MY WIFE IS A HACKER

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2831"Mr. Ellison, why don't you... just sign it?" the assistant timidly advised.

At this point, they had been left with no other way out. By signing the document, they could at least retain ownership over Ellison Group, allowing Harvey to continue managing the company so long as he did not step out of line. Even with Nicole serving as the additional overseer from then on, it would not affect the company's operation.

Meanwhile, Thomas remained tight lipped. After the assistant was done advising Harvey, who was speechless and unresponsive, he backed off and maintained his silence.

For the next few minutes, the room became exceptionally quiet, creating a somewhat palpable tension.

Eventually, Harvey picked the pen up, placed his signature on the blank section, and threw the pen down before leaving briskly.

Thomas then sighed, feeling a sense of relief as he watched Harvey's figure recede from view. At the very least, he had dealt with one half of the problem.

Now, the rest would be up to Nicole.

With the document in hand, Thomas left Royal Creek Institute and headed to Riddle Corporation.

"Mr. Ellison, didn't you say you wouldn't interfere with this matter and would just wait for the results?" Lulu looked at Thomas with some concern, worried that Nicole would be in a difficult position if he was here to plead on Harvey's behalf.

"Why yes, but the result I wanted has already been achieved," Thomas replied, calm and indifferent as he looked at Nicole. "Can I talk to you for a second?"

"Lulu, ask the secretary to prepare a cup of coffee for Mr. Ellison," Nicole ordered.

"Alright." Lulu nodded and left promptly.

Soon after, the secretary brought the coffee in, and once she had placed it down on the table, she left. Lulu did not return as well, giving Nicole and Thomas the privacy to discuss the issue concerning Harvey.

"Mr. Ellison? What would you like to discuss with me?" Nicole asked directly.

"Take a look at this." Thomas placed the document in front of Nicole.

Nicole took the document out of its folder, and after perusing its contents, she frowned. "Are you sure about this? It "He has already signed it," Thomas replied.

"But..." Nicole stuttered, feeling a little hesitant. "I don't want ownership over Ellison Group."

'That's why I chose you." Thomas smiled. "It's because you don't want the company. I have done all of this to spare us further trouble and heartache, teach Harvey a lesson, and have you watch over him."

"Why don't you watch over him yourself?" Nicole protested." In fact, after this succeeds, everything under Ellison Group will return to you, Mr. Ellison."

That was the outcome she had planned, and Lulu's deployment had been nothing short of successful as well. In fact, everything would soon be settled once and for all.

However, Thomas simply shook his head. "I can't watch over him, and it's challenging to restrain him. You're the only one who can do it."

"So, in the end, you still gave in," Nicole said meaningfully.

"Somewhat. After all, my actions in the past were what made him what he is today. Besides, the company will ultimately end up in his hands."

Indeed, Harvey would end up inheriting Ellison Group someday even if ownership of the company had been returned to Thomas for the time being. He feared that Harvey would wreak havoc if he became even more hateful and unwilling to get his act together. That was why he had made his current decision.

He believed time could heal all wounds, and that Harvey would come to understand the bigger picture one day.

However, he was not sure if he would live to see that day.

Above all, the only person he could entrust with his peace of mind was Nicole – the only person he truly believed in.

The instant she came to learn of Thomas' intention, Nicole sighed in defeat.

"Aren't you afraid that he'll become even more radical because of this?"

Understandably, anyone who had ever dealt with Harvey would find that he was more trouble than he was worth. It was akin to disciplining a mischievous child – being too lenient would have no effect, and being too strict would just traumatize him.

"He won't, because I believe you won't give him that chance to be that person."

Thomas smiled, certain that Nicole was the only one who could handle Harvey.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2832-So, with such an important task assigned to me, don't you at least plan to reward me, Mr. Ellison?" Nicole joked.

Taking on this task meant she would likely have to deal with Harvey even more frequently in the future, and any further involvement with him in her life was the last thing she needed.

"What do you want? Just say it. After all, I had hoped you would become my granddaughter-in-law back when you were younger. Unfortunately, we lost you.

Now, I really can't think of anything I can offer you in return." Thomas replied jokingly, as his mood had improved significantly.

"Well, then..." Nicole paused. "Just stop feeling sorry for your grandson."

"Hahaha... As long as you keep him alive, I won't meddle in anything else."

Thomas laughed.

"Well, he won't lose his life. That much I can guarantee. At most... he'll live in despair."

Of course, she would not actively seek vengeance against Harvey if he wisened up and stopped trying to make her life a living hell. If he did, he would have nobody to blame but herself.

"I believe he will repent one day, and I also believe that Ellison Group will only improve from then on," Thomas said solemnly.

This was his hope and his trust in the two individuals he had grown to care about.

"If he can manage the company without creating a mess, I believe he will,"

Nicole agreed.

At the end of the day, Harvey was no slouch when it came to his work. It was just that his deep, unhealthy obsession with Nicole had led him astray.

With the two individuals reaching an agreement, Thomas' mood improved. He even began to enjoy the coffee with great enthusiasm.

"Well, the taste is indeed good, but I have a bone to pick with you." Thomas complained in seeming dissatisfaction." Ever since Harvey offended Jared, I haven't been able to get a taste of the unique coffee he used to supply me."

"Are you complaining to me?" Nicole laughed.

"Of course. I must ask that you convince your husband to change his mind. How can he be so stingy?" Thomas looked at Nicole, his brows raised in dismay.

"If you like my coffee, I can always send some of this year's new coffee beans to you, Mr. Ellison."

Suddenly, Jared's voice was heard, surprising the individuals who then turned to look at the tall, solid figure who had just strode into the office.

"Why are you here?" Nicole smiled and stood up.

"Just came to see you," Jared responded gently, his eyes then trained on Thomas.

"Hmm, you came here to see if I'm giving your wife a hard time." Thomas smiled.

Thomas had already seen through Jared's purpose of coming here from the get go before revealing it before everyone in the room.

How could I pick on Nicole? Moreover, isn't someone I could do that to,' he thought.

"You're handing her a hot potato. Don't you think it's equivalent to giving her a hard time?" Jared countered without backing down.

If he had not just heard Thomas's words, which were rather pleasant to the ears, he would not have even offered to give him some of his special coffee beans.

"In her hands, the potato won't burn, especially with you around," Thomas retorted as if it were a matter of fact.

"Alright then. Anyway, you may go home now, Mr. Ellison." Jared finished, his tone calm and polite as if he was not trying to get someone to leave.

If anything, it seemed as though they were having a casual conversation.

Displeased, Thomas shot Jared a sour look. "Fine. I'm not going to disturb you anymore."

"Don't forget to sign the documents," Thomas reminded Nicole, after which he marched out of the office.

With the pressing matter resolved, Thomas became even more energetic and joyful.

"This time, Thomas is truly at ease." Nicole sighed.

"You didn't have to agree, you know," Jared said gently.

"It doesn't matter. The result would have been similar, and I never intended to leave Harvey with nothing anyway."

Regardless of the outcome today, everything would still return to Thomas, who would in turn pass everything back to Harvey anyway.

Jared then gently stroked Nicole's hair. "I suggest leaving it to the others. Let them deal with it."

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2833-Nicole smiled when she understood what Jared meant." Sure."

With this document in her possession, she would not need to deal with Harvey personally anymore. She could always assign someone capable of handling him to liaise with him, ensuring that he would not cause any problems for them again.

Moreover, after this experience, Harvey would likely be down in the dumps for some time. Knowing Harvey, signing this document was nothing short of a significant blow to him and his ego.

After signing the document herself, Nicole looked at Jared and asked, "Did you come all the way here just for this?"

"Yes," Jared replied with a light snort.

"Do you really find Thomas untrustworthy?" Nicole asked, unable to help but find this situation amusing.

She understood that Jared's sudden appearance was likely due to him having gotten word that Thomas had come to see her. He was probably worried he might put her in a difficult position.

However, none of them had anticipated the decision Thomas had made.

"He won't hurt you, but he will still protect Harvey," Jared explained, stating the reason as to why he was worried that Nicole would be in a difficult position had Thomas chosen to plead with her instead.

Had that scenario unfolded, Nicole would have no problem standing her ground if he was aggressive and tough in his approach. However, it would be challenging for her to decline him if he had resorted to emotional pleas instead.

"Don't worry. After all that has happened, I won't give Harvey a chance to fool around again," she declared.

Even if Thomas's heart had softened, hers would not.

Upon hearing that, Jared gently stroked Nicole's hair, his eyes filled with loving tenderness. "That's good."

"But seriously, Thomas's proposal isn't bad. It's a win-win situation." Nicole shrugged, thinking that Thomas had probably busted his brains trying to come up with this solution.

"Ah, Nicole, Mr. Ellison just..." Lulu pushed the door and entered just to see Jared standing there.

She froze for a moment, whereupon she flashed him an awkward smile. "Oh hey, Mr. Johnston. You're here too."

"What's the matter?" Nicole asked Lulu.

"I just saw that Mr. Ellison has left, so I came over to ask how it went," Lulu answered.

She was genuinely concerned about this issue, as such opportunities were rare to come across.

In response, Nicole handed the document to Lulu and said," Take a look at this."

"Oh." Lulu grabbed the document, and after reading through its contents, her eyes widened in astonishment. "Is this what he actually suggested?!"

'Heavens, this is really unexpected! I thought Thomas had come to intervene on Harvey's behalf,' she thought.

"Get a reliable person to take care of this, please," Nicole ordered Lulu.

"Okay.' Lulu beamed in satisfaction. "Holding this document feels so good! It holds so much power! I'm sure Harvey is furious right now."

Nicole shook her head with a wry smile etched on her face." It's more like a curse, I suppose."

"Yes, specifically designed for Harvey, that troublemaker." Lulu pursed her lips indignantly. "Let's see if he dares to act smug and create another mess for you in the future."

Unable to contain her amusement, Nicole laughed at the look of annoyance on Lulu's face. "I think you should be more concerned about the possibility that Harvey won't just give up."

If that were the case, Ellison Group would be in turmoil for longer than it needed to be.

"He better not!" Lulu replied, grimacing.

After she had said that, she waved the document in her hand and said, "I'll be going now. We need to take care of this as soon as possible."

"Go ahead then." Nicole nodded in agreement.

After Lulu had hurried off, Nicole glanced over at her watch and said, "It's almost noon. Let's have lunch together."

"Sure." Jared, with eyes brimming with tenderness, grabbed her hand.

Then, the couple left the office together.

Soon after, they found a restaurant they fancied and sat down for lunch.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2834-"The entire ordeal with Harvey has finally come to an end. We should be able to live in peace for now," Nicole sighed.

At the very least, Harvey would no longer be among the list of people trying to make life difficult for her.

Jared looked at her and gave her a reassuring smile. "Let's eat. There's no need to worry about people who don't matter. It "You should go ahead too," Nicole smiled and reached over to feed Jared some of what was on her plate.

With a shared glance, the couple proceeded to enjoy their lunch joyfully and affectionately.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere was much darker in Harvey's office back at the headquarters of Ellison Group.

"Mr. Ellison, it's lunchtime. Are you really not eating?" his assistant whispered, attempting to persuade Harvey to have a bite.

"I'm not eating. Get out!" Harvey roared angrily, leaving the assistant with no choice but to leave.

The office fell silent again, and that was when Harvey leaned back against his chair, his grimace sour and terrifying.

He had never expected to end up like this. Right now, everything seemed to belong to him, yet not exactly so.

Thomas had ultimately refused to help him and top of that, had left him between a rock and a hard place.

He hated the idea of Nicole overseeing Ellison Group in the not so distant future. She was the woman he had always wanted to win over. But now, she was someone he could never attain. This was an outcome he could never think to bear.

The more he thought about it, the more depressed he became. Suddenly, Harvey felt his vision blur, and he fainted.

The assistant rushed in when he heard a loud thud emanating from Harvey's office. When he saw Harvey lying unconscious on the floor, he blanched and ran off to call for someone to take him to the hospital.

In the afternoon, the sun was high and glaring.

After having lunch together, Jared brought Nicole back to Riddle Corporation.

The moment she stepped into her office, she noticed that Lulu had a look of frustration and confusion on her face.

"What do we do now? Sending someone over to take charge of Ellison Group doesn't seem appropriate," Lulu remarked.

Even if they did not assign someone to take the company over, someone would still need to step in and solve the issues at Ellison Group. The fact remained that there was work left to be done, and there was no escaping that.

Nicole frowned, understanding Lulu's concerns. After all, the issues plaguing Ellison Group had not been completely resolved yet, and the process of taking over all of its responsibilities after Nicole had signed the document would not occur without its fair share of misunderstandings and complications.

If they did not intervene, however, the crisis in the company would just snowball into something far less manageable.

After careful consideration, Nicole looked at Lulu and said," Lulu, you should go there in person."

"Me?!" Lulu asked, her voice of surprise going up by a few octaves.

"After thinking it through, I've decided that you're the only one who can make me feel most at ease," Nicole said, solemn and unsmiling. "If we leave someone else to do it, it's likely that overseeing the entire situation will be difficult."

Nicole could not go there herself, so she thought that assigning Lulu this momentous task was the most reasonable course of action she could take.

After all, Lulu had been handling all affairs concerning Ellison Group for as long as she could remember; she was more than capable of dealing with the situation. As such, Nicole felt most at ease with her taking on that task.

After biting her lip, Lulu nodded and said, "Alright."

