

Chapter 221 Go Out Without a Brain

In an instant, Ingrid was so frightened that she could only nod her head and admit her guilt.

“Yes, I’m sorry, Nicole! I know it’s wrong ...”

In the next second, Nicole exerted a slight force in her hand. The sound of fabric ripping could be heard.

Nicole suddenly let go.

Ingrid shouted in horror and her body sank for a moment.

However, Nicole did not let go in the end. She only smiled and seemed to be enjoying the look of fear on Ingrid’s face.

“Well, since you admit it yourself, serves you right!”

Ingrid could no longer hold back the panic she felt and shouted for help.

Nicole did not stop her.

Soon, there was a crowd gathered around them.

Keith saw this scene and was so shocked that he hurriedly went to look for Eric. ‘OMG! What’s happening?!’

Nicole sneered and looked at Ingrid’s ripped dress. She reminded Ingrid.

“By the way, your dress is all ripped. Do you want everyone to see what’s underneath?”

Ingrid could feel that the fabric of her dress was giving way from being yanked back.

This dress could not hold her full weight.

Ingrid’s face paled. She instantly stopped screaming and desperately tried to grab onto the railing, but to no avail.

Thinking about how she almost fell to her death, Ingrid glared at Nicole in anger

and frustration.

“You... How dare you let go? You said that if I admit it, you won't let go!”

Everything happened in a flash.

The reversal of the situation was so sudden that Ingrid could not figure out how she got into this position. ‘Why am I the one falling off the balcony? Shouldn't it be Nicole?’

Nicole's smile was cold and harsh. Her eyes were stern.

“You've admitted to trying to harm me, so why should I help you? Ingrid Ferguson, you're the one who repeatedly seeks death. Where'd you get the courage? Don't you have a brain?”

Nicole had already warned Ingrid before. Did she forget so soon?

If so, Nicole did not mind giving her a little reminder.

Ingrid was trembling. She gnashed her teeth and shook in anger.

She glared at Nicole viciously.

Eric quickly came over and was shocked to see this scene.

Nicole had enough fun seeing Ingrid's wretchedness, so she withdrew her gaze and frowned slightly.

"Brother! Save me! Nicole wants to kill me!" Ingrid cried.

Everyone could see what was going on, so they could all testify.

This time, Nicole would not be able to deny it.

Eric looked at Nicole with a complicated gaze and was about to pull his sister up.

However, Nicole suddenly stopped him.

Nicole smirked and slowly took out her phone. "Wait a sec... I can't be wrongly

accused in front of so many people now, can I?”

With that, Nicole clicked the recording on her phone.

Replay.

Nicole’s voice came through first.

“Ms. Ferguson, did you just try to push me?”

“I’ll let go if you lie...”

Next, it was Ingrid’s anxious and frightened voice.

“Yes, I’m sorry, Nicole! I know it’s wrong ...”

.....

All of a sudden, the surroundings were dead silent. Later, everyone lowered their heads and started whispering.

“Ms. Ferguson is so ballsy! Isn’t this attempted murder?”

“Yeah, I wonder what kind of grudge Ms. Ferguson has against Ms. Stanton to think of killing her...”

“OMG, this is so scary. Ms. Ferguson looks like such an innocent girl. I didn’t expect her to be so cruel!”

“OMG, luckily Ms. Stanton has evidence. Otherwise, she’ll really be wrongly accused forever!”

“Ms. Stanton is so kind not to let go yet...”

“Yeah, right? If I were her, I wouldn’t care if someone who tries to kill me lives or dies...”

Everyone’s impression of Ingrid Ferguson was extremely poor.

Such a young girl was so vicious and wicked to do such a thing.

Ingrid wanted to push Nicole off the balcony but did not manage to.

Instead, she jumped down herself and

still wanted to accuse Nicole.

They really should not judge a book by its cover!

The recording kept replaying so that everyone could hear it clearly.

Eric's face was incredibly dark. The coldness he exuded was frightening.

His deep eyes were icy with a dangerous glare.

Ingrid was so startled that her face turned pale, and she could not say a word to defend herself.

She did not think that Nicole would have this trick up her sleeve.

Eric stepped forward as his body emitted a bitter chill, then took Ingrid from Nicole's hand.

He flung Ingrid on the balcony.

Before Ingrid had time to rejoice that she was intact on solid ground, she saw Eric's

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grim face.

Immediately after, Eric bent down and slapped her fiercely on the face.

Chapter 222 Having a Brain Is a Good Thing

For a moment, the banquet hall was dead silent.

Those who were watching the show did not expect such a scene.

Eric's slap was ruthless. He used all his strength.

He did not care that Ingrid was his sister.

Ingrid laid on the ground and touched her cheek that was hot from the slap. She felt so dizzy because that slap was vicious.

Her body was cold and trembling.

She did not react for a moment.

Wretched, wicked, ugly. All the derogatory words were not enough to describe Ingrid at this moment.

Ingrid's tears streamed down her face

silently as she looked up in horror at Eric.

Eric's eyes carried such thunderous anger.

She had never seen that kind of emotion in her brother's eyes before.

Now, this anger was directed at her.

At this moment, Ingrid suddenly remembered her grandfather and her brother's warning to her not to mess with Nicole.

Her mind went blank.

Ingrid would be abandoned by her family.

She might even be kicked out of the Ferguson family!

The mocking, contemptuous, and angry gazes of the crowd gathered on what used to be the proud Young Lady Ferguson.

Ingrid had nowhere to hide.

The large banquet hall was brightly lit and lively.

Eric's slap was also quite resounding.

Nicole faintly hooked her lips. She was not bothered to continue watching the remaining drama.

