

# LOVE UNBREAKABLE

Chapter 2381



Jarrood continued until both their lips were bloody, and the source of the blood became indistinguishable.

This mingled blood stirred a misguided desire within both of them.

Trapped in his relentless ki\*s, Nicole let out an involuntary moan, allowing him to explore further, savoring what he took as submission.

Eventually, Nicole managed to free her arms and pushed Jarrod away forcefully, slapping him across the face.

Jarrood staggered back, and a handprint was left on his face.

“Jarrod, you’re insane!” Nicole grunted in a voice heavy with disgust.

Nicole expressed her disdain vividly, unable to come to terms with the fact that this man had ki\*sed her.

She wanted to cleanse her mouth, yet circumstances didn’t permit it.

Nicole’s reaction elicited nothing but a mocking laughter from Jarrod.

“Isn’t it too late to express your revulsion?”

Jarrood loosened the tie he had fastened this morning, approaching her with a wild, unchecked demeanor.

“I was by your side last night, even using your legs...”

His gaze dropped to her long, slender legs.

“Do you not want these legs as well?”

A wave of paleness washed over Nicole’s face.

The eerie feeling she had felt earlier and the red handprint on her waist suddenly made horrific sense.

Jarrood had taken liberties with her while she was unconscious.

He had truly gone mad.

“You are vile! You’re beyond shameless.

You’re despicable!” Nicole hurled a barrage of insults at him.

Feeling that her earlier slap had been insufficient, she attempted another, but Jarrood seized her hand.

Jarrood pinned her arms against the wall, their foreheads and noses nearly touching.

“If I were

truly all those things, the events of last night would have concluded quite differently.

Do you understand?”

His hands gripped hers tightly, their fingers interlocking.

He gradually drew closer to Nicole’s face and murmured, “That earlier ki\*s was to settle the score from last night.

What follows now is my demand.

”

Nicole regarded him with suspicion.

“What more do you intend to do to me?”

“What else would I do? It’s clear, isn’t it?” Jarrod’s gaze narrowed as he leaned in closer, and whispered, “I’m going to f@ck you.

”

The ki\*s that followed was invasive, fiercer and more fervent than before.

This new ki\*s made the earlier one seem tame by comparison.

Nicole’s eyes widened in shock as she pounded on Jarrod’s chest, struggling against him.

She left red marks on his back and neck with her fingernails, but he seemed indifferent to the pain.

He forcefully pushed her onto the bed, pinning her down with his body, leaving her no opportunity to fight back.

His ki\*ses deepened, moving from her lips down to her neck, each one infused with a heady, intoxicating desire.

His hands wandered from her hair to more sensitive areas, touching her without restraint.

Their entwined limbs and his rough breathing sounded like a man consumed by passion.

Nicole was caught off guard.

She panicked as Jarrod’s behavior became unexpectedly aggressive.

He had been distancing himself from her lately.

His sudden change in demeanor baffled her.

Heavily breathing, Jarrod finally released Nicole, his eyes ablaze with desire.

“You are my condition.

Surrender to me, and I will acknowledge you as Austin’s mother.

”

Nicole was dumbfounded.

She couldn’t grasp what Jarrod meant by “Letting her be Austin’s mother.

” Austin was her biological son.

What was Jarrod trying to imply?

Chapter 2382



Jarrod was already aware that he had no chance of getting with Nicole.

He grasped that he would lose her forever if he didn’t seize this moment.

From the very beginning, he had been vying for Austin’s custody, aiming to use Austin as a means to keep her close.

Whether his actions were seen as underhanded or despicable was irrelevant to him.

His sole desire was to keep Nicole close by using Austin.

However, even after losing the custody lawsuit, Nicole showed no signs of yielding.

Jarrod felt a chilling resolve to let go, yet he recognized his resolve was wavering.

The full breakdown arrived sooner than he anticipated.

Upon viewing the recording of Vicki's and Doreen's attack on Nicole, could he possibly remain unaffected? Far from it.

He was devastated, the anguish nearly overwhelming him.

He couldn't bear to see her treated so poorly.

However, Jarrod knew that now was not the time to reveal any vulnerability.

