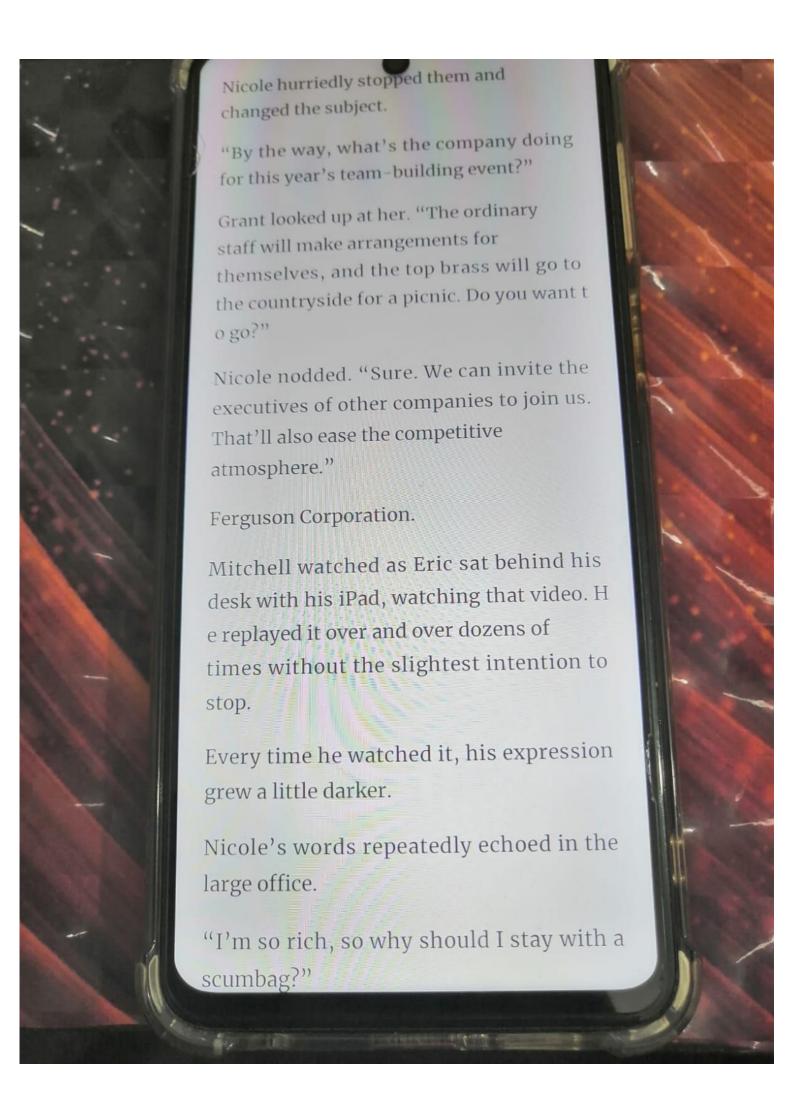
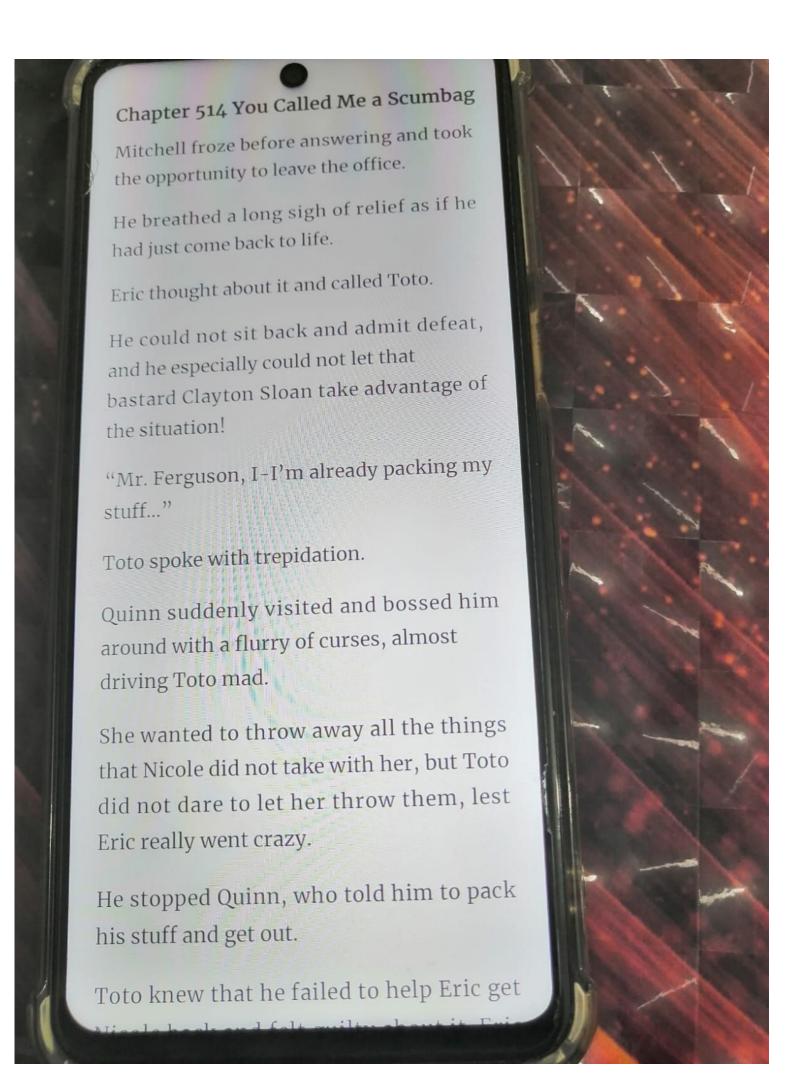
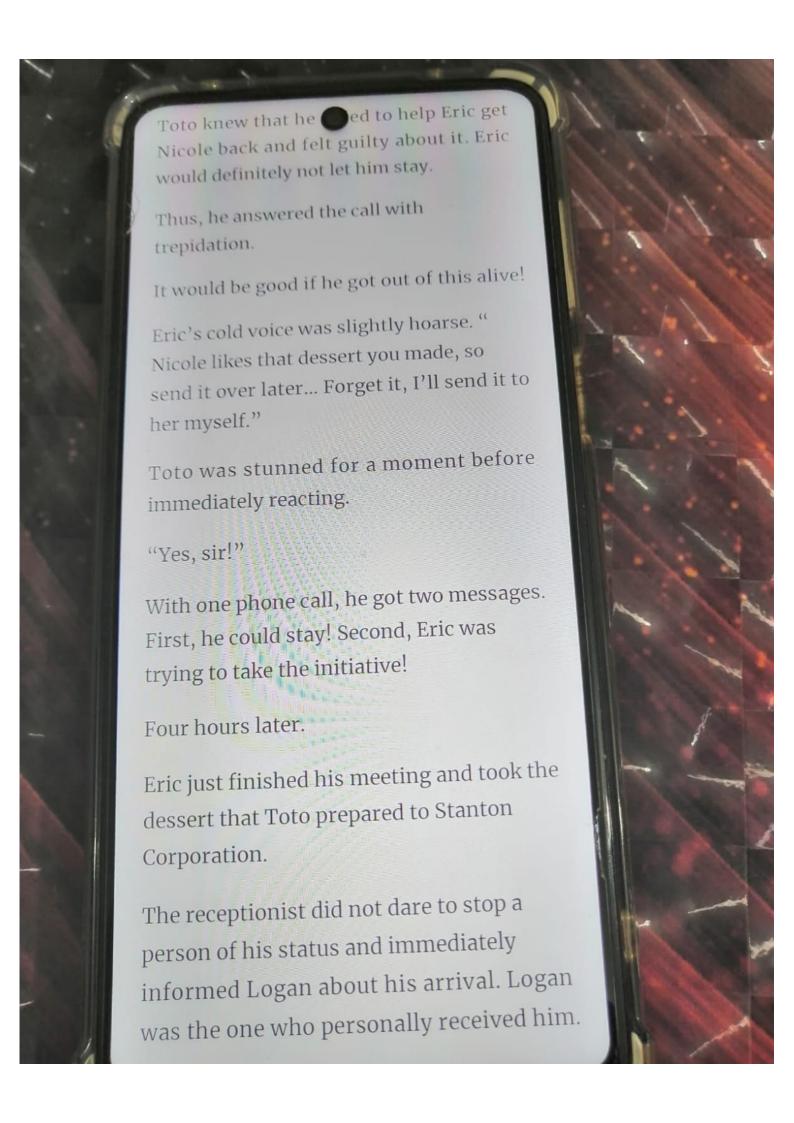


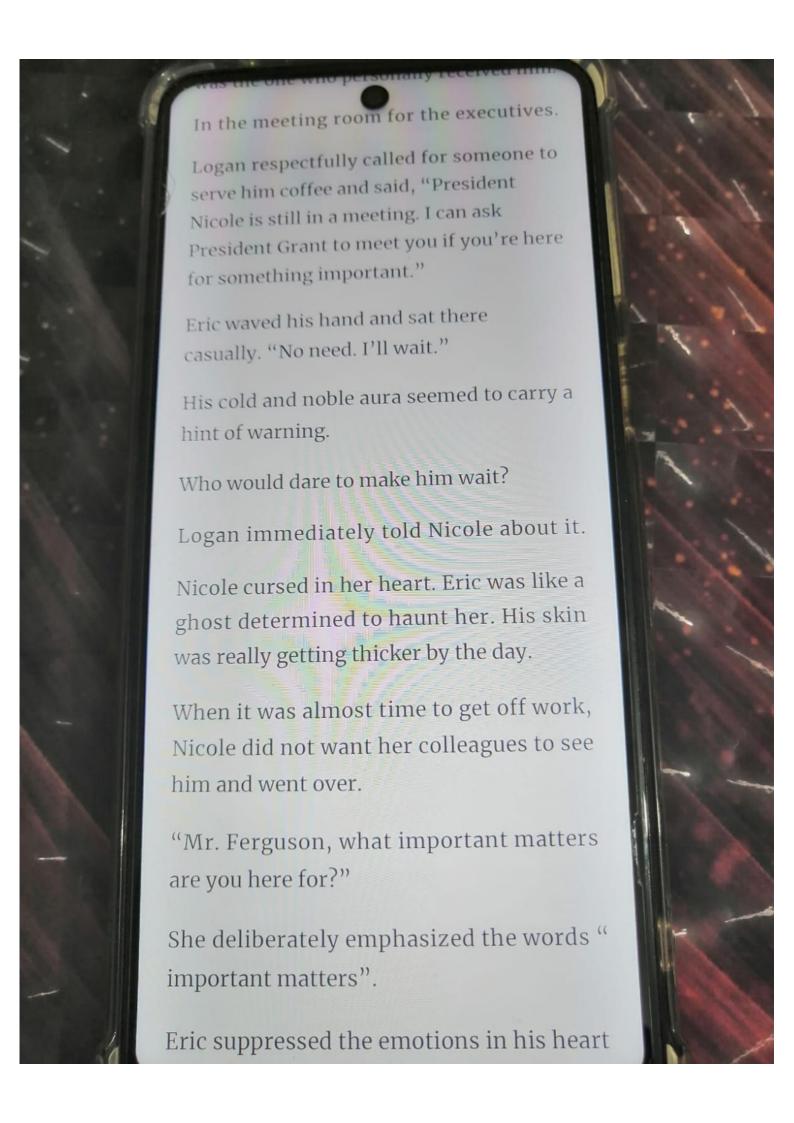
someone so bluntly. Nicole smiled silently. It was a perfunctory expression of acknowledgment. Grant said, "Why don't you go work on another project and leave the project with Clayton to someone else?" Nicole put down the bowl. "There's no need. I know what I'm doing." Kai clicked his tongue. "Don't be fooled. Clayton has a kid, and his conditions aren't as good as Eric's. If I had to pick, Xander isn't bad. He's obedient, sensible, and does as he's told. Most importantly, you can just send him away with money if you're tired of him!" Nicole's mood grew complicated as she listened. Why did she feel like they wanted her to be a scumbag? Was this the kind of person her family wanted her to be? She had some doubts about her life. Floyd asked, "Who's Xander?"

