

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1051 Found Her Location - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1051 Found Her Location

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Sasha fell silent at Wendy's questioning, and her hands began to clench slightly by her sides. After a long time, she said, "You stay here with peace of mind and tell the man at the door if you want to eat or use anything. Just stay out of the business between your brother and me."

Wendy simply strode up to Sasha. Grabbing the latter's wrist, she asked emotionally, "Why do you have to make things difficult for Colton?! You were the one who left him behind without saying goodbye back then. Now that he's got another woman he loves, you decide to get in his way? Don't tell me he can only love you alone?!"

Faced with the young lady's questioning, Sasha brushed her hand away and replied in a grim voice, "That's right! As long as he's fallen in love with me, he can only love me forever!"

Stunned, Wendy stared at the woman before her—who looked somewhat crazed—with a complicated look in her eyes. Although she was very young at the time, she knew of her brother's heartbreak. For two full years, Colton had been unable to get over the fact that Sasha had left without saying goodbye. It wasn't until afterward when he got busy running the Gardner Corporation and time washed away his feelings for Sasha, whom he had never heard from since, that he slowly got over her. Wendy remembered how he had said nothing even when Queenie came up to him claiming to be the one who had spent the night with him. In fact, he still had a desk reserved for Sasha next to the president's office on the top floor.

Sasha was unaware of these, though. At this very moment, she was dead set on revenge; all she thought was that Colton had betrayed her! Without saying anything else to Wendy, she turned around and left right away.

Jerry vaguely figured out something after listening to their conversation just now. His lips curved into a

faint smile; darting a glance at Wendy, he said with a chuckle, "Have a good rest, little girl. Don't dwell on this, or you'll be the one getting hurt and upset." With that, he strolled out of the room.

The heavy door closed again. As silence returned to the room, Wendy slowly returned to bed, sitting on the edge of it in a daze. She was still wearing the clothes she was kidnapped in at the time. The room had a bathroom, but she had no change of clothes, nor did she dare to shower in an unfamiliar environment. So, she had no choice but to dip a towel in water and wipe herself a little. There was no sun in the dimly lit room, and she had to muddle through. Judging from the meals delivered to her, she figured that it had been two days since her kidnapping.

She didn't want to get Nicole involved because of her kidnapping. At the moment, however, she couldn't do anything.

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In the villa, several people with gloomy faces were sitting on the spacious couch.

Beryl had been looking up something on the laptop in his arms since he came back.

Suddenly, someone's phone rang, breaking the silence.

Everyone's gaze was involuntarily drawn to it.

Taking out his phone, Beryl put it on speaker, upon which a man's voice could be heard saying, "Boss, after you guys had left, Jerry and that woman entered a small room in the east together. The room was quite isolated, but it was heavily guarded. When that woman came out of the room, she looked kind of upset, as if she'd been irritated."

Beryl paused for a moment. After pondering for a while, he asked, "You mean someone might be locked up in there?"

The man replied, "This is just a guess, but the chances are high. As for who is being kept in there, that's hard to say. Otherwise, what's the point of having so many people guard such an inconspicuous place?"

Beryl understood that the place was probably where Wendy was being kept. "Alright. Just keep a close eye on it and report anything unusual to me at once. Be careful not to blow your cover."

"Don't worry, Boss, I got it. I'm a professional at this."

Chapter 1052 Let's Get Married After This

Everyone's expression cleared visibly after the phone call.

Colten rested his chin in his hands without much change of expression. After a while, he ordered, "Dominic, tell Jerry that I've made up my mind and am ready to trade Nicole for Wendy's return."

Startled, Dominic habitually turned to look at the couple. Then, without asking anything else, he replied with a nod, "Roger that." With that, he stood up and went to make preparations for it.

Taking Nicole by the hand, Colton led her upstairs without saying anything else.

Nicole let the man take her hand along the way without saying a word.

It wasn't until they were inside the room that Colton let go of her. He looked at her, his eyes slightly lowered as he asked, "Would you hate me for trading you for Wendy?"

A faint smile curved Nicole's lips as she looked at the serious-looking man before her. She replied in a calm voice, "No, I wouldn't. I believe in you."

Colton's pupils shrank at the sight of the sweet smile of the lady before him. She's started to believe in me without hesitation even before I begin to explain myself. His lips curled into a wry smile as his warm hand touched her face and caressed it little by little. A while later, he slowly explained, "We're roughly certain of Wendy's location now. We'll first agree to their demands to make them think we're at the end of our rope. Once they let their guard down, we'll send our men to rescue Wendy."

Nicole smiled and nodded, saying, "I know that. I believe in you, so you don't have to explain anything to me."

Seeing the unhesitating trust of the lady before him, Colton felt a swell of happiness. "May I kiss you?" His head lowered, and his rich, husky, and magnetic voice rang in Nicole's ears, slowly seducing her as if it possessed a certain kind of seductive charm.

Nicole looked at the man in amusement. He would've kissed her right away in the past, but this time, he asked for her permission, which was rare. Standing on tiptoe, she placed her hands on his shoulders and pressed her tender lips precisely to his.

Colton was startled for a moment; he probably didn't expect her to actually kiss him voluntarily. Dragging her toward himself, he put his large hand on the back of her head and deepened the kiss immediately.

Nicole wasn't surprised either. Instead, she closed her eyes and responded passionately and actively.

They kissed for a long time before their lips reluctantly parted from each other. At this very moment, Nicole was gasping slightly, blushing in her cheeks. Leaning against Colton's chest, she closed her eyes.

Colton picked her up right away. With strong, muscular arms, he carried her straight to bed with little effort, placing her on his lap as she nestled in his arms like a timid little girl. He looked down at her scarlet cheeks; at this very moment, she looked just as shy as a little girl who had just made her debut. "Nicole, let's register our marriage and have a wedding when this is over," he said while involuntarily tightening his arms, wrapping her tightly in his embrace.

Nicole was a bit surprised. After a while, she nodded shyly. Now, after so many incidents, she was already aware of her feelings for Colton, so it wasn't necessary to deceive herself anymore.

A smile of joy instantly spread across Colton's face when he saw that she had agreed. He lowered his head and kissed her on the lips, promising happily, "Nicole, I'll give you the grandest and perfect wedding. With me, you won't be mistreated anymore in your life."

Chapter 1053 Aren't You Staying With Me

Every word of the man's solemn promise reverberated in Nicole's heart. She couldn't help but blush while muttering in a whisper, "Alright, stop it. I-I—"

Seeing her hem and haw in his arms, Colton pressed his tall frame against her petite one. He continued, "What's the matter, Nicole? You don't want to marry me?" His ink-black eyes were fixed on her pink and glossy lips, which were so tender as if water could be squeezed out of them. Involuntarily, his hand reached out to touch them, which were just as tender as he imagined. Seeing how shy Nicole looked, he let out a chuckle with a flicker of a smile in his clear eyes. As his tall frame kept closing in on her, he asked slowly, "If you don't agree to it, I'll kiss you until you do. How about that?"

This guy really has no sense of shame! thought Nicole. She promptly pushed his chest with her hands to keep him from getting closer to her.

As they were close together, they could smell each other. Nestling in the man's arms, Nicole could smell a faint whiff of tobacco. It wasn't unpleasant, though it felt different from the past. Trying to change the subject, she asked, "I've never seen you smoke before. So, you like to smoke?"

Colton knew she was trying to change the subject, but he obediently went along with it. He explained with a faint smile, "Not really. It's just that when I feel irritable, smelling cigarette smoke makes me feel better. If you don't like it, I'll stop it." He wasn't in the habit of smoking, but he did smoke. Back when he first went out into the world, drinking and smoking were inevitable in socializing between adults.

"No, you don't have to. I don't hate it," replied Nicole in a whisper.

Seeing the scarlet blush on her face, Colton picked up the topic just now, asking with a smile, "So, have you decided? Are you gonna marry me?"

Nicole couldn't help but feel rather shy at the question. After a while, she slowly nodded and replied in a soft whisper, "Once Wendy comes back safely, let's pick a good day to... get married." In the past, she would've felt distrustful of men, but it seemed that she had lost her heart to Colton after getting along with him for so long.

The smile on Colton's face grew wider when he saw that she had agreed. He put his arm around her waist to make her sit in his arms. Then, without closing his eyes, he lowered his head and kissed her gently, only for his embrace to tighten, which made the kiss much tenderer.

When they finally parted, Nicole was blushing, looking adorably shy with her hands clinging to his collar.

Glancing down at her, Colton remarked with a smile, "Your lips are so sweet, Mrs. Gardner."

Nicole shot a glare at him before pushing him away. She said, "Okay, stop getting lovey-dovey. You'd better think about what to do next."

Colton released his hold on her before his fingertip rested on the tip of her nose. He replied softly, "Don't worry. I've had everything thought out, so Wendy will surely come back safely. Otherwise, how could I have the leisure to flirt with you here?"

Nicole put on a serious face and glared at the naughty man.

Colton loosened his embrace and let her sit on the bed. Smoothing out his slightly rumpled shirt, he said, "Alright, you get some rest first. I'm going to the room next door."

Nicole looked at him with a hint of embarrassment on her face. After a long time, she stammered, "A- Aren't you staying with me?"

Colton replied with a chuckle, "I fear that I'll lose control of myself after staying here. Be good and sleep here on your own, Nicole."

Nicole's face blushed crimson at once. Pulling the covers over her head, she said in a muffled voice, "I'll sleep on my own."

As he watched her burrow under the covers, Colton's smile gradually faded away and was replaced with a grave expression.

Chapter 1054 Pioneers

He walked out of the room without saying a word. How could he possibly be so relaxed now that Wendy had been kidnapped by Jerry and Sasha? It was just that he didn't want Nicole to get worried as well.

After sending her back upstairs, he came downstairs.

There was no one downstairs, though there was a bowl of steaming pasta on the table. Seeing a note pinned under the bowl, Colton went over and glanced down at it. It was written by Dominic, and it read, 'Colton, it's important to take care of yourself.' Despite the simple sentence, it was very sincere.

Colton didn't have much appetite when he came back in the afternoon. He ate little for dinner, and Dominic noticed it.

Looking at the still-steaming pasta, Colton sat down and took a bite of it. After finishing the pasta, he took out his phone to call Benjamin. "Hey, Dad." He paused for a moment when the phone call was answered. Then, he said, "Wendy's been kidnapped."

Benjamin instantly stopped what he was doing. He asked in a grim voice, "Who did it?"

"It's Undercity and A. I've tried to negotiate with them, but I guess we'll have to play hardball," Colton replied impassively with a hint of suppressed callousness in his calm voice.

"Is it because of you?" asked Benjamin after a moment of silence.

"Uh-huh," replied Colton under his breath without making a retort.

"I see. Do you need me to send somebody to help you?" Benjamin asked in a grave voice.

As a matter of fact, the Gardners and the Wrenns were on friendly terms because Benedict and Edward used to serve in the same army unit when they were young. At the time, they became friends and worked their way up through the ranks, but compared to the Wrenns, who continued to stay in the army, the Gardners went into business afterward. Even so, Benjamin had served in the army for some time when he was young. Back when Colton came of age and had yet to take over the Gardner Corporation, Benjamin had arranged for him to undergo rigorous training in the army for a year and a half.

Pioneers were founded by Benedict back then and were now headed by the Gardners. Benjamin had wanted to let Colton take command of them, but Colton didn't do so for various reasons. However, now that Colton had to ensure Wendy's safety in this urgent situation, he had no choice but to depend on them. "Yeah. I'm afraid that Wendy might get hurt, so it'd be more reassuring to send a team here."

"Mm-hmm," Benjamin mumbled before falling silent. Only the sound of keyboard tapping was heard; the man was probably issuing orders. After a long while, he finally said, "Don't tell your mom about this. It'll be too much for

her." Anna had a gentle nature, so she would probably be scared out of her wits if she were to learn about Wendy's kidnapping.

"I got it. Thanks, Dad," Colton said before hanging up the phone. Feeling rather restless, he took out a cigarette and wanted to light it, only to put it down in silence when he recalled his conversation with Nicole just now.

At the moment, he had someone spying on Jerry, which greatly eased his worries. Still, he couldn't sleep at the thought of his little sister being kidnapped. Wendy had a naive personality. She was raised

in the Gardner Family and spoiled by the Gardners, so she was a little prideful, but she wasn't domineering. Moreover, she was brought up single-handedly by Anna and thus inherited the latter's gentle temperament.

Colton knew that Jerry surely wouldn't lay a hand on Wendy. Nevertheless, he couldn't help worrying deep down that she might get hurt. In the end, he simply didn't bother to think about it anymore. Flopping down onto the couch, he took out his phone and started scrolling through it.

Meanwhile, after Colton had left, Nicole lay alone in bed, staring wide-eyed at the ceiling with a somewhat glazed expression. A wave of overwhelming weariness came over her. It was now the second day after she rushed here from Restrad, but she had only had a few hours of sleep. At first, she thought she would fall asleep quickly, but she realized that she couldn't sleep no matter how she tossed and turned.

Chapter 1055 The Action Begins Tomorrow

After a sleepless night, Nicole looked all groggy in the morning with two big dark circles under her eyes. She had laid in bed all night with her eyes closed, yet she simply couldn't fall asleep.

Letting out a yawn, she slowly dragged herself into the bathroom and looked at herself in the mirror. Her haggard look made the dark circles even more apparent on her fair face. After washing her face with water to refresh herself a little, she got dressed and went downstairs.

Everyone else was already downstairs; they were sitting together in a circle and discussing something. Hearing the sound of footsteps upstairs, they tacitly turned to look in her direction.

Nicole gave a yawn. With a tear in the corner of her eye, she slowly walked down the stairs. Seeing that they were still discussing Wendy's kidnapping, she cut in, asking, "When are we gonna make the trade with them?"

"Tomorrow," replied Colton.

Nicole nodded and sat down next to the man. Leaning against him, she looked very droopy.

Colton turned to look at her. Seeing how she yawned repeatedly, he frowned slightly and tapped her forehead, asking, "What's wrong? You didn't sleep well last night?"

Nicole lowered her eyes. As her long, curly eyelashes fluttered, she muttered, "Uh-huh, I couldn't sleep. I felt like something was weighing on my mind." After a sleepless night, Nicole looked all groggy in the morning with two big dark circles under her eyes. She had laid in bed all night with her eyes closed, yet she simply couldn't fall asleep.

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Nicole lowered her eyes. As her long, curly eyelashes fluttered, she muttered, "Uh-huh, I couldn't sleep. I felt like something was weighing on my mind."

Seeing the visible dark circles under her eyes, he knew that she didn't sleep well indeed. He had thought that she wouldn't be so worried; after all, she and Wendy had little to do with one another. Now that he saw how weary she looked, he knew that she must've been up all night yesterday. "Don't worry about Wendy. I've already had everything planned, so get a good rest. Otherwise, it's inconvenient if you're tired when we go tomorrow." His voice carried a hint of pity.

Nicole rubbed her sore eyes. After pondering for a moment with her eyes closed, she said, "It's okay, I'll get some sleep later. It's just that I couldn't sleep with something on my mind." Then, she turned to look at Colton and began to study his face carefully. Seeing a hint of weariness in his eyes, she let out a chuckle, saying, "You didn't sleep well either, did you?"

When he realized that she had seen through it, Colton wrapped his arm around her waist without saying a word and let her nestle against him. Resting his chin on her shoulder, he replied under his breath, "Yeah, I'm a bit concerned, after all. Wendy grew up living a comfortable life and has never been in such situations before. Even if Jerry isn't going to do anything to her, I'm still worried that she might get scared."

Seeing how lovey-dovey the couple were, Beryl and Dominic had the sense to not interrupt. In the end, they simply stood up and said, "Nicole, you'd better take Colton upstairs for some rest. We'll probably have a fierce battle tomorrow. If we don't get enough rest, we might be unable to handle this. Nothing else matters more than our health."

Nicole nodded, naturally accepting them calling her by her first name.

The couple had some chowder for breakfast. At first, she wanted to ask about the details of their plans for tomorrow, but Colton silenced her with his hand over her mouth, saying, "Go and get some rest."

Nicole looked up at him with a hint of a smile in her eyes, as if saying, 'What about you, then?'

Having been together for a long time, the couple could somehow read each other's minds without talking to each other. Smiling as if he had understood

what Nicole wanted to say, Colton said, "I'll rest with you." With that, he took her upstairs right away.

Nicole was rather sleepy indeed, so she nestled in his arms with a yawn. Then, recalling what had happened last night, she couldn't help but ask, "Is that how you fooled me last night, telling me to sleep while you stayed up all night thinking up ways to rescue Wendy?"

Chapter 1056 The Start

Faced with her questioning, Colton tightened his arms around her waist. He replied under his breath, "No, I really thought I might end up having my way with you if I kept on staying with you."

Nicole gave him a dirty look before freeing herself from his embrace with a little push. Then, she said with a pout, "Be serious, will you?!"

Colton let out a chuckle before reaching out to pinch her dainty nose. "I just love to flirt with you."

The more they talked, the more turned on they really got.

Nicole turned away with the back of her head facing him. Then, she simply shut up without saying another word.

Seeing her sulking, Colton couldn't help but let out a chuckle before shamelessly pressing himself against her. He whispered, "Alright, just get a good rest. I won't do anything."

Nicole merely closed her eyes without saying a word. The broad chest pressed against her back gave her a feeling of comfort, as if lying in the man's arms made her less anxious and much calmer. Soon, her eyes grew heavy, and after blinking for a moment, they slowly closed.

Seeing that the lady in his arms was breathing steadily, Colton knew she had fallen asleep. At first, he thought he would be unable to sleep, but before he knew it, he had fallen asleep with her soft body in his arms while smelling her faint scent. Faced with her questioning, Colton tightened his arms around her waist. He replied under his breath, "No, I really thought I might end up having my way with you if I kept on staying with you."

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They slept very comfortably this time. When they woke up, they found that it was already afternoon; they had slept for a full seven hours from morning till afternoon.

When Nicole woke up with a yawn, she noticed that Colton's eyes were still closed. She moved very quietly for fear of waking him.

Colton looked much quieter than usual in his sleep. His tightly shut eyes concealed his usual incisiveness, while his tall nose and slightly pursed thin lips made him look a tad relaxed and at ease.

Nicole stared intently at the man before her with a hint of yearning in her eyes. After a while, his eyes slowly opened and happened to meet hers.

A faint smile curved Colton's lips when he saw the lady in his arms staring at him in a daze. He asked in a whisper, "What's the matter? You can't help staring at me because I'm too handsome?"

Nicole instantly went red in the face. She stammered, "N-No—"

Seeing how shy she looked, Colton couldn't help but find it amusing, but he didn't ask further about it. He reached for his phone on the nightstand to take a look, only to find that it was already afternoon. We've really had a long sleep this time. "You want to get out of bed?" he turned to ask her. It was warm under the covers, which, coupled with their scents, felt very comfortable.

Nicole nodded, rolling out of bed before pounding her neck a few times with her fist. Her neck was sore from maintaining the same posture for a long time, and it wasn't until she stretched it a bit that it finally got better. "Let's get out of bed; it's almost time. If you guys are gonna make a move tomorrow, we've got to make the arrangements tonight, no? I also want to help a little," she said in a husky voice before letting out an involuntary yawn. With her sleepy look, she looked very much like a lazy kitten who hadn't had enough sleep.

Colton didn't hide it from her either. He explained, "I've had Pioneers send some people here, and they'll arrive tonight. Beryl's men are also watching the surrounding area and have roughly confirmed Wendy's location now. We have to stall Sasha and Jerry first while Beryl and Dominic go in there right away with the others, so we might not be able to avoid the sight of blood."

Nicole replied with a nod, "I got it." She had experienced bloodshed back in Lome. Although she didn't like it, she could deal with it.

Chapter 1057 Negotiations

In the evening, a group of heavily armed men suddenly swarmed into the villa.

These people were very disciplined. Dressed in army camouflage, they marched uniformly, their faces expressionless.

Nicole was shocked at the sight of the men before her. There were at least hundreds of them, and they crowded the villa's garden.

The man leading them trotted up to Colton upon seeing him. After saluting him, he said respectfully, "Everyone's here, Major General."

Colton nodded. Pointing to Beryl behind him, he said, "Follow his orders."

