

Nicole and Eric unconsciously fell behind.

Eric had a light tobacco scent that was not too overwhelming because it probably stuck on his clothes. It was mixed with a tea fragrance, which gave it a warm and subdued after-tone.

Nicole had a momentary lapse of concentration and did not notice the steps in front of her.

Suddenly, she missed a step.

She knew that she was about to fall and give the ground an intimate embrace. If so, she could no longer maintain her indifference and could only close her eyes in resignation.

Suddenly, another arm wrapped around her waist. She was pulled into Eric's embrace.

Nicole smelled Eric's warm and rich tea fragrance and froze for a moment.

His grip on her waist was powerful. Eric did not take the initiative to approach Nicole the whole night, but once he reached out, it seemed to have broken the transparent barrier between the two people.

Some unspoken things could no longer be concealed.

After being in a daze for a few seconds, Eric's magnetic and deep voice rang in Nicole's ears.

“Why are you so careless?”

His caring tone made Nicole's body slightly tense.

“Could it be that you deliberately want me to hug you?”

Chapter 708 Eric F*ckerson's Confidence

In the next second, Nicole came back to her senses and pushed his hand away, leaving his embrace.

'Ugh, Eric F*ckerson just wants to show off all the time!'

A single sentence from him made her gratitude disappear.

Nicole flipped her hair as if nothing had happened. "You think too much. Thanks."

Eric wrinkled his eyebrows. 'Her attitude changed a little too fast, right?'

He moved closer to her and said in a low voice, "That's it? Just one word of thanks? Ms. Stanton, you're so stingy."

'What else did he want?'

Nicole suddenly regretted not falling down. 'If I fell, I would've just felt a pang of pain. That's still better than letting this jerk torment me!'

Thinking of this, she looked up at him helplessly. "Then how do you want me to thank you?"

'I only fell because of you!' Nicole thought, but she would never tell him this.

The two of them were extremely close. The tobacco smell on his body seemed to have faded, and only the fragrance of tea remained. It was a very comfortable and mild scent that reduced the biting coldness from his body.

In her moment of concentration, Eric's face suddenly enlarged in front of her eyes.

His thin, cool lips landed gently on her forehead like a dragonfly. He soon let go of her.

Nicole's body stiffened. When she came to senses, she tried to kick him, but he seemed to anticipate this and used his long leg to press against hers. He let out a low laugh.

"If you kick me again, my leg will be crippled, then you'll have to take responsibility for me for the rest of my life!"

With that, he reached out and brushed her hair.

"This is the only kind of gratitude that I'll accept."

His voice was extremely light. He took two steps back, turned around, and caught up to Mr. Lewis.

It was as if he was deliberately distancing himself from her.

Nicole laughed in exasperation. 'What the hell?! He's so self-righteous even after taking advantage of me? Where did Eric F*ckerson get his self-confidence from?!'

Logan, who was not far away, saw this and did not expect that Eric would be so flirtatious.

However, it seemed that his tease did not work on Nicole. Instead, it even pissed her off!

Mr. Lewis and the others were seated in the private room. Nicole went inside as if nothing had happened.

She tried very hard not to look at Eric's gaze, lest she could not control herself from wanting to punch him.

'Just bear with it and settle the score later!' Nicole thought.

They had pre-ordered the food, but Mr. Lewis and Eric respectively added two more dishes. The atmosphere was very harmonious for a while.

Nicole made the first toast to Mr. Lewis, who responded adequately.

She was happy and downed the glass of wine in one go. Everyone was somewhat impressed.

On the side, Eric's face unconsciously darkened.

Mr. Lewis finished drinking his glass and felt delighted. He spoke straightforwardly.

"Sand City's lousy project is listed as a key project with top priority, but no one is willing to take over. Even if there is, we don't dare to just award this project to any company with the previous lessons learned. President Nicole, how are you interested in this project?"

When Mr. Lewis' address to her changed from "Ms. Stanton" to "President Nicole", Nicole laughed heartily.

They were finally getting into the main purpose of the evening.

“It’s because many companies couldn’t handle this project that I decided to take it up. I know that it’s hard, but if it wasn’t, why would I do it myself? We don’t need to do anything more to prove Stanton Corporation’s strength, but everyone in my company likes to take up high-level challenges.”

Nicole smiled. The way Mr. Lewis looked at her became solemn.

Mr. Lewis looked sideways at Eric and smiled meaningfully.

“It’s like you two have already discussed this beforehand. It’s no wonder so many people support you both to be together. Excellent people grouped together will only make them even better.”

Nicole’s expression stiffened slightly as she looked at Eric.

“Mr. Ferguson, are you also interested in this project?”

Chapter 709 The Same People

Nicole was a little surprised. The project was proposed in secret, so only she, Grant, and Jacob Cook knew about it.

Therefore, it was impossible for a word to get out.

‘Why did Eric want this project too? How could there be such a coincidence?’

Eric’s handsome face was cold as he curled the corners of his lips into a wide smile. His eyes were deep and dark.

“Yes. I also didn’t know until now that we’re eyeing the same project.”

For a while, the atmosphere was a bit stagnant.

Mr. Lewis’ face stiffened. “Turns out you guys didn’t discuss it?”

How awkward.

Nicole laughed casually and frankly. “It’s okay. No matter who ends up with the project, it’s still worth a celebration.”

Eric shook the wine glass in front of him. His eyes were dim and bottomless.

Ferguson Corporation and Stanton Corporation were both second to none. They were evenly matched in their background and strength.

Any one of them taking on this project would be easy.

However, what happens if both of them want it?

How did this lousy project suddenly become a hot commodity?

When Nicole met Eric's gaze, the two of them felt each other's resolution.

