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Chapter 46

Jared started to frown with frustration as he wondered. He called his assistant, Max, over and whispered something into his ear. Max nodded gently. After some time, Nicole's order arrived, and she noticed that there were two coffee mugs. She looked up at Max, who brought her order, and signaled him to explain himself with her eyes. Somehow, Max, who was under Nicole's stare, felt as if he was facing his boss. He wiped the sweat on the edge of his forehead and said politely, "Miss Riddle, this is the café's new product. Since you have a deep understanding of our coffee, the café owner specially ordered me to send you a cup for you to have a taste." "The café owner?" Nicole turned around and saw Jared casually playing with his coffee mug. When he saw her looking over at him, he smiled playfully and gestured for her to drink the coffee. Nicole felt like he seemed to want her to try the new product.

She thought about it and raised her mug to have a sip indifferently. The new coffee was rich in flavor and was packed with a dense taste. It was not the usual taste of coffee, and she had few comments in her mind.

Jared watched her as she was drinking the coffee.

Nicole took some time before she commented, "If I'm not mistaken, this is probably the coffee beans harvested from Mr. Johnston's private estate in France. The bitterness of the beans was turned pleasant, and the latest freeze-drying technique was applied as the processing method. The low temperature will keep the original taste of the coffee beans and allow them to be heavily frothy. The coffee filled with a rich aroma will leave only a pleasant taste in the mouth with no sourness.

Before Max could speak, Jared was already walking toward Nicole as he clapped. "Not bad at all. You've got a good taste, Miss Riddle! You've got everything right." Jared had waited for her for a few days, and she, as expected, did not let him down. Not only did this girl know about the coffee beans from his estate, but she had also tried the newest product before.

"Miss Riddle, my coffee beans are the newest batch. There isn't enough time for us to send some to Mr. Ellison, so where have you tasted it?"

At that moment, Nicole's expression changed. It turns out that Jared still had not gotten over it. Was he setting traps for her? Nicole could tell that he did not believe her lies at all! Jared just took a seat across from her when he saw her slightly panicking. He then stared at her teasingly as he waited for her response. "Besides, why are you so familiar with the coffee beans from my private estate? You even know about the processing methods so well."

Jared would only introduce a few roasting techniques to the people visiting his private land. But the few friends he had were all high-ranking bigshots.

No matter how Nicole got her hands on his coffee, the person who sent her the coffee beans they had gotten from Jared must have highly regarded Nicole. Jared got more intrigued about Nicole's past as he thought about this. Nicole saw that she could not hide the truth anymore, so she did not bother looking for excuses.

She looked him dead in the eye and smiled. "Obviously, the reason I know about it is that I drank the coffee from the owner of that estate. Besides, I've had it for years."

Jared was even more surprised as his coffee would only be sent to the most powerful people in the world. Besides, the supply was very limited.

And Nicole actually said that she had drunk his coffee for years?

His fiancé was incredibly mysterious.

"Last time, you said Mr. Ellison let you drink it, Miss Riddle. It was obviously a lie, so would you be so kind as to disclose the identity of the friend who gave you the coffee beans?"

"No." Nicole smiled. Her smile was graceful and not rude, but it had kept his mouth shut.

It was the first time Jared was rejected by someone, so his eyes squinted slightly.

But he could not force Nicole as her identity was still a mystery.

"Alright, seems like I could only do my own research." Jared smiled as his enticing eyes met hers mid-air.

Max could not help but gulp as he watched them. Both were equally matched, staring at each other like they were in a battle.

"It's up to you." Though Nicole was a little bothered about the power of the Johnston family, her identity could not be dug out so easily, so there was not much for her to be afraid of.

Jared was even more impressed with her when he saw her acting so calmly.

To be able to withstand his presence, Nicole was definitely not a country girl, let alone a normal student 'Interesting, how interesting! Nicole took another sip of coffee and said slowly, "Is Mr. Johnston Sr. fully recovered? Do you think he can meet visitors now?"

