

Chapter 486 You're Not Qualified

Joy Harrison's face was glum as she scolded Ivy Harrison. Joy finally could not stand it and went up to slap Ivy.

"It's all your fault! What exactly did you do to make Nicole so angry? The high-society ladies are now laughing at me for having such a useless sister like you!"

The elite circle was not very big, to begin with. Harrison Corporation was only big domestically and was not on the same level as the internationally renowned Stanton Corporation. Thus, Joy's circle was not the same as Nicole's.

Joy knew that Nicole's circle was composed of the ultimate elites who stood at the top of the food chain, and she could only look up to her.

Ivy's face was hot and painful from the slap.

All she felt was panic and shame.

It turned out that Nicole was not oblivious to what Ivy had done to her.

Nicole did not bother to deal with Ivy and

Nicole did not bother to deal with Ivy and went directly to Harrison Corporation.

The Harrison family was to take responsibility for Ivy's mistakes.

This was a clear warning to Ivy so that she could understand the gap between her and Nicole.

Ivy and the Harrison family could not even retaliate with a small move from Nicole.

Nicole was really unforgiving.

Looking at Ivy's wretched face made Joy recall the pitiful look on Ivy's mother back when she broke up her family. This made Joy even more vengeful.

Joy kicked Ivy and looked at her condescendingly.

"Tell me, what exactly did you do?"

Ivy had no choice but to tell her the truth.

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Stanton Corporation.

Nicole was listening to a department report in her office when Logan knocked on the door.

"Ms. Stanton."

Nicole nodded and glanced at the head of the department. The man had the good sense to retreat.

Logan said, "Chairman Harrison just called saying that Ivy Harrison would like to apologize in person. In the meantime, they want to discuss the possibility of cooperation."

Nicole let out a light laugh. When Eric introduced her to Eli Harrison, that man was so snobby thinking that he had Ferguson Corporation as a backer, so he did not bother to get to know Nicole. 1

Looking back on that scene, it was really ridiculous and pathetic.

'Why is Harrison Corporation so anxious when I only took away such a small project?'

They were too impatient.

Nicole's eyes flickered slightly.

"Forget about cooperation. Stanton Corporation can't afford it."

Logan immediately understood what Nicole meant. "Yes, Ms. Stanton, but we

Nicole meant. "Yes. Stanton, but we shouldn't underestimate their power."

Nicole smiled and spoke nonchalantly.

"Harrison Corporation isn't the only one in power. Their archrival Sheldon Corporation has reached out to us. You can let the Harrisons know about this."

Nicole was not afraid of offending anyone or losing the business.

Eli Harrison was not sincere and had never treated her with respect by placing his daughter in Stanton Corporation without first informing her, so it was clear that Harrison Corporation had no intention to have any dealings with Stanton Corporation.

Since that was the case, it was better to refuse them blatantly lest they make a fool of themselves.

Logan immediately nodded. "Understood."

Nicole smiled in satisfaction and looked down to see a message on her phone.

It was a voice message from Lil Michael.

"Pretty Lady, I wanna treat you to a

"Pretty Lady, I want to treat you to a candlelight dinner!"

Nicole heard Lil Michael's childish voice that was as soft and sweet as cotton candy and could not bear to reject him.

She replied, "Okay!"

It had been a long time since she saw Lil Michael, so she missed him.

Nicole thought that Lil Michael liked Tigger, so she immediately asked Kai to send Tigger over so that Lil Michael could play with it.

In less than 15 minutes, Kai reluctantly showed up at Stanton Corporation in sunglasses and a flashy sports car.

He immediately attracted everyone's attention.

Kai's stunningly handsome face soon appeared in the hot topics. When he saw his sister, he proudly ruffled his hair.

"Sigh... What do I have to do to be a little more mediocre? You shouldn't miss this free advertising opportunity for any new diamond jewelry you have that I can endorse..."

endorse...”

Nicole rolled her eyes speechlessly.

“Well, our new diamond jewelry is for innocent young people. If you endorse them, we’ll surely lose money this quarter!”

Kai’s face stiffened.

Chapter 487 Daddy's Helping You

In the luxury van not far from Stanton Tower.

A nanny and a bodyguard were sitting next to the blonde and curly-haired Lil Michael. The three of them sat there obediently with their hands on their knees like schoolchildren.

Opposite them was Clayton Sloan, who came uninvited.

Aside from Lil Michael, everyone else feared Clayton.

Thus, the nanny and bodyguard, who would usually give Lil Michael ideas on how to impress Nicole, kept their mouths shut and tried to reduce their presence.

Only Lil Michael dared to express his dissatisfaction.

