

## **Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1251 The Master Plan - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1251 The Master Plan**

### Chapter 1251 The Master Plan

Meanwhile, Evelyn paced back and forth in her room anxiously. A week had passed since she last met Ryan, and his patience wore increasingly thin as he urged her to act swiftly.

On the other hand, she sank deeper into the allure of this new life, losing herself within its captivating embrace. Amid her inner turmoil, Colton's motives remained a mystery. He would visit her daily and inquire about her well-being. Nevertheless, his concern provided an unexpected haven, filling her with a sense of security and an odd feeling of being cherished.

Suddenly, her phone vibrated, and it was a text message from Ryan. 'Evelyn, I won't hold back from enforcing my measure if your hesitation persists. The consequences of your defiance will surpass your wildest imaginings.' Her heart raced in response as the anger in the message affected her senses.

Soon after, Evelyn received another text message. 'Could it be that you're not concerned about filling Nicole's position?'

The words struck her like a jolt, echoing their recent conversation.

No, I must decide. Considering the current situation, Nicole's presence was intertwined with mine like two sides of an inevitable outcome. Clutching her phone, she imagined holding Nicole within her grasp, symbolizing her resolute intent to sever Nicole's ties with Colton, regardless of the obstacles.

Deviating from her routine of the past few days, Evelyn left her room. Apart from mealtimes, she had stepped out for the first time.

"Miss Wrenn." The staff approached her as soon as she stepped out.

"I thought I had my freedom of coming in and out. Walk with me to the gates as I need some fresh air," she requested as she grew weary of constant surveillance.

However, the staff was taken aback by her sudden change in demeanor. Her attitude toward them had been consistently pleasant until now, making this behavior shift even more perplexing. After a momentary pause, the staff responded dazedly, "Sure."

Then, Evelyn strode forward without uttering a word, and the staff trailed along in quiet bewilderment. However, amidst this, a pressing concern occupied the staff's mind. While Miss Wrenn does have the liberty to move about, protocol stipulates notifying the person in charge. I couldn't bear the weight of responsibility if anything happened to her.

Stepping out into the open air, she inhaled deeply as she savored the sweet taste of newfound freedom. After hailing a cab, she swiftly departed from the research center. At this moment, her phone buzzed with a concise message. 'Arrange for Nicole to meet me at our last meeting spot. Just come up with an excuse.' Then, she muttered to herself, pondering momentarily before dialing the number.

"Nicole, it's Evelyn," she said.

Meanwhile, Nicole wasted no time following the call. She swiftly got dressed and readied herself to depart. Just as she was about to step out, she ran into Roxanna, who was looking for her.

"Nicole, where are you rushing off to?" Roxanna asked, puzzled by her urgency.

Nicole quickly glanced at her reflection as she instinctively adjusted her attire. "I plan to visit Colton. Is there something you need, Roxanna?" she asked as she marveled at her ability to lie so effortlessly.

"Oh, Evelyn just went out. Not sure where she's off to. I guess she's using the freedom she's been given," Roxanna hypothesized before recalling her initial purpose of visiting. "I'm worried she might be up to something."

Nicole's thoughts drifted briefly as she recollected her conversation with Evelyn on the phone earlier. I'll let you know the underlying cause of Colton's voodoo and a complete treatment method. You wouldn't want to see him distressed by this matter daily, would you?

"Nicole?" Roxanna's voice broke through her reverie.

Shaking off her distraction, Nicole replied composedly, "Don't worry about it. Let her be. It's not our concern if something happens."

Roxanna nodded as if comprehending, yet she watched Nicole leave in silence. An unsettling feeling gnawed at her, hinting that something was amiss; otherwise, Nicole wouldn't have been so absent-minded.

Following Evelyn's directives, Nicole arrived at the specified location. Her gaze fixed upon the signboard, and a realization dawned upon her—the shop was conveniently situated close to Colton's company. Is this purely coincidental?

#### Chapter 1252 The Gloom on Nicole

Meanwhile, Nicole set aside her thoughts as her sole focus now was to unravel the mystery of Colton's voodoo. She aimed to discover an effective cure for Colton and provide him with the relief he sought.

"You're here, Nicole," Evelyn greeted with a gentle smile, addressing the person seated across from her.

Nicole nodded, and her gaze fixed on the seemingly calm woman. However, a sense of unease began to creep over her—something felt off about Evelyn's unusual calmness. "Have you come to discuss Colton's voodoo with me?" she probed tentatively.

Evelyn shook her head slightly, dispelling the notion, and spoke deliberately, "My intention today is not just that. I wish to acknowledge your exceptional medical skills, and you are right about the voodoo in some aspects."

Nicole caught onto the initial words, but confusion clouded her understanding as the conversation unfolded. "What exactly do you mean?" She furrowed her brows, urging Evelyn to be direct. "Please be clear. There's no need to beat around the bush."

After hearing this, Evelyn shook her head, her silence speaking volumes. In the meantime, a waiter approached, carrying a glass of steaming milk, and carefully placed it on the table. Then, breaking the silence, Evelyn spoke, "I wasn't entirely sure about your preference, so I took the liberty of ordering you a hot milk."

Nicole glanced at the glass and then back at Evelyn, whose calm attitude seemed out of place. A sense of unease started to creep over her.

"What's the matter? Are you afraid that I spiked your drink? Whether it's spiked or not, can't you detect it? Take your time and inspect it thoroughly before you decide to drink. I don't mind waiting. After all, we're not that close," Evelyn said, a faint self-deprecation smile tugging at the corner of her lips before fading away.

Nicole leaned down and cautiously sniffed the milk. Sensing no unusual odor, she proceeded to scrutinize it intently. She understood that even if a poison devoid of color and smell were to be blended in, it might induce subtle alterations too delicate for the average person to detect. However, her meticulous inspection revealed no such traces, so she confidently confirmed that the milk appeared safe for consumption. "I hope you'll clarify Colton's situation." Despite the reassurance, she remained cautious, prompting Evelyn again before taking a sip.

Meanwhile, Evelyn hesitated momentarily before subtly nodding in agreement with Nicole's request.

After seeing her response, Nicole lifted the glass and finished the milk in one gulp. "Now, can you tell me now?"

Evelyn stared at her in disbelief. She had anticipated Nicole to inspect the milk more closely, yet all Nicole did was whiff and utter something before gulping it down. A question nagged at Evelyn—was this a genuine display of trust, or had Nicole's profound love for Colton driven her to this unwavering faith? The answer, she mused, undoubtedly leaned toward the latter.

Suddenly, a faint, bitter smile formed on her lips. She hadn't tainted the milk with poison. Instead, she had added a small dose of a sleeping pill, which was unlikely to cause any significant harm.

Nicole had intended to prompt her to explain Colton's situation. However, before she could utter a word, her vision blurred, her head spun, and in the next moment, she slumped onto the table.

"You may come out now. I've prepared the person for you." Evelyn's voice remained eerily calm as though addressing an unseen entity.

Rumble!

A faint echo of a shifting stone slab resonated as Ryan stepped out from a concealed alcove. His lips curled into a triumphant smile as he laid eyes on the sprawled figure of Nicole on the table.

"Excellent! You did well." The man nodded in approval at Evelyn as his satisfaction barely contained.

On the other hand, Evelyn's silent stare bore into Nicole's unconscious form. The initial bitterness she felt had transformed into a seething hatred. Her voice turned chilling as she inquired, "What is your intention? Don't forget, you made a promise to me."

"Of course, I remember. You've done me a great favor," Ryan replied nonchalantly. Then, he pulled out a small box from somewhere and opened it with malicious intent, pausing intentionally for dramatic effect.

As her eyes widened, she saw what appeared to be a voodoo bug within. However, upon closer inspection, it became evident that it was something even more formidable—a more giant and potent creature.

"Perhaps, you're curious if this is truly a voodoo bug?" Ryan was no doubt watching Evelyn with interest. "It is indeed a voodoo bug, but not the ordinary kind. This is a supreme voodoo bug."

"A supreme voodoo bug?" Surprise colored her features as she studied the supreme voodoo bug held in his grasp, as a wave of anxiety engulfed her.

Chapter 1253 Discomfort After the Voodoo

"Listen up. Here's the plan, we need to cast this supreme voodoo bug inside her." Ryan stared at the sleeping Nicole with a triumphant grin as if victory was within reach.

However, Evelyn felt anxious as an unsettling thought crossed her mind. The Yael Family's voodoo bugs are rumored to have been destroyed by Collie. So, how could Mr. Yael possess this supreme voodoo bug?

Then, he approached Nicole and carefully placed the supreme voodoo bug on her delicate, fair neck. His eyes remained fixed on the bug as it slowly burrowed under her skin.

A few days ago, Ryan sneaked into the Yael Residence after he learned it had been sealed off. Still, his knowledge of the residence surpassed anyone's. Through a hidden passage, he navigated inside and retrieved the supreme voodoo bug from a secret compartment. This compartment would remain undiscovered unless the residence was demolished. In his previous hasty departure, he had forgotten about it, but with his family's vengeance in sight right now, this trump card had to be played. Also, he knew that even with Nicole's profound medical skills, undoing the voodoo wouldn't be easy, even if her master, White, was still alive. Therefore, the supreme voodoo bug remained his ultimate recourse for vengeance.

Meanwhile, an involuntary shiver coursed down Evelyn's spine as she watched the supreme voodoo bug seep into Nicole's skin. She couldn't help but wonder whether she would face the same fate if she refused to comply with Ryan's plan.

The man finally lifted his gaze once the supreme voodoo bug was fully embedded beneath Nicole's skin, and a profound feeling of relief washed over him. "It's done. You can have her leave Colton once she wakes up. Whether she decides to stay or not, her life won't extend beyond a month," he quipped

confidently. His objective was achieved, and he eagerly anticipated witnessing the woman's death—a scene that would surely delight his grandfather.

In the meantime, Evelyn, still in a daze, nodded absently. After her emotions settled, she pondered, As long as this woman leaves Collie, I believe he will eventually fall for me.

After a while, Nicole felt a sharp pain in her neck, just like she would from a bite. She sat up gradually, her vision blurred as she focused on Evelyn before her.

"Nicky, don't blame me for being ruthless. Blame your countless enemies for putting you in this mess." Evelyn's voice carried a sinister edge, starkly contrasting her usual demeanor.

"What are you implying?" Nicole's brows furrowed with suspicion, and she asked, "Have you done something to me?" Suddenly, she experienced an odd sensation enveloping her body—an indescribable discomfort. She struggled to articulate it, but one thing was clear—something was amiss.

"I've cast a voodoo bug inside you, which differs from Colton's. Count yourself lucky because it's a supreme voodoo bug, the only one in existence. You'd better leave him soon as you're no longer deserving of him," Evelyn explained.

Nicole stared at Evelyn, piecing together the situation from her malicious expression. She hadn't expected Evelyn to possess a voodoo bug, let alone a supreme voodoo bug, after the downfall of the Yael Family. "Evelyn, you're acting like a child." She chuckled, masking her discomfort. Despite the intense physical agony, she refused to show weakness.

