

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1331 - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1331

Chapter 1331

Colton sat dejectedly on his sofa while looking out the window as the night gradually fell. The uncomfortable feeling in his heart was magnified infinitely.

Although he had long been planning his future life and appeared no different from an ordinary person on the surface, there was something magical about the night. As soon as night fell, his mind would be filled with Nicole's figure, face, and how she moved.

All of this reminded him that she was now carrying another man's child in her belly, and their child had already passed away.

The night was always terrifying as it constantly devoured his rationality.

A figure moved on the second floor, darting around before finally slipping back into its room when no one was paying attention.

'Question: What should I do if my ex-wife has a child with another man?'

'PS: I still love my ex-wife.'

A young girl in her prime lay on a soft bed with her slender legs swinging back and forth. She was fully engrossed in looking at her tablet.

Alas. These netizens don't have any worthwhile advice to offer.

In less than three minutes, the girl sighed and complained while casually scrolling through suggestions

that were of no use to her. She shut off her tablet and tossed it aside.

Did Nicole really have a child with another man?

Wendy stared at the blindingly white ceiling and sighed helplessly to herself.

When she asked that question, she already had the answer in her heart. Definitely not.

However...

She sneaked out of bed and cautiously opened her bedroom door. From her vantage point, she could just see Colton downstairs drowning his sorrows in alcohol.

In his current state, he probably wouldn't pay attention to anything she said.

As Colton's younger sister, Wendy had grown up with him and naturally understood him very well.

Once he made up his mind about something, he wouldn't listen no matter how many people talked to him. Unless... Nicole personally explained.

Since their divorce, Nicole hasn't spoken to me.

Wendy, who was bored out of her mind, unlocked her phone and opened the chat box she had been eagerly awaiting a response from. The sound of her sigh came again.

"Alas."

"What should I do?"

Wendy kept talking to herself, but Nicole didn't respond at all. If this happened to anyone else, she would have gotten furious given her temperament.

However, Nicole was her beloved sister-in-law, so she had to handle it gently.

Knock, knock, knock.

Someone knocked on her door.

Wendy's eyes shifted, and she placed her phone face down on the bed. She then went to open the door, only to see a familiar face that carried a hint of sadness. She exclaimed in surprise, "Mom, why are you here so late at night?"

Anna looked at her daughter's face, and her worries somewhat diminished.

She had a son and a daughter. Her son seemed normal during the day, but he started drinking all night once evening fell. Now, he was probably not mentally well.

Fortunately, her daughter was still healthy and stayed by her side.

"It's nothing. I just wanted to see you. I noticed you weren't asleep yet, so I thought I'd come in and chat with you."

Bang!

Just as Anna finished speaking, the sound of something being knocked over came from downstairs.

It was Colton.

The mother and daughter exchanged glances and sighed helplessly while facing each other.

They had long grown accustomed to such sounds.

"Mom, come in." Wendy knew what her mother was worrying about and quickly stepped aside to let her in.

Anna nodded, but before entering, she looked back at the situation downstairs. Her expression showed not just helplessness, but also concern.

Wendy closed the door and faced Anna. She didn't say much and just silently poured a glass of water and placed it in front of Anna. "Mom, have some water."

Chapter 1332

"Wendy, I know Nicole would never do something like that. I've witnessed her feelings for Colton all along. However, Colton has been in this state for a while now, and as a mother, I'm genuinely worried."

Anna took a sip of water and seemed to have made a decision. She put down her water glass hurriedly before she began speaking.

"Do you know something that I don't? Nicole is usually close to you as well."

It was normal for her as a mother to worry about her son. Everyone had their own hidden intentions sometimes, but it could not be helped as everyone had their own perspectives.

"No. Nicole hasn't spoken a word to me since that day."

Wendy shook her head. She vaguely remembered that Nicole had called her when Nicole and Colton were signing the divorce agreement. Nicole had told her about the divorce.

Just as she was about to ask more, the call from Nicole ended.

She didn't know about other circumstances, but she knew Nicole's breath seemed weak as if she had been ill for a long time, with not many days left to live.

Wendy's heart ached as if it were being twisted when she thought of it. What had happened between them?

"Okay. Colton will be going abroad tomorrow, but he'll still be managing the company. I know that your studies are almost done, so why don't you go abroad with him and visit different places?"

Anna nodded. She was now certain that Wendy didn't know anything anymore. Anna knew quite a bit about the child she gave birth to.

Upon hearing this, Wendy looked at Anna in shock while blinking her large eyes and wearing an expression of disbelief on her face.

She had been clamoring to study abroad for a while, but Anna never gave her the green light to go alone. However, Anna allowed her to go abroad now!

"What's wrong? You don't want to go?"

Anna looked at her daughter's expression. She couldn't help it, and the corners of her mouth curved upward lightly.

These few seconds might be the only moments of happiness she had experienced in these past few months. Her daughter always found a way to make her happy.

This was a good thing.

"Of course, I want to go! Have you bought the tickets?"

Wendy was too absorbed in her happiness to remember anything else and repeatedly asked Anna the same question.

"I've already bought them, and you'll go with your brother."

Anna was afraid Wendy would become too smug due to her excitement about going abroad, so she kept reminding Wendy that she would be going with Colton this time.

Naturally, Wendy knew what was going on in her mother's mind. She nodded quickly while wearing an expression that reassured Anna.

"Don't worry. I'll keep an eye on Colton. I'll also learn how to manage the company while I'm at it."

Wendy made it sound as if she were making a promise as she tapped her chest confidently. It seemed that she was determined to handle this matter well.

Upon seeing Wendy's assurance, Anna felt more at ease.

Her daughter might be playful, but she could differentiate what matters were important. As long as it was something important, her daughter wouldn't let her down.

That was also one of the reasons she felt relieved to let Wendy go abroad with Colton.

"All right. Hurry up and pack your things then. I won't disturb you anymore." Anna nodded in satisfaction, and after saying that, she stood up and prepared to leave.

Wendy watched Anna leave. She was unable to contain her excitement. She quickly turned around and started packing her things.

She had heard that Nicole was also going abroad. She was supposedly going to establish a medical base there. Wendy had already inquired about this matter.

Beep.

The message notification on her phone sounded.

Wendy picked it up and saw that it was a notification from Anna about her flight booking, which showed the destination country.

It was Florend!

It was exactly that place!

Wendy's eyes lit up. Does Colton know that the country we're going to is where Nicole is, or did he choose to go there exactly because he knows that Nicole is there?

Upon thinking of this, Wendy chuckled softly. Colton was truly stubborn with a soft heart.

Chapter 1333

Wendy took advantage of the time she had before the flight and quietly left the Gardner Family with her suitcase before sending a message to Colton. 'See you at the airport.'

By the time Colton saw the message, she had already vanished.

"This child..." Anna shook her head helplessly. Wendy was probably off somewhere again.

Colton looked at Wendy's message without any expression on his face. He spoke in a calm tone. "It's fine. If she said she'll meet me at the airport, she'll be there. Mom, don't worry."

Her son's reassurance didn't completely ease her concerns. She might be a hundred percent at ease about Wendy, but as for Colton, it was hard to say.

Colton boarded a business car with his suitcase. It was a car arranged by Benjamin to take Colton to the airport.

"Colton, remember to send me a message once you arrive."

Upon seeing Colton's figure disappearing at the door, Anna was still unable to completely let go of her worries.

She was afraid that he might delay a lot of things in his current state.

Colton watched Anna gradually disappear from view and felt an indescribable feeling in his heart. He had been downcast recently and neglected his parents during this period.

He had figured things out last night. He would deal with Ryan and the people behind him, and Nicole's affairs were no longer important to him.

Wendy didn't want to delay things any further. After leaving home, she hailed a cab and headed to the Wrenn Residence.

Since she was going abroad today, she needed to inform the Wrenn Family. After all, her purpose for going abroad this time was Nicole.

"Miss Gardner, why are you here today?"

The butler, who happened to be outside, looked surprised when he saw Wendy pulling her suitcase.

Ever since the day Nicole and Colton got divorced, Wendy hadn't come to visit the elders after she came to keep them company.

Not only had she come today, but she also brought a suitcase. It seemed something had happened.

"I'm about to go abroad. I have a few things I'd like to say to Mr. and Mrs. Wrenn. Are they at home?"

Wendy's lips curled up faintly when she saw the butler as she revealed a pleasant smile.