"Roger that," the man complied immediately without asking why.

Having slept during the day, Colton was in good spirits that night.

Beryl took the Pioneers to hide in ambush first in preparation for the fierce battle tomorrow.

Seeing their weapons, Nicole finally had a faint realization that the battle was really about to begin.

It was almost early morning when everything was set up.

At a little past 7.00AM, they had breakfast and drove back to Jerry's base.

Beryl's men had surrounded the place after they had left previously. Knowing that Jerry hadn't moved

Wendy out of here, they went into action.

This time, they arrived more directly than the previous time.

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This time, they arrived more directly than the previous time.

Jerry waited at the entrance with Sasha. Seeing them drive over, he greeted them with a smile, saying, "You look much prettier than when I last saw you a couple of days ago." The remark was directed at Nicole.

Colton frowned slightly without saying a word. He merely looked at Sasha, asking, "Where is Wendy?"

Sasha's ink-black eyes were fixed on him in an attempt to detect anything suspicious on his face. However, after studying him for a long time, she still didn't notice anything wrong. She lowered her eyes and asked with a smirk, "Have you really decided to trade Nicole for Wendy?"

A faint smile spread across Colton's face. He replied in a calm voice, "I've got no shortage of women around me. As long as I want it, there are lots of women who would throw themselves at me one after another. Wendy is my own sister, so it's only natural that I'd choose her."

Listening to his words, Sasha suddenly burst into a guffaw. Looking at Nicole with a hint of cruelty on her face, she said, "Nicole, did you hear that? This man was so nice to you when everything was fine, yet he chose to abandon you the moment something goes wrong. How laughable that you've borne him a child!"

Nicole's face was expressionless. After lowering her eyes for a long time, she slowly curled her lips into

a bitter smile as if to laugh at herself. "I love him, so I respect his choice."

A hint of ferocity flashed across Sasha's eyes when she saw how Nicole remained devoted to Colton in such a situation. Clenching her fists, she repeated, "Are you sure you're gonna trade Nicole for Wendy?"

"Yes, I am," Colton replied with an air of indifference as his tall figure stood in place, as though the woman before him had nothing to do with him.

Sasha's eyes narrowed. After a long time, she said, "Do you know that I want Nicole for the purpose of torturing her? Alvin died because of her, so I'll make her life a living hell."

Colton still looked as indifferent as ever with his hands in his pockets. He replied in a soft voice, "She's yours now, so whatever you want to do with her is none of my business. Right now, I want to see whether Wendy is safe before we can proceed."

Sasha stared at Colton meaningfully. At this very moment, she really couldn't understand him. She thought he would never abandon Nicole, yet it surprised her that he agreed to it so quickly.

It wasn't until Jerry gave her a nudge that she snapped out of her trance. She asked with a smile, "What if you guys decide to snatch Wendy by force when I bring her here?"

Chapter 1058 Engaging in Combat

It was not bad, considering that he knew that they would try to take it by force.

Colton lifted his eyes and glanced at Sasha before looking around at the people around them. Since they were currently in Jerry's base, there was quite a large number of people present, and he roughly estimated that there were at least a hundred of them there.

"I have twenty men with me plus the people outside this base. If you think that we can put up a fight against all of your men based on our merger numbers, you can choose not to believe me."

Jerry reached out and extended a hand, stopping Sasha. He was quite confident in his men; they were all well-trained, and he didn't believe for a moment that Colton could defeat a hundred of his men with only twenty people, especially considering that his men were all armed. If a fight actually broke out, Colton would be on the losing end.

At that thought, Jerry pointed to one of the men and ordered, "Go and bring them over."

The man he pointed out bobbed his head before running outside in the direction where Beryl had said that Wendy was most likely being locked up.

They began to wait for some time when a gunshot abruptly sounded from afar, causing them to immediately tighten their guard.

Jerry whipped around to look at Colton and demanded, "You called your men over?"

However, Colton only shrugged with an innocent expression. "Someone probably has a grudge against you. You should know whoever that person is. So, how could you push all the blame on me?"

When Jerry stared at him disbelievingly, Colton remained unfazed, saying with a smile, "Ever since I left the plane, you've already sent your men to keep an eye on me, and you know everything I've ever since I've arrived. I only have around twenty men who are all waiting outside, so it has to be one of your enemies knocking at your door."

Jerry furrowed his brow. Colton had a point; he had sent his men to tail and observe Colton. That was why he had not taken him too seriously as he was well aware that Colton only had twenty men with him. Besides, he had his fair share of enemies from being in this line of work. After all, the powerful were always surrounded by wolves, and coupled with the fact that he was never one to hold back, it was a fact that he had offended quite a few influential figures recently.

Jerry's expression turned grave. He couldn't continue wasting any more of his time with Colton if that were truly the case. "As you can see, Mr. Gardner, we've been met with unforeseen circumstances. I guess we can only leave today's matters for another day."

He stood up and prepared to leave when Sasha stopped him, narrowing her eyes at Colton. As someone who had dated him in the past, she still had a good understanding of this man's true nature.

"He may have secretly sent someone over. Keep an eye on them for now just to be on the safe side. If they're colluding with those people, we'll be the ones at a disadvantage, don't you think?"

Her words immediately brought Jerry to his senses, and he said to the guards outside, "You, come in and keep an eye on these people."

Dominic rose to his feet and threatened coldly, "Jerry, don't forget that it won't reflect well on you if word gets out that you're detaining people without authorization like this. Don't ruin your own reputation."

Jerry hesitated a little, but Sasha pointed out, interjecting, "If they're really working with them, it won't be a matter of reputation, it'll be a matter of our lives."

These words immediately dashed all of Jerry's doubts, and he instantly said, "Please remain seated for a moment. I'll be back soon."

With that, a few burly men with heavy weapons walked in. Although Colton and the others were carrying pistols with them, from the looks of things, they wouldn't have the time to draw their weapons before they took their last breath.

Dominic didn't speak any further and returned to his seat, while Colton sat on the couch with an indifferent expression, as if everything was within his calculations.

Sasha couldn't shake off her feeling of unease, but as gunshots continued to sound outside, she couldn't help but head out to take a look at what was going on.

Chapter 1059 Planning Their Escape

After Jerry and Sasha's departure, the room was only left with three burly men with guns as well as Colton and the others.

Colton sat on the couch with his legs crossed, an air of nonchalance emanating off him, as if he was unaware of the situation outside. He lowered his eyes, his long and well-defined fingers gently tapping on nothing, as if he was deep in thought.

After some time, he slowly lifted his head to look at Dominic and said, "Pass me the cup of tea in front of you."

Dominic chuckled as he reached out and handed him the cup while teasing him, "It seems like you're not even willing to take a step yourself, Mr. Gardner."

"Things sound intense outside. I wonder if the fight will make it inside." Colton furrowed his brow, feigning a look of worry.

"I don't think so. Don't we have these three to protect us?" Dominic raised an eyebrow, his gaze falling on the three men as the smile on his face slowly grew wider.

The three men were there to keep an eye on them, but their conversation caught them off guard.

Dominic jutted out his chin and continued, "Exactly. Why don't you people go to the entrance to see if they're headed this way? If they're coming toward us, we'd have time to hide ourselves."

The three men with guns began to hesitate upon hearing Dominic's remarks.

Dominic let out a small chuckle as if noticing their apprehension. There was a hint of mirth in his eyes as he went on, "What is there to think about? You have guns, and we're completely helpless. Are you afraid we'll fight back? We're Jerry's esteemed guests, you know. If anything happens to us or we lose our lives here, A's reputation will be tarnished."

Colton looked at him as he leisurely leaned on the couch, reaching out to stop him. "Forget it, Dominic, don't force them. I don't think they have the nerve to do something like that, anyway. After all, with all the chaos outside, it's still safer to stay indoors. You know humans, we're all afraid of death, and no one is an exception to that rule."

Colton's breezy words immediately caused the three men to furrow their brows.

In the end, one of them stepped forward and said, "I'll take a look outside. The two of you stay here and keep watch."

The other two nodded in assent. Although they were aware of Dominic and Colton's identities, they had guns with them, so they were far from worried.

The first man left the room to take a look outside after that. At the same time, Colton and Dominic's gazes clashed midair, as if they were scheming something, and before the other two could react, they were already sent crashing to the ground.

As Nicole watched their swift and skilled actions, she finally grasped the intent behind their provoking words earlier—they sent one of the guards out as they were afraid that she wouldn't be able to take him on.

She glanced at Colton and chided him with a smile, "Do I look like a damsel in distress to you?"

Colton wrapped his arms around her, a trace of a smile curling his lips upward as he said nonchalantly, "I'm not looking down on you, I'm just worried that you'd get hurt. I can't bear the thought of you getting hurt."

Dominic felt a shiver run down his spine at their conversation. So, he rubbed his arms covered in goosebumps and said disdainfully, "Okay, stop flirting and save the talk for later."

With that, the three made their way toward the exit. As most of the people in the camp were drawn toward the gunfire in the distance, there was practically no one else around. Colton easily subdued the guard outside and quickly pulled Nicole along as they ran outside.

Nicole lifted her head and looked at Colton. She was unable to shake off her worries as she asked him worriedly, "Aren't we going to check on Wendy?"

"I've already sent people over to Wendy, and she's probably been rescued by now. We won't be able to help out even if we join the fray now," Colton explained as he led Nicole out.

His reason for coming to this place was to use Jerry to confirm Wendy's location, and she had probably already been rescued at this point. Nevertheless, they had to confront Jerry head-on in order to make their getaway.

Chapter 1060 Coming to an End

Jerry looked at the fully armed men in front of him with a stormy expression. He never expected that Colton would actually have the ability to bring in the Pioneers in order to confront them. As a result, his men were no match for Colton's disciplined troops, and they were easily defeated with just a few blows.

Meanwhile, Wendy cowered behind Beryl. In all of her years of living, she had never seen anything like this, and the fright caused her to tremble like a leaf.

When Beryl caught sight of Wendy's terrified expression, he couldn't help but soften his tone as he soothed her, "It's okay, don't worry. I won't let you get hurt."

Wendy nodded blankly. After she had spent a long time in a place where the sun didn't shine, she had lost all of her previous shine and was a husk of what she was before.

Jerry scowled. He knew very clearly that if things went on like this, he would be the one to suffer. Eventually, he clenched his fists, turned to one of the men beside him, and growled, "Go to the front hall and tell them to bring Colton and the others over!"

It could only be Colton's doing for these men to be able to come to Wendy's rescue. Fortunately, he had listened to Sasha's words earlier and prevented Colton and the others from leaving, making them his bargaining chip.

Jerry whipped around to look at Sasha. In the current battle, with the number of injured men on his end, they were unable to compete with a trained army even if they were heavily armed.

"This is all because of you," he hissed through gritted teeth.

He had spent five years constructing this base, only for it to be blasted into smithereens in just a single night.

Sasha coldly looked at the frantic man before her, thinking to herself, Useless trash.

She crossed her arms in front of her chest and said in an icy voice, "This is the path you had chosen for yourself. You can't blame anyone but yourself."

Jerry's eyes burned with anger, and any favorable feelings he felt toward this woman immediately dissipated. If he had known that the Gardner Family was capable of this, he would never have helped her in the first place. And yet, he was now in a tight spot but unable to do anything about it.

"I'm telling you; I'll never forgive you for this!" Jerry snarled viciously.

As soon as he finished speaking, the man he sent to look for Colton returned with a head full of sweat. He ran to Jerry's side and reported, "Boss, those people have already escaped. They're not there."

A trace of panic flashed past Jerry's eyes. It seemed that Colton had prepared for this moment long ago!

He lowered his head and pondered for a moment before he spoke, "Okay, I got it. Call one of the teams over and start withdrawing some of the supplies and troops. This is not the time to fight them head-on."

Once he finished speaking, he immediately began his preparations. He couldn't stay here any longer, or he might eventually lose his life.

After his subordinate heard the order, the man hurriedly began to get ready for their retreat as well.

Jerry shot a glance at Sasha but ultimately didn't say anything else and turned around to leave.

After Jerry left, a hint of hatred finally appeared in Sasha's eyes. She thought that she would be able to thoroughly drag Colton through the dirt by selling herself, but she never expected him to keep a trick up his sleeve. On the other hand, Jerry was clearly not going to continue the battle.

Besides, even if Undercity deployed all of their troops, they were most likely not a match for the Pioneers. She had truly and utterly lost.

As she looked into the distance, a smile suddenly appeared on Sasha's face. In all her years of living, her only purpose to survive had always been Colton. She had believed that it would be enough for her as long as she had him, but after Alvin left, she realized how meaningless her existence was.

She couldn't defeat Colton nor drag him down with her. At that thought, a crazed glint appeared in her eyes, and she grabbed a nearby gun before charging forward. If she was going to die, then so be it. After all, she had nothing worth living for in this world any longer.

Things finally came to an end with the retreat of Jerry's men. Still, his base had been well and thoroughly overrun by the end of it.

**Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1061 Rescue - Read
Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1061 Rescue**

Chapter 1061 Rescue

When Wendy was rescued, she was still noticeably quivering despite having Beryl's coat draped over her. She was also in an extremely disheveled state. Although he had protected her well, the fierce sounds of gunshots still made a nightmarish impact in her mind and left her in a stupor.

After Beryl led her into the car, she lowered her head and remained silent for the entire ride, tightly clutching the coat around her as if trying her best to curl herself into a ball. When Beryl caught sight of her through the rear-view mirror, he could tell how frightened she had been.

The car slowly drove along the road, and after some time passed, they finally arrived at the manor.

Wendy raised her head a little cluelessly, looking at the scenery before her when she suddenly heard a familiar voice calling out to her, "Wendy."

She froze for a moment before she immediately raised her head and looked at the source of the voice, only to see Colton standing upright before the car. Instantly, a wave of emotions overwhelmed her. Almost instantly, she blinked her eyes and sniffled, the corner of her eyes immediately turned hot with tears that uncontrollably flowed down her face.

"Colton." Wendy pushed herself out of the vehicle and ran into Colton's arms, tears starting to stream down her face as soon as she breathed in his familiar scent.

All of her pretense and composure faded away at that instant. She was truly terrified, particularly afraid that the people who kidnapped her would hurt her. When she started thinking of the possible horrors that might befall her, her body began to tremble even more fiercely.

Colton looked at the trembling figure in his embrace, his hand stiffening for a moment before he

eventually placed it on her head gently as he comforted her in a soft voice, "All right, it's okay. Don't worry, I'm here."

Wendy's voice was thick with tears, and her long lashes fluttered uncontrollably. She wrapped her arms around Colton's waist, and after a good long sob, she finally choked out, "Colton, I'm really scared. They even

threatened to sedate me." There was an unconcealed hint of fear and aggrivement in her tone.

At the end of the day, she was still a young girl who had just barely turned 18. Besides, she had always been doted on over the years, so this unexpected turn of events had undoubtedly shaken her.

Colton's eyes darkened at her pitiful condition. Then, he lowered his head to look at her, carefully inspecting her face, but he still couldn't help but ask worriedly, "Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

Wendy sniffled as she shook her head. Her eyes were utterly bloodshot, and she pouted as she mumbled, "No, but I'm scared."

Colton let out a small sigh. At the sight of her disheveled appearance, he reached out and held her as he said nonchalantly, "Go upstairs and take a shower. I've already sent someone to heat the water for you and prepare a change of clothes for you. After you're done, come down and eat. It's all in the past; nothing like this will happen again as long as I'm here."

Wendy bobbed her head at his words. After her previous experience, she would never dare to run off and swore to stay at home obediently to avoid getting captured again. These past few days had been truly frightening.

After Colton instructed a housekeeper to lead her upstairs, Nicole finally emerged from a corner. She

stared in the direction where Wendy left and commented, "It seems like she has been truly scared silly."

Colton retracted his gaze and took her hand in his, saying lightly, "Accompany her tonight. She's probably still a little terrified after being locked up for so many days. Even though I'm her brother, I'm still a man, so it probably isn't appropriate for me to stay the night with her."

Nicole nodded, a trace of a smile appearing on her face. "Okay, I understand. Don't worry."

As the two chatted, they returned to their room.

After Wendy headed upstairs and took a hot shower, she returned downstairs in a set of soft and comfortable clothes, now warm and toasty and completely free of the scruffy look she had walked in.

Chapter 1062 Stay With Me

Nicole raised her head and glanced over upon hearing the sound of footsteps by the stairway. Once she saw that Wendy had already changed into comfortable clothing and was heading downstairs, she sent her a smile and ushered her over. "Come, Wendy. Sit next to me."

Wendy wrapped her arms around herself and jogged toward Nicole. She had her head lowered the entire time as she greeted, "Hello, Nicole."

A faint smile appeared on Nicole's lips. She served some food on Wendy's plate, saying gently, "Your brother said that this is your favorite, and we had the chef prepare it just for you. Have a taste."

A flicker of emotion flitted past Wendy's face as she lowered her head and looked at the food on her plate before starting to take small tentative bites. During her time at Jerry's base, all she ate was some bread and milk that was just enough to fill her stomach. Now that she had a bite of something warm again, she suddenly felt tears brimming her eyes.

Wendy's eyes immediately turned red-rimmed, and she sniffled, feeling a lump clogging her throat.

She lowered her eyes and picked up a piece of meat with her fork before shoving it into her mouth. "It's yummy."

Colton let out a tiny chuckle after catching sight of her reaction, thinking that the entire ordeal hadn't truly doused the spark in her eyes.

After a few bites of such a warm meal, Wendy slowly raised her head to look at Beryl and Dominic. After a while, she bit her lip and said, "Beryl, Dominic, thank you for saving me. Although I know that you only came upon my brother's request, I'm still thankful."

Beryl chuckled and waved her words off, saying, "You don't need to thank us. I've seen you grow up to be the woman you are today. I would have shown up even without Colton's request."

Dominic nodded profusely, clearly agreeing with his words.

Wendy happily finished the rest of her dinner, and it seemed that she wasn't the least bit affected at all. She was completely different from when she had just been rescued, and it was as if she had already put everything behind her.

After Wendy finished her meal and headed upstairs under Nicole's company, Beryl spoke up dubiously, "I thought this little brat was terrified, but looking at her now... I have to say that not only was she not afraid, but she also bounced back rather quickly."

Colton's furrowed brows eased slightly, and he said indifferently, "She's just putting up a mask because she doesn't want any of you to see her so vulnerable."

Of course, he knew just what kind of person his sister was. After she had lived in an ivory tower free from any harm, this sudden turn of events would most likely cause her to mature quite a bit. Still, it was fortunate that nothing else happened to her during her kidnapping.

"Oh, so the princess has finally grown up after all."

Colton lowered his head and glanced at his phone. On the screen was a message from Benjamin, asking how Wendy was doing.

Colton lightly tapped on the screen, his fingers swiftly typing out a reply. 'She's fine, and she's already back with me. We'll head back together after resting for a few days.'

'Okay.'

Meanwhile, Nicole accompanied Wendy back to her room. In the past few days, Wendy had been unable to catch a good night's rest. Although she had been given a bed, she was afraid that someone with ulterior motives would enter her room during her sleep, so she was constantly on high alert and refused to let her guard down even for a moment.

Besides, the bed there was narrow and hard, and she was unused to sleeping in such conditions after enjoying a life of luxury. Now that she was finally back, she was immediately hit with a wave of drowsiness.

Nicole sat by the head of the bed and watched as Wendy yawned, soothing her in a gentle voice, "Go to sleep. We'll go straight home after you've had a few days of rest."

Wendy blinked and reached out to wipe the tears from her eyes as she tilted her head to look at Nicole. "Nicole, can you stay with me tonight?"

Nicole nodded and reached out to take her hand, comforting her, "Okay, I'll stay with you. Just sleep, I'll be here."

Suddenly, a lump got caught in Wendy's throat, and her eyes filled with tears. She turned her head away, murmuring in discomfort, "Nicole, don't you think that I'm a weak crybaby? After all, I've already been rescued, but I'm still behaving like a pathetic weakling."

Chapter 1063 Don't Know What You're Scared Of

Nicole looked at the pitiful look on Wendy's face and ruffled her hair as she said softly, "If I was kidnapped at your age, I wouldn't be able to sleep too."

