

Right Person Wrong Time Chapter 26

Chapter 26 A Night of Search

Hopelessly sitting on the couch, even Nicole herself didn't know how she managed to live through the night. Under her eyes were the stains of her ruined makeup which she had yet to remove that made her seem extremely petty. It wouldn't even be an overexaggeration to describe her as a banshee.

Meanwhile, accompanying by her side was Zachary, who was constantly making calls and contacting everyone he knew to scour for Hayden's whereabouts.

Every minute that passed agitated her more as she remained in a posture, stationarily sitting on the couch until the sun rose. Because she had kept her eyes still for too long, when she eventually moved her eyes, she felt a sting in them.

At her zoned-out look, Zachary couldn't help but feel pained. Pouting his lips, he turned to Nicole and suggested, "Nicole, why don't you go get some rest? I'll tell you as soon as I receive news about Hayden."

Upon his timbre, there was finally movement on her frozen face. She turned to Zachary with a forced grin, and with a feeble voice, she replied, "I'm fine."

Hearing that, Zachary hesitated to say anything knowing he wouldn't be able to persuade her given her immense worry for her son. Subtly, he heaved a sigh and continued contacting his peers. He gave up sleeping for the entire night as he was, too, concerned about Hayden.

Right when Nicole spaced out, her phone beeped in her pocket. Immediately, she grabbed her phone and saw it was a call from Colton. Hastily, she answered the call and put the phone by her ear.

"My men found some news about your son. He was last seen at Pine Harbor. A witness saw some thugs carrying him onto a ship," Colton stated.

At once, Nicole's heart began to palpitate as she gripped her phone so hard that her hand paled. Ship? Hayden was brought to the sea? All of a sudden, her vision turned dark, but fortunately, Zachary managed to hold her up, or she would have collapsed onto the floor. Gasping, she quickly pursued the matter, asking, "President Gardner, have you found the thugs yet?"

"Only information about them. If everything goes according to plan, we'll be able to locate them today. I'll update you as soon as I can," Colton said.

"Thank you, President Gardner," she immediately thanked.

"You may drop the courtesy," he faintly replied. After hanging up, Colton lay backward and rested his entire body against the back of his chair, visibly fatigued. With his slender fingers, he pinched the bridge of his nose, gently massaging it. As he was about to rest for a bit and shut his dreamy eyes, the phone on his desk rang. He answered the call, one hand on his forehead, and asked coolly, "What is it?"

"President Gardner, the thugs were just done with their traveling procedures. It seems like they're going to hide themselves. We're now sealing the airport, and all there's left to do is wait," the informant on the call conveyed.

Colton nodded. In order to look for Nicole's son, he hadn't gotten a wink of sleep the entire night. He then inquired with his hoarse voice, "Have you seen the kid?"

"Not yet. For now, we can only look for those thugs, and then we'll force the kid's whereabouts out from them." Having received the commission from Colton, the informant and his crew had searched for Hayden the whole night. Hence, they, too, were exhausted. They first started with scrutinizing surveillance footage to track down the child before finding the thugs, leading to their progress now.

"Mm. Find the kid at all costs," Colton icily ordered. He loosened his fingers that were pressing his brows as he figured that his effort was worth it. Once he succeeded in helping Lisa, Gardner Corporation would certainly thrive in the clothing industry.

After all, a businessman's purpose was to amass profits.

Right Person Wrong Time Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Son Found

As the day gradually brightened up, a shadowy anomaly occurred from the horizon.

Meanwhile, Nicole was supporting her head with both her hands, pondering. Once again, her phone rang, but this time, it was a call from an anonymous line to her business number. Frowning, she rejected the call as she was too disrupted to talk about work. However, it only took a few seconds for the unknown person to call her once more. After pausing for a while, she picked it up.

"Nicole." As soon as she answered the call, she was greeted by a gruff, gratifying voice. With that, she already knew who the caller was. It was none other than her biological father, William Anderson!

With an antagonistic tone, she coldly blurted, "What?"

Despite her apathetic utterance, William remained amicable as he chucklingly said, "Nicole, I've prepared the things you wanted to retrieve last time. Why don't you come and take it if you have the time now?"

Recognizing how his speaking attitude contrastingly varied compared to the last time they spoke, Nicole could easily tell what was happening even with half her brain gone. She subconsciously revealed a sarcastic grin.

