

Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 16

Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 16 I Am Lisa

Nicole raised her head and subconsciously frowned at the sight of the two before her. Queenie and Joseph? Is the world that small that I'd bump into these two? "What does my whereabouts have anything to do with you?"

"You've come here looking for Colton, haven't you?" Queenie revealed a trace of anger on her face as she finally understood why Nicole would pretend to be Lisa. Someone must have told her that Colton is coming for F&M Apparel's annual dinner, and now she's pretending to be the company's Chief Designer to meet him!

"You're such a b*tch, Nicole! Slept with a man five years ago and now you're eyeing for Colton. There's no way he'd fall for a woman like you!" Queenie apathetically uttered as her eyes were filled with intense vexation.

"Hey, watch your mouth!" When Nicole heard her mindless jabbering, her eyebrows furrowed into a tight line. "It's only natural that I'm here because I am Lisa, F&M Apparel's Chief Designer."

Hearing that, Joseph scoffed. "Oh, Miss Anderson. Who would've thought you'd be so persistent with your lie for the sake of your pride? Props to you for your determination."

"Still, there should be limits to your nonsense, Nicole." Queenie raised her head boastfully. And here I thought she was only posing as Lisa to act as if she was the superior one, but her ulterior motive was really only to get close to Colton! If that's the case, I'll tear her name apart!

Queenie snickered. "Since it has come to this, I shall tell you the truth, Nicole. I am, in fact, Lisa's assistant in the country."

Assistant? Nicole was baffled. No wonder her voice and number felt familiar... So it has been Queenie all along? And the friend she brought over today is Joseph?

Catching the brief confusion on her face, Queenie grinned even more complacently, assuming Nicole's expression was the result of her exposure. Her speech, as well, grew more pompous. "I've no idea how you got in here, but I'd leave as soon as possible if I were you instead of embarrassing myself here."

Joseph tacitly added, "I know right? Wouldn't know how I'd recover from the shame if I were to get exposed publicly."

At that moment, Nicole revealed a cold smirk. "Although you're Lisa's assistant, you've never seen her, and only interacted with her through phone calls."

Queenie was slightly dazed. As she was about to question her knowledge, she was interrupted by a disturbance from the door.

Nicole turned to the door, only to see two tall figures approaching. Walking in the front was Zachary, who was sporting a gray suit that reflected his impeccable body shape. Although his steps were rather hasty, a passionate smile remained on his face, making him seem especially amiable and classy.

Traveling alongside him, on the other hand, was Colton. Also possessing a tall and sporty figure, Colton donned a rather monotonous black suit. As dull as the tone of his garments was his expressionless face. He pursed his thin lips into a horizontal line, and as he walked, he emitted an intimidating aura.

Seeing Zachary, Queenie immediately grabbed Nicole and dragged her to the doors of the banquet hall. "You said you're Lisa, right? Since F&M Apparel's president has come, we shall verify with him!" Without giving Nicole the chance to resist, she ferociously pulled her to the two dashing men.

"Good to see you, President Gardner." After greeting Colton, Queenie turned to Zachary. "Greetings, President Yates. My name is Queenie Anderson. My sister here has been out of her mind recently, claiming and pretending to be Lisa, the very Chief Designer of F&M Apparel. And that'll surely disgrace your company. But since you're here, President Yates, perhaps you can teach this wannabe a lesson!" Her words caused a turmoil among the crowd, and the onlookers began pointing their fingers at Nicole and criticizing her.

As Zachary's eyes fell upon Nicole, he pursed his fine lips as if he was holding something back. Simultaneously, a fiery sensation surged in his ebony eyes.

Seeing that, Queenie thought he was upset due to Nicole being an impersonator and further remarked, "President Yates, she didn't even finish college and kept telling everyone she's Lisa. She even did everything she could just to sneak into the company's annual dinner. She must have ill intentions!"

The crowd continued to badmouth and belittle Nicole. Hearing the murmurs from the crowd, Queenie felt contented. "I'll ruin Nicole's life and have her grovel at my feet today! There's no way she can recover from this!"

