

Chapter 456 Happy to Help

Luca looked at Nicole, who raised her eyebrows and nodded. Luca then went outside.

Eric and Nicole were left in the room.

The air was cold.

Nicole smiled. "Well, since you're done eating, I'll take out the empty bowl. Sleep early!"

She stood up frankly and prepared to leave.

Naturally, Nicole did not notice Eric's cold, stern eyes that had a hint of grievance which soon dissipated.

Everything seemed to be within reach, but Eric still could not catch her.

"Nicole..." His voice was raspy and weak.

Nicole paused and looked at him.

"Yes?"

"Why did you post that photo?"

Eric's lips were pressed into a straight line. His eyes were as dark as ink.

...me. His eyes were as dark as ink.

Huge waves of emotions were hidden in those eyes.

He was waiting for an answer, yet he was afraid of it.

Nicole curled her lips and flipped her hair back. Her smile deepened.

“Because he’s my new love...”

Nicole wanted to use this as an excuse to make Eric give up on her.

For a moment, Eric’s face turned even whiter. The pain in his eyes was undisguised. He was devastated.

He felt like a huge rock was pressing on his chest. It was suffocating.

The corners of his eyes instantly turned red as he desperately tried to conceal the sorrow and grief inside.

His fists clenched up tightly, but he had no strength.

He did not even know what else he could do.

Nicole was free to do as she pleased. He was the one who gave her that freedom. H

...e made his bed, so now he has to lie in it. I

was the one who gave her that freedom. He made his bed, so now he has to lie in it. It felt bitter and hopeless.

The room was deadly quiet.

Nicole looked at him and said in a light voice, "We'll each have this day. There will be new people in each of our lives, so Mr. Ferguson, you should be mentally prepared."

Prepared to accept this new life.

After that, Nicole left the room without another word.

As soon as she closed the door, she looked to the side and suddenly saw her "new love" standing across from her.

It seemed like he had been standing there for quite a long time.

Then he must have heard her words just now...

Nicole's gaze changed slightly. She immediately felt guilty.

There was such a delicate atmosphere between them that was indescribable.

Clayton took the initiative to speak. His

Clayton took the initiative to speak. His voice was calm and warm.

“I came to say goodbye to Mr. Ferguson because I’m leaving in advance. Since you’re inside, I thought I’d wait here for a while...”

Nicole wanted to pretend that nothing happened, but it was too difficult.

She bit her lower lip and gave him an awkward smile.

“I’m really sorry for the trouble... I’ve deleted that photo and what I said just now is just...”

‘Just a random excuse...’

Clayton said, “It’s okay. I’m happy to help.”

His tone was light and different from his usual coldness.

“Huh?”

Nicole was surprised and wondered if she had misheard.

Clayton met her gaze with a frank smile. His nobility and modesty were mysterious and deadly attractive.

and deadly attractive.

“If this can get you out of unwanted entanglement, I’m very happy to help. After all, you’re Michael’s pretty lady.”

Clayton implied that he did not mind being associated with Nicole in the scandal because she saved Michael’s life.

Nicole was stunned for a moment. She was relieved to hear this. The little doubt in her heart dissipated.

“Turns out he can already tell why I did this...”

Nicole looked a little more relaxed and chuckled. “Thanks for not blaming me.”

“Of course not. If you need me, I can always play along with your act.”

Clayton’s serious face made it seem like he was not joking.

Chapter 457 Just a Fling

Nicole lowered her eyes. "Forget it. I can't drag you into my mess because of my selfish reasons."

She knew very well that Eric would not believe a simple photo.

Eric was only so mad just now because he did not come to his senses.

Nicole withdrew her gaze and smiled. "Goodnight, Mr. Sloan."

"Goodnight."

She went back to her room.

Nicole took a shower, changed into her pajamas, and was called over by her father to have a video call with the rest of the family.

Grant had some work matters to discuss with Nicole. After the two of them sorted it out, the heaviness on Grant's brow remained unabated. At that moment, Kai showed up on the screen.

Kai yelled, "Are you really dating Clayton Sloan?!"

Nicole knew that Kai was the biggest

Nicole knew that Kai was the biggest gossip queen in their family.

“No!”

She was speechless.

Kai let out a sigh of relief.

“That’s good. You can have a fling, but don’t take it seriously. If you do, you’re really a lost cause.”

Nicole was speechless.

Grant said, “K has a point.”

It was rare that Grant agreed with Kai.