Evelyn hesitated, her hand clenching into a fist at Nicole's response.

Disregarding Evelyn's potential actions, Nicole summoned her strength to stand and exited the room without a backward glance. She was resolute in finding a cure for the supreme voodoo bug.

However, Evelyn's gaze remained locked onto Nicole, her expression growing more venomous. A smug smile appeared on her face. I will not let you escape this time. Collie will undoubtedly become mine!

In a daze, Nicole returned to the research center. In the meantime, everyone was engrossed in their tasks during the afternoon, unaware of her condition. She collapsed onto her bed and felt drained and weakened, consumed by an overwhelming discomfort that refused to subside.

Chapter 1254 One Month Left

Meanwhile, Roxanna hid behind a pillar as Nicole returned to the medical base. She noticed a troubling expression on Nicole's face but chose not to disturb her, though a growing sense of unease gnawed at her. Her concern for Nicole deepened with every passing moment while she sensed something was amiss.

At this moment, Nicole lay on her bed and she was overwhelmed by a disconcerting sensation as if a thousand bugs were nibbling at her skin.

Knock! Knock!

"Nicole, you didn't look well earlier. Would you like to go for a check-up?" Roxanna's voice held genuine worry as she stood outside Nicole's room.

Upon seeing Nicole's return, her intuition urged her to check on Nicole, ensuring she received timely medical attention if necessary.

After hearing this, Nicole cracked her eyes open while battling the dizziness. Then, she struggled to stand and shuffled toward the door.

In the meantime, Roxanna paced restlessly outside the corridor. Soon, the sound of activity within prompted her to stand beside the door as she waited for Nicole to open it. "Nicole! What happened?" Her gaze locked onto Nicole's pallid face. Suddenly, her concern deepened as she witnessed Nicole's feeble state as if she could collapse any moment.

Summoning her strength, Nicole shook her head weakly and leaned against the doorframe for support. "Don't worry about me. Please get Chloe."

"Okay. I'll call Chloe right after I help you out." Roxanna's brows furrowed with worry as she helped

Nicole to sit on the bed before hurrying off. She knew Nicole's condition could not be delayed anymore, judging from her appearance. Her concern deepened as she felt Nicole's feeble pulse while helping her earlier, an unsettling indication that her organs had aged well beyond their years. The stark contrast within just half a day left Roxanna astonished. Ultimately, all she could do was release a heavy sigh, overwhelmed by the severity of the situation.

Meanwhile, Nicole slowly lay on her bed as her strength waned. Though she had intended to await Chloe sitting up, her body betrayed her intentions.

"Chloe, come take a look quickly. Nicole left for half a day and returned like this," Roxanna implored as she led Chloe to the room.

Chloe furrowed her brow upon seeing Nicole's appearance. She had been researching the new medicine in isolation for the past two days but did not expect Nicole's body to suffer so much in just a few days. "Let me take a look."

She immediately checked Nicole's pulse and felt something was off.

Suddenly, a thick, darkened vein on Nicole's neck caught her attention, resembling a crawling millipede. "Supreme voodoo bug," she murmured, the words escaping involuntarily.



Roxanna's eyes widened at the revelation. The worry she felt earlier couldn't compare to the shock of hearing about the supreme voodoo bug in Nicole's body. "Is there any treatment for this? Is this a serious illness?" she asked worriedly as her mind raced to recall information she had read.

After hearing this, Chloe nodded gravely, her voice laden with worry, saying, "Not only that, but Nicole may only have a month left."

"Cough... Cough..." A sudden cough erupted from Nicole, interrupting the conversation. The revelation of her limited time left took her breath away.

"Nicole!" Roxanna and Chloe exclaimed simultaneously.

"Don't worry, just stay calm." Suppressing their alarm, Nicole motioned for them not to assist her. She cleared her throat, her voice ragged yet resolute.

Then, Roxanna slumped into a chair, her countenance bleak, muttering, "How is this possible?"

On the other hand, Chloe's composure faltered as she struggled to mask her anxiety.

"Both of you, please leave. We'll figure this out." Nicole's raspy voice shattered the silence, contrasting its once ethereal timbre.

After a moment's shared glance between Roxanna and Chloe, they reluctantly exited Nicole's room, resigned to doing their utmost to find a remedy and provide comfort in the time they had left.

Chapter 1255 The Last Medicine

The dimly lit room slowly settled into its familiar calmness, enveloping Nicole in peaceful solitude. Soon, the moonlight gently streamed through the window, painting a delicate glow over her neatly made bed.

'Nicky, why aren't you replying to my message? Are you busy at the research center today?'

'Nicky, why didn't you pick up when I called you earlier?'

Numerous texts and missed calls were displayed on her phone screen, but she did not intend to check them.

'Nicky, please reply when you see this message. I've found a way to treat the after-effects, after which we'll know if Evelyn's child belongs to me. I'm growing impatient to wait until her child is born, and I want to spare you any further distress during this period.'

Nicole's eyelashes fluttered, and her eyes opened gradually. Suddenly, her face grew even paler as she gazed at her phone.

'Chloe, please help me return to normal as soon as possible.'

After sending her last message, an abrupt wave of exhaustion washed over her, leaving her unable to hold onto her phone, which slipped from her grasp and landed softly on the carpet, breaking its fall.

Meanwhile, Colton emerged from his shower, and he finally saw Nicole's reply.

The plan had been for her to return and reside with him, yet unforeseen complications at the research center kept them apart.

'Colton, let's meet at the research center tomorrow.'

Despite a nagging unease after reading the message, he couldn't quite put his finger on the source of his foreboding. Then, he swiped the phone screen and dialed a familiar number.

"Did you find out about the man's background?" Colton inquired with a solemn tone, his face growing somber.

"President Gardner, there have been no further updates since we discovered that unknown number calling Ryan a few days ago."

"Okay, just keep an eye on Ryan, and don't let him get away with it."

"We saw Mrs. Gardner and Evelyn at the cafe today. We weren't sure what they were discussing because I didn't go in as I was afraid to alert them."

Colton's brows furrowed as the words reached his ears, triggering a suspicion that all was not well. Why would the two women need a private discussion outside the research center? The choice of meeting at a cafe, particularly the one Ryan used as a hideout, raised his suspicions further.

"Keep an eye on Ryan and report to me if you find anything suspicious. Don't let history repeat itself," he instructed, his face etched with concern. A sense of unease gnawed at him as he hung up, amplifying his worry about Nicole's unusual demeanor. He couldn't shake the feeling that something ominous loomed on the horizon.

The following afternoon, Colton wasted no time and headed to the research center.

Meanwhile, Nicole had just taken her medication and sat at the dressing table, calmly applying makeup. Her once-pale complexion now held a delicate rosy hue, displaying a marked improvement from the day before.

At this moment, Chloe's advice resonated in her mind like a constant reminder. Although this medicine could temporarily give you a clean bill of health, please refrain from getting too emotional; otherwise, your body will not be able to sustain itself, and you will be left with less than a month to live. These words reverberated like a broadcast within her, each phrase echoing incessantly in Nicole's mind as her condition improved.

"Nicole, President Gardner is here," Roxanna announced upon observing Colton's arrival at the medical base.

After hearing this, Nicole looked at herself in the mirror, her lips curled into a small smile. Since fate will not allow us to spend the rest of our lives together, we should bid our goodbyes with dignity. She got up slowly, and a resolve building within her. It's time to end this.

"You're here." A clear and soothing female voice was heard from inside the room.

Chapter 1256 A Little More Dignity

Meanwhile, Roxanna remained deeply concerned about Nicole's condition. However, as soon as the door swung open, her worries eased upon seeing Nicole's improved complexion. Nevertheless, her emotional state plunged into a rollercoaster when she knew this improvement was temporary, lasting only a day.

"Nicole, are you certain your body is truly alright?" Her voice trembled with concern as her desire to confide in Colton grew stronger. Despite her yearning to tell him, Nicole had forbidden any such revelation under the threat of

Roxanna being expelled from the research center. Moreover, the sight of Nicole's suffering weighed heavily on her heart.

"I'm fine. Just bring me to Colton and make sure no one disturbs us." Nicole's voice carried determination as she brushed off Roxanna's concern, her urgency apparent.

With a resigned nod, Roxanna led the way, her mind heavy with worry. Earlier, she had asked Chloe about Nicole's situation, learning that there seemed to be no solution beyond waiting for an inevitable outcome.

"Nicky," Colton exclaimed as he spotted Nicole's silhouette in the distance. Rising from his seat excitedly, he continued, "I was worried when you didn't respond to my message yesterday, but seeing you well today is a relief." He had learned the previous night that she had gone to the cafe and was concerned for her safety, but he was put at ease by her rosy complexion today.

"No worries. I'm alright." Nicole nodded as she took a seat across from Colton. However, her demeanor lacked the usual intimacy they shared.

Perplexed, he questioned, "What's the matter, Nicky? Aren't you supposed to be sitting next to me?"

Such a situation had never arisen since they started their relationship. Despite her composed appearance, an unsettling feeling churned within him. Yet, he couldn't pinpoint the source of his unease.

"Oh, right. I found a new clue yesterday, but I did not manage to tell you." He quickly changed the topic to prevent awkwardness, saying, "We've uncovered some clues about the person pulling the strings, but this person was quite cunning, and we haven't yet identified this individual."

"I see." Nicole smiled, but her composure was unshaken even as Colton discussed a solemn matter.

With growing unease, he pressed on, "Nicky, did something happen? You can talk to me about it."

Nicole gazed at Colton with an air of detachment though her heart was aching, reluctant to let go. Yet, conveying her current emotions to him seemed futile, and she preferred to keep them hidden. "Colton, let's get a divorce. I'll

get my lawyer to draft the agreement," she said calmly. "I can't accept the fact that Evelyn is carrying your child. I'm not willing to undertake any imperfections in my life."

"What?" He was taken aback by the abrupt mention of divorce. Suppressing his distress, he managed a forced smile and proposed, "Listen to me, Nicky. I've found a way to get rid of the after-effects. Then, we'll be able to know if Evelyn's child was mine."

Her eyes betrayed her misery, but she responded swiftly, "Don't bother. There's no need for that." Then, she called Roxanna, who stood outside the door. "I'll ask Roxanna to bring Evelyn to you, then we won't owe each other anything anymore," she said coldly with a stony expression.

Colton's lips moved, but no words escaped them. The abrupt transformation in Nicole left him utterly bewildered, as her demeanor had never taken such a turn before.

Chapter 1257 Being Apart

"Nicky, have you forgotten you're still carrying my child?" Colton's voice reverberated through the room.

Nicole hesitated in her steps, her intention to leave momentarily faltering. After a brief pause, she exited the room.

Meanwhile, he remained rooted in place as he watched her walk away. He understood that she rarely wavered once she decided, no matter what he said. Yet, he couldn't accept this reality, and soon, a self-blame storm was brewing.