Anyway, she was done with what she came to do.

"Since the truth is out, I'm leaving. This little farce isn't that interesting."

Nicole gently waved her hand.

There was a hint of mockery at the corners of her lips.

"Ms. Ferguson, a brain is a good thing that you sadly don't have. Goodbye then."

Nicole was already very merciful for not letting go of Ingrid then.

If Nicole had not reacted quickly, Nicole would have fallen from the balcony.

She would be crippled or at least badly injured.

Ingrid would have drawn all the guests present to watch Nicole in all her wretchedness.

Perhaps, others would have laughed and criticized Nicole for a lifetime.

Nicole was not a saint to render good for evil.

‘Hah! I’ll only get vengeance where it’s due!’ Nicole thought.

Ingrid’s status in high society was certainly ruined.

Her future marriage might also be affected.

Ingrid deserved all of it.

Nicole sneered. ‘Tsk tsk... Serves her right!’

“Let’s go. At least we had some fun tonight.” Nicole looked at Yvette.

The two ladies went to the bathroom to

fix their makeup before they walked to the entrance of the banquet hall and stood under the landscape lights at the entrance.

Someone called her name. "Nicole."

Nicole subconsciously looked over.

She saw the man's tall and well-built figure getting closer to them.

His body was in the shadows and blended into the night.

Eric walked towards her with a cigarette in hand.

The cigarette butt was lit, and his movements were elegant.

"Nicole, I have something to say to you."

Nicole looked at Eric's deep eyes that were so fascinating and dangerous.

She did not want to recall how she used to be so infatuated with these eyes that she could not extricate herself.

The farce earlier was so ridiculous.

Yvette looked at Nicole. "Shall I excuse myself?"

She only looked at Nicole and did not care about Eric's opinion.

Nicole raised her eyebrows. "No need. It's nothing shameful anyway."

Eric's eyebrows knitted slightly, but he soon resumed his usual expression.

His voice was mellow and deep as he said, "I'm sorry for what just happened. I'll make sure she learns her lesson. Also, thank you for not letting go."

Eric knew that even if Nicole let go of her in that situation, Ingrid deserved it.

Nicole, who was in the right, had every means to abandon Ingrid, but she did not.

Ingrid had tried to harm Nicole so many times, so Eric did not expect Nicole to help Ingrid.

Nicole smiled charmingly. Her eyes shone brightly with the lights.

“No need for thanks. I’m not so shameless like your family.”

Nicole always liked to use the brightest smile to say the coldest words.

Chapter 223 Be a Decent Human Being

The next day.

Ingrid was sent out of Atlanta right after Eric brought her back to the Ferguson Villa. No one knew where she was sent to.

When Nicole found out about this, she was playing golf with Maverick.

The golf course was in a private VIP country club that was surrounded by greenery.

The environment was very peaceful.

Golf was Maverick's favorite sport.

Since Maverick went to the National Laboratories, Nicole had not seen him in a long time.

Nicole finally had some time off lately, so she called Maverick out to relax.

While playing, Nicole could not find a suitable position, so she simply gave up and found other entertainment to keep herself occupied.

She was playing with her phone when Yvette called her.

“I’ve heard quite a few rumors today! Besides that Ingrid thing, it’s about the scandal between you and Colton White!”

Yvette laughed gloatingly.

Nicole rolled her eyes in exasperation. “How is that even a scandal?!”

“Don’t worry, it didn’t get leaked because someone gave an order before the banquet ended.”

Yvette laughed meaningfully.

Nicole did not ask who it was.

There were only two people who would have the mood and ability to do that.

Besides Eric Ferguson, it would be Colton himself.

That was good. It at least saved her a lot of trouble.

Yvette started talking about Ingrid.

It was a little strange because there was no news on where Ingrid went.

Yvette was worried about Nicole. “There’s no movement with the Fergusons at the moment. It’s hard to say whether they’re hating you or thanking you for this. Although you saved her from the fall, Ingrid’s reputation can’t be salvaged anymore. Do you think Eric will avenge her and find trouble with you?”

Nicole sneered and replied, “They should be worried about whether I’ll find trouble with them...”

After that, she hung up and threw her phone to the side.

Nicole did not care.

Who was at fault in this situation anyway?

She continued to play golf, but it never made it to the hole.

It felt like the club she was holding was deliberately going against her.

Maverick could not stand it any longer, so he went over to help her with her posture.

This scene, in the eyes of others, was a little too intimate.

Suddenly, a tall and well-built figure stood in front of them.

The surrounding temperature dropped a few degrees.

Thus, the Stanton siblings had to look up.

The person in front of them looked noble and indifferent as he glared at the two of them coldly.

Maverick let go of Nicole's hand and

frowned slightly.

“Eric Ferguson?”

Nicole also saw him.

She narrowed her eyes and thought about what Yvette just said, ‘He’s not here to settle the score with me, right?’

Nicole looked behind Eric and saw a few others behind him.

She recognized one of them as the chairman of one of the malls, so Eric must be here for business.

They probably came to play golf.

It was really such a coincidence though.

“Why didn’t you answer my calls?” Eric looked at Nicole and asked in a deep voice.

Nicole was slightly stunned. She then remembered that she had blocked him again after paying off his repair fees.

It seemed like he was still not aware of

that yet.

Nicole slowly hooked her lips. “Because I don’t wanna hear your voice.”

It was a blunt and honest answer.

Eric’s calm eye flashed with a trace of panic. “Nicole, I apologize for her.”

Nicole laughed. Her gaze was clear and cold. “I’ve heard your family’s apology so many times that I’m afraid my ears are getting sore... Just go back and play your own game. Don’t bother us.”

