

The Divorced Billionaire Heiress Boss Read Online Chapter 1331

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Dominic's voice was hysterical. It was obvious that he was furious. Kai frowned when he heard his name and knocked on the door. Dominic did not care and turned his head. "Who said you could come in?" He thought it was the secretary.

Speak of the devil and he shall appear.

Kai also brought a big shot who could not be offended behind him. In an instant.

Dominic stood up from his chair. "You... Wow, you came back?" Dominic walked over with a smile. "Ms. Stanton, every time I see you, I feel like your beauty is spellbinding!" Nicole walked around from behind Kai. "Go away." Dominic said, "Sure thing." Dominic was grateful that Nicole could still speak to him so calmly. He did not mind whether she spoke harsh or pleasant words. He could accept them all. Then, he looked at Kai, who he had not seen for a long time, excitedly. He went up to give Kai a hug.

However, before the hug could reach Kai, Kai pushed him away and looked at hm with ds gust.

"You're pouncing on me the moment you see me, yet you still have the nerve to say that about other people?" Dominic was speechless.

He reluctantly retracted his hand, but his expression could not hide his excitement. "Why did you suddenly come back without telling me? I could've picked you up! Stay a few days. I have a few big projects in my hands. Do you want to participate?"

Kai walked over to sit down on the sofa and looked at him with raised brows. "I have a flight early tomorrow morning, so I can't do any cameos!" "So soon... You didn't come to see me now only because you're leaving soon, right?" Dominic looked at Kai speechlessly in sudden realization. Kai rubbed the arch of his brows and smiled. "Tough job, Mr. Young."

Dominic snorted coldly. "How many people in the circle are acting behind the scenes now? They're all our competitors. I have my hands full and yet you're still running around unfettered!"

Kai said, "It's fine. Even when we're living it up, we still have to let others get a slice of the pie!"

"You're very open-minded!"

"I believe in your ability, Mr. Young."

Nicole listened from the side as the two of them bickered. For some reason, she felt something off.

Dominic's tone was just like an aggrieved wife.

It was strange and awkward.

She stole a glance at them and pursed her lips.

It was no wonder Kai wanted to keep Dominic even when she was angry at him before. Maybe there was something going on...

Just as Nicole was thinking about it, Kai threw a pillow over and interrupted her thoughts.

"What are you thinking about? Put those crooked thoughts of yours away!"

He glared at her warningly.

"Don't say any nonsense to Julie, understand?"

Nicole stuck her tongue out. How did he know what she was thinking about? She narrowed her eyes. "Sure thing!"

Dominic said, "Ms. Stanton, our relationship is purely that of a platonic friendship."

Nicole nodded. "Sure, sure, sure."

'Whatever you say!'

They were pissed off by Nicole's reaction.

Kai threw down the things in his hand and stood up.

"Didn't you say there's a new batch of people? Are they in training?"

Dominic nodded.

"We're preparing to have them debut as a boy band." "A boy band? How many people?"

"Seventeen."

Kai looked at him in shock. "So many people? How many lifetimes will it take for them to become popular?"

Even if it was a group debut, it would have three to five members at most. If it was more than that, then the focus would be blurred and the fans would not buy it.

Dominic sighed.

"We're going for a fast-food scale now. As long as there are one or two outstanding ones among the seventeen people, it'll be considered a success. For the rest, they can be arranged to show their faces in other projects after the boy band is disbanded. In any case, they'll all have several opportunities. Whether they can seize them or not depends on their respective abilities."

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Kai stood there in a complicated mood. He did not have as deep an understanding of operating models as Dominic had.

Although he was not optimistic, if Dominic was able to bring it up, that meant he had his own ideas.

"Fine. Are there any good-looking ones? Lil N wants to see them..."

As soon as Kai finished speaking, the office plunged into silence.

Dominic looked at Nicole meaningfully. Nicole looked at Kai in shock.

Kai looked at the two of them innocently. Did he have to be so blunt?

Could he not be more tactful?

After a long time, Dominic laughed and took the initiative to break the silence.

"I understand, I understand!"

Nicole asked, "What do you understand?"