"Mr. Gardner, Miss Wrenn is here," Roxanna announced from the doorway. Although she stood outside, the voices from within allowed her to piece together the situation.

Given Nicole's fragile health and the precarious nature of the child in her, Roxanna surmised that a swift resolution might be the best course of action, despite the pain it would undoubtedly cause Colton. She couldn't help but feel frustrated at how Evelyn seemed to be the sole beneficiary of this complicated situation. While suppressing her discontent, Roxanna refrained from showing outward signs of inner turmoil.

"Tell me! What happened to Nicky? Tell me!" The man was bordering on madness now as he grasped Roxanna's arms and demanded answers.

Roxanna was taken aback by Colton's sudden outburst as she swiftly freed herself from his grip. "Mr. Gardner, please compose yourself. Nicole believes that you have betrayed her. You are well aware of her temperament; she has no tolerance for deceit, especially concerning another woman carrying your child."

Her words penetrated his turmoil, prompting him to release his grip on her arm as if reluctantly acknowledging her explanation.

Exhaling a sigh of relief, Roxanna continued, "Mr. Gardner, please leave now. After all, this is a research center, and outsiders are not allowed to stay." Her allegiance lay with Nicole, and all decisions depended on Nicole's choices. Even though she felt sorry for the two lovers, the threads of love that needed to be severed had to be cut without hesitation.

Meanwhile, Nicole sat slumped by the doorway of her room. She managed to maintain a facade of composure in Colton's presence, aware that her guise would likely crumble soon after parting with him. With a resigned exhale, she struggled to regulate her breath, feeling an unanticipated weakness coursing through her as if several of her internal organs had abruptly faltered.

"Nicole!" Roxanna intended to brief her on Colton and Evelyn, only to find Nicole collapsing before entering her room. "Nicole, what's happening? Should I call Chloe? This isn't good for you!" Her concern became palpable—her eyes reddened and brimming with tears. She held Nicole helplessly, casting desperate glances around; even her voice carried a weeping undertone.

Nicole pressed her lips as she mustered a faint smile. "Don't be silly. What good would it do to call Chloe? It was my own fault for not listening to her advice. My erratic emotions... Cough.." Before she could finish her sentence, a severe coughing fit overtook her.

However, Roxanna felt helpless as she watched Nicole's distressing coughing fit. Despite being a doctor, she found herself clueless about handling the situation right before her eyes.

Suddenly, a sensation lingered in Nicole's chest, and she struggled to cough out an enigmatic substance. "Blergh!" A spurt of fresh blood splattered out from her mouth.

Staring blankly at the pool of blood, Roxanna was utterly stunned by the scene before her.

"Cough. This is the first time I've ever experienced coughing up blood. Even though I'm a doctor, I've always been curious after watching those TV shows." Nicole tried to crack a joke, hoping to ease Roxanna's potential agitation.

However, Nicole's attempt at humor didn't have the intended effect. Roxanna lifted her from the floor in a rush and gently placed her on the bed. Then, she turned and hurriedly left the room to find Chloe. Despite her understanding that the chances were slim, she couldn't help but search for any potential solutions within the vast research center.

As Nicole gazed calmly at the ceiling above, her mind wandered to her earlier conversation with Colton, prompting an unexpected chuckle to escape her lips. Well, at least it was a decent way to end things.

Chapter 1258 He Will Not Divorce Her

Colton walked out of the research center in a daze, with Evelyn clinging to him like a persistent shadow.

"Colton, I've heard about what happened between you and Nicole. This seems to be the only outcome since she cannot accept me," she remarked, noticing his distracted emotions. This deepened her jealousy of Nicole, as she couldn't fathom what made Nicole so exceptional that she deserved his love despite her hurtful words.

Earlier, she had surreptitiously eavesdropped near the window while the couple conversed. Her position was carefully chosen to remain hidden from Roxanna's view. When she overheard Nicole asking Roxanna to find her, Evelyn managed to slip back to her room. Consequently, she had no knowledge of the subsequent conversation.

"Colton?" Evelyn called out tentatively after realizing Colton's reluctance to engage with her.

As the man was immersed in his thoughts, he felt increasingly annoyed by her voice. "I'll have someone send you back later. Just focus on taking care of yourself during your pregnancy." His cold gaze briefly flickered toward her before he abruptly turned and walked away, disappearing from her sight.

After hearing this, Evelyn stood there, bewildered. Why? Why didn't he spare me a glance even after Nicole told him she didn't want him anymore? "Nicole, since you're on the brink of death, I won't grant you peace even in your demise!" Her eyes flared with venomous anger, her words dripping with bitterness.

"Mr. Gardner, Miss Anderson asked me to come and discuss the divorce matter with you. Here's the

divorce agreement." A seemingly familiar lawyer approached Colton as if deliberately awaiting his arrival.

Colton cast a fleeting glance at the lawyer. He recognized him as Nicole's dedicated attorney, handling all her legal affairs.

"Do you know why she wants to leave me?"

Colton's question momentarily caught the lawyer off guard. Suddenly, the lawyer found himself at a loss for words. He handled her legal affairs but wasn't privy to the specifics of this situation. "Mr. Gardner, you might be putting me in a difficult position here. As for the exact reason behind this, it would be better for you to ask Miss Anderson herself." An awkward smile tugged at the corners of the lawyer's lips.

After hearing this, Colton silently accepted the divorce agreement from the lawyer and began to study it intently.

The lawyer breathed a sigh of relief at Colton's response. This was standard procedure, and the lawyer's involvement had been an anomaly.

Suddenly, Colton's expression darkened as a deep-seated frustration rose within him. The tightness in his chest and his shortness of breath intensified his anger. "I won't divorce her. Convey that to her," he snapped as he tossed the divorce agreement back at the lawyer. Then, he stormed off before the lawyer could respond.



The lawyer was puzzled at Colton's dissatisfaction while holding the divorce agreement. He was clueless about what might have triggered this reaction. Miss Anderson has left the marriage with

nothing but a research center; everything else is given to him. So, what could have possibly dissatisfied him?

Despite his confusion, the lawyer relayed the truth to Nicole.

While listening quietly to the lawyer's words over the phone, Nicole responded weakly, "I understand. I will take care of it. Thank you for your assistance. Please inform him to come to the research center again tomorrow if he's unwilling to sign the divorce agreement." A few more words were exchanged on the other end before she ended the call.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Nicole, I'm coming in." Chloe's voice accompanied the knock, resonating in the room.

"Nicole, it's time for your medication," she said as she walked in while holding a bowl containing a strongly-scented tonic. A pang of sorrow washed over her as she observed Nicole's noticeably paler complexion, yet she masked her emotions, maintaining a faint smile.

With a slight nod, Nicole gazed at her and spoke calmly, "Please prepare another bowl for me."

"What?" Chloe's disbelief creased her brow. "Nicole, you can't have that medicine anymore!" She knew what Nicole meant when she said another bowl. Hence, she couldn't allow Nicole to persist; doing so might mean Nicole wouldn't make it through another week.

Chapter 1259 Do Me a Favor

"Chloe, I'm left with no other option. Can you please do this favor for me?" Nicole gazed up at Chloe earnestly, her weary eyes now alarmingly red, with teardrops sliding down from the corners.

On the other hand, Chloe held back the words she was about to say. She understood that Nicole was holding back tears, protecting her last vestiges of

dignity. "Alright, I understand," she conceded as she closed her eyes with a resigned sigh. It seems there is no alternative at this moment.

After hearing this, a bright smile blossomed on Nicole's face.

In the meantime, Chloe's gaze lingered as she took in the sight. It was the first genuine smile she had seen from Nicole since then. The previous smiles had been difficult to witness, appearing more coerced than sincere.

"I'll prepare it and bring it to you tomorrow morning," she said, swallowing her emotions as she spoke. She left the room, wondering why Nicole had to endure such suffering. She also pondered why Nicole refused to reveal who had cast the voodoo on her—she wouldn't let that person escape easily.

After Chloe departed, Nicole picked up her phone and dialed a number she hadn't called in a long time. "Zach, I might need your help," she said.

Meanwhile, at the Gardners' Villa, Colton had locked himself in his room for a day and night, isolated since returning from the research center.

Evelyn stood outside his door, knocking vigorously. "Colton, could you meet me just once? I need to talk to you," she shouted with an ear-piercing scream.

The butler next to her shook his head, concerned for her well-being. "Miss Wrenn, you should rest. You might be able to endure this, but think about the child you're carrying."

He was taken aback when he saw Colton bringing Evelyn home the other day. After all, it had been a while since he had seen Nicole. The sudden appearance of Evelyn made him realize that something must have happened between Colton and Nicole. Shockingly, Miss Wrenn is pregnant with Mr. Gardner's child! He sighed as he pondered this. He then recalled a few days prior when Colton came home, brimming with happiness, and shared with him the joy of Nicole's pregnancy. Who could have foreseen that Miss Wrenn would also become pregnant? Fate truly has a way of playing tricks on people.

"He hasn't eaten anything for a whole day and night. This will affect his health if he continues like this. He needs to eat something," Evelyn expressed her concerns while holding a plate of delicious food that had gone cold.

After hearing this, the butler frowned deeply. He had also considered what she had just said, but they knew Colton wouldn't take their advice unless it came from Nicole.

As seconds ticked away, Evelyn suddenly remembered Colton was scheduled to meet Nicole today. Hence, she hurriedly handed the plate of food to the butler and shouted, "Colton, you're meeting Nicole today. You won't have the strength to face her if you don't eat!"

In the meantime, Colton was half-lying on the floor inside his room. Then, he propped himself up with one hand while his head rested against the wall, appearing utterly exhausted. Nicole? He muttered weakly as he struggled to his feet awkwardly, resembling a walking corpse. With sluggish movements, he swung the door open and saw Evelyn and the butler standing outside.

When Evelyn saw Colton's disheveled face as the door swung open, she took a few steps back. Is this the Collie I know?

"Mr. Gardner." The butler hesitated slightly, shooting a quick glare at the person behind him. He promptly instructed, "Why are you still standing there? Go and get the food heated up."

"Colton, what's so captivating about Nicole? She's about to divorce you. Why are you still allowing yourself to become like this?" Evelyn shook her head in disbelief.

When did Colton and Nicole's relationship become this good? It had reached a point where even Evelyn found herself envious of it. Their bond was unbreakable, even when she cast the voodoo bug on him.

Chapter 1260 Extremely Hilarious

"No." Evelyn continued shaking her head.

The intensity was much stronger than planting a voodoo—she was extremely jealous and unwilling to accept defeat.

Colton's reaction made her believe that she must kill Nicole. Only then could Colton truly belong to her in body and soul.

She gazed at the room behind him. Even in broad daylight, the interior remained shrouded in darkness by deep-colored curtains. There wasn't a hint of light.

"Colton, let me open the curtains for you." She fixed her gaze on the space behind him. Without waiting for his response, she rushed to the window and flung the curtains open.

It was a floor-to-ceiling window.

The mess in the room was revealed as sunlight flooded the room—empty bottles were scattered all over the floor along with women's clothes and belongings. It was obvious that someone in this room had gone through something awful in the past day and night.

