

Nicole thought, 'If I wasn't Floyd Stanton's daughter, I would've died many times over!'

Keith's face flushed red. 'I'm such a wimp! But... I don't have a choice... I'm guilty as charged...'

"Then what do you want?" Keith asked.

'I was clearly out of my mind back then to offend Nicole!' He thought.

Nicole looked out the window and felt impatient.

She walked up to him slowly and said in a cold and playful voice, "Don't you just care about your nudes? I'll count to three. If you don't disappear from my sight within three seconds, I'll make you a viral sensation online by the fourth second!"

Keith stiffened as Nicole scoffed.

As soon as she finished her sentence, Keith turned around and ran as he begged for mercy. "Don't... Don't be impulsive!" Sure enough, he vanished within three seconds.

Nicole sneered and rolled her eyes, then strutted away in her high heels.

Once she got out of the bar, she saw someone standing next to her car.

She looked up and saw that it was none other than Eric Ferguson.

He was waiting for her.

"Mr. Ferguson, do you have nothing better to do?"

Nicole raised her eyebrows. Her red lips against the darkness around her seemed bright and warm, but it carried a little coldness.

'Can't he see that I don't want to deal with him?!' Nicole was impatient.

Eric's eyebrows were sunken and his eyes were dark. His voice was mellow and charming.

"Nicole, I want to explain to you about Wendy Quade. She and I... We aren't in the Nicole panicked and stepped on the brakes, but there was no response.

She suddenly realized that the car was completely out of control!

Nicole subconsciously grabbed the steering wheel, but it was locked. The car was simply out of order.

The darkness in front of her seemed to be beckoning to her and waiting to swallow her whole.

At this moment, the streetlights seemed cold and blinding. Nicole could not help but shudder.

She had never felt so close to death before!

All she had was panic, fear, and cold sweat.

Nicole looked up and saw a big truck suddenly appearing three hundred meters in front of her. At that moment, her mind went blank.

Crash!

A gray cloud of dust and thick smoke rose into the air.

A car had rushed out of nowhere to block in front of her.

The car drifted a few dozen meters away before coming to an abrupt halt.

At that moment, Nicole's head smashed onto the steering wheel. Her airbag did not respond, so she only felt a bone-chilling pain at that moment.

The pungent smell of gasoline rushed into her nostrils as warm liquid dripped down her forehead.

"Nicole!"

A man shouted her name, and that voice seemed somewhat familiar.

After that, her car door was opened, and she was carried out onto the roadside.

'That's Eric Ferguson... Why is he so anxious? Right... He's the last person I saw just now, so if I die, the Fergusons will get into trouble...'

Eric's warm hand seemed to tremble a little as he touched the wound on her forehead as if he was trying to confirm her injury.

However, his touch made her feel a stabbing pain.

The smell of blood brought Nicole back to consciousness.

Eric's embrace felt unfamiliar and made her extremely uncomfortable.

If this happened before the divorce, Nicole would have been flattered to lie in his arms.

When she opened her eyes, it seemed like snowflakes were drifting in front of her. She struggled with all her might to get up and held the car door to stand firm.

It turned out that his car blocked her from ramming into the truck.

Otherwise, she probably would not have the chance to open her eyes again.

His car was so deformed that it had become scrap metal.

"Thanks." Her voice was frighteningly calm.

Aside from the pain of her head wound, she was completely conscious.

"Nicole, you need to go to the hospital." Eric

sounded a bit anxious.

Nicole ignored him and took out her phone to call Logan.

"Come to my location right away. Someone tampered with my car, and I got into a car crash. You must find out who did this before tomorrow morning."

After she gave Logan the instructions, she hung up the phone.

Eric's gaze was tinged with anger.

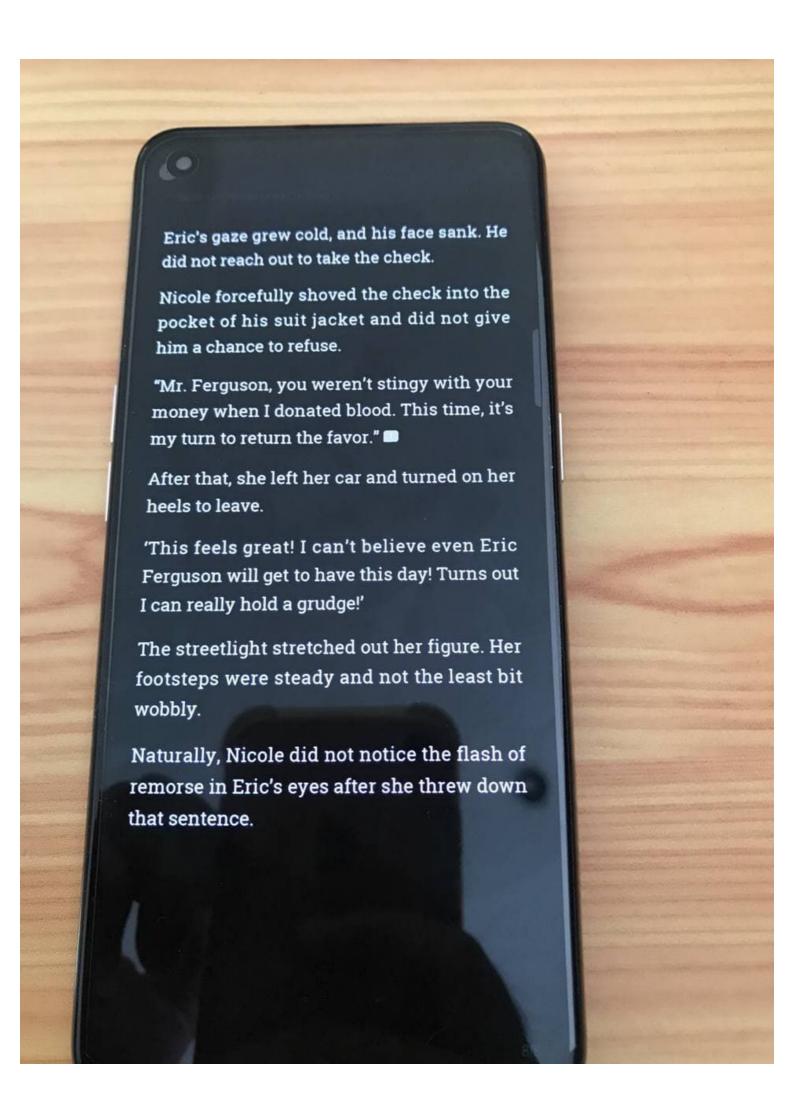
Nicole took out a check from her bag and handed it to Eric.

"Mr. Ferguson, your Range Rover is at most \$ 4 million. Here's \$10 million. The extra \$6 million is your appreciation fee."

Nicole stood under the light. The blood on her forehead had solidified and her long hair was slightly disheveled, but she somehow still looked as beautiful as ever.

It was as if she was born to be a beauty.

