

## MY WIFE IS A HACKER

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2861-If he decided to make his escape tomorrow, the chances of him succeeding were very high.

“That makes sense, but why would he want to run?” Nicole pondered.

If Everett was planning something sinister, it would be helpful for Damien to stick around in San Joto and keep an eye on the rest of the Riddles.

“Well...” Lulu trailed off, caught off guard by Nicole’s question.

While she did not have the right words to explain her case, she could not help but feel that Damien’s actions were suspicious.

Narrowing her eyes, Nicole assured, “Don’t worry. If he has got a plan up his sleeve, you can take my word that it will be discovered.”

Tomorrow, the Riddle family would not care enough to keep their eyes on Damien, but what he would fail to take into account was that Patricia had tasked someone to keep an eye on him. Therefore, none of his actions would go unnoticed.

“What if he is really planning to escape?” Lulu asked.

“If that’s what he’s trying to do...” Nicole’s eyes glinted with cold fury. “Patricia will take care of it.”

She believed that Patricia would know what to do, and that she would make the best decision in regard to Damien.

“I see. Well, I guess we’ll have to leave the rest to her, then.” Lulu nodded.

While they were in the midst of their discussion, the secretary brought Nicole’s breakfast in, prompting the duo to stop talking.

Then, as Nicole began to eat, Lulu stood up and said, “I’ll get back to work now.”

“Okay,” Nicole replied, whereupon Lulu got out of the office.

Nicole continued eating as she contemplated whether Damien's sudden, unusual change in behavior was somewhat related to everything surrounding Jared and Johnston Group.

After giving it some thought, Nicole sent a message to Jared to inform him about the most recent development. At the very least, she wanted Jared to be aware of the sudden turn of events to prevent any errors in judgment. They could not be too careful in case there might be things Jared had overlooked.

After she had received Jared's reply, Nicole smirked and placed the phone away.

Her mind was now on Emery's wedding tomorrow. Both she and Lulu had to show up for the ceremony, so they had to take care of their work for the day as soon as possible...

Just like that, the next day arrived in a jiffy.

It was about seven in the morning, but everyone at home had already gotten up, dressed to the nines, and were prepared to attend the wedding.

"Daddy! Mommy! Another uncle is getting married!" Lana shouted as she looked up at Nicole, her eyes lighting up.

"Yeah," Nicole smiled.

However, the glimmer of light in Lana's eyes vanished as soon as she realized that Nicole did not understand what she was trying to tell her. "What about you and Daddy? When are you getting married?"

Nicole could not help but chuckle and shake her head when the question was posed. 'So this little girl is worried about us now, huh?' She then patted the little one in the head. "After all of your uncles have gotten married, Daddy and I will have our wedding."

"Why?" Lana tilted her head in puzzlement.

Frowning, Nolan butted in, "But Uncle Ellar doesn't even have a girlfriend."

This prompted another chuckle out of Nicole, who replied, "Yeah, and that is why we need Uncle Ellar to double his efforts now."

“This is unfair. Why does Mommy have to wait for all of our uncles to get married first?” Lana pouted.

‘If this is what it’s come to, I’ll have to wait for a long time,’ she thought.

“Maybe it’s because Mommy is not in a hurry.” Nicole smiled.

In reality, they had decided to hold off on the wedding because she and Jared still had much to take care of, and the unexpected turn of events as of late had only forced them to postpone the wedding once more. If none of these factors had come into play, they might have already gotten the wedding over with.

However, she did not plan to tell Nolan and Lana about this. The little ones deserved a peaceful, carefree life, in which they were not roped into the complexities and dangers Nicole had been braving.

“Alright, we should leave now,” Gloria reminded everyone after she had caught a glimpse of the time.

The family members moved out one by one, and that was when Nicole glanced over at Stanley and asked in serious tone, “You’re going alone?”

Stanley knew that she was actually asking him why Tia was not around to accompany him, so he sighed and explained, “Grandma isn’t feeling well, so Tia is staying with her.”

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2862-There, Nicole learned the reason as to why Mrs. Wallace Sr. was not planning to attend the wedding; she was not feeling well at all.

Nicole furrowed her brows and replied, “You should go ahead. I’ll check on grandma.”

However, Stanley suddenly reached out to grab Nicole by the shoulder. “Don’t go now. Tia said grandma just went to sleep. Let’s wait until we’re back.”

“Fine. After the wedding, I’ll go check and check on her again.” Nicole decided after a moment of consideration.

“Alright, let’s head to the wedding then,” Stanley said as he walked Nicole toward the exit.

Raising a brow in skepticism, Nicole looked at Stanley and asked, "You were planning to say something if Tia had agreed to come with you, weren't you?"

Stanley shook his head. "It's not the right time yet."

Taken aback, Nicole asked, "What are you up to, exactly?"

"You'll know when the time comes." Stanley replied in brief, still refusing to reveal the truth.

Nicole rolled her eyes at Stanley. "Fine. Keep your secrets."

In turn, Stanley flashed her a smile without saying another word.

Meanwhile, everyone had already entered their cars, ready to make their way to the venue.

Nicole made a beeline for Jared's car, and upon opening the door, she was surprised to find him inside. "You're coming too?!"

"Mommy, why can't Daddy go?" Lana asked in confusion.

Taken aback, Nicole froze and remained rooted on the spot until Jared reached out and pulled her into the car. "It's okay. It As the car started moving, Nicole settled down comfortably. If Jared was certain that his presence there would not be a problem, then it would not be.

In truth, Emery's wedding was a rather humble one by the standards of a family as affluent as the Riddles. Emma had not organized a ceremony grand enough to capture the attention of the entire city.

After all, Emery was the odd one out in that branch of the family. He had followed his own interests and started a gaming company, with little to no involvement with BayCorp at all. Therefore, there were not many business magnates and tycoons in their list of guests, just some of Emery's business partners. At most, the list was expanded to include a few close friends of the Riddle family, so there was no need for them to worry about the news of Jared's appearance leaking out and torpedoing the ruse that he had meticulously planned out.

Nicole believed that everyone would be sensible enough to know what to say and what not to say at this time.

The journey was smooth, and in no time, they arrived at the hotel.

As everyone began to get out of their cars, Nicole hesitated.

“What’s wrong?” Jared asked softly.

Frowning, Nicole suggested, “Maybe you should cover your face a little.”

She then grabbed a hat and looked at Jared before shaking her head in disapproval. “This one doesn’t seem to fit you.”

After that, she grabbed a pair of shades, mumbling, “How about these?”

However, people might still be able to recognize him even if he donned those shades. His appearance was too distinctive, and he would just stick out like a sore thumb.

Jared smiled, placed the hat and shades away, and said, “Don’t worry. None of these are necessary.”

“Daddy, are you hiding from your enemies?” Lana asked out of curiosity.

She had been confused ever since Nicole was caught off guard by Jared’s appearance in the car. ‘Mommy’s so strange. Uncle Emery is getting married, so Daddy obviously has to go! Why were you so surprised, Mommy?’ Then, she came to understand what the situation was all about. ‘It would be ideal for Daddy to not show up in public. That’s why Mommy was worried about him.’ Amused by Lana’s words, Jared carried her out of the car and said, “No. Let’s go inside.”

“Hey!” Nicole called out to him as she watched him carrying Lana away.

“Mrs. Johnston,” Max interrupted. “Mr. Johnston has already made all the necessary arrangements. No one will leak the news today.”

As it turned out, he had planned ahead to ensure that there was no chance for anyone to tell others that he was here today.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2863-“I understand,” Nicole sighed. “I know this isn’t that big of a deal, but I just can’t stop myself from worrying.”

“Mommy, what’s wrong?” Nolan asked, frowning.

He was standing there, wondering why Nicole was so anxious and worried about Jared.

Snapping out of it, Nicole turned to Nolan and ruffled his hair. "There's a project in your father's company that's being held back by some difficulties, and we're trying to find a way out of it. My point is: now's not the best time for your dad to make an appearance in public."

"Is it because someone disguised himself as Dad and went abroad?" Nolan cut to the chase.

Shocked by how astute Nolan's observation was, she asked, "How did you know that?"

"It's all over the news," Nolan replied confidently.

"I can't believe you watched the news," Nicole blurted, thinking that the kids only watched cartoons on television.

Confident in his father's decision, Nolan held Nicole's hand and said, "Come on, Mommy. Nothing will happen since Dad has gotten it all covered."

Nolan believed that Jared would be capable of handling everything thrown his way, and with that, Nicole pinched his nose and chuckled. "Alright then."

Nicole herself did trust in Jared and his capabilities, but her concern for him still got her worried.

After entering the venue, they saw that everyone was already present, waiting for the wedding ceremony to begin.

"Nicole, what's going on with Jared?" Lulu whispered to Nicole the moment she saw Jared.

Nicole proceeded to pat Lulu's hands in reassurance. "Don't worry, we've got everything covered."

"Phew, that's good," Lulu said, easing up.

June, having overheard the conversation, tapped Lulu on the shoulder. "Come on, are you questioning what Jared is capable of?"

Bewildered, Lulu turned to June, her eyes wide. “How did you know what I was thinking?”

Lulu thought Nicole had only told her about the situation, so she was surprised to know that June had learned about it too.

Annoyed, June rolled her eyes. “I guessed it the moment I saw Mr. Johnston.

I’m sure everyone present knows what’s up too. If they don’t want to get on his bad side, they’ll know what to do.”

Everyone who was once uncertain of what to make of the situation all would get the picture when Jared showed up.

Lulu playfully stuck her tongue out, knowing what June said made sense.

Then, June craned her head to look at the entrance where more guests were approaching and asked Nicole, “Why isn’t Tia here?”

“Grandma’s sick,” Nicole explained.

At that instant, June understood that Tia had stayed home to take care of Mrs.

Wallace Sr.

As the few were chatting, Ellar’s voice suddenly blared out, catching their attention.

“I’m not late, am I?” Ellar asked, looking worn and disheveled after a long journey.

June then sized Ellar up and said, “Well, you’re putting on quite a show.”

“My mom is very sensitive to details. She’ll discover the truth if I take one wrong step.” Ellar explained in a hushed whisper.

“I’ll greet them first. Let’s dine at the same table later,” he said, and hurried off.

As Ellar dashed off into the crowd, June chuckled. “By the looks of it, his arm seems fine.”

“Patricia did say that his recovery is almost complete. Well, his arm would have recovered by now if he hadn’t missed his check-ups and taken good

care of himself,” Nicole sighed, worried about Ellar who had been neglecting his own well-being.

Lowering her voice again, June posited, “I say, Ellar’s doing it on purpose.”

June had called Ellar’s trick, aware that he had pulled all of that nonsense because Patricia was worried about his injury.

Lulu, who begged to disagree, laughed and said, “Well, that’s something you’re wrong about. Ellar wouldn’t have the guts to do that, even if he wanted to.”

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2864-Nicole could not help but laugh when she heard what Lulu and June were conversing about, thinking they were both right in their own ways. Patricia was indeed not one who could be easily deceived. If Ellar was smart, he would not lie to Patricia.

After the joyous and lively wedding ceremony, Dexter and Emma invited everyone to their seats for the lunch session, and that was when Nicole and her friends all gathered at a single table, chatting while enjoying the food that had been served. The room was rife with merry chatter and smiles to say the least.

“Hey, so what happened? Were you caught?” Lulu asked Ellar.

‘ No way. I gave the couple a huge gift, so my mom let me off the hook,” Ellar boasted.

At the end of the day, they were at Emery’s wedding, so Ellar’s parents were naturally more focused on welcoming the guests than telling Ellar off.

Meanwhile, Lulu was casting a glance over at the newlyweds toasting. “Look at how grand and wonderful their wedding is compared to ours.”

Thinking back to the past, on the day when Lulu and June had a joint marriage ceremony, she found it regrettable that the occasion was marred by an incident that was nothing short of unpleasant. In fact, to say it was unpleasant was an understatement.

“Shush! Don’t say things like that. We shouldn’t ruin this happy day with bad vibes,” June rebuked.



Although their wedding had been tainted by Raine's attempt on Nolan's life, they hoped no other wedding ceremony would ever suffer a fate remotely similar to theirs.

Otherwise, there would be an unwanted association between Riddle family wedding ceremonies and traumas to guests.

Nodding, Lulu stated, "Don't worry. As you said, we need to have faith in Jared.

There won't be anything unpleasant happening today."

After all, Jared had made the necessary arrangements with special consideration for any potential threats to them. No one could ruin the wedding now.

June and Lulu could not help but chuckle when they saw how Nicole and Jared were taking care of the kids by tucking paper towels to their collars and feeding them. The scene before them was calming and amusing, giving them the feeling that nothing traumatic was going to happen.

"Uncle Preston," Lana called out to Preston while looking at him after swallowing her food.

"Yes, dear?" Preston softly replied, all while smiling.

"Do you have a girlfriend?" Lana asked candidly.

Taken aback, Preston paused for a moment before answering, "Why the sudden question?"

"Erm, I don't know if you have one or not," Lana revealed.

Preston was speechless at Lana's answer, and the crowd laughed along, thinking what Lana was getting at made sense. However, she went on to ignore the crowd's reaction, only wanting to know whether Preston had a girlfriend or not.

At this stage, Preston, Stanley, and Ellar were the only ones left single and unmarried. Lana knew that Tia had become Stanley's girlfriend, while Ellar was still single, but she had no clue about Preston and the status of his relationship.

This made her even more worried about Preston, whose love life was unknown or unheard of. With Ellar, there was at least a measure of certainty as to where he was in his love life. Between the answers she had and the answers she did not have, the ones unknown to her were the ones that made her anxious.

After hearing Lana's question, Preston hesitantly replied, "Well, not yet." "Can you hurry up and find one?" Nolan butted in.

Upon hearing that, Preston was at a loss for words. 'What is going on? Why are my nephew and niece urging me to get married? Aren't parents the ones who are supposed to do that?' "Why are you guys so concerned about your Uncle Preston's marriage?" Ellar asked.

Without holding back, Nolan replied, "Because we know you don't have a girlfriend."

"Huh?" Ellar gaped, his jaw hanging low, unable to find the connection between him being single and their probing of Preston's relationship status.

"Nolan? Lana? what are you two up to?" Lulu probed.

She knew the two little ones were definitely up to no good, as they had chosen to concern themselves with Ellar and Preston's love life out of all things.

"Well," Nolan sighed, looking as if his heart was breaking. "Mommy said she will only marry Daddy after all the uncles are married."

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MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2865-Nolan and Lana were getting restless, as they could not see any hope in waiting for their uncles to get married.

And after everyone had understood what the two little ones were up to, they burst out into gales of laughter.

Wide-eyed, Ellar instantly leaped to the defense, "Hey, I'm younger than your mom. There's no rush for me. Don't count me in for that one."

Ellar was indeed single, but he already had a life partner in mind, though he was unsure of when he would succeed in pursuing that certain someone. Still, he felt that the kids had to count him out for this one, as he did not want to get in the way of Nicole's lifelong union, which she deserved.

Nolan and Lana nodded their heads in understanding." You're right. Hey Mommy? Uncle Ellar is younger than you. He doesn't count." Just like that, the kids had solved another problem, bringing another obstacle to their mother's future marriage out of the way.