The only reason William's attitude would change so radically was indubitably the result of Queenie telling him about her identity as Lisa, and him trying to please her right now was proof enough. Indeed, she wanted to retrieve her mother's belongings, but the current circumstances wouldn't allow her to. Rolling her eyes, she answered, "Not now."

Fearing that Nicole might hang up, William quickly continued, "My grandson's here too. He's been playing around for the entire night. If you have the time, come and fetch him home. I'm getting old. I don't think I can keep up with him."

Hearing that, she was dumbfounded. The iciness in her eyes instantaneously turned into shock as her lips trembled. "Hayden's with you?"

"Yeah. What an adorable child," he laughingly said.

"I'll come over right now." Without saying more, she swiftly hung up and dragged Zachary up from the couch.

At her nervous look, he curiously asked, "What happened?"

"Hayden's at Anderson Residence. Come with me," she speedily explained as her heart rapidly thumped. Hayden's safe! Although there was no telling whether William's words were true, she at least found a new direction to go.

"He's with your father?" Zachary skeptically questioned. Having been in F&M Apparel for so many years, he had never heard Nicole talk about her family. The only thing he knew about her family was her deceased mother, which was stated in her resume, while information about her father was left blank.

"Yes." She lowered her gaze, and she was visibly trying to be patient.

In response, Zachary knowingly nodded before grabbing his coat on the couch and draping it around her shoulder. "Let's go. I'll send you."

Swiftly, Nicole got into Zachary's car, a silver Maybach, and as soon as she told him the address, he immediately drove off.

Having reached the gates of Anderson Residence, Nicole hastily alighted, while Zachary, worried about her, parked his car and quickly followed after. She charged through the doors into the well-lit living room, where four individuals were sitting on the couch, including her son who was sitting in the middle. "Hayden!" Nicole dashed to him and hugged him, holding him tightly in her arms.

Seeing his mother, Hayden immediately wailed out loud. "Mom!" No matter how mature and well-behaved he was, the abduction had certainly shocked him. He spent the entire day being uptight, and it wasn't until he met Nicole that he started to cry at the top of his lungs.

Looking at her son snuggling in her embrace, Nicole bitterly caressed his silky hair, relieved that her son was intact. She continuously comforted her son as she whispered into his ear, "You have nothing to worry anymore, Hayden. Mom's here."

There was a trace of redness on Hayden's milky cheeks, which seemed to be the doing of the chilly sea winds. After all, how could a child's frail skin withstand the torment of the sea winds?

Right Person Wrong Time Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Where's Your Respect?

Hearing her child's sobbing, Nicole felt devastated as if a thousand needles were pricking her heart. She tenderly patted him and waited for him to calm down before asking, "Where did you go, Hayden? You got Mom so worried!"

Hayden lifted his head from Nicole's arms and revealed his sorry eyes, muttering, "A bunch of bad guys barged into our house and carried me away. They brought me to the sea. And my face hurts from the wind blowing."

At once, Nicole hugged her child's head as her heart thumped. The sea... As she was comforting her son, she raised her head to look at the remaining three on the couch. She pulled a freezing, straight face as she glared at the three, coldly interrogating, "Why is Hayden here?!" She squinted her eyes. I was right after all. It was all their doing!

"Don't be so angry, Nicole. Hayden's my grandson. There's no way I would hurt him, right?"

At that moment, Lydia stood up with a gratifying look and walked over to caress Hayden.

Nevertheless, Nicole took a step backward and evaded her hand. Standing still, she swept her gaze across the Andersons. "You said you knew nothing of his whereabouts, so why is he here?!"

Queenie looked up, disdain and resentment evident on her face. If it weren't for William's persistent hindrance, the little rascal would have drowned in the waters by now. "No matter whose child he is, he is still Dad's grandson. What's wrong with Dad wanting to see him?" she questioned, her voice hostile.

Hearing that, Nicole lowered her head and looked down at Queenie, revealing a belittling smile. "What you did was abduction!" Her eyes were evidently red, and having spent the night without slumbering left her extremely energyless. Nonetheless, now that her son was right in her arms, she couldn't be more relieved by the vivid sensation.

"Don't be mad, Nicole. We're family, right? Come, sit down, and we can have a nice chat," Lydia, standing at the side, suggested.

Disgusted by their pretense, Nicole intensely leered at them. She would never forgive the people behind her son's abduction. "Be prepared to get sued. Imprisonment is coming for all of you."