He had to maintain a facade of cold-heartedness.

It was all because Nicole seemed indifferent to whether he cared or not.

If he were to show his true feelings, he felt his tenderness and pain might cause him to lose her for good.

Jarrod forcefully took hold of Nicole's face, making her look at him.

"Nicole, have you not ever considered asking me?"

As he pondered this, his frustration grew, almost driving him mad.

"Why not approach me instead when you went pleading with Vicki?"

Did she loathe him to the point that she would rather act desperately than soften her demeanor around him? If this was her stance, then she should not fault him for resorting to sly and contemptible tactics just to force her by his side.

Jarrod tightened his hold on her fingers and declared, "I'm offering you this one condition, this single opportunity.

If not, there will be a second Vicki, a third Vicki, and endless others.

"

Jarrod berated himself for not taking things further with Nicole.

The brief taste he'd had of her had ignited every nerve in his body.

Now, he burned with a desire to pin her down, fuse her with his essence until she could neither escape nor tempt another soul.

Nicole's drunken slip of the name "Roscoe" still grated on Jarrod, like a thorn lodged under his skin, igniting a desire to find and eliminate Roscoe.

"Jarrod, can you look at me and honestly say you've been fair to our son and me?" Nicole challenged him, her anguish etched into her bloodshot eyes.

At that moment, she loathed the man looming above her.

"Why must I plead with you? Is Austin not your own flesh and blood?"

"I understand I've hurt both of you, but you haven't given me the opportunity to fix things," Jarrod countered, feeling the hollow ring of his words reverberate through the air like an echo in an empty cavern.

Yet, his desperation to cling to Nicole overshadowed any semblance of pride or shame.

"Nicole, all I'm asking is for you to be there for Austin as his mother and stay with me.

I promise to give you the respect you deserve and try my hardest to make things right for both you and Austin.

But if you decline, those opportunities will be lost forever.

"

Jarrod's rationale was frigid and methodical, akin to a shrewd merchant striking a deal.

He aimed for a transaction where Nicole's wishes became currency, traded for her steadfast company by his side.

"Jarrod, why are you behaving like this?" Nicole's frustration boiled over, her voice thick with emotion.

“What we have isn’t love.

There’s no genuine connection between us.

The frustration and desperation festering within Nicole had finally erupted like a volcano.

She’d exhausted every avenue in her entanglement with Jarrod, unable to sway him and inadvertently endangering Roscoe in the process.

Now, she felt trapped in a hopeless situation, utterly lost.

As Jarrod’s fingers tenderly grazed her wound, a shadow flickered in his eyes, hinting at a deeper darkness within.

“I’ve realized that love, or the lack of it, doesn’t really matter to me anymore.”

His new creed was possession, to hold the one he yearned for captive by his side.

Everything else, even love, was merely an illusion, an elaborate charade.

“Nicole, you have three days to make your decision,” Jarrod proclaimed, ascending leisurely to his full height, exuding an aura of collected calm.

“Whatever path you choose, it shall be final.

”

Chapter 2383



And just like that, Jarrod pivoted on his heel and strode away, not once casting a glance over his shoulder.

Nicole's pillow bore the marks of her tears as she lay curled up beneath her sheets.

Jarrold's words reverberated in Nicole's mind like a haunting prophecy.

Someone with Vicki's malice was not rare.

It was a harbinger of what awaited others.

Even if she had foreseen the need to synchronize the evidence, it would have been futile against the privilege of those heirs.

They held the means to vanish abroad, evading the storm of scandal until it subsided.

Nicole had witnessed such schemes unfold before, familiar with the bitter reality that loomed ahead.

Disillusioned and weary, Nicole succumbed to sleep, a sense of resignation weighing heavily upon her heart.

Weary from the storm of emotions that had battered her the day before, Nicole's body remained heavy with exhaustion.

Today's emotional whirlwind had drained her.

As she stirred from her slumber, the enticing aroma of food filled the air.

A thoughtful maid had arrived, carrying a tray adorned with an array of wholesome, nourishing dishes.

Despite the maid's attentive care, Nicole couldn't shake off the unease that lingered in her presence.