"Mr. Gardner, I will have someone tidy up the room for you. Please go downstairs for your meal." The butler's eyes dimmed as he approached while speaking gently.

Colton nodded. While brushing past the butler, he muttered, "Don't touch her things."

"Understood," the butler replied as he bowed his head.

Evelyn, who was just stepping out of the bedroom, coincidentally heard his words. She froze in place as she was unsure of what to do next.

The force she exerted on the doorknob was gradually increasing, yet it couldn't fully convey her jealousy and anger.

The butler paid no attention to where Evelyn headed since Colton only instructed them to ensure her basic necessities. They had no authority to intervene in other matters.

The servants moved past Evelyn, following the butler's orders to clean Colton's room thoroughly.

Their actions were swift. By the time Evelyn regained her composure, the room was already spotless.

She turned her head slowly to observe the room. She couldn't help but let out a bitter laugh. As per Colton's instruction, Nicole's belongings remained

untouched in their original places while everywhere else was immaculately cleaned.

Nicole... Once again, it's all about her.

She's the only obstacle between me and Colton, but it doesn't matter because she's going to be done for!

With this thought, a smile gradually crept onto her face.

The research center was bustling as usual with everyone engrossed in their tasks.

Colton no longer bore the disheveled appearance he did this morning. He had even gone to the hair salon nearby to style his hair. He intended to present himself in the most perfect form to Nicole.

Evelyn followed silently behind. She had worked hard to convince Colton to let her come along. Hence, she had to successfully make the two divorce this time.

"Mr. Gardner, please wait in the lobby," Roxanna spoke in a highly courteous tone. Upon seeing Colton's arrival, her eyes briefly betrayed a hint of sadness.

Colton's expression froze, realizing that even he was now confined to the lobby.

The lobby of the medical base was designed for strangers. Had he become a stranger in her heart as well? A self-mocking smile played on his lips.

Roxanna caught sight of that self-mockery, but she turned away and prepared to call for Nicole.

Evelyn pretended to be intimate with Colton, sitting closely beside him. She tidied her clothes and said in a voice dripping with sweetness, "This place is quite impressive. Colton, have you ever considered purchasing it in the future?"

Chloe initially intended to visit the place, but she hadn't expected to witness such a scene and heard such words.

I'll leave aside the fact that Colton already has another woman by his side when he hasn't divorced yet because Nicole was the one who proposed the

divorce. But now, that woman is actually considering buying the medical base! Even Colton might not have the ability for such a purchase. Does she not understand the value of this place?

This is extremely hilarious!

"Miss, this place is priceless. Even the Gardner Family might not have the ability to buy it. Please don't make such audacious statements here," Chloe uttered.

## **Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1261 Zachary? - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1261 Zachary?**

Chapter 1261 Zachary?

The smile on Evelyn's face froze instantly. The words of the woman before her felt like a public slap, leaving her wondering how to keep her dignity.

Anyone who could freely move about here undoubtedly belonged to Nicole's circle. Evelyn hated Nicole with a passion!

Upon seeing Chloe's arrival, Colton realized the distance between himself and Evelyn. He quickly shifted to the side to maintain a distance from her.

Evelyn hadn't recovered from the previous incident when she sensed Colton avoiding her as if she were the plague. Her face turned grim and she was suddenly unable to decide whether to sit or move.

"Nicole." Colton gazed at Nicole, who had just entered the room, with affection. He slowly rose from his seat and reached out, trying to hold her hand.

Evelyn glared at Nicole. When Colton was about to approach Nicole, Evelyn clenched her teeth and grabbed his arm. "Colton, it's better if you stay seated. Nicole might feel pressured otherwise."

His face darkened. He quickly withdrew his hand and wiped his sleeve as if he had touched something filthy.

It was impossible for Evelyn to miss this gesture from Colton. However, she refrained from getting angry because she noticed that Nicole was watching them. After all, getting angry would surely be fodder for Nicole's amusement.

Nicole paid no attention to Evelyn's gaze and actions. She focused entirely on Colton.

Even though he had taken great care with his appearance, she could tell that he hadn't been doing well during the time they had been apart. There was stubble remaining on his jaw.

"I asked you to come today so that you can sign the divorce agreement." She placed the document in her hand on the table in front of him. Her tone was indifferent, devoid of any warmth.

Colton sat there in a daze. Then, he lowered his gaze to the divorce agreement—it was identical to yesterday's copy since it bore numerous creases, all of which he had created.

"What?" he asked.

"Divorce. I've made myself clear." Nicole impatiently spoke, repeating the matter of divorce. "I can't accept the fact that Evelyn is pregnant with your child. We must get divorced. Can't you understand, Colton?"

He merely shook his head, showing no response to her words.

"Colton, I know Nicole can't accept that I'm carrying your child. If that's the case, then get a divorce with her. Are you willing to let your child grow up without a father? I'm the child's biological mother." Seizing the opportunity, Evelyn clung to his arm.

Colton impatiently pulled his arm away and glared fiercely at her. It was as if he was warning her that he would lose his temper on the spot if she touched him again.

Evelyn was frightened by his demeanor and dared not to make a move. She stood silently to the side and no longer spoke.

"I won't get divorced," he replied.

"Colton, just give up."

Colton raised his head in astonishment after hearing the sudden male voice. A familiar face appeared before him.

"Zachary, what are you doing here?" His brow furrowed slightly as he had a bad feeling.

Zachary had once pursued Nicole. Colton had considered him his greatest rival and now, this rival was standing right here. It was undoubtedly not good news.

At this moment, Nicole gracefully hooked her arm through Zachary's in front of the crowd. With a sweet smile, she said, "We're together now. I no longer love you. If you're sensible, go ahead and sign the agreement."

"What are you saying?" Colton couldn't believe his ears. As he had suspected, the worst possible scenario was occurring before his eyes.

Zachary's expression remained cool as his large hand covered Nicole's. Their fingers intertwined. "Colton, just give up. Don't continue to pester Nicole. Since Nicole no longer loves you, you should let her go."

The affectionate scene between the two hurt Colton. Even though the truth was right in front of him, he couldn't achieve complete calmness.

Chapter 1262 Provoke? Divorce?

"What do you mean, Nicole? Are you really together with Zachary?" Colton forcefully suppressed the anger welling up within him, each word enunciated as he questioned her.

If Nicole didn't admit to her relationship with Zachary at this moment, he could forgive her completely and pretend as if it had never happened.

In fact, Nicole was struggling to stand upright. While it appeared on the surface that she was in love with Zachary, she was actually leaning on him for support so that she could stand tall in front of Colton.

Colton's scorching gaze caused her heart to ache. Were it not for Zachary supporting her at her side, she might have collapsed on the ground and withered up in front of Colton.

"Colton, let's get a divorce. I no longer love you as I've fallen for Zachary. I know that if I do this—"



Before she could finish her words, she was interrupted by Colton's furious roar. "Enough!" he shouted while trembling all over. His eyes were bloodshot as he looked at the man and woman before him; they were so perfectly matched, yet so glaringly discordant.

Nicole shivered as she was taken aback by his outburst.

Sensing her distress, Zachary quickly held her hands so that she could stand upright.

However, this scene was nothing but irony in Colton's eyes. He felt that he was being mocked as a pitiful clown from the beginning

"Colton, now that Nicole has found happiness with another person, why don't we wish her well?"

Although Evelyn was still afraid that Colton would get angry, she quickly stepped forward to give advice.

As long as Colton could give up on Nicole, she would have a chance to win him over.

"Wish her well?" Colton let out a cold snort.

Before the words had even settled, he waved his hand and swiftly signed his name on the divorce agreement. His action was clean and neat.

Evelyn instinctively took a step back. However, her fear vanished instantly after seeing him sign the divorce agreement so decisively.

Finally, he was going to be hers.

Nicole's heart ached deeply, yet she heaved a sigh of relief at the same time. Now, Colton would probably give up on her completely.

After giving Nicole a deep glare, Colton turned around and stormed off, with Evelyn following closely behind.

As Nicole watched him leave, her remaining strength drained from her body as she fell back.

"Nicole!" Zachary acted swiftly, cradling her in his arms. Without waiting for Roxanna to say anything, he carried her toward the room.

Nicole stared blankly ahead as she replayed Colton's actions in her mind, as if she was recalling scenes from an old movie.

"Zachary, Colton has probably given up on me, right?" She forced a smile. While she appeared to be asking Zachary, she was actually questioning herself.

Zachary's steps halted slightly as he shook his head helplessly while gently placing her on the bed. Looking at her being lifeless, he felt his heart ache. "Why don't you tell him the truth? Both of you wouldn't need to suffer like this."

"No, you don't understand." She let out a soft chuckle as she continued, "A brief spell of pain is better than prolonged suffering. By making him give up completely, perhaps someday another woman will rekindle his interest. If he knows I left because of the voodoo, not only would he not give up, but he'd also harbor a grudge. Even if he gets revenge, he'd never find peace for the rest of his life."

Her voice was gentle, but her words were clear. Zachary silently stayed by her side without saying much.

"Did you know that Colton is quite stubborn? Even if he gets his revenge, he won't be satisfied. Today's outcome is better for him and for me." She felt a sense of relief, but she was unsure if it was due to her own liberation of mind or the glimmers of nostalgia.

Zachary bowed his head and stayed silent. His eyes were full of concern as he watched her.

"By the way, Zachary, there's something I'd like to ask of you," she asked.

Chapter 1263 A Plea for Help

"Tell me." Zachary couldn't refuse Nicole's request. After all, her health was deteriorating rapidly.

A smile appeared on Nicole's face, but her pale complexion made her smile eerie at this moment.

"The Yael Family has a mysterious figure behind them, someone with profound and unfathomable abilities."

She hadn't finished her sentence before a violent fit of coughs interrupted her. Beads of sweat formed on her forehead, and the agony she felt physically was no less than the torment in her heart.

"Nicole, what's wrong with you? You have to tell me!" Zachary immediately supported Nicole's upper body, his brows furrowing as he anxiously watched her pale face.

Nicole shook her head slightly, suppressing the discomfort in her chest. Slowly, she said, "We don't know the exact identity, and I suspect even the Yael Family is unaware of this person's true identity. Such a formidable enemy... I fear that Colton alone won't be able to stand against them. So, I..."

Before she could finish her sentence, he interrupted her.

"All right, Nicole. I know what you're going to say. Don't worry, I'll help, even if he doesn't want to see me."

Zachary let out a bitter smile, realizing that Nicole loved Colton deeply. All she could think about was him even though she was in this state.

An expression of surprise flickered in Nicole's eyes. She hadn't expected Zachary to agree so readily.

"Thank you." Nicole thanked him from the bottom of her heart.

Splurt!

A sudden burst echoed, and in an instant, Zachary was propelled away from Nicole by a powerful force, just as he was about to counsel her against expressing gratitude.

Turning around in astonishment, he saw Nicole coughing up a mouthful of blood by the bedside. The bright red blossomed like a flower, incredibly vivid and unsettling.