The corners of her lips curled up slightly into a polite and detached smile.



Chapter 122 The Apology Owed to Her

At this time, the public opinion on the internet was overwhelming. Everyone was pointing fingers at the Fergusons for bullying the weak.

However, the Ferguson family did not reply on the cusp of this storm. After all, they would look guilty if they took a stand too early.

The Ferguson Villa.

The villa was brightly lit in the night. Everyone inside, except for Old Master Ferguson, dared not breathe too loudly.

Back then when Stanton Corporation's share prices plummeted, Grant Stanton had singlehandedly managed to reclaim the situation.

This evening, the stock market had taken a different direction that was not optimistic for the Fergusons.

Old Master Ferguson's face was glum and extremely bitter. He was furious and even

more exasperated when he learned that Eric had not returned home.

"Where the hell is he?!" Old Master Ferguson asked the butler as he thumped his cane on the ground fiercely.

The butler replied with trepidation. "Young Master can't be reached at the moment. His calls went unanswered, and his assistant isn 't sure of his whereabouts."

"Hmph! He still has the mood to hang around?! He's been married to Nicole for three years and didn't even notice anything wrong with her?!"

Old Master Ferguson's heart was pounding so hard that it felt like it would leap out of his chest at any moment.

If he had known that Nicole was the heiress of Stanton Corporation and that she was a great match for his family, he would not have condoned her suffering at home.

Not to mention the divorce, their marriage in itself was already a shocking event in the entire business circle!

Look what happened now?

They had lost both money and the person!

Besides completely offending the Stantons,
they had also lost their family heirloom!

At the thought of this, Old Master Ferguson fiercely glared at Quinn and Ingrid, who were standing apprehensively next to him.

"You two brainless women! You didn't contribute to the family and even made such a mess!"

Quinn stood there feeling aggrieved.

"Dad, Nicole is the one who deceived everyone. What does it have to do with us? When she married Eric, didn't you have someone do a background check on her?"

Old Master Ferguson scoffed and broke into a scolding fit.

"Well, you guys stole my emerald pipe! You still have the cheek to talk back to me?!"

The thing that nagged at him most tonight was that his beloved emerald pipe was gone forever!

Quinn looked like she was about to cry. She

just stood there and kept her mouth shut.

As an accomplice, Ingrid was afraid to implicate herself, so she dared not say a word.

Suddenly, the butler broke this oppressive silence. He said excitedly, "Young Master is back!"

Quinn and Ingrid breathed a sigh of relief. '
Finally!'

Quinn's eyes were red. Since her husband Charles had gone abroad on a business trip, the only one who could help her was her son, Eric.

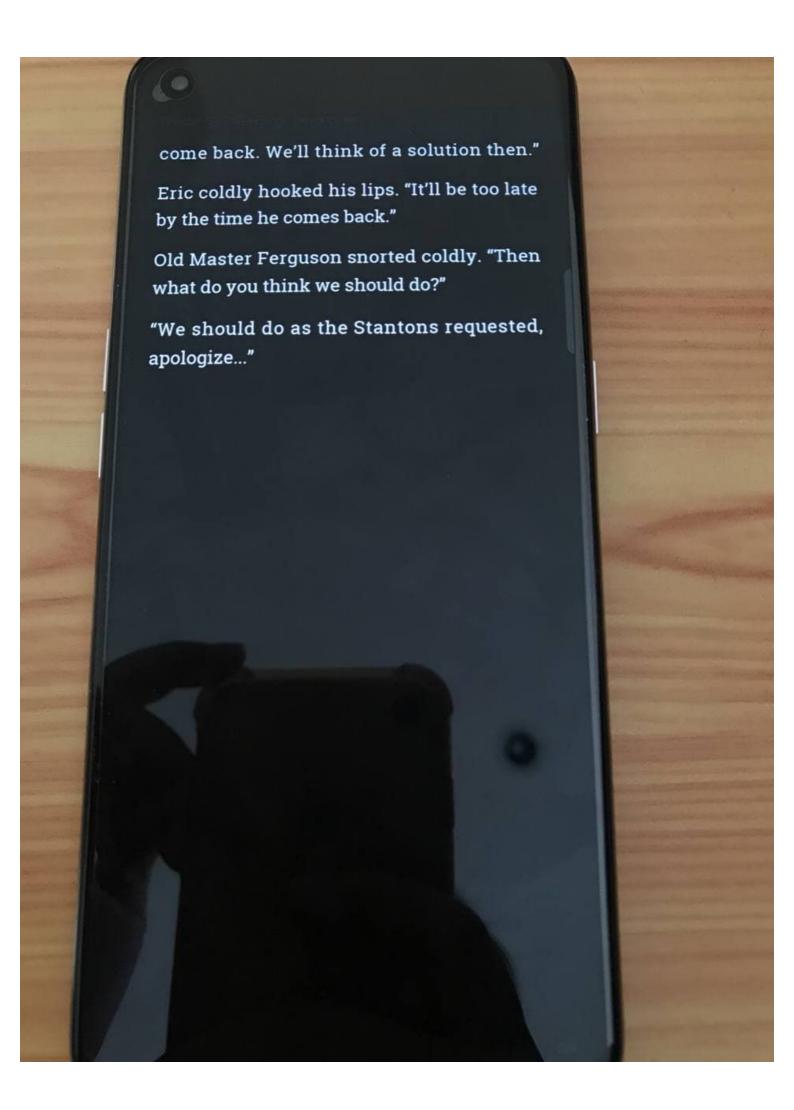
Otherwise, Old Master Ferguson's wrath would last for an eternity!

She was indeed an unqualified Mrs. Ferguson.

Old Master Ferguson picked up a valuable teacup and threw it at Eric's feet when he walked over.

"You finally know your way back?"

Eric paused in his footsteps, stepped over the broken porcelain pieces, and faintly



Chapter 123 Work and Earn Your Own Money

When Eric thought of the image of Nicole walking under the streetlight with her head full of blood and her back looking so cold and lonely, his heart could not help but ache at that moment.

He knew that he owed her too much and that there was no way he could repay her.

Old Master Ferguson glared at him. "If I wanted to apologize, why would I still be so angry? This apology would just confirm that we slandered her! Our stocks and company's reputation will go down the drain!"

Ingrid Ferguson echoed on the side, "Yeah, why should we apologize? We can just settle with them privately. There's no need to risk our family's reputation. So what if she's Floyd Stanton's daughter? Is she superior to everyone? We didn't force her to marry into our family, nor did we force her to get a divorce, so why should we humiliate ourselves?"

If they apologized, Ingrid's name in the gentry circle would become a laughing stock! She would not be able to continue mingling with them and would certainly be mocked by everyone.

Thus, they could not apologize!

Eric's cold gaze swept over Ingrid, which made her shrink back in fear.

He snickered faintly. "Fine, if you don't want to apologize publicly, then let's go to their door and apologize together."

"No way!" Quinn jumped out to object.