What a buzzkill!

Eric’s eyes were cold as he swept a glance at Maverick.

However, he desperately suppressed his anger in front of Nicole.

He needed to maintain his stature.

“Nicole, my family is at fault for this. You can mention whatever conditions you have...”

Nicole brushed her hair back and said insouciantly, “Mr. Ferguson, how generous of you. Then... Why don’t you let Stanton Corporation have the big share in that Yewshire development?”

Although it was a cooperation between Ferguson Corporation and Stanton Corporation, Ferguson Corporation had bought that piece of land for \$50 billion, so it was logical for Ferguson Corporation to get the big share in this project.

Ferguson Corporation would also call the shots in this.

If Stanton Corporation took the big share in this project, it would be equivalent to Ferguson Corporation giving up their dominance and tens of billions or even hundreds of billions of profits for nothing.

Eric’s dark eyes narrowed slightly.

In less than two seconds, he said, “Okay.”

Nicole was stunned. 'That quick? How surprisingly generous! Damn it! Did I ask for too little? It looks like Ingrid Ferguson is quite valuable, huh?'

She flashed a polite and decent smile. "Then I'll have my lawyer redraft the contract. We can turn the page with Ms. Ferguson's matter."

Eric's eyes were sunken as he looked at her.

In his heart, he was a little annoyed at her clear-cut attitude.

"Is there anything else you want to say? If there's nothing, you should go home and teach Ms. Ferguson how to be a decent human being, hmm?"

Chapter 224 Who's She Acting For?

Nicole turned to look at Maverick, who was speaking on the phone.

Looking at Nicole's warm gaze that was directed at Maverick, Eric instantly exuded a chilly aura.

The people behind him did not know Maverick, but Eric knew about his identity.

Maverick was the youngest person who had won the Breakthrough Prize. This record had not been broken thus far.

Under his alias, Sunner, Maverick even solved the most difficult problem in Gerard Lichman's project with ease.

Eric had not seen Maverick for a while and did not expect him to appear next to Nicole at this moment.

It was very irksome to watch them

together.

Eric stared at Nicole with his dark eyes. His temperament was awe-inspiring and noble as he stood there looking so high and mighty.

However, Nicole did not care about his presence.

Since they had already negotiated their terms, they did not owe each other anymore.

Maverick hung up the phone and walked up to Nicole with a frown on his handsome and refined face.

He lowered his head and spoke to Nicole in a gentle and coaxing voice. "There's a problem at the lab, so I have to go back and can't play with you anymore."

Nicole instantly frowned and threw a tantrum.

She was pouting and whining.

**“You said you’d stay with me all day!
Why aren’t you keeping your promise
again?”**

**Maverick was not the slightest bit
annoyed or impatient with her.**

**He patiently explained the situation and
tried to appease her.**

**“The research has reached a critical stage
and can’t be delayed. Why don’t I send
you back first? Do you wanna go home or
to your office?”**

**Nicole helplessly glared at him. She was
already annoyed by Eric’s presence next
to her and did not want to say too much.**

**She just threw the club in her hand to the
side and left in a huff.**

**Maverick calmly and gently picked up the
club and quickly chased after her while he
patiently coaxed her.**

From behind, they looked like a couple in

a quarrel.

The two of them could feel the cold, piercing gaze staring at them closely behind them, but none of them turned around.

The people behind Eric stepped forward.

They clearly recognized that the woman earlier was the famous Nicole Stanton, Eric Ferguson's ex-wife.

However, she seemed to be having fun with another man.

Even so, none of them dared to joke about this as they could not afford the consequences of Eric's wrath.

The people next to Eric were apprehensive.

They had finally managed to get an appointment with Eric Ferguson to play golf and did not expect to run into such a scene.

It was too late to regret choosing this place!

Just when someone was about to divert Eric's attention, Eric suddenly turned around.

His face was sullen, and he spoke in a non-negotiable tone.

"I'm busy today. Everyone can go back. We'll meet again another day."

After that, Eric left with big strides.

Somehow, he went in the direction Nicole left in.

The two people were right in front of him, so he was just about to call out to Nicole when a woman suddenly sprang up in front of him. She was wearing big brand names from head to toe and decked out in jewelry. The woman twisted her foot and fell towards Eric.

"Oops..."

Eric could have caught her just in time, but he did not.

Instead, he took a step back and avoided her touch.

The disdain in his eyes was unconcealed. ‘How dare this woman run into me?! Is she blind?’

The woman fell right in front of him.

She winced in pain, but she still forced a smile.

“What a coincidence, Mr. Ferguson.” Her voice was overly fake and sweet.

Seeing that he could not catch up with Nicole, Eric frowned and looked down with a cold expression.

He glared at that woman and saw her face clearly.

Eric was slightly stunned.

In the next second, he immediately felt

an undisguised disgust.

This woman's features resembled Nicole's at first glance, but on closer look, her features were all plastic and no longer resembled Nicole when pieced together.

On the contrary, her face looked very stiff.

She did not have even a fraction of the charm Nicole had.

All of her fake features pieced together looked too deliberate and repulsive, like a poor imitation of Nicole's face.

'How dare this woman show up in front of me?!'

Eric's aura was cold and stern. His eyes had a seeping chill.

"Get lost."

His thin lips parted slightly.

His voice was not the slightest bit friendly.

The woman froze and smiled sweetly and

carefully.

“Mr. Ferguson, I’m Lydia, Nicole’s cousin.”

Lydia was ecstatic to see Eric Ferguson.

The internet was abuzz with rumors of Nicole and Eric’s relationship.

