicole walking toward them, her high heels clicking madly against the floor.

The assistant's compliments got stuck in her throat. She quickly signaled Cheryl to look behind her.

Confused, Cheryl turned around and saw Nicole standing behind her.

"Nicole? What are you doing here?" Cheryl frowned.

"Do you really not know why I'm here? I want you to take back the lies you spread about Eliana."

Nicole came straight to the point.

"Lies? That's ridiculous! And who do you think you are?" Cheryl said with a mocking smile. "To be honest, Eliana deserves it. She has made too many enemies. It's her fault. Someone asked me to join forces and teach her a lesson. This whole thing wasn't my idea. I just contributed."

There was actually someone else behind this mess.

Nicole asked, "Who is it? Who recruited you in the cause to destroy Eliana?"

"Do you think I'm an idiot? I'm not going to tell you," Cheryl scoffed and cackled. "You are getting more and more naive, Nicole. You're in the entertainment circle yourself. You should know that this kind of slander can't be removed so easily. And why do you care anyway? It's not even your reputation that's in jeopardy."

Looking at the arrogant look on Cheryl's face, Nicole gnashed her teeth together. She was so angry that she wanted to beat Cheryl up. She hadn't had the impulse to choose violence in a long time.

Seeing that Nicole was about to lose her temper, Esteban hurried to her side.

"Relax, Nicole. Don't get angry. It's bad for your health."

However, Cheryl didn't stop and continued to mock Nicole, "I also heard that the CEO of the Moran Group, Maurice, was close to Eliana. But we all know that the Moran family will never accept a woman like her. I suppose I get why you feel like you have to defend Eliana. Weren't you also despised by the Todd family because of your poor family background? Birds of the same feather indeed flock together, huh?"

At this moment, the thread of Nicole's patience and reason finally snapped.

She went over and slapped Cheryl hard across the face.

But just a slap wasn't enough. Before anyone could react, Nicole picked up the loose powder on the dressing table and rudely put it on Cheryl's face.

Choking, Cheryl coughed and struggled to breathe.

All the people present were shocked and hurriedly stepped forward to pull them apart. The scene went chaotic in a matter of seconds.

[Chapter 307 Take An Ugly Photo](#)

Since Nicole's goal had been achieved, she loosened her grip on Cheryl before anyone could get their hands on her.

She quickly took out her mobile phone and took a photo of Cheryl who had messy hair and a powder-covered face. Cheryl also had a ferocious and embarrassed expression. Nicole succeeded before Cheryl or her assistant could stop her.

"Stop! Nicole, you lunatic! What the hell do you want?"

Cheryl hurriedly covered her face with her hands, but it was too late.

Looking at Cheryl's ugly photo on her phone, Nicole was particularly satisfied.

"What are you waiting for? Get her phone for me! Hurry up!"

Cheryl's assistant trembled at her boss's roar. Finally, she came to her senses and rushed to grab Nicole's phone.

But Esteban wasn't a coward. He stood in front of Nicole with his strong, stout body. Cheryl's assistant appeared like an ant trying to shake a tree.

"I'm warning you, Cheryl!" Nicole waved the phone in her hand. "If you dare talk nonsense again, I will post your ugly photo online and let the entire world appreciate it."

"You... You..."

Cheryl pointed a quivering finger at Nicole.

The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. Finally, she couldn't hold it anymore. She collapsed on the floor and burst into tears.

Everyone was stunned.

Coincidentally, Willard, Cheryl's sugar daddy, entered the room.

"Honey? What's going on here? What happened to you?"

Cheryl was so thankful that her backer had arrived. She raised her head and pleaded tearfully, "This woman is bullying me, honey."

What Cheryl didn't expect was that people would find it funny that she pretended to be aggrieved and pitiful in such a situation.

When Willard saw the tear tracks on Cheryl's powder-covered face, he didn't feel sorry for her at all. In fact, he felt nothing but loathing.

In the past, he gave her resources just because she was young and beautiful. But staring at her now, Willard wondered if he'd only been blinded by Cheryl's made-up face back then.

Willard was annoyed at Cheryl, but he still noticed Nicole, the proud and cool beauty standing there like a pretty red rose. Willard couldn't help ogling her.

Cheryl hadn't noticed that there was something wrong with her sugar daddy. She was still complaining unscrupulously.

"Honey, please help me take revenge and teach this woman a lesson. Help me kick her out of the play. She can't take a part in it even though she's just a guest performer."

"Go right ahead. Do you think I give a damn?"