The kids then looked at Preston in unison, making the latter shiver in fear. He said, "Whoa! There's still Stanley! Stanley doesn't have a girlfriend yet."

Preston had no choice but to divert their attention, as he could not handle the pressure of being scrutinized by everyone at the table.

"Uncle Stanley," The two began, about to say something when they decided against it. "We don't have to worry about Uncle Stanley. His turn is up. Uncle Preston? Please do us a favor and make good use of your time."

The look on Nolan and Lana's faces somehow conveyed the message that they were leaving the happiness of their parents in his hands, making him even more overwhelmed than he already was. 'Why am I even given such a massive responsibility? What does Nicole's marriage have to do with me?' The more Preston thought about it, the more intense his headache became. He was helpless, feeling that he could not explain how messed up the situation was to them.

Seeing how scrunched up and aggrieved Preston's face was, Nicole smirked, "It's time you get yourself a girlfriend."

"It's easier said than done," Preston argued, shrugging his shoulders.

He could not simply pick anyone at random and go with it. Although he was not a picky one when it came to his choice of a life partner, he still wanted to find someone who would get along well with him. The main difficulty was in finding someone he was compatible with. A progressive approach was necessary for a relationship to flourish, and a successful relationship would only come naturally without any interference or coercion from outside forces. However, the elephant in the room remained; he had never found a person he was interested in, let alone get along with.

“It’s indeed difficult, but you can start by getting out there and making an effort. If you don’t initiate anything, you’re never going to reach the end of the line,”

Nicole said meaningfully.

Nicole had no intention of urging anyone into getting married. However, it would not hurt anyone if Preston could find love along the way.

Preston paused at Nicole’s words, whereupon he arrived at an understanding and nodded in agreement. “I will.”

Preston was aware that Nicole was not trying to pressure him, so the only reason as to why the kids were so concerned about his love life was that she had given them an excuse for why she had not married Jared yet. In truth, his relationship status would not influence when they would hold the ceremony.

Nicole and Jared had been putting the wedding ceremony at the back burner because the time was not right. As such, it would be reasonable to assume that they would get married when the right time came.

Nicole then glanced over at Jared. She was still uncertain as to why Jared had decided to show up despite having announced his departure publicly.

It seemed, however, that everyone else shared an unspoken understanding of the situation. In fact, the crowd had been wondering if their decision on when to hold their wedding was related to something they were not privy to. All they had was a certainty that the couple would proceed with their long-awaited ceremony after their concerns, whatever they might be, had been put to rest.

Then, Jared looked back at Nicole without saying a word.

“Daddy, why aren’t you eating?” Lana said, giving Jared a shrimp to munch on.

Jared retracted his gaze and patted Lana’s head gently. He then ate the shrimp she gave him.

Preston was fixated on the scene, feeling that the moment was one of exceptional beauty. He began to wonder if his future would be the same the day he fathered a daughter of his own. And upon becoming cognizant of what he was thinking about, Preston widened his eyes and smiled.

Alas, he figured that his future would not be undesirable if that was what it would come to. He even found himself anticipating such a day.

After the ceremony and lunch party was over, everyone congratulated the newlywed couple as well as Dexter and Emma before leaving.

Back home now, Nicole strolled off into the courtyard to pay Mrs. Wallace Sr. a visit.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2866-“Ah, here comes my Nicole,” Mrs. Wallace Sr. smiled, welcoming Nicole.

“Hey, grandma. Are you feeling better now?” Nicole asked, approaching her grandmother’s bedside..

With a smile plastered on her face, Mrs. Wallace Sr. answered, “I’m fine. Don’t worry about me.”

Seeing that Mrs. Wallace Sr. was trying to sit up, Nicole carefully helped her out.

“Slow down, Grandma. Easy now.”

Then, once Mrs. Wallace Sr. was seated upright, Nicole handed her a glass of water. “Here, have some water.”

Mrs. Wallace Sr. sipped a few mouthfuls from the glass before putting it down. “I see you’re all done with your work.

“Don’t worry, Grandma. Everything went smoothly, and everyone’s back at home now,” Nicole reassured with a smile.

“That’s good,” Mrs. Wallace Sr. said, holding Nicole’s hand.” It’s a pity that Tia didn’t get to attend the wedding because of me.”

Shaking her head, Nicole consoled, “No, no. It’s fine.

Everyone understood what you were going through. You’re fine now, and that’s all that matters.”

“Hi, Nicole,” Tia greeted as she entered the room. “Grandma told me she’s feeling better after her nap. You don’t have to worry about her.”

Nicole was all smiles as she glanced over at Tia. “Stanley mentioned that he’s going to treat everyone to a meal in two days. Grandma should be fully recovered by then. You must come along, alright?”

After pausing for a moment, Tia nodded. “Oh yeah, sure.”

Catching the look of surprise on Tia’s face, Nicole figured that Tia had no idea what Stanley was up to. She then raised her brows in curiosity, surprised that Stanley had yet to inform Tia.

“You youngsters shouldn’t be paying too much attention to me. I’ll be fine,” Mrs.

Wallace Sr. advised before turning to Tia. “You should go out and have fun with your friends in your free time. Someone else will take care of me when you’re not here.”

“But I want to take care of you,” Tia said, inching closer to Mrs. Wallace Sr.

“You’re still ill. I get worried sick whenever you’re in someone else’s hands.”

Tia would be fine with going out on any other normal day, but she did not have the heart to have fun when Mrs.

Wallace Sr. was still in need of her care.

Shaking her head, Mrs. Wallace Sr. argued, “But you can’t stay with me forever.”

Mrs. Wallace Sr. was hinting that one would always start their own family and their own home, and that Tia would eventually have to leave her.

Tia understood Mrs. Wallace Sr.’s meaning and blushed. She argued, “I’m not going anywhere.”

Nicole chuckled at Tia’s words, saying meaningfully, “Well, that’s not wrong either. I guess you won’t be going far.”

If Stanley and Tia got together, the two of them would most probably remain in the Riddle residence, unlike the others who had branched out and bought their own homes.

Therefore, Tia could still stick around to take care of Mrs. Wallace Sr. while Stanley would not need to part ways with Daniel and Gloria. The house would remain as lively as ever, and their parents would not feel as lonely as they had feared.

“Oh gosh, Nicole!” Tia gasped in shock, her face flushing.

Chuckling, Nicole took it as a cue to stop embarrassing Tia.

She then held her grandmother’s hand and chatted away until she spotted Stanley, who had just entered. That was when she figured he was here to find Tia.

“Is grandma feeling better?” Stanley asked in concern the instant he saw Mrs. Wallace Sr.

“I’m fine,” Mrs. Wallace Sr. answered, smiling. “You must be here for Tia.”

Mrs. Wallace Sr. then directed him to Tia. “Go on ahead. I’m fine over here.”

Then, Nicole chimed in, “Yeah. I’ll take care of her.”

“Well, I’ll be bringing her out for a moment, then,” Stanley gratefully replied before leading Tia out of the room.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2867-Seeing this, Mrs. Wallace Sr. smiled. “It seems that I no longer have to worry about Tia.”

“That’s right,” Nicole said, holding her hand. “Tia and I are all grown up now. You don’t have to worry about us anymore. You can focus on enjoying life and taking care of yourself now.”

The both of them then went on to reminisce about the memories they once shared.

Meanwhile, Tia had stopped on her tracks once she had stepped out onto the courtyard. “Hey, is there anything you want to talk to me about?”

“Nothing, in particular. I just miss you. So here I am,” Stanley revealed gently.

Upon hearing Stanley’s response, Tia blushed and stammered, “Didn’t...didn’t we just meet in the morning?”

“Well, I still missed you regardless,” Stanley said, caressing Tia’s hair.

A surge of warmth and fuzziness filled Tia, causing her to blush.

Stanley then held onto her hand and informed her, “I’m buying everyone dinner the day after tomorrow. Will you come along and join us?”

“The day after tomorrow?” Tia asked, biting her lips in hesitation.

“Are you tied up on that night?” Stanley asked.

Tia mentally sighed, and with a smile, she shook her head.” No. I’ll be there.”

“That’s great. I’ll pick you up, and we’ll head over there together,” Stanley smiled.

“Yeah, sure.” Tia nodded at Stanley, whose gaze was brimming with affection.

Nicole, who just so happened to have walked out, was met with this scene, so she proceeded to clear her throat and interrupt the couple.

Tia quickly released Stanley’s hands and backed away from him.

Turning to Nicole, Stanley asked. “Mrs. Wallace Sr. is taking a nap, isn’t she?”

“Yeah, she’s fast asleep,” Nicole answered before locking eyes with Stanley.

“Well, I’ll get out of your hair now. See you around!”

Annoyed, Stanley rolled his eyes. “Hey, wait up.”

He then grabbed Tia’s hand and said, “I’ll get going now. I’ll pick you up the day after tomorrow.”

“Okay,” Tia replied shyly, after which she turned around and returned to her house.

As for Stanley, he ran after Nicole and asked, “Is there anything you want to discuss? We can talk along the way.”

Stanley knew Nicole had something to say to him.

Otherwise, she would not have gone out of her way to get his attention.



“About the dinner, have you not told Tia about it?” Nicole asked, cutting to the chase.

“Well, I just told her,” Stanley revealed.

Nicole nodded. “Oh, so that’s why.”

It was clear to her now that Stanley had shown up to tell Tia about the dinner.

She felt that it would be ideal for him to take some time out to inform Tia in advance, as the day would be a special one.

“Do you have something to say to me?” Stanley asked, still staring at Nicole.

Nicole smirked. “Well, I don’t think I need to now.”

Since Stanley had gotten it all covered, he should know what to do next. If this was the plan he had in mind, Nicole would no doubt be ready to throw all of her support behind him.

He stood frozen for a moment, but before he could utter another word, Nicole had already sauntered off in big strides.

Then, he burst out laughing. “What was I thinking? Nicole knows Tia really well.

How could she not know? I’m sure she called it a longtime ago.’ Nicole returned to the Riddle residence soon after and headed to Nolan’s room. There, Jared was narrating stories to both of the kids as they were preparing to take a nap.

“Mommy,” Nolan and Lana called out when they saw her.

They looked drowsy, and were already prepared to fall asleep.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2868-Nicole reached out to hug Lana affectionately. “It’s your nap time, right? Let’s bring you back to your room.”

“Okay,” Lana nodded, after which she rested her head on Nicole’s shoulder and shut her eyes.

Jared placed the storybook and tucked Nolan in. After the boy had fallen asleep, Jared emerged, bumping into Nicole who had also just exited Lana's room.

Looking at Nicole, Jared smiled and led her back to their own bedroom.

"You must be tired," Jared remarked, having noticed how fatigued Nicole was.

"It's alright. But I do feel like taking a nap," Nicole replied, walking up to her bed.

As Nicole laid herself down on the mattress, Jared flashed her a smile. "Go ahead."

Not wanting to interrupt Nicole's nap, he quietly walked over to his desk and switched his computer on. As for Nicole, she closed her eyes and fell asleep, knowing that Jared wanted to get back to work.

The moment Jared switched his computer on, an unread email popped up on his screen. Upon opening the email and reading its contents, his eyes slightly widened in shock.

As it turned out, Max had arrived, and the situation there was more complicated than they had thought. Therefore, Max might have to stay there for a few more days.

Jared proceeded to read Max's report in detail, send him a reply, and stand up.

Then, he walked over to the floor-to-ceiling window overlooking the courtyard.

The sun outside was dazzling and hot, contrasting Jared's aura, which was frosty and dark. While the situation abroad appeared peaceful and assuming on the surface, there were undercurrents which they were not prepared to face.

These cases might very well be closely related to whatever was happening at San Joto.

After contemplating for a moment, Jared decided to give Zane a call.

"I'll handle things here in San Joto. Get your men to coordinate with Max," Jared requested.

“Great minds think alike,” Zane agreed.

He was aware that now was not the time for either of them to make a public appearance in San Joto, so it was best for them to steer clear of the events happening back home.

“How’s it going with Everett?” Jared asked.

“We’re still in the midst of checking on him. According to our latest findings, he seemed to have come to an agreement with those at Eastern Falcon,” Zane paused.

Then, he added, “However, those at Eastern Falcon don’t seem to trust him, so they’re contacting Lawrence in secret too.”

“Alright then. You should show them something they would like to see,” Jared said, his eyes frosty and dark.

“Are you saying that we should...?” Zane hesitated. “That’s fine by me. After all, we can’t just sit back and watch.”

Understanding Jared’s intention, Zane concurred and ended the call.

While hanging up, Jared’s gaze landed on the scenery outside the window.

Jared thought, ‘Lawrence, Everett, and the members of Eastern Falcon. These few entities who never had dealings with one another now seem to be working closely. Let’s see what they are plotting.’ Time passed by quickly, and another day passed in a jiffy. Everyone had been busy with their respective obligations, but on the bright side, today was also the day Stanley had promised to treat everyone to dinner.

Early in the morning, Nicole arrived in her office as usual with Lulu following her from behind. “These are the files.”

Nicole grabbed the files and handed another to Lulu in exchange. “This one has been sorted. You may have it.”

“Alright,” Lulu said, and took the file. “By the way, Patricia called me this morning. It was true. Damien wanted to leave San Joto. However, she had managed to intercept him before he could.”

Nicole raised her eyebrows, asking, "Do we have a clue where he was supposed to be heading?"

"The only confirmation we have at the moment is that he was planning to flee the country." Lulu said. "We still have no idea where he was supposed to be going. Patricia told me Damien was clearly heading to the airport, but they could not find his boarding details anywhere."

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2869-They had checked every flight from every airline yesterday, but none of them had Damien's boarding information.

"So..." Nicole trailed off, her eyes widening. "You mean, there's a possibility that he was taking a private, chartered flight?"

Lulu bit her lips, her eyes wandering in contemplation. "If you put it like that, there is a possibility he was doing just that. However, Patricia could not find any evidence, and they were not able to get an answer from Damien either. What are we going to do?"

If they could not determine where Damien was planning to go, they would have to keep him seized, which was an option they would rather not explore.

"Where are the people who were in contact with Damien?" Nicole asked.

"Patricia is on the case, but we have not received any updates," Lulu answered.

"We'll just have to wait then," Nicole said.

Lulu nodded and looked at Nicole, before changing the subject, "Have you prepared the gifts, Nicole?"

Knowing exactly what Lulu was talking about, she nodded. "Yep."

"Mr. Johnston's not coming tonight, right?" Lulu probed.

"Why the question? Do you have something to say?" Nicole asked, looking Lulu right in the eye.

In response, Lulu shook her head in denial. "Oh, it's nothing. I was going to say that Spencer is coming to pick me up. If Mr. Johnston is not coming, we should go together."

“Oh, so that’s why. Well, he isn’t coming. He has to pick the kids up. We can carpool to the restaurant together after work.” Nicole said.

“Alright then, I’ll come get you after work,” Lulu informed and walked off with her files in hand.

After about 7 hours, the time to clock out finally arrived, and that was when Lulu came over to get Nicole. The both of them then left Riddle Corporation in Spencer’s car.