None of them was willing to compromise.

The dinner continued, but the conversation was no longer related to the project. Afterward, they sent someone to send Mr. Lewis back.

Since they could not get the project immediately, Stanton Corporation and Ferguson Corporation were bound to fight for it.

Mr. Lewis was naturally very relaxed because he no longer had to worry about not finding a buyer for this hot potato in his hands.

After dinner.

It was very cold outside. The harsh wind scraped their faces.

Nicole left her jacket in the private room, so Logan went back to get it.

She stood at the entrance waiting, looking tall and slender. Her face was expressionless, beautiful, and cold.

There was no doubt that Eric's appearance ruined her plan. Originally, getting the project was not a difficult task. The real difficulty was in the implementation.

However, Eric's involvement in this made her stumble at the first step.

How could her heart stay calm?

She was still torn about what to do next when she heard footsteps behind her.

It might be Yu Lou.

The next second, a warm coat draped over her body. The warm, tea fragrance instantly wrapped around her and interrupted her thoughts.

Nicole frowned and knew in an instant who the person behind her was.

She turned her head sideways and saw Eric Ferguson.

The light of the doorway made Eric's silhouette look deep, exquisite, and flawless.

Eric was always good-looking, and that face could deceive everyone.

Without a word, Nicole removed the coat. It was obvious that she did not want anything to do with him.

However, Eric stopped her movement and squeezed her wrist. His eyes were gloomy.

"It's cold. Put it on."

His words were brief and concise.

Nicole raised her eyes, drew back her hand, and did not move again. Instead, she laughed.

“Mr. Ferguson, it’s surprising that you’re such a gentleman.”

He was someone who would not even blink when he saw people freezing to death.

‘Heh...’

Eric heard her sarcasm. The corners of his mouth twitched, but he changed the topic.

“Why did you think of investing in real estate?”

This was also unexpected for him.

Nicole asked, “What about you?”

Eric lowered his eyes that had a sudden joy in them.

“Those who dare to take risks are the ones who will win in a precarious situation.”

As soon as they looked at each other, Eric could see that he and Nicole were the same kind of people.

They were not landlords who clung to their capital. They were pioneering risk-takers.

At that moment, his heart was ecstatic because the woman he liked turned out to be the same as him.

Nicole pursed her lips. “There’s also the possibility of losing everything.”

Chapter 710 Give You a Pay Raise

The night was dark, like a block of ink that could not be melted.

Eric looked at Nicole in silence for a while.

His voice was deep as he said, "The cost of this project is too high. If you want to cross over to real estate, you might as well choose some good projects first..."

Nicole's face was indifferent. Her tone carried a nonchalant light laugh.

"Mr. Ferguson, no prominent negotiator will use 'you're still young' as their starting argument. Your ploys won't work on me. I must get this project."

Eric's eyes deepened for a moment.

He had underestimated Nicole.

Eric had never been able to see through Nicole. Since their divorce, he felt that Nicole was completely out of his control.

The obsequious woman in his impression now had the ability to challenge the entire Ferguson Corporation.

Eric was silent for a moment. His voice sank as he said, "This is about Ferguson Corporation's development, so I won't give way."

‘But if she really wants it, it’s not impossible...’

Eric’s heart was faltering.

Nicole raised her eyebrows. “I won’t give in either. Let’s just go by our abilities.”

After that, Logan jogged to hand over Nicole’s coat to her.

“President Nicole... Mr. Ferguson?”

Nicole was quick to take off Eric’s coat and threw it back to him.

Logan had the good sense to drape her coat over her shoulders so that Nicole did not have to lift a finger.

Eric’s eyes instantly narrowed when he saw such an intimate action,

His heart clenched. His hawk-like cold eyes glared at Logan.

With just one glance, Logan felt a chill that was colder than the current weather.

Logan shivered.

Eric shifted his gaze back to Nicole. His voice suddenly became gentler.

“It’s not like there’s no room for cooperation for this project...”

It was not like they had not cooperated before. Ferguson Corporation and Stanton Corporation always worked well together.

Nicole smiled perfunctorily. It was clear that socializing tonight made her a little tired.

“Let’s not think about cooperation. Stanton Corporation’s ability is not yet so compromised.”

Even if it was not a success, Stanton Corporation could still afford to lose, so who was he looking down on?

Nicole was annoyed.

The cooperation between their companies in the J&L Corporation project was already in the limelight.

If they continued to work on this real estate project together, Stanton Corporation and Ferguson Corporation would be in too close a relationship that their interests would be too entangled, which was not a good thing.

Logan could only interrupt their conversation when he saw Floyd’s text message urging them to come back.

“Ms. Stanton, it’s time to go home.”

Nicole nodded. Her driver stopped the car in front of her.

Logan went over to open the door for Nicole to get inside. He then sat on the other side of the backseat.

Before the car started, the door on Nicole’s side suddenly opened. Eric’s gloomy face reappeared.

The cold wind blew into the car at once.

Everyone in the car was startled.

Nicole asked, "Is there something else?"

Eric pursed his lips. His clear brow bones were tightly wrinkled as he hesitated for a few seconds. His voice was extremely gentle as he said, "Goodnight, Nicole."

Nicole took a deep breath. "Get lost."

Eric closed the car door. He swept a glance at Logan, who was sitting next to Nicole.

Any man that appeared next to Nicole made Eric feel unhappy.

However, Eric had no right to interfere now. 1

Eric stood there and watched as her car drove away in a flash. He secretly thought, 'After Nicole marries me, I must get her a female assistant!' 1

At this moment, Mitchell and the driver came over to pick Eric up.

Mitchell sat on the passenger side. He got out of the car and opened the door in one fluid motion.