Wendy looked at her with teary eyes. "Really? You're not lying, Nicole?"

She smiled and intertwined her hands with Wendy's before saying, "Of course not. Alright. Stop thinking about it. After you've recovered, you'll return home safe and sound. Nothing like this will happen ever again."

Wendy nodded with a sniffle as she tried to stop herself from crying.

Nicole was right. Anyone wouldn't be able to sleep at all from the trauma of being kidnapped at the young age of 18.

She accompanied Wendy for a while as they chatted. Soon, Wendy couldn't hold on to her consciousness any longer and dozed off.

Then, Nicole reached for her phone and texted Colton. 'Mr. Gardner, you're on your own tonight. I'm accompanying your sister tonight.'

Colton read Nicole's text as a smile crept up his eyes and replied with a smirk, 'It's alright. I can wait. We have many opportunities to sleep together.'

On the other hand, Nicole blushed slightly at his text and locked her phone screen without replying to him as she lay down beside Wendy.

The next day, Nicole woke up to find Wendy still asleep curled up in a ball like an insecure baby.

It seemed like she was stuck in a nightmare as her body was tense and there was a deep furrow between her brows.

Nicole approached her and suddenly heard a faint voice pleading, "No... No... Save me..."

Her eyes darkened as she went closer and wrapped her arms around her as she patted Wendy's back. She tried to console the poor girl gently, "I'm here. Don't be scared."

Finally, Wendy's furrowed brows relaxed as if she heard someone comforting her.

As Wendy's breathing calmed down, Nicole was still frowning. Ever since they rescued Wendy, she seemed calm before people and didn't say a word about her predicament during her kidnapping. Yet, it seemed like she was afraid of something.

Perhaps, something unexpected had happened during that incident.

Nicole's face turned even grimmer as she thought of that possibility.

Around 9.00AM, Wendy finally blinked awake and turned her head to see Nicole leaning against the headboard reading a book silently.

It felt like she had slept for at least a decade as her body ached slightly due to her long slumber. She yawned and rubbed her bleary eyes. As she kept a fetal position throughout the night, she couldn't help but stretch her body to get rid of the soreness in her body.

"Nicole, what time is it?" Wendy asked in a hoarse voice.

"9.00AM It's still early. You can sleep more if you want to," Nicole replied with a tilt of her head.

Wendy shook her head and leaned against the headboard lazily. "I'm alright. I'm up anyway."

Nicole didn't press the matter further and placed the book in her hand down before grabbing Wendy's arm for an abrupt inspection.

Wendy tried to jerk her arm back as if she wanted to hide something, but Nicole had a tight grasp of her hand.

"Nicole, what are you doing?" Wendy desperately wanted to shove Nicole off, but Nicole had a death grip on her.

Her panicked look was all Nicole needed to confirm something.

Chapter 1064 Needle Hole?

Nicole examined Wendy's hand and suddenly found a needlestick injury on her wrist.

Nicole's body immediately stiffened at the sight. She didn't think Jerry would dare to use drugs on Wendy!

Her thumb caressed the tiny puncture wounds on Wendy's wrist with a solemn face. After some time, she finally asked seriously, "These holes. When did it happen?"

Panic flashed across Wendy's eyes as she hurriedly hid her hand and stuttered, "N-Nothing happened."

Nicole's face turned austere as she stated, "Wendy, these could be drug needle holes. We should get it checked at the hospital as soon as we see them. This is not a joking matter."

Wendy bit her lips as tears welled up in her eyes. After a long time, she finally explained timidly, "It happened when I was kidnapped. Someone poked me with empty needles. There was nothing inside. I... I thought it wasn't a big deal."

Nicole tightened her hand. Jerry was involved in the ammunition and drugs industry. So, they had to check the needle holes in Wendy's hand no matter what. Frankly, she dreaded the consequences if something was injected into Wendy.

"Wendy, this isn't a trivial matter. Let's have some breakfast. Then, I'll bring you to the hospital for a checkup," Nicole ordered solemnly.

Wendy blinked her eyes in fear and clenched her fist as she bit her lips. "Nicole, am I really drugged?"

I... I've seen it on TV. My life would be worse than death."

Wendy was only an 18-year-old girl. So, it was natural that she would be nervous about these sorts of things.

Nicole immediately comforted her, "Don't worry, Wendy. Let's do a full body checkup before coming to conclusions. Besides, I'm a medical student and White's apprentice. Nothing bad will happen to you."

Wendy looked down and recalled her willfulness. Even though that needle was empty, it was still scary whenever her mind started replaying that scene in her head.

Nicole didn't continue with the discussion. Instead, she rose to her feet and smoothened the creases on her attire. Before she exited the room, she said, "Wendy, take your time. I'll wait for you downstairs."

Wendy simply answered with a low hum.

Nicole went downstairs to see Colton sitting on the couch holding a cup of coffee and reading a finance magazine.

The morning rays shone in through the huge window and landed on him creating a warm aura around him.

Clomp. Clomp. Clomp. Nicole was wearing slippers as she rushed down the stairs.

Colton heard the sound and turned around. He saw the panic on Nicole's face and asked softly with a frown, "What's wrong? Did something happen?"

Nicole wasted no time in telling him what happened in the morning and his face turned grim as well. After a while, he asked, "Wendy said it was an empty needle?"

She nodded, but her tone was filled with concern, "I'm still worried. We should ask Wendy to do a checkup. What if there were residuals on the empty needle?"

Colton stood up as a cold aura emitted from his tall figure.

He casually threw the magazine on the couch and said in a deep voice, "Let Wendy have breakfast before going to the hospital."

She nodded and comforted him, "It's alright. Maybe she got lucky and there truly was nothing in the needle at all."

Colton lowered his eyes and hissed his words through gritted teeth, "If Jerry has harmed Wendy in any way, I will destroy all of his bases."

Chapter 1065 Big Test

After Wendy had breakfast, Colton and Nicole brought her to a medical research center. Her blood was drawn, and she had to do various physical checks until 4.00PM.

Wendy stayed rooted to the spot with her head hung low. When she caught sight of the austere expression on Colton's face, she carefully tugged on Nicole's sleeve and asked quietly, "Nicole, is Colton angry?"

Nicole noticed her meek demeanor. So, she ran her fingers through Wendy's hair gently and comforted her, "It's alright. Colton is just furious at the people who kidnapped you."

Wendy looked down guiltily and grabbed the hem of her shirt. Her lips were pursed into a tight line as she mumbled, "It's all my fault. If I hadn't insisted on going out, this wouldn't have happened."

"Colton! What's going on? I heard the doctor say that Wendy's here for a body checkup." Beryl came dashing in. It was obvious he had run all the way here as he was panting while sweat dripped off his forehead.

However, he immediately shut up when he saw that Wendy was there and forced himself to swallow any other questions from escaping his lips.

"It's alright. We'll just wait for the results tomorrow morning. Nicole, why don't you take Wendy home for now? I've got some things to discuss with Beryl." Colton instructed calmly. It was apparent he was suppressing his emotions.

Nicole nodded in understanding and held Wendy's hand. "Let's go, Wendy. It's alright."

After both girls left, Beryl took a big step forward and gripped Colton's arm before asking, "What's this? You even did a blood test. Did that punk, Jerry, inject drugs into Wendy?" his voice trembled as he thought of that.

He had worked in the intelligence industry for many years and came across several drug addicts. Some had only gotten into such a habit out of curiosity, some were purely reckless with their lives, and some accidentally came into contact with it. It didn't matter how they started; their lives would almost always undoubtedly end in ruins in the end.

Even though the Gardner Family was wealthy, and Wendy wouldn't become bankrupt if she picked up such a habit, it would still take a toll on her body. The drugs will slowly cause her body to become weaker both physically and mentally.

"Nicole found a puncture wound in Wendy's arm, but Wendy said it was just from an empty needle. I'm worried that she might have contracted something by accident. So, we decided to do a checkup just in case," Colton explained gloomily.

If Jerry did indeed inject something into Wendy... His death sentence would only arrive sooner rather than later.

"F*ck!" Beryl couldn't help but curse as he punched the wall with a loud thud. His brows furrowed tightly as he growled, "That f*cker! Isn't he afraid that I will blow up his base!"

Colton raised a brow at Beryl's agitated state and asked, "Wendy's my sister. Why are you so worked up?"

Beryl noticed that he had lost his composure and hastily restrained his expression before stammering,

"N-No...Your sister is my sister."

He looked at him with an amused expression and teased, "Do you think that I'm so easily fooled?"

Beryl looked at those dark eyes and suddenly felt exposed. It was as if Colton had seen through him.

After he weighed his options, he eventually admitted with a nod, "Yes. I like Wendy. I've liked her since we were kids. But I haven't done a thing to her, so you can't touch me."

Beryl was the youngest among them at the age of 23. So, Wendy and Beryl always had a good relationship. Therefore, he would always visit the Gardner Residence to visit her.

He was different from Dominic and Julian who worked in the shadows. He had a fairly clean record with almost no enemies.

Chapter 1066 Let's Go Home I Want to Marry You So Badly

"In my opinion, it doesn't matter whether you have feelings for Wendy or not, that's beyond my control. But this time, we really need to investigate this matter. Beryl, look up Jerry's whereabouts. I don't care whether it's an empty syringe, Jerry is courting death the moment he dares to harm a hair on Wendy's head!" Colton stated coldly.

Beryl responded with a nod before he turned and left to do his job.

The laboratory managed to produce the report overnight upon Colton's request. After they received the report, Nicole gradually breathed a sigh of relief as she browsed through the data. Thank goodness that everything is normal. It's precisely like Wendy said. The syringe was empty.

As for Colton, he, too, breathed a sigh of relief when he looked at the lab report. The murderous look on his face slowly vanished and was replaced by a faint smile. "I'm glad everything turned out fine. Go ahead and get ready. We will return to Goldwick tomorrow."

Since Nicole thought Colton wanted to stay abroad for a few more days, she was slightly surprised after she heard what he said. Still, once she regained her senses, she replied, "Okay."

...

News flash... 'A group of unknown individuals has attacked a foreign munitions base today. Their leader, Jerry, was injured and hogtied at the police station's front entrance. It is believed that this is, by far, a case with the largest amount of money and drugs that our municipal police force has ever solved!'

At present, all news channels were reporting about Jerry's arrest, be it domestic or international.

Nicole had a clear view in her mind the moment she saw the news. It's probably Colton's doing. After all, only he can pull off such a slick move. Then again, Jerry insisted on carrying out his plan, and he even went as far as to harm Wendy by giving her an injection. Right now, he is merely reaping what he sows. Frankly, it serves him right for ending up in the police station with his hands cuffed. Nevertheless, judging from Jerry's identity, I suppose he will be spending his whole life in prison.

After she saw the news, she turned to Colton and asked with a smile, "Why didn't you solve this matter earlier since you have such great capability?"

Colton merely raised his eyes and replied calmly, "There is a degree of restraint when making certain in this industry. Even if I defeat Jerry, others will pop out during the power vacuum. So, I generally wouldn't provoke these people as long as they don't move against me."

In other words, Colton only chose to take action against Jerry now because he dared to challenge him.

Nicole nodded upon hearing his logic. In her heart, she felt Jerry had a stroke of hard luck. Jerry really is asking for trouble, isn't he? Well, this is the price he pays for daring to lay his fingers on Wendy without having an insight into Colton's identity for the sake of a woman.

"Wendy's health is fine now. So, you can rest easy," Nicole gradually parted her lips and comforted softly after she saw Colton constantly putting on a gloomy expression for the past two days.

Colton simply raised his chin as he placed his slender fingertip on Nicole's chin and slowly caressed it.

This caused Nicole to feel a little shy. She looked away slightly, trying to dodge his touch. Alas, Colton's reflex was faster. So, he lowered his head and kissed her lips without further ado.

Nicole widened her eyes in shock as she looked at the man in front of her in slight disbelief. As for Colton, he took advantage of the situation to pry open her lips in order to deepen the kiss.

Colton smirked slightly as he affectionately gazed at the woman, who was blushing under his touch. Then, he pressed his forehead against hers and

uttered softly, "Let's go home. I want to marry you so badly that I refuse to wait even for a minute longer."

Nicole was so shocked by Colton's confession that her heart skipped a beat. She clutched her hands nervously as she gulped before saying with a slight nod, "Okay."

Their stay abroad was short, for they caught a flight home at noon the next day.

After Wendy was informed that her body was fine, she resumed her vivacious state. As soon as she arrived home, she threw herself into Anna's arms and exclaimed, "Mom! I missed you."

Anna was a little surprised when she saw Wendy returning home so soon. Regardless, there was an unmistakable gleam of joy in her eyes as she held Wendy and asked, "Why are you home so earlier? Didn't you say you wanted to spend a few more days abroad?"

Wendy pouted as she pointed at Colton and whined, "I happened to bump into Colton and Nicole while they were on their honeymoon. They told me you missed me. So, they dragged me back with them."

Chapter 1067 It Is Time They Get Married

Instantly, Anna beamed with pleasure. Then, she patted Wendy's cheek gently as she smiled and said, "You have been having fun away from home for the past few months. It's about time for you to come home and settle down for a period of time. Besides, you are back just at the right time. Colton and Nicole are about to hold their wedding soon. So, if you want to take another trip abroad, do it after you have attended their wedding. Alright?"

Wendy was slightly surprised as she didn't expect Colton and Nicole to hold their wedding so soon. So, she pursed her lips and asked, "Really? Mom, when's the wedding?"

"I have selected a nice date next week. So, we still have about ten days left to get everything ready. Nicole, Colton, what do you think?" Anna sought the couple's opinions while turning her attention to them.

Nicole lowered her head bashfully. Her cheeks were flushed crimson, and she kept playing with her fingers as she kept mum on the matter.

Meanwhile, Colton, who stood beside Nicole, wrapped his arm around her waist and allowed her to lean against his body before looking up at Anna and promptly replying, "Sure. Mom, we shall entrust all affairs of our wedding to your capable hands."

Anna's eyes were filled with delight as she looked at Nicole, who had her head lowered in embarrassment. Then, she asked again, "Nicole, what do you think?"

Nicole fluttered her eyes as she felt utterly touched by Anna's care for her. Then, she nodded and answered, "Mrs. Gardner, I trust you."

"Wonderful. In that case, you guys should make time to go to the city hall and apply for a marriage license. As for me, I will have to start delegating tasks for the wedding. Don't worry, Nicole. I will definitely ensure that you'll have the wedding of your dreams," Anna said in gratification. There was a genuine smile on her face as she reached out to hold Nicole's hand.

Nicole responded with a soft hum. Although she knew she and Colton would undoubtedly get married one day, it was still somewhat challenging to restrain the overwhelming joy in her heart. She could feel her heart racing and had a rather difficult time calming herself down.

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"By the way, Nicole, where should Colton pick you up on your wedding day?" Anna asked out of the blue.

According to the traditional wedding custom in Goldwick, the groom would pick the bride up at her parent's house on the wedding day. Unfortunately, Nicole's current status made it slightly difficult for the couple to carry out this particular step.

Nicole looked down before saying, "My house will do. I have an apartment."

As Anna laid her gaze on Nicole's expression, she couldn't help but recall Siobhan's words. After a brief moment of hesitation, Anna eventually said, "Nicole, I have discussed matters regarding your marriage with Madam Gould." Anna's voice was as soft as the wind in reeds. It was evident that she

was trying to be comforting as she tried her best to avoid stepping on Nicole's emotional minefields.

Nevertheless, one couldn't blame Anna for her actions. After all, Siobhan was Nicole's biological mother. Meanwhile, Nicole simply pursed her lips, and her face showed no signs of rejection.

Thus, Anna continued, "I just thought that since she is your biological mother... Madam Gould wishes for you to stay in the Gould Residence. What... do you think?"

Just as Nicole was about to turn down that offer, an old and vigorous yet boisterous voice suddenly sounded by the door. Although one could tell that the owner of the voice was an elder, it was still a voice filled with energy.

"Nicole, you're home. I immediately rushed over from the Gourd Residence after this young man from the Gardners told me you are back." Rita walked in with a cane. She was practically glowing with health.

Regardless, Nicole suppressed a well of complicated emotions when she caught sight of Siobhan walking by Rita's side.

Nicole immediately bit back the words that just rose to her lips. Instead, she looked at Rita, nodded, and said, "Yes, I'm back, Old Mrs. Gould."

Rita stepped forward and came to Nicole's side. Then, she reached out to grab Nicole's hand and exclaimed enthusiastically, "I heard you are going to marry this young man."

Nicole stiffened but she still nodded in response.

When Rita saw that Nicole was agreeable to the marriage, she laughed heartily. Then, she turned her head to look at Colton and warned with a fierce look, "Nicole is my granddaughter. She has the Goulds as her backer. Therefore, you will treat her well. Otherwise, I will do everything in my power to ensure that justice will be served!"

Colton responded with a smile, "Rest assured, Old Mrs. Gould. I will certainly treat Nicole well."

The fierce look on Rita's face softened slightly. After that, she looked at Nicole and continued, "Nicole,

you might think I sound like a broken record. But you are my granddaughter. So, that makes you a part of the Goulds. I won't stand to see you suffer due to your current circumstances. Come, child. Follow me to the Gould Residence. Don't worry about others. I will surely watch your back!"

Rita's words touched Nicole deeply. Sure enough, a smile painted on her face as she cautiously took a look at Rita.

Chapter 1068 Sarcasm

Siobhan paused for a second before saying, "Nicole, what happened in the past is my fault, but you're my daughter and I wish to have more opportunities to spend time with you after this. It's because I missed the chance to do so when you were a child."

Nicole pursed her lips but remained silent. After a while, Rita started to feel anxious as she grabbed her hands and added, "I know that you can't forgive Siobhan because she made some silly mistakes, Nicole, but you're my granddaughter and I would like you to get married gloriously. Return to the Gould Family, okay? I'll personally throw a wedding for you."

Although Siobhan had chosen Evelyn in the past, Rita had always been on her side, and she remembered all the times the woman was kind to her. Now that Nicole was faced with such unabashed concern from the elderly lady, she couldn't help but feel a little moved.

When Rita noticed a trace of hesitancy in Nicole, she continued, "I know what you're worried about, Nicole. You're the only granddaughter I acknowledge, so please give me a chance."

Alas, Nicole couldn't say no to Rita when she looked so sincere. Therefore, she gave her a stiff nod in agreement. "Okay..."

A smile instantly appeared on Rita's initially dejected face, and she held Nicole's hand as she said with genuine delight, "I knew that you'll agree, but you don't have to be in a rush to return. Spend some time with Colton for now and move in once you're ready."

Rita was so fond of Nicole because she felt that the Gould Family had mistreated her and was the reason that she suffered all these years. Secondly, she had a marked resemblance to Siobhan, be it her appearance or

personality. Finally, it was Siobhan who did Nicole wrong before, and she wanted to

make it up to Nicole on her daughter's behalf.

Wendy didn't comment on the matter further. Instead, she drove them to the restaurant she mentioned earlier. Since they slipped away with a random excuse she came up with, she figured that she might as well drag Nicole to a restaurant that was really popular recently. Just as expected, the place was already crowded way before lunchtime. Fortunately, Wendy had booked a special dining room and they didn't have to wait long. Just as they were about to go in, they suddenly caught sight of Evelyn and the ladies from the upper-class socialites around her.

A woman next to Evelyn suddenly piped up sarcastically, "Oh look, Evelyn. Isn't that your long-lost sister?"

Even though the Wrenn Family had acknowledged Nicole, they didn't give any details about how Nicole ended up outside of the family. Thus, everyone assumed that she was also Siobhan's daughter but was kidnapped ever since she was a baby. None of them would ever imagine that she was swapped since birth.

Evelyn instinctively raised her eyes, after which she noticed Nicole and Wendy right next to Nicole.

As the tips of Evelyn's lips curled upward softly, she said in a gentle voice, "Hi, Nicole. What a coincidence to bump into you here."

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Chapter 1069 A Member of the Gardner Family

When Nicole was faced with the pretentious Evelyn, she couldn't be bothered with her. Instead, she pretended not to see the other woman, deliberately turning her head to Wendy, saying, "Why don't we head upstairs?"