Along the journey to the restaurant, Lulu and Nicole were playing a guessing game on why Stanley had asked everyone out for dinner. His actions had done nothing but raised their suspicions, so they figured that this was no casual dinner party in any way.

Upon arriving at the restaurant, they saw June and Samuel, who had also just arrived.

Naturally, the quintet gathered around and chuckled. “Well, I see Stanley has finally come to his senses.”

“Nicole,” a familiar male voice called out to Nicole as they were gossiping away, prompting the group to turn around.

Sighting Martin with Cindy beside him, they asked, “Stanley invited you guys too?”

“Not entirely true,” Martin revealed and sighed. “Initially, I was the only one he had invited.”

Martin was implying that Stanley had not invited Cindy to the dinner, as it was likely that he did not know her. Thus, it was obvious that Cindy had taken the liberty to show up on her own accord.

Cindy, on the other hand, did not seem to feel as awkward about the situation.

Instead, she was grinning from ear to ear. “I was done with work when I found out that he was going to some kind of event. I was bored, so I decided to tag along. Do you mind adding another person to the list of guests?”

“If I say I do, will you leave?” Lulu teased.

Knowing full-well that Lulu was kidding, Cindy shook her head. “No way.”

Everyone burst out laughing to the exclusion of Martin, who did not seem to find this funny at all. In fact, her presence was a headache for him.

“Come on. Let’s get in. Well, you made the right choice. Today’s a special day,”

Lulu said, ushering Cindy into the establishment.

A curious Cindy went on to ask, “What’s the occasion?”

“You’ll find out once you get in,” Lulu said, leaving an element of suspense for Cindy to grapple with.

Not minding the fact that Lulu had chosen to keep her in the dark, she followed them in.

The others followed suit, with Nicole ending up at the back of the line, walking side by side with Martin.

“I didn’t expect to see you here.” Nicole smiled.

She was rather surprised that Stanley had chosen to invite Martin over.

Looking away, Martin replied, “Perhaps Stanley wanted to offer us all some closure.”

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2870-“You knew about it?” Nicole blurted, taken aback by the fact that he was privy to such information.

“I can’t say I know everything about it, but I had a hunch,” Martin admitted.

He was well aware of Stanley’s feelings for Tia, but the misunderstanding involving him and Tia was a recent discovery to him.

Nicole chuckled, finally understanding what he was on about. “So, what about you? Don’t tell me you’re going to remain single forever.”

“If I could, I should hope so. Unfortunately...” Martin sighed. ‘Unfortunately, that’s just not impossible. My family has been urging me into getting married for the past few days. I have a feeling they have been driven into a frenzy because of the amount of weddings they’ve been attending as of late.’ Getting what Martin was trying to convey, Nicole laughed. “If that’s the case, you must

really consider it. There's a huge possibility that another wedding is coming your way."

Martin turned to look in the restaurant's general direction and sighed. "Yeah, that seems about right."

Unable to help herself, she burst out laughing at how defeated Martin seemed to be.

"What about you?" he asked as he glanced over at her.

"Well, what about me?" Nicole asked in shock, not understanding where Martin was going with the question.

"When is your wedding celebration going to be held? If I still don't have a girlfriend by then, I think I'll be forced to marry someone at random," Martin explained.

"If that's the case, I should consider moving my wedding forward," she teased.

Martin chuckled, "Come on. There's no need to rush this."

The duo then shared a fresh gale of laughter as they entered the restaurant.

Upon entry, they realized that Stanley had reserved the entire restaurant for this very occasion, with the place spruced up and decorated in such a way that the entire venue oozed romance and coziness. Most of the guests had also arrived by now.

Ellar and Patricia went on to approach her when they saw her walking in.

"Nicole," Ellar greeted, glancing behind her. "Is my brother-in-law not coming?"

"He's not coming," Nicole answered, and turned to Patricia as if to ask her if she had gotten any updates on Jared's situation.

Patricia shook her head in response, indicating that they were still unable to obtain any information about the matter. Reaching an understanding that they had to wait a little longer, Nicole nodded and refrained from pressing any further.

“Oh no. Am I late?” Preston asked, diverting everyone’s attention to the entrance.

“If we compare you to Stanley and Tia, then no. You’re not late,” Samuel teased, implying that Preston was indeed the last to arrive save for the couple who were supposed to take centerstage.

Understanding Samuel’s joke, Preston shrugged his shoulders. “I’m not late if they’re not here yet, I suppose.”

“Are you talking about us?” Stanley’s voice blared out as he brought Tia in.

Seeing that everyone Stanley had invited was present, Spencer cast his brother a meaningful glance and asked, “Is everything ready now?”

“Yes,” Stanley nodded, holding Tia’s hand, and approached the dining table.

“Please, have a seat, everyone.”

The rectangular dining table, resembling those found in the houses of ancient European nobility, had specifically been arranged and positioned right at the center of the restaurant. It was large and long, giving everyone more than enough space to get themselves comfortable.

Stanley remained standing even after everyone had been seated.

Instead, he ranged his gaze over the crowd and announced, “Hi guys, I’ve gathered you all here today for a meal because it’s Tia’s birthday today. With that said, I want everyone to have fun and celebrate this very special occasion.”

Tia looked at Stanley in shock and asked, “You knew about my birthday?”

And just like that, Stanley had revealed his reason for calling everyone out here today: he wanted to celebrate Tia’s birthday.

Initially, she had even thought that Stanley had forgotten about the fact.

“How could I forget such an important day?” Stanley replied, his voice warm and affectionate.

Then, he produced an ornamented, rectangular box and proffered it to her. “This is for you. Happy birthday.”



Tia opened her gift, and to her surprise, she found a 24-carat diamond necklace, the design of which she had always fancied.

“Thank you, Stanley!” Tia said, feeling warm and fuzzy from within.

Smiling, Stanley took the necklace out and cuffed it to Tia’s neck.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2873-After receiving the bundle of roses, Tia wrapped her hand around Stanley’s and helped him up.

With his eyes still locked with Tia’s, Stanley produced a velvet box from his pocket. After opening it, he took a diamond ring out and gently placed it on Tia’s left ring finger.

“Oh my gosh, congratulations!”

“Finally, you’ve taken a load off everyone’s mind.”

Everyone congratulated the couple with joy, though they did not forget to complain about how long they had waited for this day to arrive.

Tia’s cheeks reddened from the fanfare, while Stanley caressed her hair, smoothening them for her.

“I’m truly thankful we didn’t slip past each other,” he said.

Stanley would often still cringe thinking about how foolish he was to put Tia at the sidelines. Fortunately, everything had played out the way they wanted now, and from this point onward, they were going to be together forever.

With the proposal over with, the restaurant’s ambient lights returned to normal, and Stanley led Tia back to the dining table.

My gosh! Well, you two didn’t have it easy,” Lulu said, almost driven to the point of tears..

Tia’s cheeks were still maroon from all the shyness and nervousness she had been feeling from the past minute.

Knowing that she was in no condition to respond to anyone, Stanley held her in his arms and said to Lulu. “It was indeed a tough road.”

“Hehe. Cherish her forever, okay?” Lulu teased.

Solemn and unsmiling, Stanley nodded. "I will."

"Stanley," Tia called out, pulling his shirt in embarrassment.

As it was time for them to proceed, Nicole looked at them with a wide grin on her face. "Alright, settle down, guys. Let's all take a seat and prepare to dine in."

With that, the waiters gradually served everyone their dishes, allowing them to chat while enjoying the food. It was an eventful night to say the least, and once everyone had gotten their bellies filled, they returned home.

The couples then filed out of the restaurant hand-in-hand, leaving Preston, who looked like a forlorn beggar on a rainy day, to approach Nicole. "It seems that I am the only one left to send you home. Do I have the honor, milady?"

Preston felt more comfortable sending Nicole back, for the alternative was following all the lovey-dovey couples home.

Amused, Nicole looked at him with a smirk and agreed, "Sure thing."

"Let's get going first. I do not want to see them. It's just heartbreaking, to be honest" Preston let out, eager to leave.

Without skipping a beat, Nicole teased, "Have you ever stopped to consider that you might be the one giving us heartache?"

Indeed, everyone was walking in pairs, save for Preston, who was left to sulk on his own.

Stunned and wide-eyed, Preston began to whine, "Aw, come on. Don't tell me you're going to bang my balls forthat too?"

"Hahaha, come on," Nicole laughed, and made her way to Preston's car with its owner following from behind.

"Ms. Riddle?" Patricia called out, wanting to follow Nicole home.

But before she could, Ellar grabbed her arm and said, "I think it's better if you stay back. Nicole must have something to discuss with Preston."

Patricia raised her eyebrows, not convinced by Ellar's explanation. "And how do you know that?"

“If they have nothing to talk about, my brother-in-law would have come,” Ellar confidently stated, shrugging his shoulders.

If Nicole had not reminded Jared to not pick her up, Jared would surely have shown up to bring her home.

Patricia paused, and after deciding that what Ellar said made sense, she stopped in her tracks.

Then, she turned around to meet Ellar’s gaze and announced, “If there’s nothing else, I’m heading home too.”

“I’ll send you home,” Ellar said, hurriedly following suit.

No thanks,” Patricia declined.

Ellar, remaining as persistent as always, followed her.

Lulu could not help but shake her head as she observed their antics, “Can Ellar handle it?”

“Erm, he should be fine, I guess?” June answered with uncertainty as she frowned.

Although the two seemed quite compatible, and there appeared to be chances of a budding romance, there was still an air of uncertainty surrounding them.

## MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2871

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2871-“It’s our turn now since you’ve given her your gift already,” Lulu teased.

“Of course,” Stanley said, not in the least surprised by how others had come to know about Tia’s birthday.

He felt that Nicole knew that today was Tia’s birthday, and that she had seen her plan to surprise from a mile away. If his guess was correct, Nicole had informed others of the occasion and its purpose.

“You’ve all prepared gifts too?” Tia asked, her eyes widening in surprise.

The last thing she had expected him to do was throw her a surprise party by inviting all of their close friends to celebrate her birthday this year. The only other thing she did not see coming was that they had shown up bearing gifts.

“Of course we did. Preparing gifts is a must for such an important occasion,”

Lulu replied, before handing her gift to Tia.

After everyone had given the items they had prepared to Tia, Preston lowered his head awkwardly and apologized. “Sorry, I didn’t prepare any.”

“Did no one tell you?” Samuel asked, a little taken aback.

He knew the kind of person Preston was, and that the latter coming empty handed was a result of him being genuinely oblivious to the purpose of this occasion rather than being a cheapskate.

“Yeah, no one did,” Preston said, his eyes downcast.

He wondered why everyone was aware of Tia’s birthday except for him.

Seizing the opportunity to tease him, Lulu raised her eyebrows. “Well, maybe it’s because you don’t have a girlfriend?”

They had gotten to know about Tia’s birthday through frequent and casual chats with one another. Nobody had made any official announcements, so they had accidentally forgotten to inform Preston.

“Are you trying to eat my heart out?” Preston argued.

After all, it was not his fault that he did not have a girlfriend, and Lulu’s jibes at the dinner table had only served to embarrass him further.

“Well, that’s unlikely,” Lulu said, shrugging her shoulders. “I was just reminding you that you still have a responsibility to shoulder.”

Understanding what Lulu was implying, Preston helplessly turned to Nicole, his eyes narrowed in discomfort. “Can you count me out like you did for Ellar? I’m begging you.”

If they continued mounting all of that pressure on him, he would find the responsibility too overwhelming for him to shoulder.

Frowning, Ellar retorted in disapproval. "Hey, I'm not throwing anyone under the bus here. Besides, I'll soon have a girlfriend."

After he had said his piece, Ellar unconsciously glanced over at Patricia. 'If Patricia won't be my girlfriend, I'll stay single forever.' Preston's expression soured in an instant, and he murmured, "Why do I feel like I'm the only one being left out?"

That one single sentence from him got the entire crowd roaring and guffawing, making the atmosphere in the room even merrier than it had been.

Amid the gales of roaring laughter, Patricia was the only one who remained solemn. Her head was hanging low, as if she was lost in thought. She had seen through Ellar's intentions, but she did not know how to proceed without scarring him in the process. She was thinking of ways to let Ellar know that they could never be a couple.

"Sorry, I didn't know it was your birthday today. I have not prepared anything for you either," Cindy suddenly admitted.

However, she did not regret her choice of following Martin over. She even went on to glare at him, resenting him for not telling her what the celebration was all about. If he had done so, she would have prepared something.

"Oh, it's alright. No worries," Tia said, pleasantly surprised by the fresh, new face before her.

"I'll make it up to you the next time," Cindy promised, feeling that it was the best she could do to not be rude.

Shaking her head, Tia instantly declined the offer. "There's really no need for that. I really am happy that everyone is here today."

Being the only young woman in her early twenties at the table, this was Tia's first birthday celebration of such a grand scale, which had been nothing short of lively. To make things better, she even got to celebrate it with so many close friends and Stanley himself. It would be hard for her to not be satisfied by what they had done for her this evening.

"No, no," Cindy insisted.

Tia raised her hand, about to further her objections when Martin stopped her.

“It’s alright, Tia.”

Martin knew Cindy would definitely make it up to her if she wanted to. After having spent a decent amount of time with Cindy, Martin had gotten to know how stubborn she was.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2872-“Erm” Tia hesitated, turning to Stanley.

Stanley gave Tia’s hand a squeeze and said to Cindy, “There’s really no need for any gifts. You’re more than welcome to join our next gathering if you like.”

“Woah, really? Does that mean we’re friends too?” Cindy exclaimed, becoming even more excited as she had no friends here.

“Of course. Just come whenever you want,” Lulu chimed in.

“I would love to!” Cindy nodded. “Oh gosh. I’m so happy to be your friend.”

She had left her native country and traveled all the way to San Joto for Martin, but the prospect of being able to make more friends delighted her, nonetheless.

“I’ll remember to hit you up the next time we gather,” Lulu said.

She then turned to Martin and asked, “Will you join us next time?”

Everyone proceeded to stare at Martin, taking him aback.

Feeling awkward and uncomfortable, he answered, “I’ll see how things go.”

Martin would usually be indifferent to casual gatherings, but should the occasion be a special one, he would make it a point to show up.

After shooting him a meaningful glance, everyone looked away, not wanting to pressure him into coming along.

With a casual laugh, they turned their attention back to Cindy. “Although there’s no guarantee he is coming, you’ll have to.”

“Aw, you bet I’ll be there,” Cindy promised, looking forward to the next meet-up already.

As they chatted, Cindy took the opportunity to tell Tia that she would make up for her birthday gift once again, making everyone burst into laughter. They could tell how determined Cindy was, and they found her gesture to be rather cute.

Tia laughed along, having given up on the idea of declining Cindy's offer. She knew that Cindy would just hand her the gift, no matter what she did to refuse.

After thanking everyone personally, Tia stood up and expressed her gratitude to the crowd. "Thank you everyone for coming to my birthday celebration."

She knew everyone had kept her in the dark to throw her a surprise party, one with which she was absolutely happy.

"Don't mention it, Tia. We'll be family soon anyway."

"That's right. Hahaha."

Tia could not help but blush at remarks directed at her, but that was not all there was to the evening.

