

Chapter 381 Don't Let Him Off

Back in Stanton Mansion, Nicole was exhausted. She could not find it in herself to be happy at all despite getting this large project.

Perhaps it was because she had not been mentally prepared for such an old, tragic story to be brought up.

She lay in her bed in the dead of night, mulling over the contents of that photo over and over again.

Suddenly, there was a notification on her phone.

She picked it up irritably, glanced at it, and frowned.

It was from Eric.

[Nicole, I'm glad that the person I saved was you.]

[Not anyone else, but you. Thank God you're safe and sound.]

Nicole blinked and looked at the darkness out the window. Then, she went out to get a glass of milk and finished it slowly before going back upstairs.

The past would not come back anyway, so why should she dwell on something that she had already let go of?

At that thought, Nicole went to bed and had a good night's sleep.

The news of the cooperation with Clayton Sloan was abuzz after just one night.

Major corporations and companies expressed their goodwill and wanted to work with Stanton Corporation. They would profit even if they were involved in a minuscule part of the project.

When Nicole opened her eyes, her phone almost exploded from all the calls she was getting. Fortunately, she had muted it beforehand.

Tigger swaggered in with its wagging tail. "Mama, everyone's waiting for you..."

Nicole replied to Yvette's message and freshened up before going downstairs.

"Big Brother?"

Grant stood in the living room with a stern and cold look. Nicole did not know who he was on the phone with, but he immediately hung up when he saw her

come downstairs.

“What a big heart you have!”

Nicole was confused. Floyd sat at the dining table with the newspaper, smiling leisurely.

“How did you get through to Clayton Sloan? His people have already begun to contact your brother. Didn't his attitude change too quickly?”

Nicole breathed a sigh of relief and briefly told them about what happened yesterday. Everyone had a look of realization.

Only Kai shook his head and said with a regretful expression, “Clayton's son is already so big. Looks like you're out of luck...”

Floyd glared at Kai. “Get lost!”

Grant chimed in. “Seconded.”

Nicole laughed and followed Grant to the office after breakfast.

When Nicole and Grant walked into the conference room for the early morning meeting, the originally noisy room suddenly fell silent.

suddenly fell silent.

Everyone's inquiring eyes were on Nicole as she strutted in on her high heels. She had such a confident and powerful aura as she sat in her seat without so much as a stray glance.

The shareholders at the table also had various expressions.

Christian Jenner's face was ashen as he sat there anxiously. He looked up at Nicole and Grant from time to time, as if he was hesitant to say something.

He called Floyd Stanton early in the morning, but he could not get through to him.

'Are they really going to make me leave Stanton Corporation?' Christian thought apprehensively.

The meeting started with Grant presiding over it. The major departments all briefly reported the latest situation, and the final topic was Clayton Sloan's project.

Grant's voice was clear and crisp.

"According to the plan given by Clayton Sloan, our technical department must keep up with them. The series of follow-u

Sloan, our technical department must keep up with them. The series of follow-up work are all important and can't be neglected, but we'll wait for the contract to adjust the details. Are there any questions?"

The people in the room shook their heads and gradually fell silent.

Just when everyone thought the meeting was adjourned, Grant turned his head.

"What about you, Nicole?"

Nicole, who was called out, gave a faint smile. She fully understood Grant's meaning and lifted her shapely brows to look at Christian.

Since the ball was now in her court, Nicole could not give up this chance.

"Yup. I wonder if Mr. Jenner still remembers that bet from before, where the loser will leave Stanton Corporation..."

Nicole did not waste any time and cut to the chase.

Chapter 382 Unwilling to Let It Go

People like Christian had barely any contribution to the company. He wanted to ride on the coattails of others and took a fierce risk, but he ultimately failed.

Keeping him would not only be useless but it would also set a bad precedent in the company.

If everyone wanted Nicole to bet on her future like this, would she still be as lucky as she was this time?

