

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1351 A Chance Meeting - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1351 A Chance Meeting

Chapter 1351 A Chance Meeting

"Mr. Hofstead," said Nicole, greeting him with a smile out of courtesy.

Chloe's gaze upon the man changed; even her attitude toward him cooled noticeably. She merely nodded to him as a form of greeting.

Kendrick didn't notice the change in her attitude, though. His gaze was fixed on Nicole; he was smiling at her with such tenderness in his eyes as though it could spill over at any moment.

Taken aback, Nicole instinctively took a step back. The look in his eyes just now was different from usual—no, it could be described as peculiar.

Seeing her response, Kendrick realized that he had stepped out of line and was perhaps too hasty. Immediately, he turned his gaze away and said with a faint smile, "I'm here just to remind you both to hurry up so that we can grab something to eat quickly. I'm sure the researchers must be rather hungry by now." As soon as he finished his sentence, he turned around and left, his attitude totally different from when he first showed up.

Nicole frowned before tugging at Chloe's sleeve. She asked in a whisper, "Did you feel that there's something off about him?"

Chloe was pleased that Nicole finally realized something wasn't right about Kendrick's behavior.

The next moment, however, Nicole shook her head, indicating that she didn't want to continue dwelling on it. "Never mind, what matters most right now is the collaboration. I'll just keep my distance from him in the future," she hastily concluded before dragging Chloe to catch up with the group.

Chloe had just opened her mouth, and the words were yet to come out when she was dragged away. So, should I say it or not?

As soon as they entered the clubhouse, they heard a familiar voice say, "Nicole! Chloe!"

Nicole was delighted upon hearing the voice. However, just when she was about to turn back and greet Wendy, she suddenly recalled what Wendy had told her last time. 'Colton said that if I want to go anywhere, I must go with him.' Don't tell me that Colton is also here?

Before she could come to her senses, Wendy took her hand, looking pleasantly surprised. She never expected to run into Nicole here. What a stroke of good luck!

Kendrick, who was walking ahead of them, had remarkably keen ears. Naturally, he heard what Wendy said, and it set alarm bells ringing in his head, prompting him to turn around and look.

"Nicole, I didn't expect to see you here! I tell you what, Colton—" Wendy began, only to clam up mid- sentence and silently release her grip on Nicole. She subconsciously looked back, praying inwardly that Colton hadn't entered.

Unfortunately, it was already too late.

The moment Wendy took Nicole's hand, Colton saw it all. Not only that, but he also noticed Kendrick standing not far from Nicole. Having seen his picture, he instantly recognized the man. What annoyed him was that he had entered just in time to see the man looking at Nicole in a way that disturbed him. Call this a man's intuition.

All Wendy saw was that his face darkened in an instant. Even the atmosphere around them seemed to turn heavy. She didn't know why, but she assumed it was because of her association with Nicole. "Colton," she said cautiously. Colton didn't let her get along with Nicole from the start, so she was afraid that he might go as far as to delete Nicole's contact information from her phone.

On the other hand, Nicole's gaze had been fixed on Colton ever since he came in. He seems to have lost quite a bit of weight since we last met a long time ago. What should I say? I guess I can't even say "long time no see" anymore.

Just then, there was someone nearby who was rushing in a hurry. Just when the person nearly bumped into Nicole, Chloe swiftly positioned herself next to her and extended her hand to protect her belly.

Realizing that Nicole was pregnant, the person apologized in embarrassment, "Sorry, my bad. I didn't notice that you're pregnant."

Chloe wanted to say something, but Nicole tugged at her. Picking up the hint, she said nothing and stood quietly beside Nicole. Nicole's been so immersed in her work these days that people are perhaps starting to forget that she's pregnant.

Hearing the person's words, Colton knitted his brows as if recalling something unpleasant. Pregnant?

Kendrick stared straight at Nicole's belly with eyes wide open. Is she pregnant?

Chapter 1352 Pregnant

Needless to say, Colton noticed Kendrick's change in facial expression. All of a sudden, exultation washed over him. It went without saying that a man could see through another man. The way Kendrick looked at Nicole was far from ordinary, and his reaction upon learning that she was pregnant was really satisfying.

Nicole hesitated for a moment, grateful that Chloe had reacted swiftly by preventing that person from hurting her baby by accident. Thinking of her baby, she suddenly realized that she had almost forgotten about them for such a long time. However, her pregnancy this time was different from the norm. She hadn't experienced morning sickness or other visible signs of pregnancy, nor was there anything particularly uncomfortable about it.

Kendrick asked, "Miss Anderson, are you pregnant?" He found this hard to believe. He hadn't heard anything about Nicole being pregnant. Moreover, if she was indeed pregnant, she should've lost her baby under the effect of the voodoo bug Ryan had planted on her.

Hearing his question, Nicole looked at him with embarrassment. "Sorry, Mr. Hofstead. I didn't mention it before, but I'm already five months along."

Five months along, eh? Colton's eyelids twitched. He couldn't help but let out a sneer as he brushed past Nicole, saying in an icy voice, "Wendy, let's go."

Nicole staggered slightly; for a moment, she was unsteady on her feet. Fortunately, Chloe was quick enough to support her just before she fell. "Nicole, why don't you go back and rest if you're not feeling well?"

"It's not necessary." Nicole shook her head slightly, but her face turned pale in an instant, as if her

health had deteriorated at this very moment.

Chloe frowned deeply. She knew that Nicole's condition wasn't due to illness; it was just that Colton's every move had an impact on her. Nicole must've noticed Colton's expression just now, or she wouldn't have reacted like this.

"Take care of yourself, Nicole." Wendy looked at Nicole with concern. She was somewhat worried, but Colton was getting farther and farther ahead, giving her no time to continue reminiscing.

"Miss Anderson, if you're not feeling well, you should go back and rest. I'll handle things here," whispered Kendrick tenderly, having gauged the situation from Colton's expression just now.

Nicole shook her head. "It's alright, Mr. Hofstead. Let's go inside." She took a step back, keeping a clear distance from him.

As soon as she said that, Chloe supported her as they headed toward the private room reserved by Kendrick.

Kendrick watched Nicole leave with a dark look in his eyes. The baby surely isn't Colton's. In that case, whose baby is it? If it's Colton's, why would he look so grim just now? With questions in his mind, he followed Nicole into the private room, where the researchers had been waiting for a long time.

As soon as Nicole entered, they began chatting amiably with her.

"Nicole, our team made some major progress today. It's really awesome," said a researcher proudly. Progress meant breakthroughs. For their medical base, this was cause for huge celebrations.

Nicole broke into a smile at these words. She quickly congratulated, "Well then, your team had better eat more tonight!"

"Hurray!" The whole room burst into cheers at once.

Due to the large number of people, Kendrick had to reserve three private rooms to accommodate everyone. At this moment, Nicole was in charge of one private room, Chloe another, while Kendrick took care of the third.

Noticing that Kendrick wasn't around, one of the researchers quietly leaned in and whispered to Nicole, "Nicole, Mr. Hofstead is really generous with money. Usually, it's only when I'm very tired that I'd come to places like this to treat myself."

As they spoke, other researchers chimed in one after another, telling Nicole about the benefits of this place and recommending some lesser-known but tasty dishes.

Nicole nodded while responding to each of them. Ever since that person went to jail, the salaries of the medical base's staff had increased. Although they couldn't afford to eat well every day, they could afford to indulge in good food once in a while.

Chapter 1353 Last Resort

Just when Nicole was engaging in the conversation with everyone, silence suddenly descended upon the room.

Sensing someone's presence, she turned her head and saw Kendrick standing at the door, who smiled at her. He said, "Miss Anderson, we've placed the orders. The dishes will be served in a moment."

Nicole nodded slightly with a faint smile, but there was an air of distance in her demeanor. "Thank you, Mr. Hofstead."

Kendrick was startled, unsure as to why Nicole suddenly became so formal with him. Our relationship has been improving over the past couple of days, no? Why did it go back to the beginning right after she saw Colton? This isn't the outcome I wanted. It's all because of him!

His expression darkened. Watching her chat and laugh with the researchers, he felt deeply upset. At the same time, his resentment toward Colton grew. Don't worry, Nicole. I'll speed things up and get rid of Colton sooner. As for your baby, I'll raise them as my own, making sure that you two won't suffer the slightest bit of indignity.

Nicole had been talking about the subject of drinking with the researchers. She wanted to ask for Kendrick's opinion, but she didn't expect to see him lost in thought with a grim expression. She had no choice but to raise her voice while calling out his name. "Mr. Hofstead?"

Only then did Kendrick snap out of his thoughts. He looked at her with a flicker of panic in his eyes, asking, "What's wrong?" He had been preoccupied with pondering how to speed things up and get rid of Colton, so he hadn't heard what Nicole and others had been talking about. Hopefully she didn't notice anything wrong with me.

Seeing the looks of anticipation around her, Nicole reluctantly asked, "It's no big deal. I was just wondering if you would like to join in for a bit of drinking with them. I'm pregnant, so I can't really have much." She wanted to keep her distance from Kendrick, but everyone was in high spirits and wanted to have a few drinks with him. Well, everyone's been working hard lately, so this kind of relaxation isn't entirely out of the question. It's just a favor, anyway; I can return it later.

Kendrick's lips parted, but he didn't say anything.

"Don't worry, Mr. Hofstead. Just a little bit is fine. They've got work tomorrow, so they won't be drinking a lot," said Nicole, interpreting his silence as a possible discomfort with her request. If he were to decline, she would understand. She had known him for over a month now, during which time she had never seen him socialize for business-related matters.

She had gathered enough information about Kendrick during her stay here. Much of his collaborations didn't originate from his own initiative; instead, most of them were the result of others trying to curry favor with him. In other words, his power was already beyond their imagination.

"Alright." Coming to his senses, Kendrick hurriedly agreed. He didn't expect that his momentary distraction just now would give her the wrong idea. After all, he was accustomed to drinking at home, so it wasn't something that he couldn't handle.

"Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hofstead." Nicole nodded before looking back and nodding to everyone.

Understanding that it was a success, the crowd instantly erupted in cheers.

Just then, Chloe came in from the next door, followed by several researchers. All of them looked

puzzled, wondering what was causing the excitement. As their representative, she stepped forward and asked, "What's making you all so happy?"

Unfortunately, the crowd intended to hide this from them, so they only smiled at Chloe without saying anything.

Growing anxious, the researchers behind Chloe immediately rushed forward and grabbed their familiar colleagues, pressing them for answers.

For a moment, the room was packed with people. Everyone had smiles on their faces and looked very happy, which greatly reassured Nicole. This was exactly what she wanted—a relaxed atmosphere that would help everyone unwind so that they became even more dedicated to their work.

Chapter 1354 The Fretful Scene in the Private Room

Sounds of cheerful laughter and even teasing directed at Nicole could be heard coming from the private room next door from time to time.

On the other hand, Colton was sitting in a private room nearby, his face gloomy as he ate his meal. Had Wendy not wanted to dine here, he would've slammed his fork and spoon on the dining table and stormed off long ago.

Wendy ate her meal in silence, not daring to say a word. After all, she knew Colton's temper pretty well. I'd better behave well today and head straight back to the hotel after dinner without making any other demands.

She had thought that it would be a pleasure to meet Nicole here, but she didn't expect there would be another man nearby. She knew a little bit about the man. When she was with Nicole before, Nicole had mentioned her medical base, which was supposed to be a collaboration with this man. How could there be such a coincidence?

Suddenly, Colton looked up at her with a dark expression. He asked coldly, "When did you find out that she was around here?"

Wendy's hands paused for a moment. Hearing his question, she put her fork and spoon down on the table and looked up gingerly at his expression before taking in a sharp breath. "Uh, I just found out today. I didn't expect my sister-in-law to be around here. It was quite a coincidence! Haha!" she replied with an awkward laugh before picking up her fork and spoon and continuing to eat in silence with her head down. Who would dare to tell the truth with that kind of expression? It's better to just brush him off with a random excuse. If he finds out about the real situation, I'll definitely get lectured today!

"Who is that guy?" asked Colton as if he hadn't understood what she just said.

Wendy closed her eyes in resignation. Oh, God, please don't do this to me. How am I supposed to answer that? Even though I know that he's Nicole's business partner, I can't just blurt it out, right? "I don't know," she replied in a muffled voice. I'm not going to spill the beans. I've got to maintain my good friendship with Nicole.

"Is the food delicious?"

"Yeah."

"Does the red wine taste good?"

"Yeah."

"Is that guy her business partner?"

"Yeah," blurted Wendy. As soon as she said that, she quickly covered her mouth with her innocent eyes wide open. What did I just say? Did I just blurt out the truth? She glared at him angrily. This guy is treacherous, changing the subject to distract me and then suddenly extracting the real answer from me! What a schemer! "Why you!"

"Well, I would've known even if you didn't say it." Colton slowly lowered his head and ate the food on his plate as though he had heard the response he wanted.

"Then why did you have to trick me like that?" Wendy pouted defiantly, suddenly losing her appetite as she looked at the spread of dishes on the dining table. Isn't that a form of betrayal against Nicole? How

annoying! He's truly a company president, taking charge of his company's affairs and playing tricks on people with his wicked mind.

Colton grabbed the napkin at hand and wiped his mouth as if he had finished his meal. "Well, I just suddenly felt like asking. You don't have to get so worked up about it."

Wendy rolled her eyes in exasperation. She shot an annoyed glance at the man, but the moment she saw the look on his face, she immediately withdrew her gaze like an obedient kitten retracting its claws.

Colton's eyes were cold, and the atmosphere around him was different from usual. "No more calling her sister-in-law. She doesn't deserve it," he said, stressing each word as though the "she" he referred to weren't his beloved woman.

"I—" retorted Wendy. Just when she was about to say something, she saw Colton's expression, which reminded her of Nicole's instructions. She shut up obediently without saying another word. I'd be a fool to speak up at a time like this. Ah, life isn't easy, is it?

Chapter 1355

A strange silence suddenly enveloped the room.

Sitting at a distance, Wendy dared not touch the delicious food before her. She swallowed nervously while waiting for whatever else Colton had to say. I already relented, so what else could he do to me? I'm his younger sister, anyway, so he has no other options.

Seeing that she had relented, Colton suddenly became aware of his own attitude. His expression softened, and so did his voice. "Are you done?"

"Yeah, I'm full," replied Wendy. In reality, she hadn't eaten enough, but the fuss Colton made caused her to lose her appetite all of a sudden.

Colton looked darkly at her for a long time before getting out to leave the private room.

Wendy wondered what he was doing. However, seeing his suit jacket left in his chair, she knew that he would be back in a moment, so she sat there quietly without touching anything. He'll be back after finishing whatever he wanted to do, anyway. No, wait a minute. Suddenly, a realization struck her. Could he have gone to see Nicole? A dreadful thought crept into her mind. The more she thought about it, the more convinced she became that her guess was right. She couldn't be bothered anymore; she rushed out of the room without the slightest hesitation.

Colton's private room wasn't far from Nicole's, but on the way, he had to pass by the spot where the waiter was stationed.

Just as Wendy got there, she saw Colton's tall figure. He seemed to be doing something, leaning slightly forward with his eyes fixed upon the tablet on the table while casually tapping away. Seeing his

casual demeanor, she couldn't help but swear under her breath, "He's so gentle with outsiders, but I've never seen him being so gentle with his own sister!" What made her even more disgruntled was that he was so gentle with a man, which left her frustrated.

Perhaps having heard her quiet complaint, Colton looked back just in time to meet her angry gaze. "What are you doing out here?"

The moment Wendy heard this, the anger within her subsided. She looked aside and realized that he was actually ordering food. "Aren't we done eating?" she asked, pointing at the menu he had blocked from view earlier.

Glancing at the menu, Colton pushed it further inside and explained, "You'll definitely be hungry later, so I'm getting some food ready in advance for you." Naturally, he knew what his sister was thinking. He just wanted to prevent her from knocking on his door in the middle of the night and disturbing his sleep.

"That's pretty nice of you," remarked Wendy with a nod. In her heart, she was somewhat moved, but that was all. There's absolutely nothing more than that! It's not my fault that he'd rather be gentle with a strange man than his own sister! "Hi, sis—" she said before looking at Colton beside her. At once, she corrected herself, saying, "Nicole, are you guys done eating?"

Coming to his senses, Colton saw the approaching group; his hands paused when he saw Nicole and Kendrick standing side by side.

"Yeah. Are you done eating too?" Nicole looked at Wendy with tenderness in her eyes.

It was precisely this tenderness that infuriated Colton more and more. He wondered if she had shown such tenderness to anyone else.

"Uh, yeah." Sensing that Colton wasn't in the best mood, Wendy hurriedly changed the subject. "Well, Nicole, I've got to go. Let's have dinner together when there's an opportunity," she said. Then, she turned to look at Colton, whispering, "Colton, let's go." After that, she fled without waiting for his reply. Screw it. Saving myself is the priority here.

Colton stared darkly at Nicole for a long time before turning to leave. She isn't my Nicole anymore, and I should learn to let go.

Kendrick had been observing Colton the whole time. He was certain that Colton still had feelings for Nicole, though he had been suppressing them.

Chapter 1356

Seeing Colton look back, Kendrick purposely took off his suit jacket and draped it around Nicole's shoulders. "Nicole, are you feeling cold? Let me put something on you," he said. If you can't let go, I'll force you to let go. Colton, I'll never let you off for what happened between the Gardners and the Hofsteads back then.

Colton's pupils shrank at the sight of this. He froze for a moment, not daring to look back. In the end, he could only stride off.

Startled, Nicole casually removed the suit jacket from her shoulders and returned it to Kendrick. "Sorry, Mr. Hofstead, but I don't need this," she replied before taking Chloe by the hand and leaving. She didn't know what Kendrick's intentions were, but she was now pregnant with Colton's child. Even if he wouldn't forgive her, she wouldn't seek solace in another man.

Kendrick smiled helplessly while watching her stubborn figure. Nicole, when will you accept me?

On the other hand, Wendy returned to their private room. Just when she gathered her belongings and prepared to leave, she saw Colton come back with a sullen expression. After swinging his suit jacket over his shoulder, he turned around and left.

Watching him storm off in a fit of rage, she was perplexed. What's going on this time? Curling her lips in resignation, she picked up her bag and caught up to him.

Colton walked ahead alone. He didn't know what to do anymore; every time he saw Nicole with another man, he felt trapped in a whirlwind of emotions that he couldn't escape from. What on earth should I do? I know full well that the baby in her womb belongs to Zachary.

"Slow down, Colton!" shouted Wendy helplessly. She tried to catch up to him from behind, but she couldn't close the distance between them no matter how hard she tried.

However, Colton acted as though he hadn't heard her at all. He kept walking ahead, completely oblivious to her calls from behind.

Wendy stopped in her tracks to catch her breath before looking at Colton with a sigh. He's probably upset again because of Nicole. After she managed to catch her breath, she broke into a trot, feeling relieved that she wasn't wearing high heels.

Meanwhile, Nicole was walking alongside Chloe on the street after dragging her out of the clubhouse.

"Nicole, maybe we should keep our distance from Kendrick from now on," said Chloe with a deep frown. Something's very wrong with his behavior today. As soon as Colton wanted to leave, he draped his suit jacket over Nicole's shoulders. It's not hard to figure out his intentions.

Nicole nodded. "I know, but he's our business partner now. To put it in a certain way, we can't keep a clear distance from him yet." She had also noticed Kendrick's odd behavior, but there were a lot of issues that they had to work together on. This was a troublesome situation.

"Uh-huh." Chloe nodded. "About Colton today..." She tried to bring up the subject of Colton, wanting to know what Nicole was up to.

Nicole froze for a moment. "It's fine." For some reason, whenever she saw Colton, she felt a mix of fear and nervousness. There were many times when she wanted to talk to him about the baby, but the words never seemed to come out. "Never mind. Let's forget about it," she said, not wanting to discuss this anymore.

Chloe shut up and followed behind her in silence.

After returning to the hotel, Colton passed the things he had bought from the clubhouse to Wendy and shut himself in his hotel room.

Wendy stood outside with the takeout in her hand while looking at the closed door with concern. What on earth am I supposed to do?

The room was so dark that it was impossible to see anything. Colton stared at the records and photos from the past, in which Nicole used to smile so sweetly. But now, she was no longer with him.

"Hey, are you ignoring me?" Beryl walked over from the side with a tablet in hand, the light of which illuminated Colton's face.

Colton looked at him, who was wearing a half-smile. "Why are you here?" he asked in a hoarse voice, smirking.

Only then did Beryl notice the ghastly pallor of his face. "Why do you look like you're at death's door?" he asked with a frown, though he never expected to see Colton in such a state.

"Cut to the chase." Colton frowned in displeasure. He wasn't in a good mood and didn't want to waste time talking to Beryl.

Beryl handed his tablet to him. "Here are the relevant details."