It was then that Stanley stood up and wrapped his hand around hers. "Follow me."

"Huh, where to?" Tia said, tilting her head in confusion.

Still, she stood up and followed Stanley away from the table.

They approached the small stage set up in the restaurant. As the two stood in position, the ambient lights in the restaurant dimmed. About a second later, a spotlight above shone upon them, its red beam making the couple the only highlight in the restaurant.

Not knowing what Stanley was going to do, Tia nervously asked, "Hey, Stanley...?"

All of a sudden, Stanley produced a bouquet of red roses from his back and gradually got down on one knee.

Then, he confessed, "Tia, it was my fault in the past for stalling and not giving us both a chance. Now, let me tell you that you're the only woman I'll marry and live the rest of my life with you. Will you marry me?"

Tia was completely dumbstruck, her eyes welling up with tears as she realized that Stanley was proposing to her. It was like a dream come true to Tia, one she could not even muster a response to.

“Tia, come on! Marry him!”

“Don’t hesitate, Tia!”

Everyone’s cheers and words of encouragement slowly reached Tia, gradually giving her the courage to collect herself and lock eyes with Stanley.

Meeting his affectionate gaze, Tia bit her lips, and after a few seconds, she finally nodded. “Yes! Gladly!”

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“I can’t say I know everything about it, but I had a hunch,” Martin admitted.

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“Hehe. Cherish her forever, okay?” Lulu teased.

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As it was time for them to proceed, Nicole looked at them with a wide grin on her face. “Alright, settle down, guys. Let’s all take a seat and prepare to dine in.”

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Ellar, remaining as persistent as always, followed her.

Lulu could not help but shake her head as she observed their antics, “Can Ellar handle it?”

“Erm, he should be fine, I guess?” June answered with uncertainty as she frowned.

Although the two seemed quite compatible, and there appeared to be chances of a budding romance, there was still an air of uncertainty surrounding them.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2874-Spencer and Samuel pulled their respective wives over.” Don’t worry about them. Let’s go back and rest.”

“Hey, we were just talking,” Lulu said, smiling at Spencer.

They were concerned about Ellar and Patricia, but deep down, they knew that it was not their place to interfere with other people’s business. All they could do was wait and see how it would unfold.

“Let’s go,” Cindy said, pulling Martin over as everyone began to go home.

Martin, uncomfortable with being touched, broke free from Cindy’s grasp.

“Alright.”

Shrugging her shoulders, Cindy went on to bid her farewells to the Riddles.

“We’ll get going now. Please remember to call me over next time.”

“You can leave that to me,” Lulu promised.

She then flashed Cindy the good-luck sign, telling her not to give up on pursuing Martin.

Cindy smiled and nodded in understanding, before turning around to catch up to Martin.

“Are they going to be a thing?” June asked, unfamiliar with Cindy and her situation.

“I’m not sure, but I don’t think it will be an easy road to walk,” Lulu let out, feeling that Cindy would need a fair amount of patience and determination to be with Martin.

“Come on,” Spencer urged, taking Lulu away before the women could start gossiping again.

Allowing Spencer to lead her away to the car, she glanced back over her shoulder and waved at the rest of the crowd.” Bye, guys.”

“See you around,” June replied, and linked her arm to Samuel’s. “Let’s go.”

“Sure thing,” Samuel agreed with an affectionate smile.

Samuel and June then headed off to their cars after saying their goodbyes to Stanley and Tia.

Now, there were only two people left at the entrance of the restaurant, giving the surroundings an empty feel to it.

However, both Stanley and Tia were still feeling warm in their hearts.

With her bouquet of roses in hand, Tia murmured, “Why do I still have a feeling that I’m dreaming?”

Deep down, Tia knew it was not a dream, even though it was hard for her to believe that, as she and Stanley had truly become one following the marriage proposal she had accepted about an hour ago. Whatever happened next, the new couple would have to face it together for many years down the line.

“Silly girl,” Stanley caressed Tia’s head. “Let’s go home.”

“Okay.” Tia nodded and followed Stanley to their car.

“Please don’t forget to join us for breakfast tomorrow morning,” Stanley reminded her.

Shocked for a moment, she asked. “Why?”

“And bring Mrs. Wallace Sr. along,” Stanley reminded her without answering her question.

With her eyes still on her new husband, Tia frowned and stopped to think for a moment.

Then, the realization of what he was up to dawned upon her. “Why don’t we wait for two more days?”

Tia had finally figured out why Stanley wanted her and Mrs. Wallace Sr. to join him and the rest of his family for breakfast tomorrow. She was so anxious about tomorrow’s meeting with Stanley’s parents that her heart began to race.

Although meetings between them were frequent, the one due to happen tomorrow carried with it a special significance. It would be her first time addressing the pair of Daniel and Gloria as future parents-in-law, and this knowledge made her inexplicably nervous.

Knowing what Tia was thinking, Stanley gently wrapped his hand around hers and comforted her. “Don’t worry. They have been waiting for this day forever.

Need I remind you that they will start arranging blind dates for me if I don’t bring my girlfriend back to them?”

Tia knew Stanley was right, so she gritted her teeth and nodded in agreement.

“Alright then.”

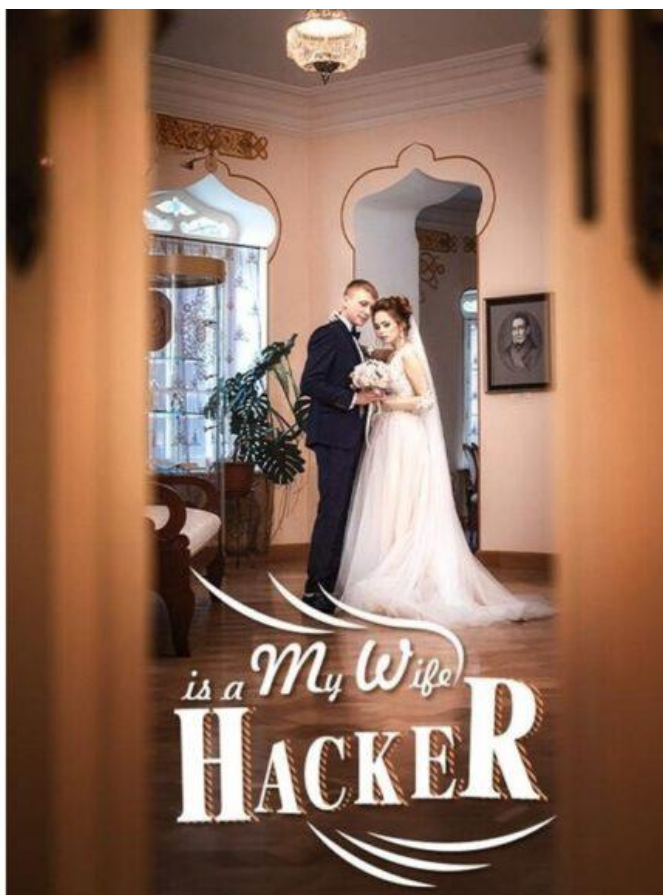
Although Tia was nervous about the meeting tomorrow, the last thing she wanted was for Stanley to be thrown into another blind date.

Chuckling, Stanley then started the car and brought her home.

Meanwhile, Preston was still in the midst of driving Nicole back home.

“Are you serious about waiting for me to get myself a girlfriend before carrying your wedding ceremony out?” Preston asked, quivering in fear.

Preston felt that it would be unlikely for Nicole to do so, but he needed Nicole’s reassurance to get his much needed peace of mind. He needed to hear it from her, and he did not want to hold her back. Above all, he did not wish to meet the piercing gaze that Jared always had in his eyes in all of their encounters, for they had never failed to make him shudder.



MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2875-Nicole could not help but smile at how ridiculous yet valid his concern was.

“Come on, dude. That’s just an excuse I came up with to comfort Nolan and Lana.”

In reality, her marriage would concern nobody but herself and Jared. No one else would be able to exert any sort of meaningful influence on the wedding.

“That’s great.” Preston issued a sigh of relief.

Everything would be fine as long as he did not have a hand to play on whether the wedding ceremony happened or not.

Taking on a more serious look now, Nicole looked at Preston and added, “But, you should really start thinking about your own love life.”

“Yeah, I will.” Preston replied.



He did not want to suffer the torture of being the only single person in the room every time he hung out with them. Being around these love birds while they harped on the idea that he needed to find someone soon was agonizing to say the least.

Nicole then smirked and shook her head. She thought it would be a good idea to just remind him about it, instead of poking her nose into his business.

Then, she shifted the topic of conversation. "I've got something to talk to you about."

"What is it?" Preston asked in a serious tone of voice.

He knew that Nicole would never sit him down for a discussion if the matter in question was a trivial one.

After pausing for a while, Nicole said, "Once we reach home, you should follow me in and have a look."

"Oh, okay." Preston replied.

When they arrived at the Riddle residence, the both of them got down from the car and entered the house. There was no one in the living room, indicating that they must have all returned to their respective rooms and gotten ready for bed.

Nicole did not bother to disturb Daniel and Gloria. Instead, she brought Preston up to the second floor right away.

When they reached Nolan's room, the duo saw Nolan playing the very same game he had been engrossed with for the past few months. Meanwhile, Jared and Lana were sitting beside Nolan, their eyes trained on the computer screen.

Hearing that someone had entered, Nolan, Lana and Jared whirled around to look at them in unison.

"Hello Mommy. Hello Uncle Preston," Nolan and Lana greeted them.

"Why did you bring me to Nolan's room?" Preston asked in confusion.

He was wondering what Nicole was trying to do.

Without giving him a direct answer, Nicole walked up to the computer and said, "Have a look at this."

While Preston proceeded to study the game with its intricate level designs, Nicole explained, "We've studied this game and confirmed that there's something wrong with it. But, we don't have a single clue about what the developer's motives are. There's still no evidence."

"You don't have any evidence? Does that mean you guys know who the person is?" Preston asked.

"I've got a rough guess, yes." Nicole's eyes darkened, wishing that the perpetrator was not who she thought he was.

Understanding what Nicole was trying to convey, Preston nodded and asked, "What do you want me to do?"

"So, here's the thing," Nicole replied. "When we began analyzing the game, we discovered that all levels must be completed, and that's what the developer wants us to do."

However, Nolan can't clear the game on his own, no matter how many stages he completes, so I'll have to step in to help him out."

"You want me to help him clear the stages?" Preston asked.

Nicole shook her head and clarified, "No. I need you to assist me."

"Oh, okay." Preston replied without any objections. "Tell me, what should I do?"

No matter what task it was, or how difficult it was, Preston would try his best to complete it as long as it was a request from Nicole.

"Recently, I've come to realize that we might have thought lightly about these levels." Nicole said, attempting to explain what was on her mind.

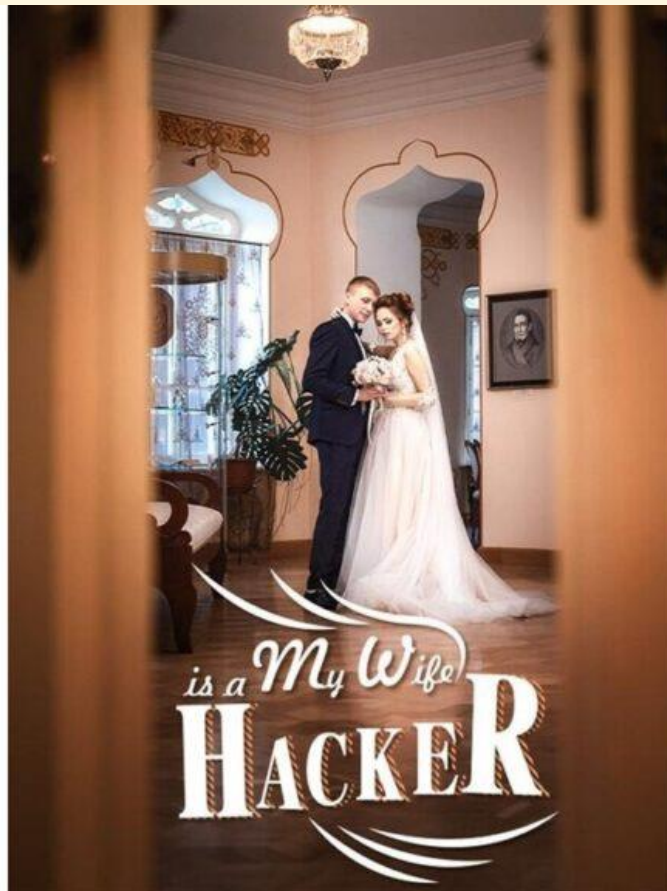
Nicole had decided to take this matter seriously, so after some careful consideration, she had decided to enlist Preston's help.

Previously, she thought that all they needed to do was clear the stages and discover the developer's motives behind each stage, whereupon they would

be able to proceed with finding the solution. After all, they would never come to know what the developer was up to if they did not complete the levels.

However, while Nicole was completing the levels, she could not shake the feeling that there was something fishy about the game design as a whole. On the surface, it seemed as if they had to work very hard to get past all the stages.

But there were also moments when Nicole felt that someone was controlling the variables and monitoring the game progress remotely.



MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2876-If such was the case, Nicole doubted if she did not think it through from the very beginning.

After hearing Nicole's thoughts on the matter, Preston cautiously replied, "You mean that instead of crossing the levels without any sort of help, it seems that someone has been guiding you through the stages from the shadows?"

"Yes." Nicole nodded. "It definitely feels like that."

After giving it some consideration, Preston hazarded a guess. "This means that the application which they have sent Nolan consists of two separate entities.

One is on the surface, which is the game Nolan is playing, and the other is a hidden software."

Upon further analysis, Nicole deduced that the hidden software should be the one the developer was looking to crack.

"They're waiting for you to complete it so that they can swoop in and steal your final result." Jared's cold and calm voice blared out.

Jared's theory made Preston's eyes widen at an instant. "That's right. It should be just like what you've predicted!"

"Because of this very possibility, I've brought you here to help me out." Nicole said in a serious tone. "I need someone to create a separate software to track them."

Although Nicole could create it herself, she was running short on time. Thus, she had decided to enlist Preston's help in hopes that it would expedite the process.

And once he had thought about it for a second or two, Preston replied, "Let's do it this way. Leave this entire case to me. You should just sit and wait."

"Huh?" Nicole frowned. 'Preston wants to take on this task on his own?' "I'm aware that you wish to expedite the process, and that's why you are asking for my help. Don't worry, I won't be working alone. I'll get Ryder and Gary to help me out." Preston paused for a moment.

"Since your enemies already have their eyes on you, it's best for you to keep a low profile. Otherwise, you might alert them," he continued.

If Preston worked on it with Ryder and Gary, those people would not be able to discover what they were up to, not easily at least. Furthermore, by doing so, they could also make Nicole's plan a success.

"Alright. If you need anything, you are always welcome to seek us out at Johnston Group. I have a team who will always be available to assist you." Jared agreed, offering his help.

Nicole nodded. "That's a good idea. After all, it will be glaringly obvious if I try to do anything on my own."

"We'll stick to your plan, then. Send a copy of this to me. I'll contact Ryder and Gary once I'm back home, and we'll work on it as soon as possible." Preston promised in complete seriousness, as he understood the urgency of the situation at hand.