They were really heartbroken to see Nicole in love because of her humility and cautiousness when she was with Eric back then.

To them, the person who was good enough for Nicole did not exist!

Floyd hung up the call on the iPad. He coughed a little.

“Never mind them. Lil N, you can be with whoever you want, rich or poor. Daddy won’t mind. It’s not like we can’t afford it, right?”

Nicole blinked and laughed out loud.

“Yes, yes, yes, but I still think that making money is more important. After all, with money, I can have as many men as I want!”

Floyd nodded solemnly.

“Right! I’m glad you can think that way.”

Nicole chuckled as she left and went back to her room to sleep.

The next day.

Eric’s arrangements were very thoughtful. Since Clayton was only leaving in the afternoon, they could still travel together for the first half of the day.

When they arrived in Venice, Nicole felt the romance in the air. It felt soft and warm. She had no complaints.

There were no cars in the square. The entire place felt like the nineteenth century like no time had passed since. 1

Floyd unknowingly walked with Clayton. The both of them were very into their conversation as they walked along the square.

square.

Lil Michael held Nicole's hand cheerfully and refused to let go.

This romantic trip with his pretty lady was a memory for a lifetime!

Toto pushed Eric, who was agitated by Nicole and Lil Michael holding hands. However, he still tried to maintain a warm and loving smile on his face.

In his heart, he felt that Lil Michael was just as annoying as Clayton!

Toto was worrying about Eric not getting to spend some alone time with Nicole, so he quickened his footsteps. He even bought a colorful cotton candy that looked like a fluffy cloud while he was at it and handed it to Eric.

Eric frowned at him with a cold face.

"I don't eat this," Eric said through gritted teeth.

Toto froze for a moment. His smile was unnatural and twisted because his mood was too complicated.

"It's for you to give it to Ms. Stanton..."

Toto suddenly understood why Eric

Toto suddenly understood why Eric needed external aid in terms of relationships. With Eric's own ability, he would probably never succeed.

However, if Eric continued in this pattern, Toto would sooner or later get thrown into the Seine!

Eric took it from Toto with a grunt. Toto dared not mock him and hurriedly waved towards Nicole.

"Ms. Stanton!"

Nicole turned around.

Toto pushed Eric and ran over.

"Mr. Ferguson just saw this cotton candy and thinks that you'll like it very much. He knows that girls don't like to eat too much sugar, but he hopes that Ms. Stanton can be like this cotton candy, sweet and happy every day!"

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Chapter 458 You Don't Have a Chance

Toto smiled radiantly and lied without batting an eye.

Nicole looked at Eric, who raised the cotton candy in his hand. His gaze was gentle and deep.

“Well, do you like it?”

Nicole looked at Eric with a complicated expression. ‘Cotton candy? This isn't at all like Eric's style!’

Before she could do anything, Lil Michael excitedly ran over from her side.

“I like it! I like it!”

As the crowd froze, Lil Michael took over the cotton candy and bit into it viciously.

“OMG! It's so sweet that my baby teeth are gonna fall off!”

Lil Michael covered his little cheek and ran aggrievedly into Nicole's arms.

“Pretty Lady, my teeth hurt...”

Eric was exasperated, but he had to maintain his composure and pretend to be gentle and kind.

"Be careful then."

Eric had no other choice because he was at a disadvantage.

Thus, he could not simply offend anyone close to Nicole.

Nicole patted Lil Michael's fluffy curls. She knew that Eric was pretending, but she did not expose him.

"Then don't eat it."

Lil Michael nodded his head.

"Only children eat candy. Mean Mister, you're so stingy. Pretty Lady, if you like, I'll make you a big cotton candy with gold, then you can look at it every day!"

Anyway, Lil Michael was not as stingy as the mean Mr. Eric Ferguson.

Nicole was speechless and quickly refused.

"No, no... I don't like it."

No ordinary person could raise such a prodigal young master...

Nicole went to get Lil Michael's water bottle from his bag on the side.

Eric looked at Lil Michael's small face and

Eric looked at Lil Michael's small face and smiled. His voice was gentle as he deliberately teased him.

"You like Nicole, right?"

"Yeah, so what?"

Lil Michael folded his hands in front of his chest, looking like a little adult.

"I have to congratulate you then. Your daddy and Nicole are together, so you'll be her son."

Lil Michael's features instantly scrunched up. His twisted little face was filled with shock and anger.

"What?!"