Chapter 1357

Colton took the laptop over to take a look at Kendrick's information. The files contained some pieces of information that weren't available to the public, and these were the pieces of information that Colton had been looking for. The details that were available on the internet were merely things that Kendrick wanted others to know—these weren't details that everyone really wanted to find out about.

"He's from the Hofstead Family?" Colton mumbled to himself as he looked at Kendrick's past identity thoughtfully.

"Surprising, right? I was surprised, too. I can't believe he's part of the Hofstead Family." Beryl raised an eyebrow as he stared at Colton. When Beryl first found out about the news, he had been shocked as well. I can't believe that someone from the Hofstead Family managed to attain such a high position when most of their members ended up in prison or on the streets more than ten years ago, Beryl thought.

Colton's gaze darkened as he stared at the details listed on his laptop. He fixed his gaze on the few words that had caught his eye. The Hofstead Family used to work closely with the Gardners, but that was more than ten years ago. The Gardners had always held more power than the Hofsteads. However, the

Hofsteads were a wild and greedy bunch—they were keen to surpass the Gardners, and they had attempted to attack the Gardners a few times in the past. Fortunately for the Gardners, Benjamin wasn't an easy target.

Naturally, Benjamin hadn't been pleased when the Hofsteads first provoked and attacked him back then. He got back at them a few times at the start, but the Hofsteads didn't seem to step down even after that. They continued to provoke the Gardners, and each time it happened, Benjamin would simply respond with a relatively merciful comeback. However, an accumulation of Benjamin's attacks eventually forced the Hofsteads into a corner. Eventually, the Hofsteads faced some severe issues in

their internal divisions, resulting in the dissolution of their company. Some fewer savory activities that had been going on in their company were also exposed at this point in time, and the family went bankrupt after that. Several of their members were arrested and jailed.

"If Kendrick's from the Hofstead Family, that gives him a clear motive to get revenge for them. Everything makes sense, then." Colton remained silent for a long while, and Beryl finally came up with a statement before sighing to himself. Colton's probably out of it now because he's worried about Nicole. I'd never seen him act the way he did before I showed up earlier.

"Yeah. Stop investigating the others. I want to focus on knowing more about Kendrick," Colton announced in a deep voice. His eyes were bloodshot when he looked up to meet Beryl's gaze.

Beryl nodded and kept quiet for a while before speaking. "I'll head off now. I'm staying next door, so you can just call me if you need anything," he offered.

Colton didn't respond after that.

Beryl simply took the other man's silence as a response, and he turned to walk out after that. He didn't take his laptop with him, as he knew that Colton would want to continue going through the files. I should give him some time to think things through, Beryl figured. After Beryl headed off, Colton was left all alone in his room.

Wendy had a bag of takeaway food in her hand as she paced along the corridors outside the room. She had been standing outside for a while, but she hadn't heard any sounds coming from the room. She was torn between announcing her presence and remaining silent when she heard sounds

coming from the door. She hastily straightened her figure as she thought, Colton is probably going to head out to buy cigarettes or alcohol if he's going out at this hour. I'm supposed to keep an eye on him, so it's my

job to make sure that he doesn't harm himself in any way.

"Beryl?" Wendy was stunned when she saw the man stepping out of the room. She instinctively glanced at the room door to make sure that it was Colton's room. That's the correct room number. Why did Beryl walk out of Colton's room? A disturbing thought popped up in her mind then. Are they... dating each other? Wendy curled her lips into a smirk at that thought.

When Beryl saw the smile on Wendy's face, he could immediately guess what she was thinking about. He gave her a gentle flick on her forehead before speaking in an exasperated tone. "What are you thinking about? I simply had some stuff to talk to your brother about. What's up?"

"Ah!" Wendy rubbed her forehead before glaring at Beryl. "Ugh." The two of them had started bickering with one another ever since they were kids.

Chapter 1358

When Beryl saw the look of distaste and resentment on Wendy's face, he felt oddly pleased. He sized her up for a bit before noticing the takeaway bag in her hand. "Why are you standing here?" he asked as he pointed at the bag of food in Wendy's hand. "Why do you have that with you?"

At that, Wendy returned to her senses and rolled her eyes at Beryl before questioning him. "Is he okay?" She had been a little distracted by Beryl's boyish smile earlier. What an annoying guy! I bet he has won tons of girls over with that smile of his.

She felt rather repulsed by her own thoughts at that moment. Why should I care about the number of girls he has interacted with?

"He's fine. Don't worry," Beryl uttered with a nod before glancing at Colton's room door.

Wendy felt a little more reassured after hearing Beryl's words. After all, if Colton had been in trouble, Beryl would've been the first to rush over to him. "You haven't responded to my second question. Why are you carrying that

bag of food while standing out here? Isn't the food going to turn cold?" he asked.

Beryl didn't say much after that. He simply fixed his gaze on the takeaway bag in the woman's hands. "What are you looking at? This is for Colton."

She could sense a rather suspicious look in Beryl's eyes, and it was a look that she was familiar with. I bet he's thinking of stealing some food for himself. He's never up to anything good.

Beryl shook his head before shifting his gaze to look at her. "You take care, okay?" he muttered before turning around and disappearing into the room next door.

Wendy was dumbfounded for a moment. This guy never seems to make any sense. How annoying! The more she thought about it, the more she felt like Beryl had simply been fooling around with her that night. However, she couldn't find any evidence to back her suspicions. By the time Wendy returned to her senses, the corridors were empty. She turned and stormed back into her own room, as she felt too idiotic to continue standing around like a fool.

As the night fell, Nicole found herself lying in bed alone. She had urged Chloe to go back to her own room, but she couldn't seem to fall asleep even after that. She kept replaying her interactions with Colton that day.

"He seems livelier and more charismatic than before," she muttered as Colton's face surfaced in her mind's eye.

All of a sudden, Nicole was reminded of how Colton had looked when he assumed that the child belonged to Zachary. Colton's expression had been eerily grim, and even a daredevil like Nicole had taken a few steps back when she saw his face.

"I'll support you silently, Colton," Nicole muttered as she spread her lips into a smile. She was speaking to the ceiling as if Colton were there to respond to her.

After entertaining her thoughts for a while, Nicole lifted her phone to check her notifications. There wasn't a single message for her. That's odd. Wendy should be sharing all about Colton's matters by now. The absence of her messages is scaring me. Did something happen?

Nicole couldn't bear to consider the possibilities. Her hands were trembling as she typed out a message. She wanted to know about Colton. However, her message was completely ignored—she didn't hear back from Wendy at all.

Meanwhile, Wendy sank into the couch after she got back, utterly exhausted. She stared at the food that she had bought and contemplated for a moment before she walked over to the table to unpack the food. He sure knows me well. He knows that I'll get hungry, so he bought extra food for me, she thought. The food had turned cold, but Wendy wasn't a spoiled brat, and she didn't mind eating it. It'd be a shame to let the food go to waste, after all.

For some reason, Wendy felt rather uneasy to keep her phone in her bag, so she pulled it out and placed it on the table beside her. Right then, her screen lit up to reveal all her unread messages. She frowned in surprise for a while before she hastily looked through her notifications.

Chapter 1359 More Care, More Trouble

'How's your brother, Wendy? He didn't seem too well when he left earlier.'

'It's been a while, Wendy. Haven't you arrived at the hotel?'

'Give me a response when you see this, Wendy.'

Wendy felt a pang of regret when she saw the series of texts she had received from Nicole. I was too focused on Colton earlier, and I forgot to update Nicole. I made her worry for nothing, Wendy thought. After that, she hastily typed out a bunch of words in their chat. I should reply to her immediately. I'm sure she's still awake, Wendy figured.

'I just got back to my room, Nicole. Something happened, but I don't know what. I'll update you once I get more information,' Wendy texted. She was certain that something was up. Otherwise, Beryl wouldn't show up and stay beside Colton's room.

Meanwhile, Nicole stayed up to wait for Wendy's text. Wendy didn't respond immediately, so Nicole watched the news while waiting. She finally received Wendy's text slightly past midnight, and she felt her chest tightening upon reading Wendy's message. Did something happen back in the country? I don't think that's possible. Colton might be in Florend, but there are still people handling the situation back home. I don't think Ryan can cause problems for

the Gardners within such a short period, Nicole thought. Could this be about that person?

She seemed to realize something then. I have to know what's going on. I'll be able to work better once I find out more about the situation. Then, I'll have a clearer goal to work toward, she thought. 'I'll need your help to find out more, Wendy,' Nicole replied.

By the time Wendy received Nicole's text, she had already devoured most of the takeaway food. She fell deep into thought after she saw Nicole's text. I won't be able to get much from Colton, so... Beryl! Wendy packed up the rest of the unfinished meatballs before she headed out of her room. Well, if that's the case... Here I come, Beryl Helm!

On the other end, Beryl had just gotten out of the shower, and he was glad to finally get some rest for the next few days. He had put in a lot of time and effort to do his research on Kendrick over the past few days, and his work was almost done. Colton's team would complete the rest of the research, and Beryl figured that he would get to rest a little while he was in Florend.

Beryl had just settled down in bed when he heard a knock on his door. Is someone knocking on my door? He hurried to his feet.

Knock knock! The knocks grew louder, and it sounded as if someone was trying to knock his door down. Beryl frowned a little—he was displeased by the person's actions, but he tried his best to stay calm as he walked over to open the door.

"Hello!" Wendy held a box of meatballs in her hands as she introduced herself to Beryl. "It's nice to meet you. I'm Wendy!"

Beryl's expression was blank as he stared at the woman before him. He knew Wendy well, and he was sure that she was here to ask him for a favor. I'm probably not going to benefit from this conversation. With that thought, Beryl pushed Wendy out of the room without any hesitation. "I'm about to sleep. You should leave," he uttered.

Wendy took a step back as she glanced at the man's large hand pressing against her arm. "Ah! A pervert!" she screamed. Beryl was taken aback by her shout, and he immediately pulled his hand away

before stumbling backward. His face was filled with terror as he stared at the woman. He was genuinely shocked by her scream—he hadn't expected her to be so loud, and he hadn't expected her to call him a pervert. It's just the two of us here. Who's the pervert?!

Beryl instinctively glanced at his surroundings to make sure that there weren't any other people around. So... I'm the pervert that Wendy is referring to? He seemed to realize something then, and he was just about to step forward when Wendy made a move first. Thump! Wendy rushed into the room and slammed the door shut behind her.

Chapter 1360 A Favor

Wendy had the box of meatballs in her hand as she stepped closer to Beryl with a sinister smile on her face. Beryl instinctively tightened his bathrobe when he saw the look on the woman's face. "What do you want to do?"

"I'm sure you know what I want, Beryl. I have a few questions, and you just need to answer me," she replied with a smile. The man found himself pressed against the window behind him as Wendy continued to speak at a slow pace. "You don't have to hide from me anymore, Beryl. You know what I'm like."

The man couldn't help but roll his eyes. This woman must be getting curious again. Well, Colton's actions are pretty conspicuous this time around, so I'm sure this woman must have realized something. But this matter... Forget it. It's no secret, anyway. "Well, it's not a big deal. The Hofstead Family has a son who has been targeting Colton and the Gardner Family because he wants to get revenge. That's it." Beryl let out an exasperated sigh before he pushed Wendy away to slip out from the corner. He let out another slow sigh of relief after that.

Wendy nodded. Her goal had been achieved, so she glanced at her surroundings before leaving the meatballs on the table. When she looked up and noticed the confusion in Beryl's eyes, she explained herself in a bashful tone. "That's for your hard work. I'll leave now." Without giving the man a chance to say much, Wendy strode out of the room and shut the door behind her. Beryl took a look at the box of meatballs. It obviously looked like leftovers that one couldn't finish after eating some of it.

"It's just my bad luck," Beryl mumbled to himself while shaking his head. He happened to feel rather hungry, so he sat down at the table. He didn't have

any disposable gloves in the room, so he ended up eating the meatballs with his bare hands. The meatballs weren't too filling, and they were pretty delicious, so it only took him a few minutes to finish all of it.

Once Wendy achieved her primary goal, she headed back to her room with a pleased look on her face. She repeated whatever Beryl had said earlier to herself as she typed the words out on her screen before sending the message to Nicole. Just another day of helping Nicole out! Well, I guess my efforts didn't go to waste, since I managed to help Nicole and Colton. I'm not allowed to leave the hotel without Colton, anyway. It's a shame how work and holidays seem to exist together.

Meanwhile, Nicole couldn't fall asleep after receiving the news from Wendy. She couldn't help but wonder about the news that had turned Colton's face so pale earlier in the day. Furthermore, she couldn't get her mind off Kendrick, who seemed to act rather differently toward her. She had a feeling that she used to know him, but regardless of how much she tried to dig into the depths of her memories, the man's face still seemed rather foreign to her.

After some time, Nicole found herself getting a headache from all the thinking. She ended up walking over to the window and opening it to get some fresh air. Ding. It was a notification from her phone. She assumed that it was a text from Wendy, so she hastily shut her window before picking up her phone to scroll through her notifications. "The Hofsteads? The Gardners?"

Nicole didn't know anything about the past. Back then, she was still a young girl who was focused on honing her medical skills—she had been well-protected by her master. On top of that, this was a long time ago, and she couldn't recall much from that time. She ended up running an online search for more information. The information online wasn't always accurate, but she figured that it would give her some clues and a direction to work toward.

'The Hofsteads and the Gardners' fight is like a battle between the gods. The Gardners are a little too mean, though. They forced the Hofsteads into bankruptcy. It's true when they say that the business

industry is brutal and heartless—all they care about are their benefits.' Nicole happened to stumble upon a comment that was supportive of the Hofstead Family and against the Gardners.

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1361 A Clue - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1361 A Clue

Chapter 1361 A Clue

Nicole frowned after reading the contents on her phone. The person was clearly siding with the Hofstead Family, and they made the Gardners seem like they were just a greedy and merciless family. If my calculations are right, Colton's father, Benjamin, should've been the CEO back then. Nicole had interacted with Benjamin in the past, and he hadn't seemed like a heartless man to her. She was good at reading others, and she was certain that her impression of him was correct.

There were a few comments that sided with the Gardner Family, but those were clearly outnumbered. Nicole's instincts told her to tap on the profile of the person who spoke up for the Gardners the most. 'The Hofsteads were clearly too aggressive. They kept provoking the Gardners, and they were trying to ruin the Gardners. If it weren't for Benjamin's skills, the Gardners would've been utterly destroyed by the Hofsteads.'

Nicole was fully focused as she continued to read the comment. 'The Gardners might not be saints, but I bet they didn't have a choice but to fight back. They only pushed back a little each time, and they didn't try to ruin the Hofsteads in one go. Ultimately, the Hofsteads were simply too greedy. They ignored their own mess and focused on destroying the Gardners instead. As a result, they faced some issues in their internal divisions, and a few of their core people were sent to jail. The Hofsteads went bankrupt after that.'

Nicole felt a heavy sensation in her chest after reading the comment. She didn't know how to determine the truth after reading the comments. However, she was certain that Benjamin wasn't an evil man. If the Hofsteads had been the ones to trigger him, he would have shown some mercy in his counterattack. Colton, on the other hand, wouldn't have had the same mindset if he had been the one in charge. Colton was much more unforgiving, and he wouldn't have let the Hofsteads go so easily. His approach made him a legendary figure in the industry, and no one had the guts to mess with him, as they didn't want to cause trouble for themselves.

Well, if this comment is true, then it looks like Old Mr. Gardner was too kind back then. Since Nicole had a clue, she figured that she could expand her research from there. After a long while, she finally fell asleep in bed. For some

reason, she had a really nice, deep sleep. The next morning, Nicole was awakened by the sound of Chloe knocking on her door. Nicole crawled out of bed half-asleep—she was still tired, as she had slept a little too late the night before.

Nicole had a hand pressed against her back and another hand around her tummy as she got to the door. In recent years, she could tell that her body wasn't as active and lively as before. "What is it, Nicole? Did you not sleep well last night?" Chloe asked with a frown. She could tell from the look on Nicole's face that the woman hadn't gotten a good sleep. "Why don't you take a day off today? You should get a holiday. Your stomach is starting to show, and I don't think you can continue doing this," Chloe suggested.

Even though Nicole's pregnancy differed from the regular person's, it was still necessary for her to be cautious with her health. She would suffer if she went on the way she did. "I can't take a day off today. We're in the most crucial period now, so we can't get lazy at a time like this," Nicole uttered while shaking her head. She insisted on proceeding with work, and she had a determined look on her face.

When Chloe saw the look of determination on Nicole's face, she simply let out an exasperated sigh. "Fine. But you're not allowed to work the morning and night shifts at the base—you're only allowed to continue with your inspection." This was the most that Chloe could offer, and she made her boundaries clear. Even though this was their business, Chloe knew that one's health had to take precedence.

Nicole knew that she would have to go along with Chloe's words when she saw the look on Chloe's face. She knew that Chloe was only doing this for her, and she knew that Chloe didn't want her to do anything that would be harmful to herself. "Fine. I'll sleep for a while more, then. You should head off

first," Nicole replied with a nod. She beamed at the other woman when she saw the earnest look on the woman's face.

Chloe left after she was finally satisfied with Nicole's response. "You should take good care of yourself. I'll wait for you at the base," she uttered in a rather worried tone before leaving. Nicole nodded and agreed once more before sending Chloe off. After Chloe left, Nicole felt the drowsiness seeping into her again. She made her way to her bed before sinking in and falling into a deep sleep.

Chapter 1362 The Actual Reason

Kendrick fell deep into thought as he gazed at the night view outside his window. Ryan had told him that Colton was there to look for Nicole. If that's the case, then why didn't he show any response when seeing Nicole today? The same question bothered Kendrick throughout the night, and he simply couldn't make sense of it. He was thinking about this even while he was at the gathering earlier.

Colton was an extremely powerful enemy to have—Kendrick was much more terrified of Colton than he was of Benjamin. I can't allow any of this to be exposed. I have to get Ryan to speed up his work. Perhaps Colton is only using Nicole as an excuse to visit Florend, and perhaps his actual reason is to attack me, Kendrick thought to himself. But... If he doesn't go to Monterey, then there wouldn't be anyone to watch over the companies in the country. There'd be an easy target over at Monterey.

Kendrick curled his lips into a smirk at that thought. Perhaps this isn't all bad. I can use myself as bait, and I can get Colton to be hooked on me. Right then, Kendrick heard his phone ringing. His gaze darkened when he saw his phone screen flashing beside him. It was a call from Ryan. Ever since Colton left the country, Kendrick provided Ryan with his actual contact number so that Ryan could contact him easily.

However, Ryan wasn't as simple of a man as he had thought. Ryan really thinks that I don't know about all his subtle gestures back in the country, huh? Without much hesitation, Kendrick picked up his phone. "What is it?"

"Things are nearly ready here. I bought some small portions of the Gardner Family's shares from others, and we're considered shareholders now. However, I bought it under someone else's name, so the Gardners don't know that I'm the shareholder now." Ryan spoke in a rather haughty tone as if he was trying to show off to Kendrick.

Kendrick's expression darkened upon hearing the man's words. Aren't things going a little too smoothly? Regardless, Kendrick didn't have much of an understanding of the country's situation, so all he could do was make judgments based on Ryan's words. Fortunately for him, Ryan was a relatively competent man, and all it took were a few words to ensure that Ryan would get the job done well.

"It seems to be going a little too smoothly. Perhaps you should be more alert. If you still don't face any obstacles, you might want to hold things off for a few days to observe the situation first," Kendrick ordered in a deep voice. All they had was this one chance. If they didn't succeed this time, it wasn't just Ryan who would fall into the hands of the Gardners—Kendrick would be affected as well.

"I got it. Don't worry." Ryan was confident in his abilities to handle this matter. They chatted for a while before they ended the call. After that, Kendrick pulled his blinds shut before he walked over to his bed to sit down. Nicole's face popped up in his mind. The most shocking news he received that day was the news of Nicole's pregnancy. Kendrick took some time to recall the past, and he remembered how Nicole had been dressed in loose clothing the entire time. She never wore high heels, either. I should've realized something then. But Kendrick had been too obsessed with the fact that he found Nicole, and he had been too excited about his success in partnering up with her. Who does the child belong to?

Kendrick narrowed his eyes a little. If the child belongs to Colton, then... Knowing Colton, he wouldn't allow Nicole to just fly over to Florend. In other words, the child can't possibly belong to Colton. If that's the case, then everything seems to make more sense.

Kendrick was in a good mood after that. He wasn't bothered by the fact that Nicole had a child. After all, regardless of who the child belonged to, Kendrick didn't mind taking the child as his biological child in the future. What mattered the most to Kendrick then was for him to settle things with Louis. Once that's done, there'll be nothing that comes between Nicole and me. I'll be able to take revenge for the

Hofsteads then.