Eric nodded in satisfaction. An excellent assistant would always recognize his position.

In the car.

Mitchell saw that Eric seemed quite satisfied, so he thought that Eric was successful in taking the project.

“President, did you land the project?”

Eric replied, “No.”

Mitchell nodded awkwardly.

The conversation was dead.

Eric suddenly spoke, “Do you have enough money to spend? I’ll give you a pay raise!”

Mitchell was speechless.

Chapter 711 Not a Smooth Meeting

Once Nicole got into the car, sleepiness struck her all of a sudden.

Unknowingly, they arrived at the Stanton Mansion.

Logan sat next to Nicole and helped her to organize the scattered documents. By the time Nicole got out of the car, it was already organized.

Nicole entered the door with her things. She was still quite sleepy, but once she saw Grant there, she lost her sleepiness in an instant.

“You’re still awake?”

Floyd came out of the study. When he saw that Nicole was home, he came downstairs and sat down.

Grant nodded. “I knew that you wouldn’t have a smooth night, so I waited for you.”

Nicole asked, “How did you know?”

Grant leaned back on the sofa. His posture was somewhat carefree. “Eric kept his desire for the Sand City project under wraps. My people in his company just learned about it.”

Nicole pursed her lips. This arrangement was common, just as Eric had his people in Stanton Corporation.

They just did a great job in keeping it secret.

The butler brought Nicole a warm cup of hot chocolate. Nicole originally had little appetite, but when she held it in her hands, she could not help but drink two sips.

Floyd pursed his lips. “Ferguson Corporation is very experienced in real estate, so

their advantage is obvious. When Eric single-handedly drove Atlanta's real estate prices up, he almost got a monopoly. The rest of the small companies earn a lot just from taking his scraps. At this time, he decisively made the decision to let go and get out of the real estate industry. Instead, he turned to industrialization. Before everyone could react, real estate prices started to dip. He's a real genius in the business world!"

Even Floyd had such a high evaluation of Eric Ferguson, so it was clear that Nicole had really underestimated him since the beginning.

Grant's tone was indifferent. "His preference has always been to go against the tide because he's arrogant. He might just set off another storm this time."

Nicole raised her eyebrows and did not make a sound. According to Eric's character, it might really be so.

He wanted to stir up this pool of stagnant water during the real estate downturn.

Nicole curled her lips and sat lazily on the sofa. "That's still not certain. Who loses and who wins is yet to be seen!"

"Lil N, you want to keep fighting?" Grant looked at her.

Nicole raised her eyebrows. "There's no reason to give up. Do we have to run away just because we hear Eric's name? He has his skills, and I have my way. Even if we lose, we'll lose in dignity."

Floyd slapped his thigh. "Great! Lil N is right. We'll each go according to our abilities. What's wrong with a little competition? What's more, I don't think that Lil N will lose!"

There was some concern in Grant's smile, but Floyd and Nicole were both very resolute in their ideas, so Grant had no reason to rain on their parade.

"Alright, then let's fight. I support you. But... Although Mr. Lewis has the final

decision, we need to acquire the other company before getting this project. You can start from that company.”

Nicole’s eyes lit up. She had almost forgotten about this.

“Great! I’ll prepare for both eventualities. Don’t worry!”

Grant stood up, reached out, and touched her head with a sigh.

“You’re much better than Mav.”

Nicole was confused. “What happened to Mav? He’s back?”

Floyd also let out a long sigh.

“Don’t mention it... Your second brother’s emotional intelligence is too low. When he visited the Stewarts, he offended half of the family. Others praised him for being smart, so he started lecturing them about a brief history of human development. They thought that he was insulting them for having incomplete intellectual development. The meeting ended very badly. Sigh...”

The corners of Nicole’s lips twitched. ‘Wow, this is really Mav’s style!’

Chapter 712 Quite Pugnacious

After saying a few words, Nicole went upstairs to rest and felt pity for Maverick.

Logan was very efficient. Nicole told Logan about a few things before going to bed last night. By the next day, all the materials of the company involved in the Sand City project were delivered to her desk.

Nicole was a little surprised when she saw it.

“You didn’t sleep all night?”

Logan smiled. “This information isn’t difficult to get. It’s basically common knowledge for anyone in Sand City.”

Nicole nodded, picked up her cup of coffee, and took a sip. When she flipped a page to take a look, she almost spat out her coffee.

She thought that the reason this project lost money was because of some issues with the project. She did not expect it to be so rotten.

The annual profit of Zico Company was always in the negative. They had hundreds of employees that took money from unemployment benefits to do the company’s dirty work.

This rotten project became Zico Company’s only source of income. Due to various unsafe practices, there were three or four accidents.

Since this project was to develop the area into an urban zone, it was located in the city center and must be completed first because it was an essential first step for the general development of Sand City.

Zico Company delayed this project as much as possible so that they could extort a sky-high compensation from clueless buyers to sustain their company.

In fact, the few hundred people in Zico Company were all money-suckers. This scene was horrifying.

Logan coughed slightly. "President, Zico Company has reached the end of the road. The company has several powerful people that are greedy. The money that was allocated to them had always been divided until scraps are left, but the books didn't show any of this. It's like a bottomless pit."

Nicole pursed her lips and kept silent for a few seconds. "We have to check the accounts first."

"But..."

Nicole took a deep breath and picked up the phone.

"I'll contact Mr. Lewis and have Jacob Cook take someone to check on it."

With Mr. Lewis' authorization, them checking the accounts would be justified.

As expected, Mr. Lewis was very quick to agree. With such a rotten account, he was also eager to find out the problem, cleanse the company, and take back the ownership of the project.

In the afternoon.

Jacob called from Sand City.