Jared concentrated on Nicole as his smile grew deeper. He did not expect Nicole to bring up such a thing

"No," Jared responded coldly.

He returned Nicole's word to her.

Nicole arched her brows slightly as she thought, 'This rascal, Jared. sure holds grudges.'

"It's alright. I'll head over when he is available. After all, I'm still young. Don't delay your own marriage, Mr. Johnston." Nicole smiled brightly before she buried her head in her book again.

Jared's expression froze in a split second. 'This young lady sure knows how to provoke people!'

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Jared saw that Nicole had no intentions of talking to him, so he said, "Sure, we'll meet him someday then. I've got something to do, so I'll be leaving now."

Jared then fixed his tie and got up before turning and leaving dashing.

Max was the only one who knew that his boss was a little upset.

After Jared left, Nicole only looked up to see the back of his figure. For whatever reason, she suddenly found his sulking expression interesting. She stopped smiling and shook her head, and continued reading while drinking her coffee. The sky turned dark in the blink of an eye, and Nicole finally decided to go back to her dorm to rest. She kept her book away and got up after leaving a banknote on the table. Before leaving the café, she saw Raine bringing Gary into the premise. Nicole could not help but smirk as she did not expect Raine to show up at the café after being humiliated here.

Gary also saw Nicole and got a little angry as he thought about her rejecting him earlier in the afternoon. So, he did not start a conversation with her, though his eyes were still following her around.

Raine's expression turned hideous as soon as she saw Nicole.

Gary had been treating Raine exceptionally cold these days. She knew that Gary was very interested in this café, so she tried her best to bit the embarrassment bullet she got from the slap last time. She managed to get Gary to come with her, but who would have known that Nicole would appear everywhere?!

When Raine watched Nicole walking past her and the cashier, leaving without paying, she could not help but mock Nicole, "How could you leave without paying, Nicole? You country folks are really uneducated. You're trying to avoid paying even when you're in full view!" Nicole just rolled her eyes at Raine. She paid no heeds to her and pushed the door open. Raine saw Nicole shaking her head, so she thought Nicole was trying to leave without paying. She immediately rushed over to the man at the cashier and said, "Hey! Do something about her. She's trying to leave without paying! You're lucky I saw it!" Nicole had insulted Raine last time, so Raine wanted to embarrass Nicole to the point where she could not bring herself to get her coffee from this café anymore! Unexpectedly, the cashier only gave her a polite smile. "That lady is Miss Riddle and she's our café's VIP. She doesn't have to pay for anything here. As for you, missus, you've already been blacklisted by our café. The café owner doesn't welcome you. Please leave."

"What?" Raine was trembling with anger after hearing his words. She did not expect Nicole to be able to dine in here for free so easily, but she was chased out even when she wanted to spend her money here! "How do you run your business? Do you know who I am? How dare you blacklist me?! Do you want your business to close down?!" The cashier who was polite to her immediately changed his attitude upon her remarks. "I don't care who you are, but the rules of our café remain! Don't act so atrociously here, or you will pay for it!"

Two big-built bodyguards appeared behind the cashier after he was done speaking, staring down at Raine.

Raine wanted to continue speaking, but Gary could not stand being in such a humiliating situation anymore, so he just turned and left.

He had never been rejected by anyone ever since he was young. Raine was really embarrassing him!

Raine panicked when she saw Gary leaving, so she immediately ran after Gary after shooting the cashier a glare. "Gary, wait up..." Max walked down the stairs after Raine and Gary left and praised the cashier, "You've done well."

Raine was yelling at the fiance of his boss and was even threatening people in Johnston's territory. She was obviously asking for trouble!

Max then walked to Nicole. "We're sorry for startling you, Miss Riddle."

"It's alright." Nicole smiled, not feeling upset. Instead, she was really relieved at the fact that Jared had blacklisted Raine.

