

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 1051

Chapter 1051

“Yeah, I understand how sad you must be feeling,” Harvey said, attempting to console her.

“I get it.”

“Oh, really?” Nicole laughed.

“I’m just trying to figure out Mr.Johnson Sr”s condition? Why are you comforting me?”

“You’re just trying to figure out Mr.Johnson Sr”s condition?” Harvey repeated after her.

“It seems to me that you’ve watched one too many TV shows.” Nicole stared at him with a brow raised and shook her head.

“What do you think I was doing?”

Harvey buried his face in his hands, knowing that he had misunderstood; he had embarrassed himself.

Darting his eyes at his watch to catch a glimpse of the time, he changed the subject in an attempt to mitigate the resulting awkwardness.

“It’s already noon.Why don’t we head out for lunch together?”

Nicole checked the time as well, and was surprised to realize that she had been in the ward for so long.

“What’s on the menu today?”

“You can order whatever you fancy!” Harvey said, finally able to recover what was left of his dignity.

“Well then, let’s make our way to the Blue Whale,” Nicole replied with a smile on her face, as she had always reserved a special place in her heart for the Blue Whale Restaurant, which had always provided her a sense of comfort whenever she dined in there.

“Okay, I will book us a table now.” Harvey took his phone out and proceeded to make a call.

“Good afternoon.This is Harvey Ellison, and I’d like a table for two reserved by the window.”

“Wait, how do you know that I like window seats?” Nicole frowned at him as he ended the call and pocketed his phone. Harvey, who liked window seats himself, once heard that Nicole did as well, and with this in mind, he replied, “Who am I to pursue you if I don’t even know where your favorite seats are?”

Nicole was amused.

“Why don’t I believe this?”

“Believe it or not, that’s the truth.”

Harvey turned his palm up in a gesture of invitation.

Nicole darted him a sidelong glance and proceeded to walk out of the room while telling the security detail, “Be sure to examine the identity of anyone who enters the ward, and those who wear masks should remove them for this purpose.

The doctors are no exception.

“Aye” the bodyguards responded with a hint of reluctance.

Watching Nicole disappear into the hallway, the man to whom she had spoken proceeded to take his cell phone out and call someone.

“Nicole seems to be having suspicions already. She just ordered us to check the identity of anyone who wishes to enter the ward, saying that the doctors are no exception.”

“Did she really say that?” his correspondent replied.

“Yes!” “Has there been any improvements in Mr. Johnston Sr’s condition within the past few days?”

“No, he has not woken up.”

“Just watch over him and be sure to keep me posted.”

Henry hung up and turned his attention to Castor.

“That needle of yours seems to be working.”

“That’s right. My men are always reliable.” Castor bragged.

“Don’t get too comfortable, now,” Henry warned.

“Never let anyone know about this. Put on a show if you have to. Do you understand me?”

“Understood.”

Castor nodded his head repeatedly. Claus drove to the airport to pick Jared up, and upon arrival, he said, “Mr. Johnston, you must be hungry after a long flight. Shall we get you something to eat first?”

“No, send me to the hospital,” he replied, having decided that visiting his grandfather was his topmost priority.

Besides, he wanted to give Nicole a surprise.

“Okay.”

Claus nodded and drove off in the hospital’s direction once Jared had climbed in.

Meanwhile, Nicole was having lunch with Harvey at the restaurant, not realizing that she had missed a surprise. Arriving outside the ward, Jared saw the two bodyguards at the door and shot them a glance.

“Who sent you?”

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“Mr. Johnston, it is Mr. Henry who had ordered us to protect Mr. Johnston Sr.” Jared nodded gently.

“Have you noticed anything unusual lately?”

“No. Only Miss Riddle and Mr. Ellison of the Ellison Group came over as of recent.”

“Mr. Ellison?” Jared frowned.

“You mean, Harvey Ellison?”

“Yes ” Jared gasped and sighed, annoyed with Harvey, who he thought was adept at exploiting the tiniest of opportunities to make his advances on Nicole while he was away. Then, he strode over and sat down at the bedside, looking at Mr. Johnston Sr’s face as he slumbered.

“Grandpa, why haven’t you woken up yet?”

All of a sudden, something miraculous transpired. Perhaps it was the medication or perhaps, Mr. Johnston Sr. had heard Jared’s voice.

Whatever the cause was, the old man's fingers began twitching.

