

## Chapter 621 Kicked Out of Bed

No one knew what happened between Keith and Livia later. Nicole arrived at the hotel and started to do some work.

There was plenty of time in the afternoon, but she had several urgent work matters to deal with and had been on a conference call since then.

Two hours later.

Nicole hung up the phone and stretched her back. She intended to get room service, but before she could make the call, the doorbell rang. Immediately after, her phone rang as well.

She looked at her phone and saw that it was Eric.

Nicole paused for a few seconds before she answered the call. "Mr. Ferguson, is something wrong?"

"Come down. Something has happened."

Eric's cool and deep voice came through in a businesslike tone.

Nicole froze, hung up the phone, and quickly walked to the elevator.

Eric was probably referring to the floor where the others lived.

As expected, once Nicole got out of the elevator, the entire corridor was packed with people whispering and chattering with each other.

Nicole could also hear a woman crying.

She was baffled. 'What's going on?'

Everyone saw Nicole and consciously made way for her.

Nicole arrived at the door of a room unhindered and saw Eric standing there.

Eric did not go into the room. His face was cold and sullen as he stood at the doorway, and his aura was overwhelming. Except for Mitchell, no one dared to stand next to him.

When Eric saw Nicole, he raised an eyebrow and gestured for her to go inside.

Nicole's heart thumped and felt like it fell into a bottomless pit.

She walked inside and saw Dominic and the directors, whose faces were extremely glum.

Dominic's face was pale, and the directors were discussing something in the back with difficulty.

The woman's cries kept coming out of the room.

"Ms. Stanton, what brings you here?"

Dominic was the first to stand up, a little surprised.

Nicole looked indifferent as she glanced inside the room. Her body stiffened with just one glance. 'WTF?! Xander and Yuliana?'

Yuliana's voluptuous and sexy body was sitting on the bed. Her pajamas were disheveled and looked like they were deliberately ripped by someone. There were some red marks on her body from a struggle, which was blindingly obvious.

She sat there and bawled her eyes out as if she was in shock.

The shocking thing was that Xander was also sitting on the ground in disarray. To be precise, he wore a pair of boxers. His upper body was naked, and at this time, his face was red, embarrassed, and ugly. H

His face was red, eyes raised, and ugly. He even seemed to look indescribably angry and aggrieved.

Seeing Xander on the floor and the messiness in bed and on the ground, he looked like he was kicked out of bed.

Nicole's heart shook. 'Damn it! My money tree collapsed?'

Dominic walked behind Nicole, patted her shoulder, and sighed lightly.

"It's just as you see. I just asked what happened. Xander found an excuse to come to Yuliana's room and wanted to... Rape her. Yuliana was not willing and shouted loudly, attracting a lot of attention. Everyone heard and saw what happened. This is the situation..."

Dominic was just thinking about all the lawsuits they would face.

He was holding the script of the variety show that was sure to go viral this year, and he was all set to grow his career!

However, these troublesome events kept coming one after another, which was too depressing.

depressing.  
One of the directors sighed. "I think one of them must leave. Both can't stay. Otherwise, if word got out, we'll get criticized badly!"

"Yes, this can't get out!"

"Xander is an artist under Mr. Young's agency, so he's considered our guy, but if Yuliana reports this to the police..."

It would be troublesome.

Everyone analyzed the pros and cons of the situation clearly in a few sentences.

Who would stay and who would go?

Nicole closed her eyes and faintly swept a glance at the people in the room.

"Get dressed and come out. Both of you."

## Chapter 622 Rich Woman Bullied Me

Nicole's voice was extremely cold. Xander shuddered and dared not look at Nicole directly.

Nicole glanced at the door, so someone immediately closed it.

Eric and Mitchell also came in, seemingly curious about the outcome.

Yuliana sobbed and draped on a robe before she came out of the bedroom. She was not afraid of the strange gaze from others.

Her voice was hoarse and aggrieved.

"Ms. Stanton, Mr. Chung, since you're all here, I'll be straight forward with you. Xander has only been in showbiz for a short time, but he dared to harass actresses so blatantly?"

Xander heard this from the bedroom and ran out in anger.

"You were consensual! You repeatedly hinted at me, so doesn't that mean you like me? Everyone can testify to this!"

"Hint at you? I admit to having a little

"Hint at you? I admit to having a little crush on you, but that's only for the show. We don't have a single connection in private, right?"

Yuliana glared at Xander furiously and walked over to slap his face.

"Is smiling at you an invitation to f\*ck me? You came to my room in broad daylight and harassed me. I've already said no, but you played hardball with me!"

Xander's face flushed red. His childish and handsome face had a flurry of mixed emotions.

His breathing became heavy. "You're just playing hard to get!"

Yuliana sneered. "Hmph! Playing hard to get? Take a look in the mirror! Which part of you is worthy enough for me to take a second look at you? Although I'm a divorced woman, I've been in the circle for so many years and I've never met such a disgusting person like you! My ex-husband has money, and my ex-boyfriend has the looks. What about you? You're just a tramp that just joined showbiz, yet you wanna sleep with me for nothing?"