Nicole had really let go of Eric and did not care for him anymore.

Thus, Lydia thought that with a face like hers, she could replace Nicole to become Eric Ferguson’s woman.

If she became Mrs. Ferguson, then she would no longer have to worry about anything in her life!

Hearing this, Eric’s eyebrows furrowed deeper. The coldness in his eyes did not dissipate one bit.

‘Who the hell cares who she is?!’

Eric did not want to babble on with this woman. “I won’t say it a third time. Get

the hell away from me!”

His voice was as cold as a glacier.

He then walked past her without another word.

Eric’s attitude was indifferent. He looked away from the woman and turned to look at Nicole, who had just gotten into the car.

Nicole swept a glance at them but quickly retracted her gaze.

Maverick, who was already in the car, frowned slightly.

“Isn’t that Lydia? Who’s she acting for?”

That falling pose was so pretentious!

Chapter 225 Really Disgusting

Nicole grunted lighted. “Whatever...”

Lydia was their cousin, but they were not blood related.

Noah Stanton was Floyd Stanton’s younger brother and Nicole’s second uncle.

Lydia’s mother, Jade, was Noah’s mistress and had Lydia from her previous marriage.

This mother-daughter pair had been living with Noah Stanton for many years. Although there was no official wedding between Noah and Jade, she was Noah’s de facto second wife.

However, this had nothing to do with Nicole’s family.

They had never cared about Noah’s affairs.

Stanton Corporation was singlehandedly built up by Floyd Stanton and had nothing to do with Noah Stanton.

However, out of kinship and to avoid trouble, Floyd had given Noah their business in Jericho City to take care of.

Despite the two-year loss, Floyd did not pursue Noah's responsibility.

He just considered it as money spent to buy peace.

Noah brought Lydia over to Stanton Corporation in Jericho City and instated her as a top executive. To outsiders, Lydia was part of the Stanton family.

Lydia used the Stanton family name to mingle in the high-society circle.

However, her status as a Stanton compared with Nicole was a world of difference.

Lydia had always wanted to please Nicole,

but Nicole never cared about her.

She tried her best to imitate Nicole's temperament, dressing, and even her facial appearance, desperately trying to pass herself off as a real Stanton.

However, the rest of the Stanton family knew that she was not one of them.

Who would have expected Lydia to suddenly appear at the golf course today?

After sending Maverick back to the lab, Nicole was just about to go back to the office when she received a message from Kai.

“Come home! There's a good show!”

These few short words were strange.

Nicole thought about it and went back to the Stanton mansion.

After all, if Kai said that it was a good show, it must be very interesting.

Without another word, Nicole raced back

home.

Floyd was with Mr. Anderson studying the flowers and plants in the garden.

When Mr. Anderson saw Nicole, he immediately stood up and greeted her.

“Miss, you’re back!”

Nicole smiled and tossed the car key in her hand.

She jokingly said, “Dad, are you bored with fishing already? Are you planning to do gardening now?”

Floyd rolled his eyes at her and lifted his chin slightly, pointing to the house.

Nicole raised her eyebrows. ‘Who is Chairman Stanton deliberately avoiding? Who has the power to do so?’

Just as Nicole was about to go in and take a look, the person inside came out.

“Nicole, you’re finally back! Your sister and I have been waiting for you for a long

time...”

A woman who pretended to be cordial stood at the door with a flattering smile.

Nicole paused in her footsteps when she saw Lydia’s mother, Jade, standing at the door.

Her smile faded for a moment.

Honestly, Nicole was not interested in getting to know this mother-daughter pair.

However, these two liked to think that they were family and liked to come over to flaunt their presence.

It turned out that Floyd Stanton was avoiding them, so he ran out to check out the flowers in the garden.

Nicole thought, ‘This is my house. Why should we be afraid of them?’

She smiled lightly as a courtesy when she approached Jade. “Is there something

wrong in Uncle Noah's company?"

"Oh no, everything is going well with the company. We're all family, so I specially brought your sister here to see you."

Jade called Lydia over.

Lydia pretended to be demure and stood there obediently. "Hi, Nicole."

Nicole did not respond. She suddenly remembered the scene at the entrance of the golf course, where Lydia deliberately fell in front of Eric Ferguson.

Lydia looked so pretentious and fake.

How disgusting...

Lydia was certainly not like that now.

Nicole walked past the two women and went into the house.

A maid immediately came forward and respectfully went over to take Nicole's bag for her, then squatted down to change Nicole's shoes.

Nicole calmly glanced at Kai, who was sitting in the living room drinking coffee.

“K, why didn’t you go over to the office lately? I heard that Dominic wants to promote newcomers...”

Kai nonchalantly swept her a glance. “Can’t I just retire early?”

Nicole snorted coldly and was just about to retort when Jade untimely interrupted, “Nicole, I heard that you took over the company. Congratulations!”

Hearing this, Nicole pulled the corner of her lips. “Thanks.”

“Nicole, you’re really amazing! My father said that I must learn more from you to be as good as you.” Lydia was ingratiating and looked at Nicole with a hint of envy in her eyes.

Nicole stopped in her tracks and paused for two seconds before speaking.

Chapter 225 Read
"Is that so? Uncle Noah is just flattering me."

She knew that Noah was not the type to praise her.

Jade hurriedly smiled and said, "Yes, Nicole. This time, I brought Lydia here so that she can help you in the company. That way, she can also learn a thing or two."

Nicole stood there, frowning. "This mistress is overstepping her bounds..."

Chapter 226 She's Not Qualified

Seeing Nicole's hesitation, Jade said anxiously, "It doesn't have to be an important position. Just a random manager or supervisor position will do. Since we're family, you can't mistreat your sister..."