"Ms. Stanton, Zico Company is very united and didn't want to cooperate with us at all. There are no problems with their books. These people are too cunning!"

Nicole did not expect that a group of bankrupt people were still so united.

She paused. "Stay there. I'll be right over."

Jacob was stunned. "Ms. Stanton, you should bring a few more people. The people here are more pugnacious..."

He used a more euphemistic word. In fact, the people there were too ruthless, undisciplined, and fearless. This was Jacob's first day in Zico Company to check the accounts, and he was already scared by their arrogant temper.

Nicole did not expect such a situation and responded without taking it to heart.

Before she departed, she suddenly received a call from Eric.

Nicole frowned. At this juncture, she did not want to reveal her whereabouts.

"Hello?"

"Are you going to Sand City?" Eric's voice had an unconcealed nervousness.

Nicole wrinkled her brows. 'How did he know?' 1

"Yeah."

'So what if he knew about it?'

"Nicole, do you know how dangerous it is there? Don't you have subordinates? Why do you have to go personally? What if something happens?"

Eric's voice was deep with a chill.

Nicole felt baffled. "Mr. Ferguson, I appreciate your concern, but I don't think that it's a lion's den."

"Nicole..."

Eric slowed down as he spoke. "I know that you want to start with that company, but they're not good people and have blood on their hands. They won't care about who you are!"

Chapter 713 I Won't Be Polite Anymore

There was silence for three seconds.

Nicole also calmed down. "I know. I will be prepared. Thank you."

This word of thanks came from the heart.

After that, she hung up the phone.

The string on the bow was taut, so the arrow had to be shot. From the time Nicole decided to take this project, she had to take it head-on no matter what the difficulty was.

Eric cursed under his breath. He was even more anxious.

He turned to look at Mitchell. "Let's go to Sand City."

Mitchell immediately understood. "Didn't we talk to Mr. Lewis beforehand that we don't have to contact those project people personally?"

This was the advantage of a superior person like Eric Ferguson. If it could be solved with money, he would not get himself involved and put himself in a dangerous situation.

Eric's eyes were sunken and dark. "Nicole went. Send more people there to stay on guard."

Mitchell's expression immediately became solemn. "Understood."

When Nicole went to Sand City, she made a beeline for Zico Company.

Everyone was not expecting it.

Jacob Cook had been waiting there for a long time. When he saw Nicole, he finally found courage.

“Ms. Stanton, this company only says that it’s cooperating, but in fact, it’s not. We can only look at a few ledgers at a time, and we need layers of their management’s approval to get them. It’s very laborious and time-consuming...”

Nicole walked with an extremely cold and powerful aura. “Alright, let’s take the books away first.”

Logan followed behind Nicole and watched as Nicole walked in looking unfazed.

He turned back and told the rest of his people to follow closely.

This was the first time Nicole came to the Zico Company’s office. Everyone there was playing cards. This scene seemed somewhat familiar.

Nicole gave a meaningful glance at Jacob, who was so frightened that his face paled.

The project department almost got fired.

Jacob had to do something so that Nicole and the rest had no reason to dismiss him.

Nicole went straight to the finance department.

She pushed the door open.

The person inside was sitting at the table joking and laughing, with a lazy and unrestrained look.

The man froze. His face immediately turned ugly. “You’re... Nicole Stanton?”

Nicole smiled. “Yes, I really didn’t expect that someone would recognize me.”

The man smiled playfully and sized up her face and figure with narrowed eyes.

“It’s hard not to recognize you, Ms. Stanton. You’re much more popular than

celebrities, and you're my goddess! What do you want?"

"You're in charge of Zico Company's finances? You're Hector Leach?" Nicole asked.

"Yes, your lapdog already told you? I know you want to acquire Zico, so just make a direct offer. We won't have a problem if the price is right. Why bother to do so many checks?"

Nicole smiled perfunctorily. "It's just a procedure. If we don't understand the accounts beforehand, how can we make an offer?"

"Then there's no need to negotiate. Anyway, Stanton Corporation isn't our only option. As far as I know, Ferguson Corporation is also interested in us. Eric Ferguson is certainly easier to deal with than you!"

Hector's gaze was everywhere as he sized her up. Her smile was bright and perfect. Her expression and reactions were impeccable.

He wanted to touch her, but he was afraid to because she was not an ordinary woman.

Nicole's smile was faint. There was a chill in her still eyes.

"Eric Ferguson won't make an offer easily. It's not so easy to take his money."

Hector Leach sneered, slapped the table, and gestured underneath. He had a bully's smile.

"It's not so easy to take my things either. Our company has its own rules. If you want the books, you need to go through a dozen procedures for approval. Our president went on a business trip and will only return in ten days or a half month. Do you want to wait?"

Obviously, Hector was deliberately making things difficult for her.

Others were afraid of Nicole because she was the heiress of Stanton Corporation, but what can a princess like that be capable of?

No matter how powerful Nicole was, there was no way that she could take the ledgers from Hector today.

Hector smiled smugly.

Nicole lowered her eyes and raised them again.

She curled her lips into an extremely cold smile.

“Then I won't be polite anymore. Logan, get our people to take these away.”

Chapter 714 Is This Robbery?

Hearing Nicole's order, the people behind her rushed up. Two of them pressed down Hector Leach, who wanted to resist.

The rest of Nicole's men were very decisive and orderly as they took away several boxes of ledgers under Hector's table.

Hector stared at them in disbelief. 'WTF! Is this woman robbing me?!'

The whole ordeal took less than five minutes. Logan came over and made a gesture. Nicole then waved her hand to signal the bodyguard to let go of his hand that was covering Hector's mouth. Hector gasped for air.

He was anxious and angry. "You..."