Claus saw that and exclaimed, "He is moving!"

With his eyes widened, Jared whirled around and stared at Claus.

"What did you say?"

"Mr. Johnston!"

Claus pointed at the hand of the elderly Johnston.

"I swear, I just saw a jerk on Mr. Johnston Sr's fingers!"

Jared centered his gaze on his grandfather's hand at once. Then, he held it up and called out, "Grandpa, if you can hear me, just move your fingers!"

After a long pause, Mr. Johnston Sr's fingers twitched again, and this time, Jared saw it for himself.

"Grandpa, you can hear me, can't you?"

Jared clutched his grandfather's hand in excitement as a smile crossed his face.

"Claus, get the doctor here right away!"

Claus dashed out of the ward at an instant, and in less than a minute, he reappeared, bringing a doctor and a nurse with him.

"Mr. Johnston?" the doctor asked.

"Doctor, I just saw a jerk on my grandpa's finger!" Jared yelled.

"Can you please check up on him!?"

The doctor smiled and nodded upon hearing the news, and proceeded to say, "This is a good sign, but don't get too excited just yet. Let me examine him right away."

Nodding his head, Jared sat in silence as the doctor and the nurse approached his grandfather to proceed with the examination process.

It was then that Nicole and Harvey returned to the hospital after their lunch in the Blue Whale.

The second they opened the door to the ward, her eyes met Jared's, and she stared at him as her heart skipped a beat.

“Why didn’t you tell me earlier so that I could give you a ride from the airport?”

Nicole asked and walked over to Jared, lowering her voice as she noticed the two medical staffs performing the examination.

Jared’s grin faded as soon as he saw Harvey behind Nicole.

Looking at her, he asked, “So, you came here together?”

Sensing Jared’s displeasure, Nicole glanced over her shoulder and gave Harvey a nervous look before turning to Jared again.

“He is visiting Mr. Johnston Sr., and I just happened to meet him at the door.”

Jared refused to utter a response forthcoming to her explanation.

Instead, he fixed his eyes on Harvey’s hands, expecting to see a bouquet of flowers or a gift of some sort.

Harvey, who seemed to know what Jared was thinking, then said, “Oh no, I forgot I’ve brought the greens. They’re still in the car. I’ll head downstairs and get it.”

With Harvey out of the ward, Nicole changed the subject at once and asked the doctor, “Is the patient doing any better today?”

The doctor nodded.

“I have checked. The patient seems to be improving. Perhaps what Mr. Johnston saw was an indicator of what’s to come.”

Nicole looked at Jared.

“What did you see?” Jared smiled.

“I just saw Grandpa’s fingers move.”

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Chapter 1053

“You saw your grandpa’s fingers move?” Nicole repeated in shock.

“Yes, and it wasn’t just me.” Jared glanced at Claus.

“He saw it too.”

“Did you?”

Nicole looked at Claus with her eyes widened. She could not help but beat herself up deep within for missing such a significant moment, even though she had been tending to the elderly Johnston every day since he was hospitalized, while Jared and Claus, who had just arrived, had already witnessed it.

However, she also knew that her medicine had worked.

As Mr. Johnston Sr. had shown signs of consciousness today, he would most probably wake up tomorrow or the day after, should there be no incidents.

Still, she knew that these were just her own speculations, and she could tell no one about it just yet.

“Your grandpa must be happy to know you’ve returned to see him, ” Nicole said as she sat next to Jared.

He smiled at her.

“No one else knows, but I do. You haven’t gotten much rest while you were taking care of Grandpa, have you?”

With a mix of guilt and appreciation for Nicole after having burdened her with the task of taking care of the elderly Johnston, Jared centered his gaze on her big dark circles under her eyes and stroked her hair.

“Well, now that you’re back, I can sleep for a few days,” Nicole joked, attempting to lighten up the mood in the ward.

“Okay, sleep for as long as you want.” Jared looked at her dotingly.

“There are outsiders here.” Nicole glanced at the others, after which she turned to the doctor in charge.

“Doctor, keep that medicine going and change it once every three days after the patient wakes up.”

Judging by their interactions, it was almost as though she was the rendering physician, while the attending physician was more like an assistant of hers instead.

“Okay, Miss Riddle. If there is nothing else, I will excuse myself now,” the doctor replied with a nod and left.