Back then, Quinn used to boss Nicole around and was above her, so how could she willingly go to Nicole and bow her head humbly?

That was equivalent to a slap in her face!

"That's enough!" Old Master Ferguson's face turned red with anger as he looked at Eric. He knew that this grandson of his always had an outstanding ability.

"Isn't there any other way?"

"No."

Eric's face was sullen and glum. They owed it to Nicole and should have apologized long ago.

Old Master Ferguson closed his eyes and sighed.

"You make the arrangements then!"

At this moment, Old Master Ferguson had no choice but to trust in his grandson's judgment.

"Grandpa..." Ingrid was reluctant.

Eric swept a cold gaze at Ingrid and warned her.

"Ingrid Ferguson, you must always remember how you lost our family heirloom. If you dare to cause trouble again, don't even think about getting a cent from us in the future. Go out to work and earn your own money."

Ingrid was shocked. 'Work?! I'm the Young
Lady of the Ferguson family! How could I go
out to earn money like regular people? Won't
I be laughed at?'

"Mom..." Ingrid turned to Quinn for help, but Quinn feared her son. Moreover, she had taken part in losing the emerald pipe, so she felt very guilty.

Eric's face was expressionless when he turned to leave. His grandfather called out to him.

"Wait. I don't care which woman you're hooking up with, but you'd better stay away from Wendy Quade. The Stantons are furious right now, so we can't risk anything."

Moreover, Nicole had so blatantly said such harsh words to Wendy at the anniversary gala. The most important thing now was to repair the relationship between the two families.

Hearing this, Eric walked away without any reaction.

'Turns out, everyone misunderstood my relationship with Wendy... Not to mention Nicole!'

As soon as Eric left the Ferguson Villa, he called his assistant Mitchell.

It was not difficult for the PR department to write an apology letter. What was challenging was Ferguson's Corporation stance in this.

It was a busy night.

The next day at noon, while everyone was still immersed in the news that Nicole was the heiress of Stanton Corporation, an apology letter was sent out in the name of Ferguson Corporation.

The letter mainly clarified the false rumors of Nicole that circulated the internet. At the same time, Eric also apologized in his name for not cherishing his marriage with Nicole.

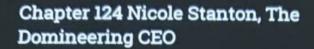
All of a sudden, the internet was back in a frenzy.

[This is a real-life TV show! Hold up, lemme get my popcorn ready...]

[So... They admit to bullying Nicole?]

[They indirectly admitted it... Our Goddess Nicole has a clear conscience! Since the time she announced her divorce and had the courage to reveal the true face of the





Stanton Corporation.

Inside the meeting room.

The crowd looked at the big shots sitting at the head of the conference table. Floyd Stanton sat there lazily while getting some shuteye as he assuredly left Grant to preside over this meeting.

Grant said a few opening remarks and started to introduce Nicole.

Nicole let down her hair in front of her forehead to hide the wound from last night's accident so that it would not look so conspicuous.

"I believe that everyone here already knows that Nicole is my father's daughter and my sister. She's also the largest shareholder of Stanton Corporation now. Therefore, I hereby announce that Nicole Stanton will be the Chief Executive Officer of Stanton Corporation effective immediately. I believe everyone has no opinions on this, right?"

It was just that Nicole was now in charge of a much broader range of businesses.

No matter what, she was now the domineering CEO Nicole Stanton!

When she left the conference room, Logan greeted her and handed her the phone. "
President Nicole, this is the apology letter just released by Ferguson Corporation."

Nicole raised her eyebrows. 'So soon?'

She thought that with Old Master Ferguson's temper, they would drag it for at least ten days or half a month.

Nicole simply swept a glance, let out a light laugh, then turned off the screen. This apology was indeed artful.

They managed to clarify her scandal in a few words and even made a formal evaluation of their marriage without the slightest emotion and feelings.

She could tell at a glance that this was Eric's handiwork.

"Do we need a response from our side?"

She walked away cheerfully and looked back at Logan. "My brother must've arranged a lot of things for me recently. If you can, try to push it off. I want to participate in the selection of this J&L research program myself."

'It'll be a bummer if Ferguson Corporation stole the opportunity when I'm not looking!'

Nicole would not compromise on anything relating to the interests of her company.

Logan dared not object and said, "Yes, ma' am. By the way, do you want to go through the list of gifts you've bought that will be distributed to the staff?"

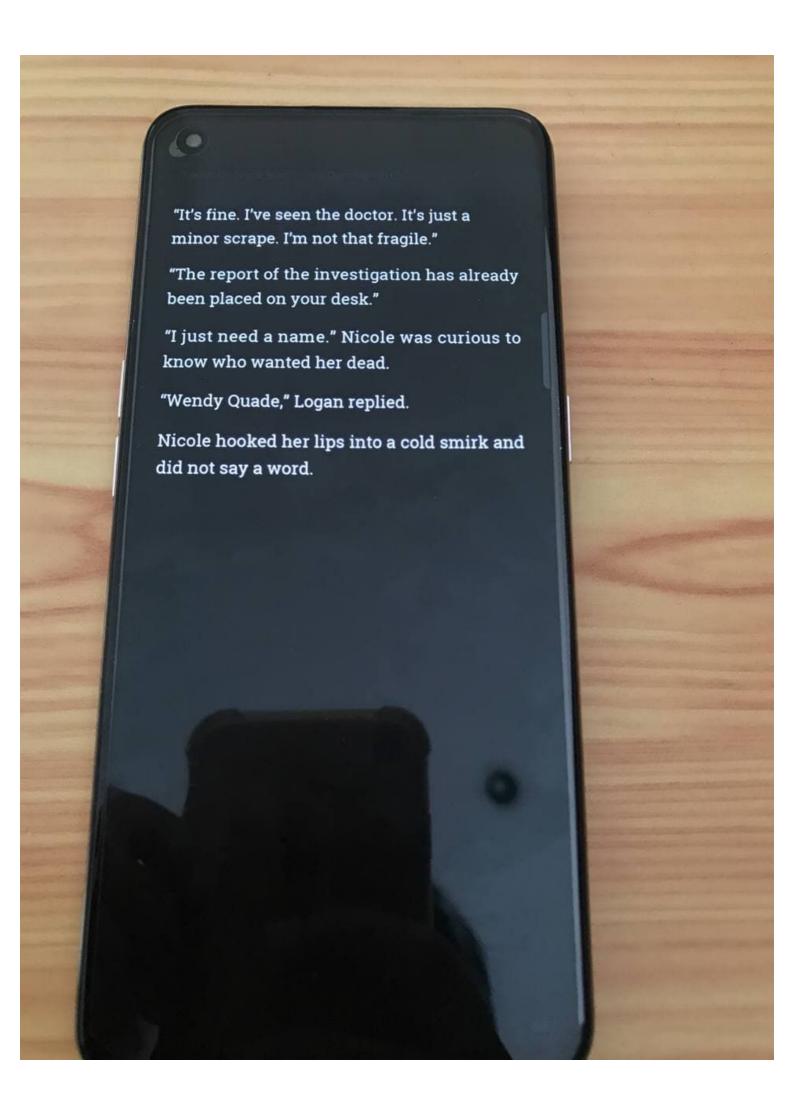
Nicole shook her head. "You guys can arrange it as you see fit."