Wendy went along with her decision to ignore Evelyn and nodded. "Sure, let's place our orders first. This place is really busy. Once it's lunchtime, it will take them some time to prepare the food."

The look on Evelyn's face turned sour when both of them dismissed her, and next to her, the woman who wanted to suck up to her hurriedly raised her voice and said, "That's what you'd expect from a person raised by a shabby family. She hasn't got any manners at all and didn't even know that she should respond to a greeting. Evelyn, it's so embarrassing to have a sister like that."

When Nicole continued to turn a blind eye to them, the things she said turned even more unpleasant, "Tsk, Mrs. Gould shouldn't have acknowledged her. A hillbilly without any elegance of the upper-class, she's just a disgrace to the Gould Family."

Even though it didn't matter to Nicole, Wendy couldn't accept such mean things being said and glared at the woman fiercely. "This is a restaurant, not the washroom. Please don't spout sh*t out of your mouth."

The woman's eyes turned large with fury when she was told off by Wendy, and she pointed a finger at her. "Who the hell are you to shout around here? Evelyn is the young lady of the Wrenn Family. Do you think you can offend her?"

Evelyn was a little unhappy that this dumb woman was digging her own grave, but she didn't say anything harsh and simply said, "Alright, don't say anymore. Since Nicole is here to eat and doesn't

want to speak to me, we don't have any reason to annoy them."

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Now that Evelyn was being so easygoing, the people around couldn't help but think that Nicole the hillbilly had no manners at all even though both were the young ladies of the Wrenn Family.

However, Evelyn's pretentious act made Wendy furious. If she had known that this would happen, she would have gone to another restaurant to avoid these oddballs. "Nicole, let's go to another restaurant. I'm losing my appetite just by being around these people."

This statement immediately sparked the fury of the woman next to Evelyn, and she stepped forward to grab Wendy's arm. There was unconcealed rage burning in her eyes as she growled, "Didn't your mother teach you any manners at all?"

As she was grabbing Wendy harshly, Wendy's face crumpled into a look of pain. Nicole immediately caught sight of the pained look on Wendy's face. So, she took a big stride and pressed one of the woman's meridians with her fingertip. The woman shrieked and released her grip. She clutched her hand that was shaking from the pain and stuttered, "You... What did you do to me?"

"Wendy, let's go." Nicole held Wendy's hand and wanted to leave, but the woman wouldn't let her off the hook so easily. It was as though she was under Evelyn's spell. She brazenly stood in their way and hissed, "Hold it right there! We're not done yet! Are you planning to leave just like this after hurting me?"

Wendy's blood started boiling, and she shoved her aside. Finally, she placed her hands on her hips and snapped, "Have you lost your mind? Not even a guard dog barks as loudly as you do. Why do you insist on asking for a scolding?"

"Who the hell are you? A young girl like you has no right to interfere in this."

Wendy snorted coldly and crossed her arms across her chest. "I'm Wendy Gardner and Nicole is my sister-in-law. Of course, I have to defend her when you're hurling such terrible insults about her!"

After the woman heard Wendy's name, she paused for a second before reality slowly sank in. Her mouth opened, and she stammered in shock, "I-Is your name Wendy Gardner? Are y-you... the Gardner Family's..."

The smile on Wendy's face turned even sweeter when she saw how terrified the woman was, and she

nodded. "Yes, I'm the Young Lady of the Gardner Family. I'll remember you from now on. So, I suppose congratulations are in order as any companies related to the Gardner Family will not cooperate with your family in the future."

Chapter 1070 Remember to Attend the Wedding

The woman shook her head in panic at Wendy's words, and tears welled up in her eyes as she cried, "M-Miss Gardner, I didn't mean it. I—"

Wendy sneered at her snobbish attitude, "It's too late!"

Evelyn tried to put in a good word for the pitiful lady after seeing how the situation had taken such a twist. "Wendy, she didn't mean it. Don't be mad at her nor stoop to her level."

After Evelyn tried to put in a good word for her, the woman bobbed her head eagerly and chirped along, "Yes, Miss Gardner. Please don't stoop to my level. I was full of sh*t earlier and it's all my fault!"

Wendy merely cast an indifferent look at the woman before letting out a snooty huff. Meanwhile, Nicole held her hand, saying calmly, "Let's go."

Wendy rolled her eyes at Evelyn's lackey. Then, she turned to Evelyn with all smiles and told her, "By the way, Evelyn. There's something I haven't told you yet. Colton and Nicole will be getting married soon. Make sure you attend their wedding, okay?"

Almost immediately, blood drained from Evelyn's face, and her hands that were hanging by her sides clenched tightly. She pursed her lips, and fury brewed in her eyes as she gave Nicole a death glare. However, she squashed the blazing anger in her chest as Wendy was still around. "When did this

happen? Why... didn't I hear anything about it?" she said through gritted teeth.

The smile on Wendy's face broadened when she saw the defeated expression Evelyn was wearing. She snorted disdainfully and then answered, "Maybe there's no need to let an outsider know about something between the Wrenn and Gardner Families."

Although it was such a breezy statement, it immediately turned Evelyn's face pale. Even though the public didn't know that she wasn't truly part of the Wrenn Family, Wendy was definitely in the know.

So, she squeezed out a smile as she met Wendy's eyes and said in a flat tone, "I've heard my mother mention it briefly before but didn't expect it to happen so quickly. Congratulations." The words sounded as though they were forced out of her throat—stiff and unpleasant.

Wendy chuckled in amusement as she felt a wave of delight washing over her chest at Evelyn's sullen face. She even deliberately hugged Nicole's arm affectionately as she said haughtily, "You're too kind. Just remember to attend the wedding, okay?" Then, she dragged Nicole and left.

By the time Wendy and Nicole were strolling on the street side-by-side, Wendy couldn't help but turn to her. When she saw the nonchalant look on her face, she asked curiously, "Nicole, aren't you mad that the woman was so provocative earlier?"

A faint smile appeared on Nicole's face, tossing her hair as she answered, "You can't chase after a dog to try and bite it in return after it bit you, can you?"

Wendy felt a great sense of joy in her chest at the analogy Nicole used. Nonetheless, she was still going to drag Nicole to have their meal in another restaurant. When they returned home, Siobhan and Rita were already gone, leaving Anna behind. Regardless, Anna knew that she had a huge task before her as she attentively explained to Nicole the process and flow of the wedding. "The wedding is already set. Although we're a little tight on time, it doesn't affect anything. Let me know if you have anything else to add to this and I'll get it done."

Nicole's eyes flitted across the detailed information Anna presented her. Then, she smiled and shook

her head, saying gently, "Let's do everything according to your arrangements."

Anna flashed her a smile but sighed afterward. "After all that has happened, you guys can finally be together. Hayden has been saying that he misses you and is currently upstairs. Do you want to check on him?"

Nicole ran into Anna the moment she returned home. Thus, her time was utterly occupied with wedding discussions. Once the conversation came to a close, Wendy dragged her out. Hence, she didn't have time to spend some quality time with her son at all. The past few days had been so hectic that she missed her son more than ever.

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1071 A Happy Family - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1071 A Happy Family

Chapter 1071 A Happy Family

In the room, Hayden was curled up in Colton's arms with his head buried, looking a little out of sorts. When he heard the door open, his eyes lit up, and he quickly twisted his head in the direction of the door. The instant he saw that it was Nicole who had entered the room, he jumped out of Colton's arms and dashed into Nicole's embrace. "Mommy." His soft voice was tinged with slight discontent, which melted her heart.

In the past, even though Hayden was young, he was exceptionally mature, and Nicole felt that he lacked the innocence of children his age due to his childhood experiences. Yet, she was gratified to see the spoiled look he now donned that was especially fitting for someone of his age.

Nicole smiled as she crouched down, picked him up, and pinched his soft cheek, saying, "What happened? I'm already home, aren't I? Why do you still look so sad?"

Hayden threw himself into her arms as he snorted softly and whined, "You didn't miss me at all. Instead of coming to see me the first moment you returned, you went out to eat with someone else!"

Nicole giggled and ruffled his dark hair. "Okay, I'm sorry about that. I just wanted to buy some food for you before coming home," she said with a smile and took out the box of cookies she bought from the pastry shop.

Fortunately, she passed by this pastry shop when she was out with Wendy. Hayden had always had a particular fondness for sweet treats. Thus, she reflexively bought a box and placed it in her pocket. Hayden's grumpy face broke into a smile at the sight of the cookies. Then, he didn't even bother waiting as he bounced off with the cookies, tearing the packaging open, and finally enjoying them with a relish.

Colton gazed at Nicole with mirthful eyes and pressed his lips together into a gorgeous smile. Then, he rose to his feet and said, "Accompany him for a while. I'll be waiting for you in the room."

He said the last sentence almost inaudibly, literally breathing those words into her ear. His warm voice and his breath tickled her ear and it instantly turned bright pink. Nicole shot a look at the inappropriate Colton and held herself back from telling him off because a child was present. After Colton left, she started coaxing Hayden to bed. At a little past 10.00PM, he finally drifted off to sleep amidst her soft, gentle coos, but his arms refused to let go of her even after falling asleep.

Eventually, she helplessly sent a text to Colton, 'Mr. Gardner, I'm sorry but your son won't let me go. I'm afraid it's impossible tonight.'

Right after she sent the text, she received one from him, 'It's unbearable to be in a room alone. Every single minute is torture.'

She could already sense that he was flirting with her based on his reply, and she pursed her lips to stifle her giggles as her eyes crinkled into crescents. Then, she lowered her head, held her phone, and started typing in reply, 'Sorry. Your son is more important.'

She didn't receive any reply from him after a long while and reckoned that he might have fallen asleep already. Therefore, she set her phone aside without further ado and made herself comfortable. Alas, just as she was about to drift off to the land of dreams, she heard the door softly creaking open.

Her eyes darted toward the door and happened to see Colton poking his head in. Then, he tried his level best to move about like a ninja as he sneaked into the room. Frankly, Nicole almost burst into laughter at the cautious way he was carrying himself, but she had to smother her laughter because Hayden was fast asleep.

On the other hand, Colton shiftily made his way over to her side. Even though it was Hayden's room, the Gardners had generously given him a king-sized bed, so even when Colton climbed into the bed, it was far from cramped.

Chapter 1072 Jealous of His Son

Right after Colton climbed into the bed, he naturally moved closer to his family. His chest was broad and warm, and he exuded a unique manly scent that made Nicole a little shy. So, she squirmed as she blushed and whispered, "Stay a little further away, and don't come so close."

Colton merely smirked as he pulled her entirely into his embrace. Worried that she would shriek in surprise, she hurriedly covered her mouth. Once she had calmed down, she turned to him under the cover of the darkness and glared at him. "Stop fooling around," she chided in a low whisper. "Our son is still asleep!" Although Hayden had just fallen asleep, he was a deep sleeper and wasn't the least bit disturbed by the adults' shenanigans.

Colton hugged Nicole as he used his foot to shimmy the blanket to a grabbing distance and covered it over them. Then, he placed his chin on her shoulder and whispered into her ear, "Let's sleep like this. Gosh, I'm so tired. Goodnight." After he finished speaking, he closed his eyes.

Nicole's eyes grew large at his bold behavior. She was completely stuck in his embrace and couldn't even move a muscle. How could she sleep in this position? Thus, she squirmed as she wanted to break free from his embrace, but before she could wriggle out, she heard his husky voice, threatening, "Nicole, I might just do something drastic if you keep moving around."

This was enough to subdue her instantly because she could vividly feel something on her back; not only was his hot body behind hers but also his desires from the lower half of his body. She flushed crimson as she mumbled hotly, "You're a beast!"

He chuckled softly and retorted, "Only to you."

Thanks for all the love from you, really! She thought that she wouldn't be able to fall asleep when

Colton so stubbornly forced her into this position. Yet, to her surprise, sleepiness shrouded her mind without her realization, and she fell asleep before she could even think of anything else.

When she woke up, she saw a pair of dark, round eyes looking at her. Her lashes fluttered as her mind slowly awakened from her slumber, and she quickly identified the owner of those eyes was none other than Hayden.

The instant Hayden saw that she was awake, he pouted and grumbled, "Mommy, you promised that you would sleep with me, but you asked Daddy to join us! And you guys were so mean, hugging each other to sleep and leaving me out."

The innocent words of a child turned her cheeks scarlet, and she wriggled a little. Colton was clearly still behind her, but his arms had loosened overnight, and she took this opportunity to slip out before holding Hayden in her arms.

A look of disappointment flashed in Colton's eyes when he felt the emptiness in his arms, and he propped himself on his elbow, leaning his muscular body against the headboard of the bed. Then, he side-eyed Hayden and said in displeasure, "You should look for a wife for yourself if you want someone to sleep with. Your mother already has me and can't accompany you." His deep voice was even huskier from just waking up in the morning and it echoed across the room like music to the ears.

The moment the last word left his lips, Nicole pinched him mercilessly on the back of his waist. "Don't spout nonsense! Hayden is still a kid!" How could he speak anything on his mind without thinking?

He chuckled sheepishly as he reached out his arm and placed it on her waist. Hayden merely watched with rounded eyes and snickered, "Childish." Then, he rolled off the bed and headed into the bathroom.

Nicole couldn't stop herself from laughing at Colton being called childish by a kid. So, she hugged his arm as she teased mercilessly, "How could you be jealous of your son? Are you turning into a child as you age?"

Alas, there wasn't even a trace of guilt on his face as he hugged her around the waist and muttered, "Yes, I'm jealous. I don't care. It doesn't matter even if he's my son."

Chapter 1073 Approval From Benedict

After saying that, Colton felt Nicole's belly with his hand, and a different light danced in his eyes. Inching closer to her, he said in a deep, affectionate voice, "Nicole, when are you giving me a daughter?"

All of a sudden, Nicole's face turned bright red. Her fair skin immediately turned scarlet, and she looked like an overripe tomato. Reaching out, she removed his palm, rolled out of the bed, and croaked, "Stop fooling around. I'm going to check on Hayden." After saying that, she quickly scurried away.

It felt a little odd to him that his arms were now empty after feeling the warmth from earlier, and he smirked without another word while watching Nicole, who was already in the bathroom.

In the next three days, they were almost inseparable. Colton basked himself in her company and almost didn't show up at the office, only using the computer for a few online conferences occasionally.

Seeing how bored he was, Nicole couldn't help but ask, "Is it okay for you to be away from the company for such a long time?" Including the time he was abroad, it had been about two weeks since she last saw him going to the company.

Looking into her eyes, he grinned and asked, "Why? Are you afraid that I'll become bankrupt and can't afford to support you two?"

Raising her brows, Nicole held his chin and said in amusement, "I'm rich. If you really become bankrupt, you can count on me and I'll promise you a comfortable life."

Colton knew that this woman wasn't kidding. Previously, he already checked and found out that she had gathered quite a few assets over the years and was almost at par with him. Looks like she has a

high earning power, he thought. "Okay, I would like to rely on my wife for support, then," he said in a flirtatious tone without any shame, approaching her.

While they were flirting with each other, someone cleared his throat behind them. Like a startled rabbit, Nicole jumped out of Colton's arms and they turned their heads to find Benedict behind them.

After that operation, Benedict's health improved greatly, and even though he still needed a walking stick to move around, he seemed more energetic and full of life. Narrowing his eyes, he said solemnly, "Get a room if you want to make out during the day."

Seeing how serious Benedict was, Colton answered with a straight face, "I got it, Grandpa. We're going into our room now."

Benedict threw him an annoyed glare and turned to Nicole. An odd look flashed in his eyes, and after a while, he began slowly, "Nicole, there's something I would like to tell you. Are you... free?" He was cautious, as though he was worried that she would turn him down.

Nicole knew that he was still worried about what happened in the past, and it was undeniable that things were quite bad after what happened with William. Smiling, she nodded. "Okay."

Standing in the same spot, Colton didn't stop her and watched as she walked away with Benedict into the courtyard. Although it was a little chilly today, there was some sun in the morning and it didn't feel that cold to be outside in just a long-sleeved top.

Next to Benedict, Nicole lowered her head quietly and stood there obediently. After some time, he slowly said, "Nicole, your wedding is drawing close, but I have nothing for you." As he spoke, he took out a red leather box from his pocket. Shoving it into her hands, he continued, "This is something from the Gardner Family. Take it and use it."

Looking at the box in her hand, she opened it a little and saw that a red gemstone the size of a pigeon egg was resting inside.

Chapter 1074 Returning to the Gould Family

The color of the gemstone was highly pure, and it sparkled brightly under the sunlight, shining beautifully. Even though Nicole knew that this stone was priceless, she didn't return it and pursed her lips, accepting with a nod. "Thank you, Grandpa."

When Benedict saw that she didn't show any dislike toward it, he chuckled heartily and his aged face was folded with wrinkles. Then, he sighed. "I was wrong in the past, but now, my only wish is for you and Colton to be happy together."

Nodding, she sincerely said, "Thank you, Grandpa."

With nothing more to say after giving her the present, Benedict left with the help of the walking stick. Initially, Nicole wanted to help him back, but the stubborn old man turned her down. Hence, she saw him off before returning to her room.

Anna had been so busy these days with the wedding preparations that she was barely at home. The news that the Gardners and the Wrenns were going to be relatives spread out in Lumore like a bushfire. One was the most influential family in the country while the other owned one of the biggest companies in the world, and this marriage of the century would inevitably make the two families even stronger. Three days before the wedding, Nicole had to pack her stuff and move into the Gould Residence for a few days because of the agreement with Rita.

When Colton held her in his arms, reluctant to see her go, only then did she realize that this man had this side of him. Giggling softly, she sighed and said, "It's not like I'm not coming back again. I'm just staying there for a couple of days. Come and pick me up on our wedding day."

"Okay," he answered.

Colton was the one who drove her to the Gould Residence. Today, Rita looked exceptionally vibrant in a dark blue long dress and impeccable hair. Besides Siobhan, Jackson and Gabriel were there as well. The whole time, Nicole maintained a good mannerism on her face and greeted everyone politely, albeit sounding a little formal. A look of disappointment flashed over Siobhan's eyes, but she didn't say anything about it.

Noticing that the atmosphere was a little awkward, Gabriel stepped forward and gently said, "You're getting married to Colton in three days, Nicole. Just live here during this period. Dad, Mom, and I will be around, and you can come to us directly if you need anything."

Nicole had always thought of Gabriel as an amicable person carrying the elegance of an upperclassman with a touch of toughness he gained from military training. Smiling, she nodded in reply. "Okay. Thank you, Mr. Wrenn."

Gabriel's voice was gentle, and although hearing that she addressed him formally, he didn't insist that she acknowledge him as her brother. "Let's eat first. Mom has specially cooked for us today and you should give it a try."

Accepting his invitation, Nicole followed him into the dining room and saw that Evelyn was at the table, too. However, she pulled a long face through the meal and looked rather unhappy with her lowered head without uttering a single word.

They finished the meal in an awkward environment and Gabriel led Nicole upstairs. "You'll be staying in the same room as before and the professionals will be here in the next couple of days for your wedding dress fitting. Also, you can choose the makeup artist and hairstylist that you like," he said while helping her to unpack. Something popped up in his mind, and he added, "Dad said that you'll be holding two

wedding banquets with Colton and the one in the country will be held first. The Wrenns will hold another wedding banquet abroad after some time. What do you think?"

Looking away from him, she gently balled up her fists at her sides. After a few seconds, she raised her head. "I think we can forget it. I'm here today because of Old Mrs. Gould, but I have nothing to do with the Wrenn Family."

Gabriel was quiet, aware that Nicole was acting this way because of what Evelyn did the last time. A helpless smile appeared on his face. "It was Evelyn's fault for what happened before, and Mom was on her side biasedly."

Chapter 1075 Trouble Comes Knocking

Nicole did not respond to any of the things Gabriel said. So, he continued, "It's true that the Anderson Family deliberately mixed up the newborns all those years ago, but neither of you should be blamed for it. Evelyn has spent so many years with the Wrenns, and naturally, there is mutual affection. Her mother couldn't bear to see her suffer in prison, so she resorted to this absurd act."

Nicole cast her gaze downward, and a faint bitter smile slowly appeared on her face as she spoke in a measured tone, "I have no right to blame Madam Gould either, but I'll also uphold my own choices. As I have already stated, I'll no longer be a part of the Wrenn Family, so let's just forget about the wedding banquet."