"Alright." Nicole replied.

After she had sent Preston off, Nicole forwarded a copy of the game to him.

Then, she turned around and looked at Nolan. "How is it today?"

"Not much progress." Nolan shook his head and sighed. "I've followed the instructions you've given, but the results were messy." "It's good that everything is messy, actually. After all, it is supposed to serve as an initial line of defense against our enemies. I've also chosen the safest yet most difficult approach," Nicole explained, elucidating why Nolan's struggle was understandable.

Nolan nodded vigorously. "I know. I'll make sure to practice hard."

He understood that this was a new method his mother had taught him, so he would definitely try his best to master it.

Smiling, Nicole patted Nolan's head gently. "It's getting late. You should go to bed."

"Okay." Nolan nodded and made a beeline for the bathroom.

Jared then brought Lana out of the room. Her eyes had been heavy with sleep ever since about an hour ago, but due to the fact that she had insisted on waiting for Nicole to return, she did not go to bed.

After the kids had fallen asleep, Nicole and Jared returned to their room.

"You've realized it for a while now, haven't you?" Nicole asked Jared.

"You mean the part where they're planning to steal your results?" Jared replied, knowing what Nicole was talking about. "Well, I've had that guess for a while now."

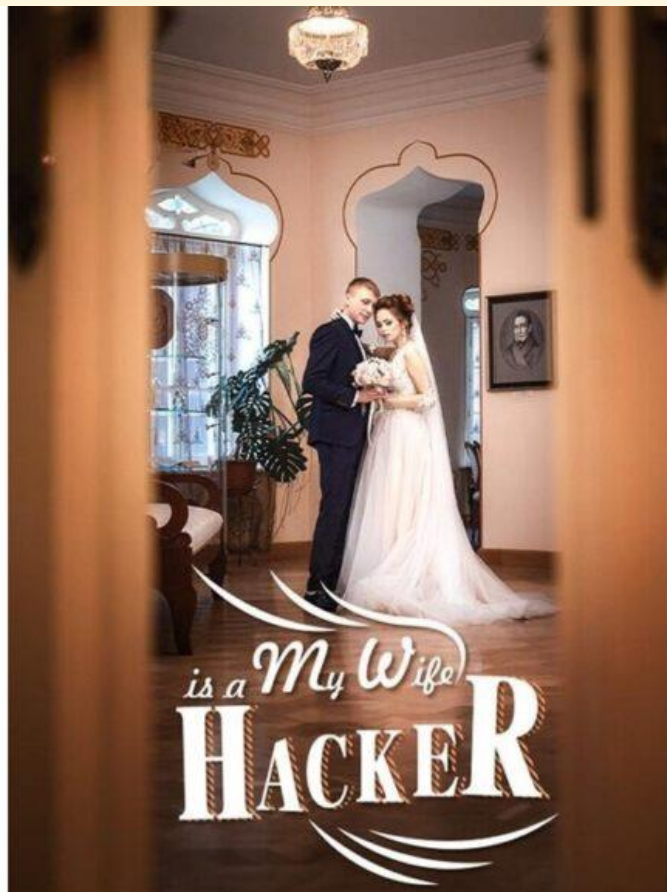
After Nicole had brought it up again today, Jared was even more certain that his guess was right, and that he was not just spouting a theory with little to no basis in facts.

“What do you think about it?” Nicole’s gaze turned dark.

Jared held her palms, and after a slight pause, he posited, “If he really is the one behind it, then it’s very likely that he’s trying to get you to secure the Water Crest for him.”

Nicole widened her eyes and gritted her teeth. “God damn it.

I thought so too.”



MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2877-If Lawrence was truly the one behind all of this, her explanations about the puzzles thus far would make perfect sense.

Lawrence had attained the Water Crest, but he had not been able to crack its failsafe and become its bearer, and due to him being unable to seek Nicole's help directly, he had turned to giving Nolan a modified version of the interface masked as a game as his last resort.

After all, Lawrence knew Nicole and Nolan well enough to come up with a strategy that capitalized on their strengths. Lawrence had also probably thought that Nolan would forever keep his secrets, making it difficult, if not impossible for them to learn of his true intentions from the boy.

If it was in the past, Lawrence would only have to ask a few simple questions to gain a full idea of their progress and the situation they were in, granting him relative ease with achieving his goals. But now that things did not go his way anymore, he had resorted to elaborate trickery.

Little did Lawrence know that Nolan would not tell him about his recent discoveries, allowing him to think that Nicole and the rest had not caught onto anything fishy just yet.

"In the meantime, you should let Nolan continue what he's doing. Don't make any moves for now. As for the application, leave it to Preston. Once he's done, we'll proceed." Jared said with a serious look etched on his face.

They would not grant Lawrence this victory no matter the cost. Moreover, the Water Crest had finally resurfaced, so it would be a good idea for them to secure it.

Jared then turned to Nicole, his gaze softening. Up to this day, no one had successfully become the bearer of two Reby Family Crests at the same time.

Perhaps Nicole could be the first in history, and he had faith she would be able to if she wanted to.

As her head was pounding, Nicole had decided to give this matter a rest for the night. After giving him a brief nod, she dragged him to bed.

The next morning, the sun was warm and bright.

It was about seven thirty in the morning and the dining room was a sight to behold, with all of the Riddles gathering at the table and chatting away in high spirits.



In addition to those who would regularly show up for breakfast there, Tia and Mrs. Wallace Sr. were there as well.

As it turned out, Stanley had formally made his relationship with Tia known to Mrs. Wallace Sr. and his parents, Gloria and Daniel.

“Great! That’s great!” Mrs. Wallace Sr. beamed, naturally happy about it.

She was one of the first to know about Tia’s feelings toward Stanley.

Gloria nodded vigorously in elation, “This is definitely good news!” “I guess you have nothing to worry about now.” Daniel laughed and turned to Gloria.

“Yeah, I don’t have to worry about it anymore.” Gloria sighed, after which she looked at the new couple. “About the wedding, when are you guys planning to have it?”

Having never given it any thought, Tia lowered her head in embarrassment.

“Mom, although Tia has said yes, I’m thinking of putting the wedding on hold in the meantime.” Stanley replied.

Although he too wished to marry Tia as soon as possible, they would be in too much of a rush if they planned to have their wedding this month.

“What are you guys waiting for? Since you’ve proposed, choose a date and prepare for the wedding.” Gloria frowned, growing impatient.

“Mom, there really isn’t a need to rush into it. I want to give Tia some time,”

Stanley disagreed.

They had just made their relationship official, so he wanted to give Tia some time to calm down.

As the both of them had decided to be together, nothing would change.

Therefore, there was no need to rush the wedding. Stanley’s main concern was that Tia, being the jittery, nervous wreck she was, would be overwhelmed if they held the ceremony as soon as possible.

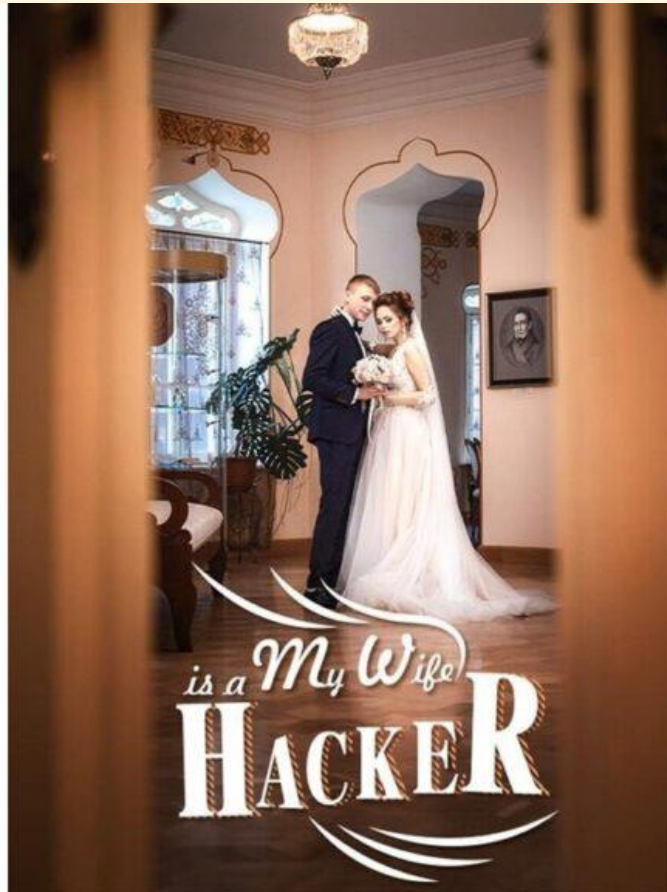
“Yeah, we’re not in a rush,” Tia echoed, not knowing what to say.



“What a fool.” Gloria sighed in irritation. “How can you not be in a rush for it?”

There are a ton of preparations to be made. You’ll have to think about the house as well. There aren’t any suitable houses for you guys in this neighborhood, but I can’t just force you guys to pick one, can I?” “Mom, Tia and I will be staying here.” Stanley smiled as he looked at Gloria.

“Tia and I have discussed it before, and we’ve decided to stay here.”



MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2878-“Are you guys serious about this decision? But...” Gloria hesitated for a moment.

The rest of her children had their own houses, and it was tradition that they would all move out once they were married.

“Yes, we’ve set our mind on it.” Stanley smiled and said. “We wish to stay here.”

That way, the house will still be as lively as ever. Besides, it'll be convenient for US to take care of you and grandma." "You don't have to worry about grandma and US. Once you and Tia get married, someone else will take care of grandma," Gloria argued, worried that Stanley and Tia had only decided not to move out because of Mrs. Wallace Sr.

"We've really thought it through," Stanley insisted, even though he understood what Gloria's concerns were.

While they were on the subject, Tia chimed in, "Yes, I want to continue taking care of grandma."

Although Nicole had hired her to be Mrs. Wallace Sr. 's caretaker, their relationship had evolved over the years. They had grown to be very tight-knit now, much like a grandmother and her granddaughter. Owing to all those years of care, Tia was certain that Mrs. Wallace Sr. would be more comfortable with her habits and her company.

"That's right. It'll be more comfortable for the both of US if we stay here."

Stanley nodded.

Seeing that the two of them were determined to stick around, Gloria looked at Daniel in helplessness, as if to ask for his opinion on the matter.

"If the kids have no objections to sticking around, we'll respect their wishes, "

Daniel replied.

Gloria and Daniel did not wish to deprive Tia of the new home she deserved, but if it was her wish to stay here with them, they would offer their unconditional support.

"We're fine with it," Tia immediately replied.

Everyone turned to look at Tia, whereupon they burst out laughing, causing her to blush in shyness once more.

"Alright, we'll go along with what you guys have decided then." Gloria added.

"The both of you will continue saying here. As for the wedding planning, we'll start working on it for the both of you. Well let you decide on the date."

Now that Stanley and Tia's relationship was stable, Gloria and Daniel could finally enjoy their peace of mind. In fact, they were not really in a rush to get them married, as Stanley had found someone he loved at long last. With that in mind, they had decided to give the couple the freedom of choosing the date of their ceremony.

After Gloria had spoken, she turned to look at Tia with a smile. "I wasn't expecting this, but it's amazing that the both of you finally found each other. Oh, this is great!" "Gloria?" Tia blushed again and lowered her head in shyness.

"I agree. My wish for Tia's future has finally been granted!" Mrs. Wallace Sr. said, her eyes wet with tears.

Gloria, on the other hand, was grinning from ear to ear as she said, "Even though it's the kids' decision, I don't think it's a bad idea for them to stay here now that I think about it. Although we don't really need them to take care of US, the house will at least be much livelier with them around."

Once Nicole and Jared had completed their ceremony, they would move out of the family home and to the one next door. The rest of them had also gotten married and shifted to their respective houses, so it would not be a stretch to say that the Riddle residence would be rather empty without them here. With Stanley and Tia around, however, Gloria and Daniel would not be as lonely.

"I think Mrs. Wallace Sr. should move in with US once Stanley and Tia are married. That way, it'll be easier for everyone to meet each other." Daniel suggested.

However, Mrs. Wallace Sr. waved her hands, begging to disagree. "I'm accustomed to the tranquility and silence there. I'll just remain in the house at the back. You guys are welcome to pay more frequent visits, though. It's a walking distance, after all."

While everyone was chatting away, they began discussing future plans.

Strangely enough, Tia was starting to feel less shy and nervous around them.

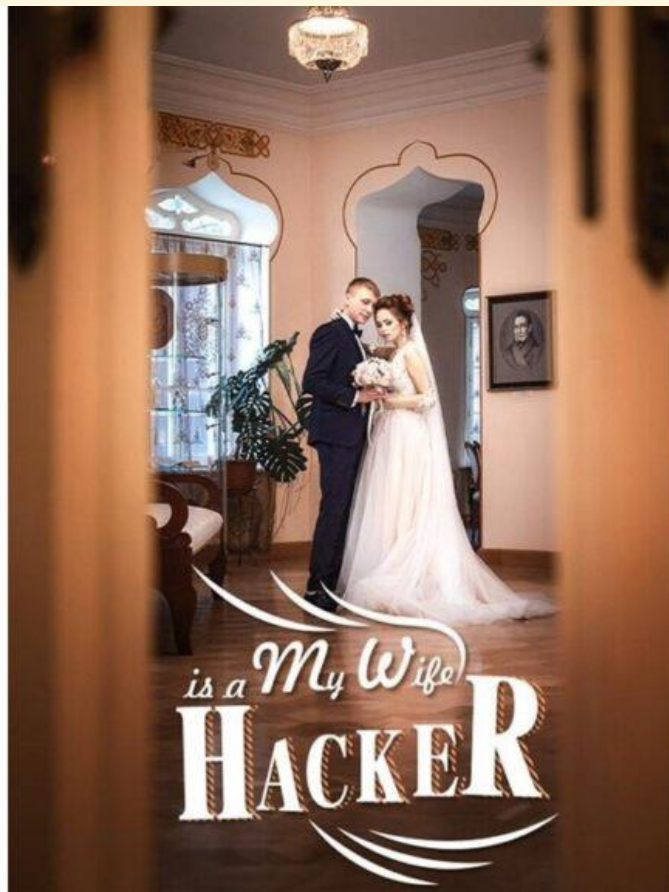
And when it was almost time to leave, she got up, prepared to send Nolan and Lana to school.

“I’ll come with you.” Stanley got up and followed after her and the two little ones.

Luna, another caretaker, then came over, brought Mrs. Wallace Sr. to the house at the back, and took care of her.

Nicole and Jared were prepared to leave for work, but the moment they stood up, Gloria said, “Nicole, about Tia’s arrangements, do you think she feels a weight on her shoulders, and that’s why she wants to continue staying here?”

Gloria genuinely did not wish to deprive Tia of the things she deserved because she genuinely loved Tia.



MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2879-With a smile on her face, Nicole replied, “Don’t worry, we’ll just go along with Stanley and Tia’s arrangements.”

Hearing this, Gloria calmed down. “Alright, I just want to make sure that Tia doesn’t feel as if she is lesser than US or anything. That’s my only concern.”