When Queenie was finally done, Zachary went up to her with a withdrawn smile. His face was stony, and his voice was excruciatingly icy.

"Who said Lisa's pretending?"

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Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 17 Tables Turned

“As I said... Wait, w-what?” Queenie opened her eyes wide. “W-What do you mean, President Yates?”

Zachary walked to Nicole’s side and defended her before every observing eye. “This Nicole lady, who’s standing right beside me, is F&M Apparel’s one and only Chief Designer, Miss Lisa!” As he voiced his words, silence filled the room. The sudden change of situation left those who were disparaging Nicole stunned.

Nicole is Lisa? But everyone said that Ms. Lisa from F&M Apparel is a woman in her forties! Queenie was in dismay. “That’s impossible!”

“Do you think I’m lying to you, miss?” Zachary stared at her with a hostile gaze. Given his tactfulness, he could sense that the woman before him was highly antagonistic toward Nicole. Although Nicole rejected him, he was still in love with her, and he would not allow anyone to condescend her!

Queenie’s body trembled as her eyes reddened. Yet, unable to express her frustration, she clenched her fists tightly. She was thoroughly disconcerted. Nicole’s actually Lisa! She’s the Chief Designer of F&M Apparel! I’ve gotten close to Colton and become the young mistress-to-be of Gardner Corporation, but how?! How is she still above me?!

The tables were instantaneously turned.

Most of the people came to the event in order to establish a connection with Lisa. With the golden opportunity presented right before them, they’d rather not ruin their chances.

“Wow, can’t believe anyone would doubt Miss Lisa!”

“You said it! And she was so confidently accusing her without checking her ‘facts.’ Tsk!”

“Apparently, she’s Lisa’s assistant in the country...”

Queenie stood still. Although she wore a flashy set of clothes, in that instant, she was perceived as a foolish clown. She thought she could finally devastate Nicole, only to realize she had shot herself in the foot. The belittling whispers and scornful glares made her extremely vulnerable as shame and embarrassment quickly overwhelmed her.

She wanted to defend herself, but before she could do that, her intention was suppressed by a freezing stare. She turned to the stare and discovered it was coming

from Colton. His cold expression reflected the absence of any intention to comfort her as he gazed at her with his inky, warning eyes.

With her reputation at risk, she could only take the embarrassment head on as she said through gritted teeth, “My apologies for making baseless accusations and staining Miss Lisa’s name.”

Naturally, Zachary wouldn’t forgo the fact that someone had attempted to humiliate Nicole. Grinning, he turned to Colton. “President Gardner, I heard that she’s your fiancée. Does she not know her place, coming to F&M Apparel and insulting our people?”

Colton withdrew his gaze as he remained in his firm posture. With a bland tone, he blurted, “Rumors are rumors.”

Those three indifferent words devastated Queenie and left her shivering by his coldness. No way. Even Colton’s not gonna back me up now? She took a step forward and was about to call for Colton, but hastily refrained from doing so as she was met by his daunting eyes. She was now nothing but a joke, and staying any longer in the venue would only draw mortification upon herself.

Joseph, on the other hand, was also perturbed. He never had expected Nicole to be Lisa herself, and it was only a few days ago when he insulted her back in the coffee shop. As the collaboration between the Mann Family and Lisa was crucial, he thought he could secure it with his trickeries, only to realize he had demolished the opportunity for a partnership.

At that moment, Nicole revealed a subtle smile as she pressed on her tingling wrist that was grasped by Queenie earlier. “Miss Anderson, Mr. Mann.” She looked at the two before her. “I’m clueless as to the violation I’ve caused to the two of you which resulted in your bold accusation of me pretending to be Lisa.” Her tone was neutral and unintimidating, as if she was simply making a description. “But now that President Yates has verified my identity, aren’t you going to suspect him too?”

The faces of Queenie and Joseph paled at Nicole’s formidable reprimand.

Although the majority of F&M Apparel’s power was overseas, their influence in the local market remained significant, and they were definitely not one to go up against.