Nicole frowned. 'The audacity! How did Jade get the guts to come and ask me for a position? The position she asked for is a senior executive too?'

Before Nicole could say anything, Kai could not help but burst out in laughter.

His lazy voice rang out.

"Is it not enough to devastate Uncle Noah's company? You still want to be a scourge here? Stanton Corporation won't accept freeloading trash!"

Nicole raised her eyebrows. 'K, way to go! When did he learn to speak so well?'

Jade's face stiffened slightly.

Kai's words were too blunt and did not show them any respect.

Jade was used to flaunting her status as the Stanton family's Second Madam and showed off every chance she got.

Everyone knew that she was a member of the Stanton family, so her words held some weight.

"Kai, how can you say that? We're all family. Lydia's also your sister..." Jade spoke with dissatisfaction.

Kai pointed to Nicole. "She's my sister. You guys can beat it!"

Jade looked furious and turned to Nicole.

"Nicole, I know that you're in charge of the company now, so it shouldn't be difficult to arrange a position for your sister, right?"

Since Nicole was named, she paused for a

moment and smiled meaningfully.

“It’s not impossible for Lydia to work in Stanton Corporation if she wants to...”

Jade smiled with relief. Before she had time to gloat, Nicole continued, “Stanton Corporation’s HR will focus on hiring senior management talent every year, so if Lydia really has the ability, she can send in a resume.”

The atmosphere was stagnant for a while.

Jade frowned in displeasure and said, “Why the trouble? Isn’t it just a matter of words? She’s not an outsider, so why are you so petty?”

Lydia nodded approvingly and echoed at the side, pretending to be a goody-two-shoes. “Yeah, Nicole, I just want to learn about the business.”

Nicole mentally sneered and said unhurriedly, “Learning should be done in school. Every position in the company is

important, and with your current ability, it's hard for you to get the job done.”

Lydia's face instantly turned glum.

She bit her lower lip and looked at Jade aggrievedly.

Jade was taken aback. Her expression was quite amusing to Nicole. In a fit of anger, her voice became shrill and harsh. “

Hmph! You guys are just looking down on us, right? Don't forget, we're all Stantons!”

Jade looked at Nicole. “You're the one who's a disgrace to the family with all your scandals on the internet! Do you think you're so glorious?”

The living room echoed with Jade's unbridled mockery.

The surrounding temperature instantly plunged to a freezing point.

Kai stopped playing games on his phone.

At this moment, Floyd happened to walk in.

He had probably been listening outside because his face was cold and formidable.

Seeing Floyd, Jade did not let go of this opportunity and complained first.

“Floyd, your children are too rude! Isn’t it easy to just give Lydia a position in the company? Who are they acting smug for?”

Floyd was already in a terrible mood when he heard those words earlier.

He did not expect Jade to be so shameless.

His face was sunken as he cast a sidelong glance at Jade and warned her unceremoniously.

“What kind of place do you think this is where you can act recklessly? You’d better watch your mouth.”

As soon as Floyd spoke, Jade was a little

frightened.

Her arrogant tone earlier dissipated as she said in a soft voice, "We're all family, so what's the point of procedures..."

Lydia saw the situation and hurriedly stepped forward to ease the situation.

"Uncle Floyd, my mother doesn't mean that. Don't misunderstand her."

Jade frowned and was just about to speak when she was interrupted.

Floyd's voice was extremely cold. "Family? Are you family? You're just an unseemly mistress! Who do you think you are to tell us what to do?"

That single remark knocked Jade off her high horse.

Back then, Noah's wife was so angry with this mistress that she fell ill. She never recovered from the illness and passed away within a few days.

From then on, Floyd had never bothered with his second brother's affairs.

Noah had been doing nothing for a long time. Floyd only got him to take care of the company's business in Jericho City for the sake of their kinship.

However, Floyd made it clear back then that if Noah were to marry Jade, Noah would lose all the rights and benefits of the company in Jericho City.

Thus, Jade remained as Noah's mistress for more than ten years. They were not legally married.

However, Jade went around as the Second Madam of the Stanton family in the past few years, and no one stopped her.

Thus, Jade thought that she had been accepted by the Stantons.

However, Floyd Stanton and his family were so unforgiving.

They never took her seriously.

Lydia bit her lower lip. Her eyes were red with forbearance.

Her last name was not Stanton, and because of this, she was a world away from Nicole.

This was the difference between a true heiress and a fraud.

Lydia said resentfully, "Uncle Floyd, how can you say that? Although Dad and Mom aren't legally married, they've been together for more than ten years! We've long been a part of the Stanton family. You're the one who refused to let Dad marry Mom, so how can you still say that we're outsiders?"

Floyd swept a cold glance at her and rebuked her.

"I'm talking here. Who are you to interrupt?"

Chapter 227 How Can Nicole Be Wrong?

Nicole and Kai were well aware of this.

They just did not mock this mother-daughter pair for the sake of their second uncle.

Floyd had always been very protective, so Jade had crossed the line, especially when they were at the Stanton mansion.

Jade asked for this.

Her face was stiff and unsightly at this time. She was indignant.

She was originally trying to play the family card, but she ended up losing everything.

The maids were also laughing at her.

Jade could not stand it any longer. She was furious.

Chapter 22 / How

Floyd, Nicole, and Kai's condescending attitude made Jade's face flush red with anger.

They had thoroughly agitated her.

"Hmph! If it weren't for you guys, Noah would've married me a long time ago! I'm only in this current state because of you guys! Who are you to insult me like this?"

Nicole coldly glanced at the mother-daughter pair and laughed disdainfully.