Dominic winked at her. "Don't worry, Ms. Stanton. I won't say anything about this. It's a common thing!"

Nicole felt something stuck in her throat. "I'm not..."

Dominic made a gesture. "There's one that's really quite good-looking. I decided to let him be the leader. He's 6'2 and looks like..."

He suddenly did not know how to describe the man.

"Let's put it this way. I took him to attend a lot of drinking parties, and whether it's men or women, they all want to take him for themselves!"

Nicole was speechless.

Dominic smiled at her. His smile was a little cunning. "He's specially reserved for you!"

Nicole sucked in a breath of cold air. She wanted to beat Dominic to death!

Kai was very interested and smiled. "Bring us to him then?"

Dominic smiled. "No need. I'll let him come up..." He was about to call.

Nicole hurriedly stopped him. If they called him up here, they would not be able to explain the reason why.

"Don't. We're just curious and want to see. I don't want to do anything!"

Dominic frowned. "Ms. Stanton, you don't have to be embarrassed. No one will know!"

To the side, Kai added fuel to the fire. "That's right." Nicole wanted to explode with anger.

Were these two people crazy?

"I really just want to see the group, and not just him alone. Shouldn't I meet all of them?"

Nicole gritted her teeth and looked at Kai. Kai instantly understood.

'Yes, she should see all of them. We'll go down and let Lil N pick for herself.

Dominic immediately agreed. "Sure, no problem!" Nicole was speechless.

She wanted to bash her head in. Dominic cheerfully led the way in front.

"There are ladies too. Do you want to see?"

Kai wrinkled his brows. "No. I have a girlfriend. She won't be happy if she finds out."

To the side, Nicole huffed. "Don't I have a boyfriend?"

Kai said, "You can change yours any time. He's not in the country anyway."

Nicole choked.

She could not find a rebuttal.

It was best if Kai could hurry up and get out of the country!

Dominic finally realized Nicole's hobby and could not wait to cater to her tastes and fix her ruined impression of him.

Thus, Dominic would send that guy to Nicole no matter what.

Fortunately, that man's business ability was not that good, and all the investors were adopting a wait-and-see attitude, so he did not have that big of a fanbase.

There was a special practice room in the company separate from the front building.

There was a glass bridge in the middle of the twin buildings, and it was possible to walk across that bridge to get to the building where they practiced. The layout of the whole office was very wide and grand.

Back then, Kai bought these two buildings with a wave of his hand and did not even blink. He really was rich and overbearing.

The manager was waiting at the exit of another floor.

Nicole looked at him and found him somewhat familiar. "Weren't you with Fabian?"

The manager was stunned before smiling. "I stopped following him a long time ago. Nicole frowned, puzzled. "Huh?"

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Dominic coughed and came forward to explain.

"Some time ago, Fabian privately terminated the contract with us. He was still very dissatisfied with our efforts to support Harvey and privately worked together with many fans to cause trouble. Our company was disturbed by those fans, so we could only terminate the contract."

Nicole looked at him suspiciously and was just about to open her mouth to say something.

Dominic immediately realized something and explained himself.

"I didn't manipulate anything. Everyone knows that I spent a lot of money on him. But he still has a lot of fans, and it's not worthwhile for us to spend money on lawsuits and control public opinion. Besides, Harvey and Fabian are both from our company. The fans want the company to step in and determine who's the 'big brother' and who's the middle child'. They act like they won't give up until they know. With Harvey's current worth, it's impossible to let him be the middle child after he was officially announced as the spokesperson for Stanton Corporation, so we could only choose to terminate the contract with Fabian."

Nicole's gaze was somewhat cold. Back then, they tilted so many resources toward Fabian because he was an artist under Falcon Entertainment, but now, he left just like that.

It was hard to say that the fans did not do this because he incited them to.

Kai laughed from the side, unconcerned.

"Just let him leave. His wings are fully-fledged, so he wants to fly by himself. Why would he want to continue working

for us."

Nicole sighed. She just felt a sense of betrayal.

Although the company's attention was focused on Harvey some time ago, they did not treat Fabian badly.

Nicole did not expect him to leave so decisively. She asked, "Which company was he poached to?"