There was absolutely no way Nicole would let Christian and Xion Jenner off the hook so easily.

Christian's face was ugly and flustered as he looked towards Grant.

"President Grant, it's all for the sake of the company. Xion and I were taking on this project for the company. We're happier than anyone else now that Ms. Nicole landed the deal..."

Grant's gaze was cold as he looked at Christian.

"So, you don't plan on leaving?"

As soon as those words were said, the

As soon as those words were said, the atmosphere in the meeting room suddenly grew cold and stagnant.

Everyone's gaze felt like needles stabbing at Christian's face, piercing him with shame and embarrassment.

Yes, Christian did not want to leave like that.

However, Grant's words were ruthless.

Christian stuttered and finally looked at Grant and Nicole, who did not look like they had the slightest intention to keep him.

He gritted his teeth. "What do you mean by leaving? I'm a shareholder of Stanton Corporation. If I want to leave, I'll have to get Chairman Stanton's consent first, right?"

Christian's eyes flashed with a smirk of triumph.

Nicole raised her brows and smiled.

"Yes, you should."

She took out her phone and called Floyd in front of everyone.

front of everyone.

Christian's expression faintly stiffened as his heart clenched.

Beep— Beep—

“Lil N, I'm fishing for our lunch now. Are you guys coming home for lunch?”

Floyd's voice was leisurely and brisk. They could even hear the breeze on the other end.

Nicole could not help but chuckle. “Dad, we're in a meeting. We were just talking about how Christian Jenner lost the bet, but a shareholder needs your consent before they can leave the company. We'd like to hear your opinion.”

Her eyes glanced languidly at Christian as the corners of her mouth raised in a slight arc.

Christian's face became so tense all of a sudden. “Chairman Stanton...”

Before he could finish, Floyd's voice from the phone reached everyone's ears.

“Lil N, since I've handed over the company's matters to you and Grant, you can make these decisions yourself. I'll

company's matters to you and Grant, you can make these decisions yourself. I'll respect any decision you make. Just strike the gavel and I'll sign my name!"

The conference room instantly fell silent as countless eyes landed on Christian.

Those who wanted to plead for him also wisely shut their mouths.

Christian's complexion turned miserably white. His lips began to tremble.

Nicole laughed. "Okay, Dad. Leave the rest to us. Have fun fishing!"

She then hung up the phone.

Floyd was never muddle-headed when it came to big matters. He always stood on the same front with his kids so that no one could ever try to weasel inside.

Nicole looked up at Christian and raised her brows, smiling indifferently.

"In that case, Mr. Jenner, I'll get HR to start the procedures, so all you have to do is follow their instructions. As for the meager shares in your hands, you can sell them to the company if you want.

Otherwise, just keep them for retirement."

Otherwise, just keep them for retirement.”

After she spoke, Nicole placed her hand on the table and stood up.

“I still have work to do, so you guys carry on.”

She glanced at Grant. When he nodded, Nicole sashayed out of the conference room.

As soon as she went out, she received a call from Lil Michael, who was already dying from impatience waiting for Nicole in the lobby.

Yvette also happened to be there. She was not in a good mood and wanted to ask Nicole to go shopping with her.

Unexpectedly, Yvette saw a little blonde kid at the entrance of Stanton Corporation, sitting on the ground drawing circles while holding a large bouquet of white chrysanthemums.

Yvette paused in her footsteps and frowned slightly. ‘Is there some sort of mourning ceremony going on at Stanton Corporation?’

Chapter 383 Sincere Praise

Yvette stood not far away watching the little boy with a complicated gaze. This kid looked very cute, but the bouquet of white chrysanthemums in his hands was such an eyesore.

Her mood was particularly complex.

‘What’s Nicole up to lately? Why is there a kid here with bereavement flowers?’

Just as Yvette was deep in thought, Nicole hurriedly came out and waved at Yvette.

“Why are you here?”