Anyway, her only responsibility in this was spending money.

Logan paused. "Is your wound alright?"

No one knew about her injury except for Logan. Otherwise, Nicole would not have forced herself to attend this meeting.

Nicole subconsciously touched the wound.



Chapter 125 Divorce Gift

Gerard Lichman was delighted to learn that Nicole was coming over in person and gave her a call.

"President Nicole, please bring the little traitor when you come over. Everyone misses it!"

Nicole responded. "Sure, no problem!"

This way, Nicole could kill two birds with one stone! She could rely on Tigger to capture the hearts of J&L's team and she would not feel so bored over there.

Nicole buried herself in work until the evening when the streetlights came on and as stars dotted the night sky.

She stretched her back and took her purse. Seeing that Grant's office light was still on, she felt a little guilty because she had it too easy as the CEO, especially compared to her big brother.

Nicole knocked on the door and poked her head in, smiling at the person who was still in a video conference. He calmly listened to the other party's report in a foreign language and meticulously caught all the key points. He glanced at her and pointed to a seat, then continued the meeting.

She spat out her tongue and obediently went over to sit down, listening in to Grant and the other party's conversation. It sounded like Ferguson Corporation was in a difficult situation.

Once the meeting ended, Grant hung up the phone. Nicole lifted her head, slightly puzzled.

"Is our company in Europe going to launch the same products as Ferguson Corporation?"

Grant nodded. "We have the same quality and we're fighting a price war. The Fergusons are sure to lose."

This was unmistakably targeted business competition. Nicole frowned slightly.

"Ferguson Corporation has issued an apology letter today."

"I know, Dad and I have read it, but their

apology is secondary and useless compared to the harm they caused you. Eric Ferguson is very smart. Once the apology letter was released, Ferguson Corporation's share prices stopped declining. This little dip is irrelevant to them. It's like they didn't lose anything."

Grant smiled and looked at her. "What, are you planning to go soft on them?"

"No way!" Nicole snorted coldly. Her heart was now made of steel and could not be softened.

"It's not just because of this either. Our market share abroad has always been evenly split with Ferguson Corporation.

Since we got this opportunity, we'd have to seize it. Don't forget, we're the first to enter the European market and you're the one who single-handedly brought our business to Europe and put us on the map. Ferguson Corporation was only imitating your model to develop a second business trend."

Grant's words suddenly reminded Nicole. She was silent for a moment.

She almost forgot about this!

In the business world, there was no right and wrong.

As long as it was within the framework of the law, everyone had the right to compete.

These past three years made her forget her worth. She had once single-handedly broken through the European market and set up Stanton Corporation's business there. They became the leading and most prominent Medianian brand in Europe.

That was the miracle that Nicole created!

Now that she recalled her past achievements, Nicole was filled with tears and passion.

The next night, Nicole went to the airport alone to pick someone up.

In the VIP waiting room.

Nicole excitedly ran in and saw the handsome, cool, reserved, and gentle man who had such a unique temperament sitting by the window. He looked so unattainable that people would naturally look up to him.

She ran and covered his eyes from behind. "

Guess who?"

The man helplessly took her hand. "Nicole..."

"Mav!" Nicole gave him a big bear hug.

This man was a world-class leading physicist. At the age of seventeen, he won the Breakthrough Prize, which was a top science award. No one had yet to achieve this at such a young age. His papers were published in prestigious journals and were held in high regard.

Perhaps since this man shined so brightly on his own that no one bothered to investigate his background. Thus, no one knew that he was, in fact, Floyd Stanton's second son, Maverick Stanton.

Maverick looked at Nicole and saw that she was still the same as before. He reached out and touched her forehead.

Nicole shrank her neck and frowned at him.

"What are you doing?"

"You got hurt?" Maverick's face was a little glum.

"I accidentally bumped into the wall..."

Nicole lied with ease.

Maverick nodded without suspicion. "
Useless!"

The two siblings walked and talked.

Maverick asked insouciantly, "I heard you got married?"

He was abroad for more than five years and had been doing some top-secret research in some lab, so he would occasionally chat with Kai during his leisure time.

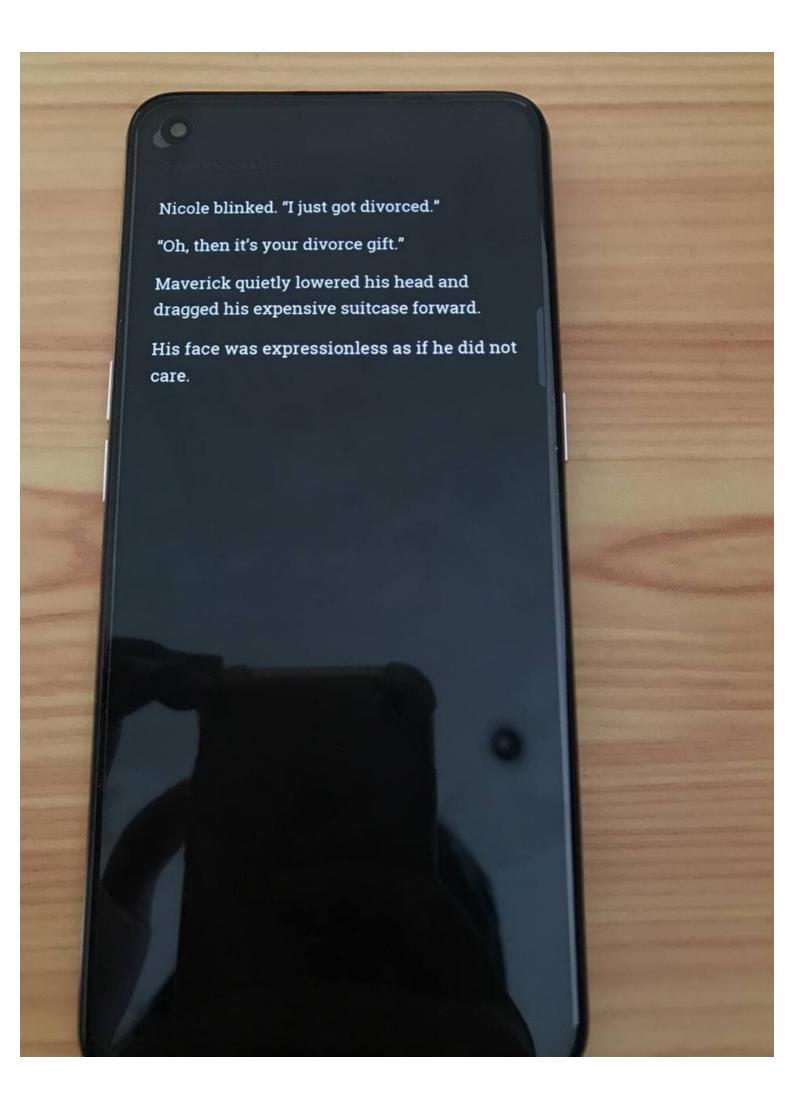
It seemed that Nicole's marriage had upset the whole family.