His tiny fists were clenched together.

Eric raised his eyebrows. "You still don't know? Your daddy is chasing her..."

Just as his words fell, Clayton walked towards them holding the same colorful cotton candy.

Nicole turned around and was stunned. "Why is everyone buying cotton candy?"

Clayton walked over to them, glanced at his son, and smiled gently at Nicole.

his son, and smiled gently at Nicole.

"Ms. Stanton, I just saw that the cotton candy that Mr. Ferguson wanted to give you was ruined by Michael. I apologize on his behalf and hope that this will make it up."

He handed the cotton candy in his hand to Nicole.

Eric's eyes narrowed, but he did not show much aggression.

On the contrary, Lil Michael who was next to him furiously took the cotton candy from Clayton.

The little boy glared viciously at his father. His face was red with anger.

He was wary and on guard.

"Daddy, Pretty Lady doesn't like cotton candy! Hmph!"

Although Lil Michael was just a kid, he was a smart kid!

'Mean Mister is telling the truth?! Daddy is really taking advantage of this opportunity to pursue my pretty lady! No way! Pretty Lady can only be mine! Even Daddy can't steal her from me!'

Daddy can't steal her from me!

Lil Michael glared fiercely at Clayton and handed the cotton candy to Eric.

“For you.”

He would rather give it to Mean Mister than let his dad get the advantage.

That was because he knew that his pretty lady did not like Mean Mister.

Mean Mister was simply not his match.

Clayton's face was unchanged. He still had a gentle smile on his face, but looking at his son's eyes, Clayton felt a little stunned and doubtful.

Lil Michael felt that he was unlucky enough to have Mean Mister as his love rival. He thought that when he inherited his father's estate, he could be with his pretty lady in a dignified manner.

‘Why did Daddy get involved?! Doesn't he know that Pretty Lady is mine?! Hmph!’

Chapter 459 There's a Party

Lil Michael thought, 'No one can take away my Pretty Lady, not even Daddy!'

When Eric saw this, a light and warm smile spread across his face.

Suddenly, Eric felt that Lil Michael was not so much of an eyesore as before.

"Mr. Sloan, don't get angry. Your son has always been like this. He takes after you..."

Clayton was speechless.

Before Clayton said anything, Lil Michael immediately pulled Nicole's hand and ran away in a fit of anger.

Nicole followed the boy to a quiet place, where he finally stopped and panted.

"Pretty Lady, among us three big men, who treat you the best?"

Lil Michael blinked his bright, clear eyes and said the most innocent words.

His sapphire eyes looked so pure.

Nicole was stunned. "Three men? Lil Michael, Eric, and Clayton? Big men?"

Michael, Eric, and Clayton: Big men.

She could not understand what Lil Michael was thinking, but she still coaxed him.

“Of course it’s you!”

Lil Michael laughed happily and patted his chest proudly.

“That’s for sure! I’m the best! The two of them are ugly, stingy, and old, so they simply can’t compare with me!”

Nicole nodded. “You’re right!”

Lil Michael was a little shy as he stepped forward and took her pretty hand.

“Then... Wait for me to grow up. We’ll be together forever!”

Nicole could not help but laugh. ‘Lil Michael is such a cutie...’

She reached out and pinched his soft little cheek. “Okay, I’ll wait for you to grow up.”

Lil Michael happily hugged her and rubbed his head against her palm. He was delighted.

Nicole took Lil Michael back to the group. Everyone continued to go around as if

Everyone continued to go around as if nothing had happened.

Floyd was happy with this trip.

After Clayton left in the afternoon, Nicole wanted to change destinations.

She proposed to go to Santos Island.

Naturally, no one had any objections, so they left on the same day.

Santos Island was perfect for surfing, especially in this weather. Unfortunately, Nicole was not in the mood when facing Eric and Toto.

The next evening.

The light breeze blew away the heat.

Eric owned the hotel that they stayed in, so it was cleared out long before they arrived.

Floyd went out to mingle with the locals while the rest stayed at the hotel.

Nicole wore a light apricot long dress. She looked vibrant, gentle, and very striking.

Eric was in the lobby's lounge listening to the hotel manager's report on this quarter's performance. He was a little

quarter's performance. He was a little surprised to see Nicole coming out of the elevator.

"Going out?"

Nicole replied, "Mm, there's a party."

She then walked out the door.

Eric pursed his lips.

He did not get to ask her where the party was when he saw a Porsche parked at the hotel entrance.