"Please thank Mr. Johnston for me. I'll visit here often." Nicole waved and left after speaking. Max was a little surprised as he thought, 'Miss Riddle seemed happy.'

At that moment, the cashier walked over to Max. "Mr. Graham, that lady just now left some money on the table..."

Max took the banknote and smiled. "This lady sure is interesting."

He thought, 'Mr. Johnston already said that Nicole did not have to pay for anything in here, but she refused to owe him anything.'

'People like her are rare these days.'

The sky was dark, and the streetlights on campus were all lit up. Nicole walked slowly to her dormitory with her bag in her hands, and it did not take long for her to reach her dorm.

Just when she was about to go up the stairs, she sensed that something was about to fall from upstairs.

Her reaction was quick, so she dodged it immediately. Suddenly, a rock landed on the ground, and a loud noise was heard.

"A rock?!" She thought, 'Who was pulling such a sick prank? If I hadn't evaded that rock, it would have cracked open my skull.' She sensed that the rock was thrown from the dormitory next to hers just now. The dormitory was for boys, so she had no idea who bore so much grudge at her that he had to hit her with a rock.

The culprit was still looking at her from the tenth-something floor and was upset that the rock did not hit her. The person scoffed and tucked his head back in. Nicole did not see his face, but she wondered, 'I have just moved into the dormitory today, so I shouldn't have offended anyone here?'

Although she was in puzzlement, she just walked to her dormitory calmly without saying anything. After she got in, she took a hot shower.

When she got out of the shower, she heard Lulu exclaim from the bed next to hers, "Nicole, look at the school forum now. Everyone is buzzing there. They said you bullied snow, so you don't deserve to be the campus queen!"

My Wife is a Hacker Chapter 48

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Chapter 48

Lulu knew that Nicole did not log on to the school forum very often, which meant that she did not know about these things. Nicole heard her and pulled out her phone to check the school forum. She immediately saw the post with a picture of herself with a cold expression and Snow, who was wiping her tears from the corner of her eyes. The picture was taken from a very good angle, showcasing Snow biting her lips, eyes reddened.

How pretty. The comments were basically insults against Nicole, saying that she had gotten too full of herself after being the beauty queen and started to bully Snow. Additionally, some people were so extreme that they were sending death threats, saying that they will kill Nicole to avenge Snow, which obviously showed that they were Snow's fans.

Nicole thought about the incident and realized that this picture was taken when Snow was telling her that she would not cause trouble again. So, in the picture was Snow's worried expression.

Back then, Nicole had already felt like Snow was too much. She did not think that someone would take a picture of that scene. Was not everything too coincidental?

Nicole continued to scroll down and actually found Snow's response toward this matter."

Don't talk about Nicole like this, guys. She's pretty, so it's natural for her to be arrogant. I'm really fine. Thanks for all your concerns."

Snow would die before she admitted that Nicole was prettier than her. She was even gritting her teeth in anger when she thought of Nicole's face as she typed that comment.

However, her reply indicated that Nicole had really bullied her. So her fans were all heartbroken for her, saying that they would definitely make Nicole pay. Even the people who did not know what happened were criticizing Nicole. Nicole arched her brows when she saw this. 'Snow really knows how to play the victim card,' Nicole thought. However, this could explain where the rock that was aimed at her came from. Nicole figured that the boy was Snow's fan, so he was just avenging Snow.

Nicole refreshed the school forum and noticed that some people were still fishing for her background and her personal details. But their skills were too weak, so they could not even break the first firewall she set up.

Since the top students in school could not search anything about Nicole's background, they were all saying that Nicole had no history at all, so she did not deserve to be crowned the beauty queen!

Nicole read those words half-heartedly as she rubbed her damp hair in her towel. Her fair arm was exposed under her bathrobe, so she looked even more ethereal with the contrast of her soot-black hair.