Meanwhile, at Loft Apartments, Chloe walked out of her room to find Nicole hunting for food in the fridge. "Nicole?" Chloe was shocked to learn that Nicole had this side to her as well.

Chapter 1363 Another Problem

Nicole looked as if she hadn't heard Chloe's words at all. She simply went on searching for food in the fridge. It seemed like she was really famished. Chloe tried to stifle a laugh, and she cleared her throat before speaking again. "I can cook something for you if you're hungry, Nicole."

Nicole's actions came to a halt before she slowly turned around to face Chloe. Nicole looked like a child who had just made a mistake—there was a mixture of embarrassment and guilt on her face. She was actually there to look for some ice cream. Chloe had stopped her from eating ice cream recently, but Nicole simply couldn't ignore her cravings.

"Is there something you're hiding from me, Nicole?" Chloe seemed to realize something when she saw the look on Nicole's face, and she shot the woman a suspicious gaze while smiling at her. Nicole hastily pushed the fridge door shut. She felt genuinely self-conscious when she saw the way Chloe's eyes bore into hers. "It's nothing, Chloe. I'm not hungry. I'm going to head back to get some rest. I have work tomorrow," Nicole announced while shaking her head. Then, she turned and hurried off to avoid Chloe's further questions.

Chloe couldn't help but curl her lips into an exasperated smile when she watched how Nicole scurried off. Chloe knew exactly what Nicole wanted, of course. I bet she's craving ice cream.

"Oh, well." Chloe let out a sigh to herself before she headed back to her own room. I don't have a choice. I have to make sure Nicole watches her diet—I'm doing this for her health.

Upon returning to her room, Nicole still felt troubled by the fact that she hadn't gotten her cravings satisfied. Her baby was due in five months, and she would need some time to recover after birth. That was a long wait. "Ugh. When will I get to eat whatever I want?" She shook her head dejectedly.

After a long afternoon nap, Nicole got out of bed and headed over to the research center. The research center was close to where she stayed so that made things convenient for her. However, most of the people at the research center seemed especially protective and attentive toward her since she was pregnant. Nicole didn't like this. Should I just stay home for the next five months? she thought.

Knock knock. Nicole was just about to take a break when someone knocked on her door. "I have something to talk to you about, Nicole." It was Chloe's voice. Nicole opened the door without any hesitation, and she rested a hand on her belly as she walked over to her. "What is it?" Nicole asked.

Chloe rushed forward to support Nicole, and she felt guilty about her own decisions right then. I could've just spoken to her earlier this morning. I'm so insensitive! I shouldn't bother Nicole at this hour. "Forget it. Let's talk about it

tomorrow. You should get some rest, Nicole. I was being selfish by showing up at this hour," Chloe uttered while shaking her head. She helped Nicole over to the bed with a hint of guilt in her eyes.

Upon hearing Chloe's words, Nicole rushed forward to hold onto Chloe's arm. "Oh, it's fine. What is it? Tell me." Nicole found herself gaining trust in Chloe when she saw how sincere and earnest Chloe seemed. Even though Roxanna had her strengths, Nicole still preferred relying on Chloe, especially for international matters.

"Well, it's about your pregnancy. Many of the people in the research center have been paying more attention to your stomach nowadays, so I figured that there might be a way for you to know about the progress at the center without having to go over every day," Chloe explained as she sat down beside Nicole.

This was something that had been on Nicole's mind, and she nodded upon hearing Chloe's words. "Go on. Don't stop," she uttered when Chloe fell silent for a while. Nicole had been trying to work around the

same issue, and she smiled when she realized that Chloe had been thinking about the same thing. Nicole was eager to hear what Chloe had to say.

"Well, we could collect reports from that day, and you could read them the next day and respond by noon. That allows us to progress at our usual pace. Furthermore, I'll be at the center, so you don't have to tire yourself by traveling around all the time, Nicole. What do you think?" Chloe suggested.

Chapter 1364 Thoughts

The room was silent for a while, and the two women sat on the edge of the bed while staring at one another. There was a mixture of hope and determination in Chloe's eyes as she gazed at Nicole. She genuinely hoped for Nicole to agree to this suggestion. Otherwise, if something happened to Nicole while she was at the research center, Chloe wouldn't be able to forgive herself even if no one else blamed her for anything.

Nicole noticed the look of anticipation in the other woman's eyes. Well, Chloe's plan could work, but I'm just not sure whether Kendrick would agree to this. After all, the initial agreement had been for me to be the one overlooking the research center. It's my job to ensure that nothing goes wrong there, Nicole thought.

When Chloe saw the hesitation in Nicole's expression, she seemed to be reminded of something. Hold on. I was with Nicole when she signed the papers, and one of the terms had been for Nicole to be the one overlooking the research center. She wasn't supposed to be away. If that's the case, things might get a little tricky.

Chloe understood Nicole's concerns then. "I'll talk to Kendrick about this. He can't expect a pregnant woman to travel in and out of the research center every day, can he? Furthermore, my idea would still allow you to overlook the progress that is being made at the research center. It doesn't entirely go against the terms," Chloe uttered in a slow and cautious tone.

Chloe figured that it would make more sense for her to discuss this with Kendrick than to continue allowing Nicole into the research center. If Nicole continued to show up, it wasn't just harmful to her own health; it was also distracting for the rest of the workers. Chloe was considering the bigger picture here. "Fine. You can handle everything, then. I'll talk to him about it if he doesn't agree with our plan," Nicole finally replied with a nod. She didn't have any other plan, and Chloe's plan seemed like the most

feasible one. However, they still had to wait for Kendrick's approval before anything.

Nicole couldn't seem to fall asleep after Chloe left. The latter had shut the blinds before she walked out, so Nicole couldn't see anything from her window at all. Nicole lowered her head to glance at her own stomach. People claim that pregnancy is the toughest ten months of a woman's life, but I don't seem to experience many of the symptoms, like nausea. All that's troubling about this pregnancy is that I can't do the important tasks I'm responsible for. Could this be because of the supreme voodoo bug? Nicole couldn't seem to find any other explanation. Perhaps the supreme voodoo bug unintentionally lessened some of my sufferings. I guess it is a blessing in disguise.

However, whenever Nicole thought about Colton, she found herself getting a headache. She didn't want Colton to think that the child in her womb belonged to anyone else, yet judging by the situation they were in, she had no choice but to do so. Forget it. This isn't over until everything has settled down, so I'll think about it then.

It was daytime back in the country, and Roxanna was overlooking the other researchers as they did their work at the research center. The research center was a lot quieter ever since half of the researchers had left. This was

supposed to be good news, as it meant that things were going well on Nicole's and Chloe's end. But if that's the case, then why do I feel so bad? Roxanna wondered.

Roxanna heaved a long sigh before she turned and headed back to her office. There were still traces of Chloe's and Nicole's existence back in the office, and Roxanna often wished that they were still around. Roxanna spun her chair around to face the window, and she felt a sense of achievement when she saw the research center from her office up above.

"I'll wait for you guys, Chloe and Nicole," Roxanna muttered.

"Who are you waiting for?" Roxanna was shocked when she heard a man's voice coming from behind her. She spun around with a look of terror on her face, but her terror soon turned into anger when she saw the person's face. "I don't think it's nice for you to barge into one's office, Mr. Quill, is it?" Roxanna hadn't expected Isaac to show up and even sneak up on her. She despised impolite people like him. I have no idea how I used to look up to someone as rude as him, she thought to herself. Well, this isn't the time to consider such things, Roxanna told herself before she snapped out of her thoughts and fixed her stern gaze on Isaac.

Chapter 1365 About Our Partnership

Isaac stared at Chloe, who looked like a grumpy, raging cat as she glared at him. He knew that he must have annoyed the woman with his actions. "I'm sorry. I knocked on the door, but you didn't respond. The guards rang your phone, but you didn't pick up either. They let me in and I knocked on your door again, but you still didn't say anything. I asked someone to make sure that you were in the office, and I got worried that something might have happened to you, so I decided to come in. Yet, you still misunderstood me." Isaac let out a sigh.

He explained himself in a single breath, and Roxanna didn't get a chance to say anything at all. She ended up not knowing what to say at all. She hadn't intended to put all the blame on the man, and she felt rather pleased and surprised to hear the man explaining himself so thoroughly. "You really misunderstood me," Isaac said as he lowered his head. He looked like a sad and sorry child who had been wrongly accused.

"Alright, alright. It's my fault, okay? I shouldn't have blamed you for this. Is there any reason you're here, Mr. Quill?" Roxanna hastily apologized for her

mistake. Today seems like an unlucky day for me. How did I end up in this situation? She no longer looked the man in the eye after that, as she didn't know how to comfort him.

As Roxanna was looking away, Isaac sneakily lifted his head up and he curled his lips into a cheeky smirk. He hadn't expected the woman to be so easily fooled by his act. Of course, he had been completely honest with his explanation—he had no reason to lie to Roxanna. He simply hadn't expected her to be such a fun person to fool around with, and he couldn't help but feel the urge to tease her a little more.

"I heard that you guys started another research center overseas, and I got rather worried about our partnership, so I dropped by to talk to you about it. I hadn't expected you to be so hostile with me."

Isaac got into the mood a little before he began to play the role of a victim again. He sounded rather disappointed as he spoke.

Roxanna seemed a lot more alert upon Isaac's mention of the partnership. She snapped her head back to stare at the man, only to see his miserable and meek expression. She found herself extra guilty as she reflected on her earlier actions. "I'm so sorry, Mr. Quill. I hope a generous man like you can forgive me this once. You should take a seat if you're here to talk about the partnership," she replied.

Roxanna nearly forgot about how Isaac was technically her client. She deeply regretted her actions when she recalled the way she had treated him earlier. I must have gotten a little too comfortable around here, and I totally forgot how some people can be calculative and mean. I hope Isaac isn't one of those guys, Roxanna thought to herself. She silently prayed that the man wouldn't fault her for her actions.

Meanwhile, Isaac stole a glance at Roxanna to see the look on her face. Then, with the same hurt expression on his face, he sank into the seat that Roxanna had pointed him toward. "The last time we spoke about the partnership, we agreed that my company will be the only one partnering up with you for the makeup products, right?" Isaac wasn't just there to tease the woman; he was also there for work. He wasn't the sort of person who would fool around when it came to business.

Roxanna seemed rather shocked to see the sudden change in the man, and she took a while to come to her senses. I can't believe how quickly he

changed. He's really something else, she thought to herself. "Miss Miller?" Isaac prompted when he noticed how silent the woman was. This girl isn't just silly; she's also really slow. She's such a fun target to tease.

After hearing about the research center, Isaac was concerned that his brand's credibility would be compromised once it appeared in other countries. Even with the agreement that they had, Isaac still

considered this to be a serious matter, especially since the announcements of the overseas research center had been made public. He figured that he would have to drop by to get some confirmations just to be sure. Perhaps it wasn't necessary for him to make a trip over, but he did it anyway.

Roxanna paid attention to the man's explanation for a while, but she found his concerns increasingly ridiculous after a while. However, she had no choice but to entertain the man's concerns since he was their client. He's the CEO of a company—how could he be so silly? What makes him think we'll breach the contract? We wouldn't dare to do so! Roxanna thought to herself.

Chapter 1366 Isaac's Suspicious

Roxanna wore a rather disdainful look on her face as she stared at the man sitting in her office. However, she tried her best to contain her emotions, as she didn't want to show any distaste toward the man. She was worried that their partnership would be affected if Isaac saw the look in her eyes.

However, Roxanna's attempts at concealing her emotions made her seem like she was sympathizing with Isaac more than anything. This made Isaac rather confused—he wasn't sure why the woman seemed to pity him. Did I make a wrong assumption? Well, this is just an excuse, anyway. I'm mainly here to help Colton ask about Nicole. There's nothing wrong with that, is there? Isaac tried to comfort himself. Regardless, he was certain that he had a valid reason to drop by.

"Why do you keep looking at me like that, Miss Miller?" Isaac felt rather uneasy when Roxanna didn't respond after a long time. She was simply staring at him with the same look of sympathy in her eyes. Roxanna returned to her senses then, and she realized how she might have gotten lost in her thoughts for a while. She hastily put on a pleasant and professional expression before explaining herself. "You don't have to worry about this, Mr. Quill. We will not breach or terminate the contract at all. Furthermore, we'll

definitely achieve what we've promised you guys. We're earnest and responsible individuals even without the contact in place."

Roxanna hoped that Isaac would learn from his lesson after this time. She was concerned that he wouldn't be able to maintain his position with an IQ like his. All of a sudden, Roxanna was reminded of some information that she had found about Isaac on the Internet. It's true that the information online can't be trusted. He sure is different from what was described online.

Isaac didn't know what was going on in Roxanna's mind, but he could tell that it wasn't anything good, because there was a rather disdainful look on the woman's face. He met her gaze for a moment before he quickly looked away. He didn't want to forget his actual reason for paying a visit. "Well, even though

we're just partners, and though I may not have the right to know more about your overseas research center, I'd still like to ask a few things about it. I want to know about your developments, as I'd like to use that information for further consideration in our future work together."

Isaac spoke while observing the look on the woman's face. He was hoping that he would be able to get something from her expression, and as he expected, Roxanna's expression didn't disappoint. Her facial features stiffened as she wondered why Isaac was inquiring for such information. However, she figured that it would not harm them if Isaac wanted to know more about the company. After all, they both might benefit from it if their companies could form further partnerships.

"Our overseas research center has already had some discussions about partnerships, but I can't be sure about the details. If you wish to know more about this, I can hop into a meeting with some of the people from the overseas teams, and I can get back to you soon," Roxanna replied in a formal tone. She was careful not to reveal anything else, such as pieces of unnecessary information about Nicole.

Isaac nodded. So far, everything that Roxanna had told him was information that he could obtain online. In fact, he felt like he had found more information on the Internet. "Well, if that's the case, then I don't have much more to say. I'll head off now," he muttered. Then, he got to his feet to leave. Since he couldn't get any information, he figured that there would be no point for him to stay around. He didn't have a reason to sit in the woman's office, either.

Right then, Isaac noticed a few silly questions popping up in his mind. I should stop thinking about this nonsense, he thought to himself. Do I not have any control over my own mind? Meanwhile, Roxanna continued to observe the look on Isaac's face. She couldn't understand what was going on in his mind, but she tried to respond politely. "I have other matters to handle, Mr. Quill. You can see yourself out."

Isaac returned to his senses and gave Roxanna a nod before he turned to leave. He was still ruminating over the unwelcome thoughts that had popped up in his mind earlier. I don't know what's up with me. I think I should head back to reflect on this and calm down for a bit, he thought.

After watching Isaac leave her office, Roxanna let out a long sigh as she sank into her office chair. "He's a handsome man, but he sure is dumb." Just moments later, she got to her feet and reached for her phone before typing out a chain of numbers on her screen. She had to tell Nicole about what happened that day, as she found Isaac rather suspicious.

Soon enough, Roxanna's call got through, and Nicole's voice sounded from the other end of the line. "There's something I'd like to talk to you about, Nicole."

Nicole was surprised to hear the serious tone in Roxanna's voice. They hadn't spoken to each other for a while, and Nicole hadn't expected the woman to seem so much stricter and more composed.

Chapter 1367 Finding Out His Preferences

"Go ahead, I'm listening," Nicole said, her tone mirroring Roxanna's seriousness. It has been a while since I last talked to Roxanna.

"Today, that Isaac guy showed up. We didn't get a chance to talk about this last time, but Isaac and Colton are on good terms, and it seems like he's been asking about you..." Roxanna's voice trailed off for a moment before she carried on. "I suspect Colton sent him."

It finally dawned on Nicole that Roxanna was unaware of her recent encounter with Colton. "Roxanna, there's something you might not know," she admitted, her tone turning gentle as she realized it was her own fault for not telling Roxanna about it sooner.

"Nicole, why beat around the bush? Just say what you need to," Roxanna responded, sensing a change in Nicole's tone and growing nervous herself. Nicole rarely spoke to her this way.

"Colton already knows I'm in Florend, and we've met," Nicole finally admitted.

Roxanna was taken aback by Nicole's words, struggling to believe what she was hearing. She even wondered if there was something wrong with her ears. "What? Nicole, say that again?"

If Colton knew about Nicole, it meant that she might have inadvertently offended her potential collaborator. Roxanna's mind raced as she tried to recall if she had said anything wrong.

"Yes, a few days ago, I ran into Colton when I was out eating. Wendy was there too," Nicole confessed, sounding almost like a guilty child, lacking confidence as she carefully explained.

A few days ago? Roxanna suddenly realized she might have messed up today.

"Nicole, I've got something to attend to. I'll have to hang up," Roxanna said weakly, not giving Nicole a chance to explain further before ending the call.

Now, her focus was on how to appease Isaac. She suspected that her words might have angered him. What was initially a conversation about potential cooperation had likely been tainted by her own suspicious mindset.

I mistakenly took him for someone trying to gather information.

Sighing, Roxanna paced around, unsure of what to do.

"Roxanna, what's wrong?" One of her employees walked in, holding a report that seemed to be for the day. Seeing Roxanna in distress, they questioned her out of concern.

She looked at the employee, relief flooding her as if they were her savior. "Investigate what Mr. Quill likes and let me know; make sure to gather as much detail as possible."

Her priority now was to win over Isaac. She couldn't let this opportunity for cooperation slip away. With international affairs becoming increasingly

complicated, Roxanna didn't want to burden Nicole and Chloe any further. She needed to resolve this predicament on her own.

"Sure, I'll get right on it," the employee replied, understanding Roxanna's urgency, and fled the room after placing the report on her desk.

Roxanna stared at the report on her desk, an idea forming in her mind. If her memory served her right, some preliminary research had yielded promising results. She could use this as a reason to approach

Isaac.

A faint smile tugged at the corner of Roxanna's lips as she decided on her plan. Once they had gathered enough information about Isaac's preferences, she would bring something along, use the report as an excuse to see him and apologize to him.

With her next steps clear in her mind, Roxanna's mood improved significantly.

Beep! Beep!

Finally realizing her phone had been beeping all this time, Roxanna picked it up to find a stream of unread messages from Nicole.

Chapter 1368 Explaining the Situation

Roxanna glanced at her phone and saw a string of unread messages from Nicole. Only then did she realize she had cut off the call without explaining anything.

"Oh no, oh no! Nicole must be worried," she muttered to herself.

She quickly typed out a reply, explaining the situation to Nicole.

Over in Florend, Nicole's exhaustion had vanished after Roxanna hung up. Roxanna never abruptly ended calls like that, so Nicole wondered if something urgent had come up that forced Roxanna to do so.

She even ran through various scenarios in her mind.

Knock! Knock!

"Nicole, it's me."

After hearing Chloe's voice, Nicole quickly responded, "Come in, it's not locked."

"Nicole, it's late. Why aren't you asleep? I came out to get some water and noticed your room's light is still on," Chloe chided as she walked in, clearly upset that Nicole, a pregnant woman, wasn't resting.

Observing Chloe's reaction, Nicole suddenly felt like a troublemaker that worried others. She sighed in resignation.

"Is something wrong?" Chloe asked, noting that Nicole wasn't arguing with her, which was a rare

occurrence. She had learned to be suspicious whenever Nicole acted differently than usual and wondered if something bad had happened.

"When Roxanna called me just now, she sounded really serious. I figured something might have happened back home," Nicole explained, recounting the phone call to Chloe.

Chloe couldn't help but burst into laughter at the end. It is quite typical of Roxanna to pull something like this.

"Has she replied to your messages yet?" Chloe glanced at Nicole's phone, which remained conspicuously silent. It seemed Roxanna wasn't planning to respond anytime soon.

"She probably hasn't seen it yet. She'll reply soon. Don't worry, Nicole. Everything's fine," Chloe reassured, suppressing a smile as she tried to comfort Nicole.

These two! Nicole looked at Chloe. Upon seeing her earnest demeanor, she didn't think Chloe was lying. Thus, she chose to believe her and silently awaited Roxanna's response.

Chloe, on the other hand, plopped down beside her with a smile. She might as well join Nicole's waiting game. After a few minutes, Nicole's phone finally buzzed.

Nicole wasted no time in checking Roxanna's message.

'Nicole, I had an urgent matter to attend to, which was why I hurriedly ended the call. Everything's okay with Isaac, so don't worry.'

The message seemed urgent, with a few words written with typos.

Chloe, peering over Nicole's shoulder, read the message too. She managed to stifle her laughter, took Nicole's phone, and said in a slightly serious tone, "Alright, alright. You've seen it too. Everything's fine now. You can go to sleep."

Nicole watched her phone being taken away and let out a slow breath. She obediently lay down on her bed. Now that she knew Roxanna was okay, she could finally relax.

As long as everything's fine...

Shifting to a more comfortable position, Nicole adjusted herself. Since her belly had grown, she and Chloe had tried various ways to ensure that she could lie down in comfort. Seeing that Nicole was settled, Chloe turned to leave, not wanting to disturb her rest.