The butler looked somewhat embarrassed as he glanced at Wendy. He said, "It's quite unfortunate. Mr. and Mrs. Wrenn are not at home today. Miss Gardner, you can tell me and I'll pass the message."

Wendy looked disappointed upon hearing that. However, after a few seconds, she said excitedly, "I'm

going abroad this time. I found out previously which country Nicole went to. It turns out it's the same country I'm going to. I'll inform Mr. and Mrs. Wrenn of any news I receive about Nicole."

Upon hearing this, the butler looked at Wendy with joy.

Ever since Nicole left, she hadn't sent any messages to Mr. and Mrs. Wrenn. They only heard from her every few days to know she was safe, but she never said anything else.

He guessed she probably didn't want them to worry.

This time, if Wendy could let them know that Nicole was really safe, they would be very happy.

"All right. I'll definitely let Mr. and Mrs. Wrenn know about this. I'm sure they'll be delighted to hear such news."

The butler nodded with excitement. He was very grateful that Wendy had come to tell them this before going abroad. She was a good girl. Her future husband would be very lucky to have her.

Upon seeing that the butler would definitely inform them, Wendy left with a relieved smile. With the butler's assurance, she felt much more at ease.

At the airport, the bustling crowd moved about. Colton sat at the side while looking around for Wendy's figure. He calmly typed a message on his phone.

'If I don't see you in another ten minutes, don't bother going with me this time. I'll talk to Mom and Dad about it.'

After sending the message, he put away his phone and raised his wrist to check his watch. He was starting to time it.

The airport was filled with people coming and going. Each person had their own destination. They might be going home or somewhere far away. Where was Colton's destination?

Chapter 1334

Evelyn had been waiting for Colton to return. She had prepared all sorts of excuses, such as Ryan had threatened her. If she didn't do as he said, he would harm both her and Colton's child.

For this reason, she was very frightened. She had no choice but to help Ryan commit acts that harmed Nicole.

This was the only way to prevent Colton from becoming violent toward her.

"Mrs. Gardner, are you still waiting for Mr. Gardner today?" A maid, who had noticed Evelyn standing at the door waiting for Colton pitifully every day, asked curiously. The maid had learned about the situation just today.

A few days ago, they noticed the bruises on her face. Since they were not live-in maids and only worked from 9.00AM to 5.00PM, they never stayed overnight at the villa. They would prepare dinner for their employers before going home. That was why they didn't know how Evelyn sustained those injuries. Some guessed it might have been Colton.

However, how could someone like Colton, who was known to be tender and caring toward his wife, be a domestic abuser? Nevertheless, there were always secrets in wealthy families. Who knew what was really going on?

"Why? Do you have some information?" Evelyn looked at the maid in surprise. She knew that the maids were more informed than she was about Colton's whereabouts. Indeed, she got all of Colton's news from the maids, but in the current situation, she found it understandable.

"Yes. It's said that Mr. Gardner has gone abroad. They said he's going to..." The maid paused here and

did not continue her sentence.

Evelyn frowned upon hearing this. The maid's half-spoken words made her uncomfortable, and she hurriedly asked, "Please continue. Why is he going abroad?"

She was eager to know all about Colton's current situation. Although he had promised to return that night to hear her explanation, he had unexpectedly returned to the Gardner Residence instead.

She had gone to the Gardner Residence, but she was not welcomed there. She didn't even manage to see Colton before she had to return.

Now, he was suddenly going abroad. She couldn't understand why he hadn't informed her about such a significant matter.

"He's going abroad to find Miss Anderson," the maid whispered.

These maids had only joined the household later, so they only knew about Colton's past relationship from the news. They knew that Colton had treated Nicole very well and Evelyn was said to be a third party who had entered the picture using her child.

However, these were all rumors, and these maids didn't usually indulge in gossiping about such matters privately. They didn't have a clear understanding of the details.

"What? What did you say? Say it again. Colton is going abroad to find who?" Upon hearing Nicole's name, Evelyn suddenly grabbed the maid's hand and asked in agitation.

She seemed to have turned into a crazed ghost emerging from the depths of the earth. The sudden movement startled the maid.

"Nicole." The maid trembled as she spoke and her whole body was shaking.

Since they had joined the household, Evelyn had not treated them particularly well or poorly. However, her attitude today was completely different, and this was the first time they had seen her like this.

"Nicole. It's her again. Why is it her again?" Evelyn suddenly released the maid and turned around to walk up the stairs while muttering to herself. She resembled a deranged spirit in the desolate wilderness.

The maid covered her wrist. Evelyn used a lot of strength just now and it left a clear red mark on her wrist.

She stared blankly at the direction Evelyn had left in, still unable to recover from the shock.

The nearby maid hurriedly walked over and led the frightened maid away. They had never seen such a situation before. Everything had happened too quickly for them to react.

After Evelyn returned to her room, she saw the ointment still placed on the bedside table. She suddenly remembered what Colton said to her that day, and tears flowed uncontrollably down her face.

"It's all lies. All lies!"

Bang! The sound of the ointment hitting the ground echoed in the room.

Chapter 1335 I'm Here

'Oh! Come on, Colton. Can't you be a bit patient? Can't I take a stroll? Besides, it's still a long time before boarding!'

Wendy saw the message on her phone and rushed over without stopping, only to find Colton sitting leisurely there. She was really annoyed.

Colton looked up at her, who was sweaty, and raised an eyebrow. Her makeup was slightly smudged due to the excessive sweat, but she still looked good. Many men's eyes were fixed on her.

"Let's go." He frowned slightly, turned around unhappily, and walked away.

Those men were looking at his sister in a way that disgusted him.

Wendy had no idea what was going on with Colton, so she could only mutter "okay" and followed quietly.

She looked around and felt that something was amiss. She remembered that the boarding gate was B1, but they seemed to be heading toward B21.

However, she didn't say anything. Colton must have his reasons for doing this. She just needed to follow him.

If they weren't going to Florend, she could buy a ticket and go there by herself when the time came. Since she was going abroad, she was determined to find Nicole.

Colton remained vigilant about the situation around him. Some people hadn't left and continued to

follow them. His expression darkened, but he kept walking forward.

It seemed like they were really keeping an eye on him today.

At home, Ryan was sitting in front of the computer and staring at it. He was waiting for the news about Colton.

'Mr. Yael, the target has boarded the plane. He's headed to Florend.'

Upon reading this, Ryan breathed a sigh of relief. As long as Colton went to Florend, where Nicole was, it should distract Colton.

'Everything is ready. We can begin the operation.'

Ryan slowly closed one window and opened a new one. There were no chat records on this window. He smiled and started typing on the keyboard.

Colton, since you've already given up on your affairs in the country, let me shoulder all the consequences.

When Ryan read the message on the computer screen, his smile grew wider. To him, this was the best news. He just hoped that he could devour the entire Gardner Family as soon as possible.

On the plane.

"Colton, you were already planning to go to Florend, so why are you hesitating now?"

Wendy saw that Colton had been staring at the rebooking page for a while and asked in confusion. She couldn't figure out what her brother was thinking.

He shook his head slightly and finally closed his phone resignedly. He leaned back in his seat and closed his eyes to rest, not answering her question.

Yesterday, Beryl had sent him a message, saying that Nicole was in Florend. For a brief moment, he really wanted to go to Florend to find her, but his rationale told him that he couldn't continue to be ensnared by love.

However, he still ended up getting drunk last night.

He had originally planned to trick Ryan into believing he was going to Florend. He was planning to change his destination to Monterey before they boarded.

However, he had to change his plans and buy himself time by going to Florend as Ryan's men were closely monitoring him, which was something he didn't expect.

Well, he would figure things out once he got to Florend.

After Wendy observed Colton's actions, she turned her head away as she was annoyed by his indifference and looked out the window at the passing scenery. The voice of the flight attendant, who was making an announcement, echoed in her ears.

She fell into a slumber amidst these circumstances.

It wasn't until the plane had been in the air for six hours that she woke up due to hunger and the enticing aroma.

An empty sack could not stand upright. She couldn't afford to delay her meal.

Wendy looked at the meal on the small tray in front of her and without hesitation, she started eating. People often said that airplane food was bad, but why didn't she think so?

Could it be that she was not a normal person?

No. That was not possible. If she wasn't a normal person, what was Colton then?

Colton casually glanced at her, then turned back to continue eating the food in his bowl.

Chapter 1336 No Collaboration

Two days had passed, and there was still no response from Kendrick. Nicole was almost certain that he was going to decline the collaboration.