Xander suffered quite a blow from her cannonball-like words, especially in front of so many dignified people.

His face turned blue.

"You... You're too much!"

Yuliana snorted coldly and looked at Nicole aggrievedly with tears streaming down her face and some pride and insistence.

"Ms. Stanton, we're both women. To be honest, it's not easy for me to come this far in showbiz. I'm not completely clean either. After my divorce, it took a good deal of talking for my boss to be willing to support me again, so how could I take his money to hook up with a penniless and nameless male model?"

Yuliana's boss was her financial backer.

Nicole understood what Yuliana meant as soon as she heard this. This meant that it was most likely Xander who wanted to hook up with a rich woman to slingshot his career. Xander did not expect that Yuliana did not want him and only wanted to ride on his hype.



Nicole glanced at Xander indifferently and thought, 'This idiot... He must've been kicked in the head by a donkey...'

The show was sure to go viral, but he was too impatient.

Now, he did not gain anything and might even get scorned until he leaves the entertainment industry.

"Ms. Stanton, it's not like that..."

Xander eagerly tried to explain himself, but Nicole fiercely cast a sidelong glance at him. Her voice was extremely cold.

"Did you come to this room by yourself?"

Xander felt stuffy.

It was only because his friends told him to take the initiative to approach the rich woman and take their relationship to another level. That way, it would be easier for him to gain a firm foothold in the industry in the future.

Yuliana had an extraordinary status in the circle.

'Otherwise, I wouldn't have gone over in broad daylight to serve this rich woman!

etc.

'Otherwise, I wouldn't have gone over in broad daylight to serve this rich woman! She was clearly interested in me when we were recording the show, so I thought that was a hint that I could go further!' Xander thought.

Nicole's tone was sullen and cold. "So, you planned to force yourself on Yuliana after she refused you."

Everyone could see the marks on Yuliana's body.

Xander was speechless.

There was silence for a few seconds before he answered, "Yeah... No... Yeah..."

## Chapter 623 Let Him Go

Xander thought that Yuliana's refusal was purely sentimental.

Moreover, when Xander went into Yuliana's room, Yuliana did not show any signs of unhappiness. Instead, Yuliana winked suggestively and responded to his advances.

The two of them gradually moved to the bed, so Xander began to touch Yuliana. However, Yuliana began to pretend to refuse.

How could Xander think that Yuliana was really unwilling at that time?

Once Yuliana's refusal became more obvious, she kicked Xander off the bed and screamed at the top of her lungs before he had time to react.

In less than a minute, everyone on that floor came over.

It was Xander's darkest moment in life.

All this while, Xander was dumbfounded.

He was bullied by a rich woman, so he felt aggrieved and vexed.

Nicole did not say anything and glanced at Dominic, who stood up and said in a cold tone, "Since that's the case, Xander, we can't keep you here. We'll cancel your contract, as per the procedure."

Xander froze and hurriedly looked up.

"No... Ms. Stanton, Mr. Young, I really didn't mean it..."

He looked at Nicole with a pleading gaze.

The only one who could save him now was Nicole!

She was the rich woman he respected most.

However, Nicole did not care about his pleas. She swept a cold and gloomy look at him, which made him shudder.

His pleading words were stuck in his throat.

Eric Ferguson was also there, and Xander could not forget those warnings from Eric.

Xander could only look at Dominic in a grievance. "Mr. Young, I won't dare to do this again..."

Dominic waved his hand. "It's too late to say anything."

He then turned to Yuliana and said, "Yuliana, I'm sure you know that our show's audience and expectations are very high, so too much scandal won't be good for anyone. Zahra and Ivanka will soon join our crew, so working with them both will be a rare opportunity. You..."

Yuliana heard this and instantly responded.

"Mr. Young, I cherish this opportunity. As long as Xander leaves, I'm willing to stay in this variety show. I'll also cooperate with the program to explain this situation and won't cause any trouble."

Yuliana had been in the industry for so many years, so she knew very well the importance of interests.

It was easy to ruin Xander's career, but getting this opportunity was once-in-a-lifetime.

Dominic laughed and looked at Nicole.

Nicole nodded slightly, indicating that she agreed with the outcome of this

matter.

Getting rid of Xander, letting Yuliana stay, and cooperating to deal with the negative news from this matter was the best solution to minimize their losses.

No one would side with Xander.

Xander's face turned pale. He panicked.

"Mr. Young, please don't drive me away! Mr. Young, I know my mistake... I'm sorry ..."

Who could have known that the woman who was flirting with Xander a few hours ago would kick him out of the show a few hours later?

"Director, please plead my case! You said that my future can be promising..."

The director said, "I'm blind..."

"Mr. Ferguson, you..."

Before Xander could finish his words, he already felt the piercing gaze on him, so he held back. He was so desperate that he was willing to seek help from anyone.

