

Chapter 451 Send Me the Photo

In fact, Nicole had already said countless times that she no longer liked Eric Ferguson, but no one really believed her. Did they all think that she was just throwing a tantrum all this while with Eric?

Just when Clayton thought that she would not answer his question, Nicole laughed.

She looked bright and arrogant with innate confidence. There was a hint of passion and attraction.

“If liking someone is for life, then do you really not plan to remarry after your wife died?”

Her question was equally as presumptuous and direct as his, but Nicole could not use any other milder way to express her feelings.

That was because when she heard such a question, she only wanted to curse up a storm.

Clayton froze for a moment. He was slightly stunned by her reaction.

He was not the slightest bit angry or

He was not the slightest bit angry or offended. Instead, he let out a low chuckle. He smiled gently and replied, "Understood."

Clayton did not need to answer because they both know the answer.

At that moment, something vaguely sprouted in Clayton's heart.

He did not remarry because he did not meet the right person. With his status, he did not have to settle, nor did he need a marriage alliance.

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Toto was following not far behind them. He was about to die of anxiety.

Although he heard Nicole's answer, he did not understand it.

'What the hell does that mean?! Why is Ms. Stanton asking if Mr. Sloan plans to remarry? Maybe she's mocking him for being widowed? Is she telling him to stay away from her? Then does that mean she likes Mr. Ferguson but she's just embarrassed to say it? Right, that must be it!' Toto thought.

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Inside the chateau.

Eric's condition improved. The butlers and maids took care of him and dared not to be lax about it.

He leaned on the leather cushion. His face was miserably pale as he looked at the email sent by Mitchell on his laptop.

His phone kept ringing. Eric swept a glance and saw that it was Keith.

Eric averted his eyes and ignored it.

However, Keith was relentless.

Eric was annoyed and slammed his laptop shut. His face was sullen as he picked up the phone.

His voice was low, cold, and restrained as he said, "Speak."

It had better be something important. Otherwise, he would not let Keith off the hook!

Keith froze for a moment and was unable to conceal the urgency and tension in his voice.

"What are you doing? Did you go to

“What are you doing? Did you go to France with Nicole?”

Eric said, “Yeah, I’m hanging up if it’s nothing important.”

“Hmph! You didn’t come to Santos Island with me, but you went on a trip with Nicole?! How could you ditch your friends just for love?!”

Keith yelled. “But... Why did Clayton Sloan go with you guys? I really don’t understand this weird relationship between you three...”

Eric’s hand that was about to press on the end call button paused for a moment. His face instantly turned cold.

“How do you know?”

No one knew about their itinerary. Clayton would not possibly announce his itinerary either...

“Everyone knows! Nicole posted a picture of her and Clayton. You didn’t see it?”

Keith paused for a moment. His voice gradually lowered. “I forgot... She blocked you, huh?”

Eric’s face was glum. “What photo?”

Eric's face was glum. "What photo?"

Keith pursed his lips and felt that Eric's mood over the phone was a little off, so he did not dare to gloat at him.

"Uh... It's a photo of just the two of them. It looked like some sort of official announcement. Everyone's speculating whether they're dating..."

Keith's voice got lower with every word because even over the phone, Keith could feel a penetrating chill.

Eric clenched his fingertips and said, "Send me the picture."

"Okay..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Eric hung up on him.

Chapter 452 Get Back Here

The photo was sent to Eric's phone.

After Eric saw it, his complexion turned dark at once. Even his gaze was tinged with a gloomy chill.

The two people in the photo were extremely outstanding in the drizzle. They were looking at each other with a tacit understanding.

Their gaze collided. Their eyes had an undisguised familiarity and regret of not meeting each other sooner.

'When did they get so familiar with each other?'

Eric's face was tense and ugly.

After a long time, he called Toto.

"Mr. Ferguson, are you calling because you miss Ms. Stanton? She's alright. She also said that she misses you!"

There were a few seconds of silence.

Toto felt that something was wrong.

Eric finally spoke in an icy tone.

Eric finally spoke in an icy tone.

“Toto, you dare to fool me?! Do you want to drown to death in the Seine?!”

“Mr. Ferguson, w-what’s wrong? What did I do?”

Toto suddenly panicked. ‘Did he already find out that Ms. Stanton’s professor is a man and that she even met with Mr. Sloan?’