Seeing that Mr. Johnston Sr. was fine, Claus turned to Jared and said, "Mr. Johnston, you've not eaten anything since you got off the plane. Do you want me to arrange something for you now?"

Nicole stared at Jared in puzzlement.

"How many hours has it been? Why have you not eaten anything? Claus, take Mr. Johnston out to lunch now. I have already eaten, and I'll stay to take care of Mr. Johnston Sr."

"Okay," Claus replied.

"No, don't bother." Jared said, wanting to stay in the ward a little longer.

"Just order some takeout and I'll be fine."

"No, you've been flying for several hours," Nicole interrupted.

"Please, you need a proper meal and a good rest right after."

"But—"

"Claus, like I said, have a great lunch arranged for Mr. Johnston, and send him back to the villa so that he can get the rest he needs.

Clear his schedule for the day and make sure that nobody disturbs him,"

Nicole instructed, completely ignoring what Jared had said.

In the meantime, Harvey, who had left the ward earlier, had returned after a long walk to the nearest florist to purchase a large pot of greenery.

He had also hired a few porters to carry the plant to Mr. Johnston Sr.'s floor, where he met Jared and Claus, who were already exiting the ward.

In the hallway, both men locked eyes for a moment, and in an attempt to diffuse the tension, Harvey said, "Are you leaving now, Mr. Johnston? That plant looks fresh, but it's not really that useful now, is it?" Jared said, and walked off.

Nicole covered her mouth and snickered, while Harvey looked on with a glare as Jared left.

"What do you mean? I'm here to visit your grandfather, and this is how you treat your guests? This is outrageous!"

"Don't just stand there. Tell them to carry the stuff in. Quickly!"

Nicole told Harvey as she saw the two porters sweating profusely. Turning back to Nicole, Harvey proceeded to tell the porters to move the potted plant into the ward.

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Harvey looked over to Nicole with a sigh of exasperation.

“Jared was a gentleman and a top executive at one point. When did he become so rude? I guess you’re the one to blame for that, right?”

“I don’t think I have that sort of power over him.” Nicole smirked.

“But if you ask me, I think he’s the way he is because of you.”

“Because of me?” Harvey asked, before he began pondering on his role in all of this.

“Well, alright, I think I know what you mean.”

Nicole burst into a fresh gale of laughter, and seeing this, Harvey stopped her.

“Is it really that funny? Come on, keep it down. Mr. Johnston Sr. needs his rest.”

Realizing her gaffe, Nicole stopped herself and allowed her laughter to taper off.

Outside the ward, a bodyguard had reported to Henry everything that had just transpired in the ward.

When Henry, who was in a good mood, heard the news that Mr. Johnston Sr. could awake from his comatose, the smile on his face vanished. He hung up in disbelief, his eyes blank and his face expressionless.

“Castor, where are you?” Henry bellowed over the phone.

“I’m chilling with Murphy at the clubhouse.”

Castor groaned in exasperation the moment he heard Henry’s voice.

“What’s up?”

“How are you even in the mood to relax! ? Henry yelled.

“Get back here!”

“Ugh, can I come over later?” he said as he was enjoying a massage, and was so relaxed that he did not want anyone or anything to interrupt his bliss.

“Cut the crap and get back here, now!” Henry roared. Murphy wondered who Castor was talking to on the phone and asked, “Who’s looking for you?”

“Dad just called. Let’s just head over there right away.”

Castor dismissed his masseuse and got up to get himself dressed.

Seeing this, Murphy followed suit and eyed him with suspicion.

“What’s the hurry?”

“He didn’t say, but let’s just go.”

Castor rushed out of the clubhouse, not wishing to keep his father waiting as he was all too familiar with Henry’s temper.

Upon arrival, he pushed the door to the office open, and there, he saw the towering man standing by the window, looking out.

“Dad, what’s so urgent?” Castor asked in a shaky voice.

Henry slowly turned around and took a seat on the couch.

“The hospital said that your grandpa is showing signs of consciousness.”

“What?” Castor’s heart skipped a beat.

“Dad, if Grandpa wakes up, you will lose your job.”

“I know, but that’s not the point, now is it?” Henry said.

“Have you dealt with the man who struck your grandpa?”

Henry’s biggest concern was that Mr. Johnston Sr. and Jared would eventually discover the perpetrators behind the accident.