Xander looked at Nicole helplessly and cried.

cried.

"Ms. Stanton, please help me! You brought me into the circle..."

Nicole's gaze was cold, and her tone was harsh. "Did I ask you to kiss a rich woman's \*ss? What an idiot!"

Nicole did not want to stay for another second and left in a huff, angry as hell.

Xander wanted to chase after her to continue to plead for mercy.

Before he could touch Nicole's arm, someone bent his arm back. There was a crack as his bone fractured...

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## Chapter 624 Please Get a Facelift

Xander screamed in misery, pain, and sadness.

Eric was austere as he dusted his hands and slowly wiped them with a handkerchief. He then casually threw the used handkerchief on the ground. His eyes were cold without a trace of warmth.

He despised Xander's hands for a while.

Once Nicole left, the remaining people in the room looked at each other.

Everyone was secretly happy to see Xander's well-deserved misery.

They all thought that Eric was avenging Yuliana, so they were more determined to take a stance.

Dominic politely comforted Xander. Everyone left one after another.

Eric looked at Xander, who was rolling on the ground, then snorted lightly. 'How could I take this kind of scum as an opponent? What an insult to myself!'

"Mr. Ferguson..."



Just before Eric was about to leave, Yuliana called out to him.

"Mr. Ferguson, I..."

Yuliana wanted to say something, but she no longer looked so miserable and pitiful as she was earlier.

Xander lay on the ground and looked at them in amazement. "They know each other?"

Eric's eyes were cold and distant, but the corners of his lips vaguely revealed a liveliness and some pleasure.

"Well done. You can tell Mitchell if you see whichever resources you like."

After that, Eric walked out of the room. His back was cold and dignified.

Xander's eyes widened in shock while Yuliana suddenly laughed.

With Eric's promise, Yuliana's position in the circle would be unparalleled.

Yuliana got such a big benefit just by helping Eric to drive away a fly that was pestering Nicole. Compared to those two who went to seduce Eric in their sexy

who went to seduce... in their sexy nightgowns and were kicked out by him, Yuliana was considered the biggest winner.

She blinked and suddenly realized that Xander was still in the room.

Yuliana hooked her lips and smiled charmingly.

"Kid, you're still too young. Consider this a little stumble. Someone like Ms. Stanton is favored by the heavens. Not just anyone is worthy of being near her."

Yuliana's words woke Xander up at once.

'Nicole Stanton! All of this was because of Ms. Stanton! So, this was a trap for me?' Xander was baffled.

Nicole returned to her room, furious. Xander was just too disappointing.

Such a good money tree just dug his own grave.

'That damned idiot!'

Logan called her. "President, there's an urgent meeting soon, should I find someone to cover you?"

Nicole said, "I'll go by myself."

She really could not stay any longer in this variety show.

In less than two days, the original participants were basically all changed.

'Huh... The entertainment industry is just too complicated. I quit!' Nicole thought.

As soon as Nicole left, Eric received the news.

His eyebrows loosened, and his face had a rare buoyancy. "Let's go."

Mitchell was stunned. "Are we going back to the office?"

"Mm." Eric stood up and straightened his suit jacket. He looked cold, noble, and unattainable.

Mitchell breathed a sigh of relief and immediately nodded. "Okay. I'll make the arrangements."

Compared to being here, Mitchell wanted Eric to go back to the office to call the shots.

Although there were no big delays during

Although there were no big delays during these two days, Mitchell, as an assistant, obviously took on too much extra burden.

If not for the ridiculously high salary Eric gave him, Mitchell would have called it quits.

Before they left the hotel, Eric paused and remembered something.

"Make that counterfeit get a facelift."

Eric felt disgusted when he saw someone with similar features do nasty things.

"If he doesn't want plastic surgery, disfigure him. He can choose one." Eric's voice was extremely indifferent.

Eric did not want to see that counterfeit ever again.

Mitchell paused and nodded. "Understood."

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## Chapter 625 You Got Conned

Nicole flew directly to a neighboring city for a meeting.

Before leaving, Nicole explained and apologized to Livia, then instructed Dominic Young to make sure this variety show would be produced properly to promote Livia Lehman.

Nicole only felt annoyed from these two days of experience. She would feel much better if she worked overtime at the office for two days because that would certainly bring more value!

In less than two hours, the first wave of public opinion surged online.

[The budding young actor is bullying people!]

[A certain young hunk that debuted as a double of a bigwig acted recklessly while shooting a show!]

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Needless to think, this matter would certainly spread because so many people were present when it happened.

Nicole was too lazy to care, so she just left it to Dominic.

The public opinion would take some time to brew, so it would not get out of hand so quickly. Thus, Dominic had plenty of time to take care of it.

Nicole's flight landed at the airport in the neighboring city. Logan contacted the driver at the side while Nicole stood there looking at her phone.

Suddenly, a shadow covered her.

Nicole looked up and saw Clayton Sloan standing in front of her with a smile.

