

## Chapter 271 Finding Your IQ Is Like Trying to Find a Needle in a Haystack

Kai froze in place from shock. These days, he had been afraid to think about it and did not dare to accept reality. What if there was a chance?

However, once Maverick finished, Kai suddenly crouched down and trembled fiercely. The grown man, Kai, broke down in tears.

Logan, who was standing by the side, also felt emotional. His eyes reddened because he felt the same way.

Maverick looked at Kai silently.

“Sorry, I came out too late.”

If Maverick had not shut himself in the laboratory for the secret research, he

would have known about this long ago.

With his high IQ, Maverick very calmly analyzed all the details and possibilities, then corrected all the deviations bit by bit.

Tigger's tracker did not respond at all, and there was no trace of it even on the satellite map, which meant that it was probably being blocked by some high-tech instruments.

Therefore, their search range should be set in the sea two thousand nautical miles away from their current location.

Kai called everyone to stop the search and rescue work here and change directions immediately.

Maverick continued to look at the satellite map on the computer and

slowly pieced together the situation in that part of the sea.

There were many small islands, which meant there were many dangers.

He fell silent.

Kai called Floyd in high spirits and told him not to donate their assets so quickly. In the end, Floyd scolded him and called him inhumane for thinking about money even at this point. <sup>1</sup>

Maverick looked at the sullen Kai and snorted coldly.

“Finding your IQ is like trying to find a needle in a haystack.”

Kai wanted to retort but thought better of it. After all, Maverick really did crush everyone in terms of IQ.

A mercenary leader questioned why

they would be going to that part of the sea and said that they did not want to go.

Kai finally had a hope he could hold on to, so he naturally would not give it up.

“State your price. Money is not a problem.”

The mercenary shook his head and refused.

“It’s not a matter of money. The situation in that sea is complicated. We’re afraid that we won’t be able to come back alive if we go there. The reason why no governments have sent peacekeepers to that area is that those seas and islands are infested with pirates. Their base camp is on one of those islands. No one will be able to return after entering.”

Kai's heart chilled and he looked at Maverick for a plea for help.

What now?

Maverick hesitated for a moment and picked up the satellite phone to call Grant.

Before hanging up the phone, Grant only said, "Alright. Wait for my news."

Grant was silent for a full minute before going to the Ferguson Villa.

Ferguson Villa.

Old Master Ferguson had locked Eric in his room for two days and two nights.

Eric refused to eat anything, but countless bottles were strewn all over the room.

He looked disheveled and listless as he hugged a bottle of wine and shrunk himself in a corner. His mouth continued to chant Nicole's name.

Keith Ludwig and Colton White tried to console him several times but to no avail.

Where was the spirited, cool, and noble Eric Ferguson that they knew?

He really fell under Nicole's spell!

When Grant arrived and saw this scene, he could not help but frown.

"Mr. Ferguson, what if I told you that... Nicole might be able to come back?"

If he remembered correctly, when Eric first took over Ferguson Corporation, several veterans in the corporation refused to accept him and colluded to

set up a trap for him.

When several oil tankers passed through the Atlantic oceans, they were suddenly attacked by pirates and robbed.

At that time, the foreign officials and military did not care about such international disputes.

In general, most people could only blame it on bad luck if a situation like this happened.

However, Eric drove a speedboat and rushed at the pirate crew. Everyone thought that he was surely dead, but he came back alive and even brought back the crude oil as well!

At that time, this incident had shocked the world.

Eric was the first person who could

escape from the pirates and make them retreat empty-handed.

Thus, if there was even a sliver of hope in this rescue operation, it would be Eric.

Grant told him the full situation without caring much about Eric's drunken state.

If the pirates wanted money, then it would be easy to settle.

Grant was just afraid that they wanted Nicole's life instead.

As soon as Grant left, Eric got up in a panic and told Mitchell to prepare a plane. He had to go there immediately.

He took out an old phone and a gun from the safe, then strode out of the room with determination.



Old Master Ferguson's men simply could not stop Eric, who had the vigor of a madman. Old Master Ferguson could only watch his grandson leave and stomped his feet in anger.

As long as there was a glimmer of hope for Nicole, Eric would be willing to risk his life for her!

## Chapter 272 Number One Jinx

Nicole chewed on the fish expressionlessly. Without any seasoning, she could not taste the freshness of the fish.

The fish was washed ashore by the sea, and Nathaniel picked it up and roasted it over some dried leaves.

Except for the salty and fishy smell, it was just bland and tasteless.

“I want to eat at that old French restaurant in the streets of Paris, coupled with a glass of white wine. It’s simply perfection...”

Nathaniel ate with gusto. When he heard her words, he looked up at her and came over with a smile.

“Nikki, if you don’t want to eat, you

can give it to me..."