Dominic said, "He set up his own studio after leaving. Even though he left so decisively, he knows very well that the company didn't treat him poorly. He still has to pay the full penalty for the breach of contract."

Nicole nodded. Forget it. Since things had come to this point, it was impossible to get him back.

"Don't direct any more resources to him, but don't take back the ones we already gave him. After all, we're all in the circle. Others might say that we're picking on him."

Dominic smiled. "What a coincidence, I had the same thoughts! He has more than sixty endorsements with him. If he has the ability, then he'll be able to keep them. Otherwise, he'll just have to work hard to keep on living."

Nicole rolled her eyes and followed Kai as they continued to walk.

The manager knew how to read people's expressions. "I won't leave the company. After artists gain some fame, they'll feel aggrieved if their resources are divided somewhere else, and they'll want to stand on their own. However, they never consider that this circle is never short of people. What it lacks is connections. Although Fabian is popular in the circle, it doesn't mean he'll remain like that

forever. After leaving our company, how many more years will he still be able to stay out there?"

Nicole looked at the manager in surprise.

She remembered that this manager was very fond of Fabian and brought him everywhere regardless of its importance. He even went to great lengths to contact various resources and contracts for Fabian. How did his attitude change in the blink of an eye?

Dominic smiled and did not hide anything either. He explained in front of them. "When Fabian's contract was terminated, the fans scolded the company as well as the manager. Fabian didn't speak up a word on his behalf, so he almost got rotten eggs

thrown at him when he went out!" Nicole could not help but laugh.

The manager's expression was very unpleasant as he snorted. He muttered a few curses and walked a few steps faster, not wanting to listen to them.

Nicole asked, "Did Fabian hire a professional team for his studio?"

Dominic said, "How could he? The cost of a professional team can be very high. Fabian's mother temporarily became his manager, his father became his assistant, and his siblings became his staff."

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Nicole was stunned. "A family studio?"

Dominic snickered. "You're quite professional. That's why I'm not worried about his contract termination at all. Some occupations can only be done when a person is young. He can't keep this up forever. It'll be time to transition in a couple of years. Maybe he'll have to come back obediently. Even if he doesn't come back, we won't lose anything."

Nicole clicked her tongue. It was no wonder a shrewd man like Dominic was so obedient as to terminate the contract without use of any underhanded tactics, even though it looked like an obvious money-losing deal.

Kai and the manager stood in front, not at all concerned about the contents of their conversation.

In this business, outsiders were able to see clearer and further than the parties directly involved.

Although Fabian's momentum was strong, there were countless artists with the same type of persona as him.

Without the strong backing of the company, and that home studio of his that was neither professional nor dedicated, how would they be able to continue Fabian's brilliance?

It was not easy to maintain his current persona. Nicole smiled and did not continue to speak.

The group walked to a room next to the practice room. One of the walls inside

was a full mirror, so they could clearly see the practice room next door. Fortunately, the practice room was large enough. Otherwise, the seventeen people would have felt cramped no matter how they stood.

It was no wonder Dominic fiercely recommended the one in the middle who was practicing singing and dancing.

Whether it was height, image, or temperament, there was something unique about him.

They glanced over. Their eyes and attention subconsciously fell on the person in the middle.

He was really too perfect and attractive.

If he debuted alone, he would definitely be a hit.

He had deep facial features, a cool temperament, and light melancholic eyes. He looked even more striking than Fabian.

Kai clicked his tongue. "No wonder. Where did you find him?"

Dominic smiled. "He was the school hunk in a foreign university. I discovered him by chance. Later, his family situation suddenly changed, and I scooped him up.

How is it? Not bad, eh?"

Kai nodded. He had to admit that he was used to seeing handsome men and women in the circle, but it was his first time seeing someone so good-looking.

He did not have the kind of feminine beauty that was popular nowadays. His eyes had a rigid and cool youthful feel. No matter how much one zoomed in, it was impossible to find a flaw on his face.

That face was too suitable for the big screen.

"Yes, the people in the company are secretly saying that Maddox is almost as good as Kai was back then. He has looks that are blessed by the heavens. We have to take him!"