"Nicole!" Zachary hurriedly steadied the faltering Nicole, his heart aching as he gazed at the streak of blood. He gently lay Nicole down on the bed, saying, "All right, rest early. I've just returned to the country, and there are some matters I need to attend to."

Nicole nodded faintly; her complexion devoid of any trace of color. Her pale lips were stained crimson by the fresh blood.

Zachary closed his eyes in resignation as he turned and strode out of Nicole's room. He guessed that if he continued like this, he might not be able to bring himself to leave.

Nicole watched Zachary leave until she heard the sound of the door closing. Slowly, she closed her eyes. She was truly exhausted today, both physically and mentally.

Roxanna and Chloe had been standing outside Nicole's room all along. Upon seeing Zachary emerge, they hurried over, wanting to question him.

"How is Nicole?" Roxanna, the most impatient among them, blurted out.

Zachary pursed his lips, looking at their anxious expressions. He said worriedly, "She just coughed up some blood. The blood was dark red, a sign of poisoning."

Chloe's expression darkened upon hearing this. She tightly pressed her lips together, her worry becoming even more apparent.

"As expected," Roxanna sighed. "Chloe, why don't you go in and check on Nicole? At this rate, I'm afraid..."

She didn't finish her sentence, but everyone present understood what she meant. They all gazed at the closed door with heavy expressions.

Seeing that Chloe was about to enter to examine Nicole, Zachary stopped her at the last moment. His face showed a hint of anger as if he were holding back something. He then said word by word, "Still not planning to tell me what happened to her even at this point in time?"

Chloe's footsteps halted, and Roxanna immediately lowered her head and fell silent. Both of them remained quiet.

Seeing the two of them in this state only intensified Zachary's annoyance. Although he wasn't particularly close to them, he had known Nicole for some time. Why would they keep such a significant matter hidden from him?

"Are you still not going to talk? After I've helped so much, she won't tell me, and you won't either?" Zachary's tone grew stern as he suppressed his frustration.

He wasn't blaming the people before him. He understood that Nicole had likely instructed them to keep this from him. However, now that she was in so much pain, how could he simply stand by in ignorance?

#### Chapter 1264 Zachary's Revelation

The three of them stood facing each other for a long time. Roxanna looked at Chloe and then at Zachary beside her before letting out a sigh.

"As for the specifics, we don't know either. We only know that Nicole went out a few days ago and came back with a voodoo bug in her. It's not an ordinary voodoo bug," Roxanna said, closing her eyes tightly as if summoning great courage.

Zachary looked at Roxanna in shock. He knew what a voodoo bug was, but he hadn't expected such a potent voodoo bug to be in Nicole.

"I remember this voodoo bug can be eliminated. Aren't you both skilled in medicine? Can't you help?" Zachary pondered and asked after suddenly having an idea.

Chloe shook her head in despair. "It's impossible. The voodoo bug in Nicole is a supreme voodoo bug, the most domineering type. There's no known cure for it, and a person can only survive for a month, but..."

"But what?" Zachary frowned.

Roxanna sighed. "Yes, because of various reasons, Nicole won't live beyond a month, and it's even more likely that she won't make it through a week."

Zachary gasped at the revelation. Why had things suddenly taken such a dire turn? He had only gone abroad for a short while, and so much had happened to Nicole in his absence.

Only earlier in the day, she had brimmed with vitality. Zachary remembered Nicole's radiant complexion

when Colton paid a visit.

"Could the reason for the sudden decrease in time be related to her rosy complexion today? Did she use some kind of special medicine so that Colton would believe that her feelings for me are genuine? So that she can successfully deceive him?" Zachary blurted out his speculation.

Roxanna paused for a moment and then nodded as she was surprised by his insight.

However, it was also true that given how much Nicole loved Colton, these possibilities could very well manifest in her actions. It wasn't that hard to guess.

Now that his suspicion was confirmed, Zachary brushed past Roxanna and Chloe and left in a daze.

In fact, Zachary wasn't surprised. Nicole loved Colton so much. If there hadn't been an urgent reason, why would she treat Colton like this? It was just that he never anticipated that Nicole would be willing to sacrifice her own life for this.

Chloe watched Zachary's departing figure, sighing helplessly. She turned to Roxanna and said, "I'll go check on Nicole first. I'll leave the matters in the research center to you."

Roxanna nodded and watched as Chloe entered Nicole's room, then she turned and left. With Nicole's condition deteriorating, she needed to ensure the research center ran smoothly without any hitches.

As night fell, the full moon hung high in the sky.

Ever since leaving the research center, Colton had been walking along the road, not knowing where to

go. With Nicole gone, he felt lost, unsure of the path ahead.

Evelyn rubbed her sore ankle and watched Colton get farther and farther away. Gritting her teeth, she hurried to catch up to him. "Colton, let's go home. We've been walking for almost a day."

Yes, they had been walking for almost a day, all because of Nicole. If it weren't for her, she wouldn't have needed to walk this long.

Thinking about this, Evelyn unconsciously blamed everything on Nicole, as if she had forgotten that she had conspired with Ryan to plant a voodoo in Nicole in the first place.

Colton moved like a zombie, not paying any attention to what Evelyn was saying behind him. Right now, there was only one person who could make him turn around immediately.

That person was Nicole.

Evelyn endured the pain in her ankle. "Colton, I'm hungry, and the child in my stomach must be hungry too. Why don't we get something to eat?"

She had long given up on walking. She thought this was a rare opportunity, and if she handled it well, she could make Colton realize her feelings. Then, no matter what Nicole did or how she behaved, Colton wouldn't change his mind.

That way, Colton would belong to her alone.

## **Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1288 Ambition - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1288 Ambition**

### **Chapter 1288 Ambition**

Ryan hung up without saying a word, and his face was as dark as a thundercloud. Even pedestrians passing by could sense his rage, and they scurried off, leaving him alone. Clutching his phone tightly, his bloodshot eyes gave him a wild, almost demented appearance. "Evelyn..." he seethed, infuriated that someone like Evelyn could dare to threaten him.

Suddenly, Nicole's name echoed in his mind, a bitter reminder. He recalled when "that person" intervened to save her from impending death. She's lucky. I can't believe "that person" wants to protect her. Still, it doesn't matter. Once I take over the Gardners, "that person" would show up, and I will also take him down. Soon, everything will be mine. It's not a big deal when Nicole's fate was only temporarily postponed. At this thought, Ryan's foul mood dissipated, replaced by a confident spring in his step as he hastily left the hospital. A promising future lay ahead, and no one could stand in his way.

Meanwhile, the upcoming event at the research center was a festive occasion, with employees adorning the venue splendidly. Even Nicole was made to buy

some lovely dresses in the nearest mall. Since she was the head of this center, she couldn't afford to appear in cheap attire at the event.

With Roxanna occupied by rehearsals, Chloe assumed the role of outfit coordinator for Nicole that night.

In the meantime, Nicole glanced down at her arm, where Chloe's arm was linked with hers. A warm smile spread across her face in response to Chloe's gesture. In a light-hearted tone, she quickly explained, "I have a ton of clothes in my closet. They're new, so I don't have to buy anything." This was the reason she had been reluctant to join Chloe outside.

"No. You're getting a hot dress today. How are you supposed to face everyone otherwise?" Chloe's animated demeanor was a pleasant departure from her usual self. As she spoke, she tightened her grip

on Nicole's arm, afraid she might suddenly slip away. I'll be in trouble if that happens, she thought to herself.

"Is this necessary?" Nicole felt lighthearted, relishing the opportunity to tease her. Seeing Chloe this animated was a rarity, so she seized the chance to play around.

"Of course. We must let the other employee know that we're rich," Chloe asserted confidently as she pinched Nicole's face.

Nicole might be Chloe's boss, but they were good friends. Only Chloe could address her by her first name; others were confined to "Miss Anderson." Although Nicole wasn't fond of formality, rules were necessary to maintain order. If they had no rules, the place would've been in shambles.

Amused, Nicole stifled her laughter as Chloe realized she was being teased, and she delivered a light swat to Nicole's backside—avoiding other sensitive areas. Nevertheless, Nicole's current mischief didn't obscure that she was two months pregnant.

Then, Chloe's gaze softened as she affectionately caressed Nicole's belly. "Almost three months."

The research center's employees adored children, but the prospect of childbirth daunted Chloe. The courage it took to endure labor was beyond her. Thus, she respected Nicole, who willingly embraced the painful process, all for



a man's sake. Indeed, that was for Colton—a decent man if he didn't have a child with Evelyn.

Meanwhile, her mind seemed to drift as she caressed Nicole's belly. Noticing Chloe's distraction, Nicole suppressed her laughter. "Someone's spacing out."

After hearing this, Chloe snapped back and shook her head. "I wasn't. Now pick whatever you like, Nicole. We'll buy everything."

#### Chapter 1289 Meeting Evelyn

Nicole was taken aback by how abruptly Chloe changed the subject, but she nodded nonetheless. Afterward, the two women strolled through upscale fashion stores, yet Nicole struggled to find anything she liked.

"Even though your baby bump isn't showing, you can still wear dresses. Why are you so insistent on loose-fitting options for the waist? Dresses are designed to highlight your body's shape, not conceal it," Chloe reasoned, emerging from another store while holding her hand. Then, she sighed inwardly. She cares about her pregnancy too much. We could've bought a ton of dresses otherwise.

Nevertheless, Nicole remained resolute, unwilling to compromise. "No. I can't risk hurting the child, regardless of whether or not my bump is visible," she asserted, tugging Chloe along through the mall, determined to find a dress that suited her tastes.

Watching her unwavering commitment, Chloe wondered whether they had pushed Nicole too hard. We've just raised her standards for her dress.

"Nicole? Is that you?"

Just as they were about to move on, a familiar voice sliced through the air, leaving Chloe with a frown. The voice belonged to a woman who had recently caused a stir at the research center and had subsequently left with Nicole's ex-husband.

Meanwhile, Nicole turned slowly, and her heart sank as she saw the scene before her. Evelyn stood there, holding Colton's arm intimately, a baby boy cradled in the arms of a servant. It was a picture of a beautiful family, but the sight wounded her heart.

"Fancy seeing you here, Nicole," Evelyn greeted gently, looking blissful.

After hearing this, Chloe was ready to whisk Nicole away from this unwanted encounter. However, she recognized that Colton was still a sensitive topic for Nicole. Hence, she held back, realizing she couldn't confine Nicole to her past forever.

As Nicole hesitated, her hand tenderly resting on her belly, she finally lifted her gaze and offered a serene smile. "Same here, Miss Wrenn. I hope you'll find a dress you like," she replied, pointedly avoiding eye contact with the man and treating him as a complete stranger.

On the other hand, his gaze was fixed on Nicole when he spotted her. He couldn't help but notice the affectionate look she directed toward her belly.

"Shopping for a dress, I presume? Do I smell a happy occasion?" Evelyn adeptly redirected the conversation, unwilling to let Nicole slip away so easily.