"You can go," she said.

"I'll be fine on my own.

"



With a bow filled with grace, the maid accepted Nicole's polite dismissal.

As the maid set down the spoon with precision, she spoke in a tone of genuine concern.

"Miss, you must eat more.

Mr.

Schultz personally commissioned these costly nutritional dishes.

His concern for your well-being is evident.

"

With that, the maid silently exited the room.

A bittersweet smile tugged at Nicole's Lips.

While her physical well-being could be tended to with nutritional food, the question lingered.

What salve existed for a shattered heart?

Despite her stomach's protests and the absence of hunger pangs, Nicole compelled herself to consume the meal before her.

She understood that preserving her health was paramount.

Hunger strikes were for petulant children.

The weak, she knew, couldn't think clearly or devise effective plans.

Nicole nibbled delicately, savoring each morsel just enough to stave off hunger, but far from what would appease a ravenous appetite.

As the maid tidied up the scarcely touched dishes, Jarrod's eyes lingered on them.

"She didn't fancy this today.

Adjust the menu accordingly,” he directed.

With a nod of acknowledgment, the maid retreated, determined to be more attentive to Nicole’s needs in the future.

Jarrood’s effort to familiarize himself with Nicole’s preferred meals spoke volumes about the significance he attached to her.

Nicole was unquestionably special.

The next morning, post-breakfast, Nicole approached the maid with a winsome smile.

“Could you please tell Mr.

Schultz to come see me?” she inquired politely.

Though Jarrood had granted her three days to contemplate, Nicole felt no need for such deliberation.

Austin’s safety could not afford delay.

Before long, Jarrood made his entrance, his arrival suffusing the room with a heavy, stifling aura.

“I accept your conditions, Nicole murmured, her tone tinged with a touch of resignation.

”

Jarrood displayed no surprise at her decision.

Individuals with tender spots were easily swayed, and for Nicole, her loved ones were her Achilles’ heel.

The mere contemplation of being torn away from her mother or her son was something Nicole couldn’t fathom.

With them under his sway, coercing her compliance was child’s play.

Jarrood had abstained from leveraging this due to a pitiful shred of self-assurance.

Yet, the outcome had exposed the folly of his assurance, as Nicole harbored no emotional attachment to him.

“But I have a condition,” Nicole stated.

A chuckle escaped Jarrood’s lips at her words.

After all, it wouldn’t be Nicole if she didn’t assert herself.

“Very well, proceed,” Jarrood drawled.

Nicole’s steely gaze locked onto Jarrood’s, her every word saturated with purposeful meaning.

“I need you to guarantee that Roscoe will be safe for the rest of his life, and that nothing bad will happen to him.

”

As her words hung in the air, a tangible tension thickened the atmosphere.

Jarrood’s countenance shifted noticeably, darkening with intensity.

After a pregnant pause, Jarrood emitted a scornful chuckle.

“Nicole, how dare you attempt to negotiate with me?”

Jarrood could hardly comprehend her audacity in requesting his protection for Roscoe.

Did she truly believe he wouldn’t viciously tear Roscoe apart in a frenzy of rage?

“Enough pretense.

You know full well why I make this demand.

” Nicole grew weary of dancing around the issue with Jarrod.

With a mind sharpened by clarity, she recognized that safeguarding Austin and Roscoe at Ardlens would remain an insurmountable challenge without Jarrod’s collaboration.

Now that his attention seemed to be on her, she reasoned it was time to turn the tables to her advantage.

Her body was merely a vessel, expendable compared to her loved ones.

“I’m relying on the fact that you’re infatuated with me,” Nicole stated bluntly.

“If you help me out with this, I’ll allow you to have your way with me.

But if you say no, just know that I’ll keep pushing for Austin’s custody.

I’ve already taken care of Vicki, and I won’t hesitate to deal with anyone else who gets in my way.

I’ll fight as hard as I need to.

”

Chapter 2384



Jarrod moved closer quietly, each step intentional.

Nicole faced his cold, intimidating stare, her heart racing.

It was hard not to feel nervous.

If Jarrod chose to attack her here, in his own place, she wouldn’t stand a chance.