“Yes, we’ve sent him out of the country,” Castor replied.

“He’s clean out of here.”

“Well, fair enough,” Henry continued.

“And have you wiped the surveillance footages that could’ve been recorded during the incident?”

“Don’t worry.”

Murphy looked at the other two men with confidence.

“I’ve destroyed each and every camera on that stretch of road in advance.”

Hearing that they had erased all of the potential evidence that could have been used against them, Henry breathed a sigh of relief.

“Tomorrow, I’m going to the hospital to see if your grandpa has really woken up. If he has, you can send someone else to deal with him again.”

Henry looked at Castor.

“Okay.”

“I was also informed that Jared is back,”

Henry said, now turning his attention to Murphy.

“I want you to keep an eye on him and report to me if you ever see him doing anything you find suspicious. Dealing with him won’t be a walk in the park at all.”

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Chapter 1055

“I’ll be sure to watch him closely....”

Jared was having lunch in a restaurant with Claus, to whom he said, “Before leaving the country, I asked you to investigate the accident that my grandpa was involved in. Have you managed to gather anything?”

“I found a video.”

Claus handed his phone to Jared.

“Wait, why is there only one video? Shouldn’t there be a few other surveillance cameras on that stretch of road?” Jared said with his brows raised.

“All of the cameras along that street were damaged,” Claus reported.

"I have every reason to suspect that someone had sabotaged them in advance. The only one that was left untouched was the one which got us this footage, and it was located right outside a mall about a few hundred yards away. The truth of the matter is, we aren't able to identify the car by its brand or its license plate because of the distance and the angle."

Jared watched as he listened to Claus.

The instant he saw his grandfather's car being slammed into, his heart sank. He clenched the fork in his hand, his fist turning a shade of white.

"Do everything you can to find out who owns that car and who was driving it that day," Jared said in a bitter tone of voice.

"Aye."

"Mr. Johnston, it is really you?" a female voice asked.

Looking up, he saw Chloe, who was also here for lunch. She thought the two figures at this table looked familiar, and so, she came over to see if it was Jared.

Jared handed the phone back to Claus and greeted her with a blank stare.

"What are you doing here?"

"I'm here for lunch."

Chloe smiled at him while looking him in the eye.

"I guess I'm lucky to have bumped into you here. Mind if I join you?"

"Aren't there plenty of unoccupied tables around here?" Jared said, craning his neck and looking around the restaurant.

"Perhaps I'm not here at the right time," she said.

"I'm afraid the other tables are reserved."

"Reserved?" Jared queried, knowing that it is another one of her pretenses.

"Why haven't you made a reservation for yourself?"

"I was in a hurry and my assistant forgot to do it for me."

"Well, sit down, then," he relented.

Chloe breathed a sigh of relief, elated that she had finally tricked Jared into giving her a seat beside him.

It was the first time she had ever been in such close proximity to him.

To her, he was nothing short of attractive; his eyes that gleamed like onyxes under the light, his prominent nose, his kissable lips, and his chiseled face would make any man envious.

Just the mere sight of him had stunned her.

Jared sensed the fiery gaze coming from across the table. He ate the last piece of his steak and was about to get up and leave when Chloe stopped him.

"Mr. Johnston, I think I know something that'll interest you." Jared stopped and stared at her.

As expected, Chloe did not avoid his gaze, so he figured that there is something that she must be privy to.

Chloe knew that what she said had worked when Jared stopped in his tracks.

"Mr. Johnston, please sit down."

Jared looked her in the eye and planted himself back on the chair. "Say what you wish to say. You have five minutes."

Chloe took a deep breath and smiled.

"You must've been at the hospital as of late, right? Surely, you've had run-ins with Nicole and Harvey, too, haven't you?"

Jared leaned back in his chair and eyed her in silence.

He wanted to see what she could tell him he did not already know.

Noticing that she wasn't getting a response forthcoming to her question, Chloe took a sip of wine and continued, "Aren't you curious about the relationship between the two of them now? Don't you want to know what happened within the few days when you were out of the country?"

"I'm not curious about their relationship," he said, knowing that he has neither the time nor patience for her gossip.

"Save your breath, if that is what you are getting at."

“Nicole and Harvey have been in and out of Mr. Johnston Sr’s ward together these days.”

Chloe blurted out, somewhat anxiously.

“Don’t you care about that?”