She and Chloe still hadn't managed to get in touch with Kendrick. They had been repeatedly calling his secretary's phone, but there was no response. They were told that he was busy and had no time to spare.

This reply left Nicole feeling anxious. If he wasn't even willing to answer a phone call, how could they proceed with anything else?

She had no intention of betraying herself. She believed that she could definitely convince Kendrick to work with them with her proposal.

"What should we do, Nicole?" Listening to the dial tone, Chloe looked at Nicole with a sense of helplessness. She didn't expect to hit a roadblock so soon.

Nicole pursed her lips and did not say anything. However, she wasn't the type to just sit and wait. Her next step...

Upon seeing that Nicole wasn't looking too happy, Chloe sighed in resignation and sat back in her seat to search for other potential candidates that could collaborate with them.

If she couldn't find anyone suitable, she was prepared to lower their requirements.

"Don't worry. We'll find a way."

As Chloe was contemplating lowering their requirements, Nicole suddenly spoke up with determination.

Chloe looked surprised when she heard this. When she saw the firm expression on Nicole's face, she couldn't help but smile.

Nicole hadn't given up yet, so what right did she have to give up?

Nicole looked at Kendrick's secretary's number on her phone. She took a deep breath and dialed the number.

She intended to ask Kendrick's secretary directly. If that didn't work, she would go to Kendrick's company and talk to him.

Roxanna, who was in the country, had everything ready. She and Chloe couldn't afford to drop the ball at this crucial moment.

Upon thinking back to her recent video call with Roxanna, who was still working on research reports at around 2.00AM, Nicole felt she couldn't let Roxanna down.

The call was connected, but there was no answer from the other side.

The call was about to be automatically disconnected, and Nicole felt uneasy. Kendrick was the most suitable candidate among everyone. She didn't want to collaborate with anyone else if possible because collaborating with Kendrick would maximize their benefits and boost the reputation of the medical base.

Only by doing so could she help Colton to some extent and save more people.

Just then, Nicole thought of something and her expression darkened.

"Hello. There was a meeting just now. This is the secretary's office."

A woman's voice came from the other end.

Nicole recognized this voice. She had only exchanged a few words with his secretary during her discussion with Kendrick the other day, but she still remembered her voice.

"Hello, I'm Nicole Anderson. I wanted to inquire if Mr. Hofstead has agreed to collaborate with us. I believe that by working together, many things will proceed more smoothly, and the benefits can also be maximized."

Nicole knew that businessmen focused on profit, so the purpose of this call wasn't just to inquire about the reasons. She also wanted to secure an opportunity for the medical base.

The secretary who was answering the call had a displeased look on her face. Suddenly, she remembered what Kendrick had said to her yesterday.

"If Nicole calls you about collaboration, you can reply directly that we agree to collaborate. The contract can be drafted the next day, and we can arrange a time to sign it."

At the time, she didn't know why Kendrick was so confident that Nicole would call. After all, Nicole could find other people to collaborate with and wasn't confined to relying on Kendrick.

Unexpectedly, Nicole actually made the call.

"Oh, hello, Miss Anderson. Mr. Hofstead has agreed to collaborate. The contract will be ready by tomorrow, and we can arrange a time to sign it. When will you be available?"

The secretary was polite in her tone even if she didn't particularly like Nicole. After all, this was her job, and she kept work and personal feelings separate.

"Okay. How about tomorrow at 2.00PM?" Nicole heard the positive response and quickly confirmed the timing as she was afraid that they would change their minds.

Chloe's eyes lit up when she heard Nicole's words. She knew that if Nicole said this, it meant that the other party had already agreed. With that, everything would be much easier.

The development of the medical base could finally begin and it would develop even better than expected!

Chapter 1337 Meeting Kendrick Hofstead

"Colton, although I don't know where you're headed, let's discuss it when we get there since you're already on a plane to Florend."

Wendy looked at Colton's darkened expression and naturally felt worried, so she reminded him.

Colton glanced at her and after a moment, he nodded slowly while leaning his head against the back of the seat, then closed his eyes to rest.

Alas.

She couldn't help but sigh. Colton was already somewhat aloof in the past. Now, he seemed like the devil himself. Even toward his own sister, he was cold. What would happen in the future?

"I heard that Nicole is also in Florend. Have you thought about what to do next?"

After a moment of thought, Wendy eventually voiced her concerns. She believed that Nicole would never betray Colton.

When Colton heard this, he suddenly opened his eyes. He turned his head to look at her and he gazed at her as if he wanted to cast her into an abyss.

"Colton."

She looked at Colton's even darker expression and felt somewhat frightened. He had never looked at her like this before. This was the first time today.

She was feeling quite scared now, so she shrunk back a bit while trying to keep her distance from Colton.

He seemed to realize that his attitude was problematic and quickly withdrew his gaze. Then, he spoke calmly. "Don't mention her in the future."

After that, Wendy instantly felt the oppressive atmosphere around her again.

She took a shallow breath and was still somewhat afraid of what had just happened.

Even though she was Colton's sister, he still gave her a sharp gaze. If someone else had spoken in front of him today, how would they fare?

Wendy didn't dare to continue thinking down that line. At this moment, she suddenly felt lucky that she was his sister.

The plane continued to fly steadily, with seven more hours until landing.

After quietly finishing her meal, Wendy leaned against her seat and prepared to sleep. Otherwise, she didn't know how to spend the next seven hours.

Nicole and Chloe were pleased that Kendrick agreed to collaborate with them. After making the call, the two of them went to a restaurant to eat.

They weren't too picky. Following directions from a certain application, they chose a place with good reviews and reasonable prices.

"Nicole, now that they have agreed to the collaboration, we need to plan things properly going forward. The proposal we sent to Kendrick before was rather simple. If we start the collaboration tomorrow, that

proposal might not be suitable for actual use. We need to hurry up and prepare one."

Chloe took advantage of the time when Nicole was ordering to discuss matters regarding the medical base.

Fortunately, the waiter nearby wasn't someone particularly nosy, so they paid little attention to the conversation between the two.

Nicole ordered a few dishes that they both liked. She handed the menu back to the waiter beside her and then nodded at Chloe. "I agree. We should discuss this matter in detail tomorrow morning."

After a pause, she continued, "For now, let's focus on having a good meal. It's important to fill our stomachs first."

Chloe nodded in agreement and couldn't hide the joy on her face.

"Yes, Nicole. This collaboration went relatively smoothly. We'll need to work even harder in the future." She continued to boost morale.

This collaboration could be considered a major step toward success.

"Miss Anderson?"

Nicole turned toward the somewhat familiar voice and saw a man in front of her looking slightly surprised. After all, in her opinion, this kind of man wouldn't come here to eat.

"Mr. Hofstead, why are you..."

She looked at the man in surprise. She didn't expect to see Kendrick here.

Chapter 1338 Having a Meal Together

Upon seeing Nicole's surprised expression, Kendrick understood why she was surprised.

He couldn't blame her for being surprised. Someone like him wouldn't normally come to a place like this to eat, but he just happened to see a familiar figure passing by earlier.

Initially, he thought he was mistaken, but he didn't want to take the chance, so he stopped the car. That was when he realized he hadn't been mistaken—the person inside was indeed Nicole. So, he came in.

"Miss Anderson, I saw you outside. I thought I might have been mistaken, but I didn't expect to actually find you here."

Kendrick offered a polite smile.

Nicole felt a bit awkward. After all, they hadn't reached the point of being so familiar yet. However, since they were going to be partners, it was only natural to greet each other. "What a coincidence indeed," she said as she stood up.

Even when she stood up, she could barely reach his shoulder.

Only then did she realize he was surprisingly tall. He should be about the same height as Colton.

Nicole silently thought about it and suddenly realized that she was overthinking things. Why was she thinking about that? She quickly shook her head and forced herself to forget about Colton.

"Miss Anderson, if you don't mind, how about we have a meal together?"

At the sight of Nicole's odd expression, Kendrick pretended not to notice and suggested instead.

Nicole was taken aback by the proposal. She was about to refuse when he preemptively interrupted her.

"Consider it an opportunity to discuss the details of our collaboration. The proposal you gave me earlier was rather simple. We should discuss it in more detail since it would be better for all parties."

Kendrick saw that Nicole was about to speak, so he spoke first.

She hesitated and glanced at Chloe beside her, wanting to get Chloe's opinion.

When Chloe saw Kendrick beside them, she understood that he must have come alone today. She nodded discreetly.

After seeing this, Nicole smiled at Kendrick and replied, "Thank you for your hospitality, Mr. Hofstead."