She was stunned. "Mr. Sloan?"

'Shouldn't he be abroad?'

Clayton's smile was modest and extremely affectionate.

"I just got back after handling some matters abroad. I'm here to attend a meeting before heading back to Atlanta. What a coincidence!"

Nicole nodded and laughed, thinking that they were probably attending the same meeting. It was really quite a coincidence.

"Welcome back to Mediana!"

Clayton reached out to point at the Bentley on the roadside. "We can go together."

Nicole hesitated for a moment.

Clayton smiled and shrugged his shoulders.

"I still have some things I'd like to consult you with. I was invited to speak at this meeting, but I didn't prepare anything..."

Nicole nodded and glanced at Logan. "You can wait for them here. I'll go with Mr. Sloan first."

Logan replied, "Sure."

He was getting a little sweaty.

Fortunately, Clayton came in time.

Otherwise, Logan would have to let Nicole stand on the curbside with him to wait for the car.

Logan thought, 'Do the staff in this branch not want their jobs? Why didn't the driver come after so long?!'

Once Nicole and Clayton got into the car, Clayton took out a small box on the side and handed it to her.

Nicole was stunned. "What's this?"

"A gift."

"For me?"

Clayton looked at her with smiling eyes. "Yup, both you and Michael have it."

He viewed Nicole just as important as Michael. The meaning of which was self-evident.

Nicole suddenly felt that the gift in front of her was like a hot potato.

She did not even know what to say.

Clayton put it to her eyes. "See if you like it first, then consider whether to refuse it after?"

Nicole was stumped for a moment when the box fell into her hands.

Although it was not very polite to open a gift in front of someone, Clayton told her to open it, so Nicole could only do so.

Seeing what was inside, Nicole was



slightly puzzled.

"Wood?"

It was a palm-sized piece of uncarved log that was oval. It was reddish-brown with a soft bark and beautiful pattern.

Clayton let out a light laugh. "I passed by Harvard, your alma mater. I saw some graduates taking pictures while someone was selling souvenirs at the entrance. They said that this wood came from a tree on campus and that it'll grow if you take it back and plant it. It's a nice memento."

Looking at it, it did seem like a very memorable and meaningful piece of wood.

For a moment, Nicole's expression was a little complex as she did not know what to say.

Nicole looked at Clayton with a complicated gaze and gently said, "Thank you, but... You got conned..."

Clayton was dumbfounded.

Nicole pursed her lips and explained, "This wood came from a wholesale market around this region..."

Clayton was speechless.

Clayton was speechless.

The atmosphere in the car was stagnant for a moment.

How awkward!

Nicole coughed slightly and put away the box, then spoke in a relaxed tone to ease the situation.

"But I like this gift. It's been a long time since I received such a simple and unpretentious gift. Although they sell a batch every year during graduation season, I've never bought one. This is the first time I've received this wood..."

## Chapter 626 What a Talent

Clayton Sloan pulled the corner of his lips and smiled bitterly. "I can't believe I got conned. It makes me feel a little demoralized..."

For a business elite and Wall Street genius, this knowledge was too much of a fall.

Nicole laughed, which instantly lightened up the atmosphere in the car.

She took out the iPad she brought along with her. "I can tell you about the topic of the speech."

This meeting was mainly a prospective exchange of market research. The reason why it was important was not because of the meeting itself but due to the participants that could shake up the stock market, hence influencing the market pattern.

There will be a project proposed during the meeting in which Stanton Corporation had been planning for some time that they were very optimistic about.

Clayton immediately got into a serious

Clayton immediately got into a serious learning mode. His face was very enchanting, modest, and gentle. His temperament was refined and reserved, but not indifferent. He had a refreshing scent on him that did not give off harsh aggression.

He was completely different from Eric.

At first, it was just Nicole talking. Later, Clayton started discussing with her with the right volume of voice. Both of them kept a bullish but skeptical attitude toward the insights of this project.

Nicole refused the organizer's invitation for her to speak on stage. It was mainly because there were too many things happening in the past two days on the set of the variety show that pissed her off too much, so she was afraid that she could not control her emotions.

The car ride was smooth and steady.

Nicole came to this city several times, but each time, she was in a hurry and did not have time to look around.

At a glance, the cityscape seemed to have changed a bit.

changed a bit.

Nicole looked out the car window a few times.

Clayton casually asked, "Is Michael behaving himself in the Stanton Mansion?"

Nicole froze for a moment. She instantly felt a little guilty for being too distracted to care about Lil Michael, who she left behind at the Stanton Mansion because she had been busy filming the variety show for the past two days.

Before Nicole could open her mouth, Clayton laughed.

"But I think that Chairman Stanton seems to like him very much. When Michael video-called me, he was even teaching me how to fish. He sounds very professional!"

Nicole could not help but laugh. "My dad probably thinks that Lil Michael is a good talent!"

She only hoped that Kai was not a bad influence for Lil Michael.