"Daddy, please get out of the car. This is my date with Pretty Lady. I don't want a third wheel to disturb us!"

Lil Michael pouted and sat there with his hands on his waist, trying desperately to make his aura seem stronger.

make his aura seem stronger.

Clayton was holding an iPad as he finished typing out the last email before he looked up at his son.

His voice was gentle.

"I happen to be free and have some work to discuss with Pretty Lady, so it's no harm for me to join you both."

"No way!"

Lil Michael's brows furrowed tightly in extreme dissatisfaction.

'No one can disturb my date with Pretty Lady, not even Daddy!'

Clayton hooked the corners of his lips.

"Michael, if Daddy doesn't go, Eric Ferguson will take the opportunity to disturb you. Do you want to see him?"

Lil Michael lowered his head with a sad face. 'Of course not! I hate that mean mister even more!'

Clayton coaxed him in a serious tone. "Let's keep the goods within the family. We can't let outsiders take advantage of us. If Daddy and Pretty Lady have a good relationship, doesn't that mean that you

relationship, doesn't that mean that you and Pretty Lady have a good relationship too?"

Lil Michael raised his head in thought. 'Hmm... What Daddy said makes a bit of sense. Compared to Mean Mister Eric Ferguson, Daddy is my family. But...'

The little boy looked at his father and said, "That's okay, Daddy. I can handle my relationship with Pretty Lady by myself. You don't need to get involved!"

Clayton's smile stiffened.

The nanny and bodyguard on the side sighed with relief and looked out the window.

'Luckily, our young master isn't easy to fool!'

Lil Michael continued to rub it in. "Daddy, you have to work hard to earn money so that in the future, Pretty Lady and I just need to live off of your inheritance!"

Clayton's face turned dark and sullen as he glared at Lil Michael, trying to keep himself from losing his temper. 'Calm down... He's still a child...'

He gritted his teeth and smiled. "If you don't let me join you, I won't give you my inheritance!"

That was a huge dilemma for Lil Michael, who thought about it left and right.

'Forget it, for the sake of the inheritance, I'll just have to reluctantly accept this third wheel Daddy...'

Lil Michael glared spitefully at his father and waited until Nicole got to their car.

"Pretty Lady!"

When Nicole pulled open the car door, the milky-scented Lil Michael pounced on her before she could take a look at the surroundings.

Nicole hurriedly caught him and pinched his little cheek. "Our Lil Michael is getting more handsome!"

Lil Michael shyly shrunk into Nicole's arms.

Clayton saw this and laughed coldly. 'He's usually not so shy... Hah! What a good actor!'

Nicole heard Clayton's voice and was a

Nicole heard Clayton's voice and was a little surprised to see him.

"Mr. Sloan?"

Clayton nodded slightly and flashed a warm and steady smile.

"Michael invited me to your dinner. Do you mind if I join, Ms. Stanton?"

Lil Michael stared at his father speechlessly. 'Daddy's full of lies! How is that an invite? I was just threatened!'

Before Nicole could say anything, Lil Michael hastily said, "Pretty Lady, if you mind, we'll just get him to leave so no one will bother us."

His sparkly eyes were filled with expectation as he thought, 'Please say that you mind!'

Chapter 488 Surprised and Delighted

Nicole could not read Lil Michael's thoughts, so she said, "Of course, I don't mind."

Lil Michael looked disappointed, but after seeing Tigger, he rejuvenated his spirit and hugged Tigger excitedly without letting go.

They soon arrived at the restaurant.

Lil Michael did not rush to get out of the car. Instead, he acted mysteriously and asked Nicole and his father to go in first.

The restaurant was quiet. It looked like it had been bought out in advance.

Clayton was a gentleman and walked to the front to pull out the chair for Nicole. The table was lit with candles. The atmosphere was beautiful and ambiguous.

A few minutes later.

Lil Michael excitedly came over with a shoebox-sized box and a big bouquet of white chrysanthemums.

Nicole saw the flowers and wanted to faint.

faint.

Clayton also did not expect his son to bring bereavement flowers. He froze for a moment and thought that this kid really hid it well.

He seemed to regret tagging along at this moment.

For a while, the two adults were nervous.

Lil Michael ran over cheerfully with his short little legs and raised the bouquet of white chrysanthemums.

“Pretty Lady, may you always be as fresh and beautiful as your favorite flowers!”

For a moment, the situation seemed a little strange.

Clayton looked away, trying to pretend not to hear or see this scene. ‘This is not my son!’

After about two seconds of awkward silence, Nicole took the flowers with a smile so as not to discourage the child’s enthusiasm and goodwill.

“Thanks, Lil Michael. I love it...”

Nicole simply placed it on the other side with the candle. The further away, the

better.