Before her words even finished, Kendrick had gone to the front desk to settle the bill for Nicole's meal.

"Mr. Hofstead, I should be the one paying for this meal. After all, we ordered the meals. It's not appropriate for you to pay."

Nicole quickly stopped Kendrick and handed the money over.

Kendrick blinked while looking at the petite figure in front of him. His thoughts momentarily went back to his childhood.

Back then, she used to protect him like this.

Upon seeing that Kendrick didn't insist on paying, Nicole felt relieved, which made her feel better.

"Now that the bill is settled, you and this young lady can follow me."

He noticed Nicole's relaxed expression and his lips curved slightly. After speaking, he turned and left, as if leading the two of them.

Nicole and Chloe followed him.

However, Chloe seemed a bit off. Her gaze was heavy as she looked in the direction Kendrick had left. Did Kendrick know Nicole? If not, could it be that she had misread that look just now?

Nicole noticed that Chloe had slowed down her pace. She turned around and looked at Chloe while saying, "Chloe, come on."

Chloe snapped out of her daze. Just as Nicole turned around to call her, Kendrick also turned his head to look at her. The smile on his face made her a bit uneasy.

Who exactly was this man?

When she was researching information, she found that someone as mysterious as him often concealed great harm.

Nicole and Chloe sat in the backseat. Kendrick initially intended for Nicole to sit in the front, but she politely declined.

Upon seeing this, Kendrick didn't insist. As a result, they ended up in their current seating arrangement. Fortunately, it was comfortable and not as awkward as Nicole had imagined.

Chloe tightly gripped Nicole's sleeve as she was afraid that Nicole would run away.

Chapter 1339 A Different Feeling

"I often go to that club to eat. It has everything—good taste, aroma, and appearance. The prices are reasonable as well. If you have the time, you can try it out."

On the way, the car was quiet with no one speaking. Kendrick was the first to break the silence.

His goal was to get closer to Nicole. He couldn't just let go of such a good opportunity.

"Thank you, Mr. Hofstead. We appreciate your hospitality and the meal," Nicole said gracefully, but inside, she felt a pang of regret for the dishes she had bought. She hadn't even taken a bite, and now the dishes were just sitting

in the restaurant. She hoped that they would be treated well and not go to waste.

Fortunately, the journey was short. In a matter of minutes, the car smoothly pulled up in front of the club.

Kendrick got out of the car and casually handed the car keys to a man in a black suit standing nearby.

Nicole smiled faintly and got out of the car with Chloe.

As for what to eat, neither she nor Chloe were picky eaters, but coming to a place like this, Nicole couldn't help but wonder about Kendrick's intentions.

Kendrick might not have anticipated that trying to treat Nicole to some good food could also be misinterpreted. However, any person would easily misunderstand his actions.

Chloe also cast a less-than-friendly look at Kendrick. She kept reminding herself that he was a business partner and that she shouldn't lose her temper.

"I've reserved a private room here. This room has always been for my use. If you have time to come here in the future, you can just mention my name to them."

Kendrick didn't notice at all where his words went wrong.

He probably hadn't considered that Nicole might be more focused on her career and wouldn't be impressed by his small tricks.

Nicole nodded with a faint smile on her lips. It was her final show of respect for Kendrick.

The three of them sat down together. Nicole and Chloe remained quiet while watching as Kendrick silently ordered dishes.

Every gesture he made seemed to flaunt his financial prowess.

Nicole exchanged a smile with Chloe. Since they were here, they might as well enjoy the meal. Even though they hadn't planned to spend money on such a lavish dinner, it would still be a more enjoyable experience than their previous meals. They deserved a little indulgence.

Since arriving here, they hadn't had a decent meal. They were busy working on various proposals. They were engrossed in their tasks of seeking new business partners.

The club's service was efficient; all the dishes were served within twenty minutes.

Kendrick smiled as he looked at the table full of dishes. "Miss Anderson, young lady, please go ahead and eat. I believe you must be hungry."

Both of them nodded and didn't say much. They lowered their heads and started eating.

When he saw this, his smile grew wider. He had finally proven his capability to Nicole. Now, he could help her. Compared to Colton, he was confident that he was slightly better off.

Nicole kept her head down and ate. The food here was indeed delicious.

At this moment, Nicole had already made up her mind. If the medical base were to be established in the future, she could bring the research team here for a meal every now and then. It was a way to reward them.

Upon thinking of this, Nicole nodded with determination. It was a way to show her appreciation.

Chloe couldn't help but speed up her eating pace. Nicole hadn't noticed the way Kendrick looked at her, but Chloe was good at reading people. The collaboration between Kendrick and them likely had more than just a mutual benefit as its purpose—it must also be related to Nicole.

"Miss Anderson, I've already chosen the next location. I have a factory where it can serve as your base with some simple modifications. Until your own base is constructed, would you like to use my factory?"

Kendrick looked satisfied as he watched the two of them enjoy their meal. Suddenly, he brought up the topic of the base.

Chapter 1340 Different Intentions

The quiet dinner table was disrupted by a single sentence from Kendrick.

Nicole looked up with a hint of surprise in her eyes as she glanced at him. "Is that really possible?"

If what he said was true, it would mean that her base could start operating sooner, and they wouldn't have to worry about construction delays.

"Since we're in a partnership, and for both sides to progress smoothly, I believe this arrangement is the right choice." Kendrick earnestly nodded and looked at Nicole with affirmation.

Chloe was also surprised by his proposal. She had initially thought that he had invited them to dinner to show off. She hadn't expected him to genuinely discuss work-related matters. Indeed, the previous location wasn't suitable for such discussions.

It seemed that they were assuming the worst intentions based on their mindset.

Nicole exchanged a glance with Chloe and then looked back at Kendrick along with Chloe.

"Mr. Hofstead, since you've said so, it might seem overly particular if we continue to decline. We'll accept the offer," Nicole agreed. After all, this arrangement was beneficial for both parties, and there was no need to make things awkward.

"However, there's one thing I hope you can agree to."

Nicole suddenly realized an issue and paused for a moment before speaking up.

Kendrick, intrigued by Nicole's tone, looked at her with interest. "Please, Miss Anderson. Go ahead."

This was the first time he saw Nicole speaking with such an attitude ever since they got to know each other, and it was rather amusing.

"Although this arrangement benefits both parties, I still intend to pay the rent," Nicole proposed. This

was no small matter, and she wanted to clarify it before using the factory.

Kendrick raised an eyebrow slightly and nodded silently. "Sure. Let's do it that way. As for the amount, you can decide on it."

Nicole nodded in agreement. It seemed they had discussed the matter sufficiently.

Afterward, he escorted Nicole and Chloe back to their residence. They exchanged only a few words before he left.

Chloe sighed in relief when he departed. Finally, she could have a heart-to-heart talk with Nicole.

Kendrick had been around them the whole time and was practically shadowing them. He was nearly as omnipresent as a security guard, making it difficult for her and Nicole to have private conversations.

"Nicole, did you feel that something was off about Mr. Hofstead today?" Chloe glanced at the documents on the table and began organizing them, but she couldn't help asking Nicole.

"Yeah. I noticed that too. It feels like he has some ulterior motive."

Nicole had thought that Kendrick was looking down on them. However, it was now more likely that he had other intentions.

Leaving aside the invitation to dinner, even his offer to use his factory as their base was unusual.

Normally, the client would only provide a deadline, and the rest would be up to the other party. Unless the contractor asked for it, the client wouldn't arrange everything. Yet, Kendrick was different. It was as if he had paved the way for them and was simply waiting for them to walk along it.

"I was thinking the same thing. Tomorrow is the day we're supposed to sign the contract. We can still back out now." Chloe's expression grew heavy. If both of them felt that something was off with Kendrick, perhaps it was time to reconsider the collaboration.

"No. Let's take a look at the contract first. If there are no issues, we can proceed with the collaboration. After all, he's the most suitable person for us to partner with." Nicole shook her head and rejected Chloe's suggestion.

Despite Kendrick's peculiar approach, Nicole was certain that his intentions weren't related to the medical base. They must have something that intrigued him and prompted him to get closer to them.

As for the specifics, she would wait and see how he behaved. Until that became clear, she couldn't let it interfere with the medical base's progress.

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1341 Successful Collaboration - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1341 Successful Collaboration

Chapter 1341 Successful Collaboration

"All right. I'll follow your judgment." Chloe nodded as she trusted Nicole's assessment.