Yvette recollected her expression, but before she could open her mouth, the little boy ran over joyfully and hugged Nicole’s thigh. He tilted his head up at her and blinked his clear and beautiful eyes.

“Pretty Lady, I missed you so much...”

Yvette stood there dumbfounded.

Nicole chuckled and touched Lil Michael’s chubby cheeks with a gentle gaze.

“I missed you too...”

The little boy handed her the bouquet. “

The little boy handed her the bouquet. "These are your favorite flowers, Pretty Lady!"

Nicole took it with a complicated gaze and forced a smile. "Thank you."

Even she was not aware that her favorite flowers became white chrysanthemums.

Well, never mind. It was a child's kind intentions...

Yvette stood there in confusion. 'Nicole's favorite flowers are white chrysanthemums? Was it not Lily of the Valley?'

She slowly walked over. "Nicole, when did you get a little brother? Is he your father's illegitimate child?"

Yvette deliberately lowered her voice when she said the last few words.

Nicole rolled her eyes. "Do you think my dad has these genes?"

Her father and his family all had dark hair and brown eyes.

Although Clayton also had dark hair and brown eyes, his maternal family was from Northern Italy with blonde hair and blue

...brown eyes, his maternal family was from Northern Italy with blonde hair and blue eyes. Moreover, Clayton's wife was also blonde.

Thus, the recessive gene was passed down to Michael.

Yvette nodded. "That made sense..."

Nicole and her brothers' outstanding looks were completely inherited from their mother.

Lil Michael looked at Yvette. He was still amicable to Pretty Lady's friend since there was no need to compete with Yvette over Nicole anyway.

With that thought, Lil Michael smiled sweetly as his bright blue eyes sparkled.

"Hello, Madam!"

Yvette's fragile heart shattered in an instant.

She completely stiffened. 'He called Nicole "Pretty Lady" but I'm a "Madam"?!'

Her eyes instantly filled with rage, but Nicole hastily yanked her aside before she could explode.

could explode.

"He's just a kid! You have to be tolerant! Go easy on him, okay?"

Yvette's body trembled with anger as she glared at the boy. At this moment, she felt like he was ugly in every aspect except his outer appearance!

'Hmph, what an ugly child!'

Lil Michael blinked his innocent eyes in apprehension, looking like a little fawn. He did not know why Pretty Lady's friend suddenly got angry.

Suddenly, the anxious voice of Lil Michael's nanny came from his earphone. "Young Master, you need to be sweeter and learn to praise pretty ladies!"

Lil Michael's eyes widened with sudden realization. He stepped forward and took Yvette's hand.

His sapphire eyes were filled with sincerity as he praised her. "Pretty Madam, your clothes are nice!"

Yvette's expression instantly darkened. Anger swelled in her chest, unable to be suppressed nor let out, which almost suffocated her.

suffocated her.
'So, I'm a "Pretty Madam" now? Only my clothes are nice?'

Yvette was a lady who was loved and praised everywhere she went. No one had ever said anything remotely insulting to her before.

This was simply a great humiliation!

Nicole could not help but laugh, but she zipped her mouth when Yvette shot a look at her.

"Ahem... Beautiful Ms. Yvette, what did you want to see me for?"

She swung Yvette's arm as Yvette looked away in exasperation.

"Don't get me started. I'm going crazy from the blind dates my mom arranged for me lately. I came to see if you wanted to go shopping with me."

Hearing this, Lil Michael quickly went forward to tug on Nicole's hand, looking like he was afraid that Yvette would snatch his pretty lady from him.

"I came here first! Pretty Madam, why don't you go find someone else?"

don't you go find someone else?"

The way he called her "Pretty Madam" made Yvette so angry that even her hair stood on end.

Nicole did not dare to drive Yvette away like this. Otherwise, with Yvette's character, she would definitely find trouble with Lil Michael later.

"Why don't we all go together?" Nicole suggested.