Indeed, this was Gloria's only concern. Nothing else would be a problem for her.

"You should just relax and prepare for their wedding, I'm sure they won't be able to wait for too long." Nicole smiled and advised.

Then, she held Jared's hand and walked out of the house with him.

Though Gloria was stunned at first, she quickly came to her senses and beamed. "The wedding is happening really soon, right?" "I guess so." Daniel returned her smile.

"Well, since Stanley and Tia will be staying with US, I think we should clean the house up, especially Stanley's room. We must renovate the couple's room and refurbish everything. Let's give them a new set of furniture and decorations."

Gloria began to plan.

"If you're going to renovate the room, where is Stanley going to stay?" Daniel asked.

"He can sleep in Samuel or Spencer's room for the time being as long as he isn't going to step foot in that room of his before the wedding. That room of his will be renovated and reserved for the wedding. We must clean it up," she replied.

Seeing how excited Gloria was, Daniel smiled and patted her on the back in support. "Alright, we'll go according to your plan."

Gloria then beamed and began planning on ways to renovate Stanley's room.

Meanwhile, Nicole and Jared, who had long since left the house, were on the road en route to their workplaces.

"Preston told me he just arrived at the headquarters of Finley Group. He's discussing the plan with Ryder and Gary," Nicole said in a low voice after she had caught a glimpse of the message on her screen.

"Yeah, with the three of them working together, the process should be quick."

Jared replied, calm and collected.

Nicole bit her lips and sighed. "I don't know why. I can't help but feel that the more we progress, the more stressed out I am."

Knowing how Nicole must be feeling, Jared wrapped his hand around hers.

If you give in now, you'll just be doing yourself a disservice." "I'm not giving in. I just feel a little sorry for the way things are now." Nicole shook her head.

For her relationship with Lawrence to deteriorate to the point that they could not even be friends anymore was something she had neither expected nor wanted.

It's human nature to only care about one's personal gains and interests. There's nothing new about it. That's the reality of the world we live in." Jared offered, his face drooping in profound sadness, for he too had experienced his share of betrayals, from his own uncle no less.

"Yeah." Nicole nodded.

She had resolved that if there was nothing she could do to remedy the situation, the only option left for her was to face her adversaries head on.

As the car continued plodding ahead. Nicole fixed her gaze on the scenery outside, and from her deep-set eyes, she got lost in thought. All Jared could do at that moment was hold her hands in an effort to comfort her.

Meanwhile, in the CEO's office of Finley Group, Ryder and Gary were left in a state of shock and disbelief.

With serious looks on each of their faces, they asked, "Are you being real?" "Do I look like I'm joking?" Preston rolled his eyes at both of them.

The idea that he would travel all the way there early in the morning just to pull a prank on them was ludicrous at best.

"It's not that. I'm just shocked." Gary shrugged his shoulders, his eyes wild and wide.

"But all of these are just our guesses. It's down to US to search for solid answers." Preston reminded the Finley brothers.

"Alright. We'll do our very best, as Nicole truly needs our help." Gary promised, his eyes burning with determination.

Ryder nodded in tandem. "If this is something that concerns Nicole, we must lend her a helping hand." "It's great to have you guys as friends." Preston sighed, happy and grateful to have them around.

Then, the three of them began to discuss how they were going to create the application. Once they had gotten a rough direction of what their next step was going to be, they began to delegate the tasks to everyone.

Once everything had been settled, the three of them looked at each other, their eyes shining with confidence. "Alright, we'll proceed with this." "One more thing."

Ryder paused for a moment and suggested. "We can consider baiting and switching."

Frowning, Preston asked, "You mean..." "Yes. Since they were the ones who started this, why don't we use what they have developed to the fullest extent and hide the actual results?" Ryder clarified.

By handing their adversaries a set of false results, the latter would not be able to make use of it to crack the code and gain access to the Water Crest.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2880-"That's a good idea." Preston and Gary nodded right away.

After they had conducted a few more rounds of discussion, Preston left the headquarters of Finley Group and made his way to Riddle Corporation. Upon arrival, he knocked on Nicole's door and entered her office.

Seeing that it was Preston, Nicole widened her eyes in surprise. "Why are you here? You can't be here to ask for a free lunch, right?"

After all, it was almost lunch hour.

"There are some issues, so I thought of coming over to inform you about them."

Preston began, and proceeded to explain the outcome of his discussion with Ryder and Gary.



Nicole nodded. "Initially, I had this idea too, but it's above my paygrade. I was worried we'd alert them, so I decided to forgo the idea." "Since we're the ones doing it, they won't realize a thing." Preston explained.

At the end of the day, their adversaries had their eyes on nobody but Nicole.

They would not discover anything if they did not look hard enough.

After giving it some thought, Nicole nodded. "You may proceed as you guys have discussed. Just give it a shot, but remember this. You must keep your wits about you." "Don't worry, we know what the situation is like. If we can't pull it off, well give up." Preston replied.

"Alright," Nicole said.

She knew that Preston and the Finley Brothers were rational and pragmatic individuals, connoting that they should be able to navigate around the issue with little hiccups along the way.

It was noon by the time the duo in the office were done with their little discussion, so Nicole invited Preston to stay for lunch.

Coincidentally, Lulu had just entered the office as well, so the three of them went out together. It did not take them long to find a restaurant that was to their liking, so they pulled up, sat down, and ordered their meals as soon as they did.

"Why did you visit our office today?" Lulu asked Preston out of curiosity.

"I was just passing by, so I decided to swing by for a little visit." Preston replied, not wanting to divulge to Lulu the true purpose of his visit.

Lulu did not think much about his explanation, as she was simply looking for an opportunity to tease him again, "I see. I thought you had your eyes on someone in our office."

Visibly annoyed, Preston rolled his eyes at her. "Aren't there women in my office too?" "This is just ridiculous! Must I come all the way to Nicole's office for that?"

Gosh!' he thought.



“So, you have your eyes on someone in your office?” Lulu’s eyes widened and she smirked, her curiosity growing stronger by the minute.

Taken aback by Lulu’s continued prodding, he argued, “Hold up. Did I say that?”

What he meant to say was, ‘Do I have to like someone to visit a certain place?’ “Hehe.” Lulu laughed, as she was just messing around, unlike Preston, who had taken it seriously.

“How’s your business coming along?” Nicole casually asked.

After flashing her a confident smile, he replied, “Everything’s fine. We’re progressing just fine.”

Hearing that coming from Preston gave her a sense of relief. “That’s good.”

“Don’t worry. I’m doing well now. I’ll be able to handle whatever tasks you throw at me without sacrificing time dedicated to the development of the company,”

Preston replied, before giving her a beaming smile.

Nicole returned his smile without offering any further commentary. She would be happy as long as the tasks she had assigned him did not affect the company.

“Oh, right. I got wind that Jared returned to Johnston Group today. Was there something important for him to do? I’m just wondering if it’s alright for him to show up at a time like this.” Preston asked out of worry.

Jared’s appearance at Emery’s wedding was not known to many, so it was safe to assume that things were still under his control. If he paid a sudden visit to his company, however, it would be difficult for him to escape being noticed by an employee or a member of the public.

“There is indeed something going on. But it’s fine. He did use the main entrance, so I don’t think anyone saw him.” Nicole explained.

“That’s good.” Preston sighed in relief.

The moment the waiter had served them their orders, the three of them dug in and chatted away. After they were done with their meals, they got up and left

the restaurant, with Preston heading back to his company and the duo of Nicole and Lulu returning to Riddle Corporation.

“There hasn’t been any movement on Damien’s end. Do you think he’s waiting for something or someone?” Lulu asked, hazarding a guess.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2881-Nicole nodded. “That’s very much possible.”

Damien had been refusing to spill the beans on what he had been up to for a few days now. If anything, he seemed to be stalling, buying himself more time along the way.

This had led them to wonder what he was actually hoping to accomplish by stalling. Was he expecting someone to come to his rescue?

With the very same school of thought crossing Nicole’s mind, she narrowed her eyes and asked, “Where is he?” “I don’t know, and Patricia didn’t say anything either,” Lulu carefully replied. “What are you worried about?” “I need you to caution Patricia and tell her to be on guard. It’s possible that Damien is waiting for someone to rescue him,” Nicole ordered.

Initially, Damien had made a few attempts at fleeing, only for Patricia to thwart all of them. Since then, he had remained silent, and such silence from him was a dead giveaway that he planned his exit.

Having realized it herself, Lulu frowned and nodded. “Alright, I will inform Patricia.” “Good,” Nicole replied, trusting that Patricia would handle it well.

“I’ll call her now,” Lulu said, before hurrying out of the office.

After exiting Nicole’s office, Lulu took her phone out and gave Patricia a call right away.

“Hello?” Patricia’s voice blared out in reply, and that was when Lulu relayed Nicole’s message to her.

“Okay, got it,” Patricia replied and hung up.

Lulu then pocketed her phone and returned to Nicole’s office with a grim look on her face.

On the other end, Patricia's gaze was dark and intense as she held her phone firmly in her grip.

"What's wrong? What happened?" Ellar asked in concern, having sensed the sudden change in her mood.

Patricia narrowed her eyes, and in a calm voice, she replied, "Nothing. I must return to Riddle Corporation."

Just when she was about to leave, she reminded Ellar, "Your arm is fine now, so you should go home after you're done with your work."

Not buying Patricia's assertion that everything was okay, Ellar asked, "Are you sure everything's fine?"

He could not shake the feeling that something had happened, and on top of being something of importance to her, it was something that could potentially put her life at risk.

Deciding to be patient with him, Patricia took a deep breath and answered, "Ms.

Riddle called me over."

She had sensed that Ellar was beginning to harbor suspicions of his own, and to divert his attention and put him at ease, she had decided to bring Nicole up.

After hearing that Nicole wanted Patricia back, Ellar nodded. "Alright then." "I'm leaving and I won't be coming back from now on," Patricia finished, and marched out of his office, her steps heavy and determined.

After all, Ellar's injuries were almost done healing, which meant that he did not need to stay in the office anymore. It was time for him to return home and get some proper rest.

Watching Patricia leave in the manner she did, Ellar felt an inexplicable sense of loss, as if a sense of emptiness had crept up to him and created a void in his heart.

"She's gone...just like that. Is she not coming back anymore?" he muttered to himself, grimacing in pain as though someone was wrenching his heart out of his chest.

After Patricia had left BayCorp, she did not head to Riddle Corporation.

What she had told him was merely a lie to prevent him from overthinking.

She had received Lulu's call, which meant that her task now was to guard against the possibility that someone might attempt to fish Damien out of captivity.

Once she had gotten into her car, Patricia wondered, 'If someone shows up to rescue Damien, who will it be, and where will they take him? Can we use this opportunity to expose the mastermind behind it all?' With this thought in mind, Patricia immediately gave Charlie a call and briefed him on the situation at hand.

"Alright, got it," Charlie replied in understanding.

Then, Patricia hung up.

Soon after, she arrived at the location where Damien was held: a regular residential house in the suburbs of San Joto. There, she had assigned someone to watch over Damien, ensuring that his meals were taken care of while preventing him from doing anything stupid. Upon getting down from her car, she entered the house.

Damien, who had been quiet all along, bared his teeth at her like a wild animal and bellowed at her, "This is unlawful captivity! Release me now!"

In turn, Patricia glanced at Damien dismissively and replied, "Didn't anyone tell you that your current behavior is a clear sign of guilt?"

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2882-"What am I guilty of? Don't test me! If you don't release me, I will make you regret everything you've done to me." Damien threatened through gritted teeth.

"Alright, I'd like to see you try," Patricia said and sauntered out of the house, calm as she had been when she got in.

The person in charge of watching Damien followed suit, and in a low voice, he asked, "Captain? He is still refusing to spill, ft "It doesn't matter. I don't need him to say anything now." Patricia snorted, her voice tinged with cold indifference.

“Captain, is there a new plan?” the man in black asked in a hushed voice.

“Tonight, you’re going to release him. Let him go...”

After devising her new plan of action and giving the man a complete rundown of it, Patricia darted the house one last glance, her eyes dark and cold. Then, she whirled around, got into her car, and sped off.

The two men in black exchanged a mutual glance, both showing great determination and resolve. Although the plan Patricia had crafted was a somewhat risky one, it would indeed be effective if they could pull it off.

The next day, the sun was bright and warm as it emerged from the horizon, giving the clouds its distinct golden gleam against the blue backdrop of the morning sky. But beautiful as the day seemed, Nicole’s day would not begin on a similar note.

As soon as she arrived at the headquarters, Lulu ran up to Nicole, her breath heavy and her face pale. “Patricia is missing.”

“What?” Nicole frowned. ‘How could this happen?’ “Damien escaped last night, and Patricia went MIA.” Lulu trembled, anxious and tensed up.

She did not know the full story as this was all the information she had.

“And there’s no way to contact her?” Nicole’s eyes darkened as a figure of a person flitted in her mind.

Then, she narrowed her eyes and gave Charlie a call.

“Yes, Mrs. Johnston. Although it was all a part of our plan, we’re currently unable to contact her. I don’t know what happened.” Charlie replied, sounding just as worried as the rest of them were.

“I see.” Nicole hung up and sighed.

“So?” Lulu nervously asked.

Shaking her head with a grim look on her face, Nicole responded, “He doesn’t know either.”

“Nicole! What happened to Patricia?” Ellar rushed over as he asked in a panic.

He had shown up as he was unable to contact Patricia this morning. He was worried, because there was no circumstance in which she was unreachable, even though she had returned to Riddle Corporation. To make things worse, her apartment was empty.

After glancing over at Ellar, Nicole sighed and said, "Come in and we'll talk about it."

Together, the trio of Nicole, Ellar, and Lulu entered Nicole's office.

"Patricia went on a mission, but for some reason, we can't contact her now,"

Nicole explained to Ellar.

"Does that mean she's in danger?" Ellar asked. 'Even if she's on a mission, she should not be unreachable.' "We're not sure for now." Nicole shook her head, not knowing the answer to the question herself.

At this moment, she was worried too.

Blanching, Ellar's eyes widened, and he yelled, "That means she must be in danger now!"

Then, he looked around anxiously, before turning around in an attempt to leave.

"No. No, it can't be! I must find her."

"Wait a minute." Nicole frowned, stopping Ellar in his tracks. "Where do you think you're going? How are you even going to find her?"

Ellar choked, and all he could mumble were the words, "I don't know where, but I have to find her."

"How are you going to find her if you don't even know where you're going? Are you going to wander around aimlessly in hopes that you'll be able to get to her eventually?" Nicole reprimanded.

Then, she advised, "Listen. I need you to calm down, Ellar."

"It's not that I don't want to calm down. I simply can't!" He plopped himself on a chair and buried his face in his hands, looking as if he was about to burst into tears.

“We’re worried about her too. But we can’t act recklessly at this time,” Nicole said in complete seriousness.

Nodding, Lulu stepped in and added. “Yeah, you need to calm down, Ellar. Let’s think of a plan.”

Lifting his head, Ellar could only grit his teeth and agree, “Okay.”

He knew full well that he could not afford to lose his bearings at a time like this.

