

Chapter 391 Burn You

Mitchell sucked in a cold breath at Nicole's words, not knowing how to answer.

However, the person lying on the bed pretending to be a corpse could no longer hold back and got up in the next second. ●

"You want to cremate me so soon?!"

Eric's chest was heaving violently, but no one knew if it was because of suffocation or anger.

He finally woke up after surviving a car crash, but he almost died from anger because of Nicole!

When Eric woke up, Mitchell described how worried and desperate Nicole had been in vivid detail.

Eric felt a vigor in his body again. 'Looks like I didn't get injured for nothing!'

Unfortunately, he could not see for himself how sad Nicole had been for him.

Thus, Eric came up with the idea of playing dead.

'Maybe I can take this opportunity to get

'Maybe I can take t' opportunity to get back together with her...'

However, Nicole only asked about his funeral arrangements as soon as she saw him "dead".

Eric could not endure it.

Nicole stood there with a calm expression, looking at him with her arms crossed over her chest.

"Oh, so you weren't dead?"

Eric was speechless.

It was fine if she did not show him the warmth and affection that he imagined, but why did she look disappointed when she found out that he was not dead?

Eric's jaws tightened with an aggrieved look on his face. The corners of his eyes reddened, and he stared at her without speaking.

Nicole was quiet for a second. Her heart turned bitter. She withdrew her taunting gaze.

"I'm glad that you're not dead, Eric."

She was extremely glad that he was alive.

As soon as he heard this, Eric smiled. The gloom from before vanished in an instant.

He reached out and pulled her into his arms.

Nicole did not expect him to be so strong when he was injured, so she was unprepared and crashed into his embrace.

The refreshing minty smell of his body instantly swept over her consciousness. His heartbeat was strong and steady.

Her eyes subconsciously reddened.

She realized that he was hugging her tightly, but she did not struggle because she was afraid of agitating his wounds. He stroked her hair gently.

His voice was raspy and low. "I almost didn't get to see you again..."

To him, this was the most regrettable thing.

The air was silent for a few seconds. His heartbeat got faster as he felt her warmth. Nicole looked up and rolled her eyes helplessly.

"Are you done? Or do you want me to

“Are you done? Or do you want me to break free by force?”

Eric reluctantly let go of her.

He smiled, looking pale and weak.

“Haha, I’m no match for you now...”

“Ahem—” Mitchell was at the door, not knowing whether to stay or to leave.

Did no one care about him being the third wheel?

The two people looked over. Eric’s eyes were sharp, cold, and dangerous as if he was going to skin him alive.

Mitchell’s lips twitched. ‘I didn’t do it on purpose!’

“Don’t mind me... Just think of me as air!”

He bowed his head and tried to leave, but Nicole stopped him.

“Wait...”

‘Here comes the reckoning!’ Mitchell cursed in his heart.

Mitchell turned around and saw that Nicole had already taken a few steps back to distance herself from Eric.

to distance herself from Eric.

She looked at Mitchell with a cold and scrutinizing gaze.

“When you called me, you told me that there’s bad news... What was that supposed to mean?”

Mitchell froze and glanced at Eric, but the latter looked like he had no intention of helping him and wanted to push all the blame on Mitchell.

‘I need to cover for my boss now?!’

Mitchell forced a smile and explained, “Oh, I didn’t get to finish my sentence... What I wanted to say was ‘Bad news, President Ferguson woke up and wants to be discharged!’ Hehe...”

He racked his brain to come up with this lie.

Nicole smiled and looked at Eric.

“You want to be discharged?”

Eric was silent for a moment before he nodded.

“It’s not convenient to work here. I want to go home.”

o go home.”

His serious expression did not look like he was joking.

Nicole nodded solemnly. After all, there would also be professionals taking care of him at home, so he might recover faster.

“Take care then...”

Nicole decided not to stop him from getting discharged from the hospital.

Chapter 392 Taking Care of Him by His Side

Before Nicole could leave, the hem of her shirt was tugged.

Eric sat on the hospital bed and leaned forward. It took a lot of effort for him to tug on her shirt.

Inadvertently, he pulled the muscles on his right leg. His face turned pale, and the pain caused him to break out in cold sweat.

Nicole was startled and hurriedly went forward. "What's wrong?"

Eric lowered his head and endured the pain. The veins in his temples were bulging.

It was clear how much pain he was in.

"Call a doctor!" Nicole looked at Mitchell.

Mitchell froze before hurrying out.

Eric could not bear to see Nicole this worried.

He lifted his arm and gently touched her head.

Nicole froze, but she did not flinch for

Nicole froze, but she did not flinch for fear of him tearing his wound.

"I'm fine. It doesn't hurt..." His voice was husky and incoherent, but he still gave her a soothing smile.