Eventually, Queenie lost her patience and sprung up from her seat, gazing at Nicole as she sternly yelled, "Why are you being so difficult, psycho? Even if Dad divorced your mother, he's still legally your father. And since when has a father meeting his grandson become kidnapping?"

Queenie was infuriated just by thinking how William's behavior changed after knowing Nicole was Lisa. Enraged, she continued, "You're not trying to disown your own father after becoming the Chief Designer of F&M Apparel, are you?"

At those ridiculous words, Nicole burst out laughing. There was nothing but delight on her face, realizing how they spoke nothing of Hayden's journey to the sea, but kept going on with the grandfather-grandson talk, and only a dimwit couldn't tell why.

"My own father, you said?" She turned to William with a fierce gaze. "Since when has he treated me as his daughter?"

Meanwhile, Hayden, growing tired after crying for some time, shut his eyes and fell asleep in Nicole's arms.

"Oh, Nicole. I'm really sorry for the past few years," William softly uttered. "I'm getting old, and my heart can no longer take any conflicts. All I want right now is to have both my daughters by my side..."

Before he could finish, Nicole interjected, "Oh, Mr. Anderson. I don't deserve so much kindness, for I'm not part of the Anderson Family."

Initially, William intended to continue pleasing her, but seeing how Nicole was so eager to cut ties with him, he instantly scowled in embarrassment. Subconsciously, he raised his voice. "What the hell are you talking about? Regardless of what happened, I'm still your father who raised you for eighteen whole years! And this is how you speak to me?!"

Nicole snickered. If it weren't for the fact that her child was sleeping, she would have fired back. Regaining her composure, she turned around to leave as she lost her desire to entertain her corrupted "family."

"What's wrong with you, Nicole?! Dad's talking to you! Where's your respect?" Right as Nicole landed a foot out the door, she heard Queenie yelling.

Before she could make a response, Zachary came in and defended her. "If you want others to respect you, fix your own conduct before you start blabbering about respect!"

Right Person Wrong Time Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Gratification

Surprised by Zachary's presence, William nervously dropped his jaw.

F&M Apparel wasn't just popular around the world, but it was also dominating the local market. Anyone in the clothing industry could instantly recognize Zachary, F&M Apparel's president. After all, the man's face always made it to the cover page of fashion magazines as the trendsetter for the country's fashion.

Hastily, William sprung up from his seat and revealed an expression of humility. "I didn't realize you were here, President Yates."

Zachary stonily glared at the Andersons. He stayed outside and overheard their conversation, choosing not to get involved to avoid troubling Nicole, only for the conversation to gradually grow overbearing. "My chief designer was being ridiculed right here, and if I pretended not to hear it, outsiders would surely look down on F&M Apparel and its members." His intonation, his face, and his aura were nothing but cold and belligerent.

On the other hand, with Hayden resting in her arms, Nicole remained silent.

Panicking, William responded with a smile and crossed his hands as he lowered his eyes. "It's nothing like that. We're a family, after all. The quarrel you heard earlier was simply a joke." With such a powerful figure before them, the Andersons wouldn't dare to oppose Zachary.

"Family?" Zachary's voice elevated as anger subtly surged in his eyes. Revealing a resentful grin, he stared at their disgusting faces and squinted his eyes, saying, "In the last five years, I didn't even know Nicole had a family."

With how Zachary was so protective of Nicole, William intuitively grew anxious, but at the same time, his greed intensified. Judging from Zachary's words, it was obvious that Nicole was important to him. William thought that if he could draw Nicole back to the Anderson Family, they would be able to receive help from F&M Apparel. Easy-peasy.

With that, William quickly turned to Nicole as he pulled out a jade bracelet from his pocket, ingratiatingly stating, “Nicole, this belonged to your mother. Back then, our divorce was inevitable. It has been so long already, so can you please forgive me?”

Followingly, he revealed a sympathy-evoking face as his eyes glistened with mist, and when he looked at Nicole, he started tearing up and played the emotion card. “I wanted to give this back to you when your mother passed away, but I never could find you after so many years of searching,” he said so earnestly as he reached out his slightly shaking, wrinkled hand, presenting the bracelet to Nicole.

Nicole passed the child in her arms to Zachary and grabbed the bracelet before assiduously studying it, only to find out the bracelet, indeed, belonged to her mother. She pursed her lips wordlessly, thinking that was what William was supposed to do, so she had no obligation to thank him.