However, he just could not shake the grip of anxiety over him, which was tightening as they spoke

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2883-Seeing that Ellar had piped down, Nicole slowly explained, “Damien’s escape was a part of Charlie’s plan. I suspect that Patricia’s sudden disappearance might also be part of the plan.”

“But Charlie doesn’t know about it, does he?” Lulu frowned, thinking that it was something Charlie should be privy to.

“Perhaps something unexpected occurred while they were on the scene, leaving Patricia with no time to discuss it with Charlie. Therefore, I think we should wait a little longer. If she had indeed decided that her disappearance was essential for the plan to succeed, our actions might only sabotage her,” Nicole explained.

“But...but for how long do we have to wait?” Ellar anxiously asked, for every minute he spent waiting for her would feel like an eternity.

After glancing over at Ellar, Nicole replied, “Eight hours. We’ll wait until tonight.”

If there was still no news about Patricia by duskfall, they would have to act.

“In that case, I won’t be returning to my office. I’m staying here with you. If there are any updates, I must know right away,” Ellar insisted.

“Have you made all the necessary arrangements in your company?” Nicole raised an eyebrow as she asked.

Scratching his head in awkwardness, Ellar replied, “Don’t worry. Nothing will happen.”

Though he had not planned anything, his secretary would be more than capable of handling everything in BayCorp in his absence.

Hearing that, Nicole could only shake her head in defeat and sigh. However, she did not make an effort to stop Ellar.

“Nicole, should we make some preparations just in case?” Lulu asked in a hushed tone of voice.

To that, Nicole agreed with a nod. “Yes, we should prepare.”

Even if Patricia’s disappearance was a part of her plan, which they assumed was well thought out, they still needed to consider unexpected possibilities. The last thing they needed was to be caught off guard and unprepared.

“What do you need me to do?” Ellar asked as soon as he heard there was a plan in motion.

Glancing over at Ellar, Nicole said, “We need you to stay calm.”

“Aw man... Please?” He pouted and slumped back against his chair, deflated and dispirited.

“Pouting won’t help,” Nicole shot back, serious and unsmiling.

This was not a game; it was a mission which could potentially get them killed.

Because of this, she did not want Ellar to be anywhere near them should a battle break out, both to prevent him from getting hurt and to avoid any mishaps or mistakes which could compromise Patricia’s safety.

Sensing how determined Nicole was, Ellar nodded and settled down, even though he was itching to lend a hand.

Satisfied with Ellar’s response, Nicole turned to Lulu and ordered, “As for you, I need you to take care of everything in the company.”

“You’re acting in person?” Lulu’s heart skipped a beat.

Lulu’s eyes were wide as she held her breath. She was not on board with the idea of Nicole being personally involved with Patricia’s rescue. She feared that which would happen should something horrible occur to Nicole.



Knowing what Lulu was thinking, Nicole looked at her and said, “Don’t worry.

Although I am not as quick and dexterous as I used to be, I can still hold my own.”

“No, you can’t risk it. Let’s think of other solutions! Please?” Lulu shook her head, dissuading Nicole as she was truly concerned about her safety.

However, Nicole, who had made up her mind, would not be swayed, so she comforted Lulu with a pat on the shoulder.” Don’t worry. I’ll be fine. I need you to trust me on this.”

Then, she turned to Ellar with a glare and issued him a serious warning, “Stay here. Don’t go anywhere.”

Worried, Ellar decided to make one final plea. “If you insist on going, can you at least bring me with you?”

“No, I can handle it myself. Bringing you along will only put us at greater risk of being detected,” Nicole firmly declined.

At that very instant, all Lulu and Ellar could do was stare at her with anxiety written all over their faces as they knew full well that nothing they could say would sway Nicole.

Nicole could not help but smile when she noticed how they looked. “It’s fine. I will prioritize my own safety.”

After that, she turned to Lulu, pointed a finger at Ellar, and reminded, “Make sure to keep an eye on him.”

Ellar going rogue and acting on his own impulses was the last thing she needed.

If he tailed her while she was out conducting her search, the situation would become much more complicated than it already was.

Understanding Nicole’s concerns, Lulu reluctantly said, “I got it. But you must come back safely. Should you not hear from or about Patricia even after you’ve done your best, please come back, and we’ll figure something out.”

“I’ll rendezvous with Charlie and decide on what to do next,” Nicole said before marching out of Riddle Corporation.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2884-With that, Lulu and Ellar anxiously watched as Nicole's figure receded from view.

"Hey! Stop that! You can't go," Lulu said and grabbed Ellar when she saw him trying to follow Nicole out of the building.

"Don't worry. I'll just tail her quietly," Ellar replied in an attempt to persuade Lulu to let him go.

what Nicole said. She explicitly told you that you aren't allowed to follow her, so you won't be."

She had to keep Ellar there because she knew it was the only thing she could do to help Nicole. She also understood that Nicole did not want Ellar to put himself in danger through his reckless behavior, as well intentioned as he might be. As he did not understand the circumstances surrounding the situation, he might jeopardize Patricia's safety if he exposed himself. After all, stealth and subtlety were not his strong suits.

With that in mind, Lulu was determined to do what Nicole had asked of her while she patiently waited for any updates.

Ellar sighed, helpless and despondent, as he knew that Lulu would never let him leave. "I'm just really worried."

"I'm worried too, and that's why we shouldn't act recklessly," Lulu shot back, understanding that the best they could do now was wait.

Meanwhile, Nicole went on to contact Charlie after she had stepped out of the headquarters.

She then explained her plan to him in clear detail, though he was not without his concerns after she had filled him in on what she was planning to do.

"This is too risky," he remarked.

"Patricia might be in danger. We can't just sit idly by," Nicole said, serious and determined.

"But it's also possible that Patricia has her own plan. It's just that she can't contact us in the meantime," Charlie advised.

"If I know where she is, I might be able to help her," Nicole insisted.

With all things considered, Nicole could still rescue Patricia if something unfortunate had occurred while she was on her mission.

Realizing that he could not talk her out of it, Charlie asked, "Does Mr. Johnston know about your plan?"

After a brief moment of hesitation, Nicole responded, "I will tell him."

Defeated, Charlie sighed and nodded. "Alright, Mrs. Johnston. Just let me know what you need. Feel free to contact me anytime."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Nicole sent a message to Jared to inform him of her plans, before pocketing her phone.

Then, she looked to the front and ordered, "Stop the car."

The chauffeur pulled over at the side of the street, and in a low voice, he asked, "Erm, Mrs. Johnston? Where are you going?"

"You don't need to drive me around anymore. You don't need to follow me either," she said, and hurried out of the car before sprinting into the mall up ahead.

By the time Jared arrived, the chauffeur was the only one left in the car, sitting in wait and in a daze.

"Where is she?" Jared questioned, his deep baritone sending shivers down the chauffeur's spine.

In response, the chauffeur could only point to the mall and answer, "She entered the mall and never came out."

Jared turned his gaze to the entrance of the mall and sighed. It was not that Nicole never left the mall. Knowing her, she had probably disguised herself in such a way that the chauffeur could not recognize her even after she had emerged.

This was, however, not a bad indicator of what was to come. If the driver, who was rather familiar with Nicole, failed to recognize her, there was a high chance that her adversaries would not, thus mitigating the level of danger she was in.

“You should head back now,” Jared instructed as he rolled the car window up.

“But Mr. Johnston? What should we do now?” Charlie asked in a low voice.

Jared narrowed his eyes as he leaned back against his seat. “Task someone to investigate this in secret. I don’t want any unwanted attention on our case.”

“Got it.” Charlie nodded in acknowledgment.

As Jared looked out the window, a trace of worry flashed in his eyes. “Will she be in danger?” After all, her combat skills were not what they used to be, and to make things worse, her adversaries had been there watching her every move. Even a slight mistake could lead to lethal consequences.

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MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2885-“Mr. Johnston? Is it possible that Damien’s men are so cunning that they were able to get Patricia in a bind?” Charlie asked, concerned and anxious.

He had initially kept his concerns from Nicole to avoid making her even more stressed out than she already was.

“No,” Jared said, his voice deep and calm. “The fact that there isn’t any news so far means she’s safe.”

“Okay.” Charlie nodded.

Even though he had tried to convince himself of that theory too, the stirring feeling of uneasiness still lingered in his heart.

Jared then withdrew his gaze, his eyes darkening in cold fury. “Let’s head to my office.”

At this point, all they could do was wait. Ultimately, he hoped that Nicole would be fine.

“Sure.” Charlie nodded in acknowledgment before starting the car and driving them to the headquarters of Johnston Group.

Once they had arrived, and once Charlie had made all of the necessary arrangements, he entered Jared’s executive office.

“Mr. Johnston? Everything has been taken care of,” Charlie reported.

“Excellent.” Jared’s eyes slightly darkened, still worried about Nicole.

At this moment, he had no way of contacting her directly, and for him to deploy several squads to search for her would only draw unwanted attention. All he could do was task a few of his men to conduct an investigation, hoping that they would bring him some good news as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Nicole had arrived at the residential house, alert and well-disguised.

Although the place was now deserted, it was the last known location where Patricia had been, and that was the reason as to why Nicole wanted to inspect the area. Here, she hoped to gather some clues on their current whereabouts.

She began observing the surroundings and upon finding nothing unusual, she entered the house. The interior was neither ransacked nor in disarray, indicating that Damien’s escape was indeed intentional. There were no signs of a commotion either, suggesting that Patricia, after releasing Damien, had tailed him with members of her team in tow.

‘Didn’t we plan to disseminate some information, set a trap, and capture Damien’s rescuer? Why didn’t they show up? That’s probably why Patricia switched the plan so suddenly at the end,’ she thought, her brow furrowing in concern.

As things stood, it seemed very likely that Patricia had indeed left to track Damien. However, there was still no news from her, leading Nicole to wonder if Patricia had made a very important discovery, or if she had been captured.

While she was lost in thought, Nicole suddenly spotted a marking on the wall near the front gate. Upon walking over, she realized that it was a sign Patricia had left her, allowing her to finally breathe a sigh of relief. As it turned out, Patricia had indeed decided to abandon the old plan to track Damien instead.

Upon careful examination, she found a long trail of markings leading her to a certain direction, and after following them for a minute or two, she discovered that all of the signs pointed to a mountain in the distance.

Have they entered the mountains?’ she wondered.

Nicole then took her phone out of her pocket, and after a second of hesitation, she sent Jared a message. [I'm safe.

They've probably entered the mountains. I'm going over there to have a look.] [Be careful] Jared quickly replied.

But as she was about to put her phone away, Jared sent another message:

[Don't turn your phone off. If you don't contact me, I won't contact you] [Okay.] Nicole smiled and placed the phone back.

She then hurried off to the mountain pass about a mile from where she was standing.

Initially, she had turned her phone off because she was worried that her cover would be compromised if someone called her, alerting her enemies to her presence. Now that she understood Jared's concerns, she had decided to leave her phone on, though with her caller tune and notification beeps silenced. After all, it would be easier for her to get help if she kept it on.

A warm and fuzzy sensation radiated from her heart as she let out a deep breath. Then, with her eyes burning with determination, she entered the mountain pass, following all of the signs Patricia had left her.

The further in she went, however, the darker and more forested the surroundings became.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2886-She looked ahead, her eyes piercing the darkness. Judging from the elevation she was at, she figured that the cliff might not be too far from where she stood.

Midway, Nicole stopped and pondered if there was still a way ahead. She was wondering why Damien and the rest of his entourage had chosen to hole themselves up in a place that was so isolated and claustrophobic.

All of a sudden, she heard some rustling noises emanating from the thick, lush vegetation before her. Startled, she darted off the trail she was on and hid herself behind the thicket to her right, and there, she carefully observed the movements of the silhouettes ahead.

"Let's stay here for a few days. We can leave once things have simmered down," a man said with a hint of caution in his voice.

“Why don’t we just leave now?” another voice asked.

Upon hearing the second voice, Nicole’s eyes widened.

‘Isn’t that Damien? Patricia was following him, but why isn’t she here?’ Nicole wondered.

As their footfalls grew louder, Nicole crouched over and looked through the gaps in the thicket, trying not to place herself in their direct line of sight.

As expected, two figures emerged from the grove up ahead, of whom one was Damien. They were strolling along the pathway as they conversed, shooting bullets of glances behind their shoulders every now and then to ensure that they were not being followed.

“Do you think we’ve really shaken that woman off?” Damien asked, sounding a little worried.

“Vaio is keeping an eye on her. She won’t have her way with us,” the other man assured.

However, Damien still seemed uneasy as he remarked, “She’s quite formidable, you know.”

“You have nothing to worry about, because Vaio is more than capable of taking care of her,” the man asserted. “Let’s go. With Vaio distracting her, we can take this opportunity to get into hiding.”

“Okay.” Damien agreed, and followed the other man around a corner.

Then, they disappeared from sight.

What they failed to realize was that someone had managed to track them here; after Nicole had gotten a bead in the direction which they had taken, she went after them, moving in a half-crouch with her back lowered so as to muffle her footfalls.

Based on what she had gathered from their conversation, it was evident that this individual by the name of “Vaio” was not someone she should trifle with. In all likelihood, he was skilled in combat, stealth, and mind games.

With that in mind, Nicole quickened her pace until she could hear a commotion up ahead. Judging by the sound of grunts and yells, Nicole figured that they came from Patricia and Vaio, who must be locked in combat.

The voices drew closer and louder until they sounded as if they were right next to Nicole, and that was when she caught sight of two figures grappling and wrestling. With her heart pounding, Nicole squinted her eyes and quickly advanced to get a good look of the situation.

As it turned out, Patricia was still capable of going toe-to-toe with Vaio, though it was challenging for her to gain the upper hand. Just as Nicole was about to step in to help, she caught a glimpse of Vaio producing a slender hilt of some sort from the holster at his back.

“Shit!” Nicole grabbed a tree branch and hurled it at Vaio, knowing she would be unable to get to them in time.

“Ah!” The tree branch struck Vaio’s arm, causing him to yelp in pain, and the baton-like weapon he was holding fell to the ground with a loud clunk.

A needle-like appendage with rows of feathers lining it ejected from the tip of the baton, making it clear to Nicole that it was a concealed tranquilizer baton.

Vaio then stumbled back and clutched his arm in pain.

Not expecting someone else to join the fray, he looked around and shouted, “Who’s there? Show yourself!”

Patricia shot a quick glance at Nicole’s direction, and though she did not see her, she knew right off the bat that Nicole was there to aid her.

Without another second of delay, Patricia quickly attacked Vaio. Deprived of his weapon now, he quickly realized that he was now at a disadvantage. But just when he was retreating, he suddenly felt a sharp, stinging pain in his neck.

Clutching his neck, Vaio looked around, struggling to see and understand what had just happened. Unfortunately for him, his vision began to blur, and once the last wave of stars had obscured his line of sight, blackness engulfed him, and he tumbled to the ground with a grunt.



“Ms. Riddle.” Patricia joyfully held her arm up upon spotting Nicole. “I knew it was you.”

“I saw the markings you’ve left behind.” Nicole studied Patricia from top to toe.

And when she was sure that Patricia was unscathed, a smile crossed her face.