Clayton smiled with his eyes and looked at the time when the car stopped at the

the time when the car stopped at the entrance of the convention center.

He got out of the car and opened the door for Nicole.

She thanked him as they walked in together.

Coincidentally,

The organizer arranged both of them in adjacent seats, while the other empty seat on the side had Eric's name written on it. However, the placard was quickly replaced.

It looked like Eric did not intend to participate in this conference.

Nicole thought it was just as well because she did not want to see him.

Logan arrived in time to arrange the hotel and other materials for Nicole. He also sent her a message.

[The city-wide LED displays have been arranged for one minute, which will cost \$ 68 million. I've also made arrangements with our PR department and the media.]

Nicole unconsciously chuckled and replied. [Well done.]

Since the money was spent, the follow-up work must be thorough!

The meeting started.

The organizer started with an opening statement, then passed on the speaking rights to the bosses of major companies.

Everyone willingly went up to speak because they wanted to promote their own company, projects, and products to attract more opportunities and investment. At the same time, they could also get some guidance in their project developments. After all, such a free advertising opportunity was not always available.

The speakers presented so excitedly that spittle flew out. Some audience members were listening seriously, while others were disdainful.

However, Nicole and Clayton listened very carefully, and from time to time, they would also exchange views and opinions among them.

In the eyes of others, the always aloof and beautiful Nicole Stanton and the unapproachable Wall Street genius

would also exchange views and opinions  
among them.

In the eyes of others, the always aloof and  
beautiful Nicole Stanton and the  
unapproachable Wall Street genius  
Clayton Sloan seemed to have a close  
relationship.

Someone also secretly took photos of the  
pair, which were sent to Eric Ferguson.

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## Chapter 627 Erratic Man

Midway through the meeting,

Nicole received several phone calls and text messages from Xander.

She did not answer.

His text messages came one after another.

[Ms. Stanton, you have to believe me... This is all a trap by Mr. Ferguson and Yuliana. They set me up!]

[Ms. Stanton, I respect and like you very much. The first time I saw you, I knew that you were unique. I approached you with great respect and sacredness and love you so much...]

[Ms. Stanton, please save me. I don't want my career to end. I still have a long way to go in life...]

.....

Nicole swept a glance and immediately felt a gag reflex. She felt extremely disgusted.

'I was so blind! How could I think to support such a rotten person before?!!'

Without hesitation, Nicole blocked Xander.

In the meantime, she also sent a text message to Dominic. [Tell Xander to get lost, the farther the better!]

Nicole did not want to care anymore. What was supposed to be her money tree became a value trap. This was simply a big, failed investment to Nicole.

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Applause erupted in the meeting.

The host invited the next speaker.

Clayton smiled, stood up and lowered his head to look at Nicole. He spoke softly, "It's my turn to go up. If I slip up, please correct me."

Nicole clenched her fist in a cheering gesture.

Clayton walked up with smiling eyes and instantly became the center of attention. The whole room quieted down.

He was tall and well-built. His movements were elegant, and his aura was calm and steady. His sharpness was hidden under his modest eyes, which gave

modern dress his intelligent eyes, which gave others the impression that he was gentle. However, an inadvertent glance would vaguely reveal his cold profundity.

"Hello everyone, it's an honor to be here ..."

Nicole watched with a smile. The content of his speech was more popular and practical than the other speakers before him. Instead of introducing his company, Clayton focused on introducing the artificial intelligence project.

Most importantly, he also frankly stated the cause and effect of the accident in Europe, which attracted everyone's attention.

"We will eventually walk toward the future. The development of artificial intelligence is an invitation to the future world. We're still in the process of exploring the field and will keep moving forward endlessly. This is inevitable. The driverless car is a minuscule part of this project in which the world has broken past prejudices and openly accepts its arrival. This is just the beginning of what's to come..."

At once, the sound of applause in the room was endless and enthusiastic.

Clayton, who was on stage, glanced over in a certain direction below the stage. His gaze was tender and unmoving.

Nicole met Clayton's gaze for a few seconds, and for some reason, her heart trembled slightly. ①

She hastily lowered her head and thought that she was probably affected by the fervent atmosphere.

.....  
Ferguson Corporation.

Eric was in a meeting when a tactless person kept sending him messages. His notification chimed one after another.

His face sank with impatience.

The employee who was reporting his work faintly froze. Eric spoke in a cold voice. "Continue."

As he said that, he picked up his phone and clicked on it.

In an instant, Eric's pupils shrank

fiercely. His face became dark and ugly as

### Chapter 628 Ask For a Scolding

The department head's face instantly paled as beads of sweat dripped down his forehead. His body began to tremble.

The atmosphere in the meeting room was instantly condensed. The others at the table did not dare to breathe loudly as they were afraid of getting implicated.

Eric was in a good mood earlier and even comforted the department head who made a mistake prior to this and encouraged him to continue his efforts.

However, in the blink of an eye, Eric suddenly became stern, harsh, and unreasonable.

