

## Chapter 551 You Can Get Lost Now

Nicole was stunned for a moment when she saw Eric standing at her door.

Eric was holding a slightly soiled navy-blue gift box.

It looked a little out of place from his clean, slender hands.

His eyes were red.

He handed the box to her and said in a soft voice, "I picked it up, so don't reject me, okay?"

His voice was hoarse. His throat felt astringent.

He felt like he was going crazy for her, so much so that he could disregard his reputation and rummage through the trash can.

However, Eric knew that if he just walked away, he would not even have the luxury of meeting Nicole again in the future.

Nicole was silent for a few seconds and did not move.

Eric also remained in that position.

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After a long time, Nicole smiled and took the gift box from his hand.

She took out the contents and put them on a table at the side, then threw the box on the floor.

Nicole swept a glance at Eric and said, "You can get lost now."

Eric met her gaze and stepped forward. "I'm sorry."

He was too impulsive and lost control earlier.

Eric would not give up because she did not marry Clayton yet. Even if she did, he would still snatch her back!

The emotions in his eyes were complicated. The arrogance he had when facing outsiders disappeared without a trace in front of her.

Nicole narrowed her eyes and raised an eyebrow. "Is there anything else you want to say?"

"I want to change my terms. Let's remarry!"

His eyes were bloodshot. He did not need t

His eyes were bloodshot. He did not need to think about anything else because he had only one purpose - to marry her.

After a few seconds, she laughed.

'What's the difference? He wanted to sleep with me, but now he wants to sleep with me openly and repeatedly?!'

Nicole looked at him indifferently. "Do you think you stand a chance?"

His fingers trembled slightly. 'Do I think that I have a chance?'

"Not really at this moment..."

His face was glum. Nicole snorted lightly. "It's good that you know."

"But I will later!" His jaw tightened.

Nicole looked at him and did not make a sound.

Whether he had a chance to get back together with her was not up to him.

This was the first time Eric was so humble and wretched. It was all because of her.

Nicole turned to go back inside and closed the door, but a hand blocked the doorway.



the door, but a hand blocked the doorway.

The scar on Eric's arm was striking, so he retracted his hand.

"Nicole, my leg hurts..."

His voice was mute with a faint supplication.

He was trembling as he begged her with humility.

It felt like his invincible and mighty dominance just now was fake.

Nicole felt uncomfortable like she was being strangled. She also felt a heaviness in her heart like it had been hammered.

She was not afraid of Eric's aggressiveness, ignorance, ridicule, or even frivolity, but looking at him like this made her soft-hearted.

Nicole knew that this was her weakness.

She knew how his leg was injured and could not bear to ignore it.

Looking at him, she took out her phone and said, "I'll call Mitchell to come and pick you up."

Eric stopped her. "Mitchell's father is



hospitalized..."

He was not lying this time.

Nicole paused and gave up.

She made way for him and left the door open. "Come in first then."

Eric limped inside. After a few steps, cold sweat was already seeping out on his forehead.

He stood there while Nicole casually took out a pair of men's slippers and threw them on the floor.

"Change your shoes first."

Nicole walked inside and picked up the laptop on the sofa. She took out the flash drive and waited for it to boot up.

Eric's pupils shrank for a moment. His heart jumped violently.

'Damn it...' He felt guilty.

Eric looked at the men's slippers on the floor and could not calm his heart down.

'Besides me, other men came here too? Why does she have men's slippers here? Is Clayton Sloan a frequent visitor?'

s Clayton Sloan a frequent visitor?

He wanted to question her, but when he saw Nicole, his voice box felt like it was cut open. He opened his mouth, but he could not make a sound.

'Was the lesson just now not deep enough? The situation finally eased up, so if I ask another question, I'll get kicked out to the streets!'

After some thought, Eric held back.

'It's all Clayton's fault!'

Nicole turned on the laptop, inserted the flash drive, and opened the folder.

What she saw was mind-boggling: "Old Classics", "Romantic Songs", "President's Favorite Songs" ...

## Chapter 552 One Night in the Same House

Nicole thought, 'Old classics?! How old are these songs?'

She wrinkled her eyebrows. The folders in the flash drive were all songs that Eric liked.

This was certainly not her flash drive.

Nicole's face turned glum as she turned to look at Eric.

"This is the flash drive I left behind?"

Eric walked over, pretending not to know anything, and glanced at the folders.

When he saw "President's Favorite Songs", his eyes narrowed slightly. 'This driver is too detailed!'

"Perhaps I was mistaken..." Eric touched his nose and spoke calmly.

Nicole threw the laptop aside and went to her bedroom to wash up. "You can sleep on the sofa, or in your car."