He made a move to grab the fish from her.

Nicole dodged and glared at him while guarding her food.

"You'd better watch out! Or else... Tigger will bite you..."

To the side, Tigger bared its teeth at Nathaniel.

Nathaniel said tentatively, "If you're bored, go dress up like the indigenous people. I'll show you their community."

Nicole immediately shook her head. He wanted her to walk to her death just because of boredom?

Just hearing the words "indigenous people" scared her, much less dressing

up like them!

Absolutely not!

The sky was cloudless, revealing an endless stretch of clean and clear blue. The sea breeze blew in waves. It was refreshing and natural.

However, Nicole did not appreciate it at all. When would her restless and thrilling days end...

Just as she was immersed in her boundless sadness, the sudden sound of a rumbling engine roar came from the distant sea.

Before Nathaniel could react, Nicole ran out to a spot with a higher elevation and waved at the little shadow in the sea.

“Help...”

The speedboat got closer and closer,

and the sound also grew louder.

However, before Nicole could be happy, Nathaniel pulled her and ran, his voice cold and resolute.

“Hurry up and run! They’re pirates.”

Nicole’s expression turned fearful as she shut her mouth. She picked Tigger up and started to run. <sup>1</sup>

Nathaniel almost laughed in exasperation when he saw how eager she was to flee.

“Run into the jungle...”

There was hesitation in Nicole’s voice, but her footsteps did not falter. “Aren’t those indigenous people in there?”

“They’re much kinder than the pirates, at least...”

That was true!

The two of them ran without looking back, determined and resolute. The cold wind blew on their faces, piercing and painful.

They ran until they were out of breath but did not dare to stop for a moment. This was even more serious than the situation that rainy night!

That was because they could hear the rough footsteps and unbridled laughter behind them as the pirates fired a few warning gunshots.

It was like a savage and primitive game of chase, with them as the prey.

Nicole's fear had never emerged so quickly. Every nerve in her body seemed to tremble in fear.

Suddenly, she slipped, and her knees

slammed to the ground with a dull thud. It sounded like she broke her bone.

Nathaniel turned around and saw her biting her lower lip in pain. He tried to approach her so that he could carry her.

However, Nicole pushed him away and gritted her teeth, standing up with her hands braced on the ground. She gave him a miserable smile.

“Save your energy. I can still run.”

Nathaniel looked at her and finally nodded. He reached out and pulled her arm while running forward, not stopping for a moment.

Her knee hurt excruciatingly. It felt like her leg was about to be crippled.

However, she could not stop. She ran

numbly, but the cold sweat beading on her forehead betrayed the pain she was trying so hard to endure!

The gunshots behind them got louder as the footsteps gradually approached them.

Nicole's heart shuddered violently. It was like a hand was squeezing her throat, and her body's limits struggled against her consciousness.

She followed the orders of her consciousness without a moment of hesitation.

The cold wind was interspersed with the occasional sound of gunfire. They did not dare relax for even a moment!

Their expressions grew gloomier, but they could only speed up their pace and



run forward desperately.

The pirates must have seen the SOS mark left by Nicole and tracked them down.

Seeing the smoke rising from the primitive tribe ahead, they breathed a sigh of relief. Nathaniel pulled her around the side and hid behind a large and thick tree trunk.

This was where they had stored the dried branches before. The branches still carried the strong smell of fish oil.

“Bang—” 6

## Chapter 273 Hanging by a Thread

The indigenous people were alarmed by the gunshot and stood up in panic and vigilance, wielding their wooden clubs.

Nicole and Nathaniel exchanged a glance. Nathaniel looked serious, and his eyes were alert. He brought his index finger to his lips and made a shushing gesture.

Then, they heard countless hurried footsteps. The indigenous people ran and stepped on the branches of trees, their mouths shouting an incomprehensible language.

It sounded like a serious warning being issued.

The angry insults from the pirates were accompanied by the sound of

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The angry insults from the pirates were accompanied by the sound of

their guns. The atmosphere was tense for a while.

The pirates were naturally not afraid of the indigenous people since they had guns.

However, the natives outnumbered the pirates, and they had a limited number of bullets, so they did not have a huge advantage.

What made them even more furious was that they had followed their “prey” to this place but found nothing except for the primitive tribe.

They had been fooled.

“There are actually primitive people in this place? Damn it! It’s just a waste of bullets to kill them!”

“That explorer should be nearby. I wonder if he’s a big fish.”

“We’ll know once we catch him. If he’s not valuable, kill him.”

Only three pirates came. Nicole’s hair stood on end when their conversation reached her ears.

Her heart jumped to her throat. She was so nervous that her heart could leap out at any moment.