Was Eric's mood swings too sudden, or was his subordinate just too unlucky?

Mitchell, who was on the side, also dared not make a sound. In his heart, he silently mourned for this project department head that was chided.

Perhaps this was fate.

Eric seemed to have fallen into cold sinking darkness. His gloomy gaze swept

In an instant, Eric's pupils shrank fiercely. His face became dark and ugly as the overwhelming coldness in his eyes spread through his angry face. 'Clayton Sloan is with Nicole now?!'

The department head who was speaking unconsciously wiped his sweat. His face turned a little pale.

"Mr. Ferguson, during your absence these days, some projects are temporarily shelved. These are extremely high risk, so the project department isn't sure whether to continue additional investment..."

"Slam—"

Eric slammed his phone on the table. His gaze harshly crossed the department head who spoke as he said in a frigid voice, "So, what's the use of hiring you all?"

sinking darkness. His gloomy gaze swept across that department head.

"Send a detailed report to my office before the end of the day. Otherwise, you can hand in your resignation."

After that, Eric did not bother to glance at the others and strode out of the meeting room.

Mitchell was startled and hurriedly took the phone that Eric threw on the table, then followed Eric with hurried steps.

"President..." Mitchell handed the phone to Eric.

Eric glanced at it and took it as he said in a deep and cold voice, "I asked you to keep an eye on Nicole. Do you know that she went to a meeting with Clayton Sloan?"

Mitchell was stunned. "Ms. Stanton's meeting is in the neighboring city, to which you've also received an invite. I've mentioned it to you before, but since the content of the meeting didn't seem important, you asked me to politely decline it. Mr. Sloan should be back in three days according to his schedule..."

Thus, Mitchell really did not know that

Thus, Mitchell really did not know that Clayton came back early!

Clayton Sloan looked harmless and gentle, but his ability in Wall Street should not be underestimated. It was a little tough to keep an eye on such an influential person.

Eric's face did not have a trace of warmth as he pushed his office door open. "When will it end?"

"The meeting is only for the afternoon. Ms. Stanton will probably return in the evening..."

Eric coldly swept him a glance. He was very dissatisfied with the way things were probably going.

Mitchell's head hung even lower as he braced himself and added, "It's too late for you to go now..."

After all, Eric still had a few important meetings later.

After a long time, Eric commanded, "Get out!"

"Yes, sir."

Mitchell answered and retreated.



No one was there to company her. After all, Logan still had many things to deal with, and she did not have friends in this city.

The dusk sky gradually dimmed from a sky blue to a deep blue and finally sank into complete darkness.

The cool breeze gently rustled the leaves around her.

Nicole walked through a small park and went straight to the mall.

Seeing some major luxury brands there, Nicole's hands felt a little itchy.

She went in without much thought and happily went on a shopping spree.

"This... That... Wrap it all up..."

Dressed in a low profile and a cap, no one recognized Nicole. However, when the store attendants saw the way she bought things that she fancied without batting an eyelid, they were all stunned.

Everyone could not wait to serve her and let her shop to her heart's content.

Nicole bought quite a few things and had them sent directly to the hotel.

Eric's heart finally calmed down, but thinking of Nicole being with that shady Clayton made Eric feel like a million ants were devouring his heart. It was unbearable.

The stern look in his eyes became more intense.

Clayton was more difficult to deal with than Xander, but no matter how difficult, Clayton would surely have his weakness.

