

## HACKER 2471

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2471-The kids each took a muffin, bit into it, and nodded enthusiastically. "Wow, these are so good!" "When I was little like you guys are, these were my favorite. Grandma made them for me all the time," Nicole said.

"Great grandma sure knows how to bake," Nolan and Lana said before proceeding to munch on their second bite.

Seeing the kids' delight, Nicole grinned. "She would be thrilled to know you guys love them."

Reaching for a muffin as well, Stanley said, "I've got to try one of these."

Daniel and Gloria looked at one another before they took one each for themselves. They wanted to try the treats that had sparked the sudden return of one of Nicole's memories, thinking they must be unique.

After dinner, Nicole said to Nolan and Lana, "I'm heading over to visit my grandma. You guys want to come?"

"Yeah," Nolan and Lana chimed in together.

Nicole then turned to Stanley. "And you?"

"Me?" Stanley was taken aback.

"I think Tia might've hurt her leg," Nicole said and paused, leaving the statement hanging before heading out with the kids.

A look of concern crossed Stanley's face. After a quick glance at Daniel and Gloria, he decided to go upstairs. This prompted Daniel and Gloria to exchange looks, sighing with unease.

"I'm heading to bed," Jared said with a polite nod.

"Alright, get some rest. Nicole's over at Mrs. Wallace's, so she might be back late," Daniel said.

As Jared made his way upstairs, Daniel proceeded to think about Nicole. 'With her memories of her childhood returning, she and Mrs. Wallace might have much to discuss.'

He then thought aloud, "There's some progress, at least."

"Yes," Gloria agreed. "I hope she gets her memories back. She must be feeling incomplete."

Meanwhile, Nicole had taken Nolan and Lana to the backyard where Mrs. Wallace Sr. lived.

Tears welled up in her eyes as she hugged Mrs. Wallace Sr. "Grandma."

"Nicole," Mrs. Wallace Sr. responded, gently patting her in the back. "Tell me what's wrong. I'm here for you."

"I remembered." Nicole's voice quivered.

Memories of her time with her grandmother came surging back at once. It was her grandmother who had always been there, showering her with love and care.

“You’ve started to remember?” Mrs. Wallace Sr. asked softly.

“I remember the times we spent in the countryside,” Nicole said.

She looked at Mrs. Wallace Sr., noticing the creases marked time on her face. “You must’ve been so worried about me.”

Mrs. Wallace Sr. gently patted Nicole’s shoulder. “My dear, just having you back makes me happy. I’m doing well, so don’t you worry.”

Hearing those words from Mrs. Wallace Sr. put a smile on Nicole’s face. “I know you’ll live a very long life,”

‘Such a kind soul surely will,’ she thought.

“Great grandma, your muffins are amazing,” Nolan and Lana chimed in, crowding around Mrs. Wallace Sr.

And upon hearing the compliment given to her, Mrs. Wallace Sr. beamed. “Oh, you liked them? If you enjoyed them, I’ll make more.”

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2472-“You don’t have to.” Nolan shook his head.

Mrs. Wallace Sr. gave them a look of puzzlement. “Why? You said they were delicious.”

“It’s not that. Making those muffins is a lot of work. We can help out next time,” Lana chimed in.

Mrs. Wallace Sr. laughed heartily, her mouth wide in amusement. “Such good kids. Just like your mom, always caring for others from a young age.”

“Well, we are Mommy’s kids,” Nolan and Lana replied with a hint of pride.

Their playful attitude made Mrs. Wallace Sr. burst into laughter, thoroughly enjoying the moment with them.

“I can make them too. Next time, we’ll do it for you,” Tia said, emerging from the small kitchen, her eyes twinkling as she brought a plate of fruits to them.

Nicole took the plate. “Your leg is hurt. Go treat it before it gets worse.”

“It’s fine,” Tia replied, cheeks reddening in embarrassment. “It’s just a minor bump. No big deal.”

“Go apply some ointment on it. You need to take care of yourself so that you can look after Grandma,” Nicole said with a hint of firmness.

Tia nodded. “Alright, Nicole. I’ll do that now.”

She then made her way out of Mrs. Wallace Sr.’s room to her own.

After a moment, Mrs. Wallace Sr. voiced her concerns. “What happened to Tia?”

“She bumped her leg when she was delivering the mini muffins to us. It’s not a severe injury, but if she doesn’t take care of it, it might get worse. Don’t worry, Grandma,” Nicole said, trying to comfort Mrs. Wallace Sr.