The manager spoke with a grin. It was clear that he had even higher hopes for Maddox. Kai smiled and said nothing.

Nicole looked at him, and then at Kai.

"My brother is an eternal legend. No one can compare to him!"

Dominic and the manager were speechless.

Kai smiled meaningfully and glanced at Dominic.

"What are you still standing there for? Aren't you going to create a chance for my dear sister to meet him?"

Nicole froze for a moment.

Dominic immediately reacted and walked to the door next to the mirror.

"Right away. Get ready, Ms. Stanton..."

Before Nicole could open her mouth to refuse, the door opened.

Damn it!

That Dominic Young was such a dog!

Dominic pushed the door in and clapped his hands.

When everyone saw that it was Dominic, they stopped what they were doing and stood there obediently.
It was clear that they were all respectful and afraid of him.

Dominic said, "The company has high hopes for you all. You must train your basic skills well before your debut so that you won't be scolded for being just a pretty face who lives off your looks! But look at how you guys practiced earlier. The sax sounded more like a trumpet! Are you trying to scare your fans to death?"

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Luca opened the door for her, and Nicole bent down and got in.
Soon, the car left.

Dominic sighed in relief. His legs almost gave out.

"Why is that lady always angry? Didn't Kai say his sister is the best-tempered person in the world?"

Dominic really wondered how Kai grew up.

To the side, Maddox pursed his lips. "Mr. Young, does Ms. Stanton not like me? Can I still make my debut?"

Dominic patted his shoulder and comforted him.

"It's fine. Ms. Stanton is a devoted person. She hasn't broken up with her boyfriend yet, so she can't pass through that hurdle in her conscience. You have to have confidence in yourself. Your chance will come when she breaks up."
Maddox was speechless.

Nicole was right to scold Dominic. He really never learned from his mistakes!
In the car.

Kai looked at the silent Nicole and secretly felt a little guilty.
He was just about to take out his phone to delete the video from this social media when he suddenly saw Nicole open up her social media.
His heart sank in an instant. Kai quickly moved away.

However, he heard the sound of the music from the video. There was only one thought in Kai's heart. 'Oh, sh*t!'
Nicole's brows were deeply furrowed. Her anger had not dissipated yet after scolding Dominic, but now, Kai provoked her again.
When she saw the caption, the fire in her heart could not help but surge.
Kai saw that the situation was not good. If not for the fact that they were on the road and the car was driving quite fast, he would have wanted to jump out of the car.

His lips twitched. "Uh... I just wanted to show off my brilliant sister! Your excellence should be seen by more people!"

Nicole gave him a sideways glance. Her gaze was clear and cold like she wanted to kill him.

Kai pursed his lips. "Don't worry, only a few of our good friends can see it. No one else can."

Later, Kai added, "I'll delete it now."

Kai deleted the video in a few taps. His hands already began to shake.

He also showed the phone to her to prove that he did not lie.

Nicole was still angry, but she waited until the moment they got out of the car.

'Don't even try to escape.' Nicole thought.

Kai realized that his skills were not as good as hers and immediately surrendered.

"The cruise ship you wanted is already on the way! Can you spare me?"

Finally, they arrived at Stanton Mansion.

The butler was watering the flowers with a hose.

To the side, Floyd was weeding the grass. They both looked like they were in a good mood.

The car entered.

The butler threw down the hose. "The Young Lady is back..."

The next second.

Nicole got out of the car. She lifted her feet and walked in front. Her eyes trained straight ahead.

Her expression seemed to scream "don't mess with me". Kai followed her sloppily from behind.

The atmosphere between these two people seemed off.

Suddenly, when Kai walked to the side of the fountain, Nicole stopped.

She suddenly took two steps back with great speed. Then, she lifted her leg and kicked him.

Barn— Water splashed in the fountain. The crowd watched in shock.

This pair of siblings had a love-hate relationship. Why did she suddenly make a move?

The butler stood there, dumbfounded. Nicole ran away after kicking him.

She did not give Kai a chance to fight back.

Kai struggled up from the fountain. He looked wretched and hilarious, but it still did not diminish his handsomeness.