Jared narrowed his eyes.

“Just so you know, there is a price to pay for slander.”

“I’m telling you the truth,” she said.

“If you still don’t buy that, you can send someone over to check on them.”

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Jared studied Chloe’s demeanor and surmised that she did not seem to be lying, but he also knew that Nicole wasn’t known for her veracity, and thus, he decided it would be better to investigate so as not to misunderstand Nicole.

“The steak here is wonderful.” Jared rose up to his feet.

“Enjoy your meal.”

Chloe looked on with a smirk as Jared left the premises. She knew that her words had taken hold in Jared’s heart.

“Harvey, you have me to thank for helping you.”

In the car, Jared began pondering if there was truth in her words. To avoid jumping to baseless conclusions, he decided it would be better to let Claus look into it.

“Claus, I want you to look into what Chloe has just said.”

“Mr. Johnston, is it possible that Chloe is trying to sow discord among you and Miss Riddle?”

“Don’t worry about her,” Jared replied.

“I wish to know everything that had happened in my absence.”

“Okay.”

Claus drove Jared back to the villa and began his investigation as the latter had ordered.

The very next day, Henry arrived at the hospital in the morning.

When he pushed the door in, he was greeted, much to his surprise, by the sight of Nicole and Jared together.

Seeing this, he flashed them a smile.

“Ah, I see you’re all here. Is your grandpa getting better?”

Faking his concern, he strode up to Mr. Johnston Sr., and was relieved to see that his eyes were still closed.

“What brought you here this early, Uncle Henry?” Jared turned to him and asked.

“Has the project abroad been completed?” Henry sauntered over and took a seat on the couch.

“There are still some bits and pieces left to take care of. I’ve asked Max to stand in during my absence.”

Jared sat on the other side and began to study Henry from top to toe.

“I knew there was no one else in the company who could have handled that project except for you,” Henry remarked with a false compliment.

Soon after, the physician came in for one of his routine check-ups, and Henry watched the doctor as he worked.

Following the conclusion of the examination, he asked, “Doctor, is my dad going to be okay?”

The doctor looked at Henry and said, “Yes, he is expected to regain consciousness soon.”

“Oh?”

An imperceptible fear flashed in Henry’s eyes as they widened, but he masked it with a smile at once.

“That’s wonderful.” Henry reluctantly said.

“Alright. You guys better stay here with your grandpa. I must excuse myself, as I still have a few things to take care of back in the company.”

In truth, Henry could no longer sit still as he had to return and plot his next set of moves.

“Uncle Henry, are the bodyguards outside the ward here under your orders?” Jared looked at him.

“Yeah, I hired them to protect your grandpa.”

“We’ve got no need for them anymore,”

Jared stated without even asking. “You may dismiss them.”

“How is that supposed to work?” Henry protested.

“Who is going to protect your grandpa, then?”

Henry was not too happy about the fact that Jared had asked him to withdraw his men as soon as he returned. He knew Jared was being cautious.

“I’ll hire someone to protect Grandpa in their stead,” Jared replied.

“You will be needing them more than he does.”

‘What does he mean by that? Is there something that he is aware of?’ Henry looked at Jared and thought to himself.

“After all, you’re now the acting chairman of the Johnston Group,” Jared finished in a manner that frightened Henry.

With cold sweat on the verge of trickling down Henry’s forehead, he flashed his nephew an awkward grin.

“You have a point. I’ll leave it to you, then.”

Henry proceeded to leave with his bodyguards.

After his uncle had left, Jared turned his attention to Nicole.

“Did Harvey visit grandpa very often while I was away?”

Nicole caught whiff of Jared’s jealousy at once, and eyed him with a smile.

“Why would you ask that? How much do you think Harvey cares about your grandpa?”

“I don’t think he cares much, if at all.”

“Do you still think he’ll show up as often?”

Nicole answered with a rhetorical question of her own.

“It’s understandable for him to come once in a while, but…”

“But what?”

Nicole looked at him, suppressing the urge to burst out laughing. She wanted to see what sort of remarks would exit his mouth.

“But you’re here.”

What Jared meant could not be clearer.

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Chapter 1057

“So that is the reason why you did what you did to Harvey yesterday, isn’t it?”

“It seems to me that you’ve been dishing out a number of rhetorical questions. Are you having a guilty conscience?” Jared asked, staring into her eyes.