Joseph hurriedly shook his head. “N-Nothing like that, Nicole—I mean, Miss Lisa. I was merely fooled by Queenie’s jabbering. I hope you didn’t take it personally, Miss Lisa.”

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Since the Mann Family earned their living in the clothing industry, offending F&M Apparel would only bring doom. Although Mann Clothing Co. was one of the leading clothing corporations in Lumore, they were only a speck of dust compared to F&M Apparel.

Breaking drops of sweat on his forehead, Joseph immediately grew remorseful remembering the words he had spoken to Nicole previously. Back then, he had indeed listened to Queenie without considering the truthfulness of her words and ended up believing that Nicole was pretending to be Lisa. Because of that, he had thoroughly displeased the entire F&M Apparel corporation.

Seeing how Joseph switched sides so quickly, Queenie was infuriated. Nonetheless, she could only hold her anger in. "I'm sorry for my ignorance, Miss Lisa," she apologized. As Colton needed the collaboration with Lisa, if she were to destroy his chance at that, she could forget about being the young mistress-to-be of Gardner Corporation.

Looking at Queenie who was so apologetic, Nicole smiled lightly and faintly replied, "Well, I'm not an unreasonable person. Just be cautious in the future, will you?"

Hearing that, Queenie was stunned; she'd thought Nicole would seize the chance to humiliate her further. She didn't expect Nicole to let her off so easily.

Before she could react, Nicole went on a tangent. "I don't really mind it personally, but I'm here representing the entire design team of F&M Apparel. And by embarrassing me, you embarrass my entire design team. There's no way I'll let the members of my design team be perceived as weaklings." Nicole accented her words as her straight posture highlighted her slender figure, in addition to her heels that made her appear stylishly tall.

Queenie, on the other hand, was startled by her freezing tone and stern face. Her entire body trembled as her cheeks reddened. As she was put on the edge, if Nicole were to go on rebuking her, the Gardners just might turn on her. By then, the Anderson Family would have no one else to rely on. She glanced at Colton, who was not far away, only to find him watching idly, having no intention to back her up. Thereupon, she could only swallow her pride and play the sibling card. "Um... look, Nicole. We're sisters, aren't we? At the end of the day, the same blood flows in our bodies. I'll admit—it's my fault. Could you forgive me, please?"

Nicole lowered her head to look at Queenie. Her once-boastful sister was now behaving as petty as a timid little puppy. She unaffectedly grinned, knowing it was only the beginning. None of you Andersons shall be forgiven for Mom's death!

"You're right," Nicole answered as her eyes turned duller. "Since we're sisters, I'll let this pass." As she was speaking, she turned to Joseph. "Mr. Mann, as I said, F&M Apparel

will never establish any partnership with the Mann Family, and my words still stand. If there's nothing else, you may leave."

As Robert's only precious son, who had been raised with all the care and attention in the world, Joseph felt insulted for being confronted in front of a gargantuan number of guests—including countless reputable figures in the country—attending the annual dinner. He felt thoroughly ashamed, being ridiculed by the crowd. Nevertheless, the person right before him was Lisa, so he could only withstand it and retreat with his rage suppressed.

Shameful, Queenie, along with Joseph, fled the scene in despair. A hint of malice flashed across Queenie's eyes when she turned around to eye her popular sister.

Then, F&M Apparel's domestic general manager came to handle the crowd. "Okay. It's all merely an accident. Let's all enjoy our food and drinks. You may all come to ask Miss Lisa for guidance if you have any questions." There was obviously sweat on his forehead as he was stupefied by the previous disturbance. Since it was Lisa's first trip to the country, if the conflict were to be blamed on him, his career as a general manager would be as good as over.

With that, the guests, sparing F&M Apparel the pride, gradually dispersed.

At that moment, Colton walked over with a polite smile. "Greetings, Miss Lisa. I'm Colton Gardner, president of Gardner Corporation."