On the other side of the globe, Roxanna, waiting for Nicole's reply, was finally reminded of the time difference. It was nighttime in Florend, and Nicole probably needed her sleep.

With that thought, Roxanna decided not to wait any longer and turned her focus back to work.

Meanwhile, in his office, Isaac was seated. He was staring at his computer screen, engaged in a conversation with someone on the other end.

"What? You've already seen Nicole? Why didn't you tell me earlier? I even went to the center today to gather information for you. It seems you don't really value my help," Isaac fumed, glaring at Colton on the other side.

On that day, while he was trying to gather information for Colton, Roxanna had witnessed him making a

fool of himself. Colton's indifference did tick him off, having gone all out for him.

As an adult, he felt like he had made a complete fool of himself in front of a woman for the first time, and all of it was because of the person he was speaking to right now.

Chapter 1369 Stay Put Back Home

"Beryl came over, and we discussed the basics," Colton said, lying on his side with exhaustion evident in his voice. He didn't bother to face the camera, speaking in a low tone.

These past few days had been taxing, and Isaac's call, with all his unnecessary details, was unexpected.

"Beryl's there? I'll go over once I've sorted things out on this end," Isaac replied urgently, unable to sit still upon hearing about Beryl's presence.

He couldn't let Beryl get ahead of him. With a newfound determination, Isaac quickly reviewed his work progress. He intended to pick a day to head over to Florend and catch up with his good buddies.

"Stay put back home. The Gardner Family and Ryan still need you." Colton refused Isaac without hesitation, giving him a reason that was hard to argue with.

Isaac was about to enthusiastically inform Colton of his potential visit, but Colton's words made him swallow his words.

"Fine, I get it. Don't worry," Isaac reluctantly agreed, but he soon realized that being in the country held its own value. It was a kind of value that Colton couldn't overshadow, and it could even surpass Beryl's. This was actually a great opportunity.

"Alright then, that settles it. I've got things to do, so I'll hang up now." Isaac decided after some contemplation and ended the call abruptly, not giving Colton a chance to continue talking.

"Mr. Quill, here are some documents that require your signature." A secretary knocked and entered the

room at that moment. Observing Isaac's determined expression, she quietly speculated about the reasons behind it.

Isaac glanced at the secretary, hearing about the documents, and promptly demanded, "Bring them here and place them on the desk."

The secretary nodded and put the documents on the desk. As she did so, she hesitated, considering whether she should bring up something she had heard recently. After all, she hadn't investigated to verify if it was true or not.

Isaac picked up the documents but noticed that the secretary hadn't left yet. He looked up and saw her seemingly hesitant expression.

"What's on your mind? I rarely see you like this," Isaac said, lowering his head to look at the documents while asking aloud.

The secretary snapped out of her thoughts and looked at him, hesitating for a moment before she finally spoke. "I heard something interesting today. It's something about you, Mr. Quill."

Isaac didn't react or say anything, continuing to read the documents in his hands. He had grown accustomed to rumors.

The secretary seemed familiar with Isaac's demeanor and continued speaking, unfazed. "Miss Miller from the research center seems to be inquiring about your preferences. But it's just a rumor, and I haven't investigated yet."

Isaac's hand holding the documents paused for a moment. He lifted his gaze, his eyes intense, and

fixed them on the secretary. Facing Isaac's intense gaze, the secretary felt slightly uncomfortable, but she held her ground and met his eyes.

She remembered that Isaac was previously uninterested in such matters. Yet, he was looking up and looked like he wanted to know more. Could it be because it's Miss Miller? That was the only logical explanation she could come up with.

"Go and investigate," Isaac said after a moment of contemplation, his tone deep.

The secretary hesitated for a moment before nodding, taking the documents that Isaac had signed, and left the room.

This was a side of Isaac she hadn't seen before. Could it be that Roxanna holds a special place in Mr. Quill's eyes? However, Roxanna seems like an ordinary girl. The secretary couldn't quite figure it out, despite thinking about it for a long time.

Isaac stared at the items in his hand, and Roxanna's image suddenly surfaced in his mind.

Maybe she has a certain quality that caught my attention, just like I did back in the day.

Early the next morning, an employee knocked on Roxanna's office door while holding a folder.

"Come in." Roxanna looked up, wondering who would come to see her so early.

Chapter 1370 Taking Action

The employee at the door walked in, placing the documents on the desk somewhat hesitantly. "Roxanna, these are some preferences we managed to gather about Mr. Quill."

She looked at Roxanna, feeling a bit uneasy. After all, they had spent the entire night investigating and had only found Isaac's basic preferences.

Roxanna, excited about the results, didn't pay much attention to what the employee said. She immediately opened the documents and began to examine the contents closely.

"Send a message to Mr. Quill and tell him we need to discuss matters regarding the production line. Our research has yielded successful results." Roxanna nodded in satisfaction. For her, this information was more than enough. Her goal was to please Isaac and secure collaboration with him.

The employee nodded and left the room, not daring to disobey Roxanna's orders.

Since Nicole and Chloe had left, Roxanna had transformed into a different person—serious and determined. Yet, her employees didn't mind this new side of her; in fact, they liked it. After all, who wouldn't appreciate a boss who could lead them to success?

Once the employee left, Roxanna carefully examined the information. If she could keep Isaac under her influence, their future collaborations would be as smooth as butter.

Back in Florend, 'Nicole, I'm heading out. Stay home and take care of yourself. Don't move around too much,' were Chloe's final words before she left for work.

Chloe had taken to repeating these lines to Nicole every day before leaving for work. She would keep

saying them until Nicole became impatient before she left. Of course, Nicole's apparent impatience was just a facade because deep down, she felt truly happy.

Taking a deep breath, Chloe prepared to discuss Nicole's situation with Kendrick. A few days ago, she hadn't told him everything, only mentioning that Nicole wasn't feeling well. She needed time to figure out how to approach the topic with him.

"Miss Yelton. please come this way." A secretary approached, looking at Chloe with a bit of discomfort but leading her into Kendrick's office nonetheless. Since the arrival of Chloe and Nicole, Kendrick's usual behavior had taken on a significant turn. This had made the staff uneasy.

Chloe nodded slightly and followed the secretary. She had always wondered whether Kendrick had some strange quirks, considering that the secretaries were always women. Is Kendrick into office romance, perhaps?

Such thoughts made Chloe suddenly reluctant to cooperate with Kendrick. The idea of working with someone like that sent shivers down her spine.

"Miss Yelton, is something the matter? Mr. Hofstead is inside. You can go right in." The secretary guided Chloe to Kendrick's office door, intending to bring her directly in. However, she sensed something was off and turned around to find Chloe lost in thought.

"Alright." Chloe nodded, brushing past the secretary and entering Kendrick's office. She had already knocked and received a signal from inside to enter.

Kendrick was focused on his work when he heard footsteps. He looked up and saw Chloe entering. His eyes held a hint of surprise, though it quickly faded.

Chloe picked up on the fleeting expression, noticing the surprise that lasted just a couple of seconds.

"Mr. Hofstead, today I'm here on behalf of Nicole to discuss something with you," Chloe said calmly, ignoring Kendrick's expression. She hadn't forgotten her original purpose.

Kendrick was even more surprised by this. It was the first time Nicole had reached out to him for a discussion, and she was doing so through Chloe.

Could something have happened to Nicole?

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1371 Miss Anderson Came in Person - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1371 Miss Anderson Came in Person

Chapter 1371 Miss Anderson Came in Person

"Did something happen to Nicole?" Kendrick blurted out without considering his own status, caught up in his worry.

Chloe was slightly taken aback by Kendrick's anxious demeanor. Had I misread his expression?

"Mr. Hofstead, you..." Chloe began to speak, but Kendrick quickly regained his composure, coughing lightly as he said, "Please, go ahead and speak, Miss Yelton."

After a pause, he added, "I was just concerned about Miss Anderson. If something happened to her, it might impact the research center."

Chloe's expression shifted slightly, but she maintained her composure as her gaze remained on Kendrick. She had come in with confidence, but now his words were making her second-guess herself. It looked like he was concerned about Nicole's presence at the research center. If she were to tell Kendrick that Nicole couldn't come to the research center for a while, would he cancel the cooperation in a fit of anger?

The research center couldn't afford any further disruptions.

"It's like this, Mr. Hofstead. As you know, Nicole is currently pregnant and approaching her sixth month. She doesn't have the energy to come to the research center at the moment," Chloe explained calmly, making sure her tone was steady.

If she projected enough confidence and provided both reasons and solutions, Kendrick might find a reason to agree. There could still be room to salvage the situation.

"I see," Kendrick responded, almost as if he had anticipated what Chloe was about to say. His expression darkened.

Seeing Kendrick's reaction, Chloe unconsciously gulped out of nervousness. "I'd like to request a leave for Nicole. For the remainder of her pregnancy and maternity period, she will work from our apartment. Of course, this won't affect her responsibilities at the research center. She'll review the reports from the research team daily."

Chloe enunciated each word with poise. Just then, the secretary who had entered to deliver files overheard her words. The secretary wasn't oblivious to the implications. Her face changed, and her gaze toward Chloe turned more sinister.

"Mr. Hofstead, that might not be feasible. The contract explicitly states that Miss Anderson is required to oversee personally due to her exceptional skills," the secretary interjected hastily, seemingly unable to hold back.

Kendrick's gaze turned stern as he glared at the secretary. The secretary immediately closed her mouth, not daring to speak further. On the other hand, Chloe's complexion stiffened at the secretary's words. She had anticipated a potential rejection, but she hadn't expected to be turned down by a mere secretary.

"Miss Yelton, since you've already brought this up, I have no reason to object. After all, your proposal is well thought out. I'm not heartless either. Since Miss Anderson is pregnant, she should take care of herself," Kendrick said, retracting his gaze and turning to Chloe.

She looked up at Kendrick in surprise, not expecting him to agree to her proposal.

"However, as your business partner, I have a stake in this as well. Given that Miss Anderson is now pregnant, it's only natural for me to visit her. I hope you'll grant me that opportunity," Kendrick continued before Chloe could respond. Kendrick's ability to navigate conversations was quite impressive. In just a few sentences, he had gained the upper hand in the discussion.

Chloe clenched her teeth. As long as her initial objective was achieved, she was satisfied. If Kendrick wanted to see Nicole, she could use other reasons to stop his visit later.

"Of course, Mr. Hofstead," Chloe replied, her lips curving up to form a faint smile.

Seeing her response, Kendrick nodded as if acknowledging something. He wasn't sure why Chloe and Nicole were acting this way, or if they had caught onto something significant.

However, it was true that Nicole was pregnant, and he wanted to see her for himself. Moreover, he wanted to know who the child's father was—although he didn't mind, he needed to know for his own peace of mind.

"Since you've agreed, I won't take up any more of your time. Mr. Hofstead, I will take my leave." Chloe smiled before turning to leave.

Kendrick nodded, and only when Chloe was gone did he lean back in his chair, deep in thought.

Chapter 1372 Considering the Bigger Picture

After Chloe left, Kendrick's expression grew increasingly dark. He stared coldly at his female secretary, who stood by his side, head bowed, afraid to meet his gaze.

The secretary trembled slightly; it was the first time she had defied him. She had witnessed the consequences of others defying him before—immediate dismissal.

At that moment, she was in their shoes. She didn't know what he had in store for her, but she couldn't help but feel a glimmer of hope for what might follow.

"I won't hold today's incident against you, but I hope you won't make such a low-level mistake again in the future." Kendrick eventually compromised, signing the document in his hand and handing it to the secretary beside him.

"Yes, Mr. Hofstead," the female secretary replied. Relief washed over her upon hearing this result, even though she maintained a calm facade while accepting the document.

Once the secretary left, Kendrick slowly lifted his head, his gaze following her departure. His eyes were intense, as if he could devour someone with his stare.

The secretary had been by his side for many years, present since the beginning of his entrepreneurial journey. She knew many things about him. If he suddenly fired her, it would lead to significant consequences.

During this critical period, if he were to terminate her employment and provoke a sense of retaliation from her, all his years of preparation would be in vain.

As the secretary left the office, she felt a surge of happiness. Mr. Hofstead indeed gives me preferential treatment. I knew it! Nicole and Chloe are merely tools for him to achieve his ultimate goals.

After Chloe left Hofstead Corporation, she happily sent a message to Nicole before hailing a taxi and heading toward the research center.

When Nicole received the message, her face lit up with a relieved smile. With that matter resolved, she put her phone down and sighed softly as she looked at the pile of reports before her. It seemed like her workload had increased a bit. "Oh well."

'Nicole, are you free for dinner today? Let's go out and eat together!' A message suddenly appeared on her phone.

Nicole glanced at her phone, seeing that it was a message from Wendy. She picked up the phone and hesitated briefly before typing a response.

'I'm sorry, Wendy. I'm quite busy lately. How about we plan to have dinner together sometime later?'

Her workload was currently overwhelming—a night out was a luxury.

Colton stared at the message on Wendy's phone, his expression darkening as he read her polite refusal. Wendy responded with an emoji before putting away her phone.

"Colton, you see? She rejected me too. Why don't you find someone else?" Wendy wondered why her brother's attitude had taken such a sudden 180-degree turn. Just the other day, he had been avoiding Nicole, but now he wanted to have dinner with her.

Moreover, she wondered why it had to be in her name. When would everything come to an end?

Colton sat up straight, leaning to the side, and was lost in thought.

As Wendy felt the tense atmosphere beside her ease, she let out a sigh of relief, glad that she was finally released from all this.

"So, Colton, why do you want to have dinner with Nicole? Didn't you forbid me from getting close to her?"

When her words came out, Colton turned to her with a dark expression, causing her to quickly close her mouth. She decided not to ask any further, fearing another reprimand.

As Wendy was about to leave the room, he suddenly stood up and left without a word, leaving her baffled by this sudden sequence of events.

Well, she didn't care what her brother wanted to do. She hoped this matter would be resolved soon. That way, the misunderstandings between Nicole and Colton could be cleared up.

Chapter 1373 A New Strategy

Colton returned to his room and found Beryl sitting there. He nonchalantly took a seat beside him and coldly remarked, "Don't you have your own room?"

Without paying him much attention, Beryl lazily retorted, "You want to talk to me but then want me to leave? Isn't that a bit heartless?"

With those words, Beryl got up and poured himself a glass of red wine, as if he was the master of the house. He seemed familiar with the arrangement of Colton's room.

"It's just the three of us on this floor. It's fine for us to wander in and out of the rooms—it works well for us." Beryl's lips curled up slightly, and he placed the wine glass next to Colton before raising an eyebrow.

Colton looked at the sudden appearance of the wine glass before him. His expression dimmed slightly, and then he picked up the glass, downing its contents without hesitation.

"Take it easy! This is not a competition," Beryl advised when he noticed Colton's haste to drink.

"Speak up." Colton didn't pay any attention to Beryl's comment and went straight to the point. It wasn't a suitable time for idle chatter. The mere thought of Nicole collaborating with Kendrick irked him. He thought he no longer loved Nicole, so why was he feeling this way? It was beyond his comprehension.

"Oh? Alright, Kendrick and Nicole signed a contract. It's related to the research center. He's Nicole's investor, and he's helping with the development." Beryl looked for any change in Colton's expression but found none. He continued, "You could say that the foreign research center is closely tied to Kendrick. If something happens to Kendrick, Nicole's research center could be affected."

As Beryl's words trailed off, Colton poured himself more wine and downed it in one go. Whether it was due to what Beryl said or something else, he was incredibly vexed.

"Enough with the drinking; do you even realize how much you've consumed during this time?" Beryl frowned slightly, displeased with Colton's continuous drinking. However, Colton didn't stop his actions despite Beryl's comment.

"Don't worry about it. Proceed as planned." Colton's lips tightened into a line. His expression remained devoid of emotion as he placed the wine glass aside and spoke coldly.

Beryl was momentarily taken aback by his response, but he quickly composed himself and nodded with a smile. "Alright, I'll do as you say." After just these words, he left, and Colton's room fell into silence once again.

Beryl knew that everything Colton was doing right now was a facade. If things really escalated to that point, Colton would surely backtrack. For this time, he

needed to alter his approach—he had to make sure of the safety of Nicole's research center.

Colton's eyes turned bloodshot as he stared at the carpet, replaying Beryl's words in his mind. If he completely destroyed Kendrick, it would undoubtedly impact Nicole's overseas efforts. All her hard work could go down the drain.

Maybe she didn't need his pity after all. From having Zachary by her side before to having Kendrick now—either one of them was enough to help her.

Forget it.

Colton shook his head with a self-deprecating smile. A sleepless night ensued.

Back in the country, Ryan had sprung into action. The Gardner Family held an emergency board meeting, with Ryan entering as the new shareholder.

Benjamin remained composed as he presided over the meeting, extending a welcome to Ryan alongside the other board members.

This surprised Ryan. After the board meeting, he immediately informed Kendrick of all that transpired.

"Don't make hasty moves. Stop all your plans for now. They've likely caught wind of something." Kendrick listened to Ryan's detailed account from start to finish, and an uneasy feeling settled in his heart.

Chapter 1374 Taking Decisive Action

"But if we stop now, we'll be throwing away everything we've accomplished," Ryan protested. It was clear he didn't want to give up on this opportunity. After all, such chances were rare, and who knew when the next one would come along.

"No, I'm ordering you right now. Halt all actions. If you don't comply, I'll stop cooperating with you in the future. Think it over." Kendrick's voice was firm as he spoke, interrupting Ryan's attempt to convince him further. With that, Kendrick hung up the phone.

Kendrick stared at his computer screen, feeling a mix of annoyance and confusion. It seemed like both Benjamin and Colton had become aware of his

existence and had unearthed his past identity. Although he had concealed his identity as the sole heir of the Hofstead Family when he gained power, he had made numerous enemies over the years in the business world, making retaliation inevitable.

Caught between a rock and a hard place, he had hoped that his and Ryan's actions had been subtle enough to go unnoticed. Unfortunately, it seemed that they were exposed after all.

With a loud thud, a vase was forcefully smashed onto the ground, shattering into pieces. Kendrick's frustration was evident.

Meanwhile, Ryan glared at his phone, seething with anger after Kendrick abruptly ended the call. Who does Kendrick think he is to just order me to stop? Why should he disregard all the efforts I've put in? If that is how things are, then Kendrick should prepare for what I'm about to do next.

Ryan's stony gaze was fixated on a photograph of a person he had grown to hate over his lifetime. In the photo stood White Nicholson.

"Take action. Spare no effort in destroying the Gardner Family." Ryan picked up his phone and dialed a number he had been frequently contacting lately. His voice was icy as he gave his orders.

Ryan had recently learned the man's name: Kendrick, the only heir of the Hofstead Family. Ryan knew Kendrick wasn't always privy to local affairs. Many things were brought to his attention only after they had occurred. As long as Ryan executed his plan discreetly enough to avoid Kendrick's associates, he could gradually eliminate the Gardner Family without Kendrick catching on. Soon, the Gardner Family would be his, and dealing with Kendrick abroad would be a breeze. After all, Ryan now held a trump card over Kendrick.

A faint smile curled Ryan's lips. Now, he needed to meet with someone else.

Evelyn was alone at home, feeling dejected. Colton had already been out of the country for over half a month, yet she still had no news about him. She was his wife, so why was she kept in the dark about his whereabouts?

It was unacceptable.

"Madam, please have some food." A maid approached with a plate of reheated dishes.

She had watched Evelyn struggle day by day, and at first, she had guessed that Evelyn's status was low, but she didn't realize how low it really was. Evelyn didn't even have the right to know her husband's schedule.

Although the maid knew some things about Colton, she was, after all, still loyal to the Gardner Family. She knew her priorities.

Thus, she could only watch Evelyn suffer silently.

"I'm not hungry; take them away!" Evelyn's eyes flashed with anger as she glanced at the food. Her frustration surged, and she angrily pushed over the plates in the maid's hands, shattering them with a collective loud crash.

The maid was frightened by the scene and quickly cleaned up the mess before leaving.

If things continued like this, she could very well get hurt. She might even be fired. She didn't want to lose her job—it was such an excellent opportunity.

"Madam, someone's here to see you. He goes by Mr. Yael," another maid informed Evelyn in a friendly tone, having observed her companion's teary exit. She didn't understand why the other maid was crying.

For this maid, it was just a job. There was no need to sympathize with these people on a personal level. Everything was just a means to make money.

Chapter 1375 Let's Partner Up

Ryan?

The name flashed in Evelyn's mind. What could he want here?

"Madam, would you like to see him? If not, I can decline on your behalf," the maid said, noticing Evelyn's uneasy expression.

Evelyn shook her head, her tone composed as she replied, "It's alright. Have him wait for a moment. I'll be there shortly to welcome him."