“Are you threatening me?” Jarrod’s voice, deep and authoritative, echoed through the room, intensifying the tension.

Nicole’s hands tightened into fists as she looked him in the eye.

“It’s not a threat, but a proposition.

I need your protection for Roscoe because he had saved Austin’s life.

If not for him, Austin and I would have died on that sea cliff years ago.

We owe him our lives.

”

Nicole understood Jarrod’s weak spots well.

Provoking him now could put Roscoe at even greater risk.

Her priority was to ensure Austin’s safety, and then to secure protection for Roscoe.

While this was an easy task for Jarrod, it posed a huge challenge for her and Roscoe.

In the unpredictable environment of Ardlens, surviving without solid support was nearly impossible.

Furthermore, Nicole knew she had made many enemies along the way.

Though she didn’t go looking for trouble, she had to confront it head-on.

If it weren’t for Jemma’s advice last night, Nicole might not have shifted her perspective so quickly.

Jemma had advised, “Relying only on yourself doesn’t make you noble.

If it leads to misery, people will just laugh at you.

Wise people take every legal opportunity that benefits them.

The right path is the one that helps you.

Why bother with what irrelevant people think...”

Nicole knew Jemma meant to give her sound advice.

After so many setbacks, it was time to adopt a smarter strategy, to protect her loved ones in a different way.

This approach would also

make life easier for those she wanted to protect.

Nicole snapped back to reality, locking eyes with Jarrod.

“I need you to settle this debt for Austin’s sake.

You owe it to Austin and me.

”

Among all the difficulties and pain from the past, Jarrod was at play.

They all owed Austin greatly.

“I don’t owe Roscoe anything,” Jarrod responded.

His words implied he acknowledged a debt to Nicole and Austin, but not to Roscoe.

Jarrod assumed without Roscoe’s intervention, perhaps Nicole and he would not have faced such trials.

And Austin might have been born under his watchful care, receiving the finest medical attention.

Nicole stayed calm despite his rejection.

“So, we can’t reach an agreement?”

It felt like a fierce tug-of-war, where any show of weakness could mean defeat.

Nicole couldn't afford to back down.

Leaving Roscoe behind just to save Austin was unthinkable.

Jarrood's refusal to recognize the debt to Roscoe was crucial for her.

Without Roscoe's intervention, she and Austin might not have survived.

Roscoe was a decent and gentle man who treated Austin like his own and showed Nicole immense respect.

Nicole simply couldn't leave Roscoe behind.

If she didn't stand her ground today, Jarrood would learn her boundaries, potentially endangering Roscoe.

Nicole was certain Jarrood would not harm Austin.

Her worries were more about the potential dangers associated with Jarrood's circle, not Jarrood himself.

Therefore, her stance was not about neglecting Austin's safety but about maintaining her principles and not forsaking those who had supported her.

This was the same principle she taught Austin.

Jarrood looked at Nicole intently for a long moment.

Then, he announced, "Your clothes will be brought to you.

Get dressed and come downstairs.

"

Chapter 2385



With that, he left the room.

Nicole let out a sigh of relief.

She then fell back onto the bed, exhausted.

Although Jarrod had not explicitly consented, he had not firmly rejected her either.

His response left some room for negotiation.

Shortly after, a housekeeper knocked and entered with clothes for her.

Nicole dressed in the outfit provided.

The housekeeper had already laid out breakfast on the table and mentioned, "Miss, Mr.

Schultz requests that you have your breakfast before coming downstairs.

”

Nicole was unsure of Jarrod’s intentions, but her stomach grumbled from the fatigue and discomfort of the previous night.

The breakfast aroma was simply irresistible.

She sat down and ate, feeling somewhat at ease.

Downstairs, Nicole found Jarrod lounging on the couch, legs crossed, absorbed in the newspaper.

In front of him was a cup of iced Americano.

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Over the years, Jarrod’s routine of skipping breakfast and starting his day with just an iced Americano for energy had not changed.

Noticing Nicole, Jarrod put aside the newspaper, finished his coffee in one swift gulp, stood up,



and walked toward the door.

Uncertain of what Jarrod intended, Nicole followed him.