She looked at the posts expressionlessly as if the discussions were not about her. Lulu could not help but ask from the upper bunk, "Nicole, everyone is going crazy on the school forum saying that you're not on the same level as Snow and that you don't deserve to be the beauty queen. What are you going to do?"

Nicole responded lazily, "Nothing much." She then cleaned up her bed after speaking and threw her phone aside like none of these were affecting her.

Even June took some time out from studying to look at Nicole, which was rare. June thought Nicole would act like other girls, getting angry and frustrated. She did not expect Nicole to

act as if nothing had happened. June looked at the time and saw that it was already half-past ten at night. So, she just switched off the lights without considering the fact that Nicole was still cleaning up. Nicole paused for a while, but her night vision was fairly good, so she just continued to clean up her bed nonchalantly.

Lulu popped her head out from the upper bunk and said, "Don't be angry, Nicole. June has always acted like this. She won't care about what you're doing because she has to sleep at ten thirty at night when we're only asked to switch off the lights at eleven o'clock at night!" Nicole just responded with an "Mmm," indicating that she got it.

Lulu popped her head back in. She had already gotten used to June switching off the lights at her own will, so she had already washed herself up and was ready to sleep. Nicole was going to sleep when she saw both of her roommates sleeping. At that moment, her ringtone went off. Nicole took her phone and looked at the phone number, which was an encrypted number. Her indifferent gaze immediately changed when she saw that number. She looked at her roommates, who were asleep, and sneaked out from her bed to leave the room, not making any noise.

She paused for a while and answered the call.

The response she got from the other end of the phone was just the whistling wind. No one spoke.

Nicole listened to the silence and asked, "Carl?"

Both Carl and Nicole made a promise to pause for ten seconds when they called each other to confirm their identity.

A faint laugh echoed from the other end. "I knew you'd recognize me."

Nicole knew that he was alright after listening to his cheeky voice, so she was finally relieved.

Nicole sighed. "You're still alive, Carl. This is great."

Carl did not respond after hearing Nicole's words, and Nicole could only hear the sound of his breaths.

"Nicole, you know, when I was close to dying, I only wanted to see you."

His words melted Nicole's heart for a while. Before Nicole had her family, the person who was the closest to her was Carl. To her, Carl was just like her real brother. So, she could really understand what he was feeling.

"I've always wanted to see you too..." Her voice trembled, which had never happened before.

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Carl knew that Nicole must've been lonely these days. She must've missed him a lot.

"I know... That's why I fought to stay alive. The thing I'm most afraid of is you being sad."

His voice was filled with adoration and longing.

After the near-death experience this time, Carl finally understood how important Nicole was

to him.

Nicole's nose started to burn, and she took some time to calm herself time.

"Now that you're fine, I don't have to worry anymore. Zane will arrange for us to meet when we are safe. There are people after me now, so I can't really contact you all the time."

Carl sulked for a second as Nicole did not respond to him, but he knew that Nicole was naive. She did not know that his feelings were different from before. He thought about this and lifted his spirits as he said, "I know I shouldn't call you now as I will endanger you. But I..." He really missed her; he missed her so bad it hurts.

So did Nicole. She had been longing to hear Carl's voice.

"It's alright. I'll meet you the first thing when everything is stable." Nicole's voice made Carl fall silent. He knew that Nicole would not simply make promises. Once she did, she would always keep her words.

"Okay, I'll wait for you."

The both of them knew that their call could not be too long, so they just reminded each other to take care before hanging up. Nicole felt extremely relieved when she laid back on her bed. She was always worried about the outcome of this issue, so she could finally have a night of good sleep now.

The next morning, Nicole came back from her morning exercises and went to class with Lulu.

When they walked back to class, she realized that the hardworking students were all whispering among themselves. "Did you hear? Harvey, the hottest boy in school, finally completed the two-weeks long international Physics Olympiad Competition. He's coming back after a few days!"