"Once a homewrecker, forever a homewrecker. You should just adapt to your life in the gutter. Not just anyone is worth marrying into the Stanton family. If you get married to Uncle Noah, the media will dig up your past, then everyone will know that you're the mistress that became his wife. By then, our family will be disgraced."

She smiled meaningfully and continued, "

You should just be the good little mistress to Uncle Noah to keep your livelihood. You 'd better know your place and don't offend people you can't afford to offend."

Seeing Jade's miserably pale face, Nicole felt very satisfied.

Jade brought this on herself.

Jade was embarrassed. She clenched her teeth and said in a harsh and shrill voice, "Nicole, how dare you threaten me? You're the one who married Eric Ferguson and lost your reputation. Why didn't you say that you've disgraced the Stanton family? Do you think that you can look down on everyone just because you've reached this position?"

Jade thought that Nicole would probably make a move on her, so she was ready to teach her a lesson.

However, in that instant, Jade could feel cold malice in the air.

Even the onlooking maids were glaring at Jade with indignant eyes.

Nicole narrowed her eyes, which turned cold, dark, and deep.

There was an intimidating silence.

Nicole's gaze was icy as she approached Jade step by step.

Her powerful aura overwhelmed Jade in seconds.

Lydia gulped and looked at Floyd and Kai. Both of them looked like they wanted to skin her alive.

Nicole's eyes were also so impenetrable.

Opposite them, Nicole's voice was calm and light as she said, "Ms. Smith, are you so naive to think that you can just run around insulting me? Just because of what you said earlier, you will never be connected to the Stanton family." 1)

This was a head-on threat.

Nicole's words successfully frightened them.

Nicole was Floyd's successor that he had announced to the public. Thus, she was fully qualified to have a say in who stays or leaves the Stanton family.

Lydia looked flustered for a moment.

Her hands that were hanging at her sides clenched tightly, so much so that her nails dug into her palms.

“Nicole, my mother's just too straightforward with her words. She didn't mean it. You're a magnanimous person, so don't take it to heart...”

Lydia thought that Nicole was so rude and arrogant to humiliate them at will, but she still did not dare to offend Nicole so openly.

That was because she knew that Nicole had every right to say so.

Nicole was the true heiress of Stanton Corporation.

Nicole's face was austere and cold. She did not even want to say another word to these two women. 'What a waste of my time!'

"Mr. Anderson, send them off."

As soon as she spoke, the butler went up to send the two women away.

Jade was afraid of Nicole. Even if she was resentful, she did not dare to do anything.

Her body was just shaking with anger.

"You're all big bullies! Do you really think I want to come here? Even if you invite me to come in the future, I won't step foot in here!"

After that, Jade pulled Lydia away and stomped away in her heels, which was sharp and ear-piercing.

As soon as they left the Stanton mansion,

Lydia took out her phone to make a call.

Her voice was cold as she said, “Nicole won’t let me into the company.”

.....

Floyd was fuming.

Kai and Nicole could feel it.

Floyd stormed upstairs to the study and slammed the door shut.

The maids who were downstairs were so terrified that they held their breaths.

Nicole glanced at Kai. “You call this a good show?”

“Hehe... Isn’t it...?” Kai shrugged his shoulders innocently.

Nicole let out a cold grunt.

“Next time they come, just kick them out.”

She instructed the butler.

Chapter 227 How
Since they had gone all out, there was no need to worry about what they thought.

Nicole did not even care about those two vain women.

Chapter 228 How'd You Warn Him?

Mr. Anderson nodded in agreement.

“By the way, Miss... Your birthday is coming up. What's the plan?”

If Mr. Anderson had not mentioned it, Nicole would have forgotten about it.

Nicole's birthday was coming up.

Nicole chuckled and looked at Kai. “It doesn't matter how it's held. What's important is my gift, right, K?”

Kai shuddered as he thought about the fact that he had already spent \$2.8 billion on her. He might as well just spend more.

Mr. Anderson just laughed at Kai on the side.

Originally, Nicole did not want to make her birthday party such a big deal.

However, because of that little episode

with Jade and Lydia, Floyd decided to make it a big fanfare.

Stanton Corporation.

Nicole had just walked out of the meeting room after the meeting when she saw Grant's cold face as he walked to the door.

She frowned. It was rare to see Grant so angry.

Nicole thought about it and chased after him.

"G, why are you so mad?"

Grant's face softened a little, but his voice still carried a hint of coldness.

"Nothing big. Uncle Floyd was making a fuss, so I warned him." 5 |

"Huh?" Nicole was shocked. 'A warning?'

"How'd you warn him? Is Uncle Floyd trying to stuff someone in our company?"

Grant hooked the corner of his lips coldly.

Chapter 226 How

“It’s not that simple. He’s trying to get into the shareholders’ meeting and intended to buy Stanton Corporation’s shares. He has already privately approached many shareholders, so it looks like he’s starting to have thoughts about our company.”

Nicole’s face sank slightly. “Last time, Jade and Lydia went to our house to ask for an executive position for Lydia, but we refused. Were they trying to collude with Lydia as a spy?”

Grant let out a disdainful grunt. His eyes were indifferent and aloof. “An idiot’s dream.”

“Then how did you warn him?”

Nicole was very curious about this.

Grant hooked his lips.

“Since he’s all set to buy shares, he probably made a lot of money somehow. I got the auditors to check their accounts in

Jericho City.”

Nicole was dumbfounded.

That was such a good move!

Grant reached out and tapped her forehead.

“You should just prepare for your birthday party. Take advantage of this opportunity to make some partnerships.”

.....

Ferguson Corporation.