Chapter 384 Flatter

The three of them went to the mall in a grandiose way. Yvette always bought things as she pleased. In a short time, she picked out quite a few items and paid for them before having them sent directly to her home.

As Nicole tried on some clothes, Lil Michael moved a small stool in front of the mirror and held his face with shining eyes, waiting to praise her.

“Oh, Pretty Lady, you’re so beautiful!”

“This dress is perfect on your body! No one can wear it better than Pretty Lady!”

“Pretty Lady, are you a fairy?”

“You look too pretty when wearing this!”

.....

Nicole was in a very good mood from all the compliments and bought all the clothes with a wave of her hand.

Yvette, who was standing at the back, had a confused expression. ‘What the hell?! This kid really has a silver tongue, but he’s only sweet to Nicole!’

he's only sweet to Nicole!

The sales staff standing on the side did not get to say a word because Lil Michael got to it first.

Would their salaries get docked from not doing their jobs?

In the aquarium.

After shopping at the mall, Lil Michael wanted to check out the aquarium. He had a private aquarium abroad with all kinds of strange and exotic marine life.

However, Atlanta had the largest aquarium in Mediania, which was a must-visit for all marine enthusiasts.

Nicole and Yvette stood at the door and exchanged a look when they saw the tightly shut gate.

"Aww... Looks like they're closed today. Let's go back then!" Yvette gloated.

Lil Michael snorted coldly and clenched his fists. His childish and ignorant eyes carried a dogged determination.

"I'll call Daddy and ask him to contact them for me!"

There was nothing Lil Michael could not d

There was nothing Michael could not do. If there was, then he would ask Clayton to do it instead!

Nicole hurriedly stopped him. "Wait, I'll do it."

After all, Nicole was the host. It would be easy for her to help.

She then called Logan and gave him a brief explanation.

In less than five minutes, the aquarium's gate opened.

Yvette shook her head in shock. There really was nothing money could not solve!

A professional aquarist came over to lead them inside. "President Nicole, I didn't expect you to come over. Fortunately, the aquarium is closed to the public today. Otherwise, it'll be too noisy with so many people around."

Nicole smiled. She was not interested in these things, but Lil Michael was skipping along cheerfully in front, looking at the fish and whales on both sides of the walkway from time to time.

In Ferguson Corporation.

In Ferguson Corporation.

Mitchell knocked on the door and entered Eric's office.

Eric did not raise his head. He was looking at the document in his hand and signed his name.

"Speak."

Mitchell cleared his throat. "I just received a phone call from Logan, Ms. Stanton's assistant."

Eric paused in his movement and narrowed his eyes. He lifted his chin and motioned for Mitchell to continue.

Mitchell did not dare to keep him in suspense.

"Ms. Stanton went to the aquarium under Ferguson Corporation today, but it was closed to the public. Logan said that Ms. Stanton would like to go for a visit. Would that be alright?"

Eric's eyes were slightly cold with an expression that said, "There's no need to ask me about trivial things like that."

In fact, Mitchell had already agreed without hesitation, but he had to inform

Eric somehow because what if Eric also

without hesitation, but he had to inform Eric somehow because what if Eric also wanted to go?

Sure enough, Eric stood up irritably. His back was tall and straight, doubling the pressure around him.

“How’s that aquarium operating?”

“This year, it has been awarded as a national tourist site. Many media outlets have reported that it’s a must-visit spot in Atlanta. There’s a daily limit of 80 tourists, and the waitlist is filled until next month.”

Eric let out a faint “mm”. He was neither impressed nor dissatisfied.

Such achievements could only be considered mediocre in Ferguson Corporation.

However, Mitchell still breathed a sigh of relief as he watched Eric leave with his coat.

“President Ferguson, do you need the aquarium manager to follow up with a report?”

Eric opened his lips coldly. “No need.”

