

Chapter 571 This Disgusting Name

Gerard Lichman looked at the blue sky and white clouds outside the window speechlessly. His chest felt stuffy, and he felt so aggrieved!

He had no choice but to take the blame for Eric's orders.

.....

Nicole received a call from Eric when she was on the way back to the office.

She wanted to hang up the call, but on second thought, she picked it up.

"Mr. Ferguson, what's the matter?"

Eric's voice was mellow and light. He was obviously in an uncontrollable good mood.

Even if their fling was not made public, their relationship was still more than ordinary friends, so sooner or later, they would get back together.

"I just found out about what Gerard Lichman did. He's too much. As a director of J&L Corporation, I didn't even know anything about it. I've already issued a stern warning, so don't worry. It won't

stern warning, so ●'t worry. It won't delay the progress of the project."

Nicole was silent for several seconds before she snorted.

"So, do you take me for a fool?"

Gerard Lichman would not have the guts to delay the project, so he must have been instructed by someone!

Eric was silent for a while. He then asked with feigned surprise. "What do you mean? Did you think that I ordered Gerard to do this? How could I do such an unscrupulous thing?"

He could not help but feel tense. If Nicole was really angry, their relationship would revert back to square one in an instant.

Eric would not be able to accept it.

He was apprehensive.

Every second she hesitated was like torture as if someone was cutting into his heart.

Finally, she let out a cold laugh. Her voice was clear and cold.

"Eric Ferguson, you really refreshed my understanding of you."

“Eric Ferguson, you really refreshed my understanding of you.”

When she was just about to hang up, Eric anxiously shouted, “Honey, wait a minute ...”

Nicole frowned and paused in her movements.

‘Did I just go deaf? Was I hallucinating? What the hell did I just hear?!’

“Eric Ferguson, please be normal for once. I don’t want to hear that word coming from you again!”

‘What bullsh*t honey?! How is such a disgusting address even appropriate between us?!’

Nicole was speechless.

Eric let out a low chuckle over the phone. “You don’t like it? I can come up with another one.”

Nicole did not say anything.

He thought about it for two seconds and said, “How about baby?”

Toto said that the first step to improving their relationship was to give each other a intimate nickname.

their relationship was to give each other an intimate nickname.

He would prefer to call her "wifey", but he knew very well that Nicole would obliterate him.

'Aren't all couples nowadays so clingy anyway?'

In the past, Eric thought that it was disgustingly childish, but now, he only thought that it was sweet.

He even wanted to be sweeter with her.

Eric also began to consider what to name their children.

Nicole was silent for a full minute. Her high heels against the floor echoed in an empty space that was most likely an underground garage.

Hearing this nickname, her face turned green. 'WTF!'

Nicole began to regret agreeing to give Eric a chance. Even if it was just for show, she could not stand it.

Eric did not hear a response and thought that she was still dissatisfied.

"How about babe then?" He proposed

again.

Although “babe” might not be as intimate as “baby”, it was still better than nothing.

He spun the pen worth tens of thousands of dollars in his hand. He could not hide his excited mood.

The sound of Nicole’s footsteps stopped as she got into the elevator.

Finally, she gritted her teeth and said, “Do you need me to make an appointment with a psychiatrist for you?” ¹

Eric let out a deep laugh. “It’s a heart disease that only you can cure...” ²

‘F*ck!’ Nicole could not stand it any longer and hung up on him.

‘This son of a b*tch really has a way with words when he decides to be flirtatious.’

Very few people could remain unmoved.

Nicole felt that her ears were hot. She did not want her heart to be shaken by his sweet talk.

‘Was I not cruel enough to him last time? He was clearly on the verge of tears though...’

Chapter 572 The One Who Got Beaten

The elevator went straight to the top floor. Nicole went back to her office.

Logan came over to report on work. When he saw Nicole's red face, he asked with concern, "President, do you have a fever? Should I get a doctor to come over?"

Nicole's face stiffened slightly. Her voice was cool and calm. "No need."

Soon, she concentrated on reading the document and signed her name. She looked at Logan and said, "Urge the legal department to complete the ownership agreement with J&L Corporation as soon as possible. Don't agree to anything they request."

Logan was a bit surprised. This was the first time that she had cut off room for discussion so decisively.

"Understood."

He did not ask more questions and went to the legal department to convey Nicole's message.

This time, J&L Corporation was at fault, so they dared not reject Nicole's terms.

o they dared not reject Nicole's terms.