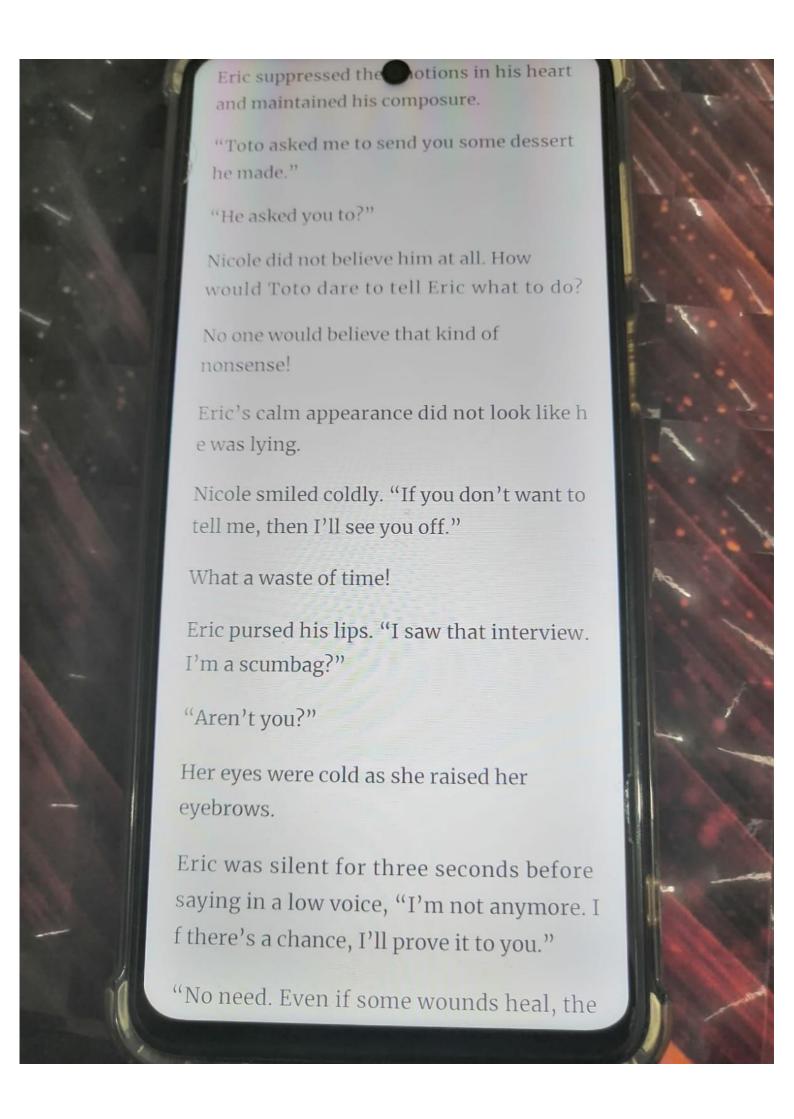


To Nicole, he was just a scumbag. He, Eric Ferguson, was merely a scumbag from the past! Eric's expression was sullen and ugly, and his mood was very complicated. He did not know whether to be sad or angry. He suddenly felt that the only reason she could casually mention the past was that she did not care anymore. He had truly lost her. The heartbreak felt like countless fine needles piercing his chest with no focus, agitating his heart and bleeding him dry. Time passed by the minute. The temperature in the office was extremely cold. Mitchell secretly raised his head to look. Eric's face was cold and solemn. The corners of his eyes were tinged red, and those beautiful and soul-stirring eyes were slightly moist. 'Is he crying?!' Mitchell's heart trembled with fear as his legs began to grow numb. ' Why am I still standing here? Will he try t









"No need. Even if s scars are still there. I don't want to pick at them." Nicole was annoyed. 'He must be daydreaming!' Eric took a deep breath. "But uncovering the scars might reveal smooth and tender skin underneath..." Nicole was speechless. Eric continued, "How would you know how sincere I am if you don't try? You keep rejecting me because you're afraid to face the past. Why don't you have the courage to move forward at all?" 2 His cold and austere tone sounded like an earnest encouragement, yet it still carried his sharpness and nobility. Nicole looked at him speechlessly, exasperated and angry. His aura was calm and cool with an innate nobility. His handsome features seemed like they were delicately carved, giving him the appearance of someone unattainable. It was completely different from Xander,