Gabriel did not push any further upon witnessing her unwavering resolve. Instead, he simply replied, "Alright, I will inform my father about your decision. Rest well. I'll be staying at the Gould Residence for the next few days. If you

need anything, don't hesitate to call out for me." He then left the room without a moment's hesitation.

Nicole watched as Gabriel walked away, feeling a mix of emotions. It was baffling how two individuals could have such contrasting personalities despite growing up in the same family. Gabriel was gentle, refined, and carried himself with an air of nobility, while his sister, Evelyn, was willing to go to any lengths to achieve her goals.

Nicole's expression turned somewhat lonely sitting on the edge of the bed as she lost herself in her thoughts. Suddenly, the door swung open. Nicole looked up just to see Evelyn standing there, clad in all black. Coldness filled Nicole's dark eyes, and she remained silent.

Evelyn tightly gripped the doorframe as she was consumed by her anger. The entire company and even the internet were buzzing with news about Nicole and Colton's wedding. It kept her awake all

night. Why? Why? Why would Colton choose to marry Nicole?

Evelyn bit her lip, drowning in her hatred. In that instant, a hint of strangeness flickered in her eyes. She gritted her teeth, locked eyes with Nicole, and sneered, "I wonder whom it was, acting all noble, claiming she wouldn't acknowledge the Wrenns anymore. And now, look who's back, shamelessly parading around?"

Despite Evelyn's sarcastic remarks, Nicole remained calm and composed. She adjusted her clothes with poise and spoke in a light tone, "Nevertheless, I'm still Madam Gould's and Old Mr. Wrenn's biological daughter, even if I choose not to acknowledge it. Unlike someone here, who only gained her current life after being switched at birth. Not only has she failed to learn her lesson, but she also continues to look for trouble."

Evelyn's face flushed with anger. She did not want to admit that she was William's daughter. She was seething with rage in response to Nicole's words as she clenched her fists tightly. She retorted through gritted teeth, "Stop spouting nonsense! I'm Young Lady Evelyn of the Wrenn Family!"

Nicole let out a soft chuckle tinged with irony upon witnessing Evelyn's reaction. She found it amusing that poor Evelyn lacked the courage to embrace her true identity. Nicole fixed her gaze on the person before her and

teased, "Evelyn, you truly are a pitiful sight. You can't even muster the bravery to acknowledge who you really are."

Evelyn, who was no longer capable of containing her frustration, clenched her teeth. She had approached Nicole, intending to humiliate her, but now the situation had turned against her, leaving her feeling ashamed. How the tables had turned.

However, Evelyn was not one to back down easily. She tightened her fists and let out a cold snort,

determined to hold her ground. "Don't try to divert the topic. You're nothing but a petty thief, who steals someone else's happiness! Let me tell you, Nicole, it doesn't matter if Colton chooses to marry you. Men like him have no shortage of women. Do you honestly believe you can keep him interested for long?"

Evelyn's eyes burned with fury as she continued her tirade. "You've only known him for less than a year. Do you truly understand him? He was once passionately in love with Sasha. They had a whirlwind romance that lasted for two years, but what happened afterward? He completely forgot about her and did not even bat an eye when she died right before his eyes. Can you honestly believe that a man as cold-hearted as him can love you for a lifetime?"

Chapter 1076 Work Together

Nicole seemed unusually calm at Evelyn's questioning and laughed lightly while holding her hands together. "How is it your business whether I believe it or not?"

Evelyn's face abruptly turned pale and she clenched her fists so hard that her fingernails embedded into her palm painfully. "I was just being generous by telling you that. Nicole, don't think too highly of yourself. Why don't you shamelessly continue your role as the Wrenn Family heiress? Colton might not abandon you after you become valuable and useful."

Nicole stared at the nearly hysterical woman in front of her. She is truly insane.

Laughing softly, Nicole looked up at Evelyn and slowly enunciated, "No matter how Colton and I will be in the future, it will concern just the two of us. We don't need outsiders to poke their noses in."

Evelyn bit her lip, becoming more enraged by Nicole's serene demeanor. Why? Why is Nicole so calm despite what I said?

"Men can only be interested for three years at most. Nicole, just wait. See if Colton will be this attracted to you when you don't have any value anymore!"

"Oh, you don't have to worry about that. It's none of your business whether or not he loves me," Nicole replied lightly before her tone changed and an amused look came into her eyes. "At least we can confirm something—Colton will never be interested in you."

Nicole stroked her chin as if recalling something. After thinking for a moment, she went on, "Oh yes. I remember you saved Colton before. See? Even if you saved him, you don't have the right to stand at his side. Sasha can't win him over but at least she was with him before. Evelyn, don't you think you are pathetic?"

Nicole's every word struck Evelyn forcefully in the heart, making the latter's face turn stony. She couldn't find any word to refute Nicole.

Nicole continued gathering her things with a laugh. "All right. I have to clean my room. Miss Wrenn, please go home if you have no other business here. You might have to come to our wedding in three days."

Evelyn stared angrily at Nicole but eventually turned and left without saying anything, while Nicole lowered her head and started packing her things unconcernedly.

After Evelyn left, she returned to her room and pulled out her phone. She rang a number and gripped tightly on her phone as she gritted out, "Stick to the original plan!"

She would never allow Nicole to marry Colton. At that thought, a cruel look of decisiveness came into her eyes.

Oh, Nicole, if you have to blame something, blame the fact that you have made too many enemies. So what if you dealt with Sasha? There are so many people who hate you.

After Queenie hung up, a cold sneer appeared on her lips. She had already invited Evelyn to work together before, but the arrogant heiress had always

behaved scornfully. However, Evelyn had suddenly come to her senses due to the popularly discussed wedding between Nicole and Colton, thus inviting Queenie to work with her. Queenie was living a pitiful meaningless life thanks to Nicole, so she wasn't going to let Nicole get married to him so easily!

"Queenie, how're things now? Has Evelyn agreed to it?" Surprise and delight flashed in Lydia's eyes.

She had planned to go overseas to avoid any trouble, but William had done something like that, not to mention Queenie didn't have the help of the Gardner Family. The Anderson Family had thus become bankrupt overnight; their home was sealed up and even their bank accounts had been frozen. As a result, she didn't even have the chance to go overseas. Fortunately, Queenie had a pretty figure which allowed her to date men in order to sustain Lydia's and Queenie's lifestyle.

Chapter 1077 Trying On Makeup

"Yes. Nicole offended many people and they want her dead!" A cruel look came into Queenie's eyes. She had already sent out her people; Nicole would be kidnapped the moment she stepped out of the Wrenn Residence.

Lydia naturally despised Nicole deeply and wished to tear Nicole to pieces. It's because of the b*tch that I have to live such a horrible life now. If Lydia ever went out and was seen by passers-by, every one of them would hurl insults at her. She had had enough of this and would make Nicole pay the price by plunging her into darkness just when Nicole was at her happiest. I want her dead. I want her to die a horrible death!

"We must make the b*tch pay!" Lydia gritted out.

Queenie reached out and held both Lydia's hands, reassuring her, "Mom, don't worry. I've found three men to do the deed. I refuse to believe that Colton will still be interested in a woman who has been tainted by other men!"

Colton always had a high sense of morality and consequently also high expectations of his partner. If he knew that Nicole had been with other men, he would never want her anymore. Queenie couldn't wait any longer and just wanted Nicole to pay for everything!

The entire Gould residence became busy due to the impending wedding between Nicole and Colton.

Nicole had to try on wedding dresses and make-up looks. For the past few days, the moment she woke up, she would be settled before the mirror where she stared at her ethereally-styled self in confusion. She carefully counted down the days; she would be married to Colton the day after tomorrow. The thought made her heart thump. Even if she was already prepared to marry him, she still felt lost and anxious as the day approached.

However, Evelyn had been unusually quiet and didn't come looking for trouble. Even if Evelyn ran into Nicole in the Gould Residence, Evelyn would pretend she hadn't seen Nicole. Nicole had assumed Evelyn couldn't tolerate Nicole being with Colton and thus do something. Has Evelyn really let go? she wondered.

"Nicole." A warm elderly voice spoke, and Nicole turned toward the source by habit before realizing that it was Rita.

Standing up, Nicole held up the skirt of her wedding dress slightly and walked two steps forward to support the old lady. "Hi. Do you need anything?"

Rita's eyes became half-lidded as she looked at Nicole with some sentiment. She placed a hand on Nicole's wrist with a smile. "Nothing. I'm just here to look at you. You look so pretty in the wedding dress."

Nicole nodded with a smile and thanked her. "Thank you, Mrs. Gould."

Rita looked at her sentimentally. "You've suffered so much in the past. I don't care what other people think; I just know that you are my granddaughter and I want to give you the best. I want you to get married in a grand fashion."

Nicole felt touched and held back her tears.

After some thought, Rita continued, "Once you are done trying on your makeup, go out with me later."

Nicole didn't ask where Rita was going and immediately agreed. "Alright."

When Nicole was done, she took up her wedding gown and went downstairs where Rita was already waiting for her. The old lady appeared mysterious. "Nicole, I'm taking you to see something amazing."

Nicole smiled and agreed to what old Mrs. Gould said. "Alright."

The two of them went out together once they had packed up their things. Rita was about to call a driver to take them out, but Nicole didn't call one considering she could drive. Rita then gave her an address which led to a shop on a busy street. Nicole had heard its name before and it was said to only customize jewelry for noble families.

Chapter 1078 A Gift From Rita

The pair arrived at the jewelry store. Even though it was located on the most bustling street, it was decorated plainly. The mahogany door revealed a hint of elegance.

Nicole helped Rita ascend the stairs. The moment the duo came into view, the owner enthusiastically greeted them.

"What brings you here, Old Mrs. Gould? It's been a while!" The owner flattered them with a wide smile on his face.

Rita pulled Nicole to the counter and introduced her to the owner, "I remember you telling me that you have a rainbow bracelet in your store. This is my granddaughter. She's getting married soon, so I brought her here to see the bracelet. I'll buy it if she likes it."

The owner glanced at Nicole before turning his attention to Rita and smiled. "This must be Miss Nicole. I was told she's marrying a Gardner, isn't she? The entire country knows about the news."

"Enough talk. Let us have a look at the bracelet. You have a deal if she likes it." Even though Rita was old, she still behaved like a child.

The owner nodded before turning around to reach for his safe box. He took out a small box from the back of the safe box and presented it to Rita before explaining, "This is a rare bracelet. Therefore, it's slightly more expensive than the other goods."

Rita glared at him before replying, "What are you implying? Do you think I can't afford it?"

He quickly shook his head upon hearing that. "I don't, Old Mrs. Gould. Nobody will ever doubt your

spending power. However, the bracelet is indeed a little pricier than my other goods. Many customers were interested in this piece of jewelry, but they thought the bracelet wasn't worth this much. Thus, they ended up leaving without purchasing it."

Rita took the box and opened it before presenting it to Nicole, thereafter asking for her opinion. "Take a look at this, Nicole. What do you think?"

Nicole looked down at the box. She had doubts when she listened to the store owner's explanation before seeing the bracelet herself. Now that she had the opportunity, she found that the bracelet was made of seven natural gemstones.

Moreover, a jadeite cabochon shining in brilliant green was mounted in the center, which explained its price. Each gemstone on the bracelet cost a fortune, not to mention there were seven on the bracelet. Besides, the stones were polished to the same size. A platinum chain carved with antique patterns connected them all.

It wasn't extravagant but was very eye-catching. Everyone would fall for it at first glance.

"You're right. It's not an easy task to polish the gemstones into the same size and without inclusions," Nicole remarked. After working in the fashion industry for years, she was no stranger to jewelry. She considered the bracelet in her palm to be among the top jewelry she ever came across.

"All right. We'll take this one. I always knew there was such a bracelet in the store, and I thought it would suit you. I can't wait to see you wearing it during your wedding." As Nicole had shown interest in the bracelet, Rita handed her card over to the store owner without hesitation.

Since she was so ready to pay, the owner took the card and checked it out on the POS machine. She didn't even ask about the price!

After Rita paid for the bracelet, she put the bracelet around Nicole's wrist. She studied the bracelet through her narrowed eyes and was pleased by what she saw. "The bracelet sets off your ivory skin. I'm not bragging, but you can always count on my taste."

Nicole accepted Rita's kind gesture without resistance as the elderly woman put the bracelet around Nicole's wrist.

The pair left after Rita paid for the bracelet. Tilting her head, Nicole studied the joyful expression on Rita's face before asking in a soft voice, "Old Mrs. Gould, did you come all this way only to buy the bracelet for me?"

Rita nodded. "That's right. I've been thinking about buying it for you since the owner told me about the bracelet. Consider it as a wedding gift from me."

Nicole said nothing more. Instead, she flashed Rita a grateful smile. "Thank you, Old Mrs. Gould."

The two made small talk as they walked over to the car when a group of people showed up from nowhere. Before the duo could react, the men already lunged at Nicole.

Chapter 1079 Will He Still Want You?

Rita was no stranger to such a crisis. As the men dragged Nicole away, she immediately shouted at them.

"Back off! Nicole is the granddaughter of the Gould Family and the future Mrs. Gardner! Aren't you afraid of the consequences? We'll come after you!"

The kidnappers wore balaclavas to conceal their identities. For a moment, Rita's angry face rooted their feet to the ground.

However, the head of the gang could tell it was a bluff. Thus, he barked an order at his lackeys. "Stop talking. Just take the girl and go."

At that, the men began to take Nicole away. Rita stepped in to stop them, but she was considered weak at this age compared to the strong men. As soon as she touched them, a man shoved her to the ground.

Rita screamed, "Somebody, help! These men are trying to kidnap a person!" Her voice was loud and clear, grabbing nearby pedestrians' attention.

Her resistance annoyed one of the men. He threw a punch at her head, knocking her unconscious within a second.

Watching Rita fall to the ground, Nicole panicked. She warned the men, "I'm the daughter of the Wrenn Family. You're laying a finger on me, eh? Do you have a death wish?"

However, there was no turning back at this point. Nicole was trapped between two men with no room to

move. Anger coated her expression as she watched the elderly woman lying on the ground.

The men dragged her toward the car. When the right time came, Nicole jumped. Before the men could react, she raised her knee and kicked one of the men in the crotch.

The man's face twisted in pain, and she managed to slip away from his grasp when he wasn't paying attention.

Nicole hurried over to Rita's side. These men are strong. What if their punch kills her?

Fortunately, Nicole could feel Rita's fluttering pulse, indicating the elderly woman was only unconscious. The former sighed in relief when the man began to stride over to her.

I can't leave her like this and run off alone!

She raised her chin to watch the man and coldly remarked, "Kidnapping me means opposing the Wrenn Family, the Gould Family, and the Gardner Family."

The man wasn't expecting Nicole to be this calm in such a situation. Narrowing his eyes, he regarded her before scoffing. "We took the job. We know what we are facing."

Nicole watched the man with a stern look in her eyes. He has made up his mind. I stand no chance of convincing him.

After removing her coat, she put it under Rita's head before rising to her feet. "Fine. I'll go with you, then. Don't hurt her."

The man was taken aback by her sudden cooperation. Meanwhile, the man who got kicked gritted his teeth, his face contorting in anger as his eyes landed on her. "Boss, don't listen to her! She is tougher than you think."

The leader waved a hand at his men. At his gesture, the men shoved Nicole into the car.

As the car drove away, people gathered around Rita. Nicole sighed in relief at the sight. She did a quick check-up on Rita a few moments ago and knew that she was fine. She'll be okay after receiving professional medical treatment in the hospital.

A while later, a man on the side suddenly took out a handkerchief to cover her nose and mouth. Nicole allowed him. Soon, her vision blurred before she passed out in her seat and fell into a dreamless sleep.

Nicole woke up to find herself in a dark room. Her hands and feet were bound with ropes. There was no chance she could get her limbs out of it.

Even so, she tried to wriggle her hands. After a few fruitless attempts, she gave up.

"How are you feeling, my dear sister?" Suddenly, she heard an overly sweet voice. She raised her head in that direction and found Queenie.

Watching the tied-up woman, Queenie leaned closer. Smiling from ear to ear, she drawled, "Nicole, I wonder if Colton will still want you after a group of men defiled you?"

Chapter 1080 Untying Nicole

Nicole's face showed no hint of panic. When her eyes met Queenie's, Queenie read calmness within them.

Even more, Nicole arched her brows as if she found Queenie's attempt silly. She mocked, "What is it about, Queenie? You're pathetic, you know? Just because Colton won't reciprocate your feelings, you forbid others from receiving his affection."

Nicole's words hit a sore spot, which resulted in Queenie's contorted face. Glaring daggers at Nicole, Queenie spoke through gritted teeth, "You'll be begging in tears in a few moments, Nicole. I can't wait to see the men humiliate you!"

A cold look flashed across Nicole's eyes. She haughtily raised her chin and narrowed her eyes. Her gaze was boring into Queenie.

"Queenie, I wouldn't make such a poor decision if I were you. I'm no longer an Anderson. I belong to the Wrenn Family and am about to marry Colton. They'll come after you if they find out what you did."

Nicole's calm expression irritated Queenie even more. A lunatic smile was plastered to her face as she spat venom at Nicole. "Why? Why do I have to live a miserable life and you get to enjoy the luxuries?!"

Queenie grabbed Nicole's chin and forced the woman to look her in the eyes. Nicole didn't miss the malicious glint in Queenie's eyes.

Queenie was living a tolerable life as Brian's kept woman until his wife discovered their affair. The woman beat her up and almost disfigured her. She was hospitalized for a month before she got discharged from the hospital.

As the Anderson Family fell apart, Lydia's savings weren't enough to sustain their daily lives. It was spent within a few days. Now, the mother and daughter were cornered. Their enemies' revenge was nothing compared to starving to death.

Queenie envied Nicole for becoming the daughter of the Wrenn Family, who was out of everyone's reach. She also envied Nicole for being able to marry Colton, and that Nicole had everyone's best wishes in the matter.

She doesn't deserve happiness! I won't allow it! If I'm meant to rot in hell, she's coming with me.

Nicole watched Queenie without a word. Instead, she tried to reach the knot of the ropes, so she could break out of it to escape.

After taking out her anger on Nicole, Queenie stood taller. She looked at Nicole one last time before turning to the entrance and shouted, "Come in."

As soon as she finished her words, four strong men came into the room. The men were wearing improper clothes with gold chains around their necks. It was obvious that they were thugs.

Queenie glanced at the group of men before pointing at Nicole. "This woman belongs to you now. You can do anything to her."

The men sized Nicole up. Her curvy body and pretty face amazed them. Today's our lucky day! Who would've thought we'd get paid and get laid at the same time?

"Yes, madam! You can count on us."

Queenie fixed Nicole with a stern glare. I'd like to see you break apart, Nicole. I bet you won't last a minute in such a situation.

Nicole tilted her head and found a video camera in front of her. She's desperate to ruin my life.

Suppressing the anger in her eyes, she began to struggle with the ropes. She forced herself to calm down and concentrate on getting out. However, her knots were tied very tightly, so she stood no chance of breaking them.

Watching the approaching men, Nicole put on a gentle smile. She wiggled her tied hands behind her back and addressed the men in a coquettish manner, "Can you untie me? It's uncomfortable in this position."

Her words took the men aback. They were expecting Nicole to resist and that they would have to force her. However, she was surprisingly cooperative.

The men exchanged looks, trying to find answers from their companions' faces. At last, one of the men couldn't help but break the silence. "She's up to something. She must be!"

Nicole put on a smile and raised her face. Her bright eyes fixed on them, making her look all innocent. Then, she chuckled. "I'm not. Compared to muscular men like you, I'm a defenseless woman. How can I possibly beat you?"

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Chapter 1081 You Need to Help Nicole!

Nicole's words instantly convinced the men. She's right. We're four people against one woman. She does not stand a chance against us.

At that, the men extended their hands and helped Nicole untie the ropes.

Nicole looked down at the marks around her wrists before wriggling them slowly. I got tied up so tightly. My wrists hurt.

"Gorgeous, let's not waste any more time. Shall we begin?" The men swallowed at the sight of Nicole's pretty face.