Chapter 385 Little Baby Eric Ferguson

Nicole and Yvette could not bear to see the huge fish and whales swimming around, so they found a quiet place to sit and drink coffee.

This aquarium was indeed quiet. The staff carefully served them from the side, afraid that the coffee they provided would not satisfy the two distinguished ladies.

Nicole looked around. "There are no fish here?"

That was great!

The aquarist at the side paused. "Yes, Ms. Stanton. This is the mantis shrimp exhibit. Since it's not a rare species, there are usually fewer people visiting this exhibit. Would you like to have a look?"

Mantis shrimp?

Nicole looked at the aquarist's expectant gaze and nodded. Obviously, rather than look at them, she wanted to eat them instead.

The aquarist turned off the surrounding lights, and the special elements overhead, on the ground, and the walls immediately

lights, and the special elements overhead,
on the ground, and walls immediately
lit up with blue light. The light was very
faint and dim, which created a deep-sea
illusion. When Nicole looked closer, she
saw plenty of shrimp swimming inside. It
was indeed mantis shrimp.

Unlike the mantis shrimps served on
plates, the ones swimming in the tank
looked very cute. Since they were of
different species, they varied in size.
Some were black and white, simple while
still seemingly mesmerizing.

Some glowed green with a touch of red,
with vibrant colors on its tail and
different patterns on its body.

In the deep and boundless sea, they
frolicked in the gravel-filled seabed,
swimming with their bony frames.

The moment the lights went off, Nicole
and Yvette felt like they were on the dark
seafloor. They could not even see the wall i
n front of them.

Whether it was above, below, or beside
them, all that surrounded them was the
environment of the sea.

The corridor they just entered became an

The corridor they just entered became an undersea tunnel.

These three-dimensional surroundings shocked them.

Above them were floating seaweed and coral. They were surrounded by the dark and heavy sound of the seawater surging, bringing along with it the mysteries of the ocean.

Together with the aid of technology, everything looked well-defined. It was as if the deep and spreading seabed was boundless.

Yvette could not help but exclaim aloud, "A mantis shrimp exhibit?"

The aquarist immediately began the rehearsed introduction. "The mantis shrimp is considered a predatory shrimp, originating from the Mesozoic Jurassic..."

Nicole was amazed and subconsciously blurted out, "Are all of them edible?"

The aquarist looked at the two very expectant young ladies. The sides of his mouth twitched as he forced a smile. "Yes, if they're fresh."

If it were anyone else asking, he would

If it were anyone c asking, he would kick them out in an instant.

However, Nicole and Yvette were important guests.

The aquarist thought to himself, 'Forget it... Just bear with this... My poor mantis shrimps!'

The two ladies exchanged a glance and grinned. It was a tacit understanding. They both already knew what they would be having for lunch today.

"By the way, you can buy the naming rights of a pet here. You can choose the one you like as a pet and name it. We'll be responsible for protecting and raising it here. You can come and visit your pet at any time."

That was rather interesting.

Nicole smiled and pointed to one of the mantis shrimps. It was bright in color and had a beautiful and straight body. It looked graceful and cute. "Then, I want this little baby..."

"Certainly, Ms. Stanton. This is a rare species acquired at a high price from the Mariana Trench. What would you like to

Mariana Trench. What would you like to name it?"

Without hesitation, Nicole said, "Eric Ferguson."

The aquarist's hand trembled. He almost dropped the expensive remote control.

Yvette could not help but burst into laughter as she patted Nicole's shoulder.

"Little baby? You just wanna eat his flesh and drink his blood, right? That's a great name!"

A proud and tall figure stood at the entrance of the tunnel. The man had a clear temperament and a cold and calm face, but his eyes were dark and narrowed.

When he heard this, he was a little irritated by Yvette's annoying laughter. "In their eyes, I'm a mantis shrimp?!"

Yvette tilted her head back and laughed. When she glanced to the side and saw that figure, her laughter stopped abruptly.