They didn't say much more. The two of them had already been exhausted over the past few days. At this point, taking a relaxing bath and getting a good night's sleep would be a reward for them.

The next afternoon was the time to sign the contract.

Nicole and Chloe arrived at the office building of the Hofstead Corporation. It was truly magnificent. If one didn't look inside, they might think it was some kind of tourist attraction.

"Look at this. I can definitely tell how wealthy Kendrick is from this," Chloe said as she tapped her phone screen. She didn't forget to take several photos as she did not want to be nagged by Roxanna about not sharing Nicole and her life there with Roxanna.

On the other side, Colton and Wendy had just arrived at their hotel. They completed the check-in process.

"Colton, where are you going later?" Wendy watched as Colton was about to enter his own room without mentioning his plans. She felt a bit worried and asked.

Colton's hand paused before opening the door, and he turned his head to look at her. The coldness in his eyes diminished slightly.

"I'm not going anywhere this afternoon. If you want to have fun here, go ahead."

He knew that she had been strictly controlled by their parents since she was young. She hadn't had the

opportunity to enjoy her freedom properly. This was a chance for her to take a break.

Wendy wanted to give Colton a bear hug and was about to move, but he didn't spare her a single glance and entered his room directly.

"What an ice cube. I didn't realize that you had this side to you when you were with Nicole."

Wendy stuck her tongue out, then went into her own room.

As soon as she stepped into her room, her expression immediately changed, and a smile appeared on her lips.

Great! Now she had time in the afternoon to visit Nicole. She wondered where Nicole was right now.

Wendy turned on her phone with anticipation and once again opened the page that had gone unanswered for so long. She started typing the message she wanted to send in the chat box.

The message was sent, but there was no reply for a while.

She was bored as she rolled around on the bed several times. There was still no response. It was then a thought suddenly struck her.

Why not go around the vicinity? Maybe we will bump into each other.

In reality, this kind of thinking was driven by a sense of hopeful chance. The city was so vast, so how could things align so perfectly?

With a sense of hopeful luck, Wendy knew that her approach was like searching for a needle in a haystack, but she still decided to do it. After all, she was going out anyway.

'Want to go out for dinner?'

'No.'

Wendy looked at her phone screen and was irritated by Colton's one-word reply. She closed the page in displeasure, picked up her bag, and left the hotel.

If you don't want to go, fine then. I'll just go by myself. Don't expect me to bring you any food.

Colton sat in his room and was on a phone call.

"So, you're saying that the IP address of the other party is across the street from my hotel?"

He wasn't entirely sure, so he asked the person on the other end of the line for confirmation. He stood by the window and looked at the grand building across the street.

"Yes, but we don't know the specific location yet. There are many office buildings of different companies on this street, including the ones across from your hotel. We haven't figured out the details yet; it'll take some time."

Beryl looked at the location displayed on the computer and furrowed his brows slightly.

"The other party's psychological awareness is quite strong. Their technical capabilities are formidable. This will take time."

Colton's brow furrowed deeper. He had limited time to deal with this situation. While he had to fend off attacks from Ryan domestically, he also needed to investigate the people behind this.

Upon thinking about it, he felt a headache coming on.

"All right. I understand. Keep investigating and let me know when you have more information."

Colton rubbed his temples and hung up the phone after giving instructions. Then, he gazed pensively across the street.

Chapter 1342 Meeting Wendy

"I look forward to working with you." Kendrick stood up with a smile and extended a gentlemanly hand.

Nicole finished arranging the contract in front of her, stood up slowly, exchanged smiles with him, and lightly shook hands.

"Me too," Nicole said with a faint smile.

She had just carefully read through the contract from beginning to end. There were no overly unreasonable clauses; it was fair to both sides. This way, she could feel at ease collaborating with Kendrick. As long as the collaboration was good, there would be no difficulties they couldn't overcome.

After a brief chat, Nicole and Chloe left the Hofstead Corporation. The two of them were elated, like two children.

Nicole looked up at the sky. Since arriving here, it seemed like she hadn't properly enjoyed the view.

"Nicole, I've just finalized the next steps of our work with Kendrick's secretary. If there's nothing else, we can start construction tomorrow. I'll contact Roxanna later."

Chloe followed closely behind while holding several documents in her arms. She had just finalized these documents with the secretary.

She carefully examined the documents in her arms, and a sense of inexplicable pride began to emanate from within her.

Nicole nodded. She suddenly felt that her world wasn't as bleak as it seemed. Indeed, when one's

career was thriving, everything appeared positive.

"This time, we can't make any mistakes. Once we start collaborating, we have to take it seriously. Regardless of the other party's intentions, it's all good as long as the contract is fair for both sides."

Nicole looked at Chloe beside her, and a faint smile curved her lips.

Chloe smiled and agreed. Upon seeing Nicole's expression, she could sense that Nicole was very happy, especially after concluding this collaboration.

"Nicole!"

Wendy, standing not far away, saw a familiar figure. At first, she wasn't sure whether it was really Nicole, but she recognized Nicole once Nicole turned her head.

Upon hearing a familiar voice, Nicole looked in the direction of the voice. The young girl, who was approaching her, exuded a smile of happiness.

"Wendy," Nicole involuntarily called out.

She didn't know why she bumped into Wendy here. If Wendy was here, did that mean Colton was here too?

Why would Colton come to Florend? Shouldn't he be in Monterey?

While Nicole was lost in thought, Wendy had already reached her, and she gave her a pat on the shoulder. "Nicole, I've been searching so hard for you. Why didn't you reply to my messages?"

Messages?

Nicole was taken aback. She quickly took out her phone and opened the social media application she hadn't checked for a long time.

Ever since being voodooed, she began to avoid using these social apps. She even set the notifications to silent.

After recovering from her illness, she hadn't been in the mood for these things. Following that, she went abroad and didn't need to use domestic social apps. Even her contact with Roxanna was done through Florend's own social app. At the thought of this, she hesitated to open it.

Her chat box with Wendy had more than 99 unread messages, which left Nicole speechless. That little girl was quite the messenger.

She opened the conversation between them and slowly scrolled through the messages. Her nose tingled and her eyes slightly reddened. At this point, she found it difficult to read these messages.

'Nicole, what's the real story between you and Colton? I don't believe you're that kind of person.'

'Nicole, can you reply to my messages? It's been days since I saw Colton, and I'm getting worried. You haven't replied to my messages either. How's your health?'

'Colton's situation isn't great. I'm worried that your health might not be good either since you and he got divorced.'

...

"Nicole, what are you looking at? Let me see!"

Wendy saw that Nicole hadn't said anything, but a girl as carefree as her didn't notice anything amiss with Nicole. So, she went up to her directly.

Right Person, Wrong Time #Chapter 1343 All True - Read Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 1343 All True

Chapter 1343 All True

More than 99 messages on the phone were vivid in Wendy's eyes. She was naturally familiar with every single one.

"Nicole, my parents don't believe you're that kind of person. I believe Colton doesn't believe it either, but I don't know what happened to him."

Wendy's voice wasn't as lively as before, and it even carried a hint of loneliness.

No one knew how she had survived these past few months at home.

She watched Colton return home drunk. Although there was confusion in his behavior, it had also taken a toll on his health.

Initially, her parents cried their hearts out, but later they found out that Colton was doing it to deal with Ryan, so they were only concerned about his health, and they weren't as worried as before.

"Alas." Wendy let out a sigh.

Nicole came back to her senses and glanced at Wendy by her side, her lips curling up slightly. Her smile seemed rather forced.

"Wendy," Nicole called softly to her.

"Yeah?" Wendy responded while tilting her head and her gaze was sincere as she looked at Nicole.

Upon looking at Wendy's expression, Nicole suddenly felt her heart ache. Wendy had high

expectations of her and trusted her so deeply, but she ended up disappointing Wendy.

"They're all true."

Wendy saw Nicole's lips move, and the words directly entered her mind, not giving her a chance to catch her breath.

"What?" Wendy blurted out unconsciously.

She didn't believe it. She had always believed that Nicole wouldn't do anything to betray her brother. She knew Nicole wasn't that kind of person.

"Nicole."

Chloe furrowed her brows slightly. She couldn't bear to listen anymore. She didn't want the misunderstanding between Nicole and the Gardner Family to deepen further.

"I trust you, Nicole. I know what you said is false," Wendy slowly said, sniffing.

Nicole sighed helplessly. Whatever. This girl was really getting caught up in her own thoughts.