"I like to sleep on the sofa." He quickly stated his preference.



stated his preference.

Eric's face sank when he swept a glance at the gold flower on the table by the door. He took advantage of the free time to reply to some work emails.

Nicole's apartment had two bedrooms, but since Kai left, the second bedroom was converted into a study, so there was only one bedroom now.

Eric saw that photo of Nicole on the wall. A light flickered in his eyes.

He walked over, adjusted the angle and filter, snapped a picture, and posted it on his social media.

The caption was: "A perfect night."

The picture and caption were self-evident.

Eric even deliberately blocked Nicole because of this.

In a few minutes, his post gained traction.

Keith Ludwig: [Holy sh\*t, Ferg! You're moving so fast! Isn't this Nicole's house? You both live together now? Where's Nicole? Why didn't you take a picture of her?]

Eric replied to his question. [She went to

take a bath.]

Nathaniel Ferguson: [Sigh... A large group of men just lost their love tonight...]

There were other comments as well.

[Congratulations! Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Stanton are simply a match made in heaven, a natural pair...]

[Wow, congratulations!]

[What a great match!]

.....

Eric breathed a sigh of satisfaction and leaned back on the sofa. 'So what if Clayton met the parents? I'm living in Nicole's house...'

Twenty minutes later, Nicole came out of the shower wrapped tightly in a large bathrobe.

Eric was playing with his phone with a meaningful smile plastered on his face.

'Why the hell is he smiling like this?' Nicole thought.

She took away the laptop and documents that were on the table and went back to her bedroom without another word.

her bedroom without another word.

Nicole's phone was left on the table. It suddenly rang.

Eric swept a glance at the caller ID, which made his eyelids twitch.

It was Floyd Stanton.

Nicole came out again to get her phone. She answered the phone and put it on speaker.

"Dad, you're still awake?"

Eric stared at her closely.

Floyd asked, "Are you alone?"

"Yeah..."

Floyd advised her in a serious tone, "You should go out to drink, dance, and party at night if you don't have anything to do. You shouldn't stay home alone."

Eric was surprised and pricked up his ears. 'My father-in-law is really different from others!'

"I've thought about it... Clayton and Eric are both good options, but marriage has its risks, so you should think about it properly. You can have flings, but don't



its risks, so you should think about it properly. You can have flings, but don't give up the entire ocean of fish just because of one small fry."

Eric felt like he was smacked on the head. 'My father-in-law is too open-minded, right? Isn't this the self-conceited mentality that only scum would have? How can he teach his daughter this?'

Nicole laughed. "I know. I still have some emails to get to. Goodnight, Dad."

"Okay, goodnight."

Nicole closed the bedroom door. Eric thought about it and could not sit still.

He walked to her door and was about to open it.

However, the door was locked.

Eric sneered. 'Is she safeguarding herself from me?'

## Chapter 553 Sneak Around

Eric silently went back to the sofa.

He was anxious, resentful, and helpless, so much so that he simply could not sleep that night.

It was just after dawn when he fell into a deep sleep.

Nicole woke up because of Yvette's phone call.

"Is Eric Ferguson in your house?"

Yvette asked such a direct question as soon as Nicole picked up.

Nicole frowned. Her brain was still muddled as she answered, "Yes..."

"F\*ck! Are you really back together?! You're living together now? Is it serious or just a fling?"

After a moment of trance, Nicole finally came to her senses and caught the point.

"How do you know that he's here?"

"Eric Ferguson posted a picture on his page, so everyone in the circle knows that you were together last night!"

you were together last night!

After Yvette said that, Nicole hung up and looked through Eric's social media, but it was blank.

Nicole took a deep breath and called Yvette back.

"Send me a screenshot of his post."

"No way! He blocked you?! Hahahaha! His tawdry move is too funny..."

He even needed to sneak around to post on his social media.

Soon, Yvette sent Nicole the screenshot.

Nicole almost fainted after seeing it.

The photo was her portrait in the living room. His suggestive caption and reply to Keith's comment made people's imagination run wild.

'This son of a b\*tch Eric Ferguson did this on purpose!'

There were countless comments and likes in the screenshot, so everyone in the circle must know by now.

'That \*sshole!' Nicole stormed out of her room in anger, but the living room was empty. The sofa was messy like it had



room in anger, but the living room was empty. The sofa was messy like it had been slept on, but he was no longer there.

'Huh... He ran quite fast!'

Nicole went to get freshened up and went to work.

Fortunately, Eric did not have too many friends that could see his post. Those people in the circle would not come to bother her either.

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Liberty Technologies recently became a hot topic of discussion. Their arrogant attitude towards consumers and their rude demands led to widespread discontent. This matter made it to the international news and attracted bad publicity.