Within a few days, Dominic Young called and said that Xander resigned from the film.

"It looked like he was beaten up by someone. He's been very popular recently, so I grabbed a lot of resources for him from the hands of others. I guess someone held a grudge and beat him up. It was a pretty brutal fight. He even broke three ribs."

Nicole gasped softly.

"Did you find out who it is?"

Dominic laughed. "I didn't investigate. If it turns out to be our own artist, it'll be hard to handle. Anyway, Xander's keeping a low profile now. He doesn't even dare to call the police. Should we keep him on the shelf for a while?"

Nicole hesitated for a few seconds. "Whatever. It's up to you. If he's still useful then keep him, if not, then forget it."

Dominic raised his eyebrows and immediately understood Nicole's intention to let him go.

Nicole hung up the phone and still had

Nicole hung up the phone and still had some doubts about Xander getting beaten up.

After some thought, knowing Xander's attitude, he would be the first to tell her if this was done by Eric.

Even Xander did not know who beat him up.

Forget it. It already happened anyway.

Moreover, he really did look like someone who needed a beating.

Her phone suddenly chimed. It was a message from Clayton Sloan. [Ms. Stanton, shall we have dinner tonight?]

Nicole froze for a moment.

A new message came in. [To celebrate the smooth running of the project.]

She smiled.

Clayton always found adequate reasons that she would not refuse.

After thinking about it, Nicole felt guilty and wanted to take this opportunity to apologize.

She replied. [Sure!]

she replied. [sure:]
After agreeing on the time and place,
Nicole drove over.

It was a high-end private restaurant that
had no completely closed-off private
rooms. There were only semi-open
booths for privacy.

The patrons would not be able to see each
other unless one deliberately spied on
others.

Nicole looked at the surroundings. It was
secluded and quiet, more suitable for a
couple's date.

Clayton chose a seat near the window. It
was a perfect spot to enjoy the scenery. A
faint light illuminated his side profile. His
warmth and modesty seemed so out of
this world.

When Nicole walked over, Clayton
immediately spotted her and stood up to
pull the chair out for her.

"Someone recommended this restaurant.
I heard that their desserts are nice. Most
ladies love them."

Such thoughtfulness was no longer just a
business dinner.

business dinner.

Nicole understood his intentions, but she did not expose them.

She also did not give him any expectations, so she did not give a response.

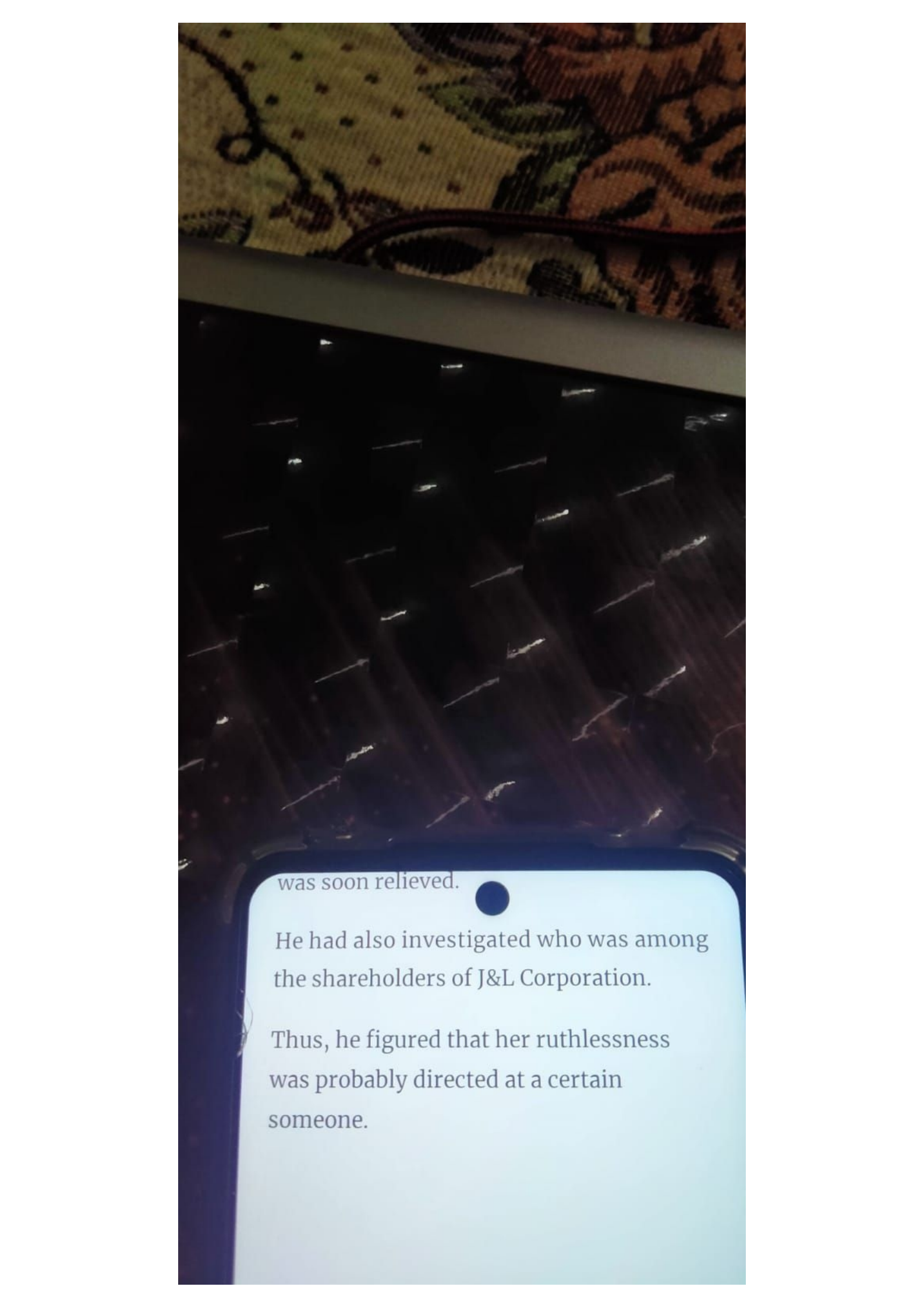
“Thank you.”