She felt a headache coming on.

Lil Michael excitedly took out the shoebox-sized gift box and opened it straight away.

“I collected colorful gemstones all over the world and made this mosaic photo for you, Pretty Lady! It’s very unique!”

Nicole saw a gold photo frame that was simply extravagant.

The picture was a candid photo of Nicole that they took while traveling in France.

Every inch of the photo was divided into different color modules and had a gradient from light to dark.

The mosaic was made with all kinds of colorful square-shaped gemstones that were of the same size. The slightly raised angles from the thickness glistened in the light. It was flashy, cool, and sharp.

It was an old-fashioned way of showing wealth.

Nicole was knowledgeable on gemstones and knew that it was certainly not an easy feat to collect so many natural stones and

feat to collect so many natural stones and polish them to the same size. Doing so would also mean that there would be a lot of residue material.

She did not allow Lil Michael to give her gold before, so he started to give her gems instead.

This photo was truly the most valuable picture in the world!

Looking at Nicole's surprised face, Lil Michael felt proud.

"Pretty Lady, do you like it so much that you don't know what to say?"

Nicole's hand trembled slightly as she subconsciously looked at the boy.

She did not know how to reject it because it was her own picture, but this gift was too expensive to accept.

Clayton coughed on the side.

"Ms. Stanton, you can accept it without worries since it's Lil Michael's heart. Compared to his life, this is nothing."

Lil Michael nodded solemnly. "Yes, it's nothing!"

nothing!”

After a few seconds of silence, Nicole nodded her head.

“Okay, thanks, Lil Michael. I like this gift very much.”

Nicole casually put the photo next to the bouquet.

For a moment, she felt that something was wrong.

The flowers, photo, and candle next to it...

She felt a lump in her throat.

Tigger, who sensed Nicole’s emotions, jumped up on the table and used his tail to casually sweep the flowers onto the floor, then walked around to make a mess.

Lil Michael was annoyed and pulled Tigger down by the neck.

“Little tiger, you’re a fake! Don’t create trouble here!”

“No, I’m a real tiger!”

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Chapter 489 A Family of Three

Tigger thought, 'How dare you question that I'm not a real tiger!'

It shook its tail and instantly felt that Lil Michael was not cute anymore.

Lil Michael frowned. To verify the tiger's authenticity, Lil Michael took a piece of beef jerky from the table and put it in Tigger's mouth.

"Eat it then, little tiger!"

Tigger desperately wanted to get rid of this kid's grasp, but it was too weak.

It felt so aggrieved.

Just when Nicole was about to help, Tigger waved his front paws in the air.

"I can't eat! I'm a fake tiger..."

Tigger's dignity as a fierce tiger was swept down the drain because of a kid.

It shook its fur and rested in Lil Michael's arms speechlessly as it stared aggrievedly at Nicole.

'Mama didn't even help me...'

"Mama didn't even help me..."

Nicole bowed her head and ate quietly.

Since Clayton had expressed interest in her before, Nicole tried her best to hide the trace of awkwardness she felt.

The two adults did not mention a word of what happened before so it was uncomfortable, but Clayton would occasionally place some dishes on Nicole and Lil Michael's plates attentively. Nicole also felt Clayton's brief lingering gaze on her.

She could only pretend as if nothing had happened.

After dinner, the father and son pair sent Nicole home.

Lil Michael was so tired that he fell asleep in the car.

Nicole got out of the car with Tigger in her arms. Clayton brought out the box for her and looked at her apologetically.

"Lil Michael still doesn't understand that white chrysanthemums are bereavement flowers. I'll make sure to teach him properly next time."

property near
Nicole chuckled. "It's okay. Children don't have malicious intent."

Clayton's smile was a little relaxed. "Will you like roses next time?"

He was testing the waters.

Nicole understood Clayton's meaning in a n instant.

Roses were meant for lovers.

"I'd prefer cactus."

A cactus that rejects people.

Clayton raised an eyebrow and bowed his head as he laughed.

"Okay, I'm good at catering to people's preferences."

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Meanwhile, at Imperial Gardens.

The husky pounced at Eric, who just got back.

Eric shooed it away with his cane in annoyance.

"Isn't Keith back already? Why didn't he take it away?"

take it away:

Toto chased the dog around with a bowl of dog food.

"Mrs. Ludwig came back, but she didn't like the dog, so Young Master Ludwig asked us to keep it here for now."

"I don't like it either!"

Eric's face was cold and sullen. 'Keith is always finding trouble for me!'

He took out his phone to call Keith and waited in annoyance.

Keith picked up the call. "Gosh, Ferg, are you out of the game?"

"What do you mean?"