There were demonstrations and protests from consumers that forced the Liberty government to suspend the production of Liberty Technologies' braking system. A series of investigations were also launched.

At the same time, the sale of luxury cars with the brake system had to be

with the brake system had to be suspended, but there was no intention to recall them.

Right on the cusp of this, J&L Corporation's artificial intelligence car was also exposed, and everything pointed to the faulty braking system from Liberty Technologies.

Artificial intelligence was the future. Since human life would be in the hands of an emotionless machine, they would need to be extremely careful.

The result would be tragic if they did not take this seriously.

The investigation process was no longer kept secret and was unconditionally released to the public.

Soon, the relevant international departments published a report on the investigation of the AI system, claiming that the system worked well without any malfunction or accident.

Thus, there was no doubt that the problem lay elsewhere.

In less than a month, Liberty Technologies fell from glory. The once



Technologies fell from glory. The once sought-after core technology company became a fraud that everyone criticized.

Even though the investors behind Liberty Technologies were powerful, no one dared to stand up for the company in the face of international public accusations.

Soon, the European countries, Mediana, and Liberty, jointly set up an investigation team. With the full cooperation of J&L Corporation, the matter was clearly investigated.

There was a small defect in Liberty Technologies' components, but this defect was intermittent, so not every component had problems.

This was the reason that some owners claimed that there was no problem with their cars.

The results caused an uproar in the international arena.

Soon, the company announced the suspension of this production.

The artificial intelligence car came out of this unscathed and even got a wave of free advertising.



You must've had a tough journey.

Gerard saw Eric's attitude and breathed a sigh of relief. "No, it's not tough. You've already arranged everything nicely, so we were just running errands."

If not for Eric's elaborate plan, they would not have won so beautifully.

At that time, if they directly accused Liberty Technologies, their investors would have wiped out J&L Corporation.

Eric did not have his usual cold attitude and replied to everyone's greetings. He had the patience of a boss.

Everyone was seated. Somehow, whether intentional or not, there was a single empty seat next to Nicole.

Naturally, Eric sat there.

He put one hand casually behind Nicole's chair.

Everyone exchanged subtle looks when they saw this.

Nicole feigned ignorance and flipped through the menu. She thoughtfully approached Gerard.

"Mr. Lichman, you worked the hardest, so

r. Ferguson.”

Nicole was surprised. “Apologize for what?”

Gerard thought that perhaps Nicole could help him out, so he told her about what happened that day.

When Nicole heard about Eric’s reply, she could imagine what Eric felt at that moment.

Eric used to be in the military, so even if he became a businessman, his loyalty to the country was not to be doubted.

It was no wonder Gerard felt so guilty.

“Ms. Stanton, please help me to say a few words in a moment...”

Nicole smiled. “Of course.”

As they spoke, the door of the private room opened again. Eric came inside by himself.

He swept a glance at the people present and lingered on Nicole for a moment. He then smiled and went up to pat Gerard’s shoulder.

“You must’ve had a tough journey.”

## Chapter 554 He Was Actually Scared

Gerard Lichman was already there when Nicole arrived at the restaurant's private room.

Several familiar faces came back with Gerard.

She smiled and went up to hug Gerard. "Good work, Mr. Lichman."

Gerard laughed. His elegant face was a little haggard, but he was more excited.

"It's my job. Fortunately, we weren't a disgrace to the Medianian artificial intelligence scene."

Nicole thought, 'He's got quite a big picture.'

After everyone exchanged pleasantries, they were relaxed and started chit-chatting.

"Let's order some food."

Nicole said, "It's on me today, so order whatever you like."

Gerard hesitated for a moment. "It should be my treat since I have to apologize to Mr. Ferguson."



advertising.

Gerard Lichman was satisfied with this result. He finally returned to Mediania in triumph and invited Nicole and Eric to dinner.

"Mr. Lichman, you worked the hardest, so why don't you order first?"

Gerard said, "That's not appropriate. We should let Mr. Ferguson order first."

Eric's eyes sank when he saw the distance between the two of them, but he smiled as if nothing was wrong.

"Mr. Lichman, go ahead. Don't be polite. Everyone, just feel free to order whatever you want."

His eyes turned cold as he watched Nicole smile at Gerard.

Everyone let loose after getting the word from Eric.

Gerard ordered a few dishes and handed the menu to Nicole, who handed it to the others because she did not want them to feel restricted with what they wanted to order if the three bosses ordered first.

While they were talking, Eric's hand that was resting on the back of her chair accidentally touched her hair, but he did not move away. Rather, he even fiddled with a lock of her hair.