With a nod, the maid left to relay the message. Since Evelyn was hosting a guest, she needed to prepare tea and refreshments.

Taking a deep breath, Evelyn wondered what Ryan wanted with her. In any case, she had to meet him. As Evelyn stood up, she realized the mess she had just made on the floor. She rubbed her temples, acknowledging her increasingly uncontrollable temper. Not delving deeper into her thoughts, she tidied herself up, applied a light touch of makeup to her face, and ensured she looked presentable.

Once ready, Evelyn left her room.

The other maid, who had been crying earlier, seemed to have been comforted by her companion. Walking beside Evelyn, she marveled at how Evelyn's appearance had transformed dramatically in just twenty short minutes. She silently admired the difficulty of being a lady in high society—these ladies had to quickly compose themselves so as not to embarrass their husbands.

However, the guest wasn't Colton's close friend.

Evelyn's expression shifted when she noticed Ryan in the living room. She gave a brief glance to the maid by her side, signaling her to leave. All the maids obediently left the room.

Then, she approached Ryan.

"Mr. Yael, what brings you here today?" Evelyn asked politely as she sat across from Ryan, a faint smile on her lips.

"I have a proposition. It's a partnership. I wonder if you'll be interested, Miss Wrenn?"

Ryan's gaze lingered on Evelyn as he grinned. He could see that she was trying to maintain a pleasant appearance, but no makeup could fully hide her exhaustion after days of distress.

"What do you mean?" Evelyn furrowed her brows. She hadn't expected Ryan to be so direct about his intentions; she thought he would try to dance around the topic a bit.

This was not what she had anticipated.

"If the information I've received is accurate, then Miss Wrenn, you're unaware of Colton's current activities abroad, isn't that right? You don't even know when he's coming back."

Ryan nodded to himself as if he hadn't heard Evelyn's question.

He believed that Evelyn had already figured out why he had come here. Just now, she was only putting on an act. After all, she had never shown any preference toward him over Colton in her choices.

However, he didn't really expect Evelyn to favor him. He just hoped that she would do things that could satisfy him, and everything else didn't matter.

Evelyn lowered her head and remained silent. Although she appeared calm on the surface, Ryan detected a hint of panic that flashed through her eyes.

"Alright, Miss Wrenn, there's no need for you to play coy with me. Although Colton is indeed in Florend to find Nicole, it's actually just a ploy. He's trying to attack me," Ryan explained with a smile, still patiently choosing his words. He knew that he needed to approach this situation delicately—acting too quickly would likely backfire.

"He's not really looking for Nicole?" Evelyn looked surprised. She had assumed Colton's trip was all about finding Nicole. But now, she realized it was a means to shift Ryan's focus, setting up an opportunity to strike at Ryan.

"Why are you telling me this? It doesn't seem to benefit you in any way. After all, you're here to propose a partnership with me. Yet, you're revealing your cards, so what's the point of me partnering with someone who has lost their leverage?"

Evelyn's voice carried a cold, mocking tone. Since that was the case, she had no need to mince her words.

Chapter 1376 Refusing the Partnership

The confrontation between Evelyn and Ryan had stretched on for about five minutes in the villa's living room. After Evelyn finished her statement, Ryan didn't immediately offer a rebuttal. Instead, he continued to gaze at her, a silent smile playing at his lips, as if he was trying to read her like an open book.

"However, Miss Wrenn, you should be aware that Nicole and Colton are currently in the same city and very close." Ryan finally spoke, his words flowing like he was simply sharing an interesting tale.

His lips parted slightly as his upper and lower lips met in a deliberate collision. The deliberate manner of his speech allowed Evelyn to release a breath she didn't realize she had been holding.

In this silent showdown, she had emerged victorious.

"But, Miss Wrenn, have you considered this: if Colton were to bring me down, do you think he would still stay with you? Is the issue of the child's paternity something he can overlook? Or to put it another way, even if he doesn't end up with Nicole, would he continue being with you?" Ryan's words struck the core of Evelyn's heart.

Evelyn inhaled sharply, taken aback by the question she hadn't pondered before. What would happen if Colton discovered that the child wasn't his? What kind of fate would she face?

Ryan, with his gaze fixed on Evelyn, found that his words were beginning to take effect as a change in expression spread across the woman's face. He knew that with a bit more provocation, he could achieve his goal.

"As far as I know, you and Colton haven't obtained your marriage certificate yet. The law might not

protect you." Ryan lightly chuckled, his demeanor seemingly carefree.

To Evelyn, this look was that of a devil—a malevolent force that aimed to inflict harm.

"So, what's your decision, then?"

Evelyn lifted her head to meet Ryan's gaze, a smile tugging at the corners of her lips.

This smile left Ryan slightly stunned. It felt as though something had slipped from his grasp, something he desperately tried to hold onto but couldn't quite capture.

He wanted to control the situation but found himself losing control.

"Sorry, Mr. Yael, I have no interest in such a partnership," Evelyn declared without waiting for Ryan's response. She rose from her seat, turned around, and issued a stern command, "Show our guest out."

Ryan remained seated, watching Evelyn's departing figure. He couldn't quite believe it.

He had laid out the situation to Evelyn, and it was clear that his words were to her disadvantage. Why, then, did she still refuse him? Wasn't partnering with him the only option left?

Ryan was perplexed, and he couldn't comprehend how he had been rejected despite revealing the chessboard so openly.

With the courteous assistance of the maid, Ryan found himself outside the villa.

On the balcony of the second floor, Evelyn stood watching Ryan's departure, her gaze heavy and contemplative.

Ryan's words were all based on facts; he hadn't lied to her. His strategy was sound, and what he had said could indeed sway her into cooperating with him. Joining forces with him seemed like the only way to improve her odds.

However, there was something Ryan didn't know. This villa was under constant surveillance by Colton. Even though Colton was currently in Florend and the living room was empty, he would still know everything that was said during their conversation.

That was one of the reasons Evelyn had declined the partnership. Another reason was Ryan's unreliability. For instance, after he had helped Evelyn poison Nicole, he promptly informed Colton about it despite promising to keep it a secret.

That action had brought her unimaginable consequences...

Evelyn suddenly recalled that terrifying night involving Colton. The memory sent shivers down her spine.

Cooperating with someone of such dubious credibility held no appeal for her. It wasn't as if she couldn't do anything by herself.

If that day came, she would use every ounce of her strength to prevent Nicole and Colton from being together, even if she couldn't be with Colton anymore.

"Heh." Evelyn let out a bitter laugh and returned to her room under the watchful eyes of the maids.

At this point, she felt as if she were under constant surveillance; it was not much different from being in prison.

Before long, news of the villa incident reached Colton.

"Ryan actually went to see Evelyn?" Beryl arched an eyebrow in surprise.

It was unexpected for Ryan to set aside his pride and approach Evelyn to achieve his goal.

Chapter 1377 Investigation

"Indeed, Ryan met Evelyn. They had an open conversation in my villa's living room. Before that, he made sure to dismiss the maids from the room." Colton nodded, speaking calmly as he recounted what he had observed on the surveillance footage.

Beryl's brow furrowed; he found Ryan's approach peculiar. Yet, he maintained a faint smile on his lips as he responded, "He must be feeling quite anxious now. You intentionally let your uncle expose the flaw in his scheme that you had discovered. That's why he's panicking. Someone like Ryan wouldn't blindly follow Kendrick's orders, especially when Kendrick is in Florend and can't directly influence matters within the country."

Colton nodded in agreement. In such situations, Beryl and he seemed to share an unspoken understanding; it was a silent connection they both relished.

"Evelyn is quite clever. However, I can't quite comprehend why she would reject Ryan's proposal," Beryl suddenly expressed his confusion, finding it hard to fathom. He had to admit that Ryan was skilled at winning people over; every reason he had presented to Evelyn had struck a chord within her heart without needing further unnecessary persuasion.

For a moment, the room fell silent, just as it always did, and neither of them spoke.

Beryl wasn't in a hurry to get his question answered. He simply gazed intently at Colton.

"Didn't Ryan betray her once before? He told me how he and Evelyn conspired to poison Nicole, which forced Nicole and me to divorce." Colton spoke after a prolonged silence. His tone was heavy, as if recounting a monumental event.

Beryl nodded in response, refraining from further inquiry. At this point, he had pieced together enough information. He had a general idea of what was happening, and he felt reasonably confident about what would come next.

"I understand. I have some matters to attend to as well. I'll take my leave, and if you need anything, feel free to message me on the phone," Beryl said, sighing slightly as he looked at Colton, who was still lost in thought. He turned and left the room.

Colton no longer needed Beryl by his side. The latter couldn't shake the feeling that there was something peculiar about the child growing within Nicole's womb.

Ever since Colton had informed him that Nicole's baby was actually Zachary's, Beryl had investigated Zachary's movements extensively. He discovered that Zachary's schedule had been tightly packed ever since his return to the country, and there was barely a window of time for him to have been with Nicole long enough for her to conceive.

However, Beryl had chosen not to share this information with Colton. If he did, Colton would undoubtedly divert his attention to investigating Zachary. In the meantime, if Ryan seized the opportunity to launch an attack on the Gardner Family and teamed up with Kendrick, even Colton's formidable abilities might prove insufficient, potentially resulting in the Gardner Family's downfall. The entire family would vanish from the circles they once dominated.

As he contemplated this, a shadow clouded his expression. There seems to be a need to have a conversation with Nicole.

Back in the country, Roxanna examined the neatly arranged gift boxes before her and nodded with satisfaction. Everyone seemed to be good at preparing the gifts.

"Very well done. Hand me the success report. I'll head over to Quill Corporation shortly," Roxanna

announced, her lips curving slightly into a gentle smile as she glanced at the nervous employees before her.

Since Nicole and Chloe's departure abroad, Roxanna had become stricter with everyone, resulting in a workforce that operated under a certain level of fear.

"Also, regarding the recruitment of new employees, I want you to conduct preliminary screening and present the final shortlist to me. I'll make the ultimate decision on the final list," Roxanna added as the group prepared to leave, suddenly remembering another task she needed to address.

For the research center, this matter was of great importance. They couldn't afford to be lax, as new employees were the new blood of the company. If they found promising talents, they could also be sent to the overseas research center, serving as a means to alleviate the burden on Nicole and the others.

Chapter 1378 Thorough Preparation

With everything well-prepared, Roxanna held the report and the gifts as she arrived at the entrance of Quill Corporation's office building. Standing there, she looked up at the towering building and let out a sigh.

Such a stark contrast.

However, the research center was no slouch either. While it might not have such towering buildings, the area was quite spacious, and the staff dormitories were also pleasant.

Roxanna nodded to herself affirmatively, but her confidence was soon shattered.

But then again, they have money.

Shaking her head, she stopped overthinking it and marched into the Quill Corporation office building with her things. Having made an appointment beforehand, the receptionist recognized her and led her to the dedicated elevator, ensuring she got in before pressing the button.

Taking a deep breath, Roxanna watched as the floor numbers increased. Her nerves started to get the better of her, much like the first time they had met.

Back then, she had admired him, never imagining he was this formidable.

Anxiety gnawed at her as she worried that this encounter might leave a negative impression on him, jeopardizing the potential collaboration. If it turned out her words had caused any harm, she would never forgive herself.

"Miss Miller, welcome. Mr. Quill has been waiting for your arrival." The secretary smiled and respectfully informed her upon seeing her.

Roxanna smiled and nodded in response, following the secretary toward Isaac's office. Along the way, many employees either discreetly observed her or blatantly stared. Roxanna couldn't fathom the reason behind it; she was merely here for a business discussion.

Did Quill Corporation's employees not encounter this kind of situation before?

Rolling her eyes internally, Roxanna held her head high and walked into the office without feeling the

least bit bothered by their scrutiny.

"Good day, Mr. Quill," she greeted as she entered the office. To her surprise, Isaac was nowhere to be seen. The window was slightly ajar, allowing a gentle breeze to rustle the pages of the documents on the desk.

"Mr. Quill?" Roxanna called out again, unable to locate Isaac's presence. She didn't dare to look around; she stood still and called out softly.

Behind her, Isaac stood silently, holding a cup of coffee as he observed her docile demeanor. A faint smile curled up on his lips.

Roxanna called out several times but received no response. Given the circumstances, she didn't dare to search around. She had heard that a CEO's office held many confidential matters, and if she misplaced something important, she couldn't bear the trouble it might bring to the research center.

"Miss Miller, look behind you. You won't find me if you keep searching that way," Isaac finally said, deciding not to tease her further. He walked to a chair in front of his desk and took a seat.

Feeling a mix of anxiety and exasperation, Roxanna watched Isaac calmly seated before her. Her irritation flared up, but she suppressed it.

Was he there all along? She had called out so many times, and he just pretended not to hear and watched her make a fool of herself?

Raising an eyebrow, Isaac looked at her, curious to see if this would provoke her.

Seeing the nonchalant expression on Isaac's face caused Roxanna to swallow her anger. No, she couldn't afford to get angry now. If she did, all her efforts of the past few days would be in vain.

Taking a deep breath, she mustered a gentle smile and gracefully maintained her composure. "Mr. Quill, there's something I'd like to discuss with you today."

Isaac was slightly surprised by how calmly Roxanna took it. He had wanted to test her to see if he could rile her up.

"Sure, have a seat. Miss Miller, it must be tiring to stand," Isaac replied with a faint smile, his eyes holding a playful glint.

With that, Roxanna followed Isaac's suggestion and took a seat. She looked at him, momentarily dazed. He was quite different from how the rumors had painted him. He was actually a cunning and sly fox, yet he was rumored to be aloof and unapproachable.

That was a gross misjudgment.

Chapter 1379 Lost in Thought

"Miss Miller?" Isaac furrowed his brows when Roxanna remained silent with her gaze fixed on him.

Is she angry? Is she so upset that she doesn't even want to speak? Otherwise, why is she just staring at me without saying anything for no reason?

Thinking this, Isaac felt an inexplicable sense of annoyance in the depths of his heart. He couldn't help but feel that what he had done was wrong.

"Apologies, Mr. Quill. I got lost in thought." Roxanna snapped back to attention, her face flushing slightly. She lowered her head, placed the report she had brought on the table in front of them, and began to speak confidently.

"Over the past couple of weeks, we've hit another milestone in our research. We've had similar studies before, but we hadn't found the right partner for collaboration, so those were put on hold. However, meeting you, Mr. Quill, prompted us to revisit our past research. As a result, we've accelerated our efforts, and now let's take a look here..."

Isaac watched Roxanna speak with confidence, momentarily lost in thought. Indeed, one shone best when they talked about their expertise with poise and rationality.

The conversation between the two flowed smoothly from there. Roxanna easily answered Isaac's various questions, and her responses were convincing enough to persuade him.

"Very well, let's proceed with this plan then. Miss Miller, I'll leave the next steps to you. I hope you can show us desirable results." Isaac nodded in satisfaction. Closing the document in his hands, he placed it on the table and looked at Roxanna thoughtfully, his lips parting slowly.

Roxanna heaved a sigh of relief, gathering the documents and glancing at the gift box she had placed on the ground. Her gaze shifted slightly.

"Mr. Quill, you did mention the possibility of further collaboration during our last meeting, didn't you?" she tentatively inquired, hoping for confirmation. If Isaac acknowledged it, she would take out the gift box and present it to him.

"Yes," Isaac responded, met with Roxanna's hopeful gaze. He couldn't possibly refuse that fervent look, and besides, he did indeed have intentions in that direction. Of course, the collaboration wasn't solely because of Nicole. Roxanna's capabilities and the research center's collective work ethic had convinced him.

With such a promising partner, why wouldn't he seize the opportunity? He was a businessman, after all.

Roxanna reached down and retrieved the gift box from the floor, confidently handing it to Isaac. "These are some gifts I selected based on your preferences. I hope you like them."

Isaac was slightly surprised by the gift. He hadn't expected Roxanna to prepare something like this. Initially, he thought she was about to take it away,

which was why she hadn't immediately placed it on the table. Little did he know it was meant for him.

This revelation caught Isaac off guard.

"As for the overseas research center, Mr. Quill, it's something you should get to know better, especially since we'll be working more closely in the future," Roxanna continued without observing his expression, her attention on her explanation instead.

"The overseas research center is still in its early stages. The facility is currently being established in collaboration with a foreign company. Our research is being conducted in one of their major facilities. Our partnership is straightforward: they supply the necessary research materials, and we collaborate on research. However, they fully respect our opinions and input in the collaboration, so you can rest assured on that front."

Roxanna hadn't spoken this much in a while, mainly because her daily routine didn't require too much talking. Speaking so much all of a sudden made her mouth feel a bit dry.

Isaac was observant, noticing Roxanna repeatedly licking her lips. His lips curved slightly as he leaned forward and poured a cup of tea for her.

"I'm not sure what you prefer to drink, Miss Miller, so I prepared a cup of tea for you," Isaac said with a smile.

Realizing that he had overlooked this, he couldn't help but laugh at his own lack of attentiveness. He knew they had been talking for quite some time, yet he hadn't even offered her a drink.

Chapter 1380 Collaboration

Roxanna from the research center had been in Isaac's office for quite a while now, with no signs of any activity coming from within.

Although the higher-ups were worldly-wise individuals, they were well aware of the type of person Isaac was.

There was no reason for him to have a woman talking in his office for such an extended period.

Inside the office, Roxanna blinked, taking the teacup. "Thank you, Mr. Quill. Mr. Quill, do you have any thoughts on our upcoming collaboration? Feel free to share them with me."

She had just felt thirsty, and Isaac had promptly poured tea for her. It was probably his basic etiquette when dealing with guests. Roxanna made a conscious effort not to let her mind wander and maintained a neutral expression while looking at Isaac.

"I'll have a basic contract drafted, which will be sent to the research center for your review. Also, I'll engage with the overseas research center to discuss the collaboration further. If all goes well, our legal department will draft a formal contract. Of course, the terms of collaboration will be refined and sent to the research center as well. You don't need to worry, Miss Miller," Isaac said, nodding. He laid out his thoughts; if they were to collaborate, he wanted to display a committed attitude.

Roxanna's heart leaped. From the looks of it, Isaac was definitely inclined toward collaboration. If that was the case, the pressure on Nicole and the others from overseas would be considerably reduced.

Roxanna felt a surge of happiness. Usually, her emotions would show on her face in some way.

"Very well, then, Mr. Quill. I'll go back and await further news from you," Roxanna replied.

Isaac nodded.

After shaking hands with Isaac, Roxanna left his office, documents in hand.

As soon as she stepped out of the office, she realized that almost every pair of eyes in the vicinity was focused on her.

Wait, have I done something out of the ordinary?

Roxanna pretended not to notice and continued walking forward until she reached the elevator. Only then did she let out a sigh of relief.

This company is a bit strange. I'm just here to discuss business in the office. Why do I have to endure this scrutiny from the employees?

She felt she should leave as soon as possible. After all, the preliminary collaboration had been agreed upon. She needed to hurry back and share this good news with Nicole.

When the elevator doors opened, Roxanna quickly stepped out of Quill Corporation. Unbeknownst to her, as soon as she left, the employees of Quill Corporation were buzzing with excitement.

Overseas, in Nicole's apartment, Nicole had just finished reading the report on the table, and it was already past 10.00PM.

Glancing at the clock on the wall, she suddenly realized how late it was. Yet, Chloe hadn't returned.

Nicole frowned slightly. While the research center wasn't far from the apartment, this area wasn't entirely free of potentially dangerous people.

With a sense of worry, Nicole dialed Chloe's phone number, but there was no response, only a prolonged ringing or a busy tone.

Oh, no.

An unsettling feeling gnawed at Nicole's heart. She had considered all the worst possibilities. Being in a foreign country, they weren't familiar with the ins and outs of the local practices. If something were to happen...

Nicole felt a sense of urgency. She didn't have time to notify anyone. Grabbing her phone and throwing on a coat, she rushed out of her apartment.

It was already autumn, and the weather was cooling down. At the moment, it was nighttime, and as soon as Nicole stepped out, she could feel a chill seeping through her clothes.

She tightened her coat and realized she needed to prepare some winter clothing soon. Her gaze swept around, searching for Chloe, but she didn't see Chloe's familiar figure.

Thankfully, Nicole was proficient in the local language, making communication with the locals in Florend simple and without issues.

People around her were already familiar with them; after all, they were all Hofstead Corporation

employees. When they saw Nicole, they greeted her warmly.

Nicole took the opportunity to inquire about Chloe's whereabouts, but no one had seen her.

She didn't know what to do. She aimlessly searched around, feeling lost and uncertain.

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1381 Worry - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1381 Worry

Chapter 1381 Worry

Nicole listened to the advice of those around her and headed toward the research center to look for Chloe. She had intended to go to the center anyway.

Anxious, she hurried toward the center, repeatedly calling Chloe's phone. Just like before, Chloe didn't pick up.

Meanwhile, at a bar near the research center...