Ultimately, she concluded that she was needed there. Regardless of what happened, they needed to take care of the financial crisis in Ellison Group first before making any further decisions.

"If you need help, you can bring a few of our staff members with you to help you out," Nicole instructed.

"Got it." Lulu sighed. "I now understand what you meant when you said you were worried about Harvey going insane."

If Harvey ended up crashing and burning, there would be nothing but more trouble for them.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2835-They would not be able to manage Harvey's company forever as they did not have that much free time in their hands.

Optimistic, Nicole smiled and said, "Let's get through it for now and we'll decide what to do once Harvey has regained consciousness."

The fact that he could be unconscious for so long was truly frustrating.

In the world of business and commerce, failures or financial crises were not guaranteed death sentences to the businessmen affected. As such, avoidance of the issue was not the solution going forward.

"I'll tidy up and head over," Lulu said before leaving.

Nicole shook her head slightly. Right now, all she could do was hope that Harvey would recover quickly.

If his mental health continued to decline at the rate it was, they would have no choice but to brace for more headaches.

An entire afternoon passed without Nicole receiving any news of Harvey regaining consciousness, causing her to grow even more anxious. 'What if Harvey has experienced so much shock that he is unable to wake up?' If that happened, the responsibilities of the entirety of Ellison Group would end up on her shoulders, and that would be a problem.

She had done whatever she did to get rid of Harvey, but lo and behold, she had ended up with more on her plate than ever.

"Nicole, it's time to leave. Aren't you going home?" Lulu peeked in and asked.

"You're back!" Nicole yelled, somewhat surprised to see Lulu.

"Yes, Spencer came to pick me up. He didn't know I went to Ellison Group, so I came back to wait for him. Besides, I need to prepare a few more documents. I'll be heading back there early tomorrow morning," Lulu explained.

"Is everything okay?" Nicole asked, concerned for Lulu.

After issuing a sigh of helplessness, Lulu replied, "It's alright, but it's a little tricky if I must be honest."

After all, Lulu had suddenly been transferred to Ellison Group while Harvey had been hospitalized. Everything had happened too suddenly, so it was natural that the staff members there would be wary of her.

Shaking her head, Lulu deprecated herself and remarked," Turns out, being in possession of that powerful document doesn't make everything easier at all."

"It will be fine. Just hang in there for a few days. Harvey won't remain unconscious forever," Nicole reassured Lulu.

Lulu smiled and said, "Yeah, I know. But if he does remain unconscious in the long run, Ellison Group will be ours whether we like it or not."

"If that's the case, I'll leave that company to you," Nicole played along, knowing that Lulu was joking.

Lulu groaned. "I'd rather not. Spare me the headaches. I was just kidding."

The two burst out laughing and left Riddle Corporation soon after. And when Lulu saw Spencer, she immediately ran up to him.

Meanwhile, Nicole got into Jared's car with a smile.

"Thomas has gone to the hospital," Jared informed Nicole as soon as they had both gotten into the car.

"Seems like it's quite serious," Nicole sighed. "I hope he recovers soon."

Jared glanced at Nicole and then gently held her hand. With a touch of tenderness, he said, "Leave it to Thomas."

"Okay." Nicole nodded. "For now, I've temporarily handed authority over all matters concerning Ellison Group to Lulu. We'll make more important decisions after Harvey is done slumbering."

Back at the Riddle residence, Tia had just returned with Nolan and Lana.

"Daddy, Mommy!" The two little ones joyfully darted across the lawn to meet Jared and Nicole.

"Good evening." Tia ambled over. "Anyway, I'm heading back now."

Nicole smiled and nodded. "Alright."

Nicole watched as Tia left, wondering, 'Why does it feel like Tia has been avoiding Stanley as of late?' "Why are you standing out here?" Stanley, who had just returned, asked upon noticing the family of four standing at the yard.

"We just got back. We're just about to head inside," Nicole replied, taking Nolan and Lana by their hands before walking them into the mansion.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2836-Jared went on to follow his family into the house, while Stanley stayed behind.

Nicole arched her brows as she observed Stanley's actions, a smile creeping up her lips.

She had deliberately mentioned to Stanley that they had just returned, and much to her amusement, Stanley seemed to have understood what she meant.

If he did not, he would not have looked in the direction of Tia's quarters located at the backyard. At this time, he should be able to see Tia.

Indeed, Stanley was looking at Tia. Though he had caught nothing but a fleeting glimpse of her back, which quickly disappeared into the house, his gaze remained fixed and unwavering.

After a moment of hesitation, Stanley made a beeline to Tia's quarters in big strides.

Things had settled down now that Cherry had left. However, he still could not shake the feeling that Tia had become more distant for the past few days.

Today was a good opportunity for him to make his feelings obvious to her, so Stanley wondered, 'Why not clarify things with Tia?' After a few seconds, he arrived at the house in the backyard, where he saw Tia in the kitchen preparing dinner for Mrs. Wallace Sr..

"Prepare some for me too," Stanley reminded Tia while standing at the doorway of the kitchen.

Tia widened her eyes in surprise when she heard Stanley's voice. "Wait, why are you here?"

"To see you." Stanley smiled. "I just so happen to be here for dinner, so I reckon, why not?"

"Do you really want to have dinner here?" Tia frowned, sounding a little hesitant.

Stanley raised an eyebrow. "Is it inconvenient?"

"No, please stay," Mrs. Wallace Sr. replied from behind..

Knowing who that was, Stanley shifted his gaze toward Mrs. Wallace Sr. and greeted, "Hello, Grandma."

"If you want to have dinner here, you are welcome to stay," Mrs. Wallace Sr.

said with a loving smile.

"Alright," Stanley agreed.

He then stepped forward and pushed Mrs. Wallace Sr. toward the dining room.

Nervous and uncomfortable, Tia bit her lip and continued preparing dinner for one more, knowing that Stanley would definitely stay.

After a while, Tia brought the food to the table, signaling that dinner was ready.

"Sit down and join us," Mrs. Wallace Sr. called out to Tia.

"Okay," Tia answered and sat down to have her dinner with Mrs. Wallace Sr.

and Stanley.

The atmosphere during dinner carried a strange tension. Tia kept her head down the entire time while Stanley would steal glances of her every now and again, while Mrs.

Wallace Sr. watched the two of them with a look of amusement and contentment.

Although no one spoke, it seemed like a thousand words had been exchanged.

"I'm done. Tia, keep Stanley company for me. I'm feeling a little tired, so I'm going to get some rest," Mrs. Wallace Sr. said, steering her wheelchair toward her room.

Tia began to feel even more awkward as she realized that Stanley was staying.

She quickly glanced over at him and lowered her head again, feeling very awkward in his presence.

Stanley could not help but sigh when he saw her reaction to him sticking around. "Am I that scary?"

"No." Tia shook her head, changing the topic. "Let's eat."

"I'm done eating," Stanley declared.

He had just finished, but Tia did not even dare to look at him. She had even asked him to continue eating, which amused him.

"Oh, I'm almost done too. Let me clean up," Tia stood up and began to tidy the table.

Stanley then asked, "Are you sure you're done eating?"

"Yeah," Tia replied.

However, as she lowered her head, she realized there was still plenty of food left on her plate. Unable to help the feeling of embarrassment she was feeling, she sat down again.

"I'm almost done," she added.

Stanley flashed her a smile of satisfaction as he watched her gobble her food down. Although she appeared to be eating with her head hanging low moments ago, she had not really been eating. Instead, she had been daydreaming the entire time.

Now that she had gotten a proper bite, he felt relieved. Everyone had to eat, and no one should go to bed on an empty stomach, least of all Tia.

After clearing her plate of her food in short order, Tia scrambled to clean the table.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2837-"Let me help you with that." Stanley stood up.

Stanley offering to help with clearing the table was something Tia did not see coming. She was so shocked that she almost dropped the plates she was holding.

"It's fine. I can do it myself," Tia declined, figuring that it would be inappropriate to let Stanley wash any of the dishes.

"Don't worry. I can help." Stanley said, holding the dirty cutleries and plates as he made his way to the kitchen.

Seeing that, Tia could only follow him from behind. "Just leave them there. I'll wash them."

Stanley, however, did not leave when he saw Tia rolling her sleeves up to wash the dishes. Instead, he simply stayed put and stared at her.

Naturally, his gaze made Tia feel uneasy, which in turn made her clumsy. Even the clattering of the dishes in the sink became louder as she inadvertently struck them against one another. Stanley, however, was nothing short of happy. He could not help but smile upon hearing the clinking of the dishes.

'If we ever get together in the future, will our home look just like this?' he wondered to himself.

"Are you done, Tia?" Stanley asked.

"Yeah, I-I am," Tia stuttered, overwhelmed with nerves now.

After putting the dishes back in place, Tia wiped her hands and said, "They're all done now."

"Come with me then." Stanley grabbed Tia's hand and led her to the yard.

"I-ls there something that matters?" Tia's face flushed, her voice lowering to a faint whisper.

Her heart was racing as she did not expect Stanley to grab her hand and hold it just like that.

After a brief stroll, Stanley stopped, but he did not let go of Tia's hand.

Instead, he lowered his gaze and looked at her earnestly. "I have something to tell you."

"What is it?" Tia asked without the courage to look him in the eye, feeling inexplicably nervous.

Taking a deep breath, Stanley's gaze softened into an affectionate stare, and without so much as a second of hesitation, he gently asked, "Would you like to be my girlfriend?"

"What?!" Tia raised her head in astonishment, looking at Stanley as her mind blanked out for a moment.

'What did he just say?! Did I mishear, or was it real?' she panicked.

"There's something I've been keeping to myself for a long time, and now, I feel that I must come clean and say it to you." Stanley held onto Tia's hand tightly, his gaze intense and solemn as he looked Tia in the eyes. "I like you."

Tia's mouth was wide open when she realized that she had in fact not misheard him. She was speechless and did not know how to respond. If anything, she felt as if she could not muster a single sound.

"I've liked you for a long time, but I thought you had someone else in your heart, so..." Stanley clarified, since he had already come this far in his confession.

Upon hearing Stanley's words, Tia immediately shook her head in denial. "No, there's no one else in my heart."

After she had told him the truth, a realization dawned upon her, and her cheeks turned even redder.

Stanley immediately hugged her when he saw her trying to explain herself even when she was anxious and shy. "I'm sorry. It's all my fault."

If he had not misunderstood her and jumped to the hasty conclusion that she had someone else in her heart, he would not have made her wait for so long.

Perhaps they could have been together much earlier.

"No, you didn't do anything wrong to me," Tia explained in a hurry, not understanding why Stanley would say that.

He had not done anything wrong, at least not to her.

"I'm really sorry. I was an idiot." He shook his head.

Standing up straight with his hands on Tia's shoulders, Stanley looked at her seriously. "It's my mistake. I thought you liked Martin, so I figured I would just stick around and look out for you in secret."

However, little did he realize that five years had passed, and yet there was still no progress between Tia and Martin.

Indeed, he had made a huge blunder assuming that Tia had her eyes on Martin.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2838

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2838-If he had just a little more courage, perhaps things would not have turned out this way. Fortunately, fate had been kind to him, making it so that Tia was not the one who got away.

"Martin and I..." Tia gritted her teeth, beginning to understand what Stanley was talking about. "There's nothing going on between us. I think he probably treated me well only because of Nicole."

She had never thought that Martin would like her, let alone consider the idea that Stanley might have a crush on her. However, over the years, she came to learn that Stanley would always be there to help and support her whenever she found herself in a rough spot. Perhaps that was how she gradually fell for him.

But due to their obvious differences in status, she had never dared to reveal her true feelings to herself. She believed that keeping them to herself was the best thing to do. However, that had only resulted in the both of them just silently looking out for each other, with neither of them having the courage to confess.

"Having said all that, are you finally going to be my girlfriend?" Stanley asked again, finally knowing how Tia actually felt.

Tia bit her lip and lowered her head shyly, remaining silent and unresponsive. It was not that she did not want to say yes, but she just could not utter a single word.

Noticing that, Stanley came up with an idea, in which he deliberately sighed and explained, "I don't have much time left. If I don't get a girlfriend soon, my parents will set me up with someone else. By then, I won't have the right to resist, no matter who that woman is and how compatible she is with me."

"You're going to get married?! Why the rush?" Tia immediately looked up in shock, her eyes wide and her forehead creased in worry.

Why is Mrs. Riddle in such a rush to find him a partner and get him hitched?

Does she not care about who the girl is or about Stanley's feelings for the matter?' Tia wondered.

"Perhaps they think I'll never be able to find a girlfriend on my own." Stanley shrugged, seemingly helpless and defeated.

"If you're not in a rush to get married now, I can be your girlfriend," Tia replied with a solemn look etched on her face. "That way, Mrs. Riddle won't get to force you to marry someone you don't like."

Stanley then smirked. "So, that's a yes?"

Tia blinked, and it was only then she realized that she had walked right into Stanley's trap. "You tricked me!"

Overjoyed, Stanley hugged Tia again and said, "1 didn't. Every word I said is true. You can ask my mom about it tomorrow if you still have your doubts."

Although he had tricked her into revealing her true feelings, everything he had stated was true. Besides, it would make no difference who he married should Tia not agree to be together with him. All he would feel was misery and unhappiness.

"But Mrs. Riddle has never been as strict and conservative as you paint her out to be. Why would she be in such a rush this time?" Tia was confused.