"Are you for real?! No wonder I haven't seen him these days. It's just because he joined that famous Physics Olympiad Competition." "Harvey is coming back. My dry school life is coming to an end!" These students were all discussing excitedly, but when they saw Nicole coming in, they strangely went silent.

Nicole just ignored them and walked past them before sitting down at her table, and that was when the noises started to rise again. "Harvey is coming back. If he sees Nicole bullying Snow like this, he will definitely make her pay!"

"Yeah! Everyone knows that Harvey takes care of Nicole, and she still dares to bully Snow. She's just asking for it at this point." Everyone looked at Nicole excitedly, like they were gloating over Nicole getting in trouble. Nicole had been acting so arrogant these days, enjoying the limelight as much as she can. It was about time she learned her lesson!

Who was Harvey? He was Mr. Ellison's grandson, the notable heir of the Ellison family. He was the real wealthy prince!

The Finley family is the only family in school that was somewhat in the same league as the Ellison family, the rest of them would never mess with the Ellison family.

Nicole did not even bother to listen to what they were saying, but she just felt that Harvey was a very familiar name. It sounded like the name of the grandson that Mr. Ellison mentioned.

Mr. Ellison even wanted to introduce Harvey to Nicole, but she rejected him straight. However, Harvey was on the same side as Snow. Bradley heard what they were talking about in the front row, and he could not help but turn back to look at Nicole worriedly. Everyone in Royal Creek Institute knew that Harvey and Snow were a couple. Though the both of them did not go public with their relationship, Harvey only allowed Snow to be next to him, and it was the best proof of their relationship. "Nicole, everyone is spreading that you're bullying Snow on the school forum. When Harvey comes back and knows about this, he will never tolerate it. Why don't you take a break from school and hide for a while? You can come back when the school forum is less heated," Nicole knew that Bradley was genuinely worried about her, but it was unnecessary. Harvey did not deserve her taking a break from school. Nicole shot Bradley a calm gaze and pulled out an Esperian book to read. Sitting behind Nicole was Jack. He noticed Nicole was reading a different book than the books she used to read, so he turned around and said to Gary, "Gary, Nicole is being pretentious again. How could a country bumpkin understand Esperian?" Gary was initially leaning his back against the chair lazily, staring at Nicole, who was the topic of everyone's conversation. He furrowed his brows when he heard Jack's remark, but he did not say anything. His vision was good, so he could immediately see the anatomy chart that was marked with Esperian words on the cover page. It was a medical book. People should know that medical books in a foreign language were basically gibberish. Even Gary needed to use a lot of effort to read it, so he naturally assumed that it was impossible for Nicole to understand that book. However, he thought about how Nicole said that the Maths Olympiad questions were too easy with a straight face, and he changed his mind. Could Nicole really understand that book? At that moment, a loud cheer exploded outside the door. It did not take long before a girl with a seductive face walked in, followed by five or six girls, who were all fairly pretty. But their outrageous pura overpowered their appearance, making them look despicable. The first seductive girl swept her eyes across the class and knocked on the podium, asking, "Which one of you is Nicole?" The whole class immediately looked at Nicole.

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Even after such a big commotion, Nicole just continued to read her book without looking up. The seductive girl grew jealous when she saw Nicole, whose beauty was still apparent even when she was sitting down quietly. She walked to Nicole and asked loudly, "Are you acting deaf? Are you Nicole?" Nicole finally looked up and glanced at her calmly without any expression. Her eyes were cold and distant, and the seductive girl felt a chill running down her spine when Nicole stared at her like that.

"D-Don't be so arrogant, you! We have all seen you bullying Snow, so you have to apologize to her in public! Don't think you can bully people however you want just because you're pretty!"

A cute girl chimed in behind her, "That's right. Snow is such a gentle person. You're too evil for even wanting to bully her! I heard you're from the countryside with no history whatsoever. As expected, country folks are all uncivilized. Do you think you deserve to be the beauty queen?"