Maverick took out a bank card from his pocket.

"This is the prize money from all the awards I've won. There, take it as your wedding gift."

All that prize money was an astronomical sum!

Nicole's second brother had never cared for money and had always given his younger sister all the prize money he got since childhood.



Chapter 126 My Ex-husband Is Dead

Nicole giggled and went up to Maverick.

"May, please do me a favor as a gift instead..."

"What is it?"

"I have a project that involves artificial intelligence. Since you're the best expert there is, can you please help me with a part of it?"

Nicole sucked up to her second brother.

Maverick was a national treasure! If she asked him to join the project, it was indeed a little wasteful of his talent.

However, on second thought, it would also be a waste not to make full use of her genius brother!

Maverick nodded. "Sure. I have a month's vacation. Is that enough?"

"Of course, it's enough!"

Nicole took the bank card from Maverick and waved it in his face. "Then I'll take this

too. Thanks, Mav!"

Maverick was speechless.

Not far away, two tall men were walking side by side behind the Stanton siblings.
They came to poach an international talent, so they squatted there by themselves all night.

'Why hasn't the assistant sent any photos yet?' Keith Ludwig thought.

Keith looked at the woman and nudged Eric's shoulder.

"What a coincidence! Isn't that Nicole?"

Beside her was a man they had never seen before. That man looked calm and decent with a cool temperament. He did not look like a businessman, but an ordinary person at first glance.

Following Keith's line of sight, Eric happened to see Nicole's side profile.

Her long and wavy hair was let down and she was wearing a long black halter dress with stilettos that made her legs look even more slender than they already were. She looked so elegant and happy as she smiled fondly at the man next to her.

Eric subconsciously walked over just so he could hear their conversation and her pleasant voice.

"Why the sudden divorce?" Maverick asked.

"Because he died," Nicole spoke without a thought.

"Oh." Maverick nodded emotionlessly.

Eric and Keith's footsteps lurched, and their bodies suddenly stiffened.

The man who was supposedly dead was rendered speechless.

Eric just stared intently at Nicole's back for a long time, but she did not seem to notice.

Keith laughed and patted his shoulder. "Don' t look, you're already dead!"

The photos finally came in. Keith looked down and was about to remind Eric about their purpose in coming here.

As a result, his body stiffened when he saw the photo.

It was clearly the man next to Nicole!

Keith screamed, so Eric frowned at him and caught a glimpse of the photo.

He looked just as shocked.

Hearing the scream, Nicole turned around and frowned when she saw those two people. 'What sh*tty luck!'

'A national treasure just appears in front of us like that?' Keith thought.

Keith walked forward and forced a smile. " What a coincidence, Ms. Stanton! This is..."

He glanced at the man next to Nicole and could not contain his excitement.

'He's a legend that I've only heard about! The person we're squatting here in the middle of the night for is gonna be taken away by Nicole? What's more... They looked well acquainted!'

Maverick nodded calmly. "Hello, my name is Sunner."

That was his pseudonym and his other identity to the public.

No one had heard of this, nor did they recognize it.

Nicole raised her eyes and looked at Keith.

"Are you guys stalking me? Why do I see you everywhere I go?!"

Keith, who was suddenly attacked, retracted his hand and forced a smile as he defended himself.

'Will Nicole mock me if I tell the truth? If I don't, then I'll miss this chance!"

"We're definitely not stalking you... We just came to pick up a friend. It's purely a coincidence! Ms. Stanton, if you don't want to see me, I'll get lost now..."

Keith himself was puzzled as to why he was acting so servile to Nicole with Eric right behind him.

Nicole withdrew her gaze. "Then hurry up and get lost."

"Okay!" Keith said as he turned to leave.

After taking two steps, he saw Eric coming up from behind.

Eric's eyes were cold and sullen as he stepped forward. His gaze lingered on Nicole 's forehead for a few seconds.

He then looked at the man beside her and suddenly asked, "Sunner, are you guys friends?"

Maverick, also known as Sunner, nodded and naturally put his arm around Nicole's shoulders. "Of course! She's my best friend."

He never lied.

After all, with Maverick's character, he had a total of three friends since he was a child, all of which were his siblings.

"Let's go," Nicole said indifferently and took his arm to leave.

She did not even look at Eric.

Chapter 127 Alba White Truffle and Potato

Keith Ludwig sighed. "Tsk, tsk... We don't have a chance anymore. The Great God Maverick and Nicole actually know each other and even have such a good relationship!"

The news of Maverick's return was confidential. To be precise, his itinerary was completely classified.

That was because his identity was too sensitive.

They spent a lot of money on the international black market just to buy information about Maverick's flight, and it was gone just like that!

Eric looked at Keith coldly and left.

Maverick and Nicole went back to the Stanton mansion.

Before they got out of the car, they heard the butler ordering a maid to clean up the garden tomorrow as well as Kai's wailing and Floyd's angry roar coming from the living room.

Maverick stood in the doorway for a moment and looked at Nicole.

"Find a place for me, somewhere quiet, preferably with no one living around it."

Nicole blinked and subconsciously blurted out, "A haunted house?"

"That's fine too."

'It's fine as long as no humans are around me.' Maverick thought.

Once the door opened, Kai ran over and almost jumped Nicole. "You're finally back! Save me!"

Nicole scoffed and was about to speak when Kai saw Maverick. He was shocked. "Mav!"

Maverick flashed a rare smile. "Little K."

"F*ck you!" Kai's glad expression disappeared in an instant. "How many times have I told you guys not to call me Little K!"

'It feels like they're looking down on me!'

"Who is it?" Floyd said in a resounding voice as he came out with a baseball bat in hand.

Seeing Maverick, Floyd excitedly came forward. "Mav!"

Maverick accepted the hugs from the three men in the family. Grant was the most selfrestrained one, but he still could not hide the upturned corners of his lips.

The butler excitedly ordered someone to prepare a meal and clean out a room for Mayerick.

After three years, the whole family was finally back together.

Nicole frowned at the mess in the house.

"What's going on here?"

At the mention of this, Floyd became furious again.

"I asked your third brother to cook, but this dumb*ss threw out my treasured Alba white truffle and lied to me saying that he only threw out a deformed potato!"

Floyd got up with his bat and walked over to

Kai, extremely reluctant to let him off the hook.

"I must beat up this idiot today!"

Grant calmly sat there and looked at Maverick.

"You're staying? What's your next step?"

Maverick took over the glass of sparkling water from Mr. Anderson and took a small sip.