"None of that matters anymore. All that matters is that you're my girlfriend now,"

Stanley said, his eyes brimming with affection.

After having waited for so long, Stanley finally had one of his greatest wishes fulfilled. Perhaps Cherry was right in this regard – one must always fight for what they desire in life, and one should never leave regrets in their life.

The next day, the sun rose, brilliant and warm, scattering its rays into the bedrooms of the Riddles. After the family woke up, they gathered in the dining hall for breakfast.

While munching on a piece of toast, Gloria asked Stanley," Why did you have dinner at Mrs. Wallace Sr's last night?"

Everyone had been waiting for Stanley, but he never returned. It was not until someone asked that they discovered he was staying at Mrs. Wallace Sr.'s quarters for dinner, which came off to them as strange.

After a moment of hesitation, Stanley said, "The food over there looked really delicious, so I stuck around."

"Uncle Stanley, did you find the food in great-grandma's place appetizing because Tia made it?" Lana raised her head and asked.

Feeling a surge of embarrassment, Stanley shifted the subject with his brows raised and lips pursed. "Hurry up and have your breakfast. You're going to school soon."

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2839-Nicole could not help but feel that something was off with Stanley today. She was wondering if he had made any progress with Tia, who showed up as the thought crossed her mind.

Noticing footfalls in the living room, everyone stopped and looked back to see Tia approaching them.

"Have you eaten your breakfast?"

"Yes, thanks for asking. I'm here to pick the kids up," Tia replied.

"You're here early today, so I figured you might have skipped breakfast," Gloria said. "They're still eating, so you'll have to wait for a while longer. Come over and have a seat, please."

"Oh, alright," Tia responded, not knowing where to put herself.

Her relationship with Stanley had indeed changed overnight. Right now, she was plagued by feelings of uncertainty about how to best interact with the Riddle family moving forward, as neither she nor Stanley had informed others about the most recent development in their relationship.

"Stanley, it's been a while since you promised to tell me about your girlfriend,"

Gloria complained.

She was irked by the fact that Stanley had not kept his promise. To this day, Gloria had still not seen his so-called 'girlfriend'.

"Mom, I do have a girlfriend. Please just give me one more week. I'll surely bring her to you," Stanley pleaded.

"What are you even up to, getting all mysterious? Don't beat around the bush!"

Gloria warned.

"I won't, there's no point in doing that. You'll know when I bring her home,"

Stanley promised.

"Okay then. I'll grant you another week. But mark my words. You'll know the consequences of lying to me, young man," Gloria warned before she piped down and stopped pursuing any further.

Stanley eased up and glanced over at Tia's direction. He figured one more week was all he needed.

"We're done," Nolan and Lana announced, whereupon they exited the dining room and approached Tia.

After slinging their bags on their backs, the kids grabbed Tia's hand. "Let's go, Tia."

"Oh, yeah. Come on then," Tia said, leaving with the kids.

"I'm done as well," Stanley said, and hurried out of the dining hall.

"Hey, you didn't even eat much," Gloria shouted at Stanley, but he was long gone by then.

Nicole could only smile at the thought of Stanley running off to catch up with Tia.

"We're done too," Nicole informed upon noticing Jared was done eating his breakfast.

"Oh, you're moving as well?" Daniel asked.

"Yep, we're heading off to work," Nicole said and left.

The house instantly fell silent, causing Gloria to let out a sigh, "Just like that, they're all gone."

Daniel, however, began chuckling at how out-of-place her sadness was. "Aren't you going somewhere later?"

Gloria would be making her way to her brother's house later to help him out with something. Even if the kids were at home today, Gloria would not be.

"I'm just being sentimental. The kids will leave one day when they're all grown up," Gloria replied, shaking her head.

"If so, why don't you stop rushing Stanley into marriage?" Daniel teased.

Gloria was repulsed by the idea, and that was when she argued, "I didn't mean it like that. The kids will all eventually have their own families. We won't be with them forever."

"Hahaha," Daniel laughed. "You just tend to overthink when it comes to the kids."

"Who will take care of my children if I don't?" Gloria defended.

"Yeah, I get it." Daniel relented. 'Anyway, you better eat up. I'll send you to your brother's when you are done."

Remembering her schedule, Gloria continued her meal with Daniel right beside her.

Meanwhile, Nicole and Jared had already left home and were on the way to their workplaces.

All of a sudden, Nicole heard her phone ringing, and when she saw that Lulu was the one calling her, she answered," Hey, what's up?"

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2840-"Harvey is now awake but he's in horrible condition. Unfortunately, the worst case scenario just happened. Harvey has become a broken man," Lulu sighed.

Nicole had initially thought that she could be at ease once Harvey regained his consciousness. However, Harvey's current condition was anything but favorable.

If anything, she should have stayed unconscious.

"Is Thomas still in the hospital?" Nicole asked.

"He's still here, worried sick about Harvey," Lulu replied in defeat.

Nicole paused and thought for a moment, after which she ordered, "You should go ahead with your work at Ellison Group. Give him a few more days to process the reality around him and get his act together."

"Alright," Lulu agreed, knowing that it would be a waste of time for them to expect anything from Harvey at the moment.

As she hung up, Nicole frowned in frustration. 'Was the blow too strong for Harvey to handle?' "Do you think Harvey will recover?" Jared asked, his gaze conveying a hint of coldness.

Nicole shook her head in response. "I'm not sure about that. Well just have to keep an eye on the situation for a little longer. Right now, there is just no other way."

Regardless of whether the situation improved or not, Nicole had no choice but to accept that the recent turn of events was beyond her control. All she could do was wait.

Holding Nicole's hands, Jared assured her, "Don't worry.

Just focus on your work."

Harvey deserved everything that had happened to him, as the hell he was in was one of his own making. Even if they intended to let him off the hook,

Harvey would still have refused to let anything slide. There was nothing they could have done to influence his decision and his mindset.

Understanding what Jared was trying to say, Nicole nodded. "I get it."

Upon arriving at Riddle Corporation, Nicole got out of the car and strode into the building.

Jared then turned to Max and ordered, "Let's head to work."

"Yes," Max replied.

He then ignited the engine and asked, "Mr. Johnston, there's news about the organization, Eastern Falcon. It's said that they've been trying to contact Lawrence as of late. Do you think they'll join forces?"

"What about Damien?" Jared asked. 'Why would Eastern Falcon contact Lawrence?' "He went to breakfast as usual. I think it's because the person he's waiting for has not shown up," Max answered.

As expected, the Eastern Falcon had gotten back into action once Jared's men had loosened their watch on them.

However, it was strange that the Eastern Falcon was more eager to contact Lawrence rather than Damien. As of now, Jared's allies were still uncertain of the organization's motives. There was also the possibility that they wanted to team up in order to get something from Lawrence.

As for Damien, he had been rather quiet lately, not unlike his usual self. He had been visiting the same cafe, waiting for more information every day. However, members of Eastern Falcon had established zero contact with him for the past two days.

Sensing something off, Jared calmly ordered, "You should still keep your eyes on them."

Jared figured a problem would surely occur since they had become active once again.

"Yes," Max replied. "On a side note, Zane seems to have found some leads, but the veracity has yet to be confirmed."

"Understood." Jared sneered, deciding they would strike once the leads were confirmed.

Meanwhile, Nicole was on a phone call with Patricia.

"So, you're saying Max is in charge of watching over Damien now?" Nicole asked, puzzled by the sudden change, as Patricia had always been the one assigned to do it.

"Yes. Max said I would get distracted, what with all the mounting workloads."

He's afraid that it'd affect the mission.

From now on, they'll be reporting directly to Mr. Johnston for any follow-ups,"

Patricia explained.

"Oh, I see," Nicole nodded in understanding of the situation." In that case, you could stay at BayCorp and relax."

Jared seemed to have considered every possible shift in circumstances when he made his arrangements. If Patricia were together with Ellar, she might be exempt from being deployed in special missions that were more dangerous. In fact, she might even be assigned to stay in BayCorp in the long run.

Chuckling, Nicole felt a surge of warmth at how careful and thoughtful Jared was. She knew Jared did not care about any of these things, but he had gone out of his way to be more meticulous in his planning because of her.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2841-After hanging up, Nicole looked around her office with a sense of longing in her eyes. With Lulu's and Patricia gone, she felt rather lonely in this place. However, if Patricia's absence meant that she could find her happiness in BayCorp, Nicole would be more than happy to let her go. As for Lulu, she should be returning soon.

She also believed that Harvey would not remain in the state he was in forever, although he would be broken and depressed for a while.

Meanwhile, Thomas was sighing in despair as he stared at a catatonic Harvey in the ward. He had imagined all possible scenarios that would unfold following the end of the feud between Harvey and Nicole, but what he failed to anticipate was that the blow would be too strong for Harvey to stomach.

"Mr. Ellison? Will your grandson remain this way?" his assistant asked in concern.

"I hope he'll be back on his feet soon," Thomas replied, overwhelmed by a sense of helplessness in this situation.

He had hired some of the best psychologists and psychiatrists in the country to help his grandson, but to no avail. At this rate, Harvey could only depend on himself; if he could not pull, and was unwilling to pull himself together, there was nothing anyone could do to help him.

"We can afford to wait for his recovery, but the company cannot. What are we going to do?" his assistant asked in concern.

At present, Nicole was already at the helm overseeing the company, and if, God forbid, she decided to crush Ellison Group, they would be left with nothing, since Harvey was no longer present to take control of the situation.

"Don't worry. Nothing of that sort will happen," Thomas defended Nicole.

Then, he glanced over at the assistant and added, "You should be thankful that Nicole is still willing to help us manage the company."

Without Nicole's help, Ellison Group might already be in ruins. However, Harvey's assistant was left baffled by Thomas' faith in Nicole, though he was more than willing to quit doubting her. As he stared at Harvey, he realized that all he could do was pray for a speedy recovery for his employer.

"You may leave now," Thomas ordered.

To that, the assistant agreed, his face pale and scrunched up with worry. "Yes sir."

Once the assistant had exited the ward, Thomas turned to Harvey and addressed him. "Are you going to remain in your current state of self-pity and not care about anything?"

Harvey's head hung low, and he remained speechless and unresponsive.

"I'll hand Nicole the company for now. If you're going to stay pathetic, you won't be getting the company back," Thomas declared, as none of his attempts at advising Harvey had gotten through to him.

However, even with such strong words being used, Harvey remained in the same old, soulless position he was in. No matter what Thomas did, he just would not budge.

"Do you really care about anything at all?! Are you going to waste your entire life like this?" Thomas raised his voice, almost screaming in Harvey's face.

Harvey appeared to be shocked for a moment. His eyes were glossy and lifeless as slowly lifted his head to look at Thomas. Then, he gradually laid his head down again without so much as a change to the blank, expressionless look on his face.

As expected, Thomas was left heartbroken upon witnessing the state his grandson was in. He clutched his chest in pain, unable to bear the agony of seeing Harvey the way he was. Trembling and shuddering, he took a pill from his pocket and swallowed it.

He felt marginally better after he had sat down to calm himself. Then, he looked at Harvey, who remained unresponsive, wondering if he would stay like that forever.

A sigh escaped Thomas' lips again, and tears soon welled up in his eyes. He was worried that Harvey would be consigned to his present state of catatonia forever.

As the sun set in the west, Dexter and Emma invited everyone to the Riddle family manor where Benjamin, prompting everyone in the family to gather there once it was evening.

It had been a long time since the Riddle family manor had a great number of visitors, so the house returned to life once more.

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MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2842-There were so many family members present that there was not even enough space for everyone on the couch to sit on. Meanwhile, Nolan and Lana were clamoring to play outside, forcing Lulu and June to take them to the courtyard, with Samuel and Spencer following them.

As Sally was pregnant, Steve was worried that she might experience bouts of exhaustion, so he got her to relax and reserved the most spacious seat for her.

Sally then sat down, holding hands with Jane.

"Ah, would you just look at how sweet the couples are and how close the siblings are? It's truly a sight for sore eyes. I just hope that Emery's and Ellar's families will be the same when they get married." Emma sighed.

"Don't worry. It will," Gloria assured.

"Hey, Aunt Emma. Why aren't Emery and Ellar here?" Sean asked.

"Emery's girlfriend has an assignment abroad, so Emery has flown off to accompany her. As for Ellar, he is on a business trip and hasn't returned yet."

"Oh, I see." Sean nodded, having asked the question at random.

Everyone knew Emery's girlfriend was a flight attendant, so Emery would not be able to get her to come if she had to work.

"Hey, Aunt Emma, is it true that Emery is preparing for the wedding?" Steve asked.

Emma smiled. "Yes, and that's the reason why I've called everyone here."

After she had spoken, Emma glanced over at Dexter, who turned to look at Benjamin. "Dad? This is the good news I mentioned."

"Right! That is indeed good news." Mr. Riddle Sr. smiled.

"Dexter? Emma? Congratulations to the both of you!" Karen said.

Although she was feeling a little bitter and resentful, she knew she had to be cordial and friendly to them. Watching the children of Daniel's and Dexter's families all settle down had made her very anxious for Preston, as her son had made no progress in the relationship department.

"Come on, Aunt Emma. Give me a break." Preston's voice blared out, causing everyone to turn and stare at the entrance.

"Why are you here? I thought you wouldn't show up!" Karen complained the instant she saw Preston.

Hearing that, Preston proceeded to explain, "There was a sudden problem at the company, so I got a little occupied."