The three pirates started to shoot recklessly. Someone got injured in the process because the indigenous people got frightened and began to flee in disarray.

The weapons made of tree branches that the indigenous people held were no match for the pirates’ guns.

The pirates searched the tribe, kicking over the tents and firewood. They even harshly kicked aside some of the

“Ah!!!”

At this critical juncture, an alarming war cry came from the indigenous people. They began to fight back against the pirates who attacked them.

The next second, the pirates cursed in anger and dodged the indigenous people's ambush.

Nicole and Nathaniel also breathed a sigh of relief.

“Don't kill them! There are too many of them coming. Killing them will only anger them more! Let's retreat first!”

One of the pirates yelled.

The situation reversed rapidly. The united strength of the indigenous people was beyond their imaginations.

The ones that had fled in all directions earlier took up arms and prepared to fight. They waved the clubs and spikes in their hands in a hostile manner at the pirates.

The pirates were reluctant to leave, but they had no other choice. Otherwise, they would not be able to get away if they ran out of bullets and got captured.

They ran away quickly, wounding several indigenous people along the way, while the rest of the indigenous people chased after them in a flurry...

Nicole and Nathaniel looked at each other and sighed in relief, their faces still miserably pale. They smiled in contentment for having just escaped from the clutches of death.

Nathaniel did not let down his guard and carefully scouted for the presence of any indigenous people.

“We’ll take a different path, so we won’t encounter any of them.”

Of course, Nicole believed in Nathaniel’s expertise and immediately nodded in agreement.

The two of them were just about to leave when they suddenly heard a roaring sound in the air.

It sounded a bit like a helicopter, but not just one.

Tigger suddenly poked out of Nicole’s pocket.

“Someone hacked my tracker and started to use the satellite to locate my position. Mama, it could be Molly Stewart or Great God Maverick!”



## Chapter 274 No, I'm Scared

Nicole almost cried when she heard those names. She wanted to jump up with joy.

“My brother is here!”

She almost thought that she was going to die here!

The countless heavy boulders piling on her chest almost made her unable to hold on!

The rumbling noise in the air was endless as if they were calling out to them.

Nicole had never found the sound of a helicopter so pleasing to her ears. It was so sweet that it pulled her back from the border of death!

It was her flame of hope, her light at

the end of the tunnel!

She ran twice as fast as usual.

Nathaniel was also very excited. He found another path in front and looked back at her as they ran.

“Nikki, we’re going back together. You won’t leave me behind, right?”

Nicole looked at him joyfully and smiled.

“Of course I won’t!”

“After we go back, you can’t ignore me no matter what happens, okay?”

“Don’t worry, I’ll take care of your fortune and glory for the rest of your life!”

Nicole thought that Nathaniel was worried that she would change her mind and refuse to acknowledge him.

'It's just one man, so it's certainly not a problem to support him!'

In a moment of excitement, Nicole did not notice what was by her feet and tripped on a tree branch. Her face instantly turned white with pain.

Nathaniel went up and pulled her up.

"Don't rush. What if it's a trap? Wouldn't we be running straight into it like this?"

Nicole shook her head, excited and confident.

"No, it's not a trap. It must be my brother. He's a genius with the highest IQ!"

As long as they could locate Tigger, they would know that she was here!

For twenty minutes, they ran with all their might.

Nicole fell several times, and the clothes on her body were ripped and muddied to the point where it was impossible to tell what they originally looked like.

Her white and slender hands were riddled with wounds and drenched with blood. It was quite a shocking sight.

However, Nicole did not seem to care at all and did not cry in pain.

After running out of the jungle, the view opened up to a stretch of the beach. Three helicopters hovered there, their huge propellers spinning deafeningly.

There were also eight speedboats not far from the shore, each with six to seven tall and fierce men standing on board. They were all armed with guns and wore sunglasses as they stood on standby.

The sea breeze swept up the huge waves, angrily crashing against the rocks, solemn and chilling.

The scene looked cold and serious, making people tremble at the oppressive sight.

The intimidating scene did not look at all like a rescue mission, especially when Nicole saw the three men in military uniforms standing closest to her.

Each of them carried a gun and stood there leisurely while smoking.

A bitter chill rose in Nicole's heart as

fear burrowed into her bones!

At that moment, the men looked at Nicole and Nathaniel, who had walked straight into their trap. Their surprised and playful eyes revealed danger and coldness inside, freezing Nicole's blood.

The men started to laugh, which sounded brash and wild.

Nicole and Nathaniel's faces were so pale as if they had just seen a ghost.

Nathaniel's hand that was holding Nicole's trembled slightly.

"P-Pirates!"

Nicole tried to keep her cool, but her heart was beating frantically.

Intuition was always accurate. Just by looking at the three men carrying

guns, she knew that they were the pirates who had chased after them earlier.