Nicole's heart trembled slightly. She knew that he must be in a lot of pain.

In less than a minute, a team of doctors came.

Six experts did a checkup on Eric.

Nicole had the sense to make way for them.

Eric's gaze was fixed on her, clearly not wanting her to leave.

She stood at the doorway with her head lowered, messaging someone.

Ten minutes later, the examination ended.

"President Ferguson, it'll take a while for your right leg to recover because it's fractured. During this time, avoid strenuous activities. You can't walk either. You'll need at least half a year of rest to regain full mobility. Otherwise, it might leave an after-effect on your gait."

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Fortunately, the most serious injury Eric suffered from this accident was a fractured right calf.

Eric let out an indifferent "mm".

The doctors continued helplessly, "It's best if you have someone to take care of your needs full time. Otherwise, it'll affect your physical recovery." ●

Eric glanced at the doctor with his dark eyes as if he was saying, "Why are you so naggy?"

The doctors finished speaking and left the room.

Only Nicole and Eric were left inside because Mitchell followed the doctors out.

Once they were gone, Nicole finally noticed that there was a steel brace attached to Eric's lower right leg.

Her heart seized, but her face remained unmoved.

"I'll find someone to take care of you."

"Why don't you take care of me instead?"

Eric smiled with gentle eyes. "After all, I

Eric smiled with grateful eyes. "After all, I only got injured because of you. Are you going to refuse?"

'This shameless man!' Nicole's gratitude towards him swept away in a flash.

Sure enough, he was the type to climb immediately if given a ladder and would not be afraid that he would fall to his death.

Nicole rolled her eyes so hard they almost turned to the back of her head. She scoffed coldly, "In your dreams!"

Eric smiled faintly. "If you take care of me, we'll call it even. Or... Do you want to owe me forever?"

His tone changed. "I don't mind, but my grandfather is bent on going to your house to propose a marriage alliance between our families. Will your father be able to refuse this time?"

The room was dead silent.

After this incident, Floyd would not have the will to refuse if that really happened.

If it was just once, Floyd could put on a bold front and repay the debt another way.

could not and repay the debt another way.

However, twice was a bit of a stretch. The Stantons would be labeled ingrates if word of this spread.

Old Master Ferguson was a persistent man, so what if he was hell-bent on this?

Nicole's expression changed a few times before she finally took a deep breath.

"Fine. Only until you recover."

She would feel better if she agreed anyway.

After all, Nicole did not want to owe Eric too much.

Eric made no move to conceal his delight because he did not expect Nicole to agree so easily.

Nicole frowned. "But... I don't want to go to the Ferguson Villa..."

She wanted him to stay in the hospital since the doctors and nurses would be able to help.

Before she could say that, Eric interrupted the second half of her sentence decisively.

"Of course not. We're going home to Imperial Gardens."

Imperial Gardens.”

Imperial Gardens was their wedding home.

She lived there before the divorce, and he stayed there after the divorce.

Nicole frowned slightly as her heart sank.

‘Damn it! I agreed too soon!’

Chapter 393 The Madam is Back

Nicole wanted to go back to pack her things and tell her father and brothers about this at the same time.

Eric immediately told Mitchell to start with the discharge procedures so that he could recuperate at home.

His injured self was even more energetic than usual.

Mitchell completed the discharge procedures and had someone clean up the home at Imperial Gardens.

Eric went around in his wheelchair to check the cleanliness of the house.

He looked through every nook and cranny.

The nanny, Lucy, was around since before the divorce. Eric thought that Nicole was used to Lucy, so he did not dismiss her.

Lucy stood there trembling as she received Eric's cold and critical eyes.

"Are the Madam's belongings still here?"

Lucy stammered, "Y-Yes, they're all here. You said not to throw any of Madam's things away."

things away.”

Eric nodded in satisfaction and turned to instruct Mitchell.

“Get the major brands to send some clothes over and replace all those out-of-season clothes, shoes, and bags in the dressing room so that she won’t get upset when she sees them.”

Mitchell was speechless as he thought to himself, ‘I think you’re the one who’s upset to see them...’

However, he dared not say this out loud and simply nodded in fear. “Understood.”

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Stanton Mansion.

The moment Nicole mentioned this, Kai was so angry that he almost jumped up.

“No, I object!”

In Kai’s view, Eric was clearly up to no good!

Grant looked at Nicole. “Are you sure about this?”

Nicole nodded solemnly.

Floyd was silent. He knew his daughter’s

Floyd was silent. He knew his daughter's character very well. No one could change her mind once she decided on something.

"Dad, Grant, how can you just agree like that?! You're all so spineless!"

Kai looked at Floyd and Grant in disbelief.