"Good evening, Grandpa," Preston greeted as he approached his grandfather who was seated at the living hall.

After shooting Preston a glance, Benjamin declared, "Now that everyone is here, let's have dinner."

"Alright. Time to eat." Dillion stepped forward to help his father up.

"I'll go and call the others," Jane said, heading out to inform Lulu and the others that dinner had already started.

Soon, the entire family sat down for dinner. It was a rare occasion, and everyone was in a good mood, chatting and laughing while enjoying their dinner.

Nicole was well aware of how delicate the situation was, so she did not participate in any family discussions that might be controversial, such as Emery's engagement to his girlfriend, Ellar's business trip, and Stanley's love life.

Stanley had also shown up on his own without bringing Tia with him. Nicole had no idea what Stanley was up to, but she believed that he must have his own reasons for not bringing Tia here with him today. She believed he would never allow himself to subject Tia to any feelings of anxiety and discomfort. Behind his act of not taking Tia here today and explaining the truth of his relationship with her was a solid reason Nicole would soon come to learn.

"What are you thinking about?" Jared gently asked Nicole.

Nicole raised her head and smiled at Jared. "Nothing, I just feel that it's rare to have such moments of peace."

Whenever she returned here in the past, there would always be grievances and problems to be addressed, making everyone dread the idea of even coming here. Today, however, she could finally engage in casual conversation with her family without any complications.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2843-Jared gently caressed Nicole's hair. Although moments of joy and peace like these made her content, he knew that all of the happiness the Riddle family enjoyed was only possible because of her. Having been through the trenches, she had endured and suffered her fair share of misfortune to make all of this happen. Thankfully, she had gotten what she wanted.

After dinner was over, Benjamin called Sean and Nicole over to the study.

"Grandpa?" Sean asked with some confusion, "Why did you call us here? Is there something going on?"

After casting a glance at Nicole, Benjamin turned his gaze to Sean and nodded.

"Yes"

Although she was surprised, Nicole had a vague feeling about what her grandfather was going to discuss. A faint smile crossed her face there and then.

"Grandpa, are you planning to announce this only to the two of us?" Nicole playfully teased.

With a defeated smile, Benjamin replied, "You guessed it."

"Clearly." Nicole grinned.

It was rather obvious, so Nicole had no problem guessing what this was all about. Benjamin had only called them both in, which meant that Benjamin had likely called them in to discuss who the successor of Riddle Corporation was going to be. Benjamin was likely to favor Sean now, or so Nicole hoped.

Sean darted his eyes at Nicole, then back at Benjamin, understanding what was about to unfold.

"Have you made a decision, Grandpa?" Sean inquired.

Seeing that the both of them understood why he had brought them here, Benjamin prefaced the discussion by saying, "I called you here to hear your opinions."

"I have no objections, of course." Nicole said openly.

From the very beginning itself, she had decided that it would be best for everyone involved for Sean to inherit Riddle Corporation and become the head of the family. After contemplating for a moment, Sean solemnly responded, "I have no objections either."

Everyone had initially hoped that Nicole would be chosen to be the successor.

However, she had made her choice to relinquish all claims to the position, and as her family, they naturally respected and supported her decision. If she truly did not want to take on this massive responsibility, Sean was willing to do it for her.

"Sean, the burden of managing the Riddle family rests on your shoulders now."

Nicole smiled. "Allow me to thank you for your hard work, Sean."

In Nicole's opinion, Sean was the most suitable and promising member of the Riddles to inherit the fortunes of the family, as she had no intention of doing so herself.

"Now that it's been decided, I'll make the announcement in a bit. It's great that everyone is here," Benjamin concluded.

Benjamin initially favored Nicole, though he had not overlooked how capable, brilliant, and responsible Sean was. However, since the two of his most promising grandchildren had decided to have Sean take the mantle of the head of the family, he respected their choices.

"Alright." Nicole agreed.

Since they were all here, there was no better time to make the announcement other than now. After all, this matter had been put on hold for the longest time, so it would be in everyone's best interest to settle it right this instant.

After a while, the three of them emerged from the study. Everyone in the living room was already subdued when Nicole, Benjamin, and Sean were in there, but when they came out, the room became dead silent.

Everyone looked at them, each harboring their thoughts and guesses. They were wondering what could have happened to prompt Benjamin to call Sean and Nicole into the study for a private discussion.

"There's something I would like to announce," Mr. Riddle Sr. said, sensing everyone's curiosity. "I've decided that Sean will be the successor of our family."

"What?!" everyone exclaimed in surprise, finding the news somewhat abrupt and shocking.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2844-"Dad, don't you think it's still a little too early to appoint a successor?" Daniel advised. "I mean, you can still decide on it a few years later."

Hearing that, Karen stepped in and echoed, "Daniel is right. There's no need to rush into this, Dad."

However, Benjamin, who was not keen on being persuaded, waved his hand and insisted, "I'm old now. Can't you let your old man enjoy a peaceful retirement? Anyway, it is set. Sean will be the one making all the decisions regarding the family business in the future."

Seeing that Benjamin had already made his mind, everyone relented, though not without hesitation.

"Daniel, Dad doesn't want to manage the family affairs anymore. He just wants to enjoy his retirement. Personally, I think it's fine for him to decide who to appoint and announce it now," Dexter butted in.

After all, they would just be delaying the inevitable if they stalled the announcement for a few more years, so it was ideal to just let Benjamin pass the torch to someone else and enjoy his peace of mind.

"You're right. Dexter. Let's just go along with Dad's arrangement," Dillion concurred.

Benjamin was already dead set on what he wanted from the very beginning.

The announcement he just made was a statement, not a call for discussion. In addition, Nicole was around, and because she had agreed to let Sean take on the role of the head of the Riddle family, his decision was final.

At the end of the day, Nicole and Sean were the only ones called into the study to discuss this matter, indicating that he would not listen to be

persuaded to listen to anyone else. Thus, everyone would have no choice but to accept his pick.

"Well, it is decided, then," Benjamin concluded. "If there's nothing else, you may all go home now."

"Okay," everyone responded.

But after everyone had left, Karen pulled Preston aside.

"Mom, is everything okay?" Preston asked.

Feigning anger and dismay, Karen chided, "You've been busy all day. Am I not allowed to talk to you for a while when I see you?"

"Well, you sure can," Preston agreed and stayed back.

After making sure there was nobody else left in the room, Preston asked, "What's going on, Mom?"

Preston knew Karen would not have made him stick around if she had nothing important to say. Though she had told him that all she wanted was a chat, it was just an excuse. In truth, Karen had been talking to him ever since dinner had ended.

Karen then glanced over at the direction of the stairs, and once she was certain that there was nobody within earshot of what she was about to say, she whispered, "Your grandfather just announced that Sean will inherit the fortunes of the Riddle family. Why didn't you say anything?"

"I have no problem with that. What do you want me to say?" Preston replied, his brows raised in puzzlement.

"Oh my gosh." Karen sighed, looking at Preston in frustration. "You don't get it, do you? The Riddle family has a ton of assets. Why is Sean the only one who gets to receive all of them?"

Hearing that, Preston frowned. "Duh? It has always been this way. There will only ever be one heir, and that's not going to change."

Even before this, there was only one heir. The only difference was that every branch of the family used to be united as one. However, all of that changed when Nicole proposed the separation of families, allowing Daniel, Damien,

Dillion, and Dexter to manage their own individual companies which were once a part of the greater Riddle Corporation. As of now, Benjamin was the only person with ownership over the family manor.

"I mean, why not? You are one of his grandchildren," Karen argued.

A serious look crossed Preston at an instant, and he warned, "Mom, please don't say things like that in the future. My ambitions lie elsewhere. Besides, Sean can do a better job than me."

"Gosh, you're really trying to piss me off, aren't you?" Karen nagged, unhappy with what she saw as Preston's lack of grit, ambition, and fighting spirit.

"Mom, I think life's fine as it is now. Have you forgotten what happened to Snow and Raine? Have you not learned your lesson?" Preston reminded her as his frown became even more prominent.

"1-1." Karen suddenly choked up, her face turning pale.

"Preston is right," Dillion's voice resounded.

Taken aback, Karen asked, "Why did you come down here?"

She looked up at the banister near the flight of stairs, anxious and scared.

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MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2845-"Oh, so now you're scared?" Dillion remarked, his expression brimming with disdain.

He was displeased at how Karen was so stupid and stubborn that she refused to even own up to her mistakes in the past.

Karen's face blanched, becoming as pale as a sheet. It was evident that she was afraid of someone overhearing their conversation. Deep down, however, she was simply unhappy with Benjamin's decision.

"Don't you dare mention this anymore. I've said this before and I'll say it again. If you've had enough of the comforts of this place, you can leave."

And after pausing for a moment, Dillion warned, "Don't get me in trouble."

He had truly accepted the situation for what it was now. His only hope was for Preston to have a comfortable life free of worries. In his view, fighting for more out of nothing but unbridled greed was an exercise in pointlessness, so there was no need for him to invite more trouble to himself.

"Mom, if you really don't want to stay here, I can find a place for you. I can't and won't promise the things you want out of me, though. Please don't think about it anymore." Preston advised.

Karen gritted her teeth in frustration, and she glanced over at Dillion, who remained silent.

Left with no other option, she relented. "Fine. I'll stay."

Karen felt that it would be better for her to stick around in the confines of the mansion with all of its comforts. Even if Preston was willing to get a house for her, she did not wish to live alone.

"Since you've decided to stay, you better behave yourself from here on out,"

Dillion warned once again, believing that Karen just could not seem to learn from her mistakes.

"Listen Mom and Dad. It's getting late. You should get some sleep. I'm leaving,"

Preston informed before breathing a sigh of relief.

The harmony and unity the family currently enjoyed was hard -earned after years of senseless infighting and feuds, so he hoped it would remain this way for many more years to come.

Still dissatisfied, Karen issued a sigh as she watched Preston disappear from view. "Why cant Preston be more like us?"

To Karen, their fate today would have been different had Preston taken after even a modicum of their ambitious nature.

"Hell, I'm glad he's not like us," Dillion snorted. "If he were anything like us, we probably wouldn't even have a place to shelter from the wind and rain."

If it were not for Nicole, they would not even have the chance to envision a life free from having to think about when their next meal would be. The point was,

Benjamin had forgiven them and kept them around only because Nicole had decided to be kind to them. Had Nicole been even a little less forgiving, Benjamin would not have even bothered to consider taking them in.

Besides, they knew that Nicole had convinced Benjamin to let them stay in large part due to the cordial relationship she shared with Preston, whom she was still on good terms with until this day.

After having stayed in the Riddle family manor for such a long time, many things had become clear to Dillion, and he did not ever wish to repeat the same mistakes again.

And though Karen's face was paler than it had ever been, she finally decided that there was no winning this and dropped her nonsense.

As soon as Preston had left the Riddle family manor, and gotten into his car, his assistant asked, "What took you so long, Mr. Riddle? Is everything okay?"

Everyone else had already left by then, causing him to worry that something had happened.

'Nothing's going on," Preston said indifferently.

Although Karen had a penchant for being out of line, Dillion would still look after her. Therefore, his mother's recklessness and idiocy should not be a problem.

Still, Preston sincerely hoped that his mother would learn to accept things for what they were sooner than later. Their life now was the best case scenario for them, one they would do well to appreciate considering everything they had done in the past. For that, Preston was grateful.

The assistant then glanced over at Preston, and when he saw that he was in a rather bad mood, he dropped the subject and drove them away.

Meanwhile, Daniel's family had all returned to their homes. While Samuel and Spencer had opted to stick around in the Riddle residence for a bit, Sean and Steve had returned to their own homes with their respective families.

In the living room, everyone was seated in the living area, wearing conflicted looks on their faces.

"Come on, Mom and Dad. This is good news. Why do you not seem very supportive of Grandpa's decision?" Samuel asked in confusion, looking at Gloria and Daniel.

"It's not that. It's just that we feel it might be a bit too early for Sean to take charge of the Riddle family."

"Either way, it's going to happen sooner or later. It's just that the announcement came a little earlier than you're comfortable with. You must also consider that Grandpa wants to retire now." Samuel advised.

At the end of the day, Benjamin had made his stance clear, and there was no changing it.

Worried, Gloria turned to Nicole and asked, "Is there really nothing else we can do?"

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2846-Nicole smirked, "Mom, there's really nothing for you to worry about. Grandpa had decided to announce it today just because everyone was present."

"Oh, that's good," Gloria said, not feeling as tensed up now. " My only problem lies in the fact that it was just so sudden. I think I just need some time to process this information."

"I too did not expect that Grandpa would appoint his successor today, but since he has already done it, we'll just follow through with his wishes. Sean is on board too," Nicole explained, telling her parents why she and Sean were in agreement with Benjamin's ruling.

"Alright then. It's settled." Daniel nodded.

They were in no position to change anything, and the idea of Sean inheriting the vast fortunes of the Riddle family was not something they should frown at either.

"I have a question. When we were leaving, why did Karen make Preston stay?"

Lulu frowned and asked.

"We all know what she's thinking about. Let's just not entertain any of her crap.

Don't worry about it. Dillion and Preston won't join in on her madness," June chimed in, her lips pursed in annoyance.

"Oh, so you're saying that..." Lulu's eyes widened as a sudden realization dawned upon her.