“Huh...” Eric sneered and did not continue to speak.

This was a final warning.

Toto gritted his teeth. “Although there was a small incident, everything is still within our control! That male professor who likes perfume must be gay!”

Eric’s eyes turned darker. ‘Huh... Another unexpected turn?’

“I only found out that her professor is a man later, but this guy certainly can’t compare to you in any aspect, and they didn’t have any physical contact!”

Toto hurriedly explained this fact.

Eric’s voice was cold, clear, deep, and deadly.

ready.

“What about the other one then?”

He really did know after all!

Toto closed his eyes and looked at the two people walking in front of him. They were a really matching couple. No wonder even Luca said it was a nice picture.

However, this would look even better if Clayton was replaced by Eric!

“Mr. Sloan... It was a pure coincidence, but you can rest assured, Mr. Ferguson! I’ve been following Ms. Stanton. She mentioned Mr. Sloan’s late wife, so it must be very unpleasant between them...”

Toto rattled off on his views and explanations about Nicole and Clayton’s interactions. Eric finally calmed down and was a little impatient by the end of it.

“Alright, protect Ms. Stanton well.”

“Okay, don’t worry!”

“Come back sooner.”

Eric hung up the phone. His mind was still restless. He clicked into Nicole’s social media page.

It was blank.

He was not blocked, just restricted from certain content.

Thus, he did not see her post.

His chest felt congested and painful.

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Nicole looked at the time and thought that she was still too early to meet with her classmates, so she intended to buy some gifts for them.

She walked out of the intersection and stopped at the traffic light, then turned to look at Clayton.

“Mr. Sloan, if you have other things to do, just go ahead first.”

Clayton frowned. “You’re not going back to the chateau?”

“I’m going to buy some gifts for my class reunion this evening.”

Clayton nodded in understanding. “I also have to meet a client, so I’ll take my leave.”

The two of them bid each other goodbye courteously.

courteously.

As soon as Clayton left, Toto excitedly came up to Nicole. He held an umbrella and propped it up over Nicole's head.

"Ms. Stanton, you're so beautiful and delicate, so we can't let your hair get messed up. Where are we going next?"

Nicole glanced at Toto and did not say a word before she walked away.

She was very familiar with this place and did not need a map. She went straight to the shopping mall.

Toto was excited because this was a good opportunity for him to show off his skills!

Along the way, Toto planned the types of gifts that Nicole should buy. Nicole was annoyed at first and reluctantly acknowledged Toto later. Nicole thought that Toto should have gone into sales because he would certainly earn big bucks there.

Luca carried countless things behind them with a cold and fierce aura.

Toto did not forget about him and turned around. "Hurry up, Luca! It's just a few bags. Why are you so tired?"

Chapter 453 Her New Love

Luca's face was fierce and cold as he followed them. He glared dangerously at Toto.

If Toto was not walking next to Nicole, Luca would have beat him to a pulp by now.

Nicole's phone kept chiming with message alerts. She glanced at it and saw that it was Yvette.

[Why didn't you reply to my message? Are you really dating Clayton Sloan?!!]

.....

Nicole did not reply and was surprised to see more than two hundred unread messages and notifications.

'What the hell? Why is everyone asking about Clayton?'

[Ian Carter: Are you really together with Clayton? Are you ready to be a stepmother? I only want you to be happy, but I think maybe you should consider Eric Ferguson...]

[Julie Nixon: Clayton's not a bad choice,

[Julie Nixon: Clayton's not a bad choice, but don't take it seriously! How can an older guy be better than young hunks, amirite?]

[Kai Stanton: Are you ditching your dozens of boy toys? The entire showbiz is at your disposal, so you'd better think this through!]

[Grant Stanton: Money is King. What's the use of feelings?]

[Maverick Stanton: Not only is there a risk of getting sick when it rains, but your damp clothes are also a breeding ground for bacteria. From what I can tell, bacteria will grow easily on the soft material of your clothes.]

[Molly Stewart: Wow, Nikki! You're so stunning!]

.....

Nicole frowned and finished reading all the messages. She was speechless. 'It's just a photo!'

Coincidentally, Yvette called.

Nicole picked it up with ease.

"Lil N! Do you really like Clayton Sloan?"

"Lil N! Do you really like Clayton Sloan? Although Eric Ferguson really isn't a good option, why can't you just be single?"