“Oh, in that case, she should rest up tomorrow. I can make some food,” Mrs. Wallace Sr. said with concern.

Nicole thought for a moment, and then she said, “How about this. I’ll arrange for food delivery tomorrow. Tia can cook for you again when she gets better.”

“That sounds good,” Mrs. Wallace Sr. agreed.

Nicole then sat down with Mrs. Wallace Sr., whereupon they began sharing stories from her childhood, filling the room with laughter from Mrs. Wallace Sr.. After a while, Nicole called it a night, concerned for her well-being.

“I’ll help you rest up. Grandma. Then, I’ll check on Tia before heading home,” Nicole said.

“Alright. Make sure you, Nolan, and Lana get some rest too,” she advised.

“Goodnight, Great grandma,” Nolan and Lana added.

In response, she gave them a warm smile. “Goodnight.”

After tucking Mrs. Wallace Sr. into bed, Nicole promised, “Well visit again soon.”

“Okay,” she replied, her gaze following Nicole, Nolan, and Lana.

She only closed her eyes once they were out of sight.

As Nicole approached Tia’s room, she saw the door ajar. Through the gap, she spotted Stanley gently tending to Tia’s bruise. A knowing smile crossed Nicole’s face when she realized that Tia was in good hands. Opting not to enter, she continued on with Nolan and Lana.

Inside, as Stanley carefully applied the ointment on her leg, he said, “Take it easy and rest for the next couple of days.”

“I’m fine, really,” Tia murmured, her voice reduced to almost a whisper.

Stanley’s tone was firm. “You should focus on recovering. I’ll ensure that Mrs. Wallace is taken care of. If that bruise swells up by tomorrow, we’re heading to the hospital.”

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2473-“I really don’t need to go to the hospital,” Tia protested when she heard the mention of the hospital.

She believed her injury was just a minor one.

“If you don’t want to go to the hospital, rest up,” Stanley said, his voice firmer than usual.

Tia hesitated, swallowed, and after a moment, she said, “Alright, I get it.”

She thought she could agree now and do whatever she wanted tomorrow when nobody was around to look.

Stanley gave her a knowing look, but opted not to confront her about it. “Alright. Rest up for now.”

“I...” Tia began to rise, but stopped short when Stanley interrupted her.

“I’ll check on Mrs. Wallace. If she needs help, I’ll provide it for her,” he stated.

“Thanks,” Tia said gratefully.

Stanley shot a brief glance at Tia, hesitated for a moment, then silently walked away.

Now alone in the room, Tia was finally at ease. With Stanley around, she had been feeling an unusual tension. She found it surprising that Stanley had made it a point to check on her over such a minor injury. Not only had he inquired about the injury; he had personally applied the ointment on her leg, told her to rest, and even arranged for someone to cover her duties. A peculiar, inexplicable emotion welled up within her at once, its source unknown and elusive. Absentmindedly, she stared at the spot where Stanley had applied the ointment, lost in thought.

Concurrently, Stanley was making his way back to the main hall. Reaching the top of the stairs, he noticed Nicole standing in the hallway with a glint of amusement in her eyes.

A hint of unease came over him, prompting him to ask, “Aren’t you in bed yet?”

“You’re still awake too? It’s pretty late.” Nicole playfully glanced outside.

Then, she teased, “Were you out for a stroll?”

Upon catching the hint of mischief in her tone, Stanley realized Nicole might have witnessed his interaction with Tia.

This prompted him to shoot her a look of annoyance. “If you’ve seen it all, why the questions?”

“I’m just curious about your feelings for Tia,” Nicole said, her gaze becoming more serious. ‘Sometimes they seem so close, and at other times, so distant.’

After pausing for a brief moment, Stanley replied, “I don’t have... particular feelings for her.”

Hearing the response, Nicole raised an eyebrow. “Really?”

She thought, ‘If he doesn’t care, why all the attention?’

“It’s late. You should get some rest,” Stanley said, feeling a bit uneasy.

Then, he headed back into his room.

Raising her brow, Nicole mused aloud, “Do smart folks have a distinct way of thinking?”

“Why aren’t you in bed?” Jared’s voice interrupted her thoughts.

And when she turned, she saw him emerging from his room, approaching her.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2474 “I had a chat with Stanley. Let’s go,” Nicole said, linking his arm with Jared’s.