“Something unexpected occurred last night. I couldn’t contact you, so I changed the plan on my own,” Patricia explained.

Nicole nodded, “Yeah. We’ve figured that out. We were all worried about your safety because we couldn’t reach you.”

“I’m okay, but they’re all still lying unconscious over there,” Patricia said, glaring at Vaio, who was still lying on the ground with his limbs splayed like a starfish.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2887-They did not anticipate that Vaio would attempt to pull a dirty trick on them. If Nicole had not intercepted the last hit, Patricia would have joined the rest of her team members in the pile.

“It’s all right.” Nicole said, relieved after knowing that temporary unconsciousness was all Patricia’s team had sustained.

“But Damien still managed to escape,” Patricia spat in annoyance.

“They can’t get away. When I came around the clearing, I encountered them, and that was how I knew you were here,” Nicole explained.

In fact, that was how she had managed to get to Patricia in time.

Upon hearing this, Patricia nodded and replied, “That’s good. I’ll go after them now.”

“Leave a mark for Charlie first. I’ll accompany you after that,” Nicole said, leaving a mark on one of the tree trunks before following Patricia to one of the caves in pursuit of Damien.

While they were on their way, Patricia proceeded to detail to Nicole everything that had happened last night.

“Initially, our plan was to let them fall into our trap. We’ve even disseminated the news, but unfortunately, our enemies didn’t fall for it, so they never ended up entering the yard,” Patricia said, before sighing in defeat.

“Pretty clever of them, huh?” Nicole scoffed.

“Yeah, we were left with no choice. We’d be damned if we missed such a good opportunity to get them, so we’ve loosened Damien’s bonds and allowed him to escape. After that, we followed him and his band of jackasses into the mountains and into their lair,” Patricia continued.

Nicole nodded. “So they didn’t actually discover you. They were simply on guard from the beginning.”

“Yes, and because of that, we had to be extra cautious along the way too. Even though there were a few windows of opportunity for us to act, we did not seize them. The goal was to have our enemies let their guards down. We wanted them to think we’ve lost track of them.”

If they had acted from the very beginning, Vaio would have caught them there, thwarted their attempts to get to Damien, and beaten them to a pulp, ending their mission there and then.

Nodding, Nicole narrowed her eyes. “They will hole up in the mountains and prepare for their escape after the trail has gone cold. If Damien manages to escape this time, it’s possible that he won’t ever be coming back.”

“And that’s why we mustn’t let him go. There are two individuals who have come all the way here to assist him, and they are definitely not people we should take lightly.” Patricia gritted her teeth.

Her objective now was to capture and bring these two individuals back alive.

Whatever it was that Damien had been keeping to himself, these two men would be more willing to let slip.

“Let’s go and take a look.” Nicole nodded and continued following Patricia.

Nicole and Patricia were not worried about Vaio at all. The dosage in that baton was probably sufficient to put a full grown elephant to sleep for a good few hours.

After a short trek, the duo quickly arrived at the path where Damien and the man had taken off to. The deeper into the woods they were, the denser the vegetation became, making it difficult for them to see what was ahead of them clearly.

“They are hiding here? Aren’t they afraid of bears and other people coming after them at night?” Patricia snorted in annoyance.

“It’s probably not ideal for them to make their escape now. Otherwise, they should be trying to find a way to leave as soon as possible,” Nicole inferred.

Patricia frowned. “Now that you mention it, I remember that they seemed to be discussing something as they were heading into the caves last night. They were planning to make one last deal or something.”

However, she did not manage to get a grasp of the details of their conversation.

She swore they were definitely planning something, but she could not figure out what it was to be exact.

Furrowing her brows, Nicole asked, “One last deal?”

“Yes, I think they’re up to something much bigger in scale, but I can’t figure out what it is for crying out loud. I have a feeling that something is in the works.”

Patricia narrowed her eyes, serious and grim.

Whatever it was, it would not bode well if they succeeded.

After a moment of hesitation, Nicole grabbed Patricia by the shoulder and said, “Wait a minute.”

“What?” Patricia looked around warily.

“Let’s not rush in trying to find them.” Nicole paused and pondered for a moment. “If they’re really up to something, finding them and getting to them at this moment will be meaningless.”

“Are you letting them go?” Patricia asked, her brows furrowed in concern.

Nicole shook her head. “No. What I’m suggesting is that we should wait for a while longer. Jared and the others should be here soon.”

She thought it would be better for them to discuss with Jared on how to proceed next, and so, they waited.

After about an hour, Jared arrived as she had anticipated, putting a smile on her face. “I knew you would come.”

Jared’s eyes softened when he noticed that she was unharmed and unscathed.

He walked over to her, wrapped his hands around hers, and said, “You’ve been waiting for me, haven’t you?”

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2888-“Yeah.” Nicole nodded. “There’s something I’d like to discuss with you.”

“What is it?” Jared asked in a low voice.

Nicole proceeded to brief Jared on Patricia’s findings and then looked at him, saying, “I don’t think we should capture those two individuals for now. We should comb through the entire mountain without actually apprehending them.”

“So, you’re trying to lull them into a false sense of security and capture them once they’ve left the pass?” Jared raised his hand to tidy her hair, having guessed what she was up to.

Knowing that he had called it, Nicole smiled. “Yes, let’s trick them into thinking it’s safe to proceed so that they’ll make a move.”

If Nicole stormed in and captured Damien as well as his associate now, they might alter their plans, making their efforts next to fruitless.

“Alright.” Jared agreed and turned to Charlie. “Take care of it. n “Yes.” Charlie nodded.

Once that was settled, Patricia stepped in and said, “Our people are still lying over there, and we’ve also captured one of them. Let’s take them back together.”

Charlie glanced over at Patricia, and after he was certain that they were all okay, he led them away.

“Let’s head home.” Jared said, before grabbing her hand and leading her away from the mountain.

Back in the car now, Nicole leaned her head on Jared’s shoulder. “Sorry for making you worry.”

Unable to fault her for what she had done, Jared caressed her hair and replied, “Don’t go around risking your safety anymore, alright?”

Nicole sighed, knowing that she should not be running off on her own. “I know I’m not as agile as before. I was just trying my luck. I wasn’t planning to put myself in danger.”

She also understood that if something happened to her, everyone would be in a huge mess since she was the prime target of her enemies.

Lowering his gaze, Jared stared at her, his eyes brimming with affection.

Nicole then smiled and said, “Well, I guess I was lucky.”

Jared shook his head in defeat and gently tapped Nicole on the forehead. “Luck won’t always be on your side.”

In a gesture of defiance, Nicole stuck her tongue out at him. “This is a special case.” Soon after, the car stopped, and Nicole looked outside. That was when she noticed they had arrived at Riddle Corporation.

“Are you going in with me?” Nicole frowned, feeling a little conflicted about whether Jared should show up in public with her or not.

There was no secret passage through which Jared could enter here. If someone spotted Jared as he was entering the building, his entire ruse would be exposed for what it was.

Unbothered by the possibility of being discovered, Jared pulled Nicole out of the car. “It’s okay. Max should be wrapping up over there now.”

“Okay.” Nicole reversed her grip, her fingers interlocking with Jared’s.

Since there was little sense in her worrying about Jared being discovered anymore, she could now walk with him in public.

Patricia then got out of the car and followed the two into the headquarters of Riddle Corporation.

Lulu, as expected, was on the brink of tears when she saw them all returning in one piece. "It's good that everyone is back safely!"

They had been worried sick while Nicole was gone, and every minute in their wait felt like an eternity.

When Ellar saw Patricia coming in, he leaped to his feet and lumbered toward Patricia before giving her a hug. "Can you not do something as risky as this anymore? I was really worried!"

Patricia froze, completely taken aback by what Ellar had just done, but when she eventually came to, she pushed him away and warned him, "Just talk if you have something to say. Don't get all touchy with me."

However, Ellar was undeterred; he proceeded to hold her hand as he scanned her from head to toe. "Are you okay? Where were you all night...?"

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2889-After a series of rapid-fire questions from Ellar, Patricia maintained her glare at him, refusing to answer any of it.

Instead, she countered, "Why are you here? Weren't you at BayCorp?"

"I came over because I was worried about you. I noticed you were missing early in the morning, so I came over to ask Nicole. As it turned out, you were gone before we even knew it," Ellar explained, his head voice still tinged with fear and concern.

A wide-eyed Patricia then turned to Nicole, who nodded and smiled. "Indeed, he was the first to notice your absence. Otherwise, we might not have known as soon as we did."

It was then that an important realization dawned upon her.<sup>1</sup> So that was why Ms. Riddle arrived earlier than expected.' "That's right. Moreover, he was genuinely worried about you. If it weren't for me holding him back, he would have rushed over to where you were. He was super antsy even when he was here too." Lulu looked at Patricia with a meaningful smile etched on her face.

Just like that, Patricia's glare vanished, replaced by an awkward frown which she attempted to conceal by looking away. Ellar, however, remained oblivious as he continued to bombard her with a million questions.

"Ms. Riddle, if there's nothing else here for me to do, I'll leave now," Patricia excused herself and turned around, feeling that the awkwardness was too much for her to bear.

"Hey, wait up." Ellar immediately chased after her.

With her eyes still trained on the two receding figures, Lulu smiled, turned to Nicole and Jared, and announced, "I'm leaving too."

After Lulu was gone, Nicole issued a sigh of relief and looked up at Jared with a beaming smile.

In turn, he grabbed her hand and said, "Do take a nap for a while if you're feeling tired."

"I'm fine." Nicole linked arms with Jared and lowered her voice into a whisper. "I just think the Eastern Falcon is enshrouded in a veil of mystery and secrecy. It's been such a long time, but there's still no substantial evidence to prove that they are back in the scene. We've found no core information about them either."

Gently stroking her hair, Jared assured, "Perhaps we'll find the information we've been looking for this time."

"Are there any updates?" Nicole asked with her brows raised.

"We're waiting for Max's report." Jared, with his hand still wrapped around hers, led her to the sitting area.

Nodding in understanding, Nicole sighed in relief. "I hope everything goes smoothly."

Max had been away with his team for several days now, and it was about time they got some results. Moreover, Zane had been conducting an investigation of his own for a few weeks, and by now, they should have found some clues.

Straining her eyes, Nicole recalled the conversation she had overheard between Damien and his associate. "What else are they trying to do, given

their capabilities...?’ Meanwhile, the air was nowhere near as calm in Patricia’s office.

With a stern look on his face, Ellar warned. “This is the last time! Don’t you dare do something as risky as this ever again.”

Patricia raised an eyebrow, opting not to give him a direct answer. “This is my business. It’s not something you need to concern yourself with.”

“But I will be worried about you!” Ellar shouted, his voice breaking in helplessness.

“If you have nothing important to say, you may leave. I still have work to do.”

Patricia picked a document up, trying to appear indifferent to Ellar.

“Why are you doing this?” Ellar anxiously stepped forward and snatched Patricia’s file away.

He then looked at her seriously and declared, “Listen carefully. I won’t give up.

Ever! Even if your heart is a block of ice, I’ll melt it.”

No matter how much time it took, no matter how much effort was needed, he would never give up.

Patricia, seemingly unaffected by his outburst of emotion, glanced over at Ellar and said, “You really don’t need to do this. Things will never work out between the two of us.”

“Why not? As long as I like you, and you like me, everything is possible!” Ellar insisted.

“But I don’t like you,” Patricia replied through gritted teeth.

Ellar was momentarily stunned but less than a second later, he shook his head.

“I don’t believe it for a second. I know you care about me.”

Though her words were cold and mean, her actions, as subtle as they were, indicated otherwise. He knew Patricia had rejected him for a myriad of other



reasons, and that was why he was determined to wait it out. What he would never do, however, was give up.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2890-Helpless and moved, Patricia massaged her temples and said, "Ellar, you really don't need to waste your time on me. With your qualities, getting yourself a girlfriend should be a piece of cake."

"But you're the only person I want to be with. If I can't be with you, I'd rather remain single forever!" Ellar stated firmly, his eyes burning with passion and unyielding persistence.

Unable to meet Ellar's gaze, Patricia blinked and looked away from him.

She had taken care of him at BayCorp for some time now, connoting that she was not completely indifferent to Ellar. However, she also understood that certain things in life were destined to be impossible, with the prospect of getting together with Ellar being one of them, so she dared not lead him on and give him any hope.

Gritting her teeth, Patricia continued to feign indifference." That's your business.

It has nothing to do with me."

After saying that, she picked another file up and ignored Ellar.

Ellar looked at Patricia, his eyes wet and heavy in disappointment.

At this rate, he could only grit his teeth and say, "Alright then. I won't get in the way of your work. I'll come over to see you again after six."

Patricia's lips began twitching fiercely, but as she was determined not to dignify his words with a response of her own, she remained silent and continued to ignore him.

'Can't he see that I'm deliberately keeping my distance from him? Yet, he still had the gall to say he will come over to pick me up after work. What a pain in the rear!' she fumed.

Ellar walked away, turning back every time he took a step, and once he was out of the door, Patricia finally breathed a sigh of relief. 'Whatever the case is,

at least he is gone for now.' Shaking her head, Patricia returned to the tasks at hand..

As dusk fell, Nicole and Jared returned to the Riddle residence.

A look of puzzlement crossed Nicole's face the moment she saw a bunch of construction workers leaving, prompting her to ask, "Mom, what are they doing?"

"The renovation is in order. We're preparing Stanley's room so that it'll be fit for two." Gloria replied, telling Nicole that everything that had been happening was a matter of course.

Taken aback by what her mother just said, Nicole asked, "Are they getting married already?"

'Didn't they say they wanted to wait for some time, and that there was no rush for them to get married?' she wondered.

"We're preparing in advance," Gloria replied. "They'll get to decide when they wish to get married."

Nicole sighed in confusion. "Well, where will Stanley be sleeping, then?"

"In Samuel and Spencer's old room. He can choose whichever room he wants to spend his nights in. Anyway, his current room will be renovated. He won't be going back there until he gets married," Gloria explained with a tinge of amusement in her voice.

"Mom, we are your married sons. Are we kicked out of the house already?"

Samuel, who just so happened to walk in, joked.

Shaking her head, Gloria glanced over at him and retorted, "You have your own place, don't you?"

"Alright, I get it. I mean, you urged us to get married, but once we did, you just refused to give us the same amount of attention. This hasn't escaped my notice.

If I had known this, we would have delayed our marriage." Samuel shrugged, pretending to be hurt.

“If you had delayed your marriage, I wouldn’t have been pressured into getting married either,” Stanley, who had just come in, retorted.

“Hey now. That’s your problem. Don’t pin the blame on me,” Samuel barked back.

Glaring at the bickering siblings, Gloria scolded them, “Why are you all back today? And what’s with all the fighting the moment you entered the house?”

“We heard there’s good news at home, so we came over to have a look.”

Samuel smiled.

The others arrived one after another, and once they were all here, they exchanged glances. “Where’s Tia?”

“She’s at the back,” Stanley replied.

“Wait, you were the one who took them home, so where are the two little ones?”

Lulu asked in confusion.

Even if Tia had returned to the house at the back where Mrs. Wallace Sr. resided, Nolan and Lana should have returned by now.