"Nicole and Clayton took Clayton's son for dinner at a Michelin Star restaurant. They even bought out the venue and look like a cute little family of three."

Eric's sharp eyes sank at once. The aura around him was bitterly cold.

"Are they still there?"

His voice suppressed a fit of uncontrollable anger.

"They left together..."

They left together...

Keith wanted to say a few more words, but Eric lost his temper and hung up the phone without saying anything.

It was blunt.

Eric's eyes had a hidden rage.

Toto apprehensively carried the husky over.

He heard that conversation clearly.

"Mr. Ferguson..."

Eric's face was glum. "I don't care what method you use. Get Nicole to come over."

Toto knew how much of a failure he was as a matchmaker. Unfortunately for him, Eric and Nicole were not ordinary people.

"I-I don't..."

Before Toto could finish his sentence, Eric's cold eyes swept over.

"Do you think you've lived long enough?"

Toto suddenly changed his words. "I don't have a problem with that."

Eric went upstairs to the study.

Toto sat defeated on the floor.

Toto sat defeated on the floor.

‘Mr. Ferguson is so scary! I guess he’s usually considered easy-going!’

Toto hurriedly took out his phone and called Nicole, sobbing.

“Ms. Stanton, Mr. Ferguson just fell down the stairs...”

Chapter 490 Refuse to Touch You

Nicole was just about to rest when she received Toto's call.

She panicked, took her keys, and ran out.

Nicole felt guilty when she thought about Eric limping. If his leg could never recover because of her, she was afraid that she would owe him for the rest of her life.

Luca drove, so the twenty-minute journey only took ten minutes.

They arrived at Imperial Gardens in a flash.

As soon as Nicole went in, Toto greeted her in a panic.

"Ms. Stanton, Mr. Ferguson fell down the stairs. He has a fever and is now unconscious!"

Nicole knitted her brows. Her heart thumped when she heard this.

"Did you call a doctor?"

Toto froze and immediately spoke.

"Yes... The doctor got into an accident on the way, so he'll be delayed for a while."

the way, so he'll be delayed for a while.

Nicole went to Eric's room and saw the man lying on the bed. His face was pale with beads of sweat on his forehead. He really looked like he had a fever.

The husky circled the bed and chewed on his cane on the side.

Nicole frowned. 'How did he get a fever from a fall? Was it so serious?'

Toto was very anxious and antsy.

"Ms. Stanton, what should we do? Mr. Ferguson can only be assured with you, so you can't leave now..."

Nicole reached out. As soon as she touched his forehead, a large hand clutched her wrist.

Eric opened his eyes, which were dark and deep with a hint of weakness.

He seemed a little fragile and confused, but his grip was strong.

Nicole could not break free.

She frowned.

"Nicole, you still care about me, don't you?"

you:

His voice was hoarse, weak, and expectant.

Nicole looked at him calmly.

“I’m responsible for your leg injury and so I won’t sit idly by.”

Eric’s eyes darkened. The corners of his lips were pressed into a straight line.

His expression turned gentle. “Good. I feel at ease with you here.”

‘That way, I won’t need to think about what you and Clayton are talking about...’
Eric thought to himself.

He closed his eyes in time to hide the flash of hostility in them.

No one noticed.

Toto was holding ice and towels on the side, looking like he was in a dilemma.

“Ms. Stanton, Mr. Ferguson needs to cool down, so he won’t burn up.”

Nicole nodded. She was just about to give way to Toto when he quickly handed her the things.

“Oops, the doctor got into an accident on the way, so I have to pick him up now!”

the way, so I have to pick him up now.

After that, he ran out without another word because he was afraid of being shouted at.

Nicole frowned and looked at the expressionless Luca, who was standing in the corner.

Luca nodded. His tall figure slowly approached.

“Miss, let me...”

Before Nicole could nod, a hand tightly clutched her wrist.

She was stunned.

Eric struggled to open his eyes. His expression was complicated and ugly.

“No need. There’s nothing wrong with me. I don’t need to reduce my fever. I don’t want anyone else touching me either.”

He stared straight at Luca by the end of the sentence.

His deep gaze carried an inexplicable annoyance. ‘I didn’t get my way because of him!’

Since Luca was Nicole’s bodyguard, Eric

Since Luca was Nicole's bodyguard, Eric could not do anything to him either.

Luca did not even look at Eric because he only took orders from Nicole.

Nicole hesitated for a few seconds before she nodded at Luca.

"It's okay. Why don't you go with Toto?"

Luca nodded, turned around, and left.

Nicole and Eric were the only ones left in the room.

The silence in the room was gentle.

Nicole unconsciously picked up the ice and towel. "I'll help you."