Raising her head, she watched them without a word of resistance. A smile split her face as she rotated her wrists. "What's the rush? My body is sore after being bound in the same position for a long time."

Then, she began to move around before their eyes.

The men might have seen a lot in their lives, but Nicole's antics truly baffled them. They turned to each other, wondering the same thing. What is she doing?

At that point, one of the men lost his patience. He walked over to her and pulled her by the arm, muttering, "Enough talk!"

As soon as the words left him, Nicole tapped on his neck. Then, she applied a little pressure onto her fingertip, sending the man to the ground.

Nicole struck him fast and hard, taking the men by surprise.

Once they came to realize Nicole's intentions, the men got ready for a fight. She can take a man out within a few seconds. We shouldn't underestimate her!

Watching the wary men, Nicole smirked and crooked her finger, beckoning them over. "You can bring it on all at once."

There was no time to give it any thought. The men simply lunged at her. However, Nicole skillfully knocked out her opponents. At last, she threw her last opponent over her shoulder, sending the man crashing to the ground.

The men were thugs who never had professional training, after all. They only honed their skills over years of street fighting. Thus, they were no match for Nicole's dexterity.

Queenie and Lydia were monitoring the situation in the room in front of a computer. They were surprised to find a commotion breaking out in the room.

Lydia gritted her teeth before speaking, venom lining her tone, "Since when did she become so good at combat?"

Queenie suppressed the panic within her and replied with flushed cheeks, "Mom, now isn't the time to discuss this. What a bunch of idiots! What makes them think untying her was a good idea? Now look at the mess we're in!"

Lydia couldn't help but worry. "What are we supposed to do?"

At first, the duo planned to take a lewd video of Nicole and blackmail her later. However, their plan had gone south. Not only did they fail to capture a video, Nicole even subdued her supposed assaulters.

We can't back out right now. Nicole will come after us once she returns.

Queenie was aware of it too. Her eyes darkened and her fingers clenched on her sides. The thugs she found were no threats to Nicole compared to the men Evelyn found to kidnap Nicole.

Queenie never expected Nicole to be a skillful fighter.

Queenie tried her best to calm down. "Don't worry, Mom," she commented. "It's a confined room. She's locked inside. Even if Nicole manages to knock them out, she can't escape. I'll tell Evelyn about our situation and ask her to send some people."

I can't send more men who are no match for her into the room. I can't allow her the opportunity to escape. All I can do for the time being is trap her inside the room and seek Evelyn's advice.

...

Meanwhile, in the hospital.

The pedestrians sent Rita to the hospital after they found her passed out on the ground. After finding out Rita was sent to the hospital, the Goulds rushed over to visit her.

Even Colton visited her in the hospital.

The moment she woke up, Rita screamed, "S-Someone needs to help Nicole!"

Colton's eyes darkened at the statement. He suppressed the anger rising within him before asking in a low voice, "Old Mrs. Gould, what happened to Nicky?"

Rita just woke up, but she forced the words out of her dry throat. "S-She was kidnapped."

Chapter 1082 A GPS Tracker

The news shocked the people gathered around Rita's bed. Siobhan helped Rita to drink a glass of water. Once Rita was calmer, Siobhan asked with a stern expression, "Mom, what exactly is going on?"

Rita was feeling better after taking some time to calm down. Thus, she explained what happened. "Nicole and I went shopping. After we left the place, a group of men appeared from nowhere and kidnapped her. The men knocked me out, so I have no idea what happened to her next."

The room lapsed into silence after she said those words.

Gabriel looked pensive when he heard the news. He cast a glance at Evelyn out of habit. Finding no uneasiness in her expression, he forced himself to not suspect her.

Colton pursed his lips. He was radiating a coldness that showed in his aura. Casting his eyes to the ground, he was surprised to hear himself calmly asking, "Did you see who they are?"

Rita nodded before musing for a while. "They're a group of bulky men. I reckon they're trained fighters. Someone must've hired them to kidnap Nicole. I don't know the specifics, though."

Fatigue got to Rita as she recalled the situation. After all, she was aging. Such an experience was too much for her to handle. Even though she had recovered, her head was still spinning after that punch.

Narrowing her eyes, she pondered for a moment before raising a hand to dismiss the others. "It's getting stuffy in the room when everybody's around. You guys can wait outside."

After that, she turned to Gabriel and Colton before ordering in a hoarse voice, "Colton, Gabriel, both of you stay. I have something to tell you."

Given the situation, Siobhan saw no point in arguing with Rita. Thus, she took Evelyn with her before she left the room.

Rita struggled to sit upright. Gabriel immediately helped her into a sitting position before he whispered, "Do you wish to speak to us in private, Grandma?"

Rita nodded and said, "Go to the jewelry store. The bracelet I gifted Nicole is expensive, so a mini-GPS tracker was attached to it. I got all excited about giving her a present, so I forgot to take out the tracker."

Her words gave Colton hope and he immediately asked, "Is it the jewelry store on Merchant Street?"

Nodding again, Rita urged them, "Get going! Find the store owner!"

The pair nodded. Just when they were heading to the exit, Rita called out from behind them.

"By the way, Gabriel, don't tell Evelyn or your mother about what I've said."

Gabriel paused. The idea of Rita having doubts due to what happened before came to his mind. He promised with a bitter smile, "I understand. I won't tell them."

He had talked to Evelyn more than once before this.

I hope Evelyn isn't involved, or else not even our family can save her this time.

As soon as the duo left the ward, Evelyn approached them. Tugging at Gabriel's sleeve, she looked at

him with innocent eyes. A worried look fell on her face. "Gabriel, how is Grandma doing?"

Trying his best to contain his doubts, Gabriel shook his head and answered, "She's fine. She'll recover soon."

Evelyn pretended to sigh in relief. A small smile flashed across her face as she replied, "I won't keep you, Gabriel. You should go find Nicole. She and Collie are going to marry soon. It won't do both families any good if she is captured by someone else."

Gabriel studied Evelyn's perfectly disguised expression. Her innocent look convinced him and he signed in relief. Evelyn has nothing to do with this. She has moved on.

Colton turned around. His unfathomable gaze landed on Evelyn's face for a moment before he withdrew his gaze. Then, he turned to Gabriel and suggested, "Let's go. Old Mrs. Gould has provided enough information for our search for Nicky."

The smile on Evelyn's face froze. Her fingertips flinched as the thought startled her. Suppressing the panic that rose within her, she forced a smile. "Can I come with you, Gabriel? I'm worried about Nicole too."

Chapter 1083 They Found Nicole's Location

As soon as the question left Evelyn, Colton fixed her a cold glare. It sent shivers down her spine.

Watching her, Gabriel patted her shoulder before commenting in a low voice, "You are needed by Mom's and Grandma's sides. Colton and I can handle it on our own."

Colton continued to stare at Evelyn. At the same moment, a group of uniformed people, which consisted of both men and women, rushed into the corridor and lined up in front of them.

Turning his gaze to Siobhan, Colton explained, "Madam Gould, that person kidnapped Nicky on purpose. However, I have no idea whether they're coming after the Wrenn Family or the Gould Family. Thus, I brought in experts to ensure your family's safety. Our priority is to find her. We'll figure everything out later."

After studying the well-trained people from head to toe, Siobhan accepted Colton's gesture. After all, someone was indeed responsible for Nicole's abduction and Rita's injury during their trip out.

A faint smile ghosted her lips. She raised her head and met his eyes. "Thank you. You're very thoughtful."

Evelyn's expression sank at the sight of Siobhan taking Colton's offer. He isn't doing it to protect us! They're here to watch me!

Evelyn was well aware that Colton would suspect her of Nicole's abduction. Much to her surprise, he had brought in his people to watch her, and she had no good reason to reject him.

Feeling Colton's eyes on her face, she kept her expression calm. Smiling, she commented lightly,

"Thanks, Collie."

Colton glanced at Evelyn one last time without saying a word. After that, he turned on his heel and left.

Colton drove Gabriel to the jewelry store.

Gabriel turned his head to face Colton before asking, "Do you think Evelyn is related to the case?"

Colton's expression remained the same. Pressing his lips into a thin line, he answered in a flat tone, "Whether I think she's related or not doesn't matter. We'll see after we find Nicky."

Gabriel fell into silence. After all, he tried his best. It just proves Evelyn is irredeemable if she planned the abduction.

The tall pair walked into the store. The sight of Colton surprised the owner, and he quickly approached them. "Are you planning to purchase anything, President Gardner?"

Colton glanced at the man before cutting to the chase. "Was Old Mrs. Gould here to buy a bracelet this morning? She came with another woman."

The owner quickly answered, "Yes, they bought a multicolored bracelet. A GPS tracker was attached to the bracelet, but I forgot to tell her. It's better if she removes it as soon as possible."

Due to the bracelet being expensive, the owner was afraid that it would be stolen. Therefore, he would put micro trackers on all fancy accessories to help him track them down if the goods were stolen.

"Can you track down the bracelet?" Colton asked flatly.

Even though the owner had no idea about Colton's intentions, he decided to be honest. "Sure. I can access its location from my computer."

Colton strode over to the computer and tracked the bracelet's location. She's still in Lumore.

He turned to the owner and asked, "Is it possible to remove the server?"

The owner didn't dare delay after seeing Colton's serious expression. He sorted out something on the computer and disconnected the server from the computer before installing it on Colton's phone.

Staring at the location shown on his phone, Colton thanked the owner before rushing out of the store.

Gabriel followed after him and asked, "Do we need to bring in more people?"

"There's no need for that. We can handle a few thugs." As soon as he finished the words, a glint of ruthlessness flashed across his dark eyes.

Gabriel didn't comment on that as he got into the car with Colton.

Colton stared at the flickering signal on the screen. Even if he drove at the highest speed permitted, he would still take more than ten minutes to arrive at Nicole's destination.

Chapter 1084 Came to the Rescue

After Nicole knocked out the thugs, she began to search for an exit. However, there were no other exits in the room except for the main door. The door was made of steel and was locked from the outside. Nicole pushed it with all her might, but the door didn't budge at all.

She furrowed her brows before turning her head to watch the men on the ground. A few moments ago, she strategically hit the men on their acupoints to knock them out. It wasn't meant to last long. The men would wake up within a couple of minutes.

If I can't make it out as soon as possible, I'll have to deal with them again.

She found a makeshift crowbar in the room and started to pry the door open, but it had many padlocks on it. Even after a few tries, the door did not move.

She started to feel tired. Sweat beads trickled down her face, perhaps due to the warm air in the room or her fruitless hard work.

Nicole panted, but she didn't stop trying as she adjusted the angle of the crowbar and started over again. A few moments later, the door clunked open all of a sudden.

She was overjoyed. Just when she reached for the door, she saw a few muscular men standing at the exit.

The thugs on the ground were nothing like the men before her. Their bulging muscles were a clear sign that they were trained.

Taking a few steps back, she scanned them through her narrowed eyes. There were three men at the

door. All three shared the same strong stature. She was no match for them in a fight.

The man standing in the front stepped into the room and glanced at the thugs on the ground. The sight made him knit his brows. Then, his gaze turned to Nicole's face.

His companion couldn't help but comment, "One against four? She's tougher than she looks!"

The thugs might not be the strongest, but they were still adult men. However, all four of them were knocked out by Nicole alone, indicating she was more capable than she looked.

The leader decided not to waste time. Thus, he ordered with a frown between his brows, "Hold her down, and be quick."

The men were wary of the thugs' condition. Therefore, they studied her from the corner of their eyes as they approached her.

Since their body builds were a signal that they were tougher to deal with than the thugs, Nicole pulled back into the room with a wary look on her face.

Just when a fight was about to break out between the two parties, they heard a crash from the outside and found the door collapsed to the ground. It was a thick steel door, but the person outside still managed to kick it down, indicating he exerted much force in his attack.

Before the people in the room could react, two tall figures came into their view.

A pang of sadness suddenly struck Nicole at the sight of Colton, and tears began to swim in her eyes. She wasn't afraid of the idea of having the three men surrounding her because she knew she wouldn't

go down without a fight. However, for some inexplicable reason, she felt like she was a mistreated little girl when Colton showed up.

Colton could feel his blood boiling when he saw the men on the ground and the other three men staring back at him.

Gabriel rolled up his sleeves. He might look like a gentleman, but he had been trained in the military. As a military official, his father was very strict with him, so before Gabriel took over the family business, his father had him join the army to hone his skills.

The pair didn't say a word as they got to work. They took out their opponents within a few seconds.

Locking eyes with Colton, Nicole rushed toward him and threw herself into his arms. His familiar scent soothed the tension in her mind. Leaning against his chest, she mumbled through sobs, "I thought I'd never see you again."

Looking down at the teary woman, Colton reached out a hand and patted her head. Such a sight broke his heart as he murmured, "It's okay. I'm here now. I'll protect you."

Chapter 1085 The Mastermind

Queenie was astonished by the unfolding events before her, and she quickly turned to look at Lydia. "Mom, Colton is here. We have to go."

When Lydia heard that, panic began to grip her. She knew the consequences would be catastrophic if he discovered their involvement. As a result, she hurriedly packed everything up, shoved it all into a bag in preparation for a stealthy getaway.

In the meantime, Colton comforted Nicole by wrapping his arms around her as she sobbed into his embrace like a child who had been severely wronged in

the world. This was the first time he had seen her act this way, so he spent another few minutes trying to soothe her.

On the other hand, Gabriel could not help but scowl when he noticed the intimate moment between the couple. However, he did not say a word and merely walked outside. As soon as he stepped out, he saw two women sneaking out, so he rushed forward to block their path and inquired in a low voice, "Where are you two going?"

Queenie was startled by the unexpected appearance of a man, but upon realizing it was him, she quickly smiled and explained, "Oh, it's you, Mr. Wrenn. We popped in to check the place out because we were passing by. What a coincidence!"

However, he was not a fool, and a frown formed on his face at the absurdity of what he had just heard. "This whole thing was your plan?"

She stepped backward, realizing she had chosen a flimsy excuse that would be hard to sell. Then, she softly chuckled and uttered, "I'm not that talented, Mr. Wrenn. I am penniless. Where would I find the money to hire all these people? Someone with a lot of money and power is assisting me."

At that moment, Gabriel's frown deepened as if he understood what Queenie had said.

The thoughtful look on his face made her smile and continue, "That's right. I hate Nicole, and that 'woman' likes Colton, so we decided to partner up. That 'woman' contributes funds and networking while I do the work. If he captures me, I will surely expose the mastermind's identity. You don't want that to happen, do you?"

His eyes darkened when he heard that. Her blatant hinting at Evelyn's involvement in the situation made it impossible for him to dismiss the "woman" she kept referring to. He had repeatedly cautioned his sister against this ludicrous course of action, but she remained obstinate.

After noticing Gabriel's dark and scary expression, Queenie hastily called out to Lydia, telling her mother they should get out of there as soon as possible. However, before they could take another step, he stopped them again.

Queenie was adamant about not yielding, fixed her gaze at him, and threatened, "Evelyn is your sister! Kidnapping is a major crime. If she is

implicated, she will be imprisoned! I don't care what happens to me, but the Wrenns' reputation will be ruined!"

Gabriel froze as a sense of resolve washed over him upon hearing this. Then, he calmly declared, "If Evelyn truly did something this foolish, I would not protect her either." His endless patience and tolerance for his sister had only spoiled her, leading her to believe that no matter what she did, someone would always help her. In addition, she crossed the line when her plot with Sasha caused Nicole's miscarriage. Nonetheless, he had not expected his sister to persist in her delusions and commit such a heinous act.

Meanwhile, Queenie was taken aback to learn that he could be so righteous, especially considering that he was unfazed even after she threatened him with his sister. Then, she reasoned, "Mr. Wrenn, if Evelyn is sent to prison because she did this, her entire life would be ruined!" She spat through gritted teeth as she glared at his face. After that, she kept trying to find a crack in his countenance, but the only emotion on his face was serenity.

"As I previously stated, if my sister committed a crime, she should bear the consequences," he stated coldly.

Chapter 1086 I Did Not Do It

When Queenie was about to rebuke Gabriel's words, a deep voice sounded behind her. "He's right. One should always take responsibility for their actions."

She stiffly turned around to look behind her in response to the familiar voice, which sent shivers down her spine. Huh! How long have Colton and Nicole been standing behind me? They seem to have overheard the entire conversation. With this realization, she pressed her lips together nervously, uncertain of what to say.

After observing her daughter in such a distressed state, Lydia gently tugged on Queenie's arms, and she gradually calmed down.

Then, Queenie clasped her hands as she stared at Colton, forcing a smile, and said calmly, "Please let me go, Colton. We dated for five years at one point. Please forgive me and accept my heartfelt apologies for what I've done." After saying that, she turned to Nicole and fell to her knees with a thud, tears streaming down her face as she sobbed, "I'm so sorry! I was a fool to do what I had done. Sis, please forgive me!"

"Yes, Nicole," Lydia hurriedly said. "We've lived under the same roof for years. Queenie understands what she has done wrong. We apologize, so please let us go."

On the other hand, Nicole regarded the two women begging on the ground with icy eyes that lacked even a trace of compassion in her bright eyes. Lived under the same roof... Are they referring to the years when I could only eat leftovers? The ordeal of being kidnapped earlier left her physically trembling with exhaustion. So, she closed her eyes and sighed, "Do with them as procedure dictates."

Her lack of mercy caused the usually gentle and meek Lydia to burst out cursing. "Are you looking

down on us just because you are a member of the esteemed Wrenn Family? The Andersons taking you in were the only thing that kept you from freezing to death and starving to death! You ungrateful wretch! You are an absolute ingrate!" As soon as she was done speaking, she saw Colton approach her. Then, before she could say another word, he stomped on her knee. The impact of that stomp was so powerful that it sent her body tumbling to the ground, and she found herself in a position where she was kneeling on it.

Afterward, he looked down at her with icy eyes. "You have no right to criticize my wife."

It was only then that Lydia realized she had misspoken in her fit of rage. She opened her mouth to defend herself but was interrupted by his frigid statement. "If you wish to keep your tongue intact, shut your mouth. Do not say another word or else..."

The mother and daughter promptly fell silent upon hearing that threat. Colton had always been a man who kept his word. That was something Queenie had known for a fact after the years she had spent by his side.

As he led Nicole away from them, he turned to Gabriel. "I leave them in your hands. Do with them as you will."

It was a chance for Gabriel to choose for himself. Then, he stared at the women on the ground as emotions warred in his eyes. It took a few long moments of staring before he eventually pulled out his phone and called Evelyn.

"What is it, Gabriel?" she asked nonchalantly.

Staring down at the two women, he softly spoke into the phone, "Colton and I have rescued Nicole. We

even captured a few people in the process. One of the women says that you're involved in this."

After hearing that, Evelyn's hand tightened around her phone as her breath hitched. She hurriedly spoke up to defend herself. "That's impossible! Gabriel, don't believe what other people say. I've already given up on Collie. I do not need to do that!"

Chapter 1087 The Evidence

Gabriel turned on his speakerphone and turned to glare at Queenie with dark eyes. "My sister says that she's not involved in this. If you're lying... You should know what the Wrenns are like."

Queenie had been scared witless by Colton. Thus, she would not dare lie now. The call continued as she cried out to him.

"Miss Wrenn, you're the one who told me to do this! Now that we're in trouble, you can't just wipe your hands off of the matter!"

Evelyn's face went pale, and her throat closed up. "That's nonsense! When did I tell you to do anything? Gabriel, I don't know her. She's lying. I didn't do it."

Evelyn did all she could do to deny the claims. She absolutely could not allow her schemes to be exposed just because of Queenie. She was only the eldest daughter of the Wrenns by name. If something this serious happened and the police arrested her, the Wrenns would never help her.

After Nicole's miscarriage, Jackson and Siobhan were both biased against her. That was why she put Queenie in charge of the actual execution of her plan this time.

To her surprise, Queenie had been a stupid fool who was caught red-handed.

Not only that, but Queenie had also betrayed her!

Staring into Gabriel's icy eyes, Queenie insisted, "I have records of my conversations with Miss Wrenn. You can look through them. I am just an errand runner, Mr. Wrenn. She was behind the entire thing."

She was now prioritizing her own life over everything else.

Gabriel's hand tightened around his phone as his voice turned even icier. He stared down at his phone as he hoarsely asked, "Is what she said true, Evelyn?"