He paused and looked at Floyd, who was watching the show not far away.

"Dad, you saw how she hit me right?! You have to help me..."

Floyd smiled faintly. "I didn't see it. Why don't you let her hit you again?"

Kai was speechless. 'Fine. I made a fool of myself again...'

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The man with the saxophone in his hands subconsciously flushed and took a few steps back.

He was really ashamed to show his face.

Maddox, the one who had been standing in the middle, remained expressionless. His eyes were sharp, and his face was calm.

The instructor on the side was also a little ashamed.

He had not encountered such a situation before. There were too many people, so he could not teach them individually. The effect would naturally be greatly reduced.

Dominic did not say much and cut to the chase.

"Alright, I found a last-minute teacher for you. She can give you a demonstration."

Then, Dominic respectfully retreated to the side. He extended his hand, and his voice boomed. "Please welcome, Ms. Stanton—"

Nicole was furious. When she walked to the exit, she suddenly heard her name.

'That damned Dominic Young! I'll find a chance to kill him!'

Nicole thought. She turned around.

Kai looked at her with a vague smile and went over to pat her shoulder.

"Don't worry, I'll be watching over you. Just pick a random instrument and let them feast their eyes!"

Nicole gritted her teeth. "I haven't touched any in years. I'm already rusty!"

Kai reassured her while pushing her inside, whispering in her ear.

"It's fine. You're much better than them. They can't even compare to you..."

'Is he even my brother? Why do I feel like he's pushing me into a fire pit?' Nicole thought as she reluctantly walked in and immediately resumed her clear and cold demeanor.

In an instant.

She heard a gasp.

"It's really Ms. Stanton?!"

"Gosh, I heard that Ms. Stanton is the boss behind this company. I didn't think it was true."

"I've waited so long for this!"

"She's so gorgeous! She's really beautiful!"

Nicole listened to their whispers. Many of them were so excited that they could hardly conceal their emotions.

Some even leaped up to take the initiative to converse with her. However, before they could come up, Nicole immediately introduced herself. "My name is Nicole Stanton. I'm not really a professional teacher, but as future superstars, I hope that you'll all have that potential to be famous." Everyone applauded excitedly.

Only Maddox clapped his hands unenthusiastically.

It was as if he was clapping to brush the matter off. Nicole pretended not to see it.

She swept a glance at the surrounding instruments and gazed at the piano. "How about this? I'll play a song for you guys as a gift to congratulate you on joining our company." Everyone was extremely excited.

Nicole sat down in front of the piano and took a deep breath.

She suddenly recalled the scene of her playing the piano with Clayton in the mall not long ago.

Nicole froze for a second before immediately regaining her composure. Her slender and delicate fingers fell on the black and white keys. Then, a beautiful and pleasant rendition of "Canon" slowly flowed out between her fingers.

When it was almost the climax of the piece, a long and melodious violin harmonized with the piano. The violin joined seamlessly and sounded pleasant. The piano and violin matched with each other, rising and falling, not stiff in the least. It had the feeling of an extremely harmonious ensemble. Nicole did not pause or look back. She was not interested in who joined. She was purely immersed in her own piano and enjoying herself. The violin would not drag her down, so she let it be.

The practice room was quiet with only the sound of the two instruments playing. The others lowered their breaths as if they did not exist.

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At the end of the song, Nicole's finger landed on the last key. It was a perfect ending.

The violin also stretched for two seconds. The coordination of the piece matched quite well.

Everyone was subconsciously immersed in it. Dominic took the lead in applauding. Then, everyone burst out in extremely enthusiastic applause.

Nicole stood up and turned around. The person who played the violin was the eye-catching Maddox.

She paused for a moment before smiling at them. "That's it for today. You guys keep practicing!"

Then, she lifted her feet and went back to the room she was in just now.

Kai did not reveal his face, most likely because he felt that it was troublesome.

However, he did watch the show.

He posted a short clip he took of them earlier to his social media with the caption: "The daily life of a rich woman indulging in luxury!"

Kai put his phone away when Nicole came in.

"OMG, that was great!"

Nicole rolled her eyes speechlessly at him. "If you say one more word, I guarantee that you won't be able to get on the plane tomorrow!"