Soon after, the person in the driver's seat got out of the car.

It was Clayton Sloan.

Eric's eyes instantly narrowed with danger and sharpness.

He wheeled himself over to them. Clayton was opening the door for Nicole like a perfect gentleman. When he saw Eric, he paused for a moment and nodded slightly.

"Mr. Ferguson."

Although Eric was sitting in a wheelchair, his powerful aura did not diminish one bit as he confronted Clayton with cold eyes.

as he confronted Clayton with cold eyes.

“Mr. Sloan, what a coincidence...”

Clayton was the wild card in this entire trip.

‘He left and came back?’ Eric thought.

Clayton was never welcomed in the first place. He could really affect Eric’s mood at any time.

The sudden breeze blew Nicole’s silk scarf off her shoulders and landed at Eric’s feet.

Seeing this, Eric bent over to pick it up.

Just then, the other end was grabbed by Clayton.

Eric raised his eyes, which were dark, deep, and filled with coldness as he met Clayton’s equally uncompromising gaze.

It was an unspoken rivalry.

No one let go of the scarf, nor did they take the initiative to speak to each other.

For a time, the atmosphere was stagnant...

Chapter 460 Leave With Him

Nicole looked back, walked over indifferently, and pulled the silk scarf from the hands of the two men.

She broke the silence in the air.

“Let’s go. We’re late.”

Nicole sat in the car and took the initiative to speak.

Clayton stood upright and glanced at Eric coldly. “Goodbye, Mr. Ferguson.”

He scrutinized Eric while ignoring his oppressive chill. He then walked around the front of the car, got inside, and started the engine.

Eric sat there motionless. His eyes narrowed sharply and dangerously.

How could he still be indifferent when someone else wanted to take from him?

Toto came down and saw Eric sitting at the main entrance by himself, so he hurriedly went over.

“Mr. Ferguson, have you seen Ms. Stanton?”

Eric did not say anything.

After a long time, he spoke indifferently, “Go and check what party is there in the circle today.”

The party Clayton and Nicole attended together would not be some unknown little party.

There was no way Eric could not find out.

Toto froze for a moment and took out his phone to check the schedule Mitchell had sent him.

A few seconds later, Toto spoke with difficulty. “It’s Young Master Ludwig’s birthday party. You’ve declined his invitation...”

Eric frowned as Toto continued to speak.

“I heard that Young Master Ludwig invited many celebrities. It’s a large banquet. Do you want to go over and take a look?”

Toto was not hopeful because he knew that Eric would not waste his time on this kind of worthless party.

Eric paused for a moment. “Okay. Go and

arrange it.”

Toto was surprised for a moment. He dared not delay for another moment and immediately asked the driver to come over.

On the way, Toto wanted to ask where Nicole was, but he dared not speak.

Soon, they arrived at a luxury villa by the beach.

The laughter inside the villa could be heard from a distance away.

When Keith found out that Eric arrived, he excitedly ran to the door to greet him personally.

Once he saw Eric, Keith was so emotional and gave him a huge bear hug.

“My brother! I knew you’d come! You haven’t even recovered yet you still took the time to come to my birthday party. I finally realize how important I am to you. You’re my best friend forever!”

Keith was moved beyond words. His eyes were red.

Eric frowned. Toto hurriedly went over to pry Keith off of Eric’s body.

ply Keith off of Eric's body.

"Young Master Ludwig, there are so many people here, you don't have to be polite. You're all close friends anyway..."

Keith was so touched and nodded.

Eric's face was dull as he looked at Keith.

"Is Nicole here?"

Keith froze when he heard that.

His gaze instantly became complicated. "Didn't you come to celebrate my birthday?"

Keith keenly caught Eric's intention and felt a surge of sadness.

"Eric Ferguson, why are you here?"

Behind him, Nicole looked at Eric in surprise.

Keith heard Nicole's voice and slowly turned back.

'I didn't even know when Nicole arrived!'

Keith stared aggrievedly at Eric and said with a trembling voice, "You really didn't come for me!"

His plaintive look made him look like a

jealous wife.

Seeing that Eric was about to be surrounded by other guests wanting to exchange pleasantries, Toto was quick to push Eric inside.

“Young Master Ludwig, Mr. Ferguson came especially for you! He deliberately took time out of his busy schedule to wish you a happy birthday. Meeting Ms. Stanton is purely coincidental... No, it's fate!”