"I'm curious why you wanted to meet me," Chloe said coldly, staring at the unfamiliar man before her. She had never seen this man before, yet he seemed to know a lot about Nicole and Colton, even details about them that were more private.

This included the incident where Evelyn had poisoned Nicole.

Beryl, eyeing the woman in front of him who was wary and vigilant against him. Suppressing a smile, he spoke slowly. "I invited you out simply because I wanted to learn more about Nicole from your perspective."

After careful consideration, he realized that directly approaching Nicole might not be the best idea. Given her pregnancy, it could be unwise to stress her out. So, he decided to approach someone close to her.

"What do you mean? Sir, I don't know you. If you want to know about Nicole, I suggest you talk to her directly. I'm sure she knows better about her matters," Chloe replied, her brow furrowing slightly. This man must have learned about her relationship with Nicole to be so bold.

She detested people who invaded others' privacy like this.

"Miss Yelton, there's no need to be so guarded. If you're going to be like this, I'm afraid we won't be able to continue our conversation." Beryl sighed, somewhat frustrated. Did he really come across as that much of a villain?

But then again, he realized, if a stranger he'd never met before suddenly approached him asking about his best friend, he would probably be wary too.

"Sorry, but I have nothing to say to you," Chloe retorted before picking up her belongings and heading for the exit.

Beryl watched her leave, a faint smile playing on his lips. Indeed, without Colton and Nicole connecting them, there wasn't much to talk about between them.

Still, he thought that while Chloe might have evaded this situation, there might not be another similar opportunity in the future.

Beryl's gaze lingered on the disappearing figure around the corner.

As Chloe stepped out of the bar, she suddenly realized how worried Nicole must be. She pulled out her phone and found numerous missed calls and messages.

"Chloe!"

Just as Chloe was about to call Nicole back, she heard a familiar voice.

Turning toward the voice, she spotted a worried figure rushing toward her—Nicole.

"Nicole, why are you out? It's so late, and you're not dressed warm enough!"

Chloe hurried to Nicole's side, looking her up and down and furrowing her brows at Nicole's thin clothing.

The weather had turned colder lately. It wasn't suitable for Nicole to not put on layers, especially given her pregnancy.

"How long have you been out? Oh, never mind that. Let's hurry home."

About to inquire about how long Nicole had been outside, Chloe realized they weren't in the right place for such a conversation. She held onto Nicole and led her away briskly.

"Don't just fuss over me. Why didn't you answer your phone? Why were you out so late today?"

Nicole scanned Chloe from head to toe, finally relieved that Chloe wasn't injured. She had been holding her breath in worry the entire time.

A memory of the man's face suddenly flashed in Chloe's mind. She didn't even know his name.

She noticed Nicole's curious expression and decided against telling her. After all, she hadn't gained any useful information.

"I'm fine. I just had to work overtime today. As for my phone, maybe I had no signal, and I had it on silent."

Chloe had speculated that her phone signal was weak in the bar. It was quite strange, as there was no signal when she entered, but the signal was excellent when she left.

Nicole nodded in agreement. She trusted Chloe and didn't suspect her of lying. Finally, she voiced her concern. "Okay, if you have to work late again, just let me know in advance. It would be best if you could give me an estimate of when you'll be back."

Chloe nodded obediently, saying, "Don't worry, Nicole. I know this route well, so there's no need for you to worry."

At that, Nicole rolled her eyes at Chloe.

Chloe smiled, saying nothing. Her mind was still preoccupied with the man she had encountered. She couldn't let Nicole catch on to this.

Chapter 1382 You've Changed

"Has it been busy at the research center lately? It seems like the reports have fewer details than they did a couple of days ago." Nicole's sudden question caught Chloe off guard.

The two of them walked along the dimly lit street on their way back home. As the pedestrians gradually dwindled, only they remained, illuminated by faint lights.

Chloe stiffened at Nicole's question. However, Chloe quickly realized her response and decided to explain. "A bit. It's a critical period. Did I not include all the details in the reports?"

She even threw a question back at Nicole.

Nicole couldn't help but click her tongue. Chloe was too clever for her own good; there was no way to trick her into saying anything.

Sighing silently, Nicole lamented the fact that she had no choice but to continue training Chloe since she had started in the first place.

"I think they were included, but I've forgotten. Your mentioning it just now helped jog my memory a bit." Nicole coughed lightly, pretending to respond seriously.

Suppressing a smile, Chloe continued their unspoken agreement not to reveal each other's secrets. It was a shared understanding between the two.

However, Chloe had no intention of telling Nicole about the man. He was too mysterious, and he knew so much about Nicole and Colton. His origins needed to be investigated. Her face turned serious when she thought of this.

With her attention focused on the way home, Nicole didn't want to continue dwelling on Chloe's late return. If Chloe wanted to tell her, Nicole believed she would do so without her having to repeatedly inquire.

Thus, the two returned home, each with their own secrets.

"Nicole, you should drink more warm water. You must be freezing. You should also take a shower. By the way, tomorrow is my day off."

As soon as they arrived home, Chloe's mouth started running.

Nicole suddenly questioned her earlier impression of Chloe. She had always thought of Chloe as someone quiet and efficient, but now...

She watched Chloe bustling around, her skepticism growing. Was this really the Chloe she knew? Chloe seemed even more cheerful than when they first met.

"Nicole, why are you looking at me like that?" Chloe was puzzled as she approached Nicole with a cup of warm water, noticing that Nicole's expression seemed off.

Is it really so easy for my inner thoughts to be exposed? Has Nicole already picked up on some clues?

Chloe placed the cup of warm water in front of Nicole, still waiting for her answer. But Nicole didn't reply immediately; she simply stared at Chloe. This made Chloe feel uneasy.

"Chloe, have you noticed that you've changed a lot recently?" Nicole was nonchalant as she asked. She held the cup of water and took a sip. Almost scalding herself, she then placed it on the table.

Chloe's movements momentarily halted. She stared at Nicole, confused. What has changed? I'm not aware of any changes. Has Nicole misunderstood something?

"What do you mean?"

"You used to be quiet, but now you're so talkative like an old woman."

Nicole spoke with such sincerity that Chloe was taken aback. She didn't know how Nicole managed to say it with such a straight face, but she also had no idea how to respond to this.

"Nicole, is it possible that it's because you're pregnant and I'm just more worried about you?" Chloe sighed and spoke. She didn't want to continue being stared at with that intense gaze from Nicole.

Hearing this, Nicole flushed, and she stammered for a moment before failing to say anything. She picked up the cup, returning to her room at a sluggish pace.

Chloe watched her clumsy figure, her heart feeling a mix of sympathy and amusement. Pregnancy was quite a challenging experience, and it was normal for her to worry about Nicole.

Chapter 1383 A Love-Hate Relationship

Feeling frustrated, Beryl returned to the hotel. This time, he had wasted his time; Chloe was unwilling to tell him anything. However, he acknowledged that he had been too reckless.

Beryl decided to learn from this lesson and prepare for his next move. Despite not achieving much, he had at least discovered that Chloe and Nicole's relationship was even better than he had imagined. If that were the case, Chloe must have a clear understanding of certain matters concerning Nicole.

"What's on your mind?"

As Beryl pondered his next move, a voice suddenly sounded beside him, startling him.

He turned to see Wendy sitting on the couch, and he instinctively patted his chest, feeling taken aback. "Why are you here? Isn't your brother at the hotel?"

Wendy rolled her eyes, her irritation evident. "Yeah, he's not here. I can't just go out though, so I came to you."

"Although your brother and I are good friends, you have to remember that we're of the opposite sex. It's not appropriate for you to just barge in like this."

Having recovered from the initial shock, Beryl sat down next to her and lectured the young lady earnestly. He wondered where Colton could be at this hour. Could he be with Nicole? That would make for an interesting spectacle, though unfortunately, he wouldn't be there to witness it. Instead, he had to deal with Wendy.

Noticing Beryl's unfriendly gaze, Wendy retorted, "What's with that look? Are you repulsed by me?"

Beryl nodded without hesitation, finally admitting his true feelings. This young lady was perceptive; he couldn't deny that.

If it weren't for her, he might have been able to enjoy the showdown between Colton and Nicole.

"Tsk, like I wanted to come. If my brother didn't insist on keeping me here, would I bother?" Wendy retorted unreservedly, lounging with crossed legs. She helped herself to some fruits brought by room service, displaying an air of ease.

Beryl didn't engage further; he silently looked out of the window, where the darkness prevailed.

He turned his head back, only to see Wendy looking dejected. It was the first time he had seen her in such a state. He pursed his lips, wanting to voice words of concern but hesitating in the end.

Considering Wendy's stubborn nature, she'd likely get angry if he asked. If she stormed off somewhere and something happened, he wouldn't know how to explain it to Colton when he returned.

Reluctantly, Beryl turned his head back to the window, focusing on the pitch-black view outside.

Wendy's mind was filled with scenes of Nicole and Colton's interactions, including their recent encounter at the club.

Not a single word was exchanged—just disdainful glances—and then they passed each other by.

Wendy knew her brother still cared about Nicole, but he couldn't handle the fact that she was pregnant with a baby that wasn't his.

Frankly, even Wendy had been surprised when she learned about Nicole's pregnancy. She hadn't noticed before. When Nicole had confessed to her, she hadn't mentioned her pregnancy.

Though she trusted Nicole, the timing seemed off.

"When everything is over, the truth about Nicole's situation will come out. You don't need to worry anymore." Beryl had been observing Wendy out of the corner of his eye. Finally, he squeezed out these words of comfort.

He was genuinely concerned that Wendy couldn't deal with the situation and visited Nicole's place late at night to uncover the truth. After all, Wendy had admired Nicole so much. It was natural for her to struggle with accepting all this when faced with such unexpected circumstances.

However, if this continued, Wendy might end up doing something that would shock everyone.

Chapter 1384 Almost Exposed

"I don't understand what you're saying." Wendy looked up at Beryl in astonishment, wondering how he knew what she was thinking. Could he read minds, or had he already figured out the situation between her and Nicole?

"Do you know what's been going on between Nicole and Colton?"

Beryl didn't take the bait, posing the question back to Wendy instead.

"Uh, isn't it just about Nicole being with Zachary now? She divorced Colton, right?" Wendy spoke confidently.

Beryl raised an eyebrow, giving Wendy a deep look, and then simply nodded without saying anything.

Wendy breathed a sigh of relief; from now on, she couldn't let herself think about irrelevant matters when around Beryl. Otherwise, he might eventually guess all the things on her mind.

"Alright, it's getting late. I'm going back to rest." Once Wendy made up her mind, she surveyed her surroundings, not wanting to stay any longer. She got up, feigning sleepiness.

Beryl glanced at Wendy's exaggerated actions but didn't expose her. He quietly replied, "Okay."

When Wendy stole a glance at Beryl, she noted that he was engrossed in something on his phone. She seized the opportunity to make her exit while planning to text Nicole to inquire about the child.

The door was closed, and the room fell into silence. In the dimly lit room, only the glow of a phone screen illuminated the space. Beryl found the screen too bright and simply turned off the phone, tossing

it aside.

Back in the country, things were progressing as planned, though Beryl was uncertain whether Ryan might do something unexpected, for example, suddenly heeding Kendrick's words.

Back in her room, Wendy clutched her phone, pacing around. Should I ask Nicole or not? Is Nicole even awake at this hour? She is pregnant and should probably be asleep by now.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Someone was persistently knocking on her door.

Setting her phone aside, Wendy peeked through the peephole and saw Colton, after which she hastily let him in.

To her surprise, Colton was completely drunk. "Colton, why did you drink so much? Oh, my!"

Colton looked up at Wendy, glanced at the room number, and without saying a word, turned to leave.

"Colton!"

Wendy wasn't going to let Colton off so easily when he was clearly intoxicated. She rushed forward and tried to support him.

As expected, her petite frame couldn't handle Colton's weight, and the two of them stumbled onto the ground in the hallway.

Wendy panted heavily, realizing they had expended all that effort just to end up back where they started.

"Let me handle this." A familiar voice sounded in her ear.

Wendy looked up and saw Beryl approaching her side. He effortlessly took Colton from her.

Beryl, who regularly exercised, struggled a bit under Colton's weight, but they managed to enter the room. The corridor returned to its usual tranquility.

"What were you doing outside? You drank so much and reeked of cigarettes."

Beryl wrinkled his nose, displeased with the heavy odor emanating from Colton. Though they often drank together, this was the first time Colton had such a strong odor.

Furthermore, Colton wasn't just drunk; he had also smoked a lot. The combination of smells made Beryl feel nauseated. Colton was still conscious, but his body was gradually becoming unresponsive to him. In the end, he gave up struggling and allowed Beryl to guide him into the room.

Once inside, Colton seated himself on the couch without a word. Beryl sat down beside him, and neither of them broke the silence.

Chapter 1385 Self-Blaming Colton

Colton suddenly had the urge to ask Nicole who the child belonged to. He remembered her helpless gaze at the hospital back then. When he mistreated her, she wanted to say something to stand up for herself, but he denied her. Frankly, he had never given her a chance to talk.

Hence, he went to look for Nicole. He did not expect she would be absent from the research center, so he strolled around. Then, his mind filled with the image of her and Chloe encountering each other and the looks on their faces back then.

At first, the two seemed to be discussing something serious, their expressions rather tense. Later on, Chloe seemed to have mentioned the child, and Nicole looked at her belly with a gentle gaze.

He would never forget that look in her eyes.

Colton smiled silently, but his smile was extremely forced and terrible to look at. When Beryl saw him like that, he knew nothing good had come out of his visit to Nicole. Thus, he said nothing as he sat quietly next to Colton.

By the looks of it, the night would be a sleepless one.

"I always thought that both of us suffered greatly in the relationship."

Suddenly, Colton spoke up, his tone hoarse. Beryl pursed his lips tightly, and instead of speaking, he waited silently for his next words.

"That's what I always thought, but the scene I witnessed today tells another story. Nicole was happy; she was happy without me. It's like she didn't care what happened as long as she had the child." At

that, he held his head and slowly looked down. A moment later, his body began to tremble as if he were holding something back.

Beryl stared at Colton, not knowing what he could say to comfort him. He knew that no matter what he said, he would not be able to improve Colton's current emotions. The only person he ever acknowledged was Nicole.

"Am I selfish? I wasn't happy at all when I saw her living her life. I was sad. Another man had given her a happy life, but I could only offer her a life of wandering and vicious plots." Colton seemed to have had enough of crying. He slowly straightened his body as he looked out the window in a daze.

Indeed, he was a selfish person, always had been.

When Beryl heard that, he widened his eyes. It was only then that he realized the person Colton blamed all along was not Nicole but himself. He did not care about her 'aborting' the child or how 'intimate' she was with Zachary. Instead, he continuously blamed himself.

"Colton, our objective right now is to bring Ryan to justice and stop Kendrick from harming the Gardner Family, right? Don't get too absorbed in love and women." Beryl was exasperated, but the words that came out of his mouth were the most vicious to be spoken.

Still, he was right. The company and the organization both needed Colton. If they lost him, they would not maintain stability for a while.

Colton said nothing, his body stiff.

Beryl could not see his expression but knew the other had no intention of continuing the topic. He knew

then that Colton had heard and understood what he said. After a night's sleep, he believed he could see Colton devoting his whole heart to work tomorrow.

Beryl felt a little tired from sitting. He stood up, patted the clothes on his body, then turned around and left. Given some time to calm down, the workaholic he knew would be back in action tomorrow.

Then, he returned to his room and noticed that his phone had been ringing. He frowned and picked up his phone. When he saw the contact on the screen, he navigated to the chat with a loving look.

'Ask around and find out why my brother drank so much. Tell me the results.'

'Why aren't you replying to my messages?'

'Never mind. Just comfort my brother as best you can.'

'Are you guys still at it?'

Chapter 1386 Wendy's Wariness

Wendy paced back and forth in her room. When she saw that her phone was silent, she felt fairly anxious. She had the urge to barge into Colton's room a few times, but she managed to keep her wits about her.

She should not go over at that moment because she could see that the person her brother needed was Beryl, not her.

While she was still worrying, she noticed movements on her phone. She hastily unlocked her phone and saw that it was a reply from Beryl, opening it in elation.

'Come out.'

Huh.

She rolled her eyes silently, then reluctantly opened the door. Soon, she saw Beryl's accursed face. "I asked you a question, but you made me come out here in the middle of the night instead of answering?" she questioned in confusion and could not help but raise her voice. When she noticed the drunk Colton, she lowered her volume even though she knew the room was soundproof.

Beryl turned up the corners of his mouth ever so slightly as he looked at Wendy with a half-smile. "I'm bringing you out for some food, and I'll also tell you about your brother. Are you coming?"

He was worried that she could not sleep because of her anxiety. That was why he wanted to bring her out for some good food. It might help her relieve her emotions.

"Well, since you so kindly offered, it would be rude for me to decline." A look of pleased surprise

flashed across Wendy's face. However, it was so quick that no one noticed it. She pretended to look conflicted when she replied.

Beryl smiled. Choosing not to expose her, he stood at the door and waited.

She quickly got ready, not daring to let him wait too long. If she did, he would start nagging her again.

"Let's go." She patted him on the shoulder. Before he could turn around to look at her, she jogged up to the elevator. He shook his head in exasperation, then followed her in strides.

The night was silent and desolate.

"Your brother isn't in a good mood today. He's blaming himself."

When Beryl saw Wendy hesitating to speak, he smiled lightly, then started talking about Colton. Hearing that, she immediately perked up her ears to listen.

"It's because of Nicole. He originally thought she was at her happiest when she was with him, but unexpectedly, when he went to see her today, she looked even happier without him."

At that, he seemed deep in thought, but it also looked like he was giving Wendy time to let it sink in. After a pause, he continued. "So, he's blaming himself. When Nicole was with him, she was involved in various plots every day. Perhaps Zachary could give her a better life."

He did not say a word of his guesses. After all, they were merely assumptions, so they could not count.

"There's also a possibility that... Never mind. I don't have a say in their business." Wendy, who was about to say something, suddenly realized that if she did, Beryl would notice something. She had to stop herself from talking so she would not expose the matter between her and Nicole.

He looked at her in surprise, not expecting such a reply. Generally speaking, Wendy would have lots to say about Nicole, but now, she refused to say more. Did she think things through, or was there another reason?

He did not know the answer to that, but his sixth sense told him that Wendy's attitude toward this matter was peculiar.

"Well, what would you like to eat?" He sensibly changed the topic.

She looked around them, where most shops were already closed. She said, a little disappointed, "Why don't we just give up for now? All the good restaurants have already closed for the day. We can eat out together during the day." She had just finished speaking when she felt something off about it. Hence, she quickly changed her tone. "I mean, you can make it up to me during the day. You owe me one now."

She walked in front while Beryl followed silently behind. He listened to her words, a faint smile blooming on his lips. "Sure, as you please."

He and Colton had pampered this young lady ever since she was a child. Although he would tease her sometimes, he would stand up for her when necessary.

"It's a promise," she said mischievously.

Chapter 1387 The Last Minute

Beryl lowered his head to look at the cheeky Wendy. He smiled and said nothing, indicating it was a sealed promise.

The two retraced their steps, then returned to their respective rooms to rest.

When Nicole woke up, she received news from Roxanna. At the sight of Quill Corporation having the intention for further partnership, she was elated. She heard a little about Isaac ever since she arrived in Florend, so a partnership would be a great help even if she were abroad.

Meanwhile, Chloe had prepared breakfast for Nicole. She was quite skilled in cooking, and now, she had her chance to shine.

"What are you smiling about, Nicole? Did something good happen?" asked the chuckling Chloe when she noticed Nicole's excitement.

At that, Nicole put her phone away and looked up at the breakfast on the table. She could not help but exclaim, "Chloe, this is a feast!"

"The baby is growing, after all. You need all the nourishment you can get." Chloe smiled sheepishly. After putting all the food on the table, she sat opposite Nicole.

"Oh, right." Nicole was enjoying her breakfast when she suddenly remembered the good news she just saw. She hastily passed her phone to Chloe and said, "I received news from Roxanna. Take a look. It's decent news."

When Chloe heard that, she took the phone in elation. As she scrolled through the chat, the smile on

her face widened. "If Isaac continues the partnership, we'll develop even faster. He has a lot of subsidiaries abroad, and they're all doing quite well." She looked happily, finding it hard to suppress her excitement.

Nicole nodded when she heard that, agreeing wholeheartedly. Indeed, this would be a huge step forward!

"All right, hurry and eat your breakfast. You have to go to the research center later." She patted Chloe on the shoulder as she took the phone. Then, she stuffed the cutlery into Chloe's hand.

Chloe would always forget to eat due to work. Her health would decline if this went on, so Nicole was determined to look out for her. "You can't keep forgetting about meals as soon as you start working. You have to take your lunch and dinner regularly at the research center. If not, you should work from home." She could not help but nag Chloe a little, considering it a warning for her.