Keith Ludwig ran to Eric’s office excitedly.

Mitchell could not even stop him.

Eric’s eyebrows were knitted as he glared at Keith with a cold face. “Don’t you think that you show up here more than you show up at your own house?”

Keith raised his eyebrows and walked over frivolously. He unhurriedly waved the pale-yellow invitation in his hand.

Chapter 228 How

It was an elegant and noble style, which was extremely consistent with the status of the Stanton family.

“Nicole’s birthday is coming soon. I guess you didn’t receive an invitation, so I’ve especially grabbed one from a buddy of mine.”

Eric’s eyes instantly sank.

He coldly swept a glance at Mitchell, who subconsciously lowered his head and kept quiet.

Stanton Corporation did not send any invitations.

Thus, Mitchell did not say anything about it to avoid any awkwardness.

Subsequently, Eric’s face became inexplicably sullen.

‘Nicole’s birthday? Until now, I still don’t know when Nicole’s birthday is... I’m really such an inept husband...’

At the thought of this, Eric felt suffocated.

His breathing became heavier.

Keith went over and patted his shoulder. “Aren’t I a good bro? Hey, why are you upset? Do you not wanna go? It’s fine if you don’t want to go. It’s just a pity...”

Mitchell stood there apprehensively. ‘Where did Mr. Ludwig get the balls to make fun of the President?!’

Suddenly, Mitchell could feel the temperature in the office drop to a freezing point.

His scalp tingled.

Eric glared at Keith until Keith stopped smiling.

The atmosphere was stagnant for a moment.

Keith coughed and put that invitation in front of Eric. “Ferg, just come... I won’t have the courage to go without you... I’ll

Chapter 228 How
be so lonely if I go by myself...”

He spoke in a pleading tone.

Keith had already made an excuse for Eric to attend.

He was such a thoughtful friend!

Eric picked up the invitation and looked at it. The date was tomorrow night.

‘So, her birthday is tomorrow...’

His heart was still.

Eric was silent and deep in thought, so he did not pay attention to what Keith said.

When he returned to his senses, Keith had already noticed how lost Eric looked earlier and smiled coyly.

Eric’s gaze turned cold.

His eyes were sharp.

Eric’s voice was calm as he said, “Didn’t your father want that project in the eastern suburbs?”

**Keith frowned, then suddenly lit up. “
Ferg, are you saying... That’s too much...”**

**‘Billions of dollars just for one
invitation?!’**

Eric faintly gathered his expression.

“It’s fine if you don’t want it.”

“I want it!”

Chapter 229 Eric Ferguson's Gift

The Hilton Hotel.

Many celebrities and dignitaries were invited to Nicole's birthday party.

As Grant mentioned earlier, this was a good opportunity to network.

Floyd Stanton was willing to splurge on his daughter.

He chartered the entire hotel. The whole street was closed off and stationed with bodyguards to protect the guests.

The venue was bright, luxurious, and remarkable.

On the huge electronic screen outside was Nicole's photo. She looked so beautiful and valiant.

"Happy birthday to Nicole Stanton!"

This phrase dominated the trending

topics on the internet and the advertising space worth ten million dollars a few seconds.

The scale of this event was even more grand and luxurious than Stanton Corporation's anniversary gala.

It showed how much the Stanton family spoiled Nicole.

They wanted her to become the most dazzling person in the whole city that night.

The hotel lounge.

Nicole, Yvette, and Julie were doing their makeup.

Since there were no outsiders around, they were more casual.

Nicole looked at a table of gold, silver, and diamond accessories.

The jewelry shone so brightly under the light, and the whole place just smelled of

money.

This was the best feeling ever!

Nicole wore a simple but extremely elegant black dress that perfectly outlined her slender figure. It contrasted with her fair skin, which made her look so bright and beautiful.

She had such an innate regality that even without any accessories, Nicole would still look extraordinary and noble by just standing there.

Yvette and Julie looked in awe at the diamond accessories Floyd sent over.

This was almost like the entire city's collection of jewels.

They had never seen such grandeur!

Nicole was there trying out the rings one by one.

The white diamonds were crystal clear. The pink diamonds were cute and lovely.

Chapter 229 cont.

The black diamonds were precious and rare.

Nicole had a diamond ring on each of her fingers.

She let out a regretful sigh and looked at her friends, shaking her bejeweled fingers.

“It’s such a pity that I can’t wear all of them at once! I like all of them so much...”

Yvette and Julie were speechless. ‘Does this rich biatch have to be so exaggerated?’

Nicole looked at herself in the mirror. She was perfect.

Finally, she only chose two to three rings and put them on two of her fingers.

However, the multiple rings did not look ugly on her slender fingers.

Instead, it fit her luxurious style.

Minimalism and simplicity were not her

Chapter 229 (1)

styles.

On the contrary, this multiple diamond ring looked so chic, noble, and extravagant.

It really matched her temperament.

Yvette and Julie gave her a big thumbs up.

“Let’s go!”

Seeing that it was almost time, Nicole followed them out.

The dedicated bodyguards were standing guard outside the lounge so that no one could enter.

A group of bodyguards flanked Nicole’s sides and protected her in the middle. It was an awe-inspiring sight.

They were so well-trained that even their footsteps were firm and synchronized.

The stairs connected the two ends.

The banquet hall was brightly lit, and

Nicole caught everyone's attention as soon as she appeared.

Her stunning beauty and cool temperament made the best combination. It made it really hard for the crowd to look away.

Nicole smiled lightly. The calm magnificence in her eyes seemed to be inherent.

Floyd looked extremely proud as he went up to escort her down the stairs.

Maverick could not make it to the party, but Nicole had already received his bank card well in advance.