Nicole smiled innocently. "Us checking your accounts has been agreed by the authorities. If you and Mr. Zelman have any comments, just take it up to the authorities. Oh, you can also call the police."

She was sure that these kinds of corrupt people would not go to call the police.

As for the rest, a push or two would get them to yield. In less than a few days, they could finish checking all the accounts.

In fact, there was absolutely no need for Eric to worry about Nicole. From the time she decided to come over, she had already investigated everything here.

Instead of letting others take the initiative, it was better for her to do it herself.

Who was the more pugnacious one between them?

Nicole flashed a perfect smile. When she turned around, her smile converged, and she walked out in her high heels in big strides.

The rest of the people retreated one by one.

Hector's face was extremely ugly. He immediately picked up the phone and called Lincoln Zelman, the President of Zico Company, in a panic.

He reported what just happened with trepidation and waited for Lincoln Zelman to say something.

They thought of countless ways to make things difficult for Nicole, but no one expected that this woman's means would be so unpredictable and upfront.

She even dared to confront them.

Lincoln Zelman pondered for less than three seconds before he cursed. "Damn it! You can't even deal with a woman and can't even watch over a few books? Just wait to be imprisoned!"

Hector's face was pale as he trembled with fear.

"M-Mr. Zelman, what should we do?"

"Go and chase them! At all costs!"

"Understood."

They had always been hovering on the edge of the law and had always gotten away with it time and time again. Gradually, they were emboldened. Having tasted the sweetness of violence, they could no longer quit.

Inside the car.

Nicole sat in the car and casually looked at one of the accounts. Her smile was bitterly cold.

"No wonder Hector refused to let us take it away all at once. There are so many flaws. If it's brought up to the authorities, it'll add up to life imprisonment."

Logan's eyes flickered slightly. "We still have to be careful..."

Just as he said this, the car jerked to a halt.

The driver's stammering voice came from the front. "M-Ms. Stanton, there are several cars in front. It's as if... They're targeting us."

Nicole looked over and saw several cars in front and behind, blocking their path. They were unable to move forward and could not retreat.

Her face instantly sank. She snorted coldly.

"Hector Leach sure acts fast..."

Logan was on guard. "President, I'm afraid that we don't have enough manpower."

They only brought a dozen bodyguards, but the other party in front of them had at least twenty.

However, the bodyguards they brought were well-trained. If they start to fight, they should not be at a disadvantage, but if this continues...

This was Zico Company's territory, so they certainly would not lose in terms of manpower. Logan was more worried about the follow-up problem.

Nicole looked through the car window and saw a huge, undisciplined formation.

It turned out that there was a reason that this project was so difficult to take up.

Immediately after, Hector got down from the car and laughed unrestrainedly.

He had so many gangsters around, so how could he be afraid of those few people brought by Nicole?

"Ms. Stanton, did I scare you?"

Logan looked nervously at Nicole. “President, don’t move. I’ll get back up now...”

Nicole reached out to stop him. It was already too late...

Chapter 715 Using Violence to Fight Violence

Nicole said, "No need. Backup will be too slow to be of any help. They're here for the ledgers."

Hector's series of reactions was by no means his own ideas, which further proved that there were big problems with the accounts.

Nicole pursed her lips and racked her brain for a plan.

If Hector took away the ledgers today, then they would never have the chance to get it back again.

Hector knocked on the car window and impatiently flashed a disgusting smile.

"Ms. Stanton, come down and let's talk! Since you're so sincere about wanting this project, I'll let you and your people leave safely as long as you leave the books."

This scene was already shocking enough. Anyone who saw this would have been scared sh*tless.

Nicole slowly lowered the car window, revealing her beautiful and bright features with a smile on his face. However, her eyes were covered in coldness.

"Mr. Leach, unless I let go of it myself, no one can snatch away what's in my hands."

Hector shuddered. He panicked and felt his bones tingle, but he soon swept away the fear. 'Why should I be afraid of a woman? I have enough men, and I'm strong enough. Why would I be afraid of a woman's aura?'

He laughed. "Ms. Stanton, you must be joking. This isn't a place for you to call the shots."

Hector looked down at the woman in the car. In the past, he hooked up with many

small-time models, but he could not even touch a beauty like Nicole.

“But if you say a few nice things, maybe I’ll let you have what you want...”

Hector was playing Nicole.

He was still in deep thought while his eyes were filled with greed. Suddenly, the car door opened from the inside. Nicole got off with great speed, and Hector was pushed to the ground by the door.

Hector instantly snapped back to his senses.

He glared at the woman furiously. “You stupid b*tch! Can’t you see the situation? How dare you hit me?!”

Nicole was in her high heels and looked down at Hector, who was lying on the ground, from a high position.

She sneered and slowly walked over. “I’m just letting you know who’s in charge here.”

Nicole then pulled out the baseball bat that had been lying idle in the car. Her eyes had a frightening, dense chill as she waved the bat at Hector.

Hector watched incredulously and could not help but shout, “What are y’all waiting for?! Get her!”

Although he brought a lot of people with him, he did not intend to make a move. He just wanted to scare this woman.

Who knew that this woman was always so unpredictable and simply did not go by the book?

She used violence to fight violence!

The pain on Hector’s shoulder made him speechless. He was dripping with cold sweat.

Hector never imagined that he would get defeated by this woman twice that day.

'F*ck!'

Seeing this, Hector's men rushed over, looking very fierce and domineering.

Nicole's bodyguards did not remain indifferent. They formed a circle around Nicole's car. Their tall and strong bodies formed a human wall.

Hector's men, who had not undergone professional training, waved the clubs in their hands and shouted, "Let's fight!"

Everyone rushed forward. In an instant, the scene was very chaotic.