At his manly, magnetic timbre, Nicole turned around and met his deep, dark eyes. Those eyes were as deep as an abyss, as if they were pulling her in. Looking at the man before her, she tensed her brows and audaciously replied, "You don't have to be so courteous. We've known each other for a long time, after all."

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Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 19 What Was the Result?

Colton was unaffected at all by the fact that he was seen through, evidently with the smile on his face. Calmly, he uttered, "Can't be too careful when it's about the partnership of two companies. Besides, I'm only showing respect for F&M Apparel and Miss Lisa yourself."

Nicole was astounded by how the man before her complacently described his pretense as "being careful."

Zachary, on the other hand, could tell there was some sort of pre-established relationship between the two and smilingly said, "Since we're all here, why don't we find a seat and talk about the partnership between F&M Apparel and Gardner Corporation?"

Nicole nodded. The partnership with Gardner Corporation would only be beneficial, unsimilar to working with the associates of Mann Clothing Co., who were so easily persuaded. Although Gardner Corporation was clearly inferior to F&M Apparel in the clothing market, their advanced information technology was one of the most formidable in the field, which was also why F&M Apparel was willing to work hand-in-hand with Gardner Corporation.

Sitting by the conference table, Nicole put aside all her personal grudges as well as her bias against the Gardners, while Colton began the discussion of the partnership. The two remained assertive and opinionated with their thoughts regarding the work as every single word spoken was conveyed professionally. Meanwhile, Zachary looked at Nicole as she confidently and charmingly proposed her ideas.

"For the next season, F&M Apparel will be concentrating on casual wear, mainly on the refinement of the material used in manufacturing those products..." Whenever Nicole was talking about work, it was as if she was an entirely different person. She wouldn't miss even the most insignificant detail.

Out of nowhere, a man came over and whispered to Zachary, to which the latter revealed a stiff expression before turning to Nicole. "Nicole, something came up, and I gotta go tend to it. I shall leave the matter to you and President Gardner."

Nicole nodded. "Alright."

Zachary's departure left the remaining two on the wide couch. At that moment, Colton's eyes twitched and he grew silent as he looked at Nicole. He waited for Nicole to finish up the discussion and slowly said, "Miss Lisa, I have a personal question for you. Do you have the time?"

Nicole paused for a moment as she looked back at him, clueless to his intentions. She then lifted her head and countered, "What is it?" As far as she could remember, she did not have any private interaction with Colton.

"Is your son four years old this year?" He stared at her with a hint of fascination in his inky eyes, though he didn't make it obvious.

Hearing that, Nicole immediately grew defensive. She peered at him with her eyes filled with wariness. "Why do you ask?"

Colton then laughed. Initially, he thought Nicole was trying to flirt with him. However, given her identity as the Chief Designer of F&M Apparel and the way Zachary spoke to her, he found no point to support and justify that thought. He lifted his commissures and claimed, "A boy named Hayden sent his hair to me and wanted a paternity test done."

At once, Nicole's body froze. Hayden? My son Hayden wants a paternity test done with Colton? She was visibly dazed. She knew Hayden suspected that Colton was his real father, but she had never expected him to be this bold. She raised her eyes to look at the face that was almost identical to that of her son's. If she didn't know that Joseph was the man she slept with five years ago, she, too, would have suspected that Colton might have been Hayden's father.

Accordingly, she forced a smirk, clarifying, "Ah, that boy always wanted a father, and he might have overstepped his boundary seeing your dashing look. I hope you don't read too much into it."

For some reason, Colton grew enthralled by her hasty expression. Languidly, he opened his mouth as he looked at her with his ebony eyes, and with a voice so magnetic, he stated, "Well, I bought it, so I did the paternity test."

What?! Nicole was so stunned her entire body was petrified. Her jaw dropped as she fixed her unbelieving eyes on the man. She was thoroughly perplexed.

"Then... What was the result?"

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Right Person, Wrong Time Chapter 20 Hayden Was Kidnapped

Right as she voiced her inquiry, she thought, Oh, silly me, what was I expecting?