Toto changed his tone and glanced at Nicole.

“It's definitely fate!”

Nicole rolled her eyes and walked over.

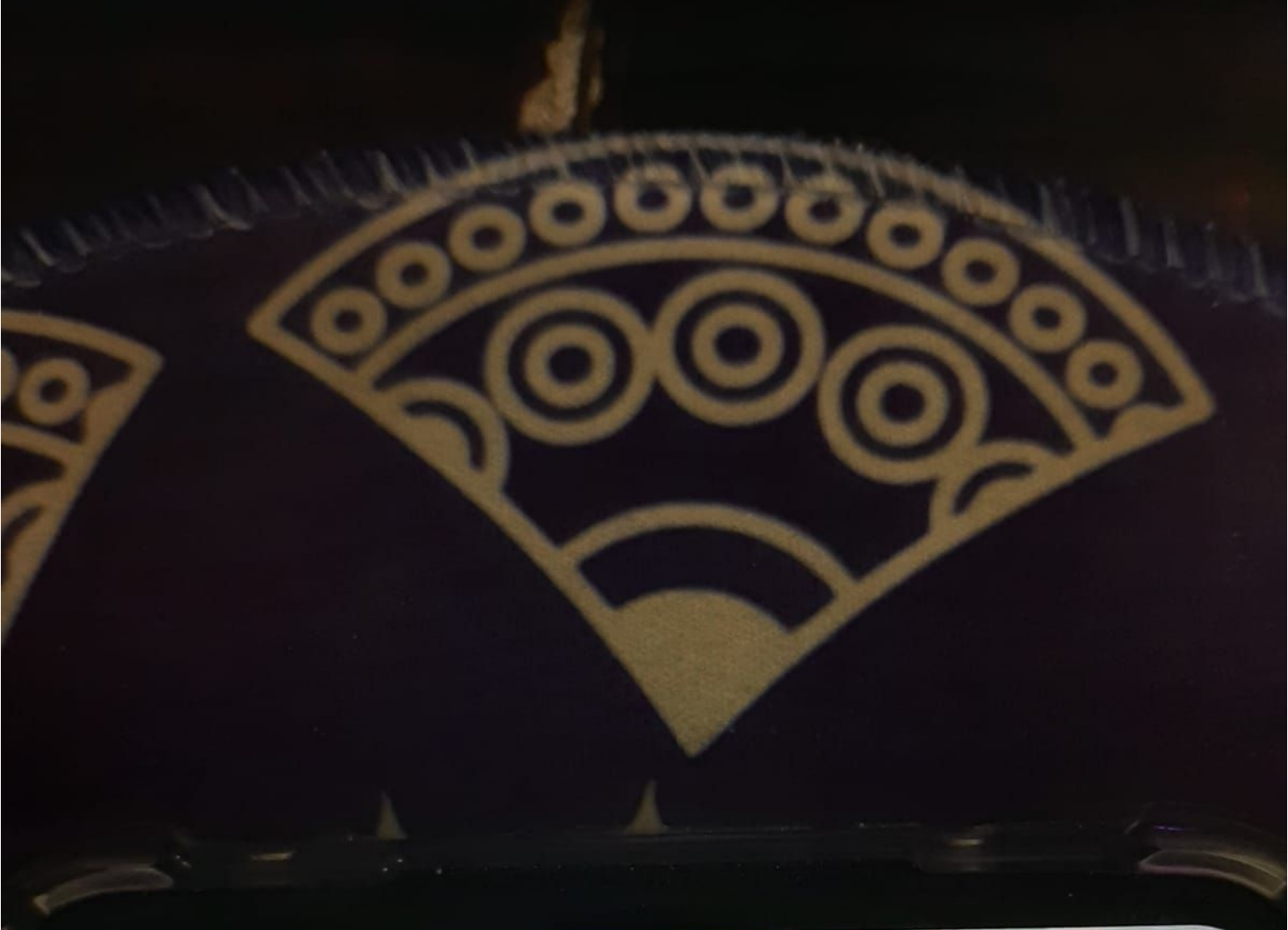
“Are you done?”

Everyone would hear it if Toto continued with his chatter.

Eric's mood was obviously much better when he saw Nicole standing there alone.

The coldness in his eyes faded as he looked at her gently, unable to move his eyes away.

“Mm, fate.”



“Mm, fate.”

When Keith heard that, he came up to Eric. “You really came especially for me?”

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