"Let's find a place to talk." Nicole looked around. This wasn't a suitable place to speak. Then, she pulled and led both of them in a certain direction.

She remembered that there was a cafe not far away. Cafes were quite common in foreign countries, similar to tea shops in her home country.

Upon hearing this, Wendy realized that Nicole seemed to be reluctant to discuss the subject. Without saying much, she quickly followed Nicole as she walked.

She would rather believe that Nicole had something she couldn't talk about than believe that all of this was true.

Nicole had specifically reserved a private room. She and Chloe sat facing Wendy. For a moment, she felt like she was a criminal.

"Nicole, you should speak up." Wendy stared at Nicole with a determined gaze and calmly urged.

Chloe initially wanted to tilt her head and look at Nicole. She also wanted to know Nicole's true thoughts, but she thought about her position and ended up standing up to sit next to Wendy.

This did give off a true interrogation atmosphere.

Nicole took a deep breath and slowly began to speak as if she was narrating someone else's story.

"Ryan bears a grudge against Master White, while I'm Master White's descendant. Evelyn, on the other hand, hates me because of my relationship with Colton. Because of that, the two of them worked together to plant a voodoo bug in me in hopes of killing me."

Upon hearing this, Wendy gasped. She didn't know about this matter.

Her gaze immediately turned from disbelief to pity as she listened. What had Nicole gone through during that time?

"Later on, with the combined effort of Chloe, Roxanna, and Mr. Lloyd, they managed to save me. I know that Evelyn's child is not Colton's, but I was afraid that if I told Colton everything, it would alert the enemy."

Nicole paused briefly and continued, "So, I came abroad to establish a medical base to help Colton with his investigation."

She took a sip of water. Finally, she had spoken about what was on her mind. She felt as if a weight was suddenly lifted off her chest. Could it be that speaking out had lightened her burden?

Chapter 1344 Truth Revealed

"Nicole, why didn't you tell Colton? All those girlfriends of his were just casual flings, including Evelyn."

Wendy secretly cursed Colton in her heart. He was such a big fool; he didn't even understand his wife's personality.

Nicole shook her head. "When I saw him being intimate with so many women that day, I was actually feeling very uncomfortable. Later, I guessed that he was acting for Ryan and the people behind him to see. I wasn't trying to blame him."

Upon hearing this, Wendy grew somewhat anxious. Why couldn't she understand their actions suddenly?

"Why did it escalate to this point, then?"

"Wendy, you should know that with your brother's personality, if he found out about this, the other party would definitely notice. He doesn't want to put me in danger. Repeatedly doing this would surely expose a flaw."

Nicole smiled and her smile was tinged with happiness.

Wendy could tell that Nicole had a lot of trust in Colton, and at the same time, she also missed that period of time.

"All right. I understand. I'll keep this a secret from Colton. However, he didn't want to come to Florend this time. It seemed like he wanted to go to Monterey, but I don't know why he hasn't changed his flight."

Wendy recalled that Colton had been acting strangely in a certain aspect and voiced her thoughts.

"Why do you say that?"

Nicole's alertness rose when she heard this. If he wasn't genuinely interested in coming here, there must have been something that happened in between.

"At first, he told Mom and Dad that he was going to Florend, which made me really happy. I found out that you were in Florend, but it seemed like he wanted to give the other party a false impression and then go to Monterey. You see, our family has a sizable subsidiary company in Monterey."

Wendy discussed the peculiar aspects of Colton's behavior in detail.

Nicole's expression changed abruptly as she heard this. She slowly lowered her head while pondering the reasons behind this.

She knew some things about the Gardner Corporation, but for Colton to come here, it was likely that he was being tracked.

"Where are you staying?"

Suddenly, Nicole thought of something and looked up at Wendy.

"Right across the street." Wendy pointed to the other side of the wall. The hotel they were staying in was past that wall, outside the cafe, and across the road.

Nicole vaguely remembered seeing a hotel like that. It was likely there was some information indicating that the person they were looking for was nearby, or at the very least, not far away.

"Okay. Got it. I'll keep a close eye on the application from now on. If you have any relevant information, just send it to me."

Nicole nodded and continued to instruct Wendy. She needed to gather some intelligence in order to truly help Colton based on his circumstances.

Otherwise, it would all be in vain.

"Got it." Wendy suddenly became excited. She had never played such an exciting spy game before. This time, she would definitely do her best and not let Nicole down.

Chloe had been observing Nicole all this while. Suddenly, she began to feel sorry for Nicole. Nicole was repeatedly hurt and yet she continued to love. Even knowing that the road ahead was long and dangerous, she was still willing to chase after Colton without any hesitation.

"Alas."

Chloe let out a slow sigh. She had never been able to catch up with Nicole. Not in the past and probably not in the future either.

"Nicole, I should head back. If I stay any longer, Colton will come looking for me, and then we'll be exposed," Wendy suddenly said as she glanced at the watch on her wrist.

Nicole nodded. "All right. You can go. Safety first."

Wendy smiled at Nicole and Chloe before picking up her bag and leaving.

After Nicole saw Wendy leave, the heavy burden in her heart returned. Time was pressing now; she had to develop her medical base quickly.

Chapter 1345 New Clues

With the current situation in Nicole's mind, her motivation seemed to have been rekindled. She stood up and started to exercise, only to notice Chloe's gaze fixed on her.

"What's wrong?" Nicole blinked her eyes and asked in confusion.

She also looked at herself, but there was nothing strange about her appearance. Why was Chloe staring at her like that?

"Nicole, you've been hiding it quite well, huh?"

Chloe, leaning against the side, tapped her fingers in a rhythmless manner on the tabletop and teased Nicole with a hint of playfulness in her tone.

She truly hadn't expected that Nicole had such a big plan hidden away, and she didn't notice anything amiss at all.

Nicole suddenly realized what she had just said. She had completely forgotten that Chloe was also here.

"Erm... Chloe, are you hungry? Let's go grab something to eat."

Nicole attempted to shift the conversation as she did not want Chloe to continue focusing on this topic and worry about her. However, it seemed that Chloe wasn't going to allow her to change the subject so easily.

"Nicole, spill it now. Do you have any other secrets you're keeping from me?"

Upon seeing Nicole's attempt to change the topic, she didn't give Nicole a chance and pressed on.

Nicole quickly raised both hands when she heard this and said, "Rest assured, Chloe. I'm not hiding anything from you guys anymore."

While Chloe and Roxanna usually respected Nicole and followed her decisions, everything changed on the day Nicole recovered from her illness. Nicole couldn't keep anything hidden from them anymore, especially considering she had met Evelyn without their knowledge after being afflicted by the voodoo.

They later found out that Evelyn was behind the voodoo, and it was her audacious attitude that gave it away.

They were greatly displeased with that.

"Nicole, there will not be a next time." Chloe took a few steps back as if she was letting Nicole off the hook, but she still warned Nicole.

Nicole hurriedly nodded in agreement. Chloe was rather intimidating in her current state.

Upon seeing this, Chloe finally sat back in her seat and appeared somewhat satisfied yet melancholic.

She was contemplating that if Nicole hadn't revealed this matter, would Nicole have had to wait until the end for her to figure it out on her own?

If so, it would have certainly caused significant turmoil. During this period, Nicole must have endured a

lot of hardships.

Chloe didn't want Nicole to suffer so much.

Upon seeing Chloe's reaction, Nicole quickly sat down next to her, patted her on the shoulder, and said, "Chloe, don't worry. After the incident with the voodoo last time, I won't use my life as a gamble anymore."

"Are you seriously bringing that up now, Nicole?" Chloe was getting mad at the mention of this. Voodoos themselves were already difficult to deal with, not to mention Nicole had been directly affected by the supreme voodoo bug's voodoo. Who could endure that? Besides...

Tears welled up in Chloe's eyes. Nicole was on the brink of death then, and if it weren't for Albert's timely intervention, she might not have made it.

They had almost lost Nicole.

Given that the medical base had just started to operate smoothly, Nicole was now dealing with such a huge matter.

"All right. Chloe, the incident last time was my fault. I promise there won't be a next time." Nicole quickly patted Chloe's back.

Chloe nodded. She realized she might have been overly dramatic and quickly wiped away the tears that were about to fall.

"Let's go eat something." Nicole comforted Chloe, and the two of them left together.

Meanwhile, Wendy, who had left the cafe, hurried back to the hotel. Fortunately, the hotel wasn't far away, and within ten minutes, she reached the door to her room.