"National Laboratories sent me an invitation, so I decided to go there, but it'll be a month later."

National Laboratories was a national-level research institute with world-class facilities and state-of-the-art equipment. Many physics geniuses failed to enter as the competition was tough. For Maverick, he had been considering it for a long time before finally accepting the offer.

Grant nodded and expressed approval for Maverick's decision.

"Then this month..."

Nicole interjected. "May promised that he'd

participate in the research and development of J&L's project! This way, we won't let J&L Corporation lead us by the nose and we'll surely get the upper hand!"

Grant's face stiffened. His stunned gaze swept over Maverick and somehow felt a little sorry for his second brother.

"Then... I wish you success."

'Is such a small project even worth Mav's time?! This sister can really make the best use of anything!' Grant thought.

After a few days, Maverick was well-rested, so Nicole began to prepare for their move into J&L Corporation.

The weather that morning was just nice, and the air was slightly cool.

Nicole dragged Maverick out the door and went to pick up Tigger from her apartment first.

Tigger heard the commotion and excitedly jumped into Nicole's arms.

"Mama! I miss you so much..."

Nicole gave it a tight hug and regretted not

having taken Tigger back to the mansion.

"I miss you too, Tigger. You didn't mess up the house, did you?"

Nicole looked around and saw that it was spotless. This smart little tiger knew how to use her home's smart furniture. There were even a few new parcels that looked like little gadgets around the house.

She was a little surprised. "Did you buy these?"

Tigger burrowed into Nicole's arms and replied sheepishly, "I used credit..."

Nicole was dumbfounded and laughed out loud.

She carried Tigger and turned back to Maverick. "This is Tigger. Tigger, this is my second brother."

Tigger blinked his eyes as they sparkled with delight. "Wow! The Great God! I love you so much!"

Nicole immediately covered its mouth. "
Shut up! Don't be embarrassing!"

Maverick faintly swept a glance at it, picked



Chapter 128 I Call the Shots

"Molly likes you a lot, so she must've uploaded your information into Tigger's brain, hence this reaction. By the way, she's also in J&L's research team, so you'll be able to meet her in a while."

Maverick nonchalantly tossed Tigger to Nicole, who carefully caught it.

"Tigger, let's go see Molly!"

"I want The Great God to hold me..." Tigger struggled in Nicole's arms and asked aggrievedly.

Nicole could never refuse any of its requests, so she caught up to Maverick. "Second Brother..."

Maverick was used to seeing such AI robots and was clearly not as obsessed as Nicole because he did not have much emotion to things he could manufacture. For him, it was just a machine.

When they arrived at J&L's lab, Tigger immediately became the crowd's focus.

"Little Traitor, did you miss us?"

Tigger held his head high and gave a haughty grunt. "Who are you people?"

The crowd was speechless.

After that, someone took Tigger to Molly Stewart. Gerard Lichman then led their group of seven to the predetermined location.

On the way there, Gerard looked back at Maverick from time to time and said, "This gentleman looks a bit familiar..."

Before Nicole had a chance to introduce him, Maverick spoke, "My name is Sunner. I don't know you."

Gerard nodded and raised his eyebrows. He did not seem offended by that and said, "Is he a recent graduate? Never mind, he must be good since you brought him."

Nicole did not take the initiative to mention that she wanted to send Maverick to the core R&D team. She was not interested in their trade secrets, but as long as she could grasp the latest developments, she had

already achieved her purpose.

Therefore, Maverick's identity need not be exposed.

As soon as she got out of the car, Nicole saw a group of people walking towards them.

Eric Ferguson looked cold and noble as he led a group of seven or eight people.

Gerard stepped forward and said, "It's a coincidence that the three parties in charge of this project are the three of us bosses! Mr. Ferguson, it's rare that you're personally leading your team this time."

As soon as she heard this, Nicole was irritated.

However, this was business, so she had to look at the big picture.

Eric's gaze faintly swept over Nicole and landed on Gerard. "I've seen the location. I'll make my own arrangements for other necessities. Since everyone's here, let's begin."

Nicole went in with no intention of greeting him.

Eric glanced to the side and watched her departing back meaningfully.

Gerard went up and patted Eric's shoulder, smiling playfully.

"Don't look. She's now President Nicole and is more unlikely to look back. You, on the other hand... Are you starting to regret it?"

Eric's cold gaze swept over Gerard. His tone was stern as he said, "Mind your own business!"

Gerard laughed and shook his head. "Do you dare to say that your personal involvement in this project is not because of her?"

At first, Gerard did not think that the two exes would get back together, but since that day when Eric asked him to invite Nicole out for a meal in his stead, he sensed that something was wrong.

Afterward, he felt that his thought was a bit outrageous. Why would Eric Ferguson go back to an ex?

Gerard then dismissed this idea.

However, seeing Eric here at this moment

made him doubtful again.

The two men walked side by side. Eric frowned slightly and asked, "Do you have the list of people who are representing Stanton Corporation?"

"Yup..."

Gerard sent it to Eric on his phone. This information was not confidential anyway.

"Sunner? Do you know who this is?"

Gerard casually replied, "A fresh grad, I guess."

Eric hooked his lips in silence and did not speak again.

'Nicole is really capable to get a nationallevel expert to participate in a business project, and so easily at that! How unexpected!' Eric thought.

Eric had also intended to poach Maverick to participate in this project. With Maverick involved, this project was a sure win!

He thought, 'I guess it's a coincidence...'

Gerard found it strange that Eric Ferguson

would pay attention to a student.

When they got to the conference room, Eric saw Nicole and Sunner leaning closely together while talking, which made him frown.

His heart also felt extremely uncomfortable.

Eric's eyebrows had a hint of annoyance as he went in with a gloomy face. He walked in big strides and sat down opposite Nicole.

Seeing this, Gerard immediately understood.