Kai reached out and made a motion of zipping his mouth.

Nicole lifted her feet and left. She could not stay any longer.

If she stayed any longer, the entire company would know that Nicole liked looking at men!

Downstairs, before she could get into the car, Dominic called them from behind.

"Ms. Stanton..."

Nicole wanted to hit someone when she heard that voice. She did not know if she could hold back.

Kai pulled her and gestured for her to turn around. Nicole subconsciously looked back.

Once she did, she wanted to burrow herself into the ground. Dominic actually brought Maddox with him.

Nicole was really speechless.

"Ms. Stanton, Maddox admires your piano skills and would like to get to know you.

"They're all your staff, so why don't you teach him the piano?"

Dominic tugged on Maddox's arm.

Maddox stood there. A trace of coldness flashed in his eyes, but it quickly disappeared.

He pursed his lips and bowed slightly, lowering his head. He did not speak, nor did he object.

As soon as he raised his eyes, their gazes met, and his eyes narrowed.

The disdain in his eyes was instantly withdrawn.

Suddenly, Nicole had a familiar feeling. That feeling seemed a little dangerous. However, it also seemed illusory.

Maddox lowered his head and became that silent person again.

Nicole saw it. It was clear that Maddox was being forced by Dominic.

Dominic was like a pimp!

Kai had already taken the lead and waited in the car. His whereabouts could not be easily exposed.
Nicole looked around. There was no one.

She could not stand it anymore. She walked over and stood in front of Dominic with her arms crossed.
She did not even look at Maddox.

"Mr. Young, is your old habit acting up again? Think about how the editor-in-chief of Viola Magazine, Viola Ziegler got ruined. If you want to experience it, I can grant your wish anytime."
Dominic's face turned pale little by little. 'Was I not just acting according to her fancy? How did I get the direction wrong again?'
He looked expectantly at Kai inside the car, begging him to come down and speak up for him.
However, Kai stayed there without moving. Kai did not care about Dominic at all.
"Ms. Stanton, I was... I was just joking."

Nicole gritted her teeth. "You'd better watch yourself. If you ruin yourself because of this one day, not even Kai can save you!"

Dominic's expression was ugly as he stood there obediently.
Nicole glanced at Maddox, who was looking at her, and frowned.
"Bring him back. If you dare to do such nonsense again, I'll make you leave the country with Kai!"
Then, she stepped on her high heels and left.

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Nicole kept panicking when she looked at the phone.
She did not know why she was so angry either.

It was just a video. It was nothing out of the ordinary.

However, Nicole seemed a little afraid. She was afraid that Clayton would see it. She was afraid that he would misunderstand.
How was she supposed to explain herself if he misunderstood?
Nicole went back to her room and looked at her phone with a restless soul.
One minute, five minutes, ten minutes... Nothing. Did he not see it?
As long as that thought flashed by, Nicole instantly felt much better.
In Liberty.

Clayton lost his mood to work the moment he saw the video on Kai's social media. Kai's caption was clearly a joke.

However, in the video, Nicole and the man playing the violin were too harmonious and well-coordinated.

Clayton felt a very strong sense of crisis.

He thought, 'Should I ask her about this video? Will she get angry? Will she think that I'm small-minded?'

Clayton hesitated and felt even more stuffy in his heart.

He had to hurry and finish the matter at hand before going

back to Mediana. Suddenly, his phone rang. He looked at it. It was from Nicole.

Clayton's heart suddenly jumped.

He picked it up. His voice was as gentle as ever. "Hey, Babe. Miss me?"

Nicole blushed when she was teased by those words. She paused. "I just wanted to ask if you ate already." Clayton's eyes were filled with tenderness.

He knew that Nicole must have taken the initiative to call him because she missed him. That must be it!

"I haven't, because I can't swallow anything without you by my side."

Nicole was speechless.

Was it necessary to say that?

She knew that it was fake, but her heart still raced because of it. They spoke for a while.

Then, they suddenly went quiet.

Neither knew what to continue talking about.

Nicole did not know whether to take the initiative to ask if he had watched the video.