Clayton’s smile was gentle and soothing. His temperament was calm and quiet like a scholar.

“Yesterday, Mr. Lichman of J&L Corporation personally went to my hotel to apologize. He said a lot of good words, and finally asked me to put in a few good words for him in front of you, Ms. Stanton. That’s how I know that it’s all thanks to you this time.”

Nicole chuckled. “It’s what I should do. Stanton Corporation is also involved and cooperating with J&L Corporation is my recommendation, so if the project’s progress is delayed because of J&L, we can change him out.”

Clayton was slightly stunned and did not expect Nicole to be so clear-cut, but he was soon relieved.



was soon relieved.

He had also investigated who was among the shareholders of J&L Corporation.

Thus, he figured that her ruthlessness was probably directed at a certain someone.

Chapter 573 What a Coincidence, Baby

Clayton immediately changed the topic.

The two of them talked for a while. Nicole also asked about Lil Michael's recent situation.

After hearing that Nicole had sent him a whole box of test papers, Lil Michael was so angry that he cried the whole night. Clayton could not even coax him to sleep.

Gradually, the atmosphere between them felt relaxed.

While they were laughing, a waiter's welcome greeting sounded a bit abrupt.

A few seconds later, a cold gaze stared at the two people from the window.

Nicole only felt a chill from behind. Before she could react, a cold, hard arm suddenly landed on her shoulders and wrapped around her waist without allowing her to resist as the man sat next to her.

She was slightly stunned. Eric had a smile on his face, but his dark eyes stared at her intently. He gritted his teeth as he said, "What a coincidence, baby..."

what a coincidence, baby...

That nickname made the temperature around them plunge to freezing point in an instant.

Nicole looked at him coldly. "Let go."

"Nicole!" He suppressed the raging emotions under his eyes and said her name in a low voice.

'Why is she so heartless? I've already been so humble, yet she still rejected all my invites for breakfast, lunch, and dinner several days in a row. Now, she's actually free to have dinner with Clayton Sloan?! Does that mean she just doesn't want to eat with me? Ugh!' ①

Eric was so vexed that he could not stand it any longer.

Across the table, Clayton's eyes darkened. He laughed to break the awkward silence.

"Mr. Ferguson, there are people around watching us, so please show some respect to Ms. Stanton."

Eric came out for dinner with many people behind him.

It just so happened that he ran into these two here.

two here.

Eric's gaze sank. He felt like he was quenched in ice. He gritted his teeth and slowly withdrew his hand from her waist.

He needed to respect Nicole in public. Otherwise, it would just make Clayton seem like the more sensible person among them.

"Mr. Sloan, you're so free to disregard your business and always put your attention on the wrong place."