Nicole narrowed her eyes and looked at Hector with a bit of disdain and ruthlessness in her eyes.

Hector did not know how this beautiful woman could be so fearless.

He was instantly petrified.

This situation was simply out of control.

Nicole stood there in her high heels and looked so high and mighty like she did not care about his crowd of people.

Before a winner was determined, Nicole already assumed the attitude of a victor, indifferent and calm.

Hector was hit by the bat and felt dizzy, but he soon calmed down.

He felt a piercing pain, but if he continued to lie here, he would soon receive a second blow.

Hector struggled to get up from the ground and stared at the woman with a deadly glare. There was no longer any trace of greed in his eyes.

He dared not!

Just then, Hector saw a familiar person slowly approaching from the other side of Nicole's car with a bloodthirsty smugness in his eyes.

Chapter 716 Double Whammy

Nicole's attention was on the situation in front of her. Those punks also had a good sense. They were fighting ruthlessly with her bodyguards, but no one went to make a move against Nicole.

Out of the corner of her eye, Nicole suddenly noticed that Hector Leach stood up and secretly wanted to run.

She wrinkled her brows and pursed her lips. Hector was the key to subduing these people, so she could not let him get away.

Nicole was just about to go over and drag him back, when she suddenly heard Logan shouting in panic, "President! Be careful!"

She froze and suddenly felt an eerie cool breeze at her back that approached her. She subconsciously became tense and realized that someone was sneaking an attack on her.

It also seemed too late to dodge it. It was unavoidable.

Just then, Hector suddenly lunged forward to her. His body seemed uncontrollable, full of shock and fear.

His speed was faster than the dumbfounded Nicole. He then took the hit from the person who sneaked up from behind Nicole.

There was a dull thud.

The next second, Hector screamed miserably while he covered his head and began to curse.

"What the f*ck did you hit me for?!"

"You're the one who jumped on me..." The sneak attacker spoke weakly.

“Who dares to kick me?!” Hector was shaking with anger.

Nicole did not turn around. When she raised her eyes, she saw Eric coming over with a group of people in an imposing manner.

Eric’s upright figure was clad in black. He looked like a devil descending from the darkness with scarlet eyes that were gloomy and brutal. He seemed to have walked out of hell into another hellish situation.

The wind was very cold and pelted at their faces.

However, Eric did not seem to feel the cold at all.

He walked in front of Nicole. His eyes were dark and deep, containing too many complex emotions.

What could not be concealed in his eyes was the hostility that oozed out.

Eric was angry that Nicole had put herself in danger, but he was even more infuriated that someone dared to make a move on his beloved.

He looked down at her. His eyes slowly descended down her body. When he saw the baseball bat in her hand, his eyes flashed for a moment.

“Why are you here?” Nicole asked calmly.

There was no doubt that she was shocked the moment she saw him.

Without Eric, Hector’s man earlier would have struck her. She was still too careless.

Eric did not answer. His tone was deep and carried a coldness.

“Does it hurt?”

He was referring to her hand that was holding the baseball bat.

Nicole pursed her lips.

When Hector saw Eric on the side, he looked like he had seen a ghost.

The attitude he had while he was yelling at his subordinate earlier disappeared by half.

“E-Eric Ferguson?”

The people Eric brought as well as Nicole’s people soon had an overwhelming advantage.

Hector’s hooligans simply could not compete with these experienced bodyguards.

“Mr. Ferguson, you also want this project, right? As long as you can afford it, this project is yours. You can’t lose such a good opportunity for a woman...”

Hector panicked. When he saw Eric, he felt goosebumps all over. Eric was too terrifying. No one dared to resist Eric’s power and obscurity.

He was persuading Eric to look at the big picture.

Eric turned a deaf ear to Hector. All he cared about was Nicole. When he saw that Nicole did not mean to answer, he reached out and took away the baseball bat that she was clutching.

His voice had a coldness that penetrated one’s bones. However, he had a gentle and spurious smile.

“This doesn’t fit you. I’ll give you something that’s more fun.”

Immediately after, Eric took out an exquisite gun from his waist and handed it to Nicole.

Nicole was dumbstruck.

Chapter 717 She's Voracious

Eric's move was so nonchalant, but everyone present felt a bitter cold all of a sudden.

Hector Leach was so frightened that his legs went limp. He would not even question whether the thing in Eric's hand would be aimed at his head.

Nicole calmly took it over without the slightest surprise and fear.

'What kind of people are they?!' Hector's face turned miserably pale. The fear in his bones made his blood clot as he shivered.

Nicole took the gun and spun it around. Eric then took her hand and held that gun, pointing it in Hector's direction.

The situation was tense.

Eric's face was expressionless, and his tone was morose. "Was it him? Just shoot him."

Eric seemed to be a bit impatient. The redness of his eyes was from his unsuppressed anger and ruthlessness. He simply did not care about the consequences. Moreover, he was not afraid to cause trouble.

This kind of small commotion was common for him.

However, since they scared Nicole, that was a different story.

When Hector heard Eric's words, he was so scared that his bones went soft. He fell limp to the ground and knelt there as he raised his hands in surrender.

"I'm sorry! I was wrong! Mr. Ferguson, please spare me. Don't kill me!"

Hector just intended to use a little roguish tactics against Nicole. Who would have

thought that he would provoke Eric and get himself killed?

At this moment, Hector believed that if Nicole really shot him, he would die without a fuss and Eric would just throw him into the river and make him disappear forever.

That was the scariest thing.

A ruthless person finally met someone who did not care about human life.

Eric ignored Hector's pleas and remained unmoved.

Hector saw this and turned to look at Nicole, kowtowing to admit his mistake. ¹

"Ms. Stanton! President Nicole! Please forgive me... I was wrong! You can take the ledgers away, just spare my worthless life..."