Would she be walking straight into a trap? Finally, Clayton coughed.

"Where did you go today?"

Nicole said, "I accompanied Molly to choose a wedding dress, then I went to Falcon Entertainment with my third brother."

Clayton paused for a few seconds. "To play the piano?"

In an instant, the two people suddenly fell silent.

Clayton only blurted that out because he could not hold back for a moment. He immediately panicked the moment he spoke.

When he did not hear Nicole's answer, his heart suddenly felt empty.

Just as Clayton was about to say something to brush the topic away, Nicole suddenly said cautiously.

"You saw it?" Clayton said, "Yeah."

"Fabian terminated his contract, so we had to support a few newcomers. Dominic planned for them to debut as a group, so I went over to have a look. My third brother was there as well."

Clayton suddenly laughed. His voice was warm. The emptiness in his heart was

suddenly filled again.
It was a very warm and pleasant feeling.

"Are you explaining yourself because you're afraid that I'll get jealous?"
Nicole's thoughts were exposed in an instant. "No..."
"Okay, I get it. But his violin playing doesn't sound like it has much emotion. It doesn't match your piano."

Nicole curled her lips smugly. She sat on the chair and stretched out her legs.
'that's right, I feel the same way."

Clayton loosened his tie. His eyes softened at a speed visible to the naked eye.
"Wait for me. I'll be back soon."

Nicole paused. "There's no rush. I'll be going there soon."

Clayton froze faintly as a thought flew in his mind.

"You're coming here?"

Nicole said naturally, "Mhmm, I have some business."

Clayton did not continue to ask. He knew in his heart that it was mostly to wrap up Sloan Corporation's matters.
"Okay, then I'll wait for you here."

The assistant knocked on the door outside. "Mr. Sloan, someone wants to see you."

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Clayton hung up the phone and looked at his assistant. The assistant said, "It's Mrs. Sloan."

It was Quavon's legal wife, a woman of noble birth with a strong family background.

From the moment Clayton entered the Sloan family, he was forced to accept the cold eyes of the Sloan family.

However, Clayton had only seen Mrs. Sloan a few times. That woman lived in her own home most of the time, and her marriage with Quavon was only an exchange of interests. There were no personal feelings involved.

After Mrs. Sloan gave birth to Liam, she finished her task and never stepped foot in the Sloan family again.

She had no disgust, persecution, resentment, or liking for Clayton. She was just indifferent. She was indifferent to everyone in the Sloan family.

Usually, in instances where children were born out of wed lock, the wife in the

affluent family would either give the illegitimate children a sum of money to send them off or send the illegitimate child to a remote place. Very few people could allow an illegitimate child to live in their main residence. That was because no woman could tolerate the existence of illegitimate children. An illegitimate son like Clayton was considered a humiliation and threat to Mrs. Sloan.

However, she did not care in the least. They only met a few times. The first time they met was when Clayton joined the family.

The second time they met was when Liam died.

That was all Clayton remembered.

Seeing that Clayton was frozen in thought, the assistant cleared his throat and spoke up from the side.

“Mr. Sloan, will you meet her?”

Clayton pursed his lips. “Yes invite her in.”

Not long after, a woman wearing an expensive dress from an unknown brand walked in. Her demeanor was elegant through and through.

She looked the same as she did back then. Her face had not changed at all, despite nearing her fifties. Even Quavon was showing signs of old age, but this woman was as elegant as ever.

Clayton stood up and looked at her. Then, he very gentlemanly walked to the side and pulled out the chair for her.

The woman thanked him and sat down.

Clayton sat back down opposite her.

The woman’s gaze re-examined Clayton’s face carefully for a full minute before she exhaled and withdrew her gaze.

“My apologies. Liam said that you brothers look alike, but I’ve forgotten what he looks like.”

Although her words were said in a light-hearted manner, there was a loneliness that could not be concealed.

Clayton’s gaze flickered slightly. His face tightened when he heard Liam’s name.

“Did you come here because you needed something?”

The woman smiled. She took out a document from her bag and handed it over.

Clayton looked at it. His eyes widened. "You want to transfer your shares to me?" The woman nodded.