Then, she gritted her teeth and asked, "Is she never going to repent for her actions? I mean, come on. Has she not learned her lesson?"

It seemed that Karen had failed to understand why she ought to back down and live the rest of her life in peace, even after all the suffering she had experienced when she was out there living in the streets.

"It's okay, she won't be able to do anything. All she can do is think about it,"

Nicole calmly replied.

"That's true. She won't ever make it anywhere by herself," Lulu agreed.

Even if Karen was unhappy with Benjamin's decision, there was nothing she could do to change his mind or turn the situation around.

"It's getting late. Let's all get some sleep." Nicole looked at Nolan and Lana, who were already swaying back and forth drowsily in Jared's arms.

"Okay." Everyone nodded, having noticed that Nolan and Lana were exhausted.

Soon, everyone returned to their respective rooms, and after Nicole and Jared had tucked the little ones in, they did the same as well.

"You must be tired, huh?" Jared asked upon noticing that Nicole was feeling a little weary.

"It's okay," Nicole softly muttered, her eyes already trained on the bed.

She was indeed ready for a good sleep. Seeing that her attention was already on the bed, Jared smiled and led Nicole toward it.

After placing her down and tucking her in, Jared gently kissed her in the forehead and said, "Sleep well."

Nicole chuckled and reached out to hug Jared, after which she planted a gentle kiss on his lips. "Goodnight."

Following an affectionate rub on her head, Jared embraced her. "Goodnight."

Nicole cuddled up to Jared and fell asleep soon after, looking nothing short of happy in his embrace.

Then, Jared watched her as he gently stroked her face, his eyes brimming with love and affection for her.

Time passed in the blink of an eye, and before they knew it, two days had passed. On the third day, Nicole came to Riddle Corporation as usual.

"Mr. Ellison!?" Nicole called out, surprised to see Thomas." Why are you here?"

"I came because I'd like to ask for your help." Thomas sighed.

Nicole narrowed her eyes upon hearing that. "Is it about Harvey?"

Thomas hesitated for a moment as he looked at Nicole." Can we talk about it in private?"

"Sure, come on in," Nicole said, leading Thomas into the office.

After they had both taken a seat, the secretary came in with two cups of coffee.

"Mr. Ellison? I must tell you that I probably won't be able to help you with anything," Nicole candidly stated, knowing what Thomas's intentions were.

"I know. It's just that I can't think of anyone else who can do it other than you,"

Thomas sighed. "Harvey hasn't shown any signs of improvement for the past few days. I'm genuinely worried that he'll keep deteriorating if he keeps this up."

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2847-"How are you so sure that I can motivate him?" Nicole asked in frustration, thinking that anything she said would not get through to Harvey.

In fact, she must be the last person Harvey wanted to see right now.

Understanding what Nicole's doubts were, Thomas explained, "But you might be the turning point."

Nicole was quite certain that Harvey would hate her. If that was the case, however, Harvey would never have allowed himself to become a broken shell of himself. If anything, he would be reluctant to accept defeat. Because of this, Thomas believed that Nicole was the only one who could bring Harvey back to who he used to be. There was just no other way around it, and he would take that shot, regardless of how slim their chances were at succeeding.

Nicole looked at Thomas and hesitated. She did not have the heart to decline his request outright. She genuinely did not care about Harvey, but the same could not be said for Thomas.

After considering it for a moment, she agreed, "Alright then. I'll pay him a visit today after I'm done with my work."

Overcome with gratitude and relief, Thomas nodded. "Thank you so much in advance."

"Don't thank me yet. I'm not sure if this will work," Nicole said.

She had her share of doubts about Thomas' plan, but at this rate, she had no choice but to give it a shot.

"Regardless of what the outcome is, I must still thank you," Thomas replied. "I know I'm making things difficult for you, but I'm thankful that you're willing to help me out. No matter what happens, you've got a million thanks from me."

Thomas understood that Nicole had agreed to do this only because she cared about him. She would likely turn a blind eye to Harvey if it was not for her consideration of Thomas.

Nicole sighed after Thomas had left. She then grabbed the file and brought it to the table, struggling to believe that Harvey was actually so fragile and spoiled.

'Forget it. I'm helping myself by helping Thomas anyway.

Ellison Group is not an average run-of-the-mill company. I really don't want to be in charge of it. I'll just get Harvey to shoulder the responsibility instead,' she thought.

Soon, the end of the workday arrived, and Lulu came marching into Nicole's office.

"Why did you insist on me coming back?" Lulu asked, serious and anxious when she entered the room.

Nicole would not have called her over if there were no important developments on her end, so Lulu figured that something might have happened.

In response, Nicole looked at Lulu and said, "Come with me to the hospital."

"The hospital?" Lulu asked, frowning.

Then, her eyes widened in surprise. "Are you going to visit Harvey?"

Lulu figured that Harvey must be the reason for Nicole's sudden decision to pay the hospital a visit at this time, as there was no one else she could think of who was currently admitted for an injury or condition of any sort.

"Yes, Thomas came over for a chat today," Nicole confirmed.

Lulu instantly nodded her head in understanding. "And you agreed to his request."

"He personally came over to beg me for help, so how could I possibly decline him?" Nicole answered and paused for a moment. "On the bright side, it'll be good news for us too if Harvey returns to normal."

"You're right. We should let Harvey handle his own company." Lulu nodded.

Although Thomas had ceded control of Ellison Group to Nicole for now, it was a move made to prevent Harvey from wreaking havoc rather than a direct handover of the company to her.

"Come on then," Nicole stood up and walked out of the office with Lulu.

"Ms. Riddle?" Patricia greeted, already holding the door and standing in wait for them.

Lulu then smiled at Patricia, and asked, "Are you coming with us?"

"Yes," Patricia replied without any further explanation.

She was tagging along for the sake of Nicole safety, and her task today was to ensure that nobody would get to harm Nicole. She was not only there to protect Nicole from Harvey but also from those operating in the shadows as well.

After they had gotten into the car, Patricia ignited the engine and drove them to the hospital.

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MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2848-Lulu chatted all the way to the hospital, reaching a point where she asked Patricia, "So how's Ellar?"

"He's better now, but he has not fully recovered. That was why he did not dare to return to the Riddle family manor last night," Patricia explained.

"Oh well, everyone thought he was abroad, so no one bothered to ask for the specifics," Lulu added and paused." Wait, is he coming back to attend Emery's wedding? I mean, it is around the corner."

Patricia frowned, uncertain of what Ellar's decision would be. Emery's wedding was about a week away, and as one of Emery's closest family members, Ellar should be there for the occasion. No matter how busy he was, he should never miss his brother's wedding. It would be difficult to explain Ellar's absence if he did.

'Patricia, please keep a close eye on him from here on out. Even if he can't fully recover in time, he must still attend the wedding. In the event that he's exposed, just tell everyone he sustained a minor injury during an accident while he was abroad," Nicole instructed Patricia.

"Yes, I understand," Patricia replied, realizing there was no other option at this point.

After a while, the car pulled over at the entrance of the hospital, whereupon the trio got out of the car.

"Hey Lulu. I think you should get some fruits," Nicole reminded.

"What? Do I have to buy him something?" Lulu protested with reluctance written all over her face.

Nicole chuckled. "You can't visit a patient empty-handed. That would just be inappropriate."

"Well, if this was someone else, sure, we can't visit empty- handed, but this is Harvey we're talking about here," Lulu argued, not wanting to waste a dime on him.

"Come on. Just get on with it," Nicole reassured Lulu with a pat on her shoulder.

Although Lulu remained unwilling, she still did what Nicole asked her to do. After a while, she returned with a basket of fruits, and the group entered the hospital, arriving at the ward shortly.

"Mr. Ellison?" they greeted Thomas.

"I see everyone is here." Thomas nodded with relief as if he could now see a sliver of hope.

After placing the basket of fruits down, Lulu glanced over at Harvey. She was frowning but she did not have anything to say to him.

Meanwhile, Nicole approached the bedside, looking at the dejected Harvey before issuing a sigh. "Do you plan to spend the rest of your days on this hospital bed?"

Hearing Nicole's voice, Harvey slowly raised his head in dismay. "Are you here to mock me?"

"So what if I say yes?" Nicole admitted.

"Why you!" Harvey's face turned purple with rage.

He gritted his teeth, and then, in a tone indicative of helplessness and defeat, he replied, "Well, you're right. The only thing I'm worthy of now is mockery."

To Harvey, they lived a "winner-takes-all" sort of world, and now, he felt that he was set up to be a loser from the very beginning.

Nicole narrowed her eyes, and that was when she turned to the others and said, "You guys may leave for now."

"Nicole?" Lulu shook her head, disagreeing with her approach.

"Don't worry. I'll be fine," Nicole nodded confidently.

No matter if today's talk went well or not, Nicole was confident that Harvey wouldn't hurt her. Even if he attempted to, she knew she could defend herself.

Plus, if needed, Patricia could step in to help restrain Harvey, giving them the upper hand.

"Call me if you need anything, Ms. Riddle," Patricia reminded Nicole before leaving.

Thomas and Lulu followed suit, but the latter was still looking back at Nicole with worry written all over her face. In turn, Nicole flashed her a slight smile, indicating that she would be fine.

Once everyone had left, Nicole turned her gaze to Harvey.

"Initially, I didn't even want to give a damn about you. But then, your grandfather came to me for help because he doesn't want to see you in this state," Nicole cut to the chase.

"For better or worse, my business has nothing to do with him," Harvey said, believing that his grandfather did not truly care about him.

If Thomas did, Harvey would not have been left in this miserable state right now.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2849-"I thought so too. But your grandfather told me he had to try. Otherwise, the entirety of Ellison Group will be mine," Nicole said.

Then, she smirked and continued, The only price I have to pay is that I'll have to take care of him until the very end of his life."

"Don't you even dare think about it!" Harvey roared, instantly overcome with rage.

In response, Nicole shrugged her shoulders. "Oh, what are you going to do about it?"

"1 won't let you do whatever the hell you want, and I sure as hell won't let you have your way!" Harvey bellowed.

"How are you going to do that? You're going to fight back while lying on the hospital bed?" Nicole feigned surprise and gave Harvey a mocking stare.

She was not threatened by Harvey at all.

"Nicole!" Harvey suddenly got up from the bed and stared her down with a murderous glare.

With a slight smile, Nicole sized Harvey up before nodding in approval. "Not bad. I see you can actually stand up now. I thought you were planning to lie down like a vegetable for the rest of your life."

After a slight delay, Harvey raised his brow in complete puzzlement.

Then, his expression changed, and he gritted his teeth." Nicole, you're plotting against me again!?"

"Don't get so worked up," Nicole said, taking on a much more serious tone now.

"Mr. Ellison really did make an effort for you. I may not have the right to interfere in the affairs of your family or comment about everything that has happened in the previous generation. However, you should know that he has always loved and cared for you, even though he did mess up in the past.

If it weren't for Thomas going out of his way to give his grandson a better life, Harvey would not have accomplished what he had thus far with relative ease.

Nicole's words left Harvey speechless there and then. In fact, he was aware of these things himself. Though he felt that it was Thomas' way of atoning for the sins of his past, he still felt that he deserved every single favor that Thomas owed him.

After a moment of contemplation, Harvey bit his tongue and said, "That is none of your business."

Nicole shrugged, indifferent to what Harvey just said. "I know, and that's why I don't want to get involved."

Then, she looked at him calmly and continued, "But please remember, although Ellison Group is still under your name, you have signed an agreement with me.

If you can't manage the company properly, I will have to consider other options."

"Don't you dare!" Harvey threatened through gritted teeth.

"I'm not your grandfather, Harvey." Nicole sneered, knowing he could go ahead and test her.

After saying that, Nicole left the ward in long strides. She had said everything she needed to say and done what needed to be done. What happened next would depend on the choices Harvey would make.

Of course, if Harvey ended up becoming a disappointment again, she would have to seriously consider other options. After all, she could not just sit and watch as Ellison Group crumbled into ruins.

Speechless, Harvey could only open his mouth without saying a word as she watched her recede from view. After a minute or two, Thomas entered the room.

"Are you okay?" Thomas came up to Harvey's side and looked at him.

A conflicted expression manifested on Harvey's face when he saw how caring his grandfather looked, after which he snorted and laid back down on the bed.

Thomas' eyes carried a hint of amusement as he raised his brows. It seemed to him that Harvey should be fine now.

"Well, I'll let you get some rest, then," Thomas said and left, knowing that Harvey needed some time and space to reflect.

"He should be okay now." Thomas flashed Nicole a smile, overcome with gratitude. "I really have to thank you this time."

Nicole returned the smile and shook her head. "No need to thank me. Now that we've done what we came here to do, we'll be leaving."

"Alright, have a safe trip back," Thomas nodded. "I'm going home too."

"Why?" Lulu asked in confusion.

Lulu thought Thomas was supposed to stay and watch over Harvey, so she was puzzled by the idea that he was going home too.

"He'll have a quicker recovery in my absence," Thomas explained.

If he stayed, Harvey might still behave in an awkward manner for a few more days.

"Oh." Lulu nodded in understanding.

With all that was said and done, she was not interested in their affairs. She could care less as long as everything was fine.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2850-Nicole left the hospital with Lulu and Patricia after Thomas was gone.

"Oh yeah! I can't wait till Harvey is back in charge of Ellison Group. I can finally return to you guys in Riddle Corporation!" Lulu exclaimed, feeling a sense of relief.