'No one can snatch Nicole from me!' Eric thought. ①

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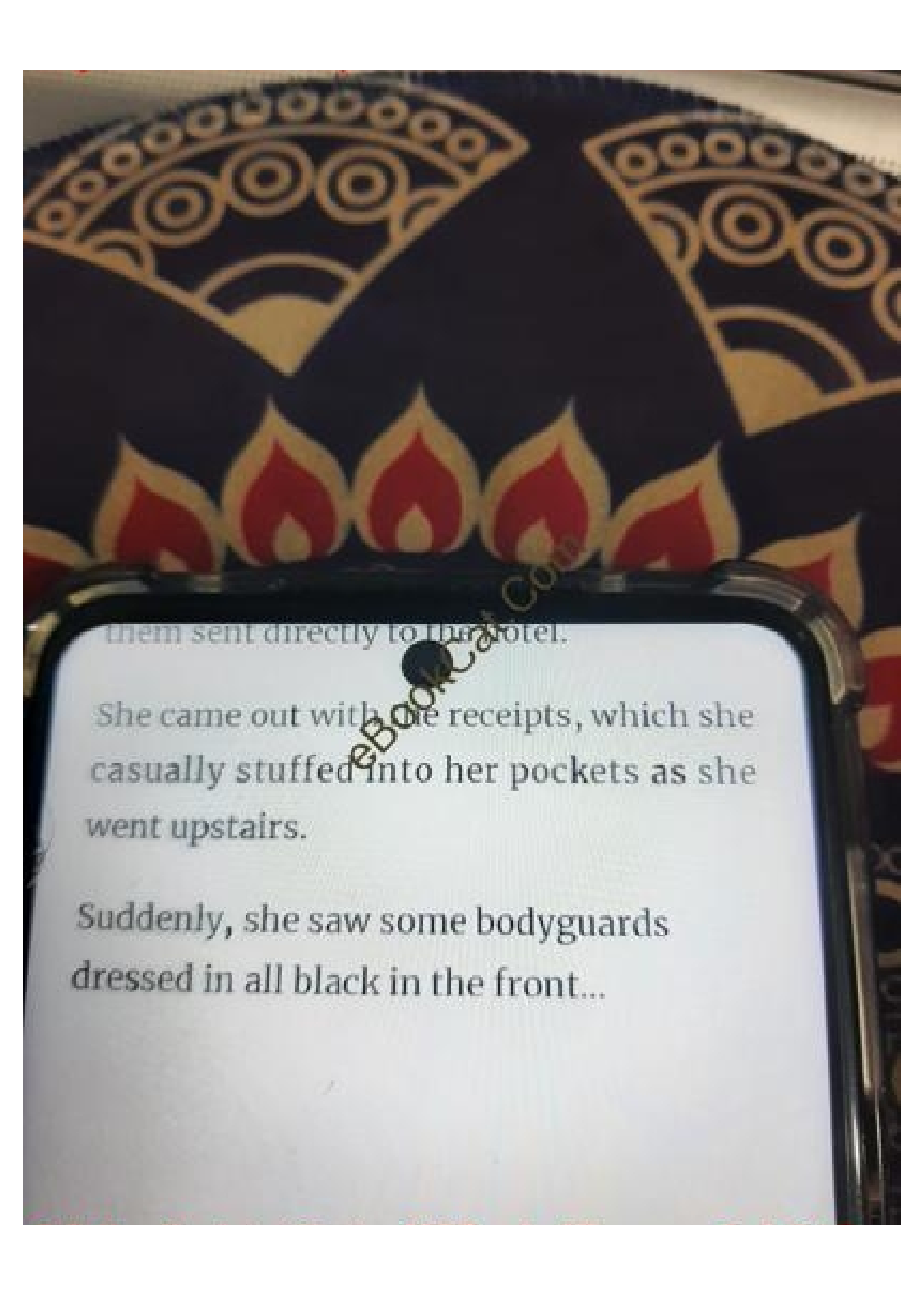
To avoid additional annoyances, Nicole did not intend to go back to Atlanta that night.

She checked into the hotel because she did not want to face her show of gratitude that would be displayed on all LED screens in Atlanta.

That was really the dumbest request!

Nicole dressed casually and wore a cap, then went out shopping by herself.

No one was there to accompany her. After



them sent directly to the hotel.

She came out with the receipts, which she casually stuffed into her pockets as she went upstairs.

Suddenly, she saw some bodyguards dressed in all black in the front...

It made her feel like she was recalling her happiest times on a bright summer day.

She felt a kind of happiness that was so overwhelming, which made life feel as brilliant as sunshine.

After the song ended, the joy in Nicole's eyes gradually faded.

Nicole felt like she had not been so happy in a long time. When she recalled the past happiness, they seemed extraordinarily distant.

It seemed like ever since she fell in love with Eric, she never had such a pleasant time again.

Eric Ferguson was really her curse.

The man next to her duly withdrew his hands. Nicole swept a glance and saw Clayton's long and slender fingers that looked so beautiful. 'No wonder he plays the piano so well! He really has a unique advantage!'

"Ms. Stanton, you won't mind my poor skills, right?" Clayton mildly mocked himself.

## Chapter 629 Won the Prize

Nicole was stunned. She thought that it might be related to her and subconsciously became tense and guarded.

However, the group of black-clad bodyguards ran past her.

'Phew... I'm not their target. Great!'

Nicole was a little tired of walking and saw a rest area in front with not many people. An expensive piano was placed in the middle, so she went over and sat down.

When her fingers touched the piano, she suddenly felt a surge to play.

She pressed on a few keys, which sounded crisp and pleasant. This piano was pretty nice.

Nicole subconsciously began to play a tune. The chords somehow transformed into "Kikujiro's Summer". It was a simple and bright tune with fresh and natural notes that reflected her current leisurely mood after shopping.

She had not been so relaxed in a long time

She had not been so relaxed in a long time and was even a little immersed in it.

Suddenly, someone sat down next to her, but she was too engrossed in the music to notice.

A pair of hands landed on the keys next to hers. The light and pleasant sound of the extra chords melded nicely with her tune. Nicole paused slightly and subconsciously looked to the side.

Clayton's warm and handsome face and his bright smiling eyes appeared next to her.

His hand movements were not at all slow as he cooperated with Nicole's performance. Their piano duet did not overwhelm or clash with each other. Instead, they had such a tacit understanding when they played the dynamic and lively tune like they had practiced this a million times together. It made people feel very comfortable, relaxed, and happy when listening to it.