By the time Nicole reached the door, Jarrod had already gotten in the car, the back door open, with the driver ready to close it after her.

Nicole lowered her head, climbed into the car, and sat on Jarrod's right side.

The driver closed the door and started the car.

Nicole looked confused.

"Where are we going?"

Jarrod answered shortly, "To the city hall.

"

"What?" Nicole's eyes widened in shock.

She asked, "Jarrod, what are you saying?"

Jarrod stopped what he was doing, turned to her surprised face, and said mockingly, "I've agreed to your terms.

"

"But you said all I needed to do was stay with you..." Nicole was baffled.

This "stay" certainly did not mean getting legally married.

Moreover, why would they marry? She did not want to marry Jarrod at all!

Jarrod stretched out his legs, resting his hand elegantly on his thigh.

"Do you think I want a kept woman? If I wanted one, I could choose anyone.

I already told you.

"

His gaze was piercing.

“I want Austin’s mother.

You will be the one.

”

“I refuse to marry you!” Nicole exclaimed.

“Jarrod, there’s no way I’m marrying you.

You must be crazy!”Exclusive © content by

She could not understand how Jarrod could make such a rushed and impulsive decision.

Desperate, she turned to the driver.

“Sir, please stop the car.

”

The driver ignored Nicole’s request since his loyalty was to Jarrod.

Chapter 2386



The driver thought to himself that if anyone was crazy, Nicole was the one.

A man of Jarrod’s status proposing marriage to her, and she turned it down? If the high society women of Ardlens knew, they would line up for a chance to marry Jarrod.

This woman clearly did not recognize what was good for her...

Seeing the driver ignore her, Nicole turned back to Jarrod.

“Jarrod, tell him to stop the car!”

“Stop the car,” Jarrod instructed, and the car pulled over.

Then, maintaining his relaxed position, Jarrod lazily asked, “Have you decided yet?”

Before Nicole got out of the car, she stopped in her tracks at Jarrod’s words.

Jarrod’s lips parted slightly.

“Nicole, if you leave the car right now, our agreement ends, and believe me, there will be no second chances.

”

He seemed to understand her well, adding indifferently, “I won’t force you.

Please, think it over.

”

Nicole didn’t budge.

Her body seemed to have turned to stone at that moment.

She was uncertain of what stepping out of the car might lead to, but the idea of marrying Jarrod seemed utterly preposterous.

How could she possibly marry this man? They were enemies! Despite the fact that they were Austin’s parents, the deep-seated animosity between them was unchangeable.

Nicole didn’t want to marry Jarrod, not in this lifetime, and she wouldn’t even consider it.

Considering for even another second felt like a betrayal to her late father.

What had driven her father to his fatal leap from that building? Who had cornered him into such despair? Jarrod was partially at play.

These were undeniable truths that left no room for debate.

Taking a deep breath, Nicole placed her hand on the door handle and declared, "I'm very clear about it.

Jarrood, I don't want to marry you.

"

She then opened the door.

Just as she was about to step out of the car, Jarrood's chilling voice came from behind her.

"So, you can accept to be my lover, share my bed, but not be part of my family?"

Nicole shivered slightly.

Jarrood had pierced through to her deepest thoughts.

Her agreement to his proposal was merely a temporary safeguard for Austin and Roscoe.

Lacking a better plan at the moment and with Austin's safety at risk, she felt compelled to compromise.

Once the immediate danger was mitigated, she intended to leave Jarrood.

Entangling their identities further would only complicate her eventual departure, a scenario she couldn't stomach, being permanently linked to Jarrood's name.

With his acute perception, Jarrood understood all these unspoken thoughts in Nicole's mind.

That was precisely why he set conditions that would tightly bind Nicole to him.

Yet, his consideration couldn't be uttered aloud since Nicole hated his core, a fact that he fully grasped.

Jarrood had forced himself not to show any kindness toward Nicole in case she might leverage it.

His attempt to compensate for his previous mistreatment of her was one thing. However, he could never bear her departure from his side.

Now that Jarrood had seen through that Nicole was the only one he desired, with the complexities of their shared past, his only option was to ensure she couldn't leave his side.