After hearing this, Chloe's fists clenched in frustration. She knew this wench was trying to stir up trouble. I hope this reckless action of mine can help Nicole. If it fails, I'll avenge her.

Nicole paused, the unspoken words hanging in the air, but her hand was still on her belly.

Meanwhile, Colton's face darkened like a storm cloud, but he refrained from impulsive actions. He knew these people were cunning, and any hasty response could wreak havoc on his company.

At this moment, Evelyn noticed something was different about Nicole. She pursed her lips and asked, "Do I sense pregnancy, Nicole?"

Ultimately, Chloe's patience reached its limits upon hearing this. She just won't take a hint. Just has to stir up trouble. Then, she smiled and replied sarcastically, "Almost three months pregnant. Happy, Miss Wrenn?" Her smile carried an underlying threat that didn't go unnoticed, but this expression unsettled Evelyn.

"Why you..." An angry Evelyn pointed at Chloe, but she couldn't come up with any retort. She had no way to explain herself, her intentions becoming transparent. She had hoped to unearth a reaction that Colton couldn't ignore, thus prompting him to move on from Nicole.

On the other hand, Nicole was surprised by Chloe's biting sarcasm. She had never anticipated that Chloe, usually composed and distant, would deliver such a cutting remark. In the past, this role was Roxanna's domain, and she used to balance out Roxanna with her sharpness. However, Chloe had now seamlessly taken on both personas, leaving Nicole surprised by the transformation.

#### Chapter 1290 Total Victory

"Yeah. I'm almost three months pregnant now. It's nice." Nicole smiled, but she didn't say anything more. Since Roxanna was not around to play along with Chloe, she would be the one to do it.

She knew that Colton had a new family now, and he seemed to love Evelyn, and Nicole wouldn't ruin his family. After all, they had their own child now. If they had no child of their own, she would take Colton for herself no matter what. The child changed everything, however.

Chloe looked at Nicole in surprise. She was relieved that Nicole didn't look as downcast as she thought. That means she's finally let go of the past and is willing to face it head-on.

Despite knowing that Colton was mad, Evelyn gritted her teeth and hissed, "Congratulations on getting pregnant. Zachary will be delighted, I'm sure. You should get married now. Colton and I will be praying for your happiness." I will never lose to her again. Never. This is my game now.

The light in Nicole's eyes dimmed. She was reminded of that day in the hospital, where Colton thought she cheated on him. She looked at Colton and stepped backward a little. Ever since they met, she hadn't had the courage to look at him. She wasn't expecting him to stare at her fervently, waiting for her explanation.

I can't explain anything now. Nicole shook her head and laughed at herself. She knew Colton. If she told him that the child was his, he would come back to her, but then what about Evelyn's child? Nicole wasn't saintly enough that she would raise another woman's child, especially not Evelyn's. Especially not after everything that had happened.

She was tired.

Colton was tormented. His emotions were going on a roller coaster ride, soaring and falling depending on every movement Nicole made. God knew how happy he was when he saw Nicole shaking her head, but then her self-deprecating chuckle pushed his emotions down the gutter again.

"We're getting married soon, yes. We'll be inviting you to the wedding." Nicole had gotten over it, but she was still annoyed by Evelyn's smug look. Won't let you gloat much longer.

She wasn't planning on rekindling the flames with Colton, but that didn't mean she would let Evelyn go for planting that voodoo bug in her.

"Let's go." Nicole gazed at Evelyn and turned around. She held Chloe's hand and left without hesitation.

Evelyn was scared. It was obvious from Nicole's gaze that she knew something, but Evelyn couldn't put a finger on it.

She was surprised she ran into Nicole, actually. That woman was infected by a bug, and yet she was standing before her moments ago, alive and well. She didn't like that, so she kept mocking her, as though that would quell her fear.

"Colton?" Evelyn was shivering. She had been trying to control herself as much as possible, but she noticed that everything she did would backfire on her, and she was quaking.

She slowly looked at Colton and noticed that he was black as thunder, and her trembling came to a halt, as if a switch had been turned off. She knew Colton would be furious, but she was still scared by his look.

Colton pulled his arm away and whirled around. He left without looking at Evelyn. Evelyn turned around to look at Colton, and she opened her mouth, but in the end, she kept it shut and said nothing.

If I go after him right away, he's going to find me annoying. That's what Nicole wanted! I can't let that happen. I won't fall for her trap!

**Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1291 Ball - Read**  
**Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1291 Ball**

## Chapter 1291 Ball

Chloe left with Nicole, but she had questions. Carefully, she asked, "Hey, that baby might not belong to Colton, Nicole. If that's true, what you did just doomed your relationship."

Nicole looked at her, and she realized something, then she smiled gently. So, she can see that as well. "Do you think someone like Colton wouldn't have looked into it? The fact that he's keeping the child and coming shopping with Evelyn means that child is his."

Nicole was speaking calmly, as though that story belonged to someone else, not her.

"But are you going to let Evelyn off the hook just like that? If Roxanna and I are right, she's the one who planted that bug in you, isn't she?" Chloe frowned. She knew Nicole was right, but this just didn't sit well with her.

"It's alright. She won't be laughing for much longer. I won't forgive her that easily." The look in Nicole's eyes darkened. She was a different woman now. She didn't think Evelyn could possess something as powerful as a supreme voodoo bug. Someone must've helped her, and she guessed that it was Ryan.

She had to find conclusive proof since conjectures were nothing but guesses. Nicole looked around, then her eyes shone, and she pointed at an upscale store and dragged Chloe into it. "This one, please," Nicole asked the retail assistant to take the dress down and paid for it.

When Chloe realized what was happening, Nicole had finished her purchase.

"This is fine?" Chloe asked, uncertain. She was surprised that Nicole finally bought a dress after dawdling around for so long.

Nicole nodded with determination. She wanted this dress.

Chloe took the dress, feeling dubious, then they went back to the medical base.

"You're back!" Albert quickly welcomed them the moment he saw Nicole. He quickly said, "I'd have sent my men to look for you if you hadn't returned. Get preparing. I can't wait."

Nicole smiled. Albert might be an old man now, but he was as spry as a child. Since he stayed overseas most of the time, he loved surprises.

Chloe nodded at Roxanna, who was approaching them. They did their jobs, and the ball was underway soon.

Nicole went back to her room and dressed herself up. She was in a good mood, since a lot of stuff was dealt with. It relieved her. For the first time in a while, she whipped out her makeup products and put on some makeup.

The clock struck eight. It was time for the ball to begin. Happiness hung in the air. Everyone in the medical base looked forward to this ball.

"Alright, people. Farewell party for Mr. Lloyd is a-go!"

Roxanna was the host, given that she was a lively woman. She was great at hyping up events and ensuring that the party ran smoothly.

Albert was sitting among the crowd. He was smiling, but his tears glistened and glimmered under the light. "Good show!" An excited Albert clapped for Roxanna.

The crowd applauded as well. The party had only just begun, but everyone was already cheering.

Roxanna grinned. "And now, Nicole shall be performing a tune for us. 'Be Still, My Heart.'"

Albert's eyes shone, and he focused on the stage, waiting for Nicole to show up.

Everyone applauded, and Nicole slowly made her appearance. She was about to bow, but she saw Colton standing at the doorway, and she froze. Why is he here?

Chloe was under the stage, controlling the crowd, and she noticed that Nicole was acting strangely.

Chapter 1292 Negotiation

Chloe was the first to notice something wrong with Nicole, and she looked in the direction Nicole was looking at. Colton? Why is he here? Chloe frowned and turned back to Nicole. I hope she's not affected by this.

Albert seemed to know that something was wrong with Nicole as well, but he waited for her. He knew Nicole wouldn't lose composure if it wasn't something important.

Nicole took a deep breath and put on a polite smile, then she went to the piano. She didn't care why Colton came that night. This event was made for Albert, and no one could put a stop to it.

The tune of the piano rang out in the hall. Everyone listened in silence. Most employees were only seeing Nicole perform for the first time, and they were immersed in her performance.

Colton looked at Nicole, a little sad. He had no idea Nicole could play an instrument like the piano. I'm a failure of an ex-husband.

Chloe found Roxanna having cake beside the stage, and she stopped her. The event's going to go on for a long time. Can't have that guy hang around forever.

"What is it?" Roxanna stuffed the last piece of cake into her mouth and looked at Chloe. She was garbling her words.

Chloe was resigned, but she patiently said, "Colton's here. Probably got the news somewhere."

Roxanna choked on her cake and started coughing violently. She quickly dusted the crumbs of cake off her hand and scanned the whole place.

Colton was standing in the back of the venue. All the employees and guests were seated, and Colton was more than six-foot tall. Roxanna saw him easily. She cursed, "Holy f\*ck, why is he here?" She couldn't believe Colton would be here.

Chloe shook her head and frowned. "I can't let him stay around. I'll talk to him."

Roxanna looked at Nicole. The performance was coming to an end, and this was the best plan they had.

A good tune always made the time pass faster. A moment later, Nicole was already standing on the stage, bowing.

"Good show! I expected nothing less from you, Nicole!" Albert stood up and applauded, looking proud of Nicole. As if she was his daughter. As if she'd won all the accolades this world could offer. He saw Nicole as his own, of course.

Nicole descended from the stage, the crowd still applauding her.

Chloe approached Colton and coolly said, "You're not welcome here, Mr. Gardner. Please leave."

Colton was dating Evelyn now. She knew the real reason for that, but she couldn't be nice to him.

Colton froze for a moment, and he said, "I'm here for a business deal."

What? Chloe was out of ideas now. She thought Colton was here to see Nicole.

"Go back to your post, Chloe," said Nicole.

Chloe froze and turned around. She hadn't told Nicole about this yet. "Nicole, I—"

She wanted to explain, but Nicole stopped her. "I know, it's alright. Go back to work. If he's here for a business deal, then I'll be dealing with him." Nicole gave Chloe a reassuring smile.

She understood Chloe. She knew Chloe didn't want Colton's appearance to get to her. She would be affected in the past, but Nicole was no longer her old self, and so was Colton.

Everything was different now.

"Fine." Chloe obliged, seeing that Nicole was insistent. She went past Nicole and looked at her, reluctant to leave. I hope she's really fine.

Chapter 1293 The Child's Mine

Chloe was gone. Nicole cut to the chase, "I think you said you're here for a business deal?" Nicole had to treat Colton like she would anyone else. She couldn't stay in her cocoon anymore. Colton wasn't the only thing she had in her life.



Colton thought Nicole had changed into a new person, and he was stunned. He couldn't believe they'd stand here in the medical base, talking like they were just meeting for the first time. "Yes, I..." Colton nodded, but he couldn't tell her what he wanted to say.

His sources told him that there would be a minor event held at the medical base, and it was a farewell party for someone important. He had a lot to say before he came, and he knew he would run into Nicole, but all preparations were blown away the moment he saw her.