His body trembled violently. Every pore of his being was terrified. That feeling of having a gun pointed at his head was too bloody horrible.

It was like a nightmare.

Nicole lowered her eyes. She pulled away from Eric's hand and surveyed the gun in her hand as she smiled.

"Of course, I'll take the books. Also... The other set of ledgers."

Being voracious was the proper attitude of a victor.

As soon as Nicole said this, Hector froze for a moment and immediately understood.

From the very beginning, taking these ledgers was only the first step of her plan. Everyone knew that the real ledgers would not be placed in such an open place.

They had a set of ledgers out in the open, and another set in private.

Hector did not expect Nicole to be so direct. She was not satisfied with this set of

ledgers and even wanted to take away another set!

However, if that private ledger was exposed, then Hector and Lincoln Zelman would spend time in prison.

Hector hesitated. 'To give or not to give?'

At this point, Nicole cocked the gun. The icy smile on her face was very obvious.

She was threatening him. Did he want his life or the books?

At that moment, Hector felt like he was on the edge of life and death. He decisively gritted his teeth and said, "Fine."

Everyone did not expect that the other set of ledgers was not in the office but was kept in Hector's house. Hector really kept it well hidden.

In just twenty minutes, the people and cars on the scene disappeared.

Hector led them to get the real books. Fearing the gun in Nicole's hand, Hector really did not dare to play any tricks at this juncture.

Nicole got her people to take the ledgers away. She had a successful trip.

After they left, Hector felt like he came back from the dead and sat on the ground, wiping his sweat.

Nicole sat in the car and repeatedly looked at the gun in her hand.

She was familiar with guns and dabbled in shooting for some time. The gun in her hand was obviously a toy to fool children.

Logan was forcibly invited by Mitchell to Eric's car, while Eric sat next to Nicole.

Chapter 718 Society's Brutality

Eric smiled when he saw that Nicole was staring at the gun in her hand.

“You like it?”

Nicole paused for a moment and gave it back to him.

“A fake can also scare people?”

The smile in Eric's eyes deepened. He put it away and said, “I have the real one with me. If you shoot, I'll follow up for you, so you don't have to be afraid.”

This way, he would take all responsibility, so she did not have to be afraid of anything.

Eric simply wanted Nicole to do whatever she wanted.

Nicole was stunned. Her heart trembled slightly as she looked at him sideways.

“Why did you come?”

Eric's smile faded slightly. “I told you that these are deep and dangerous waters, so how can I be assured that you're here alone?”

His voice was low and raspy as it echoed in the car.

Nicole curled the corners of her lips. “Thank you, but aren't you afraid that I'll take the lead and come by to talk to Mr. Lewis about this project?”

Eric's eyes faintly flickered. He suddenly looked at Nicole.

“You don't trust me?”

Nicole said, “Between us, there's no basis for trust, right?”

She told the truth.

The car was silent for a few seconds.

Nicole could feel the eerie chill from Eric's body.

How strange.

"Then are you going to meet Mr. Lewis?"

Eric pursed his lips and paused for a moment. "Yes."

He had a tight schedule and originally wanted to talk to Mr. Lewis about the project. It was just that he felt frustrated that Nicole exposed his intentions.

It was as if what he did for her was not purely because of her.

Nicole laughed. 'Haha! This bastard!'

Although the two of them were in competition, they were using completely different methods and had no conflict. It was still unknown who would emerge as the winner.

Eric glanced at her. "Take these back to Atlanta for the investigation. It's too dangerous to stay here."

Nicole raised her eyebrows. She smiled and did not respond to his words.

"Anyway, I still have to thank you for today."

Eric smiled a little. His eyebrows were relaxed.

'Then how do you want to thank me?'

Before he could say these words, Nicole interrupted his thoughts.

"To thank you, I'll treat you to dinner."

Eric raised his eyebrows. This was the first time Nicole invited him to dinner.

Although it was a far cry from the "thank you" he had imagined, it seemed like a nice moment to be able to have a calm meal with her alone.

"Are you cooking?" Eric asked.

Nicole slightly averted her gaze. 'This bastard is thinking too far ahead of his time.

"No, if you want, you can cook."

'How dare he ask me to cook?!'

Nicole had refused to step into the kitchen for a long time. She definitely would not go in there to be subjected to the fumes again.

Those three years that she was married to Eric had worn out her patience.

Eric lowered his eyes to hide the disappointment in them. His tone was sullen. "Okay, I'll cook."

He also wanted to see what kind of feeling it was to cook for the person he likes.

Nicole secretly rolled her eyes. 'Who knows what this guy is up to? Him cooking? Huh...'

The all-powerful President Ferguson was about to suffer his first defeat. ❶

The car stopped at the hotel owned by Stanton Corporation.

Nicole got out of the car.

Eric followed her out and raised his eyes. "I'll have someone prepare the ingredients, then I'll come to you in the evening. You can take a rest first."

Nicole watched as Eric got back into his car. Logan then came over. "President..."

She turned around and got into the elevator.

“Find a trusted third-party agency to work together with our people and find out the problems with the ledgers, then hand them over to the relevant authorities in four hours.”

Logan was slightly shaken. ‘So quick?’

Her eyes were clear. “We can’t wait until tomorrow because Lincoln Zelman will be back. Our speed must be so fast that they won’t know what hit them.”

Chapter 719 Mr. Ferguson Blew Up

Logan knew what Nicole meant and nodded solemnly. “Understood. The situation earlier was too thrilling. Do you want to take a rest first? Or, do you want to go back to the office first? I can take care of the things here.”

Nicole immediately refused. “No, I’m staying here. You should get Jacob Cook to handle things properly.”