She instinctively glanced at Colton's room. There was no sound from within, which put her mind at ease. Then, she opened the door to her room.

Sure enough, when one had a guilty conscience, one would become nervous like this.

Although Colton hadn't rushed her or even asked her where she had been, she was still curious about whether he was in his room.

Wendy shook her head and felt that her actions were somewhat unreasonable. However, she couldn't seem to control herself.

She closed the door and tossed her bag onto the nearby sofa.

Chapter 1346 Strange Behavior

"Phew!" Wendy lay sprawled on the sofa, her eyes fixed on the ceiling. She was deep in thought. Recalling the encounter with Nicole today and how she had managed to clear up the misunderstanding from before, she couldn't help but smile with happiness. Now that she knew the truth, her mood improved considerably. She clasped her hands behind her head, humming an off-key tune, a clear sign that her spirits were soaring.

This was because the person she trusted didn't betray her trust in them. As for what Nicole asked me to find out, I'll make sure to do my best about it.

Ring! Just then, the chime of the doorbell snapped her back to reality. Wondering who could possibly come to her at this hour, she rose from the sofa and took her time coming to the door before peeking outside through the peephole. "Colton?" Recognizing the visitor, she dared not keep him waiting. She hurriedly opened the door and looked at him, asking, "Colton, why are you here?"

Colton took a quick look inside the room. "Let's talk inside."

"Uh, okay." Wendy quickly stepped aside, her heart racing with apprehension. Could he have found out about my secret meeting with Nicole? Not daring to dwell on this, she watched as he brushed past her and sat right down on the sofa. After swallowing hard, she closed the door behind her, slowly went to pour him a glass of water, and placed it on the coffee table. "Here, Colton, have some water."

Colton looked at the glass of water before him and nodded. "Have you eaten?" he asked, looking up at her impassively as if trying to decipher something from the expressions that flitted across her face.

"Yeah, I have," replied Wendy quietly, sitting next to him in a rather stiff manner. It's true that I have eaten; I had a steak nearby and happened to see Nicole on my way back to the hotel. So, technically,

this isn't a lie, right? At least this was what she tried to convince herself of.

Colton nodded. "Good. Did you run into anyone?" he asked with a poker face while taking a sip from the glass of water.

Wendy's nerves instantly kicked into high gear at this question. Why is he asking this question? Could he have discovered something? "No, I didn't. Colton, what on earth are you asking about?" She forced herself to calm down. She couldn't have her cover blown on the very first day, or Nicole would be disappointed.

Instead of answering her, Colton just sat there in silence with his head lowered, his eyes downcast as though he was thinking about something.

Seeing his lack of immediate response, Wendy slowly let out a held breath. Did I get away with it? But why would he suddenly bring up this question? Did he find out about my secret meeting with Nicole? But if he did, he wouldn't have been so nonchalant about it. Instead, he would've given me a stern warning.

Once she managed to collect her thoughts, she realized that something was amiss. Could it be that there's a lead on that person? She recalled what Nicole had told her earlier—that there was someone else behind Ryan's schemes who definitely had something to do with his trip abroad this time. And now, Colton's curious line of questioning indicated that there might be some leads to follow.

Colton shook his head with a deep frown. He said with a grave expression, "Just be careful not to go running around too much these days." Beryl had called him just now, saying that the enemy might have gotten hold of information about Wendy. Since she had come with him this time, she attracted the enemy's attention. I didn't expect to get her involved in this by letting her come along this time.

Wendy frowned slightly. "What's wrong, Colton? If I don't have fun while being here, it wouldn't be me." She was puzzled as to why her brother suddenly restricted her movements, but she had a strong inkling that it had something to do with that person. I must let Nicole know about this later.

Chapter 1347 Snitching

Colton knitted his brows, and the atmosphere between them turned heavy in an instant. "Just do what I say, or I'll send you back home," he replied in an icy voice. This wasn't a negotiation, but an order.

Sensing the underlying anger in his words, Wendy quickly promised, "Okay, I got it. I won't go anywhere." Well, I can get in touch with Nicole through a certain app, so it's not like we have to meet in person to pass on the clues. At the thought of this, she began feeling pleased with herself. After all, this secret was shared only between her and Nicole. It wasn't her fault that Colton hardly ever allowed them to spend extended periods of time together as if she were some kind of man-eating monster.

Colton sensed a mysterious gaze fixed upon him, and when he looked over, he saw her grinning slyly. "Why are you grinning at me like that?" he asked with a slight frown.

Only then did Wendy snap out of her thoughts. Seeing his disgusted expression, she pouted her lips in displeasure, muttering, "Can't I even smile at you? What a meanie!"

Colton heard every word she muttered, but he didn't have time to dwell on what she meant. He stood up, preparing to leave.

His movements were quite exaggerated, and Wendy was keeping a close eye on his every move. All of a sudden, she recalled the task Nicole had given her. Immediately, she stopped him by grabbing his arm, asking, "Hold on a second, Colton! Didn't you say you were supposed to head to Monterey before we got on the plane? When are we going to make that trip?"

At hearing this, Colton turned back and stared at her darkly without saying a word.

Seeing him staring at her without saying anything, Wendy panicked deep down. "W-What's wrong?"

she said, stumbling over her words. Then, she added, "I'm just worried about you. I mean, I saw that look on your face while we were on the plane."

Colton shook his head. "Mm-mm, we're staying here. Everything's fine, so don't worry. If you want to go somewhere, just let me know. We'll go together," he said before leaving Wendy's place right away. I probably got it wrong. Wendy's all grown up now, so it's normal for her to show concern for others. And besides, why would that woman get her to care about me? If she had news of that woman, she wouldn't have held back for so long without showing any sign of it either.

Wendy watched him leave without ever taking her eyes off him. "Phew! I guess I made it through that one." Breathing a sigh of relief, she slumped onto the sofa and looked at her phone on the table. Just then, she seemed to hit upon something and quickly picked up the phone. Gotta tell Nicole about Colton's strange behavior today. Perhaps she'll figure something out.

Meanwhile, at a certain meat fondue restaurant...

"This feels so much better. The other day's dinner with Mr. Hofstead was a real nightmare," said Chloe. For the first time, she was so relaxed in front of Nicole that even Roxanna's catchphrase slipped out of her mouth so effortlessly.

Nicole nodded in agreement with her comment. Indeed, dining with that Kendrick guy required them to be on their best behavior the whole time, so they were never able to relax. Although the food there was delicious, the formalities were a maze to navigate. A meat fondue would be more inexpensive with no need to worry about appearances.

Beep! Just then, the phone on the table rang and vibrated simultaneously.

Nicole glanced down at it. Seeing that it was a message from Wendy, she instantly put down her cutlery and picked up her phone, eager to read the message Wendy had sent her. Whatever the message was about, it had to be related to Colton, so she wanted to know the details as soon as possible.

Watching her anxious demeanor, Chloe figured out at once that it must be a message from Wendy. After all, who else's messages could get Nicole so worked up? No one else in the world could do so, I guess. After shaking her head in resignation, she continued eating with her head down.

Chapter 1348 Suspicion

The message from Wendy read, 'Nicole, Colton's ditching the trip to Monterey. He's staying here and won't let me go out. If I want to go somewhere, I must go with him, and he won't let me go anywhere else. I won't be able to see you anymore.'

Nicole ignored the last part of the message while analyzing the first part of it with a serious countenance. If he's staying here, it means he can't easily change locations because the enemy is watching him closely. It wouldn't be difficult to shift the work from there to here; in fact, it'd be easier than throwing dust in the eyes of those spies. But why won't he let Wendy go out?

Seeing Nicole's distracted demeanor, Chloe knew that she wouldn't focus on eating for a while. She quickly piled up some food on Nicole's plate so that she could eat them later. "Nicole, will you just take your mind off him for once? You've got to eat."

Wait, something must be wrong here. This leaves only one possibility. Nicole's expression suddenly turned fearful. This would mean that the enemy has obtained Wendy's personal information. If they're driven to desperation, they might abduct her to blackmail Colton. Her brow furrowed at this realization. If that's the case, they've perfectly demonstrated what it means to be ruthless.

When she saw that Nicole didn't seem right, Chloe, being sharp as she was, instantly understood the importance of the situation. "Nicole, did something happen?"

Nicole shook her head. "It's alright. For now, there's no immediate danger as long as we handle things properly."