Grant glanced at Kai indifferently and said with a cold voice, "Then why don't you take care of Eric on behalf of Lil N?"

"In his dreams! If I go there, I'll throw him down the stairs and make sure to cripple his other leg as well!"

Kai was fuming and felt like smoke was rising from his head.

Nicole could not help but laugh. "Don't think too much about it. I'm not going there as a servant. Besides, Luca will go with me."

The three of them looked at her with amazement and admiration in their eyes as they gave her a thumbs up.

They were overly concerned.

Nicole shrugged nonchalantly.

Eric did not say that she was not allowed to bring a bodyguard

Eric did not say that he was not allowed to bring a bodyguard.

Nicole packed a small suitcase because she thought that she would come back if she was uncomfortable. She had no intention of serving him.

On the contrary, Luca lugged a huge suitcase and stood with a grim face, waiting for Nicole at the door.

Nicole was startled and opened her mouth intending to say something, but she held back.

‘Maybe his suitcase is full of weapons...?’

Luca did not want to explain. His intuition told him that he would not be leaving for just a few days, so he prepared for a long-term stay outside and brought all the necessities.

In Imperial Gardens.

Nicole wore a simple light-colored dress. She looked lively and had an outstanding temperament.

Luca stood imposingly behind her and effortlessly carried two suitcases with him, giving out an unapproachable aura that made everyone stay away.

that made everyone stay away.

Nicole thought that she would hate it here, but when she stood at the door, she was indifferent to it. The last time she was here felt like a lifetime ago.

It was all in the past!

Luca knocked on the door, and someone soon responded.

Before Nicole could walk inside, Lucy excitedly ran over and held her hand.

"Madam, you're finally back! I really missed you so much."

A trace of disgust flashed in Nicole's eyes as she immediately drew her hand back. In the next second, Luca stepped forward.

His tall, broad body blocked in front of Nicole. His face was fierce and grim.

"Move aside! She's not your Madam..."

Chapter 394 Your Room

Lucy was shocked and frightened by the fierce Luca and subconsciously took a step backward.

"W-Who are you?"

Luca had no intention of introducing himself. He pushed the door open and cleared the way for Nicole as he said in a gruff and loud voice, "Miss, after you..."

Nicole walked in expressionlessly without the intention to reminisce with the nanny.

After all, Lucy was just a spy for the Fergusons.

Nicole ignored the nanny's shocked and nervous eyes and strutted inside.

The sound of her high heels against the hardwood floor was crisp and pleasant. As soon as she entered the living room, she saw Eric sitting in a wheelchair in light gray loungewear. His face still had a sickly pallor, and his facial lines were cold and defined.

His right leg was wrapped in a cast, which made him look weak. The cold and stern aura around him was not as aggressive as

usual.

The moment he saw Nicole enter, his eyes lit up. He clutched the sides of his wheelchair.

Even his voice became gentle and restrained. "Nicole, you're finally back..."

The corners of Nicole's lips curled slightly as she casually swept a glance around. Her face stiffened for a moment.

The furniture and decor were the same as when she left.

It was also spotless.

Nicole averted her gaze and narrowed her eyes.

"I'll take my stuff to the guest room first."

With that, she turned around and told Luca to go upstairs.

"Let Lucy do that." Eric frowned. How could Nicole unpack by herself?

His sharp eyes swept over to Lucy, who was standing at the side looking dumbfounded.

Lucy shuddered and quickly went over to take the suitcase from Luca.

take the suitcase from Luca.

"I'll do it, Madam. Your room has been cleaned, and nothing inside has changed."

Luca dodged the nanny and did not let her touch the suitcase. His fierce face had a hint of warning.

The nanny retracted her hand and subconsciously looked at Nicole.

However, Nicole did not even look at her. She just cast a sidelong glance at Eric.

"What does that mean?"

He wanted her to sleep in her old room?

Eric pursed his lips and said with gentle eyes, "There wasn't time to clean up the guest room, and there are too many of your belongings in your old room, so it's inconvenient to move them..."

Nicole did not want to argue over a room. In any case, she would only be sleeping here for a few months.

She raised her brows. "Fine."

Her easy concession brightened up Eric's mood significantly. A light-hearted smile was plastered on his face.

Nicole went upstairs, followed by Luca.

Lucy spoke hesitantly. "Madam..."

Nicole stopped in her tracks. When she turned around, her eyes were cold and indifferent.

"Eric Ferguson, I hope that you'll get your employees in line. I came here on grounds of mutual respect and a little guilt. If anyone dares to overstep the mark again, you'll just have to admit your loss..."

'Madam? Who the hell wants to be the Madam of this house?!'

Nicole would not allow them to cross the line repeatedly.