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Eric met her gaze and suddenly felt his fingers tremble. He subconsciously retracted his hand.

'Damn it!' He was actually scared of her.

The food and drinks were finally served.

Nicole and some other female employees ordered juice.

Gerard calmly and eloquently made a toast, mainly to Eric and Nicole.

The two of them lifted their glass and took a sip in response.

The atmosphere in the room gradually became lively. Eric got his driver to make transport arrangements for the others, so they could drink to their heart's content.

After three rounds of wine, Gerard took his glass and winked to Nicole, who was next to him.

Eric's face turned colder when he saw this.



## Chapter 555 Is He Shameless?

Gerard said, "Mr. Ferguson, we've known each other for so long now. I'd like to apologize to you for my previous slip of the tongue."

Eric was silent for a few seconds. He then picked up his glass and downed the wine.

Gerard laughed and winked at Nicole.

Nicole cleared her throat and said, "Mr. Ferguson is not a petty person, so you don't have to take it to heart, Mr. Lichman."

This was the first time she mentioned Eric during the entire meal.

Eric answered. "Yes, it's all in the past."

Nicole thought about it. "Mr. Lichman, this also means that you're a bold and daring person who is very affectionate and loyal."

"Is that so?" Eric's tone was cold.

Gerard was shocked by Nicole's sudden praise and returned to his seat.

Eric did not say anything. He only

Eric did not say anything. He only repeatedly thought about Nicole's praise to Gerard and the small interactions between them. 'When did they become so familiar with each other?'

.....

Nicole ignored Eric and only looked at Gerard during the dinner.

Eric was annoyed and drank a few more glasses of wine.

There was a couple at their table who was still in the honeymoon stage. Their intimate little gestures drew the envy of single people at the table.

Eric glanced at Nicole and saw that she was staring at a dish of shelled prawns on the table hesitantly.

He suddenly reached out and took a piece, then carefully peeled the prawn with his hands.

Everyone only thought that Eric liked to eat prawns.

However, Eric placed the deshelled prawn next to Nicole's mouth.

The crowd saw this scene and froze. 'Oh,

He suddenly moved closer to Nicole. His breath reeked of alcohol as he coaxed her in a soft voice, "We even stayed together last night. Why are you so heartless?" ①

Although his voice was low, the people nearby could still hear it clearly if they wanted to.

Nicole was infuriated at the mention of this.

Eric caused so much trouble for her that day. 'Eric is simply sick in the head! I should've just crippled his leg and thrown him onto the streets!'

Nicole turned to look at him coldly. Her eyes flickered, and Eric felt like she was drunk even when she did not drink.

She let out a light laugh, attracting everyone's attention.

"It's just one night. Don't you know that it's for fun?"



back.

Seeing Eric's gloomy face, Gerard instantly regretted asking this question so openly.

This situation was obviously Eric's unrequited love.

Eric was humiliated.

The other people at the table felt so awkward.

Suddenly, Eric laughed and took away the prawn. He looked at Nicole with his dark eyes and knocked on the chair.

"I'm working on it."

He was too humble.

Everyone immediately understood what was happening.

"Good luck, Mr. Ferguson!"

"Yes, we support you!"

.....

Eric curled his lips. The alcohol got to his head. Looking at Nicole's calm and collected face, he felt a little bitter.

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The crowd saw this scene and froze. 'Oh, turns out it's Ms. Stanton who likes prawns...'

Nicole looked down and froze for a moment. She calmly swept him a glance and did not take it, much less take a bite.

She smiled and leaned back in her chair, distancing herself from his hand and the prawn.

Gerard saw this scene and figured it out when he thought about Eric's post.

There was only one woman who could make Eric Ferguson peel a prawn for her.

Gerard asked, "So, you two really got back together?"

Eric paused for a moment.

Everyone waited in silence for the answer, which was an official announcement.

This was more reliable than any media source.

Nicole smiled faintly without any warmth. "No."

Gerard's congratulatory words that were at the tip of his tongue were swallowed

Who dared to laugh at Eric Ferguson?

Gerard choked for a moment. 'I was wrong ... I shouldn't have asked Nicole to help me! These two were like fire and ice!'

The meal ended up being tasteless. Fortunately, it was not too awkward. Everyone went back satisfied.

Gerard followed Eric's people out to make arrangements, so Nicole and Eric were left in the private room.

Nicole picked up her bag and wanted to leave.

Eric called out to her. Looking at her slim and beautiful back, he suppressed the restlessness in his heart and spoke.

"Do you know what's the difference between me and Gerard?"

Nicole was speechless.

He stood up and walked over.

"His wife has been his classmate for eight years, and now they're ready to have a second child."

His voice was low and raspy as he stared intently at her.



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