Jared glanced down at her, his tone affectionate. “Did you enjoy visiting your grandma?”

“Yeah, we were reminiscing about my childhood,” Nicole replied, her eyes sparkling with joy and nostalgia.

Touched by her happiness, Jared softly suggested, "When things settle down, we should go back for a visit."

"That sounds great," Nicole replied, her eyes wide and hopeful. 'That's a good idea. I bet Grandma would love to see the old house again.'

Back in their room, Nicole began humming a tune as she headed to the bathroom. The idea of visiting her childhood home filled her with anticipation. And as Jared watched her, a small smile played on his lips. He was planning to take her back to see where she had grown up once everything that had been playing.

The next morning, after breakfast, Nicole and Jared dropped Nolan and Lana off at preschool and made their way to DillCorp. Although Nicole owned the company, she had kept its original name.

"People might have already suspected that the company's now in your hands, even if we haven't announced it. Do what you think is best. Don't hold back," Jared whispered to

Nicole.

She grinned, knowing she had Jared's full support. "Got it."

Jared felt a rush of affection as he watched her. After dropping Nicole off at DillCorp, he waited until she had entered the building before signaling Max to drive away.

"Mr. Johnston, there's an update on the investigation. They weren't locals from San Joto but a group of hitmen. They got to the city before Nicole, which had given them more than enough prep time. Lawrence was the one who had saved her," Max said in a tone of utmost seriousness.

'It was a really close call for her,' Max thought.

"Have we gathered anything significant about the hitmen?" Jared asked, his eyes cold.

"Not yet," Max answered, sounding determined. "But we've got more men on the case. We'll let you know as soon as we find something."

"Okay," Jared said, his voice ominous and unsettling.

He leaned back, lost in deep thought. 'Nicole lost her memories and ended up on Crescent Island. Lawrence found her there and concealed her identity, which was why we couldn't find her. When she came to San Joto, someone even tried to kill her. It wasn't even a local. It was someone who knew about her even before she arrived. If they knew where she was all this time, why didn't they make a move on Crescent Island? And why, after that first attempt in San Joto, has everything been so quiet?'

Jared's thoughts raced, and a chilling presence settled in his eyes. 'Who's after Nicole, and why the silence after that first failed attempt?'

As more questions arose, the tension in the car grew even more palpable, mirroring Jared's unease.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2475-'Is Lawrence the key to all this? Does he know something?' Jared thought.

Meanwhile, Nicole strode into DillCorp's CEO's office, and when she arrived, she looked around the refurbished room with a satisfied smile.

"Nicole, you made it!" Lulu exclaimed, entering the room with several people in tow, each holding a folder.

"Ms. Riddle," they greeted with a nod, and lined up before her.

Nicole took her seat, briefly met their eyes, and began, "Fill me in."

"Due to poor management, DillCorp has gotten itself embroiled in financial troubles, making it hard for it to achieve significant progress soon," one of them stated.

"We've noticed discrepancies in our accounts and are looking into them."

"I also believe we should reconsider the employment of some of our staff. Some might not fit into our vision."

Hearing the reports, Nicole massaged her temples. She knew DillCorp had its share of issues, but she had not realized the extent of them.

Taking a deep breath, Nicole replied, "I get it. Despite everything, I'm impressed with how quickly you've all stabilized DillCorp. I believe we can truly grow with all of you leading the way."

"Thank you, Miss Riddle," the group replied. "We're on it."

"Just focus on your jobs. I'll be around for a few days to handle some company matters. I won't intervene with your tasks unless it's absolutely necessary. Just bring me the reports on time and according to schedule," Nicole said, her voice steady and calm.

She had shown up mainly due to some issues pertaining to Everett, not to oversee DillCorp's operations. If anything, she had complete faith in the team she had chosen.

"Yes, Miss Riddle," they acknowledged, before leaving the room.

"Nicole, we're a week ahead of your predictions," Lulu said, her eyes shining with excitement.

Nicole nodded, satisfaction evident in her gaze. "Everyone has certainly shown what they're capable of."

"That's because you've got a good eye for talent. Weren't you the one who picked all of them?" Lulu asked.

Nicole raised an eyebrow. "The best decision I've ever made was bringing you into Riddle Corporation."

"Obviously," Lulu shot back, chin tilted up in mock pride, before bursting into giggles.

All of a sudden, a knock was heard on the door, and the secretary stepped in. "Here are the documents you asked for, Miss Riddle."