“No, I’m not. I just didn’t expect you to do that to Harvey. He was a little shocked.”

Nicole looked at him.

“Did he say that to you?” Jared raised an eyebrow at her.

“Sort of.”

“He even told you what was on his mind.”

Jared looked at Nicole suspiciously.

“Wasn’t he afraid that you would tell me?”

“Maybe he hasn’t even thought about it. Anyway, I heard what Henry said just now. Was the international project difficult?”

Nicole digressed, not wanting to discuss about Harvey with him.

Jared could sense that Nicole did not wish to talk about Harvey.

“It was a piece of cake. If he didn’t say that, he would have no reason to send me away.”

Nicole nodded, seeming to understand what Jared was saying.

"If that is what you mean, then what was his intention of sending you abroad? It can't be..."

A thought suddenly crossed her mind. She shook her head again in disbelief.

"No, it can't be."

"It can't be what? What's on your mind?" Jared asked with a frown.

"Nothing."

Nicole could not tell him, as she could not confirm her suspicions right now.

Jared looked at her curiously.

"Have you been here with Grandpa all these while?"

"Yeah, I came over every day to check on him."

Jared stared at the surveillance camera and examined it to ensure that it was just a regular camera with no audio recording functions installed before he asked, "So you must have come across something suspicious, right?"

Nicole followed his line of sight.

"Do you know?"

"What is it?"

"It seems that you don't, then."

Nicole confirmed through the look in his eyes that he did not know about the fake doctor yet.

"Take a look at this."

Nicole handed him her phone.

Jared's pupils contracted when he saw what was in the video.

"Has this person been found yet?"

"We are still looking into it, but we should be able to uncover more about him in due time."

The fingers that he was gripping the phone with turned white. He did not expect that accidents would still happen, even with bodyguards standing on watch.

“You should go home and catch some rest. I’ll be here.”

Jared looked at Nicole.

“Okay. I’ll head back to the Riddle residence. My parents were visiting your grandpa the other day and they did tell me to return.”

“Send your parents my regards and thank them for me.”

“Alright, I will. I’ll be on my way, then”

Nicole took one more look at Mr. Johnston Sr. before walking out of the ward.

Upon entering the car, Nicole proceeded to phone Gloria.

“Mom, are you home? I’m coming back to see you now.”

“Yes, we’re home. Do come back! What would you like to eat for lunch?” Gloria asked her happily.

“I’ll leave that up to you,” Nicole replied.

“I’ll be there in a few minutes.”

“Okay, take your time, then.”

“Yeah.”

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The dazzling Lamborghini sped down the highway, and it did not take long for it to arrive at the residence of the Riddles.

“Mom, Dad, I’m home!” Nicole walked in.

“Nicole, come on over,”

Samuel called out to her from the living room. Nicole followed his voice to the living room, where Samuel was watching a sci-fi show.

"I thought you've got something interesting going on. Apparently, you guys are just watching a movie."

"Come take a seat and watch it with us. It is one of the most popular movies as of late," Samuel said.

"Really?"

Nicole went over and sat down with Samuel and Spencer.

"Alright, I'm sold."

"Nicole, how is Mr. Johnston Sr. doing?"

Daniel approached Nicole and asked.

"There are signs of improvement."

"That is good."

"Nicole, I've been meaning to ask. How did Mr. Johnston Sr. get himself into that accident? Does his family know?" Daniel looked at Nicole curiously.

"Not yet. As far as I'm aware, the case is still under investigation," Nicole said.

She did not tell Daniel what she knew.

After all, it was the Johnston family's business; she knew what she should say and what she should not say.

"Alas, nothing is as certain as the unexpected. I sure as hell didn't expect Mr. Johnston Sr. to get into a nasty accident at such an old age." Daniel sighed.

"I heard that the car at the scene was absolutely wrecked. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been unconscious until now."

"Dad, let me ask you something."

"What is it?"

"Do you know if Mr. Johnston Sr. had made any enemies when he was younger?"

Nicole wanted to find out more about him so that she could investigate.

"The world of business is like a battlefield; he definitely made a few enemies along the way, but I've never heard of anyone harboring any sort of deep hatred for

him. Mr. Johnston Sr. might be a tough and opinionated businessman, but he is also a good man," Daniel said, recalling his memories.