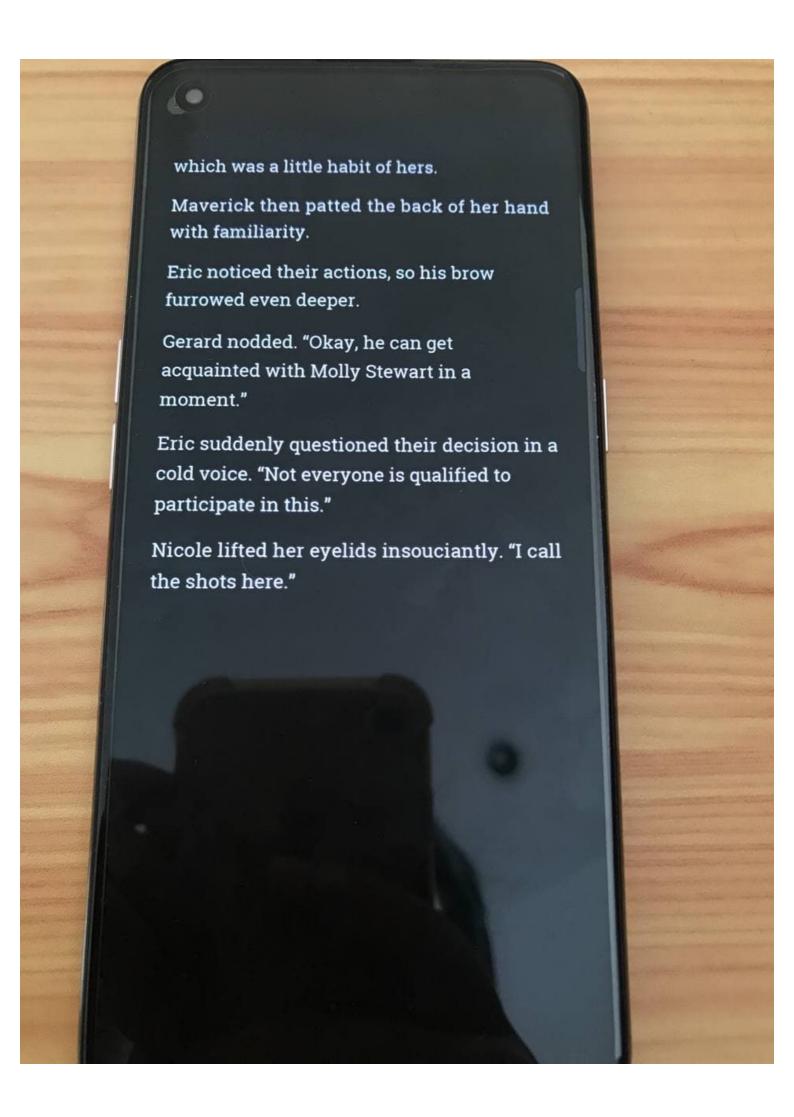
Gerard sat down on the main seat and paused for a moment.

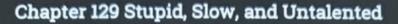
"On behalf of J&L Corporation, I'd like to officially welcome the arrival of our two partners. With regards to this research project, Ferguson Corporation has already sent their people to participate in the follow-up works. Ms. Stanton, who do you plan to have to represent your side?"

Nicole smiled and looked at Maverick, who was next to her.

"Sunner, I'll leave this to you."

Nicole gently grabbed Maverick's sleeve,





The atmosphere was stagnant for a while. Fortunately, Eric Ferguson did not pursue it further. The topic changed to determine the project's direction.

The meeting lasted for more than an hour, and it had started to rain outside.

When everyone went out, they ran into their cars one after another. Since the steps at the entrance were on low terrain, a pool of stagnant rainwater had accumulated there.

Nicole walked out last. She was wearing her custom-made Manolos that were incredibly sleek and exquisite, so she hesitantly stood on the steps.

Stanton Corporation's Rolls-Royce parked not far from the steps. The driver could not get any closer even if he wanted to.

Maverick noticed his sister's expression.

Since there was only one umbrella left,

Maverick habitually took it and propped it

over Nicole's head. "Shall we?"

He sounded like he was used to being servile to her.

Nicole lowered her head and pointed her toes as she said with regret, "The diamonds on these shoes will fall off if they get wet..."

Maverick heard this and glanced at her. He saw that she was wearing a short skirt today that was not suitable for being carried because picking her up would risk exposing her.

Thus, he took off his bespoke suit jacket and threw it on the ground in front of her. He propped the umbrella on top of her head, went two steps down, and held out his hand as he said with extreme patience, "Now it won't get wet. Let's go."

Nicole sighed and thought she could only make do with this.

"I guess that's the only way."

She placed her hand on Maverick's palm, stepped on his expensive jacket, and got into the car.

The driver, who saw this scene, secretly

grieved for himself and thought, 'Please don' t fire me because of my driving skills...'

Two other people saw this scene as well.

Gerard Lichman shook his head.

"Now I've finally witnessed how nitpicky a princess could be! She might even care if the air around her isn't sweet enough, yet you treated her like dirt!"

Eric stared at the car with sunken eyes and gave him a cold look.

He secretly clenched his teeth as he knew about Maverick's true identity. Even international big shots were humble in that man's presence and took the initiative to reach out to him, yet he was being so servile to Nicole!

The relationship between these two seemed to have exceeded the boundary of regular friends.

Were they too close?

"Nikki!"

A shout of surprise came from the side as Molly Stewart waved at Nicole from a short distance away. She was holding Tigger as she ran towards Nicole with great enthusiasm.

Nicole was stunned and smiled in response. She then whispered to Maverick, "She's Molly Stewart."

Maverick frowned. By then, Molly had already run to them and was just about to hug Nicole when she noticed Maverick, who was standing in arm's reach.

She was stupefied for a moment before she shouted in shock, "Holy sh*t! The Great God!"

Without another word, Molly chucked
Tigger aside and hugged Maverick, which
made Maverick's face turn white from
shock.

Maverick felt shy and embarrassed as he pried this woman off his body. He sounded upset as he said, "Please have some self-respect."

How could Molly care for self-respect when she saw her idol?

Molly could not control her excitement and was not offended from being pushed away.

She tilted her head to look at the tall and lean Greek god of a man.

"I'm Molly Stewart! I've sent you a friend request and you've given me plenty of advice!"

At this time, Molly thought it was important to close the distance between them.

Maverick gave her a slightly disdainful look.
"I know. You're stupid, slow, and untalented.
A simple calculation can make you spin in circles..."

Seeing that Molly's excitement a few seconds ago gradually morphed into distress, Nicole hurriedly tugged on Maverick's sleeve and shook her head.

Maverick paused, then looked at Tigger who was crawling on the ground. His tone changed.

"But... Tigger is well-designed and made of a solid material."

Molly looked up at Maverick and smiled. Her sadness earlier seemed to have vanished. "It's just a stupid tiger. I can still make it smarter!"

Tigger kicked Molly with its furry paw in protest. "You're the stupid tiger! Your whole family is stupid!"

Molly gave Tigger a threatening look and turned to Nicole and Maverick.

"You guys really know each other! Nikki, is The Great God your friend?"

Nicole smiled and nodded, then tugged on Maverick's arm.

"Molly's my friend, so you need to be nicer to her. Don't treat her the same way as you treat your PhD students."

Maverick was speechless. He looked away and let out a light grunt.

Molly rubbed her hands in surprise and winked at Nicole.

Nicole added, "He'll be joining this project as an external consultant. Molly, please take care of him during this time..."

Molly stared at her in surprise. "Huh?!"

'The Great God is gonna listen to my command?!' Molly thought.

Seeing Molly's trembling body, Nicole laughed and whispered in her ear. "His identity should be kept secret for now."

Molly nodded in understanding and was still somewhat dumbfounded.

After saying their goodbyes, Nicole turned around and got into the car. The hem of her skirt accidentally got stuck in the door slit, so Nicole let out a cry of surprise.