She glared furiously at Nicole when she said that. After listening to what they were saying, the whole class started to look at Nicole with despise in their eyes.

They had seen Snow looking for Nicole in this class yesterday. Nicole was extremely cold and even acted like she could not hear Snow calling her.

Country bumpkins were indeed utterly uneducated. Besides, she was not good at her studies. So they couldn't let someone like Nicole be the beauty queen. The girls were delighted when they saw the expression on everyone's faces. The seductive girl then grabbed Nicole. "Come with us and apologize to Snow!" Nicole frowned with frustration and immediately raised her arm to push the girl's hand away. "Ah!" The girl almost lost her balance and looked up angrily. "How dare you push me?!"

"So what if I did?" Nicole stood up arrogantly.

"Just because of those blurry pictures? You're all here to mess around and make me apologize just because of those pictures?" Nicole glanced at them from their heads to their toes mockingly. "It's fine if your eyesight is bad. But you people are missing quite a number of brain cells too, huh?"

The seductive girl's blood boiled when she heard Nicole's insult. She was the heiress of the Holmes family and had always been Snow's follower. So who dared to insult her, saying that she missed some brain cells?

She shrieked, "Are you insulting me, you little country b*tch?! Girls, rip her lips off!" The girls behind her were all clenching their fists, but Nicole's patience was wearing thin. She then looked at the seductive girl coldly and said, "I'm giving you one last chance to piss off yourselves. Or else, I won't go easy on you." Nicole never hit girls, but if these people continued to make a mess, Nicole would not let them go easily. How could the seductive girl give in? She had already been upset with Nicole. Nicole was just a transfer student from the countryside, but she had been enjoying too much limelight after Austin acknowledged her as his boss.

Now, Nicole was even after Snow's beauty queen title. Her good luck was making everyone angry! She will never let Nicole go! She thought about this and attacked first, extending her long nails to claw at Nicole's face.

She believed that Nicole would be nothing after she ruined Nicole's face!

The seductive girl was busy scheming in her head, and the girls behind her were all charging toward Nicole's hair, eyes, and chest with their fists.

The seductive girl smiled maliciously and lunged at Nicole as if she could already envision Nicole's face after being clawed by her.

When the students in class saw what was happening, they all expected Nicole to run away

frightened.

After all, Ashley Holmes was a senior. They had all seen Ashley and her friends bullying people, targeting the girls' weakest areas. The girls who were bullied by them were all utterly pitiful, so they thought Nicole was doomed as well!

However, when the seductive girl's hands almost touched Nicole, Nicole quickly outstretched her arm.

Before the students saw her movements, she had already grabbed the seductive girl's neck and pinned her against the wall via inertia.

The remaining girls had never seen such a fight, so they got frightened and were going to stop fighting. But Nicole did not spare them any chances. She evaded her hand and extended her other arm. "Smack, smack, smack," each of them got a slap on the face. Those people then fell flat on the desks one after another!

"Wh – What's happening?" The fallen girls felt a burning sensation on their faces. They had no idea how they would be thrown here just by one slap.

"Since you are all girls, I'm just using one of my hands. If this happens again, don't blame me for going all out on you." Nicole's eyes emitted a murderous aura before she took out a tissue paper and wiped her hands as if she found them dirty.

Everyone's eyes widened when they saw her movements.

"My God... She's really cool..." Did Nicole really take care of the seniors just by using one hand?

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"Exactly..." Many of their gazes turned from despising to admiration. But, most of them were so startled that they did not dare to speak... As for Ashley and her friends, they were completely dumbfounded as they looked at Nicole frightenedly. They had always bullied people in a gang, so none of the girls they bullied could fight back. But Nicole was strong, beating them up until they could see stars. Even their cheeks were swollen. Furthermore, Nicole had only used one hand! If Nicole used two hands, weren't they going to be lying flat on the ground?