Nicole could not help but chuckle at how happy Lulu was." For all your troubles, I'll treat you to lunch later."

"What do you think about Fish and Chips?" Lulu instantly asked, her eyes lit up in anticipation.

"I don't see why that is a problem," Nicole said, rolling her eyes. "Shall we call June over so that she can join us?"

"Sure," Lulu replied, before giving June a call and telling her to meet at their usual spot.

Meanwhile, Harvey's assistant had come into the ward after everyone was gone. "Are you alright, Mr. Ellison?"

Narrowing his eyes, Harvey ordered, "Get me discharged."

"Yes, sir," his assistant agreed.

"Get all of your preparations done. We're going back to the company tomorrow,"

Harvey declared, determined and resolute.

Shocked by his recovery, his assistant asked, "Are you going back to the company for real?"

"Why? Is that a problem?" Harvey retorted with displeasure.

"Why not at all! We can definitely do that," his assistant exclaimed, enthusiastic as ever because everyone in the company would be delighted to hear about the fact that Harvey was now back in action.

Impatient, Harvey glanced over at his assistant. "Aren't you going to start now?"

"Yes, I'll make the preparations now," his assistant replied and hurried off.

Now alone, Harvey gazed out of the window and thought, 'I won't let Nicole benefit from this. She is currently overseeing Ellison Group, but I believe I'll be able to find a way to regain control of the company.' With a bright fire of determination kindling in his eyes, Harvey continued, 'I won't give you the chance to mock me again, Nicole. Don't you even dream about taking Ellison Group over.' Meanwhile, Nicole and the others had already arrived at the restaurant, where the dining hall was filled with the distinct and delicious aroma of their famous Fish and Chips dish wafting from the fryer.

"Oh, nothing beats the taste of fish and chips, I tell you," Lulu said after sitting down.

After ordering three portions of the restaurant's signature dish, Lulu asked, "Do you want to drink?"

No, I'll take a glass of fruit juice," Nicole declined, shaking her head.

"I'll have fruit juice too," June echoed.

Patricia had to drive, so she could not drink as well, leaving Lulu to enjoy her alcoholic beverage alone.

"You guys are so boring," Lulu muttered, feeling that all of the fun had been taken away from having to drink alone.

After ordering three glasses of fruit juice for them, Lulu looked at June with her forehead creased. "I find it strange. Why aren't you drinking today? Usually, you would join me or even be the one to suggest it."

"I haven't been drinking for a long time now." June smiled, feeling a little embarrassed.

With her eyes on June, Lulu frowned and scrutinized the look on her face.

"You're not pregnant, are you?"

It seemed to her that only women who were pregnant would be so concerned about abstinence from alcohol.

Not yet." June blushed.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2851-At that instant, Lulu's eyes widened, and she asked, "So, you're preparing for pregnancy now?!"

She knew from the get-go that something was amiss.

Otherwise, June would not have refused a single drop of alcohol, of which she was usually fond.

"We do plan on having children," June replied, though there was no telling when.

"Well, then, give it your best shot," Lulu teased, supporting June's decision to start a family of her own with Samuel in the foreseeable future.

Shifting the attention to Lulu now, June raised an eyebrow and asked, "What about you? Have you considered it?"

Lulu shook her head, feeling that it was awkward for Lulu to put her and Spencer in the spotlight now. "We haven't thought about it. Well, at least not for now."

"Why?" June asked in puzzlement.

After all, they were already married, so it was strange that the thought of having children never occurred to Lulu.

'Let's stop talking about this. I'm just going to let things happen naturally," Lulu shyly said, shifting the conversation away from her.

"Come on. The food is ready. Let's eat," Lulu continued.

At that instant, June decided not to press further, as she knew that Lulu was dead set on avoiding the topic. After all, everyone had different plans for their lives, which was fine so long as they were happy with the decisions they had made.

As they enjoyed their meal, Nicole glanced over at Lulu and said, "You should head to Ellison Group tomorrow and finalize the work arrangements with Harvey. Then, you can return to us."

"Okay," Lulu nodded eagerly in agreement.

"Harvey?" June asked, puzzled. "Is he okay now?"

"I did not get the chance to tell you about this earlier. We just came back from the hospital. He's fine now," Lulu opened, briefly explaining the situation to June.

June nodded. "So that's what happened, huh."

"What Nicole did was impressive. She managed to get Harvey to stop with his pity party in minutes! I was there when it happened! I could hear him shouting at her while I was outside the ward. Phew, for a second there, I thought he might kill Nicole," Lulu proudly said.

"Don't worry. He's not going to be able to pull it off even if he wants to," June remarked.

"That's true," Lulu agreed with a nod.

Her worries were not unfounded, as Harvey's rage was evident, even from the outside of the ward where she had stood.

"Oh, by the way, now that Harvey is taking charge of Ellison Group once more, will he mind his own business?" June asked Nicole with some concern.

"I mean, you still need to be cautious of him," she added.

"Rest assured, he hasn't gone off his rocker, so he should be able to contain himself," Nicole replied confidently.

She knew full-well that Harvey had only complied to her demands out of the unwillingness to lose. It would not surprise her if he now resented her for her new position as the overseer of his company.

However, she was not worried. If Harvey dedicated his time and efforts on managing Ellison Group wholeheartedly, he might eventually relieve himself of his grievances and come to understand Thomas's new arrangements, which were well -intentioned.

"That's good." June nodded, finally feeling relieved.

While the three were eating and chatting, a voice blared out of nowhere.

"Having a dinner gathering, huh? Mind if I join?"

Upon looking up, they were surprised to see that Ellar was standing right before them. "Why are you here?"

"I haven't had dinner yet, and I knew that you were all eating here, so I just came here to join you." Ellar then looked at Nicole and pleaded. "Can I stay, Nicole?"

Nicole was amused when she saw the look on his face." Sure, have a seat."

"Awesome." Ellar sat down happily and picked one of the unused spoons up, ready to eat.

Without so much as a warning, Patricia grabbed his spoon, yanked it away, and said, "You have not recovered from your injuries, so I can't let you have anything hot and spicy."

"The wounds are almost done healing. Trust me, I can eat this," Ellar immediately explained, worried that Patricia was trying to get him to leave.

"No." Patricia denied, refusing to yield at all.

Seeing this, Ellar could only plead, "But I'm really hungry."

"Have some chicken broth then," Patricia said, motioning for the waiter to serve Ellar a bowl of chicken broth.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2852-Soon, the waiter came back, bringing with him a piping hot bowl of chicken broth atop a tray.

Ellar swallowed as stared at the basket of fish and chips, his cravings on full display.

"What's up? Are you not happy with the soup you've been given?" Patricia raised an eyebrow and asked in a semithreatening tone of voice.

No, I love it." Ellar immediately withdrew his gaze, about to consume a spoonful of the broth.

The sight of Ellar's reluctant compliance left Patricia feeling both satisfied and relieved. 'This dude doesn't even pay attention to his own health.' "I know you care about me, so I won't deny that this soup actually tastes heavenly," Ellar proudly said, before grinning in satisfaction.

Ellar's sudden remark took her aback, causing her to choke.

"Are you okay?" Ellar handed her a glass of water in concern. "Here, have some water."

Patricia stifled her coughs and took a few sips of water to soothe her throat before glaring at Ellar. "Let's eat."

"Sure," Ellar agreed, before lowering his head and taking another sip of his broth.

Lulu and June exchanged knowing glances and turned to Nicole when they saw Ellar following Patricia's orders like an obedient kid. However, there was not much of a reaction from Nicole, as she remained calm and enjoyed her plate of fish and chips.

June and Lulu then exchanged another mutual glance.

Deciding to suppress their urge to gossip, they lowered their gaze and continued eating their meal. Yet, the insatiable curiosity in their hearts were in full swing, evident and insuppressible. From time to time, they would steal glances at both Patricia and Ellar.

Meanwhile, Ellar's eyes were fixed on Patricia, so it did not occur to him that both Lulu and June were looking at him. On the other hand, Patricia was rather vigilant. She could not help but feel awkward as she could sense what June and Lulu were thinking.

"Don't look at me. Just eat up," Patricia warned Ellar through gritted teeth when she spotted him looking at her again.

"Why can't I look at you?" Ellar asked without lowering his voice as he furrowed his brows in confusion.

The trio of Nicole, Lulu, and June sat motionless at the table. However, Patricia swore she could still hear the stifled giggles emanating from Lulu and June, causing her cheeks to flush at once.

"Shut up," Patricia glared at Ellar, her eyes burning with resentment. 'Is this dude insane or what? Is he genuinely oblivious to what's going on, or is he just playing dumb?' "Okay." Ellar immediately lowered his head and continued eating upon noticing that he had pissed Patricia off.

"Hey, why don't you consider him? I think you two are quite compatible," Lulu whispered to Patricia.

Patricia, feeling a little uncomfortable at the notion that she should get together with Ellar, shifted the subject. "If you don't eat now, someone else might chow it all down."

Then, she quickly lowered her head and dug in, not wanting others to discuss anything remotely related to her.

Lulu raised an eyebrow as she observed how shy Patricia had become.

She was about to say something, but before she could, Ellar had already beaten her to it. "Hey, Nicole. Are my brother's wedding preparations almost done?"

"Yeah, they should be by now," Nicole responded.

"Have you not been in contact with your family all this time?" Lulu rolled her eyes at Ellar, who was shifting the spotlight away from Patricia to shield her from any further scrutiny.

"I mean, I did tell them that I've traveled abroad. If I contact my family on a regular basis, I'm afraid they'll come to discover my secret," Ellar nonchalantly explained.

Lulu pursed her lips, finding it hard to believe.

"Anyway, have some more." Ellar turned to Patricia, scooping up bits of Cesar Salad on the bowl and placing them on her plate.

"Erm, Lulu? Please don't make things difficult forthem. You might end up destroying any chances of them getting together," June warned Lulu in solemn tone.

It was evident that Patricia was resisting each and every one of Ellar's advances, even though she had demonstrated time and again that she cared about him. Therefore, June felt that it was best they steered clear of Ellar's and Patricia's affairs.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2853-"Yeah. I got it." Lulu nodded, understanding June's implication.

Initially, she was just making a joke, but upon seeing Patricia's reaction to the innocent little remark she had made, she came to realize that the latter had taken it seriously.

Curious, Lulu furrowed her brows and whispered to Nicole," Is Patricia worried about something she can't divulge to us?"

She always felt that while Patricia did care about Eliar, she had never reciprocated Ellar's feelings for her, and there must be a solid reason for that.

After glancing over at Patricia and back to Lulu, Nicole simply responded, "Maybe."

Since it was a personal matter which Patricia did not seem too keen to talk about, Nicole did not want to probe too deeply. She believed in giving Patricia her personal space to figure things out on her own.

"Okay then," Lulu responded, sighing as she looked at Patricia and Ellar.

She thought it would be a pity if the two missed the chance to get together, but ultimately, the final decision was for the duo of Patricia and Ellar to make.

After dinner, the group of five walked out of the restaurant.

"I'll take you home," Ellar said to Patricia.

Raising her eyebrows in annoyance, Patricia coldly replied," You must understand that I need to drive Ms. Riddle home."

"Well, my brother-in-law is coming to pick her up. You shouldn't deprive him of what he is already planning on doing," Ellar insisted, holding onto Patricia.

As soon as he had spoken, Jared's car rounded the corner and pulled up before them.

"Hey, Jared!" Ellar waved at Jared happily.

Patricia narrowed her eyes as she scrutinized Ellar, suspecting that he had intentionally called Jared over.

Feeling a little guilty, Ellar avoided Patricia's gaze and turned to Nicole instead.

"Nicole, your hubby is here to pick you up. You can go home first."

"Okay," Nicole agreed and made a beeline for Jared's car.

Nicole knew what Ellar was up to, but since Jared was already there, she got into the car anyway, not wanting to make a big deal out of it.

After Nicole and Jared had disappeared into the distance, June and Lulu announced, "We're leaving too."

"Sure, let's go together. I'll drive you both," Patricia quickly offered.

"It's okay. We'll just get a cab."

After declining Patricia's offer, the duo hailed a passing cab, got in, and went home.

Patricia's lips twitched. Though she was not one to bite, the two seemed to be avoiding her like she was some beast ready to pounce.

"Well, let's go home," Ellar said to Patricia with a gentle smile etched on his face.

Frustrated by the situation they had left her in, Patricia glared at Ellar. "I can walk on my own."

"Patricia!" Ellar quickly reached out to grab her when he saw that she was turning around to walk home on her own. "Let me take you home."

"It's fine." Patricia forcefully pulled away, causing Ellar to let out a yelp in pain.

"Argh, that hurts!"

Another twitch of frustration crossed her lips at once. Not only had the women in her company avoided her like the plague, but they had also left her a manchild in Ellar to deal with.

Exasperated, she turned to look at him and asked, "Your arm shouldn't be hurting anymore, don't you think?"

'Is he using his injury for sympathy?' she wondered.

But it really hurts," Ellar replied, his voice weak and pitiful.

"Really?" Patricia held his arm up in doubt to check his wound.

'The wound has already recovered. There's even a scar there, so why did he claim it still hurts?' she asked herself.

Catching her off guard, Ellar grabbed her hand and placed it on his chest where his heart was. "It hurts right here."

"You..." Patricia's cheeks flushed the instant she realized what he was up to.

Then, she quickly yanked her hand away and took a few steps back.