'Dad, if you're right, then this isn't an old feud, but a more recent conflict. But what could have caused others to make an attempt on his life?' Nicole thought.

"Nicole, why are you asking me this? Do you suspect that...?" Daniel's words hung as he looked at Nicole.

"Nah, I'm just asking to get a better understanding of the situation. After all, this is not something to be taken lightly," Nicole hurriedly explained.

"So, is Jared back? I heard he went abroad. After such a major incident, how could he just leave?" Daniel said, and as he did not understand the actual situation, there was a sense of reproach in his voice.

"Dad, I don't think you understand the situation. Actually, Jared didn't want to leave; it was the company's arrangement, and he was in no position to refuse." Nicole explained on behalf of Jared.

Otherwise, this would affect her family's opinion of him when they meet him later.

"The company? I'm informed that Henry is now the interim chairman. He didn't arrange it, did he?" Daniel asked, recalling the previous press release by the Johnston Group.

Daniel knew that Jared and Henry did not get along, and after hearing what Nicole had said, he understood the reason for it.

"Your guess is as good as mine."

Nicole did not confirm or deny, and the reason for which was understood by everyone.

"Henry has just risen to the position of interim chairman and he is already behaving in an arbitrary fashion by sending his nephew abroad during this important juncture. Wouldn't this cause a stir!?" Daniel said with his voice raised in anger.

"Calm down, dad. Besides, Jared is already back." Nicole said as she caught sight of her father's indignant expression.

"Jared is back? Why isn't he with you?"

Daniel simmered down the second he heard that Jared had returned.

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“Jared stayed back because someone had to look after Mr. Johnston Sr.”

“Indeed,” Daniel replied.

“He just returned to the country. He should definitely be spending more time with his grandfather.”

“Dad, why haven’t I seen Norah even after I’ve been back for so long?” Nicole said, thinking that Norah had moved away after she had exposed her.

“Norah?” Daniel said.

“She is out on a trip with your classmates and has been gone for a few days.”

Without Norah at home, Daniel was much more relaxed. Nicole looked at Daniel with a frown.

”So, she didn’t move out?”

“Nope.”

“Wait, haven’t her parents been discharged?” Nicole said, perplexed at Norah’s ungrateful behavior.

Did she not go home to look after them? Why is she still allowed to freeload in our house?”

“Who told you that Norah’s parents were discharged from the hospital? How am I not aware of that?”

Daniel looked at Nicole with surprise, as Gloria had visited them at the hospital yesterday.

“So, they have not been discharged?” Nicole asked, appearing to be even more perplexed than before.

“Yeah. How can her parents be discharged from the hospital before they could manage a complete recovery? Who did you hear that from?”

Nicole looked away and sneered.

‘It seems she hasn’t taken what I said seriously and is still in the mood to go out on vacation. I was thinking of sparing her the humiliation by allowing her to tell Mom and Dad herself. But looking at her, I can’t be blamed for being a little more ruthless”

“The nurse told me that Norah’s parents could have been discharged a long time ago, but they weren’t, because the family refused,” Nicole said.

Daniel stared at Nicole with his brows raised, confused at what he had just heard.

“It can’t be. Yesterday, your mom came back from the hospital and said that Norah’s parents are still in need of multiple injections on a daily basis. You must’ve misheard, right?”

Nicole flashed Daniel a look of confidence.

“I did not mishear. The nurse told me everything. If you don’t believe me, ask them the next time you’re at the nurses’ station, and you’ll understand what I’m talking about.”

Gazing into Nicole’s eyes, Daniel believed that his daughter was not lying.

“Don’t tell your mom about this until I’m certain as to what is going on.”

Daniel and Nicole both knew that Gloria was doting on Norah to the point of spoiling her. If they told Gloria without being certain that it is the truth, it would probably backfire.

Nicole nodded.

“The same goes for you guys.”

Daniel looked over at Samuel and Spencer, who were watching TV.

“We didn’t hear anything.”

“Dad, you’ve been chatting for a very long time. Are you done yet? We’re watching a movie, and your conversation has been nothing but a disturbance,” Samuel said as he could no longer stand the noise.

“That is all you seem to know. Why don’t you two find something productive to do at the office during the school holidays, huh? Tomorrow, I’ll get Sean to bring you to the office and show you the ropes.”

Daniel stared Samuel and Spencer down with a look of unmistakable displeasure.