"Sorry, Mr. Gardner, but we have no intention to strike any business deals at the moment. I'll need you to—"

Nicole wanted to refuse, but Colton interrupted, "Her child's mine, Nicole." Colton hung his head low, looking despondent. His voice trailed off at the end, disappearing with his courage.

Nicole trembled slightly for a moment. She had no idea why Colton would tell her that right now. She had gotten over it, actually. She didn't care.

Colton didn't hear any response, and he raised his head slowly only to see Nicole smiling at him. He realized that Nicole was leaving him, but he didn't want to lose her.

"I know, Mr. Gardner. I wish you and your wife happiness. You'll have to find someone else to strike a deal with, I'm afraid." Nicole nodded at Colton politely and left without hesitation.

For a moment, Colton felt like he harkened back to the time he first met Nicole. That was how Nicole attracted him. She tried her best to shine, ignoring whatever comments hurled at her. She was searching for business partners before this, and she promised she'd work with Gardner Corporation.

Yet now she was refusing him, perhaps because they were divorced, and that made things messy.

Nicole returned backstage and plopped down on her chair. The encounter just now drained her of all the energy she had. The base did need business partners, but that was in the past. Now she had given it some thought and decided against finding any partners. She would be expanding the branch. This wasn't where she would stop.

"So, how did it go, Nicole?"

Chloe hadn't been far. She stopped nearby and watched the two of them interact, worried that something might happen to Nicole. She was worried for nothing, however. Colton didn't do anything, though he did look downcast. Nicole left a while later, and Chloe came to her, ignoring Colton.

"I'm alright. Where's Mr. Lloyd?" Nicole shook her head and stood up, smiling. She was fine, save for her energy getting sucked out. She was probably exhausted from not having dinner, playing the piano, and talking to Colton.

Chloe heaved a sigh of relief and answered, "Oh, he's waiting for you outside. Wants to have dinner with you. He loves the event."

She was happy talking about Albert. He was their pride, after all.

Nicole nodded, and she patted Chloe's shoulder encouragingly. Nicole praised, "This is all thanks to you and Roxanna. Couldn't have been a success otherwise."

I can't let these people down. Especially not Chloe, Roxanna, and Mr. Lloyd. They've been by my side when I needed them the most.

Chapter 1294 Going Overseas

Chloe led Nicole to Albert. She had something important to say to him. Nicole nodded at Albert and sat with him. "Hey, Mr. Lloyd."

Albert looked at Nicole, delighted. He loved this young lady, and he kept piling her plate with food. "Dig in. God, you've lost so much weight." He was worried about her. She was gaunt, and yet she was pregnant. Her body needed nourishment, if not for her, then for the child.

"Alright, I will. I'll fatten myself up." Nicole played along and speared her steak, then she dug in. She should treat her loved ones better. Not to mention she was weak, and she was carrying a child. She must take good care of her body.

Albert nodded in approval. That's more like it.

Chloe and Roxanna exchanged a smile. Life was looking up for them. They had dinner together and chatted happily.

As everyone was finishing up their dinner, Nicole slowly put her cutlery down and patted her belly gently. "I've considered your suggestion, Mr. Lloyd."

Albert's eyes shone, and he quickly put his cutlery down too, then he looked at Nicole. "So, have you made up your mind? Been keeping me waiting long enough."

He couldn't wait to hear her answer. If she would go with him, he would do everything he could to help her, but if she refused, he would respect her decision. Everyone had their own pursuits, after all.

Nicole smiled and earnestly said, "I'm going with you."

Chloe and Roxanna were reluctant to see her go. Nicole had been with them for the longest time, and her going overseas all of a sudden would leave a hole in their hearts. Still, they were happy for Nicole. That meant she'd gotten over her pain and finally decided to venture overseas. To make the base better.

Albert's pupils dilated, and he looked at Nicole in delight. He thought Nicole would refuse it, and he'd braced himself for impact. This is surprising. "Leave everything to me, Nicole. Don't worry about it."

He thumped his chest as hard as possible to prove that he could still work.

She quickly stopped him. Albert might look healthy, but at his age, he shouldn't be straining himself. "I don't want to rely on you all the time, Mr. Lloyd. I'm striking out on my own."

"What?" Albert didn't think Nicole would say that. Anyone else would've worked with Albert. He was a luminary of the medical field, and anyone could gain success if they set up shop with him as a backer.

"You heard me right. I have to work hard if I want to really grow. Relying on you all the time only causes overdependence." Nicole nodded. That was her real thought. She couldn't keep relying on someone else all the time.

Chloe looked at Nicole, worried. She couldn't feel at ease knowing Nicole would be rushing in alone. A frown furrowed Chloe's brow, and she voiced her opinion. "It's dangerous out there. What if something happens to you?"

Refusing to change her decision, Nicole said, "I'm still doing this alone." If she wished to protect the people back home, she must grow as a person.

"Mr. Lloyd." Chloe looked to Albert for help, seeing that she couldn't convince Nicole.

Unexpectedly, Albert stood up and praised Nicole. "I can see why White took a liking to you. Very well. I respect your decision."

Chapter 1295 Chloe's Going Too

Roxanna was worried as well. The outside world was dangerous, and they knew this all too well. She couldn't stay calm, not when Nicole was going to do everything alone. "B-But what if something happens to you? What should Chloe and I do?"

"Yeah," Chloe quickly jumped in as she agreed with Roxanna.

Albert saw through them. He too had considered Nicole's safety as well. "I'll be keeping an eye on her. If any danger shows up, I'll keep her safe to the extent of not interfering with her work."

Albert rubbed his chin. Cryptically, he said, "Don't you worry, Chloe. I'm taking you along as well. Roxanna, you're staying back. Keep an eye on things here."

Nicole nodded. She didn't object to that decision. She had to be safe if she wanted to bring everyone to greater heights. Overestimating her abilities and being stubborn would be stupid.

"God, I envy Chloe. She gets to go on this trip too," Roxanna chimed in before Chloe could say anything. She pouted. Nicole's gone, and so is Chloe. I have to run this whole show myself? That's boring.

Nicole smiled at Roxanna reassuringly. "You're needed here." Roxanna ran this place well while she was out of commission. She wouldn't worry if Roxanna was the one running the place.

Roxanna chuckled and stopped objecting. Nicole gave her the stamp of approval, after all.

Finally snapping out of it, Chloe shot up and gushed, "Can I really go with you, Nicole?"

That upset Roxanna. "Hey, watch it. Just when I finally accepted that I won't be going." Roxanna pulled Chloe down. She realized a ton of people were looking at them, and it was embarrassing.

Chloe smiled shyly, but her delight was unmistakable.

"You'll learn a lot this time, Chloe. I'll need your help managing the medical base abroad." Nicole was a little reluctant as well. Chloe might be staying abroad for a long time after this.

Chloe said happily, "I won't let you down, Nicole." It was her privilege that Nicole trusted her. She wasn't going to let Nicole down.

"So, is everything done?" Albert was beside them, a little miffed. The ladies were chatting happily among themselves, forgetting about him.

"When are we setting off, Albert?" asked Nicole affectionately. She knew why he was upset.

Albert nodded in satisfaction. This was what he wanted. He stopped putting on airs, and after clearing his throat, he uttered, "Two days later. My men will buy the tickets later. Pack your things and settle all your business in the next couple of days."

Nicole paused for a moment. She knew what 'business' meant. Nicole slowly hung her head low and softly said, "Thank you." She had always wanted to thank Albert, but she had no idea how. She had been troubling him for a while now.

Albert flicked Nicole's forehead as a little punishment. Lovingly, he said, "You don't have to thank me, silly girl. I like you. I did this willingly, so don't feel pressured."

Nicole teared up. Chloe and Roxanna silently went back to their food, giving the two of them some space.

"Don't cry, Nicole. You'll be taking up a lot of responsibility down the line. It makes me happy that you have great companions like them," lamented Albert. He was reminded of a lot of stuff.

## Chapter 1296 Together

"Yeah." Nicole was beside herself. Albert respected her. He knew she saw Chloe and Roxanna as sisters, so he addressed them as her companions, not underlings. He just gives me so much love.

Zachary came holding a glass of wine. "So, what were you talking about, Nicole?" Nicole invited him to the event some time ago. He couldn't come at first, but Nicole said they might never meet again after this, so he came after a lot of deliberation.

Nicole shook her head and sniffled. "Nothing. So, when are you leaving?"

Zachary let it slide. He wouldn't ask Nicole questions she didn't want to answer. "About two days later, why?" He hadn't decided on it, but the ticket was booked for two days later.

Nicole was surprised that they were going to fly off at almost the same time. She was reminded of something which she would need to bring up with Zachary someday, and she decided she might as well deal with it today. "You're starting something in the medical industry, aren't you? You went abroad last time for this, right?"

"Yeah, but I have nothing to show for it." Zachary felt a little ashamed. This was his first solo project and six months had gone by since he started, but he hadn't achieved anything significant yet.

"I have a business deal. Interested?" Nicole cocked her eyebrow. She knew Zachary would be interested.

Albert looked at Nicole, intrigued. This was his first time seeing Nicole at work, and he was curious.

Zachary cocked his eyebrow. He was interested in striking a deal with Nicole.

"I'm going to expand the medical base and establish ourselves abroad, but we need someone to sell the drugs or items we develop. I'd like to strike a deal with you," Nicole explained the collaboration in simple terms. They were friends, so there was no need for formal business stuff.

Zachary wasn't expecting her to cut to the chase. She thinks of me as a close friend, huh? "Sure, I can do it," he said without hesitation.

Nicole was surprised. They might be friends, but they were far from sharing unconditional trust. She thought Zachary would at least take some time to consider, but he actually agreed to it. "Sure you don't want to think—"

Zachary interrupted, "You know I'd never do anything that'd make me a loss. I'm a businessman," said Zachary sternly.

Ah, that was me being rude. Nicole stood up and raised a toast. "Sorry for ever doubting you. Can't have alcohol, so juice will have to do."

Zachary didn't mind. He smiled and raised a toast to Nicole. He actually did think of profit. He knew of the medical base, and it was his honor to work with an organization as good as this one. "Here's to a happy partnership."

Zachary raised a toast again. He and Nicole exchanged a smile, looking as thick as thieves.

Albert was asking Chloe for some gossip. He had been watching for a while. "So, what do you think? Do they make a good couple?" asked Albert, excited.

He liked this guy. It would be great if he could marry Nicole.

"Not bad, and he has always been nice to Nicole." Chloe held Roxanna's arm and nodded, and they praised Zachary.

Hearing what they said, Nicole blushed and stopped them. "Oh, shut it, you guys."

Everyone stole a glance and laughed. Zachary didn't say anything. He pretended he had heard nothing. He knew Nicole didn't have feelings for him, and he wouldn't trouble her with any advances. Her life was already hard enough.

Chapter 1297 Maternal Instinct

Zachary and Nicole would fly off two days after the event ended. Zachary wanted to give Nicole some time to prepare so that their negotiations would go smoother.

Nicole planned to go to the hospital before she left. She didn't tell anyone, and she quickly put her plan into action after she had decided. Alone, she hitched

a ride to the hospital. She went by a lot of spots where she argued with Colton and lamented. I wish him happiness.