Grant and Kai stood on either side of the staircase. Their handsome faces and tall builds simply attracted too much attention.

Why on earth were this family's genes so excellent?

Everyone was envious.

Floyd smiled and picked up the glass of wine from the waiter next to him. He then gave the opening address.

“Everyone, welcome to my daughter Nicole’s birthday party! In my lifetime, what I’m most proud of isn’t establishing Stanton Corporation. It’s the fact that I have my precious baby daughter.”

That was why he pampered Nicole so much.

Floyd was a permissive parent to his sons and did not coddle them as much as he coddled Nicole.

For Nicole, it was a blatant bias.

During the three years Nicole left home, Floyd did not get a night of restful sleep.

He was always afraid that she would get bullied, or that she was living too happily and did not want to come home.

Floyd paused for a moment. Nicole knew

what her father was thinking about. Her eyes subconsciously turned red.

With a quick glance, Nicole saw Eric Ferguson standing in the crowd...

Chapter 230 Eric Ferguson's Gift

Eric Ferguson stood there with a dignified aura and an extraordinary appearance.

His presence was difficult to ignore.

Eric was a natural leader and could command a scene wherever he went.

His eyes were affixed to Nicole. This was not the first time he saw her looking so stunning, but she left him in a different state of mind each time.

This time, he had a hint of nervousness under his calm and cool aura.

As soon as their eyes met, everything around them seemed to stand still.

There was silence.

Eric could not hear anything from the outside world.

However, Nicole averted her gaze in just a few seconds. 'How is he even here?'

After Floyd finished his speech, everyone went up to exchange pleasantries and wish Nicole a happy birthday.

Nicole responded appropriately to everyone.

Yvette and Julie came over to her, but before Nicole could breathe a sigh of relief, she turned around and saw Eric walking over with a strong presence.

Nicole was slightly stunned.

When Eric got to her, he went straight to the point before Nicole could say anything.

"Ms. Stanton, I've prepared three gifts for you. Would you like to see them?"

Since Eric was always one of the focal points wherever he was, his presence naturally drew the attention of many

people.

What was more, he even had three bodyguards behind him, each one of them holding an exquisite and expensive gift box.

Nicole frowned.

Her mood suddenly sank. Her relaxed and happy mood instantly disappeared.

Three gifts?

The surrounding crowd could not help but speak in awe. “Mr. Ferguson is so generous! Three gifts at once?”

Nicole hooked up the corners of her lips disdainfully.

She was not looking forward to Eric’s gifts and would much rather throw them in his face!

Was he only giving these to her in view of the public because he was afraid that she would reject him?

Chapter 230 Eric

Nicole looked at the boxes in front of her and gritted her teeth.

Looking at the stiff atmosphere, Julie went up and said with a smile, "We'll open it first to see what it is. If Nicole doesn't like it, she won't accept it."

Yvette echoed, "That's right!"

She quietly came up to Nicole's ear and whispered, "If it's valuable, we can sell it! Don't say no to money!"

Nicole lowered her eyes slightly and hooked her lips.

"Fine, we'll open it and take a look."

The people around were interested and gathered around.

Everyone wanted to get a glimpse of Eric's generosity.

After all, no one knew what to expect with Eric's gift.

Eric stood there calmly under the light. His tall, well-built figure looked so independent and indifferent.

Nicole walked over and casually opened one.

Surprisingly, it was a grand and classic diamond necklace that had an ancient Roman design. The craftsmanship was exquisite. A large light blue diamond was placed in a distinctive silver setting. It was dazzling, delicate, and mysterious.

It was as if in an instant, centuries of history and something that experienced eternity came to her eyes.

The strong historical feel and the sturdy design and material instantly increased the value of this diamond necklace to an unimaginable height.

Nicole's pupils constricted.

Although Nicole had seen her fair share of inherently rare diamonds in the world,

all of them still looked inferior compared to the diamonds on this necklace in front of her.

Julie came forward in shock and gasped. "Isn't this the classic jewel from the European royal family? 'The Eye of Blythe'?"

Nicole was shocked and suddenly remembered that she had seen a photo of this necklace in the magazine before.

She even said "beautiful" back then.

The European royal family treated this jewel like treasure. It had always been kept in their private museum and had never appeared in public.

It was simply a priceless treasure.

However, it was bought by a private collector for a sky-high price a few years ago.

'That person was Eric Ferguson? He's now giving it to me?!' Nicole thought.

“Nikki, does Eric Ferguson need another ex-wife?” Yvette asked in a soft voice that only the two of them could hear.

Yvette looked on in admiration. ‘If someone gave me this, I’ll willingly be his ex-wife!’

Nicole retracted her shocked gaze and coldly swept a glance at her bestie. ‘This spineless biatch!’

She whispered back to Yvette. “Well, being his ex-wife means you gotta drain your blood and suffer for life... You want it?”

Yvette shrank her neck. “Forget it then.”

Eric noticed the two ladies’ interaction.

He narrowed his eyes and did not move.

The people around them were still marveling at the stunning “Eye of Blythe”.

Such a precious thing could no longer be

measured in terms of money.

What a privilege to get to see this wonder in person!

This was only one of the gifts that Eric Ferguson had prepared for Nicole, and it was already so shocking.

It was truly a tremendously valuable gift.

Nicole hooked up the corners of her lips. “Mr. Ferguson, isn’t this gift a little too expensive?”

She did not expect this.

Eric’s gaze was dark and deep.

His voice was faint as he said, “It matches you very well.”

Nicole was stunned for a moment. ‘What does he mean by that?’

Julie chuckled and urged her. “Next!”