Merely having her stay by his side wasn't sufficient.

She had to be legally recognized as his wife to be truly bound to him.

This arrangement would prevent her from vanishing without a trace whenever she wished, as she had done previously.

There was no way he could let history repeat.

Nicole replied, "Since you understand my intentions, you should realize that I cannot always be near you, because..." She paused and then stated clearly, "Your presence repulses me.

How can I possibly stay by your side?"

"Is disgust all that exists between us?" Jarrood asked, his voice uncertain, almost quivering.

Nicole pressed her lips together, choosing to remain silent.

She reflected on the past and knew that she hadn't always hated Jarrood to the core.

There was a time on the mountain road when he had risked his life to save her, after which he had nearly fallen off a cliff.

Back then, she didn't even recognize him, and only found out that it was him once she had saved him.

At that moment, feelings other than hatred had emerged.

Those emotions were not her desire for revenge.

The feelings were intense and unanticipated, like green grass sprouting through the cracks of a barren desert, stubbornly piercing through her icy heart.

However, Nicole quickly extinguished those emerging feelings and felt they should never have arisen in the first place.

She and Jarrod had no future.

She could not allow the inappropriate emotions to disturb and sway her resolve.

Chapter 2387



After a prolonged silence, any hope Jarrod harbored was completely gone.

He suddenly chuckled and said, “Disgust is better than never seeing you again for the rest of my life.

”

Nicole did not grasp what he meant.

Jarrod explained, “If you leave this car today, I will take every measure to confront the Watts family.

Are you ready to abandon that man?”

His eyes brimmed with contempt as he coldly stated, “I’m going to torture him to death!”

“How dare you!” Nicole swiftly turned her head, her hand turning white from tension.

“I’m sure you know that’s within my capabilities,” Jarrod said calmly.

“And you should also be aware that the Hampton family has already discovered your actions yesterday.

Without my protection, do you think Vicki and Lowe will spare you?”

Jarrod seemed to have a knack for pinpointing exactly what would manipulate Nicole.

“If you terminate our arrangement now, you must understand that it won’t just be you at risk.

The people close to you, including Jemma, will also suffer the consequences,” he continued.

Jarrod was correct.

Once Nicole stepped out of this car, Vicki would definitely make her pay after catching wind of her actions.

Jemma would surely be the first one they targeted.

Nicole wasn’t alone.

Jemma was with her and had been a great help.

She couldn’t just disregard Jemma’s safety and walk away without concern.

Jarrod cast his gaze downward and looked at Nicole firmly.

“Nicole, the choice is yours.

You know the right decision.

”

Once their true intentions had been exposed to one another, what remained was a battle to see whose tactics were more ruthless.

Clearly, Jarrod had resolved not to let Nicole leave his side so easily anymore.

He was determined to exert control and ensure that she remained by his side, regardless of the consequences or ethical considerations.

Ultimately, Nicole faced a decision.

She couldn't risk Roscoe's well-being, especially after noticing his condition had deteriorated significantly that day.

If Jarrod could offer Roscoe protection, then at least the Watts family wouldn't be able to do anything to Roscoe.

With a heavy heart, Nicole closed the car door and sat back down, her complexion ghostly pale.

"Jarrod, you must keep your promise," she stated firmly.

Jarrod's expression softened slightly, and he leaned in, gently cupping her face and planting a ki\*s on her cheek.

"Absolutely," he replied.

Nicole was unaccustomed to such closeness.

Her initial instinct was to pull away, but Jarrod

held her face firmly, preventing her from escaping.

He ki\*sed her lips forcefully and said, "You'll need to grow accustomed to this.

Discomfort is no excuse.

I didn't marry a statue.

”



Hearing this, Nicole stopped struggling and her body became passive, resembling that of a doll.

At this point, arguing with him seemed meaningless.

She had no desire to maintain a facade of decorum and play the role of a victim.

Having decided to make this trade, she had to accept all the indignities that came with it.

As Jarrod had pointed out, she needed to not only endure but also adjust.

Soon, the car reached the city hall.

Upon exiting the car, Jarrod grasped Nicole's hand tightly, interlacing his fingers with hers as though they were a devoted couple.