After setting them down, she exited, and Nicole began perusing the papers while Lulu observed her closely.

“What’s the verdict?” Lulu asked, her eyes fixed on Nicole as soon as she had placed the documents down.

“It’s just as I thought,” Nicole replied, her voice icy and deep. “Everett has indeed planned to take advantage of DillCorp’s weaknesses to deal us a devastating blow.”

“And if he can’t own it, he’ll tear it apart. Sounds just like him,” Lulu added with a shake of her head.

“After all, Everett always thought he’d inherit DillCorp,” Nicole said with a determined glint in her eyes. ‘He must be really bitter now that it’s in my hands.’

“So, what’s our next move?” Lulu asked.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2476-“I’ll make sure he backs off,” Nicole said, her eyes showing determination. “With DillCorp now under my control, everyone will know not to mess with it.”

“Do you think he’ll actually back down? He’s not one to give up easily,” Lulu said, concerned.

“We’ll see if Everett’s got what it takes,” Nicole replied coolly. “I’d love to see him try to pull anything off without my say-so.” She then looked intently at Lulu. “Tell everyone to keep things under wraps. We can’t let any company secrets leak out.”

Lulu nodded in understanding. “Got it,” she replied. She had also thought about telling everyone to stay quiet and maybe even spreading a few fake stories.

Seeing Lulu’s sly smile, Nicole chuckled and shook her head. ‘Lulu’s getting cleverer each day.’

Once Lulu left, Nicole started reading a file in front of her.

Over at NandoCorp’s manager’s office, Everett leaned back in his chair, looking annoyed. “You’re sure Nicole’s at DillCorp now?”

His assistant nodded. “Yes, she went there first thing this morning.”

Everett grinned menacingly. “Nicole may be smart, but she’ll make a mistake sooner or later.”

Everett was furious that Nicole had DillCorp. It was supposed to be his, but because of this, Harvey sneered at him. Everett felt like he was on his own, but he took solace in knowing he had been beefing up his own influence on the sly for years. Even without Harvey’s support, no one should think Everett was a pushover.

A determined thought crossed his mind, and he said, ‘ Now that she’s at DillCorp, it’s perfect. She’ll soon see that what should be mine will always be mine.’

“Mr. Riddle, what’s our next move?” the assistant whispered.

“We stick to the plan,” Everett said confidently. “DillCorp’s practically bankrupt. Do they really think they can turn things around in just a few days?” He doubted that even Nicole could save a company teetering on the edge so quickly.

The assistant nodded, and then added cautiously, “Should we take any extra precautions?”

“Like what?”

“Considering the CEO, Mr. Riddle,” the assistant trailed off, hesitating. ‘We should tread lightly around Nicole. She’s not someone we should take lightly.’

“What makes you think she can save DillCorp?” Everett scoffed. “Its downfall is inevitable, and Nicole won’t change that.”

The assistant simply nodded, not wanting to challenge Everett further, and left.

Then, there was a knock on the door.

“Mr. Riddle, the CEO would like to see you,” came the secretary’s voice.

“Got it,” Everett replied.

With a frown, Everett rose and headed to Damien’s office.

“Dad,” he began, approaching the desk, “did you want to see me?”

Damien looked up. “I heard DillCorp is now under Nicole’s control.”

“Yes, it’s true. Nicole’s there right now,” Everett confirmed.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2477-“She sure has a lot of nerve, taking over DillCorp like that!” Damien’s voice rose sharply.

“Well, Grandpa’s aware, and Preston doesn’t seem to care,” Everett replied, sounding indifferent.

Hearing this, Damien grew more irritated. “Doesn’t anyone object? Have they all lost their minds?!”

Everett lowered his head, silent for a moment. He knew Damien was just venting. ‘If Grandpa doesn’t oppose what’s happening now, maybe he won’t oppose my future actions either. Do others’ opinions even matter? This might just work in my favor.’

“No way, we can’t let this go. Wasn’t it Nicole who first brought up the idea of splitting up the company? And now she’s simply taking over DillCorp?” Damien’s face darkened. “If Dillon and his team didn’t manage well, that doesn’t mean Nicole should get it all. We all have a stake in this.”

“So, you’re thinking of talking to Grandpa?” Everett asked casually.

Damien took a deep breath, trying to calm himself. ‘Is there any point in going to him? I mean, it’s not like he’d help. If anything, I’d be lucky not to get an earful from him.’