"No! Gabriel, it's not true! Trust me! You have to kill her now!" Evelyn spat through gritted teeth.

Her response caused his frigid glare to turn to ice as he barked out, "When did you become like this, Evelyn?"

Realizing what she had just said, she frantically said, "Gabriel, I..."

He swiftly hung up. From the tone in her voice, he could guess what happened. He then stared down at Queenie in silence.

After a few long minutes, a group of policemen suddenly barged into the place and walked over to them. "Mr. Wrenn," they respectfully greeted.

He nodded in response and pointed to Queenie and Lydia. "We suspect they're involved in the kidnapping. There are also a few more men tied up inside. Deal with them as you see fit."

He thereafter turned and calmly walked away.

Panic flashed in Queenie's eyes. If she were imprisoned, she would be doomed for life. She shot a fierce glare at Gabriel's retreating back.

"If I'm arrested, I will surrender her to the police! I will ensure Evelyn is sentenced to prison as well!"

Gabriel looked back at her with a cold, emotionless face before calmly walking away.

Once everything was settled, he headed to the hospital to visit Rita.

Age was catching up to her. After the fright she had just suffered, she fell asleep soon after waking up. By the time she regained consciousness, she

found Evelyn and Siobhan sitting next to her with a few bodyguards standing by the doorway.

There was an unpleasant look on Gabriel's face when he saw Evelyn. As for Evelyn, she trembled when she spotted him enter the room. She bit her lips, wanting to say something yet unsure of what to say.

He soon looked away and blandly said, "A word with you in private, Evelyn. Please step out of the room."

Hearing his voice, Siobhan turned around. "How is Nicky?"

He shook his head. "She's fine. Colton has her."

Siobhan nodded and did not press for any further information.

Chapter 1088 No Longer His Sister

Evelyn's heart was racing anxiously when she saw the solemn look on Gabriel's face. She hesitated for a moment before following him out of the room.

The hallway was silent as Evelyn kept her head low as she glanced at Gabriel. Her fingers twisted together anxiously as her voice trembled with unease.

"What is it, Gabriel?"

He looked at the little sister he had grown up with as Queenie's words echoed in his mind. Suddenly, he realized the sister he was looking at felt like a stranger to him.

When did Evelyn turn into someone who would do anything to get what she wanted?

"Queenie has been arrested along with the men involved. All of them have been brought to the police station," he calmly stated while keeping his black eyes trained on her face. As expected, there was a glimpse of nerves in her eyes.

She clenched her hands into fists. The men she had hired were all violent criminals. They would not sell her out since they would only be sentenced to a

few days of imprisonment. Queenie, on the other hand, was an uncertain factor. That foolish woman would surely spill her guts.

She had not expected Colton and Gabriel to find Nicole so soon. Hence, she did not have the time to threaten Queenie to stop her from babbling.

"I..." She opened her mouth to explain herself, but no words came to mind.

He frowned. His voice deepened as he hoarsely barked out, "Why would you do this, Evelyn?"

Her eyes shimmered with tears as she sniffled. Her voice started choking up as she spoke, "You know of my love for Colton, Gabriel. I told myself to give up on him, to forget about him, but I just can't. I just can't do it. I love him. I can't bear to see him with another woman."

He coldly watched the obsessed woman in front of him as he said, "Mom took the blame when you caused Nicole's miscarriage last time. She nearly cut off all ties with Nicole. Whom are you hoping to take the blame this time?"

Tears streamed down her cheeks when she heard his interrogating questions. Her voice faltered as she clutched at his sleeves with a pitiful look on her face.

"I know I am in the wrong, Gabriel. Help me. I don't want to go to prison. If I am imprisoned, my entire life would be ruined."

He felt no sympathy when he saw her miserable state. After prying her hands away, he icily said, "You did this, so you have to bear the consequences."

Seeing that he truly did not plan to help her, she started to panic. She frantically moved closer and said, "If you don't help me, I'll truly be thrown into prison. P-Please, help me."

Anyone who saw the pleading looks on her face would feel bad for her.

He closed his eyes and recalled all that she had done. There was no way for him to protect her.

When he opened his eyes, there were no emotions within them. "Queenie has been arrested. I have no

right to interfere with her confession. If she does betray you, there is no way you can get away unscathed."

Her face turned stark white as her body trembled uncontrollably. She stammered and pleaded, "Please help me. You have to help me. I can't go to prison. I... We can get rid of Queenie in secret. No one can betray my involvement in this then."

She seemed to think it was a great idea as she frantically continued to elaborate on it.

He froze. He had not expected her to be so crazed that she would be willing to kill off other people.

Disappointment flashed in his eyes. At that moment, the woman before him was no longer his sister.

Chapter 1089 It's Good That You're Alright

"If you had the nerve to do it, then you must be prepared to face the music, Evelyn," Gabriel coldly snapped before turning away. He no longer wanted to look at the pitiful look on Evelyn's face.

Hearing his words, she slumped on the ground as she softly sobbed. She bit her lips as tears flowed from her eyes. Resentment rose in her as she stared up at him.

"Are you unwilling to help me because I am not your actual sister?" she demanded. "Have you started to side with Nicole because she is the actual daughter of the family? Is that it?"

Her accusatory tone only made him find her even more unreasonable. His voice was frigid as he replied, "Evelyn, Nicole might be my sister in terms of blood, but have I ever treated you badly? Our parents never told anyone about your actual identity after they knew the truth. You are still Young Lady Evelyn of the Wrenn Family. How could you be so greedy? You are the one who has been attacking Nicole time and time again. Now that the truth is out, you wish to run away?"

His questions made her knees go weak. She clutched at his pants as though she was clutching her last shred of hope.

"Please help me, Gabriel. We grew up together. You can't just sit there and watch as I'm thrown in prison, right? One last time. I promise you that once this is over, I will never do anything like this again."

He shut his eyes in exhaustion when he saw her grovel at his feet. Still, he hardened his heart and ignored her pleas.

"Be prepared, Evelyn. I will not interfere in this matter. You have to take responsibility for your own actions."

At that point, she started bawling. In the end, he could not resist her cries. He then pursed his lips.

"It is only an attempt this time. At most, you'll be imprisoned for a few days. If you have truly decided to turn over a new leaf, properly apologize to Nicole afterward," he said.

She sat on the ground for a few long moments. Eventually, her cries faded away and she wiped her tears away. As she stumbled to her feet, she suppressed her emotions and forced a pitiful smile on her face.

"Okay. I got it."

After saying that, she turned and walked away.

...

Meanwhile, Colton brought Nicole back to his home. He kept his arms wrapped around her shocked form. He had not let go of her even once during the entire journey.

Sprawled out on his chest, she looked away in embarrassment. She continued to rest her head on his muscular chest as he carried her up the stairs.

He carefully placed her on the bed. Looking down at her, he said in a deep voice, "If I had known this would happen, I would never have let you return to the Goulds."

She chuckled when she saw the guilt on his face. "It would be the same even if I stayed in Gardner Residence. They were ready for me. The moment I stepped out of the door, they would kidnap me."

He fell silent as his arms tightened around her.

She gave him a gentle shove and smiled. "I'm fine. Don't worry."

As he examined her unscathed form, he abruptly let out a chuckle. "True. I walked through the door to find you defeating those four men. As expected of my wife. You're so fierce."

She solemnly looked at him and said, "Thank goodness you came. I might have been overwhelmed if you were not there."

The hurt in her eyes urged him to reach out to caress her cheek. As his fingers rubbed over her skin, he swore, "No matter what kind of person you are, I will always love you."

"If I had been... tainted by another man, would you still love me?" she suddenly asked.

His eyes darkened. There was a long moment of silence before he eventually said, "Yes. I will not forgive the culprit though."

Chapter 1090 The Arrest

For some reason, Colton's promise warmed Nicole's heart.

She lowered her eyes and did not say anything.

As the wedding date grew closer, Colton eventually sent Nicole back to Gould Residence. After the kidnapping and injury dealt to Rita, the family was much more cautious now.

They hired professional bodyguards to patrol the entire residence at all times. All of that was just to keep Nicole safe.

The night before the wedding, a group of policemen suddenly knocked on the door of Gould Residence. Immediately, they marched into the house. When they spotted Rita, the leader of the group even respectfully greeted her.

"Old Mrs. Gould," he called out.

She frowned in confusion when she saw them march into the house. "What is going on, Captain Tyson? Why are you here with a group of men? Did a criminal sneak into my home?"

She had just been discharged from the hospital. Due to her wound, her face looked unusually eerie when it darkened.

The Goulds were one of the most powerful families in the country who were extremely well connected. Hence, Derrick Tyson, the man known as Captain Tyson, remained respectful in his reply.

"Old Mrs. Gould, we have found a lead to your granddaughter's kidnapping and your assault."

"Is that why you're here with your men? Are you here to explain what happened?" she asked, still frowning.

After observing the look on her face, he smiled and answered, "We captured a woman named Queenie Anderson who was one of the leaders. Her testimony and the evidence she provided proved that there was a mastermind behind everything. That person is your granddaughter, Evelyn Wrenn."

Rita's face immediately fell as her hands clenched into fists from where they rested on her knees.

She narrowed her eyes and stared at Derrick in thought for a few long seconds before saying in a dark voice, "You mean to say Evelyn was behind this whole incident?"

He did not give her a clear answer and replied, "We only have Queenie's testimony right now, so I can't come to a proper conclusion just yet. All I ask is that Miss Wrenn comes with us so that we may get to the bottom of this. We are here to notify you beforehand, after all."

When she thought about how Evelyn had been behind everything, she was so angry that her cheeks turned red and her breaths started coming out in harsh pants. As her hands clutched at the nearby railing for support, the butler hurried over to help her regain her calm.

"Calm down, Madam. You have just recovered from a serious injury. The doctor said to avoid getting agitated," he said.

She eventually caught her breath. After thumping her chest a few times, she snapped out, "Go get her. Don't tell her what's going on. If she is truly the culprit behind this, just follow the usual procedure. You do not have to worry about me!"

She was beyond herself with fury. She had lost all love for Evelyn when she knew that Evelyn had schemed to cause Nicole's miscarriage. After learning

that Evelyn nearly killed Rita in a scheme to hurt Nicole as well, there was no way for Rita to ignore the crime.

"Thank you, Old Mrs. Gould," Derrick said with a smile.

She dismissively waved her hand and coldly barked out, "Handle this according to the usual procedure. If she is truly the mastermind behind this, she will no longer have a place in the Gould Family!"

He heaved a sigh of relief upon receiving her permission. It was good that they would not be making an enemy of the Goulds.

He followed the butler up the stairs. When Nicole heard the commotion, she poked her head out to find a group of policemen marching up the stairs. "Miss Nicole," the butler respectfully called out when he spotted her.

After observing the group for a few moments, she roughly knew what was going on. She smiled and nodded in greeting. "Thanks for your hard work."

She did not linger any longer and promptly walked away after saying that.

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1091 Misrepresent - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1091 Misrepresent

Chapter 1091 Misrepresent

Evelyn was in the room when a group of police officers barged in, throwing her into panic mode. "Who are you guys? How dare you trespass into the Gould Residence?" she snapped out of instinct. Then, she looked at the butler and said, "Get the guards over here, Mr. Reese!"

The butler bowed and stood by the side as he spoke with courtesy. "They are police officers, Miss Wrenn. They are here to escort you to the police station since you are suspected of being involved with the kidnapping of Miss Anderson."

When Evelyn heard his words, her face twisted in anger, and she clenched her knuckles tightly. "They don't have the final say in this! Evidence is the key! I am the young lady of the Wrenn Family, so I can't follow them to the police

station without any evidence! Otherwise, they are disrespecting the Wrenn and Gould families!" she said while gritting her teeth.

Seeing that Evelyn was being unreasonable, Derrick smiled and explained, "We are just going to ask you some questions, Miss Wrenn. A few days ago, we arrested a group of people, and they told us that you are the mastermind behind this. Plus, we have both witnesses and evidence in our hands. That is why we are here today."

"What do you mean by that? They must be lying! This has nothing to do with me!" Evelyn denied. For the past few days, she had been living in fear, afraid that Queenie would sell her out. Queenie has indeed betrayed me!

Derrick didn't use force and was still trying to speak some senses into her. "We have everything we need, Miss Wrenn. However, we still need your cooperation. If she lies to us, we will take drastic measures."

However, Evelyn still refused to oblige. "I'm not going. Why should I go when I didn't break the law? Mr. Reese, hurry up and tell them to leave!"

Seeing that she was being difficult, the butler sighed and said, "Old Mrs. Gould has already known about this matter, Miss Wrenn. She wants you to cooperate with the police. If you are innocent, you don't have to be afraid."

In that split second, Evelyn became agitated. "I didn't do anything in the first place! Why should I go to the police station?!" she snarled.

As soon as her words fell, Nicole stepped into the room. She wore a beige-colored dress and leaned against the doorframe, looking at Evelyn casually.

When Evelyn saw Nicole, she was filled with rage. She glared viciously at the latter and snapped, "You must be the one behind this, Nicole! Are you happy to see that I'm going to the police station?"

Nicole gave her an innocent look and smiled as she leaned against the door. When she heard Evelyn's words, she shrugged and said, "You can't just blame me without any reason. After all, I have done nothing other than stay at home."

Fury filled Evelyn's eyes as she glared at Nicole. She gripped her knuckles tightly and clenched her teeth as she spoke. "Bullsh*t! There is no one else

other than you! By all means, you're like a sister to Queenie all these years! Maybe you guys feigned innocence to frame me!"

Seeing that Evelyn was spitting nonsense, Nicole remained calm. She glanced at her and retorted, "Do you have any evidence to prove that I'm framing you? Plus, why would I frame you when I'm getting married to Colton? Do you think you are a threat to me?"

At that moment, Evelyn was at a loss for words. She could only glare at Nicole with viciousness in her eyes.

Nicole looked at Derrick and approached him. "Thank you for taking care of this matter, Officer. It's best to get to the bottom of this to prevent accusing the wrong person."

Seeing that Nicole was well-mannered, Derrick had a good impression of her. He nodded and replied, "It's my responsibility to do so."

Chapter 1092 I Didn't Do It

No matter how unwilling Evelyn was, she couldn't escape her fate. As Derrick told his men to take her away, Nicole stood aside and enjoyed the show.

As Evelyn roared angrily, she was dragged downstairs.

The butler stood aside and looked at Nicole. Then, he lowered his eyes and said in a low voice, "Old Mrs. Gould is downstairs, Miss Anderson. She was furious when she heard that Miss Wrenn was behind this."

Hearing his words, Nicole nodded. She still remembered how Rita threw away her image and safety to protect her. It even reached the point where Rita grabbed the kidnapper and was severely beaten. Thus, although Nicole was still upset that Siobhan had covered up for Evelyn, she was touched by how well Rita had treated her.

Thinking about it, Nicole smiled and hummed in response. "Okay. I'll go down and check on Grandma." Then, she left the room.

On the other hand, the butler was surprised by her words. Did I just hear Nicole address Old Mrs. Gould as Grandma?

Although Nicole had acknowledged the Gould Family for a long time, she had always addressed Rita as 'Old Mrs. Gould' and never 'Grandma'. Yet... The butler chuckled and thought, It looks like Old Mrs. Gould will be in a good mood for a while.

Initially, Nicole was going to check on Rita. However, as soon as she went downstairs, she saw Evelyn kneeling before Siobhan. "Please save me, Mom. I didn't do anything. It was Queenie who framed me. She has been sisters with Nicole for such a long time, so maybe they have come together and framed me! Mom!" she cried out loud as she grabbed Siobhan's hands.

Nicole froze when she heard Evelyn's words. Then, she looked at Siobhan while pursing her lips into a thin line.

In the meantime, Siobhan noticed Nicole's presence as she tilted her head. Although their gazes met each other, they said nothing.

Panic flashed across Evelyn's eyes when she saw Nicole. She clutched Siobhan's hands tightly, begging, "My entire future will be ruined if I go to the police station, Mom. You wouldn't want that to happen, right?" Evelyn felt that Siobhan would help her. After all, Siobhan had covered up for her when she had made Nicole have a miscarriage. Thus, she felt Siobhan wouldn't just stand there and watch her go to jail.

Mixed feelings filled Siobhan's eyes as she looked at Evelyn, who had tears all over her face.

Nicole didn't stay any longer and decided to go to the study room to look for Rita. After all, she had no right to stop Siobhan from doing anything. It was her choice.

Just as she was about to leave, she heard Siobhan's voice. "You must pay for the consequences of your actions, Evelyn. If you are innocent, just follow them and let them take your statement. Once you are proven innocent, you can come back home."

Evelyn sobbed hysterically as she grabbed Siobhan's hands tightly. Then, she glared at Nicole angrily and cried, "Is it because of Nicole, Mom? Are you abandoning me because she is your biological daughter? You want to leave me for her, right?!"

Siobhan's eyes darkened as she realized the child she raised had become unreasonable. "I have had enough of you already, Evelyn. Even if you are my biological daughter, I won't help you to cover up for your mistakes over and over again. If you didn't do anything wrong, just go with them," she scolded.

Evelyn's eyes widened in disbelief as she looked at Siobhan's stern expression. Her lips quivered as she realized she had said the wrong words. "I... I didn't mean that, Mom. I... I just..." She tried to make up for her words.

Chapter 1093 The Day Before the Wedding

Looking at Evelyn's reaction, Siobhan closed her eyes tiredly. Instead of listening to what Evelyn had to say, she looked at Derrick and said, "Please get to the bottom of this."

Derrick nodded. "Don't worry, Madam Gould. If Miss Wrenn is proven innocent, we will definitely send her back." Then, he ordered his men to take Evelyn away.

During the entire process, Nicole stood there squarely. Surprise filled her eyes as she had never expected Siobhan to stand by her side.

After Derrick left with Evelyn, Siobhan turned to look at Nicole. "Tomorrow is your wedding day, so you don't have to worry about this. I'll handle it for you."

Nicole pursed her lips and said nothing.

Seeing her reaction, Siobhan smiled bitterly and continued, "If Evelyn is behind this, I will not cover up for her. This is the price she must pay."

Nicole still kept quiet.

Siobhan thought Nicole was still upset that she had covered up for Evelyn the last time. Thus, she sighed and said, "Why don't you go and look for Old Mrs. Gould? Ever since she was discharged from the hospital, she has been in poor health. She misses you very much."

"Okay." Nicole hummed in response before leaving without hesitation.

A hint of disappointment flashed across Siobhan's eyes as she watched Nicole leave. Yet, she said nothing.

While Nicole slowly walked toward Rita, the latter was sitting in the chair, facing the window. The window was wide open, and the sunlight shone on her. She had a cup of tea in one hand and a

magazine in the other. She wore a pair of glasses and looked calm. When she heard the door open, she turned around and smiled after seeing that it was Nicole. She put the tea on the table and said, "You're here, Nicole."

Nicole nodded and sat in front of Rita. She placed her hand on Rita's wrist to check her pulse. Feeling the pulse beating healthily, she breathed a sigh of relief and asked softly, "Do you feel unwell, Grandma?"

When Rita heard what Nicole had addressed her, she looked at the latter excitedly. "W-What did you just call me, Nicole? D-Did you just call me Grandma?" she stuttered.

Nicole smiled when she saw the excitement in Rita. "Yeah. You are my grandma, after all. It's only normal for me to address you in this way."

Rita sighed with a smile. "I thought you would be unwilling to do so. It's fine, though. After all, you must be unfamiliar with us since you have lived abroad since you were young."

Rita was understandable. Nicole accompanied her as they chatted for some time.

At this moment, the Gould Residence was decorated with many red decorations, making the mansion lively. Rita took the wedding seriously and had prepared almost everything herself. Ever since the kidnapping, Nicole had been grateful for Rita.

On the day before the wedding, Nicole had difficulty falling asleep. Although she tried to sleep since she had to get up early tomorrow and do her makeup, she couldn't calm down as she thought about marrying Colton. Her eyes were wide open, and she looked at her phone, noticing it was already 10.00PM. Initially, she wanted to sleep at 9.00PM, but her mind was filled with all kinds of thoughts. They were nagging at the back of her mind, making it hard to fall asleep.