Unable to break free, Nicole let him guide her.

Her expression was vacant as she said, "Jarrod, I don't have any identification documents with me.

"

"I've handled everything," Jarrod declared.

Chapter 2388



He passed the document to Nicole, who quickly took it and started flipping through the pages.

Jarrod's influence was indeed vast.

He was even capable of securing any information for marriage registration without needing Nicole to sort out the documents.

Nicole had her doubts.

With such influence at his disposal, he could have easily arranged their marriage certificate without requiring her to be present at the city hall.

Why insist on her coming here? Plus, they were far from a loving couple.

The act of pretending to be one in such a public place was more than just uncomfortable.

Nicole looked at him sharply.

“Since you’re so influential, this visit seems pointless.

”

“Why would this be pointless?” Jarrod asked.

He tightened his grip on her hand and added, “I want this handled personally.

It adds significance to the process.

”

A shiver ran through Nicole, her skin prickling with goosebumps.

This version of Jarrod, conversing with her without the usual hostility, felt completely alien to her.

And if she wasn’t mistaken, his tone seemed almost conciliatory.

Feeling uneasy, Nicole quickened her pace, trying to create some physical distance between them.

Jarrod observed her subtle movements, but instead of annoyance, a smile spread across his face, finding her actions somewhat charming. NôveID(ram)a.ôrg owns this content.

The city hall had just opened for the day.

Nicole assumed Jarrod would arrange for a VIP service to expedite their process.

However, he surprised her by walking up with a numbered ticket in hand. Number 23.

Nicole was rendered speechless.

It seemed that Jarrod was serious about handling this personally.

He truly planned to wait in Line, and remarkably, in the short time since opening, twenty-two couples had already queued up before them.

Nicole wondered if today was considered an especially lucky day.

Amidst the crowd of couples, Nicole and Jarrod stood conspicuously apart.

Their cool, aloof behavior made them seem more likely to be here for a divorce than a marriage certificate.

The city hall in Ardlens had separate service counters for different needs.

Marriages and divorces were handled at distinct windows, each with its own waiting area.

Surrounded by joyous couples, Nicole felt like a fish out of water, unable to pretend they were

here for a divorce.

Unable to hold herself back, she asked, "Is my presence really necessary to obtain this certificate?"

Jarrod responded with a chuckle, "What do you think? I'm here too, aren't I?"

"Surely Alec could have managed this," Nicole countered.

Considering that Alec was Jarrod's right-hand man, he could surely handle tasks like this with ease.

Even so, Jarrod insisted, "I've said it before, we should handle this ourselves."  
"

Jarrold believed that obtaining the marriage certificate without their presence would reduce their marriage to a mere transaction.

Occasionally revealing a more whimsical side, he did not want their union to feel strictly like a business arrangement.

Nicole was at a loss for words.

She watched as Jarrod moved closer to her, feeling the urge to shift away.

The seats were designed for one person, and moving would create a noticeable gap between them, which might look odd.

Yet, Nicole couldn't stand the atmosphere, and the fact that Jarrod was so close to her was driving her insane.

Chapter 2389



Just as Nicole was about to stand up and move to a different seat, a young girl took the seat next to her.

The girl gestured to the man carrying bags behind her and said, "Honey, sit here."

"

Feeling trapped, Nicole decided against moving elsewhere.

The girl's boyfriend sat beside the girl and greeted Nicole and Jarrod cheerfully, "Hi there!" The young girl smiled brightly at Nicole.

Unable to ignore the young girl's friendly demeanor, Nicole nodded back and greeted, "Hi.

"

"Miss, you're incredibly beautiful.

You must be a celebrity!" the girl commented, her eyes alight with curiosity.

Nicole felt slightly embarrassed.

She was hiding scars under her fisherman hat and mask.

Only her expressive eyes were visible.

Despite the concealment, Nicole's eyes were captivating, lending her the aura of a celebrity discreetly arriving to be wed.

"No, I'm just another regular person," Nicole responded modestly.

"You appear anything but ordinary.

And your husband is extraordinarily handsome! I can't recall when I last saw such a handsome man," the girl remarked with enthusiasm.

