

## Chapter 23 The Wife Behaves Strangely Around Us

“Anything else?” Nicole sounded cold, clearly wanting to drive her away. Norah felt embarrassed and could only quickly get down to business. “I know that you and Austin have a conflict. I was just worried that our family would get involved, so I said something that might have offended you. Please don’t mind. You may hit me if you are angry.” Norah said it with an innocent look, as if Nicole would bully her. Nicole sneered as she despised someone who liked to play the victim, like Norah. “Since you know you shouldn’t have said something that shouldn’t be said, you should have corrected yourself instead of coming to me to pretend to apologize.” With that, Nicole slammed the door shut. Norah felt insulted, as if she had been slapped, her face feeling a burning sensation. D\*mn it.. How dare Nicole disparage her? Did Nicole really think she had the right to reprimand her because she came to apologize? “Let’s wait and see, Nicole.” She stomped her feet angrily before taking her things and going away. Nicole had locked the door and now turned on the computer.

After entering the dark web, she decided to start taking a job today. A client wanted her to hack into a network company’s system and find loopholes in their accounts. This was the most common and simplest type of hacking job she had always been doing. She had done such hacking jobs for years, from accessing enterprise data centers to exploiting the Federal Intelligence Agency’s system. But she had her principles and would do nothing illegal. Three hours flew by. At midnight, she found a vulnerability and implanted a monitoring code into the target system to monitor the target’s accounts. She then turned off the computer to prepare for sleep. She suddenly received an anonymous text message on her phone. [Carl is alive.] Nicole’s heart skipped a beat at seeing the name. She calmed herself down and replied, [Where is he?] The anonymous sender replied, [Beetle Town, Lanningbourg]. [Great! [I will go see him.] After the last mission, she thought her partner was dead, not expecting that he was still alive. This made Nicole, who had always been calm, almost lose control of her emotions.

[Not now. Someone is watching. We will take care of him. [Don't go abroad so your whereabouts won't get exposed.] Nicole suppressed her emotions after getting the reply. She would have to wait for a long time before she could meet Carl. But she was still too excited and could not sleep all night after knowing the news. She felt a little tired, but this was common for her. So, she still went for a morning run like usual. After breakfast, she came to Royal Creek Institute in the Riddle family car. Her frosty look could not hide her beauty. It attracted a lot of attention. A boy could not help but take out his mobile phone and take a few candid photos of her. Nicole looked back at the boy coldly, as if she had eyes on her back. The boy was intimidated by her gaze and deleted the photos. Now the rest of the people became more behaved, and Nicole hurried to Class B. Bradley had arrived. His grades were mediocre, but he was very hardworking, sitting on the side reading a book. When he saw Nicole, he asked her to sit down. “Yesterday, Ms. Emerson came spot-checking the evening self-study class, and only you were not in the class. She will definitely get mad at you today. You have got to be careful.” Nicole couldn’t care less about that.

She did not have to waste her time on that boring evening of self-study. Nicole nodded, signaling to Bradley that she got it. Lulu also came, running into the classroom and up to Nicole and Bradley, winking at them. Seeing that both of them looked at her in puzzlement, she caught her breath and said, “Nicole, Austin is here. You had better hide now.” Nicole did not expect Austin to still have the audacity to come after being taught a lesson so badly. However, she did not go anywhere. Instead, she just silently took out a foreign-language book and read. Lulu looked at Nicole’s nonchalant look and became anxious. Austin was notorious for being a petty guy. Nicole had pissed him off yesterday, and he would surely take revenge on her. “Austin must be here to get revenge on you. Go to the teacher’s office and wait until the class starts before coming back. Just don’t let him find you.” It was heartwarming to see that Lulu was so concerned about her. Just when Nicole was about to say something, Jack’s vivacious voice came from behind. “She is supposed to be the one who should be worried, Lulu. Since Nicole doesn’t want to listen to you, why do you care?” Jack remembered that Nicole had rejected Gary’s offer yesterday.

Knowing that Austin was coming after her now, he could not help but gloat over it. “Let’s see how arrogant you can still be when Austin arrives.” Nicole looked at him coldly, and Jack looked at her dark eyes, somehow feeling a chill running up his spine. Just then, Austin had stormed into Class B with a few guys, his eyes searching around the rapie classroom before spotting Nicole. He paused for a second before striding toward Nicole, who was sitting in the back of the classroom. The few guys behind Austin rubbed their hands eagerly and stared at Nicole maliciously. All eyes were on Nicole. Jack and Wayne were sitting in the back, waiting to see how Austin would fix Nicole. Even Gary, who was indifferent to such things, looked over. Austin walked up to Nicole and suddenly bowed and said aloud, “I am sorry for yesterday, Nicole.” For a moment, everyone’s jaw dropped to the ground. Austin had always been the school bully, and no one, except the Finley brothers, dared to mess with him. Now he was apologizing to a girl who had hit him.