Chapter 1094 Let the Wedding Begin

Just as Nicole thought she would be wide awake for the whole night, her phone rang. She looked at it and saw that it was Colton. Then, she picked up her phone and answered it.

"Are you still awake?" asked Colton.

Nicole lowered her eyes and hummed in response.

"I can't sleep. I'm quite nervous," she said honestly.

Hearing her words, Colton laughed.

"It's fine. There's nothing to be nervous about since you will be married to me sooner or later," he drawled.

Nicole blushed and gripped her phone tightly. She looked up and stared at the ceiling in a daze.

After some time, she said, "Yeah, I know. I'm just nervous."

When Colton heard the upset tone in her voice, he comforted her.

"I'm nervous too. I can't help but feel excited at the thought of you wearing a wedding dress tomorrow. You'll be the most beautiful bride ever, Nicole."

Nicole giggled and hummed in response.

Then, they talked for some time.

Listening to Colton's voice, Nicole slowly drifted to sleep.

The next morning, she woke up to the sound of her alarm.

When she took her phone and looked at the time, she realized it was 5.30AM.

The weather was getting chilly.

At 5.30AM, the sky was still dark.

However, the Gould Residence was already busy.

Rita was ordering the servants around to start preparing for the wedding.

After Nicole washed her face, she opened the door and saw a group of people standing outside—the makeup artists.

Nicole couldn't help but feel awkward, wondering how long they were standing there.

"How long have you guys been here?" she asked awkwardly.

"We just arrived," they replied politely.

"Are you ready to do your makeup now, Miss Anderson?" Nicole nodded.

Since she had been to many weddings, she knew it would be troublesome, so she had to wake up early to prepare.

The makeup artist was professional and did the makeup wholeheartedly.

The full makeup took about an hour, and it was already 3.00AM when it was finally done.

The Gould Family had a high status, and Nicole was the daughter of the Gould and the Wrenn families.

In addition, she was marrying Colton—the famous man from the upper crust of society.

Thus, almost every rich and powerful person attended their wedding.

After Nicole wore the wedding dress and was about to head out, she felt someone hug her from behind.

"I'm here, darling."

Colton wrapped his arms around Nicole's waist and smiled gently.

Nicole's eyes fluttered when she heard the familiar voice behind her. She turned around and looked at Colton.

He wore a black suit and had his hair slicked back, giving off a sense of elegance.

Nicole cleared her throat and asked, "Why are you here so early?"

Initially, Colton was supposed to pick her up at noon, so she was surprised to see him here early in the morning.

Colton leaned down and whispered against her ear, "It's because I miss you."

Nicole smiled and didn't question any further.

After the duo had lunch at the Gould Residence, they went to the church. Their wedding would begin around 3.00PM.

Nicole sat down with Colton by a bench as she lowered her head. She seemed to be drowsy as she yawned a couple of times.

Seeing that Nicole was sleepy, Colton supported her head and asked in a low voice, "Are you tired?"

Nicole squinted her eyes.

"Yeah. I woke up too early today." Her voice was slightly hoarse since she was tired.

Chapter 1095 I Do

Seeing that Nicole was napping, Colton couldn't help but chuckle. He wrapped his arms around her to secure her in place and whispered, "Go on and take a nap. There is still an hour left. I'll wake you up when the ceremony is about to start."

Hearing his words, Nicole didn't hold back anymore and fell into a deep sleep.

Colton supported her head and smiled. He sat straight as he looked at her sleeping.

At this moment, Anna, who wore a red dress, approached them.

Initially, she wanted to have a chat with them. However, when she saw them snuggling together, she quickly lowered her voice and asked, "Is Nicole feeling unwell? Should I call a doctor?"

"It's fine." Colton stopped her.

"Nicole is just tired since she woke up too early. Please help me keep a lookout on the preparation, Mom." Anna nodded.

Seeing lovebirds, she said nothing more.

"Alright. I'm going to go now. Remember to wake her up when the ceremony is about to start. It's best to let her get some sleep now since you two will be busy for the whole day."

Then, she turned around and left.

Colton woke her up after maintaining the same position for about an hour.

Nicole woke up and yawned.

Although she had only slept for an hour, she felt energized.

"Is it starting soon?" she asked hoarsely.

"Yeah. It's going to start in about ten minutes. Wake yourself up. The makeup artist will be here to redo your makeup," said Colton.

"Redo my makeup?" asked Nicole dumbly. She was still in a daze since she had just woken up.

"Yes. Redo your makeup. You were drooling in your sleep, which caused your makeup to be smeared all over your face." Colton teased.

In that split second, Nicole blushed. She wiped her mouth but didn't feel anything.

It was at this moment she realized Colton was joking with her, giving him a sarcastic glare at that.

Colton reached out and pinched her cheek as he pulled her upwards.

"Let's go. The ceremony is starting soon. All you need to do is just some final touch-up."

Nicole hummed in response.

Then, she remembered what had happened and grumbled, "Don't scare me like that."

"Okay. I promise I won't lie to my dear wife ever again."

As they entered the backstage, the guests had already arrived.

The church was filled with people.

After the makeup artist had done Nicole's makeup, the priest was talking.

"Let us welcome the groom and the bride," he said.

Then, Colton held Nicole's hand as they walked up the stage.

At this moment, Nicole felt her heart beating rapidly.

Although she had been through a lot, she couldn't help but feel scared as she stood on the stage.

However, she gradually calmed down as Colton held her hand firmly.

Standing on the stage, she glanced at the crowd and noticed Zachary.

Her breath hitched, and she felt nervous.

Noticing her reaction, Colton explained to her softly, "I'm the one who invited him. After all, it's all thanks to him that you and Hayden are safe and sound when I was being lied to by Queenie."

Nicole pursed her lips as she felt the urge to cry. She choked back a sob and said, "Thank you, Colton."

If there were someone she had wronged in her life, it would be Zachary.

After all, Zachary had cared for her so much, yet she had never loved him.

"Do you, in the name of God, take each other as husband and wife from today onward, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, to love each other till death do you part?" the priest asked.

The duo looked at each other and replied, "I do."

As the crowd applauded and cheered for them, they exchanged wedding rings.

Chapter 1096 Are You Crazy?

However, as the crowd cheered for the newlywed couple, a person was staring at them with a vicious gaze in the dark.

Evelyn was furious as she watched the scene before her. She was envious when she saw Colton put the wedding ring on Nicole's finger.

Not long ago, she had been escorted back by the police since they did not have enough evidence.

When she got home, she heard the news about Nicole and Colton's wedding. She immediately rushed to the ceremony only to see how lovey-dovey the duo was.

As she stared at them with rage, she clenched her knuckles tightly. She couldn't stand seeing how in love they were and left.

The silence around her was terrifying, and she wanted to call Gabriel to pick her up.

However, she didn't dare to do so as she remembered the disappointment in his eyes when he looked at her.

Just as she was about to muster the courage and continue walking, she heard a car honking behind her. She turned around excitedly, thinking it was Gabriel. He must have followed her because he was worried about her.

I knew it! Gabriel would never have the heart to abandon me! However, just as she turned around, she saw two men in black suits exiting the Porsche.

They were glaring at her viciously.

Although Evelyn was scared, she suppressed her emotions and acted calm.

"Who...Who are you?"

Seeing that the men didn't say anything and were approaching her, Evelyn was terrified. She braced herself and snapped, "What are you guys doing?! I'm warning you, don't you dare try to hurt me. I am the young lady of the Wrenn Family. If my brother were to know that...Ah!"

Evelyn screamed in horror when she saw they were reaching out to grab her. She shut her eyes and didn't dare to look at them.

"Brian! Tom! Don't disrespect our guest!"

Suddenly, a man's voice sounded.

When the two men heard the man's voice, they immediately stopped their actions.

"Yes, sir"

The two men said with courtesy as they looked at the person in the Porsche.

When Evelyn heard their words, she slowly opened her eyes. She wanted to see who had stopped them.

At that moment, the back door of the Porsche opened, and out came a man who wore sunglasses. He smiled at Evelyn and said politely, "It's nice to meet you, Miss Wrenn."

The man was well-dressed. His suit was perfectly smooth, and the cufflinks on his sleeves were expensive.

One could tell the man was someone with high status at first glance. However, Evelyn was confused.

After all, she had never seen the man before.

"Who are you?" she asked straightforwardly.

The man chuckled and replied, "I'm Mr. Yael. As for the rest... You don't have to know. All you have to know is that I can help you make Nicole disappear and win Colton's heart."

Evelyn's eyes widened at his words. She was tempted, yet she still had her doubts about him.

"Why should I trust you?"

She looked at the man.

Seeing the suspicious look in her eyes, the man smiled and took out a jar from his storage box.

Through the transparent glass, Evelyn could see a long worm wriggling inside.

In that split second, she almost threw up.

"Why are you letting me see this?" she snapped.

When the man saw her reaction, he laughed loudly.

After some time, he explained to her, "This is a love bug. The worm that you see right here is the baby worm. All you have to do is feed it with your blood for seven days. After that, feed it to Colton, and he will uncontrollably fall in love with you."

Chapter 1097 It's a Deal

Desire filled Evelyn's eyes as she looked at the jar the man held. The man's words were tempting, and she couldn't help but walk closer to him and reached for the jar.

However, before she could get her hands on the bug, the man hid it away. "What's the rush, Miss Wrenn? Why don't we make a deal?" the man said slowly with a triumphant smile. He knew that Evelyn would definitely accept his proposal. After all, Evelyn would only benefit from this deal.

"As long as the bug can fulfill my wish, I can give you anything you want," replied Evelyn as she stared at the jar.

"I only have a simple request, which is also beneficial to you... After you have completed your end of the bargain, I want you to get me Nicole," the man said.

As expected, Evelyn was excited when she heard his request. "No problem. I want her to disappear from my life so badly."

As Evelyn thought about Nicole, her eyes were filled with jealousy, and she emitted an intimidating aura.

The man smiled in satisfaction before handing Evelyn the jar and a parchment paper. "This paper contains the precautions for raising a love bug. If you need

me, I will contact you myself. Well then, I hope we can get along well." As the man spoke, he reached out his hand with a thoughtful smile.

Without hesitation, Evelyn took the jar and shook the man's hand. "Me too."

...

After Evelyn went back to Gould Residence, the first thing she did was lock herself in her room. Then, she slit her palm open and watched her blood flow into the jar. As the bug drank her blood greedily, Evelyn had a crazed look. She could already imagine Colton confessing his love to her and wanting to marry her.

"Colton... Oh, Colton... Soon, you will be mine..." she mumbled. She seemed to be in a trance, not even feeling the pain from the wound on her palm.

After some time, the bug was full. Since Evelyn had lost a lot of blood, she felt dizzy and her vision was blurry. However, when she saw that the bug looked better after feeding off her blood, she felt that it was worth it.

In the meantime, Rita and Siobhan had returned from the wedding. Their arrival snapped Evelyn out of it and she quickly kept the jar away. No one could find out about this!

As she kept everything away, she heard Siobhan's voice from downstairs. "Is Evelyn back yet?" she asked the butler. Her voice was cold, and it was obvious that she was still angry.

"Miss Wrenn is already back and is now in her room. Do you want to go and check on her?" the butler said courteously.

"No. Before this matter ends, she will think about what she has done," Siobhan said firmly. She realized she had covered up for Evelyn so much that the latter had done something unforgivable.

On the other hand, when Evelyn heard her words, she felt her world crumbling. Mom is furious. She will never be on my side like she used to be. If I don't do anything to make up for this matter, she will never treat me as her daughter ever again!

Just as Evelyn panicked, she saw her reflection in the mirror. Since she had lost too much blood, her face was as pale as a ghost.

Chapter 1098 Pretend to Be Weak

In just a few moments, she had concocted a plan. Since the police have no evidence yet, I can deny everything they say. Plus, I can stay home and act miserable in front of Mom. Things will soon die down. Then, after the love bug is ready, Colton will be mine, and Nicole won't be a threat to me anymore!

As Evelyn thought about it, she immediately applied more powder to her face, making it paler. Seeing that her face had lost its glow, Evelyn left the room in satisfaction.

When she saw Siobhan and Rita in the living room, she coughed to attract their attention. "Mom, Grandma, you guys are back." She smiled weakly.

Initially, Rita and Siobhan wanted to ignore Evelyn when they heard her voice. Yet, they eventually turned their heads around. When they saw her pale face, they were shocked.

Siobhan was slightly worried when she saw Evelyn. A mixture of emotions flashed in her eyes as she asked, "What happened?" Although her tone was cold, Evelyn was still the daughter she raised for about twenty years. Thus, she couldn't help but want to care for her.

Evelyn was slightly relieved when she heard the concern in Siobhan's tone. I knew that Mom still cares for me, she thought. Then, she pretended to be weaker than she was and staggered as she walked down the stairs. "It's nothing. I brought this upon myself." She smiled weakly at Siobhan.

When Rita saw Evelyn, she knew that the latter was faking it. However, she didn't expose her. Rita had seen all kinds of people in the business world and was used to all sorts of tricks. Thus, how could she not see through Evelyn's lies? To put it bluntly, only Siobhan would fall for this foolish trick.

As expected, Siobhan was distressed when she saw how weak Evelyn was.

In the meantime, Evelyn knew that her plan had succeeded when she saw Siobhan staring at her. However, she was still unsure about Rita since the latter refused to look at her. Thus, she continued, "Mom, Grandma, I have thought it through. I shouldn't have been so cruel to Nicole in the past. After all, she's your biological daughter and granddaughter. I should have treated her as family and not made things hard for her. I ruined everything." Evelyn's words were sincere, seemingly as if she regretted her actions. As she spoke,

tears brimmed in her eyes. "I know what I did was wrong, and I want to make it up to Nicole. I don't want you guys to be sad..."

Siobhan actually believed what Evelyn said and was starting to waver in her resolve. It looks like Evelyn has finally learned her lesson after her stay at the police station. She finally learns that she should treat Nicole nicely and be considerate of us.

On the other hand, Rita scoffed when she heard what Evelyn said. "I hope so!" she said coldly. After all, she didn't believe that Evelyn would change so quickly. Before the truth of the kidnapping case was revealed, she would not be nice to Evelyn. If Evelyn was indeed the mastermind behind Nicole's kidnapping, Rita would make sure she paid for her actions!

When Evelyn saw that Rita didn't fall for her trick, she gritted her teeth. It looks like Old Mrs. Gould isn't going to fall for it anytime soon. I guess I don't have any choices left!

Chapter 1099 Don't You Know What Kind of a Person She Is?

Siobhan still trusted Evelyn. However, she didn't show too much concern toward Evelyn due to what the latter had done. Seeing Evelyn look pitiful, Siobhan sighed and said, "Alright now. Go to your room and take a rest. For the next few days, don't disturb Nicole as she is going on a honeymoon with Colton." After finishing her words, she turned around without glancing at Evelyn.

Looking at her reaction, Evelyn was upset since she knew that Siobhan was still mad at what she had done. However, she knew that she couldn't push her luck any further. Otherwise, Siobhan would be fed up with her, which would make things worse. Moreover, from Siobhan's words, she had gotten a piece of important information—Nicole and Colton were preparing to go on a honeymoon. Thinking about it, she furrowed her eyebrows and became anxious. After all, she still had to raise the love bug for seven days before she could find a chance to put it on Colton.

I have to think of a plan. She didn't want to waste time with Rita and Siobhan any longer, so she looked at Siobhan and said, "Alright. I'll be upstairs then, Mom, Grandma."

After the duo agreed to her departure, she turned around and hurried back to her room.

When Evelyn was out of sight, Siobhan sighed softly.

"I can't believe that you trust her words. She's just faking it." Rita huffed. She didn't want to admit that she had given birth to a naive daughter when she was a smart woman herself.

Mixed feelings grew in Siobhan as she heard Rita's words. However, she had raised Evelyn for about twenty years, so she still decided to trust her. "Maybe Evelyn has learned from her mistakes and decided to become a better person, Mom. Don't you think we should give her a chance to redeem herself?"

Seeing that Siobhan was being indecisive, Rita was furious and disappointed at the same time. "The reason she could hurt Nicole over and over again is because you're too soft on her! If you hadn't covered up for her when she caused Nicole's miscarriage, none of these would happen! I can't believe Nicole has a mother like you!" she said resentfully. After all, although Evelyn was wicked, it was Siobhan's protective stance that encouraged Evelyn to become even more wicked.

Siobhan lowered her head and said nothing as Rita scolded her. She knew she had done many things that wronged Nicole. Yet, she still trusted Evelyn since she had raised the latter for years. She rather believed that Evelyn was kind-hearted and had only just made some mistakes.

"I have raised Evelyn ever since she was a baby, Mom. I know what kind of a person she is."

Initially, Siobhan wanted to persuade Rita, but after hearing what Siobhan said, Rita looked at Siobhan even more disdainfully. "If you truly knew who she was, none of these would have happened..." Then, she turned around and refused to look at Siobhan. After everything that had happened, she was disappointed with Siobhan who always messed things up.

"I don't care what Evelyn thinks, but I want you to remember this—Nicole is your biological daughter and my only granddaughter. If Evelyn tries to hurt her again, I will take matters into my own hands," said Rita. She had taken a stand. She used to let Evelyn go for old times' sake. However, now that her real granddaughter had found happiness, she wouldn't allow anyone to ruin it!

Siobhan was shocked when she heard Rita's words. "Yes, Mom. Don't you worry. I'll keep an eye on Evelyn," she replied.

Rita held the most authority in the house. Even her own daughter, Siobhan, had to show her respect.

Chapter 1100 Getaway

On the other hand, Nicole was happily planning her honeymoon with Colton. "I don't think going abroad is a good idea. Although Mom and Wendy will take care of Hayden, I don't want to leave him alone for a long time. Why don't we just go somewhere nearby for our honeymoon?" said Nicole as she looked at the travel guidebook Colton's secretary gave her.

Colton didn't have any questions and only smiled at her. He ruffled her hair and replied, "I'm okay as long as you are happy."

"Well... Let's go to Dane then! I've always wanted to go there but never had the chance..." As Nicole spoke, the light in her eyes slowly vanished. She recalled that she and White had promised to go to Dane before, yet it never happened.

Thus, not only did she want to fulfill her wish, but she also wanted to fulfill White's wish through this trip.

Colton looked at the place where Nicole pointed at the guidebook and smiled. "It is indeed a beautiful place. Let's go there."

Nicole looked at Colton and smiled happily.

This time, she would go to the place with the man she loved.

When Colton saw the expectancy in Nicole's eyes, he smiled and felt that this was the life he always wanted. Then, he walked toward her and hugged her. He snuggled his head against her shoulder and said softly, "Well then, my dear wife, you don't have to worry about the preparation. I will let you have the best honeymoon ever!"

Feeling the warmth behind her, Nicole turned around and hugged him back. She was content, and it was all thanks to Colton's love and gentleness.

"Thank you, Colton..." Then, she seemed to have remembered something and looked at him. "Oh, that's right. Don't you have work to do?" she asked.

Colton lowered his head and looked at her adoringly. "I'm not that busy. I have arranged everything beforehand, so don't worry about it." He ruffled her hair.

Nicole lowered her head and seemed to have thought of something again as a hint of disappointment flashed in her eyes.

Colton noticed her emotions and comforted her, "Don't worry about Zachary. I have already talked to him, so I'm sure he'll learn to let it go. Time will heal everything."

Hearing his words, Nicole nodded and didn't think much about it.

...

On the other hand, Evelyn was a nervous wreck since she wasn't able to find out Nicole and Colton's honeymoon plan. The guidebook for raising the love bug pointed out that it would die within ten days if it couldn't find a host. This meant that Evelyn would have wasted all her time and effort if she couldn't find Colton and plant the love bug on him on time! She didn't want to miss this opportunity! However, since she was still under the surveillance of the police, it would be hard for her to find out Colton and Nicole's schedule, let alone stalk them.

Evelyn was anxious. She had to find a way to avert the police's attention while following Colton.

Suddenly, an idea popped into her mind. She remembered a getaway plan and immediately started to make preparations secretly.

First, she spent a tremendous amount of money and hired a woman who looked identical to her to avert the police's attention. Then, she told Siobhan that she felt trapped at home and wanted to go on a trip to forget about Colton.