Nicole chuckled. Their tacit understanding at this time was for their heartfelt love for piano and this song.

Nicole raised her eyebrows. "Why would I? Your medley was much harder than mine, so I should be the one who's ashamed."

After all, no one would dare to play a piano duet so easily without prior rehearsal.

Their tacit understanding was very important.

Clayton slowly breathed a sigh of relief. "I've always liked this song because it's very stress-relieving. The simpler, the happier."

Nicole nodded. "Indeed but... We'd better go. I feel like too many people are looking at us..."

She swept a glance at the originally empty rest area that was now a little crowded probably because of their piano playing.

Now that their duet was over, the crowd did not look like they wanted to disperse.

With more people, the chances of someone recognizing her would also increase.

## Chapter 630 The Woman Who Doesn't Go By the Book

The general manager of the mall spoke excitedly.

Nicole and Clayton were unmoved and looked at him calmly.

The mall manager did not feel the least bit embarrassed and smiled as he explained.

"You two are the lucky couple of the day! Today is the last day of our mall's activity. You both fully met and exceeded our expectations when you played the raffle so perfectly on this ten-million-dollar piano!"

The mall manager couldn't tell that this couple were not ordinary people, especially the man's watch that was worth enough to buy a luxury apartment in the city center. Although the lady was dressed casually and simply, her bag was limited-edition and worth a million dollars.

Thus, the mall manager did not want to let go of two big spenders.

Nicole raised her eyebrows and was silent



Clayton also realized this and immediately stood up, then took her bag that was placed on the side. "Let's go.."

The two of them wanted to leave in a low profile, but once they turned around, a manager-looking man with four or five bodyguards standing behind him, smiled at them. He seemed to be waiting for them.

The duo froze.

"Hello, I'm the general manager of this mall, and I'm honored to hear such beautiful and moving heavenly music."

Nicole pulled down her cap and nodded slightly.

"Thank you."

"Are you two a couple?"

Nicole and Clayton froze. They figured that the manager did not recognize them.

Neither of them admitted nor denied it.

The general manager of the mall smiled knowingly. "You two look like a great match and even played so well together, so you must be a couple!"

o you must be a couple!"

Nicole was speechless.

Clayton coughed slightly. "Is there something you need?"

"Congratulations! You both won the prize!"

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On the side, Clayton looked up his lips. "This prize is very generous! Mr. Ferguson is indeed a big spender. Looks like we'll have to suggest that he holds more of such activities in the future...."

Nicole raised her eyebrows and nodded in agreement. "Yeah, this is really like Ferguson Corporation's lavish ways!"

The mall manager thought, 'Is this couple acquainted with Eric Ferguson, the big boss of Ferguson Corporation?'

His face suddenly paled and thought that he was done for. It was too late for regrets!

sentence, Nicole took out the stack of long receipts from her pocket and handed them over. "Here..."

The mall manager's face changed slightly. "This thickness... This length..."

He took it with both hands that were slightly trembling. When he saw the amount on it, his head felt like it had been smashed with a bat. He felt dizzy.

Even his ears were buzzing.

The mall manager's smile eventually disappeared.

He could not stop looking at the stack of receipts. The smallest bill was already \$600,000 and the total roughly amounted to his total sales for a quarter...

This woman, who looked so ordinarily dressed, actually spent \$50 million in just a few hours?!

The mall manager suddenly felt a tight pain in his chest. His heart almost stopped beating.

It felt like his life had come to an end, along with his career...

On the side, Clayton hooked up his lips. "

The mall manager said, "Whatever you two have spent today until this moment will be fully reimbursed!"

He looked at the couple. "How's that? Isn't it great?"

The mall manager noticed long ago that this couple did not have any shopping bags with them.

He only mentioned this prize purely to generate a hint of regret so that it would entice them to come over and spend more often in the future.

"What a perfect marketing plan!" The mall manager thought.

Clayton smiled faintly without any expression. He was removed.

On the contrary, Nicole frowned in surprise. "All of them?"

"Yes, all of them! But I see that you didn't get to do any shopping earlier..."

The mall manager smiled and intended to give her a small souvenir for good measure.

However, before he could finish his sentence, Nicole took out the stack of long

for a moment.

Women were naturally inclined to gifts, so Nicole was very interested in the prize. However, since this gift was for a couple, and she and Clayton were not a couple, Nicole felt a little embarrassed to receive it.

Just as Nicole was about to politely decline it, the mall manager very proudly added, "Our mall is owned by Ferguson Corporation. We have a strong background and certainly won't fool you. Our prize is very generous and unsurpassed to show our utmost sincerity!"

When Nicole heard Ferguson Corporation being mentioned and a generous prize, she stiffened slightly before she slowly curled up her lips.

'Oh... Then I can't waste this opportunity!'

Nicole instantly changed her mind.

"Okay, what's the prize?"

Since it was Ferguson Corporation's money, Nicole did not feel heartbroken at all.

The mall manager said, "Whatever you