Nicole could not help but laugh. She raised her eyebrows and said insouciantly as she walked around, "It's just one photo! You guys are stirring up too much drama."

"What? Is it not true? Then why did you two take a picture like that? I thought that you're suddenly announcing your relationship just to agitate Eric."

"There are many ways to provoke him, so why should I sacrifice myself?"

That was a good point.

Yvette nodded and breathed a sigh of relief.

"Then I'm relieved... Everyone thinks that you're dating Clayton. Actually, he's a pretty good option and his conditions are comparable to Eric, but the only thing is he already has a son..."

"There's nothing of that sort, so stop the nonsense. I'll just delete the photo so as not to cause extra trouble..."

"Okay! I'll pass on a message for you so

“Okay! I’ll pass on the message for you so that they can all shut up!”

Yvette happily added, “But honestly, you guys are such a match! Even romantic films can’t get this effect! Clayton’s really handsome. He seems like a good guy too. Dating such a person should be quite nice, huh?”

Nicole laughed lightly. “Shall I introduce him to you?”

“Forget it. I really can’t manage such a man.” Yvette dared not think about it because she had no confidence in herself.

Nicole, who had such a high IQ, was also tormented by Eric Ferguson. Yvette was afraid that she could not handle men like that.

Yvette thought it better to just accept a regular marriage alliance.

“But why did you agree to go on a trip with Eric? He clearly has no good intentions.”

Yvette was curious.

Nicole replied, “My dad wanted to come and asked me to join. Not to mention, we

Nicole replied, "My dad wanted to come and asked me to join. Not to mention, we have hundreds of billions of projects in hand, so there's no need to be so stiff with each other."

Yvette was speechless.

She suddenly felt that she was too narrow-minded to always think in terms of feelings. How superficial!

Everyone should totally shake hands and make up in the face of money!

Yvette felt that she was blindly worried about her bestie. Nicole would not fall for someone so easily. Every picture was an opportunity to make more money.

She sighed. "Alright then. I suddenly realized that our gap is too big. I should work hard and become on par with you too!"

Yvette consoled herself.

Nicole said, "It would've been better if you realized this sooner..."

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Chapter 454 New Love Exposed

Yvette hung up without saying a word. 'What a horrible friend!'

Nicole deleted the post, so those comments disappeared.

She finally had some peace.

Nicole did not need to reply to everyone because Yvette the big mouth would set everything straight for her.

Even so, news of Nicole and Clayton dating was uncontrollable and spread swiftly and violently like wildfire.

By the evening, there were all sorts of tabloids' headlines like "Nicole's new lover exposed" or "Nicole's mysterious new love".

Nicole's popularity was something everyone in showbiz was envious of. Anything that involved her name was sure to go viral.

Since Nicole was abroad, she did not know about what was going on in Medania. When she heard about this matter, news of this was already uncontrollable.

This was already uncontrollable.

Nicole happily went to her class reunion while the whole country was discussing her new love interest.

When Nicole returned from the party, Yvette called her.

“You’ve gone viral again!”

She then sent Nicole a screenshot.

All the hot topics were about Nicole and her new love.

Nicole frowned. “I’ll get Dominic Young to withdraw the hot topics.”

“No need for that. It’s been withdrawn. You’re too late, girl...”

Yvette was in a mood for more drama.

Nicole asked, “Who helped?”

“Eric Ferguson, of course! He gave the order that he would crush anyone who dares write about this.”

.....

Nicole went inside and looked through the hot topics for the day. It was indeed wiped clean without a trace of her and her new love interest.

love interest.

She calmly put away her phone and looked at Toto, who was walking over to her looking sickly.

“What’s wrong with you?”

Toto had a listless look.

“Mr. Ferguson’s condition worsened. He can’t even eat now. I’m just worried that he won’t recover.

Nicole frowned slightly. ‘Worsened condition?’

Toto looked up at Nicole and sighed despondently.

“Ms. Stanton, do you know what happened back in Mediania? Someone posted the photo of you and Mr. Sloan online and slandered your pure friendship. That’s simply an insult to your character! Someone’s just trying to get between your cooperation. When I saw it, I was furious even though it doesn’t have anything to do with me.”

Nicole glanced at him strangely while Toto grunted in anger like a fat toad.

“I already know about it.”

Toto sighed again.