This praise managed to slightly melt Jarrod's typically frosty demeanor.

He then took the initiative to say, "Hello.

" It wasn't motivated not by the flattery, but by the endearing way she referred to him as Nicole's husband.

The girl blushed deeply, visibly flustered by the handsome Jarrod.

The girl's boyfriend immediately felt a flash of jealousy.

"Could you dial it down a bit? You're almost drooling," he joked, his voice free of any real disapproval.

Regaining her composure, the girl playfully scolded, "You know I always blush at the sight of a handsome man.

"

The girl then turned to Nicole with a friendly grin. NôveID(ram)a.ôrg owns this content.

"Miss, please don't take it the wrong way.

I just find your husband to be stunningly handsome.

That's all.

"

Her boyfriend added, "Miss, I apologize on her behalf.

She's always been overly enthusiastic about handsome men on TV.

It's rare for her to encounter one in person, so she got a little excited.

"

"It's okay.

I'm not offended.

And for the record, he isn't my husband yet," Nicole clarified.

Nicole remained unaffected by their exchange.

In all honesty, she was indifferent to others admiring Jarrod.

However, her comment dampened the atmosphere slightly.

Everyone here was waiting to get a marriage certificate.

The fact of whether Jarrod was currently her husband seemed trivial since they were on the verge of marriage.

Nicole's pointed clarification seemed somewhat awkward.

Jarrood's face turned stern, but he chose not to offer any unnecessary explanations.

The girl chuckled and said, "Miss, you're something.

One moment not married, he's not your husband yet.

I should take a leaf out of your book.

You're absolutely right.

"

Her boyfriend, seemingly worried, chimed in, "Learn what? You need help to find your way around, and yet you want to be like her? Hmph.

"

"Mind your own business.

I'll learn.

"

Chapter 2390



Nicole watched their exchange silently.

Given the couple's youthful appearances, it suggested a possibility that they were getting married without their parents knowing.

Despite their playful argument, their affection for each other was evident.

Their simple and open display of affection was something Nicole found enviable.

Listening to them lifted her spirits.

The girl offered Nicole some candy serving to celebrate the marriage.

“Miss, try some candy.

I selected each one myself.

They’re all tasty.

”

Nicole wasn’t fond of sweets, but the girl’s beaming smile made it difficult to decline.

She selected a piece of chocolate and said, “Thank you.

”

“Take one for your boyfriend,” the girl suggested.

Feeling awkward, Nicole remarked, “He doesn’t really like sweets.

”

But as she spoke, Jarrod said, “I’ll try one.

”

Once more, Nicole was at a loss for words.

The girl extended her hand toward Nicole and suggested, “Miss, you should give one to your boyfriend.

”

Nicole, unable to refuse, selected a chocolate for Jarrod.

He unwrapped it and tasted it promptly.

Nicole did the same, under the watchful eyes of the girl.



The chocolate had a subtle bitterness that transformed into a sweet and aromatic flavor, proving quite delightful.

The girl, watching intently, asked Nicole with hopeful eyes, “Miss, is it delicious?”

“Mm, it’s delicious,” Nicole confirmed.

“I knew it would be,” the girl said with a chuckle.

“Even though I can’t taste it myself, I made sure to pick a good one based on lots of research.

”

Curious about the girl’s statement, Nicole inquired, “What happened to your sense of taste?”

The girl explained somberly, “I’ve undergone chemotherapy multiple times. Now, I can’t taste anything at all.

”

Upon hearing this, the girl’s boyfriend’s expression dimmed noticeably.

Nicole froze, taken aback by the gravity of the situation.

“I’m sorry, I had no idea...”

The girl offered a reassuring smile. Exclusive content from

“It’s okay, Miss.

I’ve been dealing with this for quite some time and have come to terms with it.

Once my boyfriend and I get the marriage certificate, we’re planning to travel the world.

Just thinking about that adventure excites me!”

The girl's boyfriend then interjected with concern, "Just make sure you keep taking your medicine on time.

I won't let you go otherwise.

"

The girl responded with a mix of defiance and humor, "Oh, I never forget to take my medicine.

"