Logan knew of Nicole’s temper. Earlier when faced with such a dangerous situation, Nicole did not even frown, so she certainly would not run at this time.

Thinking of this, Logan nodded and left. He then arranged for more people to covertly protect Nicole.

Jacob was only given four hours and dared not dare to delay for a moment. He led some staff along with the third-party agency to the relevant departments to check the accounts.

Once the accounts were almost sorted out, they were all alarmed to see those deficits.

Thus, Jacob did not hesitate to call Nicole and report this situation.

Nicole was drinking lemonade and doing yoga on the balcony. When she picked up the phone, she subconsciously swept a glance downstairs.

Eric was already here.

She frowned.

Jacob said over the phone, “Ms. Stanton, the total loss on this project is more than \$7 billion. Most of it is divided by Lincoln Zelman and a few others. The construction company they found is owned by Lincoln’s brother-in-law. A few people died in work

accidents, but they only paid less than \$1 million for it. I think he simply used this project to extort money and didn't plan to sell the project."

Selling the project was a one-time deal, but if the project stayed in his hands, it would be a steady stream of income.

Nicole also thought of this point. That was why she did not pay Mr. Lewis.

This project was a bottomless pit. They were so greedy that they even sacrificed human lives, so they would certainly not be suppressed by money.

Nicole wanted to get this project done in a clean manner. To do so, she had to remove the poisonous thorns.

Hearing this, Nicole was silent for a moment before she spoke.

"Inform Mr. Lewis about the accounts issue and let him deal with it. Attach a copy."

This meant that it could not be sent through email.

Jacob immediately understood. "Okay, I'll immediately have someone drive over."

Nicole hung up the phone. She finished doing a few yoga poses and slipped on her things when she heard the doorbell.

Eric was here.

She went over to open the door and was not at all surprised to see him.

However, she was still a little shocked to see the things in his hand.

Eric was carrying two large bags that were filled with ingredients. He had everything from the supermarket.

He carried the bags in with ease. Nicole stood on the side with her arms

eyebrows raised.

“Mr. Ferguson, you bought so many things. Do you know how to cook them all?”

Eric smiled with such confidence in his eyes that could not be imitated by ordinary people. He went to the kitchen while rolling up his sleeves. He answered, “I bought a recipe book!”

Nicole was speechless and thought, ‘Forget it... Since he saved me again, I’ll just bear with it. If it tastes bad, I’ll just eat less.’

Eric’s cold aura turned warmer, which made him look more pleasant to the eye.

However...

Nicole was a little surprised when she saw him taking out all sorts of measurement devices and a thick recipe book from the bag. He then confidently began to prepare the ingredients.

‘Wow... What a rare sight!’

When she saw Eric measuring the thickness of the shredded carrot with a ruler, Nicole could not stand it anymore and went into the bedroom with her phone.

She felt like she saw her second brother, Maverick.

‘Why didn’t I realize before that Eric and Mav had something in common? Is this a unique characteristic of men in STEM? What the hell did I just see?’

Nicole quietly sat in front of the laptop to deal with a few emails. In less than ten minutes, there was a loud bang from outside.

She was startled and rushed out to see smoke coming from the kitchen.

Eric’s face was dark and sullen as he came out of the kitchen. His expression was very ugly.

She looked at him in shock.

“Eric Ferguson, you blew up the kitchen?!”

Chapter 720 Leaked Secret

From the moment Eric entered the kitchen, Nicole was prepared for the worst.

She thought that the worst that could happen would be tasting horrible food.

However, the result was somewhat unexpected. Eric did not even make anything. Instead, he blew up the kitchen!

The smoke rolled out and triggered the fire alarm.

Eric did not look the slightest bit wretched. Even in this messy situation, he still looked noble and above everyone.

However, his complexion was glum.

He felt frustrated and angry for losing his reputation.

Eric pursed his lips. The tip of his tongue was pressed against the roof of his mouth. His brows were cold and stiff as he grunted. His voice was slightly muffled from having inhaled some smoke.

“There’s a problem with the tools.”

After that, he pulled Nicole outside because the kitchen was nasty.

Although nothing caught on fire and the smoke was caused by the oven burning, it reached a certain temperature and automatically short-circuited.

The smoke triggered the smoke alarm and sprinklers, so the room was flooded with water.

The entire floor was affected. The hotel manager came out to reassure the guests, rearranged their accommodation, and compensated for the damages.

Nicole watched this dramatic scene while Eric was sitting in the lobby, completely

staying out of it. He was just scrolling through recipes on his phone.

Eric was really interested in cooking.

Nicole laughed in exasperation. The hotel manager came over to her and said, “Ms. Stanton, would you like to go over and take a look?”

After all, this was her hotel. Nicole was heartbroken and cursed Eric a million times in her heart.

‘This bastard really spoils everything!’

Nicole nodded and followed the hotel manager to take a look at the damages. The whole floor was completely ruined. They needed to redecorate, and the losses were immeasurable.

“The rest is fine. It’s just that the hotel can’t operate during the refurbishment. In that case, is Mr. Ferguson...”

‘Is Mr. Ferguson compensating for these losses?’ The hotel manager stopped mid-sentence.

Nicole paused for a moment. “I’ll pay for the losses. Logan will contact you later, so if there’s anything, just contact him directly.”

The hotel manager sighed with relief. “Yes, Ms. Stanton.”

Nicole turned around to go back. Suddenly, she saw a familiar figure beside Eric.

Surprisingly, it was Xandria.

Nicole wrinkled her eyebrows. Xandria’s face was ingratiating and delighted as she handed over something in her hand to Eric.

Eric took it with an indifferent expression. He did not even glance at her.

Xandria left reluctantly.