Nicole turned around and left without hesitation.

What a pure and straightforward girl!

Willard liked women with great personalities and appearance.

His eyes were glued to Nicole. How could he still tolerate Cheryl?

"Honey? Honey!"

Cheryl called him several times before Willard snapped back to his senses. He looked down at the disheveled woman on the floor.

Noticing that her sugar daddy's face darkened, Cheryl immediately softened her voice.

"Honey, what's wrong?"

"How dare you ask me what's wrong? This is all your fault!"

Willard had been completely enchanted by Nicole and lost his patience with Cheryl. "News of my so-called affair is spreading on the Internet. My wife is hurt and furious. We better not see each other for the time being."

After saying these words ruthlessly, Willard left without looking back.

Cheryl was left still sitting on the floor.

"Get up, Miss Gibson. The floor is cold."

Cheryl's assistant carefully reached out to offer a helping hand, but Cheryl angrily swatted it away.

"Get out, all of you!" Cheryl's face twisted in rage and agony. "You just wait and see, Nicole. You're going to pay for this."

Wyatt's restaurant was still being reorganized when news about Eliana broke on the Internet. Wyatt was interviewing a new chef today.

While taking a break, he turned on his phone and saw one of the news articles written about Nicole. The

headline read, "Famous Star Nicole Helps a Mistress Escape."

What was going on?

Wyatt clicked on the article immediately and read it. He was shocked to find out that the mistress the article was referring to was Eliana.

Something big really happened this time.

Wyatt immediately called his good friend Maurice.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed cannot be reached..."

Shit!

Maurice had turned off his phone at this critical moment.

He deserved to be single all his life.

[Chapter 308 Duplicity](#)

Wyatt called Maurice, but he couldn't get through. At last, he had to give up for the time being.

Although he didn't say it, he was still anxious about the fact that Nicole was the Internet's top search right now because she protected Eliana.

Deep in his heart, he still cared about Nicole and didn't want anything to happen to her.

As a result, Wyatt was absentminded during the interview.

Rosalie sat beside him, took the interview document, and asked, "What do you think of the chef just now, boss?" She waited for Wyatt to reply. "Boss?"

"What? I'm sorry, Rosalie. I didn't hear you clearly just now. What did you say?"

Wyatt smiled awkwardly.

Rosalie sighed. She knew what was on Wyatt's mind.

She pointed out directly, "You don't have to hold back, you know? I've seen the news. If you're worried about her, Wyatt, just pick up your phone and call her."

"I'm not worried about Nicole!" Wyatt snapped defensively.

"Nicole? Who said anything about Nicole? I didn't say anything about her. Why are you in such a hurry to mention her?"

Rosalie grinned.

"You really misunderstand me, Rosalie. I'm just worried about Eliana, okay? I couldn't get through to Maurice. Such a big thing happened, but I haven't heard from him. Maybe the news hasn't reached him." Wyatt was still quibbling.

"I know, but if you're worried about Eliana, you can just call Nicole and ask about her."

This time, Wyatt fell silent.

Rosalie's suggestion satisfied him. That way, he had an excuse to talk to Nicole while checking on Eliana. It was a genius idea.

After thinking for a while, Wyatt took out his phone and called Nicole. He emphasized, "I'm doing this for my buddy's woman."

He didn't mean any of the words he just uttered. Although he was desperately nervous, he still pretended to be calm.

Rosalie snickered in her heart, wondering when Nicole and Wyatt would get back together.

The line soon connected.

Nicole, who was resting at home, was shocked when she saw Wyatt's name on her phone screen. She thought that after what happened when they saw each other last time, he wouldn't want to have anything to do with her ever again.

"Wyatt? Why are you calling?"

A little expectation rose in Nicole's heart.

Wyatt replied in a low voice, "I saw the news. I don't have Eliana's phone number, so I want to ask you how she is now."

It turned out that he called to check on Eliana.

Nicole suddenly remembered that Eliana had worked in Wyatt's restaurant before.

Why did Wyatt care so much about Eliana? Was it because he had a thing for her?

Enduring the sudden sadness in her heart, Nicole answered calmly, "Don't worry. Eliana is also my

friend. I will try my best to help her get through this difficulty."

Did she misunderstand something?

Wyatt frowned. He was about to ask about Nicole, but he swallowed his words.

Neither of the two spoke for a while. After a suffocating silence, Wyatt quickly said goodbye and hung up.

After a long time, Nicole put down her phone. She felt as if she'd just woken up from a heartbreaking dream. She put on a blank expression.