With a curious look at Everett, Damien asked, “So, what’s our next move? You seem to have something in mind.”

“If we can’t have it, we might as well destroy it.” Everett shrugged. ‘Then nobody wins.’

“Destroy it?” Damien’s eyebrows knitted together. ‘Wouldn’t that be a waste?’

“If we don’t act, DillCorp will just make Spencer even stronger,” Everett elaborated. “Dillon’s no longer part of the Riddle family. Snow’s in a hospital and might not wake up. Raine’s gone missing, James is behind bars, and Preston? He’s siding with Nicole. Given all this, do we even have a shot?” He stared intently at his father.



'Spencer's already taken the main company, and now everything from Dillon too,' Damien thought. 'With Stanley on his side, where does that leave me?' He looked at Everett." So, what should we do?"

Eager to use his father Damien's influence rather than his own resources, Everett shared his plan. It would also give him a safety net to fall back on.

"Alright, you always know what to do," Damien said. 'Til leave this matter to you then."

"Don't worry, Dad," Everett responded, excited about the responsibility.

"Go on then." Damien motioned for him to proceed.

As Everett nodded and left the room, Damien's expression darkened. 'Dillon tried to outdo me, and look where it got him. Spencer's on top now, and Dillon has nothing. They'll soon realize the price of crossing me. As the oldest Riddle, I should've been the one in charge. Nobody will rob me of that right.'

As the afternoon sun shone brightly, Nicole and Lulu chatted in the office after their lunch.

"June said she's free today and wants us to join her for pizza near the Royal Creek Institute later," Lulu said. "You in? n

"Sure," Nicole agreed.

"Well, June said no plus-ones. She's calling it our 'Goodbye to Singlehood' party," Lulu said, her eyes filled with glee.

Nicole looked amused. "Goodbye to Singlehood? Only you guys would come up with something like that."

"Now that we're married, things will change a bit," Lulu replied, her cheeks pink with a mix of excitement and embarrassment. "Sure, we'll hang out, but it won't be the same as before."

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2478-"Alright, let's meet there after work," Nicole said.

"Sounds good. I'll tell Spencer he doesn't have to pick me up, " Lulu replied. She then sent Spencer a quick message.

Similarly, Nicole informed Jared she would be having pizza with June and Lulu after work and suggested he go home first.

"Alright, I need to get going. See you later," Lulu said.

As she stood up and left Nicole's office, Nicole went back to her work.

When it was time to leave, Nicole and Lulu left DillCorp, caught a cab, and headed to the Royal Creek Institute.

"You know, the three of us haven't hung out there in about five years," Lulu said. "After you went missing, Nicole, it was just June and me visiting from time to time."

"It's hard to believe it's been five years." Nicole sighed. 'So much has changed, but at least we're still best friends.'

When they arrived at the restaurant, June was already there, motioning for them to join her. "Come sit here!"

"You're early," Lulu said, guiding Nicole to sit down.

"I live closer," June replied, handing them menus. "Order whatever you like. I've got it!"

Lulu chuckled. "Well, in that case, I'm not holding back."

"Enjoy!" June said with a playful wave of her hand.

After ordering, June added some beers to the list. "We should celebrate tonight! We're all getting married soon, after all."

Nicole laughed. "Sounds like you think marriage means we won't be free anymore."

"We're getting hitched. Why not have some fun tonight?" June said, sticking out her tongue.

Soon, their food and drinks were on the table. "Cheers to our final single days!" June said, raising her glass. Nicole and Lulu joined the toast, clinking glasses and sipping their drinks.

While pouring more drinks, June said, "Let's have a blast tonight."

"You're acting a bit off," Lulu teased. "Getting cold feet about the wedding?"

"It's just tough getting both of you out for dinner with your schedules!" June laughed. "So, let's enjoy tonight to the fullest."

Lulu teased again, "I thought you were having second thoughts."

June shot her a playful glare. "If you aren't, why should I?"

Nicole smiled softly, watching Lulu and June's playful exchange. Memories of their school days, when they did everything together, filled her thoughts. It seemed like only

yesterday they were inseparable. And now, these close friends would soon be her sisters-in-law.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2479- "It's been five years, and you two haven't changed," Nicole said, smiling at the pair. "Even when you both become part of the family, I bet you'll still tease each other."