After they were driven away by the indigenous people, they waited here for their prey to jump right into their trap!

In the end, Nicole and Nathaniel basically served themselves up on a silver platter.

Nicole stood there. Her mind was completely blank. Her heart felt like it was immersed in iced water, and all she could feel was a bone-chilling fear.

She had never felt so much despair before. It was like a dark cloud was hanging right above her head.

Nicole wanted to cry her eyes out.

'Why? Why am I being tested time and time again on my desperation and survivability?!'

The three pirates threw away their cigarettes and exchanged a glance before unhurriedly walking over to Nicole and Nathaniel.

Their prey was already in their hands, so there was no need to rush.

Nicole gritted her teeth and suppressed the fear in her heart. 1

"Let's run..."

Nathaniel's voice suppressed a tremor.

"No, I'm scared. They have guns..."



## Chapter 275 Lambs to the Slaughter

As soon as Nicole heard this, she immediately dismissed the idea of turning around and running.

It would be too pitiful if they got shot to death from behind!

However, what could they do if they could not run?

The air was terribly cold, and the smell of cigarette smoke permeated with the fishy smell of the seawater engulfed them.

The three men were right in front of them. At this rate, they would not be able to hold out any longer.

Nathaniel was so scared that he began to tremble. Although he was an explorer, he had never experienced

anything like this before!

Nicole was not much better, but when she saw the pirates approaching, her heart gradually calmed down instead.

Three men approached, two of them tall with strong bodies.

The other one was a little shorter and thinner, but his face was cold, and his hawk-like eyes were the most terrifying of all.

He looked at her with a gaze that was intense and filled with greed.

Although Nicole's clothes were wretched, her beautiful and elegant features could not be concealed.

Noticing his gaze, Nicole glared fiercely at the slightly shorter and thinner man that was closest to her.

The man let out a provocative sneer. His cold and sinister eyes glinted with danger.

He whistled and sized her up with a lewd gaze.

The next moment, he raised the gun and pointed the cold barrel under her chin, forcing her to tilt her head up.

He looked at her like a vanquisher surveying his plunder. His evil laugh as he joked with his companions was filled with coldness and greed.

“Look, this woman’s quite a fetch. We got ourselves a large haul this time...”

The men at the back laughed arrogantly and unrestrainedly in

agreement.

Their eyes seemed to graze Nicole's neck like the tongue of a venomous snake.

This was their territory, and Nicole was but their prey.

The pirates on the ship in the distance watched this scene with great interest.

The atmosphere was tense. They all knew that Nicole and Nathaniel could not escape.

Nicole's body stiffened, but her heart settled down.

The howling sea breeze blew around her face. It was prickling, but it made her particularly clear-headed and calm.

Her fists at her sides clenched tightly

and her palms bled from her nails digging into them, but it did not matter.

She could still smell the burnt gunpowder on the barrel of the gun after it was discharged.

It was a warning of death.

At the moment when the pirates looked at each other and laughed, Nicole suddenly reached out and grabbed the gun in front of her. Then, she suddenly turned sideways and yanked it forward fiercely.

Her other hand used all its strength to pry the man's fingers away, and all she heard was a muffled grunt from him.

He looked at her incredulously.

This seemingly soft and meek woman

actually dared to fight back against him?

Nicole did not give him the chance to retaliate. In the blink of an eye, his gun was in her hand.

She flipped the gun so that the barrel was pointing at the pirates instead. She kicked the man to the ground, making him kneel in front of her.

The other two men had stopped laughing and looked at Nicole warily. There was obvious anger and hostility on their faces.

Two guns were aimed at her, while Nicole's gun was aimed at the head of the pirate on the ground.

In an instant, the situation changed.

The lax and arrogant pirates became

cold and tense.

Nicole smiled coldly. They were not lambs to the slaughter, and the pirates were not invincible wolves. 1

Nathaniel was shocked at this scene and immediately stood beside Nicole, helping her to subdue the man on the ground.

Nicole gave Nathaniel an approving look.

Opposite them, the pirates cursed and glared viciously at Nicole.

This damned woman!

Their guns were not props. A bullet could shoot out of the barrel at any second.

“Do you want to die? Let him go!”

Nicole's gaze was grim. She laughed

coldly as she fiercely knocked the man's head with the back of the gun.

"I want a helicopter."

"Impossible!"

One of them cursed at her for her insane demand!

How dare she threaten pirates on their turf?

She was asking for death!

Nicole did not expect her demand to be met.

However, since she had a bargaining chip, she suddenly became less afraid.

The other pirates shouted toward the distance, and the men on the ship were swiftly dispatched.



Their trained response carried a  
ruthless killing intent as countless  
muzzles were soon aimed at Nicole...