Eric was implying something.

"Mr. Ferguson, you're a busy man, so don't make your guests wait for you. You should hurry over because we can't afford to delay your business."

Clayton held a warm smile, but his eyes had an uncompromising chill that was comparable to Eric's.

Both men had the same opportunity with Nicole, so neither would admit defeat.

Eric could not remain calm when he thought that Clayton even had dinner with Nicole's family. His chest was heaving. How could he tolerate the two of them eating together alone?

them eating together alone?

He glanced at the group of people he had brought with him and said in a deep voice, "Mitchell, take the others with you. I'll join you later."

"Yes, sir."

Mitchell answered and politely led the group to a booth far away.

Eric looked at Nicole's clear eyes that did not care for him at all. His face instantly sank, but he only dared to target Clayton.

He looked at Nicole and pretended to be intimate with her as he reached out to tuck her hair behind her ears.

Eric said in a gentle voice, "I'll come back soon. You should eat something first, so you don't get hungry later."

It was a gesture of concern, but to Nicole, Eric was just pretending again.

'His acting skills really improved, huh?'

Nicole completely ignored Eric's presence and lowered her head to take a bite of the dessert in front of her.

Eric grimaced and shot a warning glance at Clayton before he got up to leave.

Clayton before he got up to leave.

Clayton looked at his back with a meaningful gaze.

“Mr. Ferguson seems to have changed a lot...”

Nicole raised her eyes to look at Clayton. “Maybe he’s just agitated.”

Clayton chuckled and did not say anything. He felt that something had happened between them.

Eric went to his booth for a toast and came back out, leaving the rest to Mitchell.

He was distracted and could not stay for another second.

Seeing the way Nicole and Clayton were talking and laughing, Eric’s heart sank.

‘This woman really treats me as an insignificant plaything? But I haven’t even fulfilled my obligation as a plaything!’

’

Chapter 574 I Can't Stand It Anymore

Eric walked over gloomily and interrupted their conversation.

His tone was tinged with jealousy.

“What are you guys talking about so happily?”

Clayton looked at Nicole, who slowly took a sip of coffee. Her slender fingers were so smooth and beautiful like works of art.

After a momentary lapse of concentration, Clayton immediately spoke. “Ms. Stanton just told a joke. Mr. Ferguson, would you like to hear it?”

Nicole raised her eyes to look at Clayton, but she did not say anything.

Eric's gaze sank even more. He gnashed his teeth. ‘She even joked with Clayton?!’

“Of course, do you mind if I join you?”

He did not wait for their reply and sat down next to Nicole, looking like he was declaring sovereignty.

His long legs carelessly touched Nicole's legs, so she subconsciously moved to the side a little.

side a little.

Nicole wore a skirt that reached just above her knees. Seeing this, Eric deliberately touched her leg. At that moment, he felt an electric current through his heart.

He inadvertently glanced at her legs and could not move his eyes away.

‘How can her slender and smooth calves be so beautiful?’ Eric’s scorching gaze focused on Nicole.

A few seconds later, he quickly averted his gaze because it would be a problem if he could not control himself after staring at her for too long.

Nicole glared at him coldly and did not avoid his touch again. Instead, she kicked him viciously.

In a flash, his face turned white with pain.

‘Damn it! How cruel!’

There was not much movement, so Clayton did not know what was happening under the table.

Eric smiled as if nothing had happened. “Actually, it’s fun to have dinner with Mr. Sloan. Next time you guys meet up,

Sloan. Next time you guys meet up, remember to call me.”

He looked at Nicole, who gave him a blank stare. She then looked at Clayton and said, “Mr. Sloan, I’m done with dinner, so I’ll head home first. Goodbye.”

Clayton paused for a moment and hurriedly said, “Ms. Stanton, there’s one more thing I’d like to ask you...”

Nicole looked at him.

“I have to leave Mediana in a few days to deal with some matters, so Lil Michael will be alone here. I can’t be assured even with his nanny and bodyguard around because he just won’t behave himself. Will you please look after him for a few days?”

Nicole immediately understood.

Next to her, Eric let out a cold laugh. “If you’re worried, just take him with you. Why bother others?”

Not to mention, that annoying kid was always giving him trouble.

Nicole replied, “No problem! I’ll get someone to pick him up. He can stay in the Stanton Mansion while you’re away.”

the Stanton mansion while you're away.

Eric paused for a moment and was unhappy about this arrangement, but he did not continue to speak.