'The nerve of him! He tricked me again! He looks so gentle and unassuming on the outside, but as soon as I let my guard down, he springs his trap on me!' she fumed.

As expected, Patricia's act of retreating from him left him sad and deflated.

"Patricia, I know you care about me. Can't you just give me a chance? Just one chance? Please?"

He could not wrap his head around the fact that Patricia still refused to give him a chance, even though it was clear by now that she had feelings for him.

Patricia bit her lips in response, and in a tone laced with cold sternness, she replied, "Please do us both a favor and avoid saying things like that."

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2854-After she had dished those words out to him, Patricia hurried off to her car parked at the lot.

Ellar's eyes glinted with pain and anguish at Patricia's response, but he gritted his teeth and followed her anyway. He could feel that Patricia's resistance toward him was not as strong as he had expected, so he would do well not to give up now.

Once they were in the car, Patricia, her tone cold and indifferent, said, 'Sit tight, I'll take you home first."

After that, she floored the gas pedal, bringing the car out of the parking lot in a jiffy. Having anticipated how fast she would be going, El la r instinctively fastened his seatbelt and grabbed the handle.

On the way, Patricia was going at 80 miles an hour, making the atmosphere in the car quiet yet tense, with a nervous Ellar tightening his grip on the handle, his face scrunched up in fear and concern. He knew that Patricia was in a bad mood, and could not help but wonder if it was because of the confession he had made earlier.

After a while, Patricia took a right turn and brought him right to the entrance of BayCorp.

"Get off," Patricia ordered, her voice still sounding somewhat cold.

"Okay." Ellar, aware of her bad mood, obediently got out of the car, but not before dropping her a reminder. "Be careful on your way back."

"You should take care of yourself," Patricia said and stepped on the gas, speeding off and leaving a cloud of dust on her way.

Ellar, who was left in an eerily empty street, grew increasingly worried as he watched her race off at breakneck speeds. At the pace she was going, one would think she was competing in a NASCAR tournament.

Unable to put his worries aside, Ellar hailed a cab down and ordered the driver to tail Patricia from behind. It was only after he had followed her around for a bit that he realized Patricia was not returning to her apartment. Instead, she was making her way to the outskirts of the city.

This left Ellar puzzled. 'What is Patricia doing on the outskirts at this time?' And it was not until Patricia arrived at an open area that Ellar understood what she was up to. As it turned out, she was looking for a place to vent. It seemed that she was not as calm as she had appeared. Deep down, she might as well have been a nervous wreck.

The instant she found a vast, empty stretch of road, Patricia floored the accelerator and sent the car forward at blistering speeds. Within her chest was a strong, disruptive force weighing down on her heart and gnawing away at her, and it was only by driving recklessly that she could feel a modicum of relief.

For reasons unknown to her, she felt inexplicably restless. Concurrently, Ellar's words were echoing in her mind, asking her why she simply could not give them a chance. Still, she could not be bothered to acknowledge that she had been too harsh or cold in her treatment toward him as there were factors beyond her control; factors which Ellar would never be able to understand.

Meanwhile, Nicole and Jared had just returned to the Riddle residence. It was already late, and everyone had already gone to bed, making both the house and the courtyard exceptionally quiet save for the symphony of crickets chirping in the bushes.

But this did not bother Jared, who went on to hold Nicole's hand as they walked side by side.

"Do you have anything to say about Ellar and Patricia?" Nicole asked Jared in a soft voice.

She did not believe that Jared would do something so out-of -character for a man as stern and serious as himself just because Ellar had addressed him as his brother-in-law.

"Let them decide forthemselves," Jared said indifferently.

He was not concerned about trivial issues that were not his own.

"But Patricia obviously has her concerns, and they are probably linked to her ties to the organization. It's not easy for her to break free so easily." Nicole frowned, knowing that individuals like Patricia and Charlie harbored secrets unknown to those outside the fold of their duties.

"I guess we'll have to see what her choices are, then," Jared replied, remaining indifferent.

After she had heard him, Nicole became even more certain that it was going to be a tough road ahead for Patricia should she choose to pursue a normal life.

However, it also seemed that Jared would not stop Patricia from leading the life of an average Jane if she so desired.

Nicole then stared at him with a frown, realizing that she did not understand him.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Jared stopped and looked down at her, his eyes brimming with gentleness.

"If Patricia chooses to be with Ellar in the end, you won't stop her, right?" Nicole asked.

"Will you let me?" Jared asked, whereupon a defeated smile crossed his face.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2855-Even if Jared had demonstrated nary an ounce of care for others, he would definitely not disregard Nicole and her concerns.

Upon hearing this, Nicole smiled and replied, "No."

If Patricia and Ellar did indeed share mutual feelings of affection, she hoped they would get together.

As for Jared, he simply raised his hand to caress her hair. He had never cared about this matter from the very beginning, as it never concerned him.

"Since you won't object, why not tell Patricia?" she asked, thinking that Patricia would not be bogged down by any of her concerns anymore if Jared was willing to step up and tell her about his lack of objections.

"Well, it's about Charlie," Jared said indifferently.

Since Patricia was working as a subordinate under Charlie, her freedom from the constraints of the organization was his to determine.

Nicole raised her eyebrows, and thought about it for a moment. 'Indeed, it's clear that Jared will never interfere with the personal lives of those under his payroll.' Charlie, on the other hand, was a different story. Now, Nicole did not know much about Charlie, but she could tell that he was not a man who was lax when it came to the conduct of his subordinates as well as his own, even though he had been nothing but kind and fair to Patricia. Because of this, she could not help but wonder if Charlie would ever let Patricia go.

"Are you sure you want to think about someone else in front of me?" Jared's voice, tinged with charm, blared out in her ears.

Nicole raised her head when she came to her senses, only to find Jared that Jared had already lowered his face, his nose almost touching hers. Her heart skipped a beat as she held her breath.

Jared's cold lips gradually pressed against hers, its touch carrying some sort of magic that caused all rhyme and reason to vanish at an instant.

With her hands hooked around Jared's neck, Nicole instinctively reciprocated.

Though this surprised him, he gave in, allowing their kiss to progress into a full blown make -out session.

In the midst of it all, the moon in all of its glory loomed over the silhouette of the couple locked in their lingering kiss, casting their shadows on the ground and forming a lovely portrait.

The next day, the warm and bright sun blossomed over where the moon had been as Nicole made her way to Riddle Corporation as usual.

She was puzzled when she saw that Lulu had already arrived. "Why are you here?"

With a bitter grimace on her face, Lulu complained, "That asshole Harvey is off his rocker! He called me over to his office early in the morning, forcing me to handle the procedures of the takeover. I came back right after dealing with it. I don't wish to see his face any longer! Not now, not ever."

Just thinking about it made her angry. Her dreams last night were sweet, and she was enjoying them when Harvey gave her a call and bellowed into her ear.

He had even threatened her into rushing to his office while she was still half asleep.

At the end of the day, Harvey was an oppressor who delighted in having his way. She did not know what he was in such a hurry for, but all she knew was that his stunt this morning was really excessive.

Nicole was left in a state of puzzlement after she had heard Lulu. "Why was he so eager?"

"Who knows, but if you ask me, he's probably gone crazy." Lulu shrugged and continued. "I said I wouldn't go, but then, he threatened me, asking if I could afford the consequences if I delayed the company's work."

"He really said that?!" Nicole blinked. 'Is Harvey a workaholic now?' "Of course! I was furious! But to avoid giving him the opportunity to pin the blame on me if things go sideways anytime soon, I played along," Lulu said, her grimace becoming even more sour by the minute.

Nicole was amused. "Since the handover is complete, let him deal with the work that has been cut out for him."

"Do you think he can really do it?" Lulu asked, serious and unblinking.

"He should be able to. Even if he's holding a grudge against me and doesn't want me to condescend him, he will do well to perform his duties," Nicole said.

Over time, Harvey would come to realize that holding a grudge against her was an exercise in meaninglessness, allowing him to let it go.

"He's really petty," Lulu spat, her voice heavy with disdain.

"Alright, since everything is in order, let's see how Harvey performs from now on," Nicole nodded.

She did not want to waste any more of her time on Harvey or discussions of him, so she changed the subject and said," In the last round of bidding, Ellar has already secured the contract. The project is about to begin, and he is

probably going to need Patricia's help. With that said, I need you to pay more attention to the company's affairs from this day onward.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2856-Lulu grinned. "I know. But what if Patricia becomes the female CEO of BayCorp one day?"

Nicole shot Lulu a frown and with a sneer, she replied, "Only you would think of that."

"Hehe, preparations are still in order, right? We don't want to be caught off guard later on, do we?" Lulu laughed.

'Well, let's hope so. Alright, back to work," Nicole said, dismissing Lulu.

"Okay," Lulu turned around and exited the office.

Nicole then glanced over at the stack of documents on the table, picked up one, and got busy with it.

Meanwhile, in the CEO's office at Ellison Group, Harvey had been sitting at his desk, wide-eyed and motionless after he was done with his work, as if the thoughts darting across his mind had overwhelmed him.

"Are you okay, Mr. Ellison?" his assistant asked cautiously.

He had not barked any orders or given any instructions in over thirty minutes now, so his assistant had been left to wonder what was going on.

Today was his first day of recovery, and yet he had been left to take care of the mounting workload he had been assigned. Although it was stressful, Harvey had demonstrated that he was more than capable of dealing with all of it, as evidenced by the stack of papers right at the middle of his desk.

In response, Harvey raised his eyes to look at the assistant and said, "Notify the heads of each department. We're going to have a meeting."

"Yes," the assistant agreed and hurried off to send them the notice.

Harvey lowered his eyes and looked at the pile of documents on his desk, his gaze deep and intense.

These were all of the projects that Lulu had managed during her time here, and upon seeing them, a sudden realization dawned on him.

During the few days when he was left in his sorry state, Nicole had tasked Lulu with managing the things in his company. She had handled all of these tasks efficiently, and it was evident that there were no selfish motives behind their actions. If anything, she was purely focused on doing the job, and doing it well.

Every decision Nicole had made thus far had taken into consideration Ellison Group's development as well as the company's best interest.

It seemed to him now that Thomas' act of handing oversight of Ellison Group over to Nicole was not simply a move made to neutralize his belligerence; Thomas had done so genuinely with the best interest of the company in mind.

At that moment, Harvey's eyes widened in understanding of what the truth really was. He had always been the one in the wrong, having succumbed to his own selfish and selfcentered desires at the expense of the company. Thomas had been incredibly patient with him, caving in to his every demand, making him think he was invincible and untouchable.

Now that he had regained control of the company, he arrived at the resolve that he should put Ellison Group first and ensure its continued development. It was a role for which he should strive to do his very best.

After taking a deep breath, Harvey raised his head and gazed out of the window.

'Perhaps it's time to pay Grandpa a visit.' The sun was warm and bright in the afternoon.

"Nicole, the day after tomorrow is Emery's wedding. Have you prepared a gift for him?" Lulu asked Nicole.

"Yeah, I've prepared a gift card. Aunt Emma has gotten everything arranged.

I've thought about my choice of gifts, but there really isn't anything particularly suitable for the couple," Nicole replied.

After all, both Emery and his future wife already had everything they needed.

"Well, Spencer and I will present them some cash then. Let them do what they will with it," Lulu suggested with a smile, as she was also unable to make her mind on what he should be giving them.

"Ah man, Stanley and Emery got into this whole matchmaking deal together, but Emery is the only one getting married now." Lulu sighed. "Any updates on Stanley and Tia?"

"There shouldn't be a problem. It's just that Stanley has not made an official announcement yet. I don't know what Stanley has in mind." Nicole shrugged.

There was no denying that Stanley had been rather secretive as of late, something which Nicole had been sensitive enough to pick up on.

"That's true." Lulu nodded, wondering if Stanley was planning something.

"When Stanley feels that it's time to make his relationship with Tia public, he will do it." Nicole said.

She was not too worried as she just wanted the both of them to be happy.

"Oh, by the way, has Ellar's injury healed completely? He should be able to attend the wedding, right?" Lulu asked, remembering that Ellar's arm still had a gash on it.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2857-"He'll be there. Otherwise, Aunt Emma will definitely notice something unusual.- Nicole nodded.

Emma would not think too much about his absence if she remained convinced that he was still on his trip abroad.

However, she would definitely find it suspicious if he did not return for Emery's wedding.

"Do you think Patricia will attend the wedding with Ellar?" Lulu asked Nicole, her brows raised in curiosity.

Lulu's gossipy nature being in full swing amused Nicole, who replied. "If you're so curious, why don't you ask her yourself?"

"It's not that I don't want to ask. I'm just worried that if I do, Patricia won't show up," Lulu said, explaining her dilemma.

Then, Nicole smiled and said, "She probably won't be there."

But she cares a great deal about Ellar. Isn't she worried about the fact that he's still injured?" Lulu argued, puzzled and in disbelief.

'Seriously?!' she thought.

"Ellar's injury should be fine by now. Besides, everyone from the Riddle family will be there. Think about it. Can anything ever happen to Ellar with the rest of us around?"

With that said, Patricia should be able to cut herself some slack and stay home.

Initially, Nicole did not want to tell Lulu that Patricia would not show up, even if she was worried about Ellar. After all, Patricia had probably not decided if she would come along or not, so Nicole did not want to give Ellar any false hopes.