Colton stared at her without answering the question. He simply countered, "Miss Lisa, don't you even have the slightest idea as to who your son's biological father is?"

Judging by her expression, she was obviously regretting asking the question in the heat of the moment. As her excitement waned, her face began to redden. She stammered, "I-I mean, it was a thoughtless question. Of course I know who his father is."

"Oh?" Colton blurted with his voice pressed. With that, he squinted his eyes. With an increased volume and a somewhat teasing tone, he smilingly questioned, "Then who's the boy's father?"

Withdrawing her gaze, she attempted to speak in a calm manner. "That has nothing to do with you, does it?"

In response, Colton softly chuckled and stopped talking about it.

Nicole felt utterly frustrated by his cliffhanger, dying to find out the results of the paternity test. Although she was certain that Hayden wasn't Colton's child, she wanted to hear an explicit confirmation from the man.

As if he could read her mind, he shot her a beam. "Indeed, Hayden's not my son. The kid was just being a kid."

Strangely, Nicole heaved a sigh of relief. Even she was weirded out by her internal celebration. "Well, kids, right? I hope you didn't take it to heart."

"It's alright. I understand," he generously replied.

As they were about to continue on discussing business, Nicole's phone that was on the couch vibrated. Although she was going to ignore it, her heart oddly palpitated as her eyelid twitched. She grabbed the phone and took a glimpse, only to find out it was a call from her son. Apologetically, she turned to Colton. "Excuse me, President Gardner. I have to take this." Finished, she held the phone by her ear.

Before she could ask her son what happened, she heard his panicking voice. "Mom, some bad guys came to our home and kept banging the door!"

Immediately, she grew anxious. Since it had been quite some time since there were any residents dwelling at their current home, she didn't bother to install an anti-theft door. Right now, all there was between her son and the "bad guys" was a simple wooden door.

"Hayden, block the door with anything you can lift and go hide in the house. I'm coming back right away. Remember, don't make a sound."

"I think they're about to come in, Mom." Hayden suppressed his voice. No matter how mature he was, he was, after all, merely a child who had no idea what to do in such a circumstance.

In that instant, a chilly sensation gushed in her body and was creeping to heart as her lips uncontrollably trembled. I can't let anything happen to Hayden!

"Hayden, find a place and hide yourself. I'm coming back now." Perhaps it was due to the overwhelming perturbation in her mind, but when she was saying those words, tears began surging in her eyes and flowing down her cheeks. She bit her lips. How did this happen? Why would anyone want to kidnap my son? She never felt as helpless as she was now. Even with the fastest speed, it would take at least an hour to travel the distance between her home and Crown Hotel, where F&M Apparel's annual dinner was being held.

Grasping her phone, as she was about to say something, she heard a commotion from the other end of the line.

“Mom, save me!” Hayden sobbed with his suppressed whimpering, followed by the voices of several men.

“This must be the boy.”

“Yeah. They mentioned the kid in this apartment. He must be it.”

The voices gradually grew inaudible before the call ended.

“Hayden, Hayden!” Nicole shouted at her phone, only to be responded by silence. Troubled, she no longer cared about the meeting and tried to look for Zachary, but he was nowhere to be found after being summoned away.

On the other hand, Colton could roughly figure out what happened based on her panicking look and her conversation. At once, he offered his assistance with utmost debonair. “Let’s go and check it out. I’ll drive.”

At the moment, Nicole, as if grasping at straws, rapidly nodded and gripped Colton’s wrist, disregarding any sort of social stigma as she dragged him out of the venue.

Knowing the matter was urgent, Colton did not stop walking as they exited the building. As soon as they tacitly got into the car and fastened their seatbelts, the man put the pedal to the metal and sped away.

Grasping her phone, Nicole continuously dialed her son’s number, but his phone was apparently turned off given how her calls didn’t go through. She raised her hand and clutched her hair out of agitation. Ever since she gave birth to Hayden, this was the first time she felt so helpless and distressed.

No, please don’t let anything happen to Hayden! Or else, I wouldn’t be able to live on.