Lulu started to say, "We're used to it. We've always been..." She paused, her eyes widening. "Nicole, do you remember now?"

"Just some stuff from school," Nicole said with a casual smile. Though she still struggled with gaps in her memory, recalling her school days was a hopeful sign.

"That's great!" June and Lulu exclaimed. Memories from school were a start, and they were hopeful more would return.

"Let's toast to Nicole's memory of school days!" June exclaimed, preparing the drinks. As the night went on, they chatted, ate, and felt the buzz from the drinks.

"One more round!" June declared, refilling her friends' glasses. But before they could even sip, someone swiftly took their glasses away.

June reached out in the direction her glass had vanished, but caught nothing. "Hey! Give it back!" she exclaimed.

"You've had enough, you're tipsy," a voice said, sounding a bit annoyed.

She blinked. "Samuel? Is that you?"

"Come on, time to head home," Samuel replied, lifting June into his arms.

"Hey!" June said, kicking her legs and almost causing Samuel to drop her.

He held her tighter. "Quit squirming."

"Hey, let go!" June snapped, held tight by Samuel. "You better watch out. My boyfriend's no joke. He'll come after you, you know."

"She's had too much," Samuel said, chuckling. He then scooped her up again. "I'll get her home."

"Nicole, since June's gone, I'm heading out too," Lulu said, rising unsteadily. She felt disoriented, vaguely aware that June was no longer there and that someone had offered to drive her home.

Lulu tried to walk but stumbled. Instinctively, Spencer reached out to steady her. "I'll take you home," he offered gently.

"I'm good." Lulu pushed him away, attempting to stand firm. "Just watch." However, her legs gave out.

"Watch out!" Spencer quickly caught Lulu before she could fall to the ground.

She bumped into his chest, her eyes filling with tears. Lulu cried out in pain and looked at Spencer.

Spencer sighed. "I'll carry you home," he decided. "There's no way she's walking on her own."

Nicole glanced around, realizing there were only two of them left.

"Looks like we're the last ones," she said, giving Jared a small smile. Although she felt a bit tipsy, she noticed June and Lulu leaving with Samuel and Spencer. "Ready to head home?"

Jared gently scooped Nicole into his arms. "Let's head home," he whispered.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2480-Nicole snuggled close to Jared, murmuring, "When people are happy, they drink more. And guess what? I'm starting to remember stuff from school."

Jared looked at her. Lately, she had been remembering a lot from her childhood and her time at Royal Creek Institute. "What about that cafe?" Jared asked her softly, remembering it was from her school days.

"Cafe?" Nicole frowned and then shook her head. "I don't remember."

Jared smiled affectionately at her. "Let's go home."

"Mhm, home," Nicole replied, nestling her head on Jared's shoulder. She smiled in contentment.

They soon returned to the Riddle family manor. Though everyone had gone to bed, the lights in the living room remained on, likely for those not yet home. As Jared carried Nicole inside, the butler, still up, was waiting for them.

“Mr. Johnston,” the butler began, his gaze lingering on Nicole who seemed a bit unsteady. “Should I prepare something to help her sober up?”

“No need,” Jared responded quickly. “She’s a little tipsy, but she’s fine.”

The butler simply nodded. “Alright then.”

Jared began to ascend the stairs, holding Nicole in his arms.

He called back, “Turn off the lights. They won’t be coming back.”

The butler looked surprised. ‘Samuel and Spencer aren’t returning tonight? They didn’t inform us.’ However, taking Jared’s word for it, the butler turned off the lights and headed to bed.

“How do you know they won’t be back? Did they tell you?” Nicole asked, frowning slightly. ‘I don’t remember hearing that.’

“With June and Lulu as drunk as they were, someone needs to look after them,” Jared explained while carrying Nicole to their room.

Nicole thought, ‘That makes sense. They should have someone take care of them.’

Once in the room, Nicole said, “Put me down.”

Jared set her on her feet. But her legs felt weak, and she wobbled. Before she could trip, Jared wrapped his arms around her.

Looking up at him, a bit dazed, Nicole touched his face and blurted out, “You’re really handsome.”

Jared caught her hands. “Easy there.”

“What’s the deal? I’m just saying.” Nicole pouted. “You’ve always been a looker.”

Jared’s gaze and tone softened. “So have you.”

Nicole giggled, her face lighting up like a proud kid. Jared swallowed hard and leaned down, kissing her. Nicole blinked, her eyes wide with surprise.