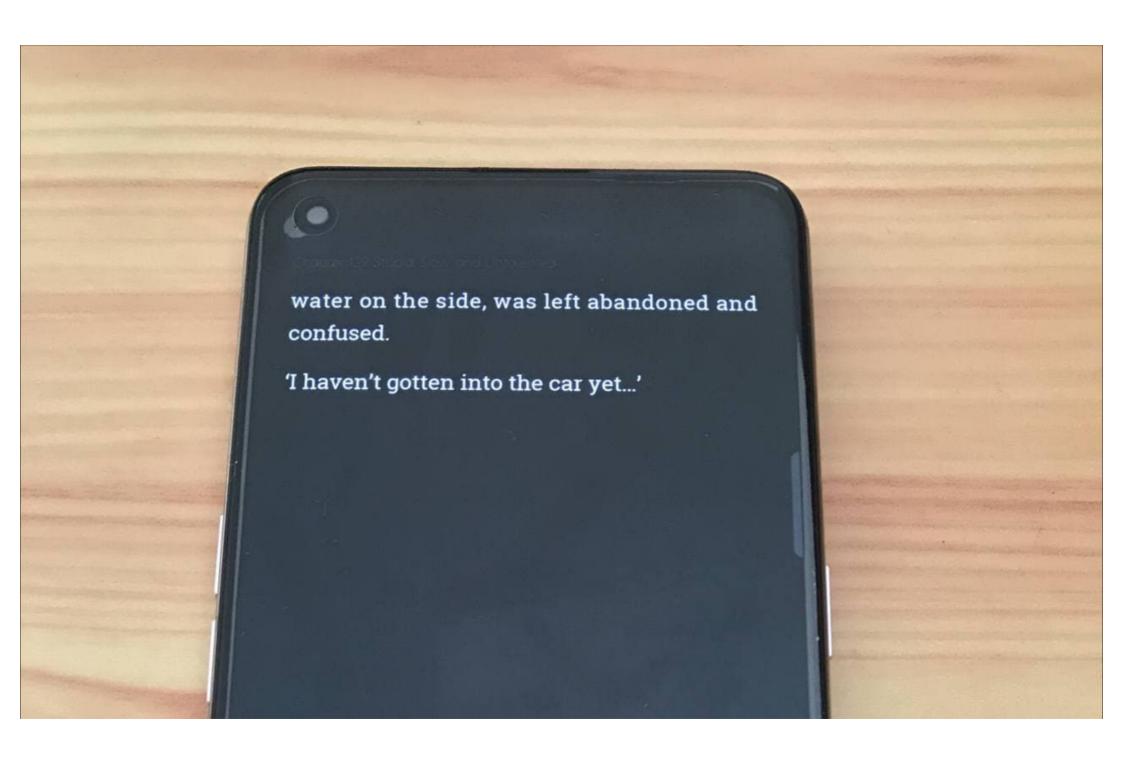
Maverick silently threw away the umbrella, knelt on one knee to carefully unhook Nicole 's skirt, then turned to see the shocked and dumbfounded Molly.

His voice was extremely clear and cold as he said, "Please help me to throw away the trash. Thank you."

Without waiting for Molly to answer,

Maverick got into the car and closed the
door. Their car then disappeared into the
rain.

Tigger, who was still playing in a pool of



Chapter 130 Papa, Mwah Mwah!

Gerard Lichman and Eric Ferguson walked over to Molly.

Gerard said, "Molly, do you know the man beside Ms. Stanton?"

Molly Stewart was still immersed in the fact that she had just seen The Great God Maverick lowering his stature and doing everything for Nicole. She felt envious yet found it rightful.

'They're both such a match made in heaven!' Molly thought.

She subconsciously nodded her head, then shook it decisively a second later.

"Nope!"

'Nicole said to keep it a secret!'

Eric narrowed his eyes. Molly picked up the suit jacket and umbrella on the ground, then turned and ran away. 'I'm just a researcher and can't deal with these business people!'

Tigger looked left and right and was about to

dial Nicole's number with its built-in function when it was suddenly picked up with one hand.

Eric frowned and stared at it, feeling that something was off about it.

"Do you still recognize me?" His clear, cold voice carried such self-restraint.

Tigger narrowed its eyes and kicked its four legs in the air in protest. He spoke hesitantly. "Douchebag! I want to find Mama

'Douchebag?'

Gerard watched in amazement. Back then, Tigger used to fawn over Eric Ferguson, so much so that everyone was envious. How did Eric suddenly become a douchebag to Tigger?

"Little Traitor, you used to call him Papa... Have you forgotten?"

Tigger looked away and let out a cold snort. " He's not worthy!"

After all, Tigger was just a robot without feelings. It would hate whoever Mama told it

to hate!

Eric's face turned red with anger. At this moment, Mitchell ran over to pass Eric an umbrella. Before he could hand it over,
Tigger shouted at Mitchell in a clear voice, "
Papa, mwah, mwah!"

Mitchell's body suddenly stiffened, and he almost fell to the ground.

Eric's cold eyes were fixated on Mitchell, and his face was incredibly glum.

Mitchell waved his hand. "I..."

"Papa, you're so handsome!" Tigger continued.

Mitchell panicked.

Gerard burst out in laughter.

The corners of Mitchell's mouth twitched awkwardly.

Fortunately, the Rolls-Royce earlier returned to the entrance. Eric's face was cold as he diverted his attention to the car. The man in the car got down and extended his hand.

"I came to pick up Tigger."

Eric grunted coldly and threw Tigger over.

He felt like he was about to explode from all
the anger pent up inside his chest. He swept
his stern eyes over to the car behind
Mayerick.

Besides the driver, there was no one else inside.

Perhaps Nicole knew that Eric was here and did not want to see him.

"Sunner, are you and Nicole lovers?" Gerard cast a meaningful glance at Eric and asked Maverick.

Maverick lowered his eyes and said indifferently, "I can't say."

Gerard hooked his lips and pointed at Eric. "
Do you know what his relationship with
Nicole is?"

Maverick looked at Eric and frowned slightly as he shook his head.

'I don't know him...' Maverick thought.

Before Gerard could introduce him, Eric's

tone was extremely cold as he said, "I'm her dead ex-husband!"

That was what Nicole said about him at the airport, which he had overheard.

Eric was so angry that his heart hurt.

Maverick did not have any expression as he nodded and said, "Then all the more reason for me not to tell you."

After that, Maverick got back into the car, and the car quickly disappeared.

Gerard laughed. "He has the same temper as Ms. Stanton! Hahahahaha!"

Eric swept a cold gaze at Gerard, who instantly shut up.

Maverick went over to pick Nicole up at a station platform not far away. Nicole felt heartbroken as she stroked Tigger. "I'm sorry ... Mama didn't mean to leave you behind!"

Tigger shrank into her arms aggrievedly and said, "Then... I want a Mesgarzadeh rug

Nicole paused for a moment. Other people's pets only had to eat, but her pet was out to