"You're saying she's not even showing symptoms of poison? She's normal?" Ryan was surprised to hear that. That guy's capable. He cleared the infection. That was my trump card.

"And she's pregnant. Not sure for how long, but I guess it's two months," Evelyn whispered, holding her phone. Still, she kept looking over her shoulder to see if Colton had noticed her.

Ever since Ryan told Evelyn that Colton had done the paternity test, Evelyn realized Colton had been treating her differently. Most importantly, he took her to a new home, and only he, Evelyn, and a servant were around. There was no butler and the annoying servants. Evelyn smiled. I don't care what happens to Nicole. Colton's mine now. Forever.

"Two months pregnant?" Ryan couldn't believe it. The supreme voodoo bug didn't leave any irreversible complications? "I see." Ryan talked a bit more before hanging up.

He had no idea how powerful his backer was, but judging from the story, he knew that person was more powerful than he thought. Before this, he thought the person was doing something illegal, though only small-time. The Yaels couldn't do anything conspicuous if it was illegal, and that person wasn't in a hurry. They would only purchase from the Yaels based on how much they could offer.

Ryan's grandfather tried to wheedle some information out of the backer before, but all he found out was that the backer only did business with them. This was proof that the person wasn't aiming for anything grand. They just wanted to make some money.

Ryan poured himself a glass of red wine and took a sip, then he fell into his thoughts. I have to be careful. Tricks aren't enough anymore. I need another trump card.

Evelyn carefully deleted the call history and felt her way to the bedroom with nothing but a dim light. They might live in the same house, but Colton almost never came back.



She knew why. He wasn't like his old self, wasting the night away; he was hard at work. She wasn't going to tell Ryan that. That wasn't something Ryan should know. The only information she would provide was about Nicole.

She didn't care what happened to Nicole as long as Colton belonged to her. Evelyn looked at the empty bedroom. It didn't look lived in at all, and she sighed. She didn't want to live this kind of life.

The nanny came in holding the baby. "Miss Wrenn, the baby's crying again."

The baby's cries echoed across the house, and Evelyn had a headache. Children's cries were the most annoying thing in the world. "Why did you come to me? Colton hired you for a reason!" Evelyn frowned in displeasure.

She didn't like this nanny. It was because she would never call her "madam", and she failed to take care of the child. She would knock on her door late at night to get her to calm the kid down. If she comes to me every time the kid cries, then why did we even hire her?

#### Chapter 1298 Nicole's Missing

The nanny knew this was what Evelyn would say to her, and she left, looking resigned. She was at her wits' end. The child was dependent on his mother, yet his mother didn't like him. Of course, he would be uneasy. She tried her best to calm the boy down every time he cried but to no avail.

Once the cries were out of earshot, a relaxed Evelyn went to the bedroom and prepared her skincare routine, then it was time to sleep.

The nanny held the baby in her arms, and she sighed. I did my best.

While Evelyn was sleeping, Nicole arrived at the hospital. It was afternoon, and there were a lot of people in the hospital. Nicole had to stay in the waiting area for a long time before it was her turn.

The staff members were the same ones she met last time. This was a coincidence. The nurse remembered Nicole. She felt different from everyone else, and her looks were top-notch. It was hard for them to forget a woman like her.

"Hello, Miss Anderson." The nurse was happy to assist Nicole. Pretty privilege was real in this world. If the patient was a monster Karen, she probably would have screamed.

Nicole nodded and gave the nurse a smile, then she followed her into the room. Chloe was going to see Nicole and talk about their trips, but she couldn't find Nicole anywhere in her room.

"Where is she?" She looked around, but Nicole was nowhere to be found. At first, she thought Nicole had gone to the restroom, so she didn't pay attention to it.

However, after multiple searches, she started to get suspicious.

Roxanna went by and saw Chloe looking nervous. She teased, "What are you looking for? Noticed you coming here a few times, but you never stayed long." She checked the room. "Where's Nicole?"

Roxanna was puzzled, seeing that Nicole was absent. Nicole would usually stay in her room if there was nothing to do.

Chloe frowned and said, "I wanted to talk about the trip with her, but she's not in. I've looked for her a few times." She voiced her concerns with a frown.

Realizing something, Roxanna said, "Maybe she went out. She seldom goes out now, but maybe she's finally gotten over it?"

Chloe shook her head. "No way."

Roxanna's eyes went wide, and she blinked innocently at Chloe. "Why?"

"If she goes out, she'll tell us. She knows we would be worried about her."

Chloe huddled closer to Roxanna and said something, then they huddled even closer.

Nicole came back to the medical base with a report in her hand, seemingly in a good mood. From afar, she saw Roxanna and Chloe standing before her room, deep in discussion. "What are you two doing here?"

The ladies jumped away in shock. They looked at Nicole, their hearts racing as fast as an F1 car, and they could feel them thumping thunderously against their chests.

Nicole smiled at the two of them, curious. She thought it was an interesting response.

Roxanna patted her chest. Slowly, she asked, "Where have you been, Nicole?" That scared me.

"Got a checkup at the hospital. Nothing dangerous." Nicole handed the report to Roxanna and smiled.

Roxanna took it and checked the report, including the date and content. "We can do this in the medical base. Why did you go to the hospital?"

Hearing that, Chloe took the report from Roxanna. She glanced through it and nodded. "Everything's normal. Is this a regular checkup before the trip?"

Chapter 1299 Comic Relief

"Yes." Nicole nodded with a smile. She gave Chloe a look of approval. Chloe knew her well since she was a meticulous person. However, she didn't want Roxanna to be like Chloe. That would make things a lot more tedious. It was good that she was a simple woman.

Chloe sorted the report out and handed it to Nicole. Reminded of something, Chloe said, "Oh, I have to go, Nicole. I have stuff to do." She then dragged Roxanna away before Nicole or Roxanna could process what she just said.

"Hey, I thought you wanted to talk about the trip, Chloe!"

Even though they were far away, Nicole could vaguely hear Roxanna. She put on a small smile and went into her room. Nicole looked around and set her sights on her suitcase, which was collecting dust, and a bitter smile curled her lips. The thought of leaving this place filled Nicole with melancholy, even though she was the one who made the call. I have to do this for the medical base.

Nicole heaved a sigh and turned around to wipe her suitcase clean, then she started packing her clothes. She wasn't planning to pack a lot of things. All she needed were her clothes and necessities. In the end, about half the suitcase was still empty, even after Nicole had packed everything.

Nicole looked at the space and smiled. "What should I do?"

Every time Roxanna went on a trip, she would complain about the lack of space. I wonder what that girl packs.

"Nicole!"

Speak of the devil. Nicole looked at the room entrance and saw Roxanna rushing in. "I need to talk to you, Nicole." Roxanna skidded to a halt. She came into the room and saw the suitcase on the ground. "Oh, packing up?" she blurted.

"Yeah. Why?" Nicole went and took a seat in the chair beside her. She pointed at the chair before her, motioning Roxanna to sit. She must be here to talk about something big, or Roxanna wouldn't be in this much of a hurry.

"Okay." Roxanna nodded and sat across from Nicole, but her eyes were still on the suitcase.

Nicole smiled at Roxanna. "So, what is it that you want to talk to me about?"

Roxanna snapped out of it and looked at Nicole sheepishly. Slowly, she said, "Sorry for staring, Nicole." Why was I even staring at the suitcase? That was rude.

Nicole froze for a moment. She noticed the look in Roxanna's eyes and realized what she was talking about. Nicole shook her head. "It's nothing."

She didn't have anything to hide, and Roxanna was her good friend. She could stare. Nicole didn't mind.

Roxanna blinked. "Are you still packing, Nicole?"

Nicole smiled. She knew Roxanna would ask that question, and she answered, "Done. I was going to close up the suitcase."

Roxanna's eyes went wide with disbelief. "Done? But there's still so much space. What are you going

to do with it?" She couldn't believe this. Every time she packed, she wouldn't have enough space in her suitcase. Is that all the space she needs? Oh, my God. Does she have a secret compartment inside that I don't know about?

Reminded of important business, Roxanna quickly said, "Oh, right. A makeup company wants to work with us. What do you think, Nicole?" She was worried she might forget it if she didn't bring it up.

#### Chapter 1300 Anticipation

"Is that so?" Nicole was interested. "Tell me more."

"The company is called JL. It's very influential in the nation. Lots of foreigners love them too, and they want us to develop a skincare product based on herbs. Their reputation is diamond." Roxanna told Nicole what she knew about JL. She thought it was a good company.

"And it's a family company. The newest president is a guy. Can you believe it, Nicole? A guy running a giant cosmetics company." Roxanna was shocked. After their representative approached her, she Googled the company and read up about the boss. He was an amazing man.

"Just one month after his appointment, the company's sales jumped up by five percent. It's a record." Roxanna had respect for this man, and she praised him. He must know the ladies a lot to gain so much in sales. To be frank, a guy who knew women this well had incredible power.

Nicole observed the look on Roxanna's face in silence. Her expressions wouldn't stop changing. She could see that Roxanna was thinking about a lot of stuff. At first, she was surprised, then she had nothing but praise for the guy, and then she feared him. That's kind of the SOP here. "Alright, continue. What's their offer?" Nicole nodded.

She knew JL. It was a powerful company, but she had no idea why they wanted to work with her.

"Point is, they want to see you and hash out the partnership." Roxanna paused, leaving her sentence unfinished. Then she said, "Then they'll tell you the offer."

Nicole cocked her eyebrow. So, everything before this was what Roxanna found out. That last point

was what she really wanted to say. Nicole mused over it and agreed to it. This was important, especially for the medical base's growth. "Make the arrangements. Tomorrow would be best. I have to leave after tomorrow."

"Sure." Since Nicole had given her answer, Roxanna left the room after chatting with her a bit more.

Roxanna was an efficient worker. Half an hour later, she texted Nicole the place and time for the meeting.

'Business club, one o'clock.'

Nicole looked at the text and texted back. She sent it and tucked her phone away, then she zipped her suitcase and placed it beside her. Judging from the speed of JL's response, they took this partnership seriously.

I guess I'm going to get a good partner now. Nicole didn't think much about it. She went to sleep after packing up to ensure she got some rest. She was looking forward to the negotiation the next day.

Roxanna, however, couldn't sleep. Nicole had texted her to come along the next day. She knew Nicole wanted to train her, but...

The thought that she might face JL's president filled her with curiosity and anticipation. She wondered what she should wear and the kind of makeup she should put on. Roxanna rolled around on her bed and let out a scream of despair. God, why can't I forget about that guy?

She didn't sleep a wink.

Nicole got up early as usual and had breakfast with everyone downstairs, but even when she was almost done, Roxanna was nowhere to be seen.

"Where's Roxanna?" asked Nicole curiously.

Chloe looked at the second floor and fell silent for a while. She then said, "Girl probably saw a ghost last night. Screamed and shouted in her room. Maybe she got overexcited and is still in her bed."