She understood Colton's reasons for doing this. The enemy behind the scenes might have no intention of harming Wendy at the moment, so it's safer for her to stay abroad. However, if Wendy were to be

sent back home, Ryan surely wouldn't let her off easily. As for the rest of the Gardner Family, Colton needn't worry about them. Ryan's main focus is on seizing the company, so he would channel all his energy into finding vulnerabilities within it.

After reaching this conclusion, she entered a few words on her phone and placed it aside before starting to eat. "Let's keep eating."

However, it was apparent that she was no longer as relaxed as she had been at first.

Chloe detected the gravity in her expression. Unable to do much else, she kept piling food onto Nicole's plate, hoping to get her to eat more.

After pondering for a moment, she suddenly said, "Nicole, let's make the arrangements for the medical base as soon as possible. Also, I've coordinated with Roxanna today, and some of the researchers will arrive tomorrow." Perhaps talking about the medical base is the only way to put her mind at ease now.

Just as she expected, Nicole's expression visibly brightened when she heard about the medical base. She looked up at Chloe happily, saying, "After they arrive, let them rest for a day and get them to start working the next day. We've got to hurry."

"Okay," replied Chloe with a serious nod, her hand busily picking up food for Nicole.

Nicole didn't seem to notice this, though. She was busy digging into her food, completely oblivious to the fact that Chloe was constantly adding food to her plate. In her mind, she thought she had picked up those dishes on her own.

"It's a relief that we've got technical support for our facility, so things aren't so difficult at the beginning,"

she said.

Thinking of this, she felt quite relieved. Despite losing a lot of resources to somebody's greed earlier, the strategic decisions paid off in the later stages, allowing them to recoup a lot of money. And besides, they had made significant breakthroughs in technology, and things were starting to look up.

"That's right, Nicole. You've got to eat more. Just leave Colton to his younger sister. She seems like an oblivious young lady, but she's surprisingly resilient, actually," Chloe immediately responded before mentioning Colton. She knew that the present Colton was no longer a taboo like before.

Nicole had already opened up to them, and this made all of them very happy.

Chapter 1349 Kendrick Hofstead

As night descended, the presidential suite on the top floor of the hotel blended with the darkness outside. The room was so dark that it was impossible to see anything.

"When are you coming?" asked Colton with a chilly edge to his voice. He was standing before the floor-to-ceiling window while admiring the night view of Florend's capital.

"I'll be there tomorrow. What's the matter? You miss me already?" The voice of the person on the other end oozed charm, especially when they deliberately drew out their vowels toward the end of their speech.

Colton was in no mood to entertain the person's flirting, though. Instead, he only stated what he needed from them. "Mm-hmm. Get here quickly with what you're supposed to bring."

"How heartless! I'm coming all this way to help you out, man."

"Beryl." He called out the person's name in a cold voice while gently swirling the glass of red wine in his hand. Suddenly, he realized that today might be the first night he didn't end up as drunk as a lord, though he didn't understand why.

"Alright, I won't tease you anymore." Beryl reverted to his usual voice devoid of the initial allure.

Switching to a different posture, Colton turned around and sat on the back of the couch. The neon lights outside kept flashing as if adding splashes of color to the dark night. He knew that Beryl was being dead serious right now, which indicated that he had something important to discuss.

"It's true that they're near you, but they're lurking in the dark, while we're vulnerable in the open. We

need to be cautious in everything we do." Beryl's voice was imperturbable with a touch of iciness. This enemy was even more formidable than anyone they had faced before; one could say that they appeared out of nowhere without any warning. "There's a well-known company close by that's very powerful in Florend. Coincidentally, it's headed by a Restradian named Kendrick Hofstead."

Colton's expression turned serious the moment he heard what he had wanted to hear. "Kendrick Hofstead?" He repeated the name through slightly parted lips. In an instant, his face darkened. This name sounded familiar to him. "I know this fellow."

"You know him?" Beryl was apparently surprised by this revelation. Like them, Kendrick had Restradian citizenship, but he had been building his career in Florend, so it surprised Beryl that Colton knew this person.

"I told you a long time ago that the Gardners wanted to expand into the Florendian market, but we didn't follow up with it. Do you know why?" Colton said slowly, paying no mind to Beryl's astonishment.

"It's because of Kendrick?" asked Beryl at once; he knew he was right when Colton said nothing to this. "I didn't expect there'd be such a history between you two. Tsk, tsk." He couldn't help but click his tongue, finding it hard to believe that Colton had actually been outsmarted by this person. "But this Kendrick guy really has some nerve. I watched his interview, and he's planning to return to Restrada after this. Hasn't he ever considered the consequences of offending you? The majority of industries in Restrada are under the control of your family, you know." He suddenly felt that Kendrick wasn't as clever as the rumors suggested. How could he not understand such a simple truth?

"No, he must be quite confident, or perhaps he's planning to destroy something before returning to Restradd. That's why he's so brazen." Colton shook his head while refuting Beryl's words. How could a Restradian be doing so well in Florend without being clever? If he's indeed clever, then there's another

possibility—that he's absolutely cunning.

Beryl was no fool, so he immediately grasped the situation after the man's explanation. "You mean he's planning to finish off the Gardners so that he can conveniently take over when he expands into Restradd?"

Chapter 1350 Dinner

If this were the case, then it was all too easy to figure out the mastermind behind Ryan.

"So, can we nail down our target now?" asked Beryl in a grave voice. If Kendrick is the mastermind, then our enemy is even more formidable than we imagined. This isn't something to be taken lightly.

"Yeah, you can put it that way. But still, we can't slack off on our investigation. If it's not really him but someone else, we could end up walking right into their trap," replied Colton before taking a slow breath. After explaining the important details, he hung up the phone.

Just a short while after that, he found himself in a state of restlessness. He ripped open his shirt and tossed his necktie aside irritably. Less than two minutes later, there was a wisp of smoke, accompanied by a few sparks in the darkness.

After this, Nicole's medical base settled into its regular work routine.

Kendrick acted upon his promise by lending the factory to her right away. After inspecting the factory, she found that it was a surprising fit for their requirements. So, without further ado, the researchers dove into work as soon as they rested for a day upon arrival.

During this period, Nicole never once suspected why Kendrick had such a factory that perfectly fit their research needs while happening to be available.

Seeing her constantly on the move and busy with her own career, he felt happy for her from the bottom of his heart.

What escaped her notice, however, was that he often visited the medical base under the guise of

checking on their progress in order to see her.

At first, Chloe thought it was normal for Kendrick to be so diligent as their client, but she soon noticed something peculiar about him. Every time he showed up, he would come to a spot near Nicole and just stand there, giving no clue as to what he was up to. This was something she had only noticed today, so she hadn't had a chance to discuss this with Nicole yet.

Nicole took off her gloves and tossed them into the designated bin nearby. "Chloe, let everyone take a break in a bit. We'll head out together for dinner tonight. It's Mr. Hofstead's treat," she said to Chloe.

Chloe looked at her. She doesn't seem to have sensed it yet. Well, that makes sense. She's been devoting herself to her research every single day, completely oblivious to her surroundings. If there's something she does care about, it's probably everyone's progress. "Okay," she replied, deciding to wait until they got back to where they stayed. It might spoil her mood to bring this up now.

Seeing that everyone had agreed, Kendrick finally left in satisfaction. He was just worried about how tired Nicole seemed lately and wanted to treat her to something nice. However, if he were to invite her alone, she would certainly refuse, so he could only use the pretext of treating everyone to dinner since that was the only way she would agree.

Just as he expected, Nicole agreed without any hesitation. She didn't give it much thought; after all, she could feel her own weariness over the past couple of days. She was happy that Kendrick could treat everyone to dinner. After all, he was a relatively nice client who at least understood people's feelings and knew how to win them over, which would make their collaboration smoother.

Due to a special occasion at the medical base, everyone left work at the regular time today.

Being in a good mood, Nicole trailed behind the group, walking alongside Chloe.

Seeing her quietly humming a tune, Chloe asked gingerly, "Nicole, did you ever get a feeling that something's off about Mr. Hofstead?" It's better to sound her out first, she thought.

"Nah, why would you think that? He seems fine to me." Nicole shook her head, utterly missing the point that Chloe was trying to make. In her mind's eye, Kendrick was just a boss who cared about his subordinates. She had no other feelings toward him than those toward a business partner.

Seeing her response, Chloe pursed her lips, wondering if she should voice her thoughts.

Just when she was about to speak, Kendrick appeared out of nowhere and came over to them, interrupting her train of thought. He called out to them, saying, "Hi, Miss Anderson and Miss Yelton."