Seeing Nicole brooding again, Esteban couldn't help worrying.

"Who called you just now?"

"Wyatt," Nicole whispered as she came back to her senses.

"Really? Wyatt?" Esteban exclaimed.

He hadn't been Nicole's agent until she was about to become famous, so he didn't know much about her early years.

After he felt that something was wrong between Nicole and Wyatt on the red carpet last time, he had Nicole's past investigated.

There was no secret in the entertainment circle. Esteban knew everything now.

"Are you okay?"

Nicole didn't want to hide this matter from Esteban for the rest of her life. She smiled bitterly and said, "I'm fine. It's just that I just found out that Wyatt already has eyes for someone else. Anyway... I'll be okay. Just not today. I chose to give up on him, didn't I? Besides, I knew that he was going to fall for someone else eventually. I just didn't expect that it'd be this painful."

Even though he wanted to, Esteban didn't comfort Nicole. He knew that people like her didn't appreciate being pitied.

She would rather sit quietly in a corner and lick her wounds until she felt like herself again.

After meeting with Erica, Eliana rushed back home.

However, as soon as she arrived, she found a massive swarm of reporters crowding the entrance to her building.

Damn it! They were all waiting for her to come home.

Taking a deep, steady breath, Eliana raised her bag to cover her face and blended in with the sea of onlookers who were trying to find out what was going on. It seemed that the neighbors also wanted in on the action.

Eliana's heart pounded against her chest. What was she to do now?

[Chapter 309 Hide And Seek](#)

The group of reporters had waited here for quite some time.

They couldn't simply sit there idly by. So they spoke about today's sensational headlines heroine.

"Who do you think Eliana is?"

"I'm at a loss. Everything about her is enigmatic. Maurice, the CEO of the Moran Group, seems to have had an affair with her."

"Really? What a shocker. Is this something she's become accustomed to?"

"We don't know for sure. That woman's appearance is a mystery to us. However, if we can get a full picture of her face this time, we'll make a lot of money."

Eliana hid her face among the swarm of observers and listened to the whole procedure.

These photographers probably saw her as a cash cow.

Suddenly, she had a light bulb moment.

She could easily slink in undetected since none of the reporters had any idea what she looked like.

"You're correct. She has affected the life of an entire building. This is a terrible calamity!"

While reprimanding herself with others, Eliana snuck towards her own residence while no one was looking.

"You have my support. We should restore serenity by finding out the identity of the nefarious lady."

Upon seeing Eliana's stealthy back, a reporter sensed that something was off.

Suddenly, he said to his colleague standing next to him, "Hold up... The back of the woman ahead is so eerily familiar. I think I've seen her before..."

As he glanced at Eliana, his colleague felt the same way. But since he couldn't recall Eliana, he merely said, "It's possible that she's a reporter from a different media company. We're of the same occupation. You may have already met her in an interview."

"Really? Don't bother with it then."

The reporter dropped the subject.

Eliana was fortunate enough to escape the calamity in this manner.

She had finally made it home.

When she opened the door, a pillow swung at her in a matter of seconds.

"Leave us alone!"

Nana, Kimora, Aileen, and Adrian swarmed to Eliana in an instant, hitting and kicking her.

"This is breaking and entering!"

Eliana ducked clumsily, her hands covering her face as she yelled, "Don't hit me! Stop! It's me. It's me!"

When they heard the familiar voice, they immediately ceased their attack.

"Eliana!" Nana flung the pillow aside and was surprised to see Eliana. "It's good to see you again. All of us were on edge to the point of collapse."

"Mommy!"

Eliana's two children rushed to their mother's side and each grasped a leg of hers.

Eliana tenderly caressed the two children's hair and said in a soothing tone, "It's alright."

Fear was still buzzing through Nana's veins. "You know what, Eliana? What a wacko bunch of reporters down there! The reporters have been there all day, and we're so terrified that we don't dare to even leave the house."

Eliana dropped her head to gaze at the two children.

A little remorse crept up on her. She was framed by Cheryl due to her carelessness, which resulted in the two children suffering.

Unanticipatedly, Aileen glanced up and inquired excitedly, "What's going on? Are we now playing hide-

and-see, Mommy? Are the people downstairs to catch us?"

Aileen saw it as a game.

Adrian was unable to speak. His sister was absolutely clueless.

However, for Eliana, that was a decent reason.

After hearing Aileen's remarks, Eliana nodded in agreement. "Yes, we're playing hide-and-see with those folks below. As long as we don't get caught, they'll come up with a great surprise for us."