Consequently, she put the bracelet away. Although Hayden’s abduction was unquestionably more than met the eye, she received her mother’s will. As she gazed at the Andersons before her, her heart ultimately wavered.

Glaring apathetically at the three, she coldly uttered, “I’ll drop the pursuit of your intentions this time. If this happens again, no matter what your reasons are, I’ll definitely get to the bottom of it!” Having said that, she shot Lydia and Queenie a piercing gaze—developed along the time she spent in the business world—that left the two horrified.

Queenie forced herself to meet her gaze before turning to Zachary and was reminded of the partnership between Gardner Corporation and F&M Apparel. At once, she plastered a grin on her face as she held back her temper and gratifyingly replied, “What are you talking about, sis? Hayden’s so adorable! Dad and Mom love him so much! They just wanted to see their grandson.”

Having no desire to prolong the pointless conversation, after verifying the bracelet was real, Nicole tugged on Zachary’s sleeve and whispered, “Let’s go.”

As she had found her child, she could finally calm her heart and her body down. Thoroughly drained, she couldn’t wait to get home and sleep for a whole week.

Zachary, on the other hand, swept a cold glance past the Andersons as he carried Hayden in his arms before following Nicole out of the residence.

Right Person Wrong Time Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Found Those Thugs

Thanks to Zachary’s presence, none of the Andersons dared to square up, and they could only watch as the two departed.

After walking out of the door, Zachary withdrew the hostility on his face and lowered his eyes to look at the exhausted Nicole beside him. Worried, he asked, "We could really get to the bottom of this if we continue looking into it. Are you really dropping it?" In fact, with F&M Apparel's influence, investigating the matter would hardly break a sweat.

With her eyes slightly closed, Nicole heaved a sigh and shook her head as she looked at her son, who was sleeping in Zachary's arms. "Hayden's safety is all that matters." After a moment of pause, she opened her eyes that were filled with iciness. "But if there's a next time, I'll surely give them hell!"

As of now, she was no longer a softie, and she let the Andersons off solely out of gratitude for William's guardianship in the past. Her bottom line was rather simple, and that was no one could lay a finger on her son, Hayden.

Aware of that, Zachary couldn't help but feel remorseful. He then revealed a light smile and knowingly nodded as he was carrying Hayden. "As long as Hayden's safe."

As they were about to get into Zachary's car, Nicole's phone rang, to which she took a look and saw it was a call from Colton. With that, she answered the call and heard Colton's deep voice. "Miss Lisa, my men have captured the thugs that kidnapped your son. You can come over if you have the time."

Nicole was moved. Although her first impression of Colton wasn't exactly pleasant, the man spent the entire night and day searching for her son, so she subconsciously felt indebted to him. Despite knowing for a fact that the masterminds were the Andersons, she thought it was best to clear things up, to which she replied, "Okay. Send me the address and I'll head there right away."

Ending the call, she turned to Zachary and earnestly quizzed, "Hayden is tired. And my house isn't quite home right now. Can you please bring him to your place, President Yates?"

Zachary, who was listening to the conversation at the side, unhesitantly agreed. "Sure, I'll bring him back. Give me a call when you need a ride home."

Without rejecting his offer, she blurted, "Alright."

Later, she took a cab to Gardner Corporation. It was nine sharp then—the rush hour where people were going to work. The fact that they were in the bustling city center didn't help either. After getting stuck in unmoving traffic for half an hour, she finally arrived at Gardner Corporation.

The biggest difference between her current visit and the last was that upon entering the doors, a gentleman, donning a brown suit and gold-framed glasses, came to her. "Good morning, Miss Lisa. I'm President Gardner's assistant, Tony Larson. I've been instructed

to await your arrival. Please follow me upstairs.” Tony put on a light smile that was sufficiently appropriate, neither distant nor gratifying.

Nicole nodded and responded with a beam. “Thank you.” Accordingly, she followed Tony into an elevator exclusive to the company president. Little did she know, after the elevator doors shut, a turmoil broke out in the office.

“Did you see that? Mr. Larson came to receive her in person! What’s her background?”

“It can’t be President Gardner’s girlfriend, can it? She seemed rather perturbed, but she’s got the looks, I guess.”

“No way. Isn’t President Gardner dating that lady from the Anderson Family?”

“That Anderson woman? Pfft. Did you forget she offended the entire F&M Apparel? Besides, her pretense is bound to get her dumped by President Gardner!”

And so, the chattering continued.