When Chloe heard that, she quietly lowered her head and ate. Nicole would always catch her red-handed when she skipped meals. She had to do something so that it would not happen again.

"All right, I get it. I'll make sure to take my meals next time. I'll set an alarm to remind me to eat, okay?" Nicole's relentless stare rendered her no choice but to completely give in. Upon seeing that, she hastily agreed. With a gaze like that, she would panic just like anyone else.

"That's more like it." Nicole nodded in satisfaction, then lowered her head and began eating. After breakfast, she would have to discuss the details with Roxanna, along with the research report yesterday.

By the looks of it, she would be busy for the next few days.

Half an hour later, Chloe grabbed her stuff and left in a hurry. After having spent time with her for the past few days, Nicole noticed an adorable habit of hers.

Chloe would always leave at the last minute. She simply had to rush and panic even though she woke up early, which meant she did not have to rush at all. Still, because of this, Nicole's impression of her became even livelier. She had never gotten to know Chloe so closely before.

Nicole looked away and perused the report from yesterday, then sighed silently. Progress was a little slow these days, and that was also why Chloe would come home so late from working overtime every day.

With a glance, she realized they were stuck with an awkward problem and might need about a month or so to fix it. How should she explain this to Kendrick?

She looked at the clock on the wall. It's time for work.

Chapter 1388 The Secretary's Intentions

"Mr. Hofstead, there are three meetings scheduled for today, and you have to go to the research center to check on their progress before the meeting in the afternoon."

The female secretary reported the day's schedule as she stood in front of the office desk. When she mentioned the research center, her expression shifted a little, but it quickly turned back to normal.

Kendrick didn't have to check on the progress at the research center often, but for some reason, he insisted on adding this item to the agenda.

Nicole was no longer at the research site, so what was Kendrick thinking?

He couldn't just ignore other matters in the company for the sake of a research center.

Kendrick had his head lowered as he dealt with some matters. He was completely clueless to the changes in the female secretary's expression as he responded in a low voice, "Got it."

"Okay, Mr. Hofstead. I'll be leaving now."

The female secretary nodded, then turned around and left. She and Kendrick were the only people in the company who weren't from Florend. Hence, they understood each other better. That was why Kendrick preferred to let her handle most things.

At that thought, the female secretary returned proudly to the office reserved for secretaries. Save for her, everyone else in the office was male. She returned to her seat under the others' gazes.

Kendrick waited until he was the only person in the office. Then, he slowly raised his head, looking at the two documents the female secretary had placed in front of him. He fell into deep thought.

He couldn't let her stay any longer. Back then, he hired her because she was loyal, and he needed all the personnel he could get.

However, her motives were no longer as pure as they used to be. Hence, he had to think of a way to get rid of her.

Kendrick got up and walked out of the office. He wanted to head to the research center right away and have a talk with Chloe.

"Where are you going, Mr. Hofstead?"

The female secretary hadn't even sat for long when she spotted Kendrick coming out of his office. Hence, she hastily went forward and asked.

Kendrick didn't even spare her a glance as he said, "To the research center. You don't have to come with me. Stay here and prepare the documents needed for the meeting later. I'll be back before the meeting starts."

The female secretary was slightly stunned. When she returned to her senses, Kendrick had already walked away. She frowned as she gazed at his figure.

This was Kendrick's first time leaving her here. In the past, she would always follow him and provide support no matter where he went.

The female secretary gritted her teeth in secret, but what else could she do? If Kendrick didn't want her tagging along, she couldn't do otherwise.

She felt that even if she insisted on coming along, Kendrick wouldn't complain much about it. However, she had to be mindful of how Kendrick thought of her.

From the corner of his eye, Kendrick kept glancing at the dark window next to him. He could see who was following him through the reflection on the window.

When he realized that the female secretary wasn't coming along, he instantly hastened his steps. He looked like he couldn't wait to see the person at the research center.

Meanwhile, Chloe was guiding some employees on their research. Many things couldn't be done alone, and communication was necessary.

"For this part, I think—"

"Chloe."

The voice sounded a little familiar.

When Chloe heard that, she frowned. She thought about the man from last night.

Guessing it might be him, she hastily turned around to look at the person. Just as expected, it was the man from last night.

"Why are you here?"

Chloe pushed Beryl outside without another word. She carefully closed the door, making sure that no one could see them from outside. Then, she finally asked.

When Beryl saw how wary Chloe was, he smiled instead of getting angry.

"I'm here on account of the same thing I told you yesterday. I hope you can give me another chance, and we can have a proper conversation about it."

"Mr. Helm, correct me if I'm wrong, but this place doesn't belong to either Helm Group or Gardner Corporation, right?"

Just when Chloe was about to decline, a voice cut her off completely.

The person's tone was calm, and his words were uttered slowly.

Chapter 1389 The Battle Between the Two

"Mr. Hofstead."

When Chloe recognized the person, she frowned slightly. Why were these two annoying men here at the same time today? Did they agree beforehand to annoy her together?

What was she supposed to do? The two people she hated the most were here.

"You must be Mr. Hofstead. I've heard about you."

Beryl wasn't surprised to see Kendrick. Instead, there was a faint smile on his face as he spoke to the man.

Even though he looked extremely calm, he deeply suspected Kendrick's reason for coming. Logically speaking, the two parties were partnering without any problems, so Kendrick had no reason to be so concerned.

"What brings you here? Do you have the intention to partner with the research center, Mr. Helm?"

Kendrick didn't give Beryl a chance to say anything as he changed the topic right away.

Beryl smiled. Even though Kendrick looked like a decent man, he was quite cunning deep down.

"I have something to talk to Miss Yelton about, that's all. May I talk to her alone?"

It wasn't a good thing to have dealings with Kendrick this early. Kendrick was extremely smart, so if Beryl went against him, his chances of winning would be low.

As such, when he and Colton were trying to attack Kendrick, they prioritized attacking Ryan first.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Helm, but I have something to discuss with Miss Yelton as well. This concerns our partnership, so perhaps you can try again another day, Mr. Helm."

Kendrick didn't want Beryl to say too much to Chloe. He rejected Beryl right away, even finding an excuse Beryl couldn't dismiss.

Beryl's expression sank. He looked at Chloe, who seemed nonchalant. At that moment, he knew the woman was watching them fight. She would talk to whoever won that battle.

"Thank you for your understanding, Mr. Helm."

Kendrick didn't even give Beryl time to think as he thanked the latter.

When Beryl saw that, he knew that nothing he said could turn things around at this point. Hence, he could only force a smile on his lips as he turned around and left.

He had to find another time to talk to Chloe. Fortunately, the information he wanted wasn't urgent, so it wasn't worth him getting into a premature conflict with Kendrick.

Chloe stood at the side, watching the events unfold in silence. She discreetly rolled her eyes.

She wouldn't express her intentions beforehand. She would just let them duke it out, then speak with the winner.

She hated both of them, so it didn't matter who remained standing in the end.

Seeing that the battle was about to end and that Beryl had disappeared right in front of her, she relaxed.

Frankly speaking, she didn't want to talk to Beryl. After all, Beryl wanted information about Nicole, and she didn't want to disclose any.

In a sense, Kendrick had saved her a little.

"Mr. Hofstead, what do you want to talk to me about? I heard you mentioning the partnership just now. Are there any issues in that aspect?"

Chloe turned to look at Kendrick, then noticed an odd look in Kendrick's eyes when he looked at Beryl. He seemed like he was looking at... an enemy.

Chloe calmed herself and looked at Kendrick as if nothing had happened.

No matter what grudges existed between the two, it had nothing to do with her.

Still, she heard Kendrick referring to the person as Mr. Helm.

"Do you know him?"

Kendrick didn't answer right away. With a slightly scary expression on his face, he asked Chloe a question instead.

"No. What's his name?"

Chloe shook her head. She was being honest here, for she truly didn't know him.

However, she could see that Kendrick had a slightly foul look on his face.

"His name is Beryl Helm." Kendrick shook his head, smiling as he said the man's name. "Regarding the partnership, Hofstead Corporation is willing to let go of two percentage points."

"What?"

Chloe silently committed the man's name to memory but was surprised at Kendrick's next words. She subconsciously exclaimed; this meant that he was incurring losses.

She never thought that Kendrick would let go of two percentage points. Initially, she thought he'd demand an explanation for the slow progress.

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1390 Need More Discussion - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1390 Need More Discussion

Chapter 1390 Need More Discussion

Kendrick thought that the entrance of the research center wasn't a place to talk, so he invited Chloe to the cafe instead. They would also discuss plans there.

Chloe shared the same sentiment, so she agreed with Kendrick's suggestion.

"Mr. Hofstead, were you serious when you talked about giving up the two percentage points?"

Chloe held the coffee cup in her hands and hesitated for a long while before slowly articulating the question in her mind.

Anyone would suspect a sudden great offer like this. Chloe had to figure out the truth behind this. If anything wrong happened, the entire research center would be at stake.

She couldn't afford to bet on that.

When Chloe thought about this, she couldn't help gritting her teeth.

Nicole wasn't around today, so she had to face Kendrick alone.

"Don't worry about this, Miss Yelton. I'll ask the legal department to draft a new contract later, and you can have a look. If there are no problems with it, we'll sign it right away. If not, we'll do things according to the previous contract."

Kendrick smiled as he explained.

"Since there's a two-percentage-point raise, what should the research center provide?"

Chloe maintained an absolute stance, and she was wary about the sudden bonus. No one would give up a percentage point for free, much less two.

She frowned as she looked earnestly at Kendrick. If it had something to do with Nicole, she would decline the offer no matter what.

Kendrick looked at Chloe's serious expression, a faint smile on his face. He knew Chloe very well.

"I'll need a say when it comes to all the companies the research center plans on partnering with in the future."

Kendrick didn't withhold any information, and neither did he threaten Chloe with anything. He simply mentioned the matter calmly.

This condition was something he just thought up moments ago. He had no qualms about offering it to the research center for free, not until Beryl's appearance.

Thinking about this, Kendrick frowned slightly without Chloe noticing.

If Nicole's research center partnered with Colton in the future, everything Kendrick had planned before would go to waste. No matter what, he had to make sure Chloe promised him.

When Chloe heard that, she knew that Kendrick's words had proved her guesses right.

However, terms like these were tyrannical to the research center. If they agreed to it, the research

center would be no more than a subsidiary of Hofstead Corporation.

No, she mustn't agree to that.

Deep down, Chloe immediately declined this partnership. When the research center developed in the future, Nicole would want to help Colton.

Seeing how at odds Beryl was with Kendrick today...

Kendrick looked up at Chloe. When he saw her pondering, he asked, "What do you think, Miss Yelton?"

He couldn't keep dragging it out. Now that Colton had found out about what happened here, he would still have a fair chance of winning if Ryan obeyed him.

However, he didn't know if Ryan would listen to the man.

Chloe looked at Kendrick, smirking slightly as she declined with a smile. "I'm sorry, Mr. Hofstead, but this is an important matter for the research center. I

think I should go back and discuss this with the person in charge. I cannot decide by myself," she said.

She had to talk to Nicole about this. It wasn't a minor issue, and she knew that she couldn't hide last night's incident any longer. She would have to tell Nicole about it sooner or later.

The two looked at each other, neither of them saying anything. It was like a silent battle.

"All right, then, Miss Yelton. I await your response. I still have a meeting to attend, so I'll be off now."

Sometime later, Kendrick finally broke the silence. With that, he got up and left without saying more. It seemed as though he had truly allowed Chloe to do whatever she wanted.

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1391 Verbal Warning - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1391 Verbal Warning

Chapter 1391 Verbal Warning

Chloe was the only person remaining in the private room at the cafe.

Seeing that Kendrick had already left, Chloe secretly let out a sigh of relief. All of a sudden, she felt exhausted as she leaned against the back of the chair.

She looked up at the dim lights above her, then narrowed her eyes as she fell into deep thought.

To immerse their patrons in the experience, the cafe installed dim lights to create a dark atmosphere. It was at times like this that Chloe could calm her heart.

As soon as Kendrick left the private room, his expression turned foul. Even passers-by would avoid him, fearing that they might get into trouble with this man.

When he saw Beryl at the research center today, it was enough to sound the alarm bells in his heart.

If Beryl managed to find Chloe, it meant that Colton was already on the move. Even though Kendrick already guessed that Colton had a feeling that it was him, he never thought it would happen so soon.

"You're finally back, Mr. Hofstead. Everyone is waiting for you to start the meeting."

The female secretary, who had been waiting for Kendrick at the company's entrance, finally caught sight of the man. She hastily ran up to him and spoke.

Kendrick didn't even spare the female secretary a glance as he quickly entered the office. He responded in a low voice, "Prepare for the meeting."

Slightly stunned, the female secretary hastily said, "Understood."

Was she seeing things? Kendrick didn't seem to be in a good mood right now. What happened in the two hours he was away?

The female secretary left the question unasked, but her curiosity burned even stronger.

During the meeting, the female secretary was distracted as she kept wondering what Kendrick had gone out to do.

The meeting ended quickly.

Kendrick frowned slightly when he noticed the female secretary zoning out. He went back to his office and took a seat at the desk. When he looked up at the female secretary, he noticed that she was still in a daze.

"Lisa, how long have you been working for me?"

Kendrick spoke up in dissatisfaction. Anyone who had worked with Kendrick for years would know that Kendrick was close to blowing up.

Lisa, who had worked for Kendrick for a long time, knew that as well. She looked up at Kendrick's face, her own turning pale.

"Six years, Mr. Hofstead."

She answered Kendrick's question honestly. She never thought that she would be so distracted today

either, and at an important meeting too.

"You know how things work around here. I can forget everything you've done in the past, but you have to know where I draw the line."

Kendrick frowned slightly. It was because of this that he didn't fire Lisa.

Lisa was slightly shocked. Over the years, Kendrick never spoke much to her, and he usually talked about work. This was his first time talking so much to her about matters that didn't concern work.

"Yes, Mr. Hofstead. I know."

Lisa didn't dare think too much as she hastily lowered her head, waiting for Kendrick to continue.

Kendrick was a smart businessman, so he noticed Lisa's movements just now. His frown deepened.

"I hope you'll be more serious about work in the future. If anything happens, I cannot guarantee that you'll get to keep your job."

He spoke coldly, then lowered his head and looked away from the woman's face.

Lisa trembled. She never thought that Kendrick would eventually say those words.

"If there's nothing else, you may leave for now."

"Understood."

Lisa left Kendrick's office in a daze. She walked back to her workstation with Kendrick's words still resounding in her mind.

Meanwhile, Kendrick lowered his head and dealt with the matters they had decided at the meeting earlier. The company was slowly gaining the upper hand, and this comforted him a little.

As for Lisa...

Kendrick's gaze was dark as he looked at the entrance of the office.

In reality, he wouldn't actually fire Lisa, but he wouldn't pamper her either. He would punish her if it was necessary.

Those words he said just now were simply a verbal warning to Lisa, and he would deal with the rest later.

At that thought, Kendrick suddenly felt a headache coming on. He reached up and massaged his temples, his thoughts drifting.

Chapter 1392 New Dangers

After completing the day's tasks, Chloe walked toward her apartment in exhaustion. Her mind was filled with Kendrick's words from earlier today.

The problems just kept on coming.

Chloe returned to her apartment with a troubled look. After opening the door, she headed right for her bedroom.

Nicole, who was watching from the side, silently followed behind Chloe. By the looks of it, Chloe must have encountered some sort of trouble.

"What's the matter, Chloe? Did something happen at the research center?"

Nicole walked up to Chloe and sat down. She felt much better in an instant.

Her body had been unbearably heavy recently, and she was beginning to develop symptoms. She had thrown up more than ten times today.

Consequently, the progress on her report was delayed.

When Chloe heard that, she looked at Nicole with a sullen expression.

"Nicole."

Nicole hastily took Chloe's hand and asked worriedly, "Did something happen to you? Or was it the research center?"

"Nicole, Kendrick came to visit me at the research center today," said Chloe solemnly as she shook her head.

Nicole was startled to hear that. Ever since she stopped going to the research center, Chloe said that Kendrick never visited the research center again.

He probably had something important to say if he visited the research center all of a sudden today.

Nicole was smart enough to stay silent, and she waited quietly for Chloe to continue.

"He said that he would give the research center two percentage points, but on the condition that any future partnership concerning the research center has to go through him first."

When Nicole heard the first part of the sentence, she knew that it spelled trouble. When Chloe finished speaking, Nicole's expression darkened as well.

If they agreed to it, the research center would be as good as a subsidiary of Hofstead Corporation. How could they help Colton in the future?

"Also, someone called Beryl talked to me today..."

Chloe relayed the incident last night to Nicole, along with what happened between Beryl and Kendrick at the research center.

When Nicole heard that, her face fell. If she didn't have any opinions of the man before, she could make some guesses now.

"Nicole, is something the problem?"

Chloe had always been good at observing people. When she saw Nicole's expression, she knew that Nicole must be thinking about something related to Colton again.

She subconsciously looked at her tummy, and it seemed to be fine. She let out a relieved sigh in her heart.

If something happened to her belly, it would be dangerous for both the child and the mother.

"I'm suspecting that Kendrick is the person Colton's been trying to look for."

With a sullen look on her face, Nicole voiced her speculation.

As soon as she said that, Chloe took a sharp breath. "Nicole, do you mean that Kendrick is the one behind Ryan? The one who's buying and selling human organs?"

If so, they were putting themselves in danger.

No wonder she felt something off about how Kendrick looked at Nicole in the past. She couldn't figure out why back then, but now, she understood.

It turned out that everything stemmed from here.

"Yes, we're in grave danger right now. When Kendrick saw Beryl talking to you today, he must have realized that Colton might already know he's the one backing Ryan. That's why he behaved like that,"

answered Nicole with a sullen look on her face. Beryl had found Chloe and asked the latter about her.

Could it be...

Nicole's eyes widened. Could it be that Beryl had already noticed something off about the child?

"Chloe, if Beryl visits you again, and if it's because of Kendrick, just tell him everything you know, including the research center. However, don't expose any of our weaknesses," Nicole instructed in a low voice.

Chapter 1393 The Solution

The atmosphere in the room was heavy as Chloe and Nicole sat next to each other. The topic they just discussed was something they had never talked about all along, but it existed in both their hearts nonetheless.

"Got it, Nicole. I'll do as you say," replied Chloe, her face darkening. This proved that the incident Nicole was thinking about was about to start ahead of time—it was starting before the research center could get stronger.

"However, if Beryl asks about me like he did last night, don't tell him anything."

Nicole nodded, finally bringing up the matter of Beryl talking to Chloe about her.

The two didn't talk about other things.

"Chloe, it's time for dinner. Let's eat. I'm hungry."

Nicole broke the silence first. She turned and smiled at Chloe as she spoke, pretending as if nothing had happened just now.

Chloe paused briefly as she looked at Nicole. A moment later, she smiled and said, "Sure, Nicole."

Such a situation would happen often in the future, so they had to solve these problems one by one.

Meanwhile, the following day in Restrada, Roxanna received an initial contract from Quill Corporation.

She had to admit that huge companies were quite efficient when it came to such things.

Roxanna couldn't help but be amazed at the speed Quill Corporation worked. Still, she didn't forget to take a photo of the contract and send it to Nicole, who was abroad. She also passed the contract to the legal department at the research center for initial review.

After this was done, Roxanna sat back in her chair. He didn't come this time.

Roxanna gazed out the window, and Isaac's face instantly appeared in her mind.

"Why the long face, Miss Miller? Are you disappointed that I didn't come?"

A familiar man's voice rang out behind her.

When Roxanna heard that, she hastily turned around to see Isaac's face right in front of her. She rolled her eyes and said, "It's just a small matter, so there's no need for you to come here, Mr. Quill."

For some reason, something between them seemed to have changed a little when they met this time. However, Roxanna couldn't put a finger on it.

"Have you read the contract? What do you think?"

Isaac took a seat beside her. There was a faint smile on his face.

Roxanna's face turned red, and she hated it when Isaac behaved like that. It was a proper question, but it sounded wrong when he asked it.

"I've read the contract, and everything seems good. I have to show it to Nicole later, though. I don't

have the final say," replied Roxanna in exasperation. She didn't seem to be so scared of him now.

She didn't even know why she would be scared of him in the first place.

"Sure, I'll wait here for the results. If possible, why don't you start a video call with Nicole here? We can have a chat."

Isaac nodded and stopped smiling as he suggested earnestly.

Roxanna was stunned for a moment. "Let's do it tomorrow since I'm clocking out for today. Is 5.00PM okay?"

She paused, then continued, "She must be six months in. It wouldn't be good to wake her up in the middle of the night. Please understand."

Isaac widened his eyes, but he didn't say anything about it. He simply stood up quietly.

"I'll be leaving, then. I still have some matters to attend to at the company."