"The Sloan family is falling. It's clear that their days are numbered. After Isaac's accident, Quavon's heart is in turmoil, and the people in the company aren't united. It's only a matter of time before they're done for. These shares were one of the conditions given as an exchange of interests when Quavon and I reached a marriage alliance. 0%, plus the scattered shares of the other shareholders, should be enough for you to gain a foothold in Sloan Corporation."

Clayton's gaze was dark. He was silent for a few seconds before speaking.

"I don't understand. Why are you giving this to me? Even if I have this 20%, I can't win the support of others. I have no desire to gain a foothold in Sloan Corporation anyway."

The woman looked at him and smiled. Her tone was light.

"I know. This 20% was originally supposed to be for Liam. This is also the only thing that I can give to him since he's part of the Sloan family. Since he's dead, I'll give it to you instead. You're raising his son, so he should be willing to let you have it."

Clayton's eyes sank. He did not understand why this woman did not seem to have much sadness when she mentioned Liam.

Why?

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Back in the Sloan family, Liam had only seen his mother a few times. However, whenever Liam mentioned his mother, he was very happy. Every day, Liam looked forward to his mother coming to pick him up. However, she never did.

The woman lowered her eyes, took out a cigarette from her pocket, lit it, and held it between her fingers without smoking it. She just let it burn away.

"Back then, I didn't agree for Liam to date that girl because she was one of Quavon's people. Quavon wanted to find an excuse to drive Liam out of the house, so he deliberately set up a trap."

Clayton shook violently.

The woman smiled faintly. "Quavon spared no effort to pave the way for the son he had with his stepmother. So, do you know why I would rather Liam hate me than let that woman marry him?"

In the end, she paused.

"But I didn't expect them to have a child. Liam was still a boy himself, but he got a woman pregnant so capriciously. It's a good thing that the woman was killed by

Isaac not long after.”
Mrs. Sloan let out a cold laugh.

Clayton looked at her with a complicated gaze. “You know everything?”
The woman chuckled. “Yes, I know everything.”

“But you didn’t do anything.” Clayton’s tone carried an undisguised chill.

The woman lowered her eyes. Her face was indifferent, so he could not tell if she felt any sadness in her heart.

‘the only thing I could do for him was to give him what he should be given.
Whether or not he can keep it depends on his ability.”

The woman took a deep breath and looked at Clayton before speaking.

“I was manipulated to accept this marriage alliance, and I was drugged by Quavon to conceive Liam. Everything about my life was forced. Why should I take the initiative? Once Liam was born, I left the Sloan family. My greatest value had been drained by them, so except being unable to divorce, I don’t want to get involved in anything that concerns the Sloan family.

Clayton frowned and looked at her.

“Anything that concerns the Sloan family, including Liam?”

The woman did not hesitate. “Yes.”

Not every woman had to love her child.

If Liam’s arrival was not blessed and not of her own volition, then why should she love him?

She hated the child as much as she hated Quavon.

Despite that, when she saw Liam suffering under Quavon’s roof, she could not help but feel sorry for him.

However, that heartache soon disappeared.

In the beginning, Mrs. Sloan would still answer Liam’s phone calls.

However, when she met a man she liked, she wanted to cut off contact with Liam.

What did she say the last time he called her? She remembered it vividly.

She said, “I’m busy. Don’t contact me so often. If you want to talk, you can talk to your favorite brother Clayton.”

Mrs. Sloan thought that Liam probably got the hint that he was not loved by his mother.

Thus, from then on, she never received a call from him again.

She stopped liking the man she liked, and she was free yet not completely free.

Since she was not divorced, the men who came and went around her were always reluctant to continue a relationship with her out of moral guilt.

She did not know why all the men in this world, except for Quavon, were so honorable.

Her family did not associate with her because of her rebellious behavior.

She just lived her life, year after year. She seemed to feel like she had nothing

left in this world besides Liam.
But then, Liam died too.

There was a slight chill among the silence in the office. Clayton looked at her quietly.
Mrs. Sloan was pitiful yet hateful.

Clayton did not have the right to blame her for not loving Liam.
His heart just ached for his pure and simple-minded brother.