Samuel held his tongue at once, not wishing to get himself and his brother in trouble.

In the meantime, Spencer shot him a glare, as if to say, “It was all your fault. You should have just put up with it. Now we’re done for.”

Nicole watched as their expressions changed.

“The movie is still pretty funny, eh?”

The two immediately glared at Nicole, knowing that she was gloating.

“Nicole, I need you to come over. I’ve got something to show you.”

Gloria called out from the kitchen.

Nicole rose to her feet and left the living room for the kitchen.

“Mom, why don’t you join us in the living room and relax for a bit while the maids do the work?”

Nicole said as she strolled into the kitchen.

“You haven’t been back in a long time,” Gloria said.

“I want to make you something you’d like to eat.”

In truth, Gloria still loved Nicole. It was just that Norah was too adept at pretending and eliciting sympathies, causing Gloria to be protective of her.

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“Thank you, Mom.” Nicole said politely.

“What’s with the formality? Are you still mad at me?”

Gloria knew she had been unfair to Nicole by being protective of Norah at her expense.

“No.”

“Nicole, you can’t blame me for defending Norah. I know she is pretty timid, even as a kid. She has always been cautious about everything and have always catered to the whims of others.” Gloria explained.

“I understand your position.”

Nicole accompanied Gloria as she worked in the kitchen, and after a while, Nicole returned to the living room.

“Are you guys done? Dinner’s ready.”

At the table, Gloria looked at Nicole and asked, ‘Has Mr. Johnston Sr. woken up yet?’

"Nope, not yet," she replied, having to answer the same question once again.

"He hasn't? Well, that doesn't bode well for him." Gloria sighed and continued eating.

"Quit blabbering in front of the children. Mr. Johnston Sr. is showing signs of recovery," Daniel quickly added.

Nicole went on to explain.

"Mom, it's not as grim as you think."

"I'm sorry. I know next to nothing about the situation." Gloria flashed her daughter a bashful smile and placed a piece of Nicole's favorite dish onto her plate.

"Thanks, mom."

Nicole smiled and proceeded with the rest of her meal.

Meanwhile, at the hospital, Jared ordered, "Claus, hire someone to monitor the surveillance, and notify the men guarding outside the ward immediately should you come across any individuals of dubious character.

Check and verify the identities of anyone who enters the ward, and inform me if you notice anyone behaving suspiciously."

"Aye."

Jared glanced at Mr. Johnston Sr. again before he whirled around and left the ward.

Concurrently, Henry had returned home with his two sons to plot their entry into the hospital for the second time.

"Dad, we've sent our contact away, and now it's difficult to procure ourselves another one."

Castor looked at Henry in a quandary.

"You have to do it no matter how hard it is. I went to the hospital today, and I was told that your grandpa may regain consciousness at any moment. Don't you want the life you have now? Do you want us to surrender our hard-earned position to Jared again?"

Henry bellowed out in an attempt to guilt his child.

"Of course, I don't."

"If you don't want that, then do as I say. Hurry up and find someone to give your grandpa another shot in the same way as before, except with double the dose this time," Henry said ruthlessly.

He wanted his father to slumber forever this time round, so that he would never have to worry about it.

"Dad, doubling the dosage is going to kill Grandpa."

Castor fumbled, not wanting to get into hot water with the law.

"What are you afraid of? It is not like we're the ones getting our hands dirty. You'll need a heart of stone if you wish to maintain your position," Henry elucidated in an attempt to indoctrinate them.

"Now, don't just stand here. Get on with it!"

Henry bellowed and shoed the both of them out of his office.

"Castor, is it okay if we do this?"

Murphy was a little scared.

"Are we going to be busted for this?"

"What the hell are you afraid of? Dad said everything will be fine, so let's just get it over with. Would you like to spend the rest of your life with Jared walking all over you?"

Castor was angry at the mere thought of Jared.

If he had not taken Henry's rightful place, he would not have been compelled to do anything to harm his grandfather.

"Now let's just go," Castor finished. "Nicole had returned to the villa facing the sea when she received a message from Zeke.

[Found the man. He is hiding abroad. These are his information and coordinates.]

[Well received. Thanks.]

Nicole perused the personal details of the individual. He was an erstwhile doctor, but somewhere down the line, a misdiagnosis that had cost a patient their life had resulted in his medical license being revoked, and he resorted to becoming a charlatan.