Roxanna was a little disappointed when she heard that, but she didn't express it. She just nodded calmly and said nothing.

When the door to the office closed, the question finally occurred to her. What did Isaac come here for?

He teased her a little, then said he wanted to talk to Nicole—that was it.

Roxanna stood at the floor-to-ceiling windows of the office and managed to catch sight of Isaac's

leaving figure. She fell deep into thought.

While Roxanna was pondering, Isaac suddenly turned around and looked in her direction.

Roxanna took a subconscious step backward, then turned around.

She felt like she was getting exposed for staring longingly at someone.

However, she quickly realized that when Nicole was renovating the office, the glass was made to be anti-theft. One wouldn't be able to peer in from outside, but it was possible to look outside from within.

Chapter 1394 Deep Bond

"Okay, false alarm."

Roxanna instantly sighed in relief when she remembered the window.

"Miss Miller, there's an update from the legal department. They don't see any unreasonable terms for now or anything that puts the research center at a disadvantage. However, some other conditions require your judgment."

An employee knocked on the door and came in, reporting with a serious expression.

Roxanna nodded when she heard that. "Like always, I'll discuss the details with Nicole. Relay it to the legal department."

After she finished speaking, the employee left.

Roxanna sat alone in the office, reading the contract the employee had delivered. When she sent it to the legal department just now, she only glanced at it, so she didn't know the exact terms listed.

She began to read them in detail so that she could discuss them with Nicole when the latter woke up.

She had to admit that Isaac prepared the initial contract well. If everything was alright, they could sign it right away.

"60:40?" Roxanna couldn't believe it as she repeatedly confirmed the numbers.

It was written clearly in black and white. The research center would get 60 percent while the remaining

40 percent would be given to Quill Corporation.

Why was that, though? Even though the research center was the one working on the research, most companies would split it evenly.

However, Quill Corporation...

Roxanna recalled Isaac's face. No wonder.

Many people in his company must have objected to his decision.

'Roxanna, I've seen the contract. It looks fine, but why did Mr. Quill settle for 60:40?'

When Roxanna saw her phone's screen lighting up, she glanced at it. It was a message from Nicole. She immediately started a video call.

"I was going to talk about this too, Nicole, but the legal department didn't detect any tyrannical or unreasonable demands in the contract. I don't know what's going on anymore."

Roxanna realized the sky was turning dark, so she wrapped the coat tighter around her body as she spoke to Nicole.

"He was going to talk to you today, but I booked a slot for 5.00PM tomorrow."

Nicole nodded solemnly on the other end of the line. Chloe was with her as well. The research center had made huge progress today, so Chloe rewarded everyone by letting them clock out earlier. She had also returned home early.

"Let's talk about it in detail during the video call tomorrow," suggested Chloe. Before Roxanna could react, she saw Chloe's face appearing on the screen.

"Chloe!"

Roxanna looked at her phone in pleasant surprise. It had been a while since she last saw Chloe.

Every time she talked to Nicole, Chloe would be helping out at the research center.

They were in different time zones, so before Chloe could get off work, Roxanna would be asleep already.

"Roxanna, Nicole has told me everything. Great job."

Chloe nodded as she smiled. She still looked a little tired, though.

Roxanna could see the fatigue on Chloe's face, so she hastily said, "Hurry up and rest, Chloe. I don't have anything else to say for today."

"Okay, I'll go rest now. Just talk to Nicole if there's anything else. Don't shoulder the burden on your own, alright? You still have us."

Chloe smiled in reassurance. With that, she turned around and left.

She knew that Roxanna was worried about her. Things were quite hectic at the research center these days, and Nicole was also pregnant, so she couldn't let Nicole worry.

Roxanna watched as Chloe left, then Nicole's face appeared on the screen again.

"Roxanna, there was a huge breakthrough at our branch today, and everything is going smoothly. Don't worry, alright? If anything comes up at the local branch, just shoot us a message if you can't make up your mind."

Nicole watched as Chloe returned to her room. She was worried as well, but she forced a smile on her face as she spoke to Roxanna so that the latter wouldn't worry.

"Okay, Nicole. Don't worry, everything is going well here. You and Chloe should take care of yourselves," Roxanna said, choking a little.

Chapter 1395 Refusal

After chatting for a while, Roxanna said she had something else to do and ended the video call.

She helplessly placed the phone down on the side table and felt conflicted while thinking about Nicole and Chloe's worried expressions.

She felt useless for still making them worry about her. When would she truly grow up? Nicole and Chloe had not hidden anything from her since they lived together. However, she could tell they were being secretive about something now, but it wasn't about the research center.

Both research centers were interlinked. If the research center abroad had any issues, the local research center would be notified as well.

However, none of the employees had reported anything, which meant everything was going well.

What else could they be worried about?

"Colton?" As soon as that name popped up in her mind, her eyes lit up. I must ask Isaac when he comes tomorrow.

On the other hand, Nicole stared at the kitchen, deep in her thoughts after hanging up the video call. Then, she stood up and walked toward the other area.

Her morning sickness had been severe the past two days. Chloe felt sorry for her and helped with the reports, and Nicole would do the same whenever she felt better.

With this arrangement, all the burden was on Chloe. As such, it was inevitable that she felt tired.

In the dark room, only the faint light from the phone illuminated Chloe, who was curled up in a ball on the bed. She kept replaying the scene of meeting Kendrick like a PowerPoint slide.

"Mr. Hofstead, I talked to our person in charge last night. I'm sorry, but we don't plan on doing that. Let's just stick to what we've been doing before."

Chloe looked at Kendrick, who came alone like the day before. She didn't know why his secretary, who was always close by, was absent. However, she knew that it was his idea and the rest didn't know about this. If it wasn't for this, she would have a 50 percent chance of succeeding.

"Oh? Care to explain why?" Kendrick wasn't surprised upon hearing her reply and asked with a raised brow.

"This is a good opportunity for your center to climb up the ladder in Florend. You shouldn't pass this by for your newly established center, you know."

Chloe swallowed silently, for he had a point.

If it was solely for the research center's future development, it was a good opportunity. However, they had their agenda which they couldn't tell Kendrick about.

"Mr. Hofstead, even though our center is small, we're not interested in being a subsidiary of another company. We want absolute freedom." Chloe smiled, unafraid of his words.

What else could she lose when Nicole was braving the situation and Roxanna was doing her best back in the country? She couldn't hold them back.

Kendrick looked calmly at her without speaking, and it seemed like time had stopped.

She put on a brave front and met his gaze.

"Okay, Miss Yelton. I won't insist."

Kendrick suddenly smiled and agreed.

Chloe was stunned, for she didn't expect him to be so frank and straightforward. It made her panic.

"I believe our collaboration would still be a happy one." He stood up first and reached out a hand while looking at her with a small smile.

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1396 The Battle Officially Starts Now - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1396 The Battle Officially Starts Now

Chapter 1396 The Battle Officially Starts Now

Knock. Knock. Knock. Just then, the sound of someone knocking on the door pulled Chloe back from her memory.

"Chloe, it's me." It was Nicole.

Chloe was taken aback. Could it be something urgent? Wait, her stomach!

She jumped up and opened the door upon thinking about this, only to see Nicole holding a tray with some chowder and salad.

"What's this, Nicole?" Chloe quickly came to her senses and asked.

"You're pregnant, so you should be resting. You didn't need to cook for me." Although Nicole was already well into her pregnancy, Chloe felt that she

should still be careful as accidents could happen in the kitchen. Just the thought of it was enough to make Chloe shudder.

"It's just something simple. You've been so busy and tired. It must feel worse to come back to an empty dining table." Nicole shook her head and pulled Chloe into the room. She then placed the food on the table and looked at her with a smile.

Seeing that, Chloe sat down obediently to eat. Even though she lied to Nicole, saying she had already eaten, that was not the case.

There was no use insisting otherwise since Nicole had probably seen through her. As such, it would be better for her to eat.

Nicole was comforted when Chloe ate the food. This was all she could do, for she hadn't expected to feel so weak with the morning sickness.

Despite knowing that being pregnant wasn't an easy thing, she never knew it could get this bad since she hadn't experienced it.

"Great. Now, go rest." Nicole nodded with satisfaction as Chloe finished the bowl of chowder. Then, she got up to take the empty bowl away.

Chloe rushed to grab the bowl from Nicole and disappeared before her eyes after saying, "I'll do the dishes, Nicole. You should rest."

Nicole stared at the space before her where Chloe was and smiled when she heard the woman. Then, she walked toward her room.

She decided not to force it. If she did, Chloe would feel bad, and that wasn't what she intended to do.

Compared to the serenity on Nicole's side, Colton's situation was different.

Beryl and Colton sat before a computer, monitoring the situation in the country.

What they didn't expect was Ryan's influence as many parties suddenly appeared to help him.

"No wonder he's so brazen. He has the capital." Beryl stared at the data as he remarked, nodding in silence as though impressed by Ryan.

Colton turned to look at Beryl and rolled his eyes.

"It's my first time seeing you praise someone, you know," he said mockingly.

This is the first time I see you praising someone," he mocked.

However, Beryl gently shook his head without answering. He was smart and knew better than to reply.

"Now that everything is in our hands, can we start?" Beryl changed the topic. He could feel his heart thumping from the excitement at the mention of this issue.

After all, Ryan's every step was as they expected, and it was imperative for what they were going to do next.

"Yes. It's time to tie up all the loose ends. We can take action on Kendrick's side too."

Colton nodded as he looked at the glaring computer screen. It was time to end things. If things went well, they could conclude everything before the end of the year.

However, things might not be as easy as they seemed. He couldn't help pursing his lips at the thought of it.

Kendrick was definitely more cunning than they knew him to be; all they saw was what Kendrick wanted them to see and vice versa.

"We need to be more careful. When necessary, initiate Wolf."

"Understood," Beryl answered seriously. The real battle was about to start.

Chapter 1397 Almost Found Out

On the other hand, Kendrick was on guard ever since Beryl appeared before Chloe and Colton didn't take any action. This worried him.

Knock. Knock.

"Come in," Kendrick answered in a low voice, frowning slightly.

Darcy entered with a document that was sealed tightly in her hands. No one would be able to guess what was inside.

Only they both knew this was a document regarding a subsidiary company that no one knew about.

"This is from them," she announced with a quiver in her voice as she placed the tightly sealed document on the table. It felt like she was carrying a mountain on her shoulder when she had that document in her hands.

She wasn't entirely sure what this company was all about, but she knew it was capable of bankrupting a company and ruining families overnight.

It was safe to say that Kendrick had not used that company ever since Hofstead Corporation's stable performance.

"You may leave now." He nodded and glanced coldly at Darcy before looking down at his work.

She naturally caught his scary gaze and suppressed her shudders as she turned around to leave his office.

It had been a long time since she saw such a scary gaze from Kendrick. Did he perhaps find out what she was doing behind his back? She was terrified and scrambled to find a deserted place before calling a phone number she had been calling recently.

"Hello, please halt that project no matter what," Darcy said in Restradian. It was obvious the other party was also from Restrad.

"I charge extra for sudden stops like this. I've already started working on it." The man's voice on the other end of the phone was rough.

"What? You didn't mention this at the start!" Darcy got worked up and lowered her voice immediately after realizing where she was.

"Pfft, I'll see how you'll deal with it when news gets out if you're not going to pay," the man said arrogantly as he spat something out.

Darcy gritted her teeth. The man was adamant about getting money from her no matter what she said. He was probably waiting for this moment to happen.

"I'll give you the money. Make sure to stop it, alright?" Darcy swallowed and said each word as if she had made a huge decision.

Then, she hung up the phone and clenched her hands tightly around her phone as she glared at the door before her.

This time, she would not let that man take advantage of her, for he dared threaten her at such a time. She wouldn't let him off the hook.

"Darcy, Mr. Hofstead's looking for you." An employee was surprised to find Darcy there, but she tried her best to inform her calmly.

Darcy was stunned before slowly turning her head around, but she relaxed when she didn't notice anything weird about that employee's expression.

She was afraid the employee might've overheard anything and reported her to Kendrick since the competition was tight in the company. Everyone wanted to climb up the corporate ladder, after all.

"Okay, I'll be off now." Darcy nodded and walked past that employee.

That employee finally let out a sigh of relief after Darcy left.

She had overheard Darcy's conversation on the phone. Even though she couldn't hear what the other party said, she still heard Darcy's words.

Something about spending money and not letting him go. Darcy must be up to something bad. Should I tell Mr. Hofstead? The employee was conflicted; she didn't expect Darcy, who was known to be fair, to act like this in private. However, if she told Kendrick, her job would be at risk if Darcy found out about it. As such, she couldn't tell anyone about this

Chapter 1398 Feeling Anxious

"Mr. Hofstead, were you looking for me?"

Darcy entered Kendrick's office and glanced at his expression wearily. He looks fine. That's good. He probably doesn't know what I've done.

"Yes. There's something I need you to do." Kendrick's expression suddenly turned serious as he looked straight at Darcy.

Darcy felt her heart sink as she remained calm and met his gaze. "Yes, Mr. Hofstead?"

Kendrick nodded with satisfaction upon seeing her reaction. "The equipment at the research center has been having issues. Please deal with that."

Someone had submitted a document, claiming there were problems with the equipment and subsequently causing a delay in the research. Even though it wasn't a huge issue for the Hofstead Corporation, it was for the research center, especially with Nicole's weakened body now. He couldn't let Nicole worry over something like this.

Darcy was stunned as she didn't expect Kendrick to find out about this so soon. Luckily, she had called that person to stop.

If I hadn't... She was anxious just thinking about it. By then, not only would she lose her job, but Kendrick would hate her too. "Understood. I'll settle it, Mr. Hofstead." Darcy nodded before turning around to leave for the research center to deal with the problem.

However, little did she know that the man had stopped whatever he was doing long before Darcy had

told him to. He was only leading her on so that he could earn an extra buck or two.

Meanwhile, Chloe paced back and forth at the center's entrance. The equipment they had been using the past two days had malfunctioned. This meant that all the data was wrong, so they had to run all the experiments again, adding to the use of manpower, resources, and time.

She frowned as she thought of that. It wasn't a good sign for something like this to happen at a time like this. The equipment couldn't have ended up faulty out of the blue, so someone must be behind this. In other words, that person didn't want the center to succeed.

"Miss Yelton." Darcy walked up to Chloe, and Nicole's face popped up in her mind when looked at the woman. This irritated her.

Chloe wasn't surprised to see Darcy there since she was regarded highly by Kendrick.

However, her sixth sense was telling her that Darcy wasn't as naive as she looked. She wasn't a woman who only focused on work.

"Yes, all the malfunctioning equipment has been removed," Chloe replied politely. She didn't want to waste her words with Darcy and made it short.

"When did you discover the malfunction? Could you please tell me in detail, Miss Yelton? It'll be easier for me to investigate this. That way, the person in charge from both sides can answer this," Darcy asked with a forced smile as she wasn't happy with Chloe's attitude.

However, she had no choice since Kendrick liked and valued Nicole highly. Simply put, he also cared about the research center due to his feelings for Nicole. If this was some other partner, Kendrick

wouldn't have cared. It would be the other partner's problem to deal with the equipment if such an issue happened.

"Yesterday. Only the equipment is faulty, but everything else is fine," Chloe answered curtly and kept it short.

Darcy gritted her teeth, but even if she wanted to tear Chloe apart, she couldn't do anything with so many people around watching them.

"Okay, I understand. I'll handle the rest." She smiled, but it felt forced. However, it didn't matter since she couldn't go up against Chloe now.

Chloe observed Darcy and everyone else's expressions, nodding as though she had just discovered something.

Chapter 1399 A Realization

The workers were quick and moved the equipment onto the truck in a few minutes.

Darcy watched them move the equipment as she pondered on her matters and suddenly realized something.

She had asked that man to move quickly two days ago. However, the center only realized the problems with the equipment the day before and nothing else. Kendrick also discovered the issue at the center on this day.

Could it be that the man realized Kendrick had discovered them and didn't tell her? He even blackmailed her for money when he had already stopped taking action.

Trash! Darcy cursed the man inwardly despite maintaining a calm face.

Chloe had been observing Darcy's expression as she was interested in such things and what happened with Kendrick before.

Since Darcy was Kendrick's trusted assistant, it would make things easy for him if Chloe found something on her.

"We're done, Darcy. The new equipment has been locked in place." The employee in charge of the job walked up to her and buttered up to Darcy.

Everyone in the company had always wondered about the relationship between Darcy and Kendrick since the woman had always shown tremendous understanding of Kendrick and hadn't made any mistakes on the job. There were rumors in the company that she was Kendrick's wife, but no one was

able to prove it.

The employee smiled as she thought of that. She wouldn't let this opportunity slide by.

Darcy glanced at the employee and nodded with satisfaction at the employee's good looks and seriousness at work. Perhaps I can use her.

"Report to the secretary's department. You'll work under me from now on," Darcy said.

The employee smiled brightly at her words, but she didn't make it too obvious.

"I'll take my leave now if there's nothing else, Miss Yelton. Give me a call if anything comes up. I'll pass the message to Mr. Hofstead." Then, Darcy turned around to leave like an arrogant peacock.

Chloe gazed in the direction Darcy left and concluded that she must be hiding something from everyone.

That employee naturally heard the underlying meaning in Darcy's words and knew that she didn't like Chloe. As such, she stopped being as respectful to

Chloe as she did in the beginning and turned around to leave proudly as well. After she caught up to Darcy, she walked in a humbler manner behind her.

However, Chloe didn't mind that employee and was curious about the culture at Hofstead Corporation.

Then, she entered the research center to make some arrangements since they would have to work overtime to catch up on the progress they lost.

"Chloe." A familiar voice sounded behind her.

"Nicole? Why brought you here?" Chloe was surprised to see Nicole as she watched her walk toward her with her gradually growing stomach.

"It's dusty here. Let's head in to talk." Chloe realized that as they were moving the equipment just now and rushed to lead Nicole away.

Nicole didn't say anything and followed Chloe's footsteps to a cleaner place.

They arrived at the lounge, and Nicole glanced around, somehow relieved that the place hadn't changed much.

"We're going to redo all the experiments. Hopefully, we can catch up."

Chloe felt that this was the only way. As long as they could catch up, it didn't matter if she had to work overtime.

Chapter 1400 Pondering

After making the arrangements, Chloe passed a cup of warm milk to Nicole and said, "Drink some warm milk. What brings you here, Nicole?"

Nicole took a small sip as she was tired of drinking it, but she had to keep going for the baby in her stomach.

"I heard something happened and got worried. Is everything alright now?" She heard that the equipment in the center had issues when she was at home, and Chloe wasn't answering her phone. She got worried and rushed over to check on the situation.

"Yes. Something happened, but it's settled now. Darcy came over—that secretary of Kendrick's." Chloe nodded and explained to Nicole to soothe her.

She was still hesitating whether to tell Nicole about her suspicions of Darcy. She was afraid Nicole would say that she was overthinking things.

Nicole noticed Chloe's hesitation and knew that she must be embarrassed to tell her something. She asked, "Chloe, I know you well after being friends for so long. What is it you want to say? There's no need to hold back."

Chloe looked up in surprise and smiled when she saw the tenderness in Nicole's eyes. Nicole had always been like this; she was their support and anchor.

"I suspect Darcy has something to do with this," Chloe said seriously.

She noticed the confusion in Nicole's eyes and explained, "She was being strange and hinting at

something when she came. Her expression was also weird when the workers were moving the equipment."

Despite her suspicion, Chloe had no proof that Darcy was the one behind this.

She was frustrated at the lack of proof and felt that she was slow and inefficient.

However, Nicole listened attentively and nodded at the end of her words. "I know, Chloe. I believe you. You can slowly investigate this matter. I think you're right. It's just that without evidence, it's hard to convict her of this."

Chloe looked at her with widened eyes, for she didn't expect Nicole to still believe her when she had no evidence. It spoke volumes of the trust Nicole had in her.

"Okay. I got it. I won't let you down, Nicole. Leave this to me!" Chloe promised confidently. As long as Nicole believed her, she was willing to give it a go.

Nicole nodded and looked at Chloe gently. Even if Chloe didn't bring this up, she would still suspect Kendrick's people since he knew that Beryl had come to see Chloe.

Even though she had not interacted with him much, she could see that he was a paranoid person. For someone like him to sit in such a high position, it was natural that he would be suspicious of them and meddle with the equipment.

Nonetheless, how should they deal with him after solving the issue this time?

"Oh, right. I have something to ask you, Chloe." Nicole suddenly thought of something and looked at

Chloe seriously. She needed to confirm something.

"What is it? I'll tell you everything I know." Judging by the look on Nicole's face, Chloe knew it had to be something serious. She would answer truthfully without holding back.

Nicole was too kind to them, but she had nothing else to repay her and promised to be her friend in the next life to continue her repayment.