“Then you must be very angry. Those netizens freely speculate about your relationship. Mr. Ferguson was worried that you’ll get mad and sad, and that Stanton’s Corporation’s stocks will be affected, so he immediately used his power to suppress those hot topics. Mr. Ferguson is so considerate and thoughtful! He really is a rare gem...”

He then asked, “Can you check on Mr. Ferguson?”

“Go get a bowl of chicken soup.”

“Okay!” Toto’s eyes lit up and immediately slipped away.

If Toto did not perform well, Eric would really throw him into the Seine.

Nicole went to Eric’s room and knocked on the door with a calm expression.

There was no response.

Nicole turned around and was about to go back to her room when the door suddenly opened.

Eric’s face was pale as he leaned on his cane. There was no trace of blood on his

Eric's face was pale as he leaned on his cane. There was no trace of blood on his lips.

He was standing there with his other hand holding up a bottle of IV fluid being infused in his arm. He moved with difficulty.

Nicole was shocked for a moment.

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Chapter 455 Pure Friendship

Nicole subconsciously wanted to help Eric hold up the IV fluid. The needle on his right hand was about to fall off. Beads of blood were seeping out.

Eric's face was miserably pale, and his thin lips were pressed into a straight line. His eyes lit up for a moment when he saw her.

"Nicole, come in..."

He took a few steps backward and lay back down on the bed.

Nicole stood in the doorway and watched as Eric struggled to hang the IV fluid back in place, so she walked over to help him.

She looked down at him. "Mr. Ferguson, how are you feeling?"

Eric's eyes flickered slightly as he smiled.

"Much better now. You didn't catch a cold, right?"

Eric raised his eyes. His face was pale, and his voice was still a bit raspy.

His gaze when Nicole looked at him was suffused with sadness.

It was quite pitiful.

“No.”

Nicole's heart trembled slightly. She walked to the chair opposite the bed and sat down as if nothing had happened.

Toto came in with a bowl of chicken soup and looked at the frail Eric with heartache.

“Mr. Ferguson, you have to stay strong. Ms. Stanton knows what you did for her and was moved to tears. She's been trying to thank you for helping and is deeply impressed by your good intentions. It's hard not to fall for an excellent man like you!”

Nicole knitted her brows and looked at Toto strangely.

The gloominess earlier was swept away in an instant.

Toto winked at her so that she could cooperate and take care of the patient's feelings.

Nicole pursed her lips. Her eyes were full.

“I heard that you withdrew the hot topics. Thanks.”

"You're welcome." Eric smiled lightly.

Toto handed the bowl of soup to Nicole and found an excuse to leave immediately.

Eric looked at the bowl and stretched out his needled hand, which was trembling.

Nicole frowned slightly. Eric looked frank and calm with a hint of anticipation in his eyes.

She looked at the usually cold and indifferent man who looked so vulnerable and helpless at this moment.

Her heart softened all of a sudden. After all, he was only injured because of her.

She should not be ungrateful.

Nicole held the bowl for him. There was a spoon inside, so he could drink by himself.

This was already the greatest patience she showed him.

Eric looked at her calmly and held up his other hand. The needle holes in it were clearly visible.

His other hand was also trembling.

"I don't have any strength."

I don't have any strength.

He had suffered a lot today.

Nicole was silent for a few seconds. She took back the bowl.

Just when Eric thought that Nicole was going to feed him, he suddenly heard her shout towards the door.

“Luca!”

The room was silent for a few seconds.

Eric's face faintly stiffened.

His chest felt stuffy. He knew what she wanted to do.

No, absolutely not!

He would rather starve to death!

In the next second, Luca appeared in front of them.

“Miss, what are your orders?”

Luca looked fierce and cold as always.

He was an emotionless bodyguard.

Nicole handed over the bowl to him. “Help me feed Mr. Ferguson.”

She said it naturally.

She said it naturally.

Luca's eyebrows knitted up slightly. He was also very reluctant, but since it was Nicole's command, he could only oblige.

Besides, he would rather Eric take advantage of him than Nicole.

"Yes, Miss."

He replied firmly and loudly, with such determination.

Before he could make it to the seat where Nicole just sat, Eric's face was dark and sullen as he grabbed the bowl, tilted his head, and drank it in one gulp without any hesitation.

Eric narrowed his eyes with cold intent. He looked infuriated.

"Get out!" Eric yelled at Luca.