"Really? Wow, that's fantastic!"

Aileen's face lit up with joy.

"But..."

Adrian was compelled to respond, but Aileen grabbed his hand immediately.

"Adrian, let's play with them!"

Aileen gave her brother a wink.

The twins seemed to communicate through telepathy. The meaning of Aileen's words was instantly clear to Adrian.

Aileen wanted him to work with her and not to disclose their mother's deception.

Eliana was oblivious to the kids' eye contact. In her mind, they'd finally been conned.

Then she said, "Because we are playing hide-and-see, let's hide at home these days, okay?"

"Sure, Mommy!" Both of the children nodded in unison.

As a result, Eliana felt a huge sense of relief.

Kimora witnessed it all.

Already, the gravity of the situation was clear. As a result, there was only one person who could assist Eliana and the children at this point.

Kimora secretly entered the kitchen, retrieved her phone, and was going to contact Jonathan.

[Chapter 310 Eliana's Decision](#)

"Kimora, what are you intending to do?"

Kimora was so frightened that her hands started to tremble and she almost let her phone slip from her hands and fall to the floor.

"Who are you calling?"

Eliana rushed to her and snatched her phone away. Looking at the screen, she saw that Kimora was trying to call Jonathan, but she did not press the dial button yet.

Last time, Nana and Kimora had escaped with the kids and stayed at a hotel that was owned by Jonathan. Ever since then, Eliana had sensed that there was something wrong with Kimora.

And ever since then, she had been secretly watching Kimora's moves. Now, she caught her red handed.

"Kimora, why were you trying to call Jonathan? What is it that you were going to tell him?"

Seeing that her plan was now exposed, Kimora tried to explain, "Miss Pierce, I have been working for your family for a long time and I really like the kids, but it was Mr. Bowman who hired me, after all. And I don't dare to disobey his orders. I have to tell him about this matter."

Upon hearing that, Eliana was disappointed.

After all the time that she had spent with Kimora, she considered her as a part of the family, so the news that Kimora had been spying on her and her family was understandably shocking to her.

"I understand, Kimora. But now that I know what you're about to do, I can't let you do it," Eliana said resolutely in a firm voice.

Kimora was stunned when she heard that. After thinking about it for a while, she finally sighed and agreed, "Alright, I won't tell Mr. Bowman this time. But, I am older and more experienced than you, Miss Pierce. So please listen to my advice. If the matter is really affecting the kids, then you'd better ask for Mr. Bowman's help. I am sure that he won't refuse you."

"No need. I'll solve this on my own."

Eliana obviously knew that Jonathan would help her as long as she asked.

However... What kind of price would he expect her to pay in return?

All she could give him was herself, because she clearly couldn't afford to pay him anything else, but she did not want to give him her heart either.

What could she possibly do to solve the problem successfully?

Would she really have to accept Erica's ridiculous demands?

All those questions scrambled her mind.

She considered discussing the matter with Nana first.

When Eliana turned around, she saw Nana secretly standing in a corner, calling someone.

"Something came up at home, so I can't come out. Can you help me turn down the show scheduled for this afternoon? Yes, yes, I'm really sorry," Nana said in a humble voice.

She still seemed to be guilty at first, but then her expression darkened.

"What? Mistress Eliana? What nonsense are you talking about?"

Nana was furious after a moment's silence.

"I am telling you not to believe such rumors! The internet is full of bullshit! Have you even met Eliana? Do you even know her? You have no right to curse here! You're just like those stupid netizens."

Why was Nana fighting?

Eliana hastily walked up to her and said, "Hey, calm down, okay? There's nothing we can do now. Everyone's misled because of the public opinion."

"Let me spell it out for you; I don't care about your show!" Nana shouted.

She then hung up the phone, gritting her teeth.

"What a stupid woman! Hey, don't let this bring you down, okay, Eliana?"

Although Nana was the one that just lost her job, she was comforting Eliana.

Eliana felt like her heart was pricked by a needle when she heard that, and fell silent for a while. Then she decided to hide what Erica had done to her.

After all, it was her business, and she could no longer implicate Nana with it.

Nana was finally on a good track, and had a chance of regaining her popularity. If her life was ruined because of Eliana, then Eliana could never forgive herself.

Perhaps, it would be best if she left.

If Nana was alone, then she would not have to deal with the problems that Eliana and her kids brought to her life, and she could have a better career life.

Besides, Nana was not alone now.

With her new boyfriend, she might be able to cheer up and live well.