Although these words were not addressed to Lucy, it was like a fierce slap on Lucy's face. Nicole's words were like a sharp knife, cold and merciless.

The tenderness on Eric's face faded a little, but he quickly recovered and smiled as if nothing happened.

"Alright." His voice was soft and pleasant.

The moment Nicole turned around, Eric's gloomy gaze swept over to Lucy.

gloomy gaze swept over to Lucy.

It was even more chilling than Nicole's words earlier.

Lucy stood there trembling with fear. 'What did I say wrong? Nicole used to love when people called her Madam in the past ...'

Since no one in the Ferguson household respected Nicole in the past, Lucy used to call her "Ms. Nicole".

For that reason, Nicole had a big fight with her, saying that Lucy was disrespectful.

Thus, Lucy reluctantly called her "Madam" afterward.

Chapter 395 Take Care of You

The house in Imperial Gardens had two floors and was spacious and bright.

There was an elevator connecting both floors, so it did not hinder Eric's movements in his wheelchair.

Nicole went upstairs and glanced at the room.

Sure enough, everything was the same as when she left. It looked like no time had passed since the last time she was here.

However, those memories only made her feel depressed, dull, and breathless.

It was as if a huge rock was pressing down on her chest, so heavy that it crushed her bones and organs.

Nicole used to love sitting on the balcony chair, looking forward to Eric's car suddenly appearing at the gates.

However, Eric never showed up.

Eric had never been in her room before, but all she could remember was him.

She was so miserable back then.

she was so miserable back then.

Nicole curled up her lips indifferently. She casually pulled over a trash can and swept everything on the table into it.

The dressing was attached to her bedroom. When she opened the door and went inside, everything was new with the tags still attached. All the shoes and clothes were her size. There was also expensive jewelry displayed on the closet island.

Nicole silently went out and did not take another look at it.

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There was movement at the door.

When Nicole looked at the time, it was already 6:30 pm.

Time flew by.

She opened the door and saw Lucy standing apprehensively in front of the tall and fierce bodyguard. Lucy looked even more afraid when she saw Nicole.

"M-Ms. Stanton, Mr. Ferguson said to invite you for dinner."

Nicole nodded calmly. "Alright."

Nicole nodded calmly. "Alright."

Lucy hurried downstairs. Nicole went downstairs while looking at her phone. Her high heels clicked against the stairs with every step.

The floor-to-ceiling window of the living room was open, letting the breeze in. The dark patterns of the white brocade curtains floated and seemed to be dyed with the faint glow of dusk, creating a beautiful picture.

Nicole walked down the stairs with her eyes lowered and looked much softer in the afterglow of the sunset.

Eric sat by his desk and just so happened to close his laptop and documents in front of him.

A thin blanket was draped over his legs. His strong and lean body seemed to be full of strength.

He raised his brow and asked, "Are you hungry?"

Lucy summoned her courage and struck up a conversation in the kitchen.

"Ms. Stanton, Mr. Ferguson has ordered for all your favorite dishes to be made."

for all your favorite dishes to be made.

Nicole smiled faintly. "I don't eat at night. Just prepare a meal for my bodyguard later."

Of course, no one dared to persuade her.

"Then, you can accompany me."

Eric had not eaten much the entire day as he was waiting to share this meal with Nicole.

Nicole settled down on the chair opposite him. She picked up the magazine on the side and flipped through it, looking extremely bored.

Eric wanted to talk to her but suddenly realized that the bodyguard behind her had been following her everywhere she went.

Even if Luca was silent, his presence could not be ignored.

The bodyguard was tall and burly. His expressionless eyes were lowered, but Eric could vaguely feel that the bodyguard was constantly observing the surroundings.

His fierce face was especially out of place with the current warm and beautiful

scene.

When Eric looked up, he would certainly see the big bodyguard behind Nicole. There was no way to avoid him.

Eric's gaze changed slightly. He looked at Nicole with a smile.

"Let your bodyguard rest and have dinner. There won't be any danger at home."

Eric knew that after such an accident, the Stanton family would definitely send someone to protect her.

Even Eric secretly made a lot of security arrangements for Nicole.

Luca stood there like a sculpture without even blinking.

Nicole smiled and slowly put down the magazine.

"I'm here to take care of you, and Luca is here to take care of me. It has nothing to do with whether there's danger or not. If you feel inconvenienced, just ignore him."

Eric choked. 'Forget it... She's already here, so I shouldn't worry about her running away... I just need to get used to

running away... I just need to get used to this slowly.'

His eyes flickered slightly as he looked at the plate in front of him.

Eric's voice was gentle and alluring, with a hint of encouragement as he asked, "Since you're here to take care of me, why don't you feed me?"