Without thinking too much about it Lulu nodded and agreed. "That makes sense.

It's just a bit of a pity. I wonder when Ellar and Patricia will really be together, and if it's even possible."

She felt that two people should seize the opportunity and make the relationship happen if they happened to have feelings for one another.

As they chatted, lunch break passed.

"Ah, it's time to get back to work again. Switching to productivity mode now,"

Lulu stood up and declared.

Nicole smiled, stood up, and marched toward her desk. After Lulu was gone, Nicole got busy with her work.

In the blink of an eye, dusk arrived, giving the sky its distinct shade of purple and blue.

Upon getting out of the office building, Nicole spotted Jared's car. She walked over quickly, wanting to greet him after a long day when she found that Jared was not in the car.

This confused her, so she turned to Max and asked, "Why are you alone?"

"About that, Mrs. Johnston. Mr. Johnston has a ton of work he is yet to complete, so he has asked me to drive you home first," Max explained.

After getting into the car, Nicole leaned back against the seat and ordered, "Take me to his office."

Max hesitated for a moment, after which he agreed anyway. "Sure, Mrs.

Johnston."

He started the car, and the two made their way to Johnston Group.

Upon arrival, Nicole went up to Jared's office and knocked on the door.

"Come in."

Hearing Jared's voice, Nicole opened the door and sauntered into the office.

As expected, Jared was surprised to see Nicole walking in." Why are you here?"

"Working overtime is hard, so I came to keep you company." Nicole smiled and walked up to Jared's desk.

A trace of tenderness flashed in Jared's eyes. He placed the files back down on the desk, stood up, and came to Nicole's side.

"Aren't you supposed to be working?" Nicole asked, somewhat surprised.

"Let's have dinner first. I might have to work until late at night. You may head home once we're done eating," Jared explained.

"I came here to accompany you, so how can I leave without you?" Nicole said, clinging onto Jared's arm and taking on a more coquettish air about her. "If Mr.

Johnston doesn't mind, I can offer some help. Please don't chase me away, Mr.

Johnston."

A loving smile crossed Jared's face at that instant, whereupon he nodded.

"Sure." "Thank you, Mr. Johnston." Nicole beamed.

Jared then raised his hand and gently caressed her hair. "To the couch if you please."

About a minute after they had sat down on the couch, Max brought dinner in for them.

While they were eating, Nicole casually asked Jared, "What is it that is so urgent?

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2858-If it was not something important, Jared would not have gone out of his way to work overtime.

"We need to modify a proposal," Jared explained. "Recently, we've been dealing with a project abroad and we've encountered some practical operational issues.

That's why we're planning to make some alterations to the proposal."

"I can help too." Nicole nodded in understanding, knowing everyone in Johnston Group was working overtime because they did not wish to put their progress on hold.

Jared then glanced over at Nicole and passed her a tub of creamed spinach.

"Just wait for me."

Nicole had been working the entire day, so he did not want her taking on more than she needed to do for the day.

"You don't have to worry about me. Perhaps we can get it over with sooner than later with my help." Nicole smiled.

Nodding, Jared brushed the stray strands of Nicole's hair aside. "Let's have dinner first."

While having dinner, Nicole could not help but think about the project Jared was working to fix. The modification of the proposal required Jared's personal involvement, so it was safe to assume that it was one of great significance. And due to its degree of importance, they could not afford to make any mistakes, especially in a moment as critical as this.

Unable to brush the feeling that something was amiss, Nicole casually asked Jared, "Have you conducted the investigation?"

Jared understood what she was thinking about the instant he darted his eyes over at her.

Then, his gaze softened as he replied, "I've arranged for someone to investigate it, but we haven't gotten any results yet."

"Okay," Nicole nodded, relieved that they were at least looking into it.

After dinner, the two of them walked over to the desk area.

After she had gotten a good look at the dozens of proposals spread out on Jared's desk as well as the ones Max would bring in from time to time, Nicole knew that everyone in Johnston Group, regardless of the department they were in, must be busy. Everything and everyone had been consolidated in this very space, awaiting Jared's final modifications and decisions before they had the green light to proceed.

"Let's start." Nicole picked one of the proposals up and began to study it carefully, her gaze intense and serious.

Grateful for her presence, Jared picked another document up and did the same.

Just like that, the couple sifted through the documents for the next few hours.

Although this dragged on until eleven in the night, they were still not done yet.

All of a sudden, they heard a couple of knocks at the door.

After a string of raps, Max pushed the door open. "Mr. Johnston? We've got an update."

"Speak up." Jared ordered, his gaze still fixed on one of his proposals.

After coming up to the desk, Max lowered his voice and informed, "It's the members of the Eastern Falcon organization."

Upon hearing the name of the organization being uttered, Jared froze for a moment, and he turned to look at Max." The Eastern Falcon? What about them?"

Not only had they wreaked havoc in San Joto, but they were also doing the same abroad now. By the looks of it, they were attempting to distract and misdirect Jared.

"Yes, our men have found some leads, and so has Zane," Max replied.

"What are they up to? Their motives shouldn't be as simple as disrupting the project for the sake of it," Jared asked.

It would take more than an action as frivolous as this to bring Johnston Group to its knees, something which the members of Eastern Falcon should know. It would be naive of them to think that a simple disruption would affect Jared and his company in any meaningful way.

Max shook his head, "We only discovered that they are the perpetrators. Their motives remain unknown."

However, they were all well aware that the Eastern Falcon's sudden move would not end there. If anything, the disruption of the project was just the beginning of a long, elaborate plan of sorts.

"Do you think it's possible that they are trying to get you to fly abroad?" Nicole speculated. "I think it makes sense. After all, anyone would want to find a way to salvage a project of such importance."

"It's possible." Jared squinted.

Indeed, he would personally travel and meet his clients to resolve whatever issue there was.

After careful consideration, Jared decided to revise the documents overnight. If this late-night hustle didn't fix the problem, he'd have to fly out and see what's up himself.

As he pondered, a nagging thought hit him. Maybe, just maybe, someone wanted him out of San Joto. The question was, what were they trying to accomplish by doing so?

Two trains of thought existed in anticipation of this scenario. Either the members of the organization in San Joto were trying to direct Jared away from the country so that they could act on their plans here, or they were looking to

lure him away so that the separate chapter of Eastern Falcon abroad could attack him.

Watching Jared's contemplative expression, Nicole furrowed her brows, having understood his thoughts. "They probably won't come after you."

She figured that their actual target was located in San Joto, and in all likelihood, the target was none other than her.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2859-Suddenly, an idea occurred to Nicole, and that was when she looked up at Jared and suggested, "Why don't we turn the tables?"

"Are you suggesting..." Jared furrowed his brows, mulled over it for a moment, and nodded. "Alright."

Since their adversaries had taken action, they could very well use this opportunity to capture the mastermind.

Turning to Max, Jared ordered, "Spread the word tomorrow. Tell everyone I will be traveling abroad."

"Yes," Max replied.

"Do it discreetly. Make sure nobody catches what you're up to," Nicole added, offering her addendum to the first set of instructions.

"Understood. I'll make the arrangements accordingly," Max assured.

After Max had left the office, Nicole flipped through the documents in her hand and said, "Looks like we'll have to get this done today regardless of what."

Once their task today was complete, they would be able to set their sights on Eastern Falcon and devote themselves to bringing the organization down to its knees.

"It's almost done." Jared took the documents from Nicole and kissed her on the forehead. "I can handle the rest myself. You should take a power nap. I'll wake you up when it's done."

Nicole nodded, knowing that all there was left for them to take care of was some amendments. "Okay."

The final step to the process would be Jared's decision on what to do next.

Thus, it would be best if she left him to take care of it while she got some much needed rest.

After a few minutes of waiting, Nicole slumped over and fell asleep.

Jared got up and walked up to her the moment he caught sight of her snoring on the couch. He draped her with his coat and adjusted the thermostat in the room, making it warmer and thus more comfortable for her. Nicole was still asleep even after he was done with the last bit of his work about an hour later, so he opted not to wake her up and carried her out of the office instead.

By the time he had made his way out of the foyer, Max was already waiting forthem with the car parked at the side of the street.

After placing Nicole in the car, Jared caught a glimpse of her furrowed brows, which indicated that she was in discomfort. He could not help but smile as he scooted over to give her more space.

"Mr. Johnston? Everything has been arranged," Max's baritone voice blared out..

"Good. You'll board the plane tomorrow and leave. One of us must be there to handle the issue in person," Jared ordered.

"Yes, I'll get someone to impersonate you, Mr. Johnston. There won't be any leaks," Max reassured.

Since Jared's double would be the one leaving for the business trip, the real Jared would be staying back here in San Joto.

"Okay." Jared nodded, his voice carrying a hint of satisfaction.

Then, as he shifted his gaze to the falling leaves outside of the window, his eyes darkened. This time, he was determined to discover the scoundrel who had managed to enlist the Eastern Falcon to their cause; the very same scoundrel who could rouse the greed of an organization as elusive as the one they were dealing with.

As the sun rose, Nicole slowly opened her crusted eyes to the glaring rays lancing down from the slits in the drapes, causing her to raise her hand to shield herself.

After she had gotten over the initial wave of grogginess, Nicole furrowed her brows. 'Is this... my room?!' Everything object around her seemed familiar, reminding Nicole that she was indeed in her home and in her room. However, she could not understand why she was at home, when she should be in Jared's office right at this second. After all, that was the last place she remembered she was in. To add to the confusion, it was already daytime.

Realizing what had happened, Nicole shifted her gaze to the left and saw Jared, who seemed to have just woken up.

"You brought me home last night, didn't you?" she asked, having remembered bits and pieces of the night before.

She must have slept off, and Jared must have carried her home without waking her up.

"Sleep longer if you're still feeling tired." Jared remarked when he saw that she still looked a little worn out.

"It's okay."

Although she had not gotten the amount of sleep she had been accustomed to, it was getting late now, and she needed to go to work, regardless of whether she was well- rested or not.

Knowing that Jared must have slept much later than her, Nicole said, "You should sleep in a little longer. I'm going to work."

Then, Nicole got out of bed and went to the bathroom to freshen up, whereupon she changed into a set of new clothes before walking out.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2860-Noticing that Jared had also gotten up, she asked, "Are you going out?"

"No, I'm not," he replied.

Max should have left the country by now, with the people in San Joto and abroad believing that Jared was no longer in the country. Thus, he could not make an appearance in public for the time being.

"Why aren't you sleeping then?" Nicole asked, thinking he should get more sleep.

"It's okay now. There are a few things I need to take care of for now," he replied.

Jared then made a beeline for the bathroom but was stopped midway by Nicole, who hugged him around the waist.

Nicole smiled as she looked up at him. "I'm going to work. You will eat well and rest well, okay? I'll be back early after work."

After giving her a tender smile, he lowered his head to kiss Nicole on the lips.

"Sure." Jared nodded following the lingering morning kiss.

Nicole then rolled her eyes and walked out of the house, her cheeks as red as roses. As for Jared, his eyes were brimming with tenderness as he watched her recede from view.

The moment Nicole stepped out onto the lawn, the chauffeur immediately pulled up and took Nicole to her office, into which she entered upon arrival.

"I thought you weren't coming in today." Lulu waltzed in with a cup of coffee and handed it to Nicole.

"Thank you." Nicole took a sip from the cup.

"Have you had your breakfast?" Lulu asked.

"Nope." Nicole shook her head.

She had woken up late, and since she wanted to arrive as soon as possible, she did not eat at home.

"I knew you didn't, so I've asked the secretary to get you some," Lulu said, frowning.

As expected, Lulu's little thoughtful gesture placed a smile on Nicole's face. "It's good to have you around, you know that?"

"I'm glad you know that," Lulu said smugly, before sitting down and looking Nicole in the eye. "Did Mr. Johnston actually travel abroad?"

After looking around her, Nicole lowered her voice and whispered, "No. It's all a ruse."

Surprised, Lulu lowered her voice to a whisper mirroring Nicole's. "I see."

She knew that something was going on, but since the issue pertained to Johnston Group and not Riddle Corporation, she stopped probing. There was not much she could ask in regard to a problem which did not concern her.

Nicole nodded, opting not to further the discussion. As everything had already been set in motion, all they had to do now was wait for the outcome to unfold.

"Ah, Damien has been behaving rather strangely too. Usually, he would be at the rendezvous point, but I've seen no signs of him today. I am not sure if he has discovered something or if his role in the mission has already been fulfilled."

Lulu said to Nicole.

With a frown etched on her face, Nicole asked, "Damien didn't show up today, huh?"

"Yeah, I think there is a problem," Lulu added, though she did not know what had happened exactly.

"Got it. I'll get Patricia to investigate it." Nicole nodded, and proceeded to call Patricia.

And after filling Patricia in on her concerns, she hung up.

She had expected Damien to notice the men she had assigned to surveil him.

While he might not know who was tracking him, he was probably aware that someone had been tailing him at this point.

'Even if that's the case, why would Damien suddenly change his habits?' she wondered. 'Is it because he truly doesn't care, or is it because he is left with

no other choice?' "Nicole!" Lulu's eyes widened. "Could Damien be trying to escape?"

"Escape?" Nicole mumbled, pondering the possibilities.

As Lulu thought about it, she explained, "You see, Emery's wedding is taking place tomorrow, and everyone in the Riddle family will be too focused on the ceremony to pay attention to him. This is the perfect opportunity for him to flee, don't you think?"