Clayton smiled. "Thank you so much, and sorry for the trouble."

No one paid any attention to Eric's displeasure.

Nicole turned to leave, so Eric naturally followed her.

When Nicole got into the car, Eric sat on the passenger side.

Nicole did not drive away and stared speechlessly at the dim streetlights ahead.

"Don't you have your own car?"

Eric said, "I drank just now, so I can't drive. My driver's also inside drinking..."

Thus, he did not want to drive.

"Nicole, can you not meet with him alone in the future? I can't stand it."

His voice was low, hoarse, and pleading.

Nicole took a deep breath. "Eric Ferguson, I hope you remember that our little situation can't be known by others."

situation can't be known by others."

Eric's dark eyes flickered. He suddenly leaned into her. His voice was seductive and husky. "What's our situation? Even though I'm your lover, it's just titular. Why don't we become real lovers?"

Otherwise, having this title would all be in vain!

Nicole tilted her head slightly to look at him. 'Huh... This son of a b*tch finally revealed his true colors!'

Eric's eyes were dark and deep like a whirlpool that could draw people in.

However, Nicole was unfazed. She tapped on the steering wheel, sneered, and started the car.

Eric asked, "Where are you going?"

Nicole replied, "A hotel."

Chapter 575 Ultimate Reversal

Eric was stunned and looked at her with delight before realizing that this was not the direction to the hotel.

He thought, 'Maybe she's afraid of people finding out and wants to go to a more distant hotel?'

Eric had never felt so excited and tangled like he was at that moment.

The dim streetlights in the night seemed to be lighting up his path to happiness. Even the cold wind became gentle.

After a while, Eric felt that something was wrong.

There was more greenery as they drove further.

'We're clearly in the suburbs... Did she wanna go out of town just for sex?' Eric thought.

He swept a glance at her car's fuel gauge and immediately froze. They were almost out of gas!

Before he could open his mouth to remind her, the car suddenly stopped.

ner, the car suddenly stopped.

He looked at her in confusion.

Nicole suddenly turned to him and flung herself on his chest.

Eric's heartbeat stalled. Before he could react, his seatbelt was unbuckled, and the car door on his side was opened.

The cold wind poured in, waking him up from his fantasies in an instant.

'She's gonna throw me out?!'

Eric's thin lips were pursed. His eyes were dark.

Nicole lifted her chin. Her voice was as light as the breeze. "Get down."

She did not even bother to say another word.

Eric's heart was cold.

He got out of the car.

"If I said something to offend you just now, I can apologize..."

'Damn it... I shouldn't have been so impatient...' Eric thought.

Nicole closed the car door and lowered the

Nicole closed the car door and lowered the window. She turned to look at him.

She asked him something that seemed unrelated.

“Did you order J&L Corporation to delay the research?”

Eric’s heart thumped. “No...”

Nicole closed the window, started the car engine, and made a U-turn in one swift motion, driving up a puff of smoke and dust.

‘She’s really leaving me in the wilderness?! I can’t even walk back in one night!’

Eric’s body was tense. He clenched his fists and ran to the front to stop her car when he noticed that the situation turned awry.

“If I tell you the truth, will you forgive me?”

Nicole laughed at his indirect confession.

Eric immediately came to his senses. ‘Damn it! Didn’t I just admit my fault with that?! Spending so much time with Toto really dumbed down my IQ!’

really dumbbed down my IQ!'

Nicole had already raised the car window. The indifference in her eyes made Eric's heart tremble.

Immediately after, the car rushed out. Eric was forced to take a step backward and watched as Nicole left him behind. He stood there frozen with a tight frown.

He lowered his head and laughed lightly. 'Hah! I lost to her again...'

The surroundings were quiet with the cold wind rustling. He suddenly felt a chill.

This was really the ultimate reversal in just one night!

Eric called Toto with a cold face.

When Lil Michael learned that he would be able to stay in Pretty Lady's house when his father was out of the country, he was so excited that he could not sleep all night.

Clayton stood at the door with his arms folded, watching as Lil Michael stuffed all his clothes and toys into a huge suitcase.

The boy looked like he wanted to move everything away.

'How much does he hate it here...?'

Clayton thought.

The nanny and bodyguard also rolled up their sleeves to help, as if moving to the Stanton Mansion was a lot more relaxing for them.

Clayton stared at Lil Michael and coughed to remind the boy of his presence.

“You need to be good and obedient during the few days that I’m away...”

Lil Mike waved his hand and did not seem to miss Clayton.

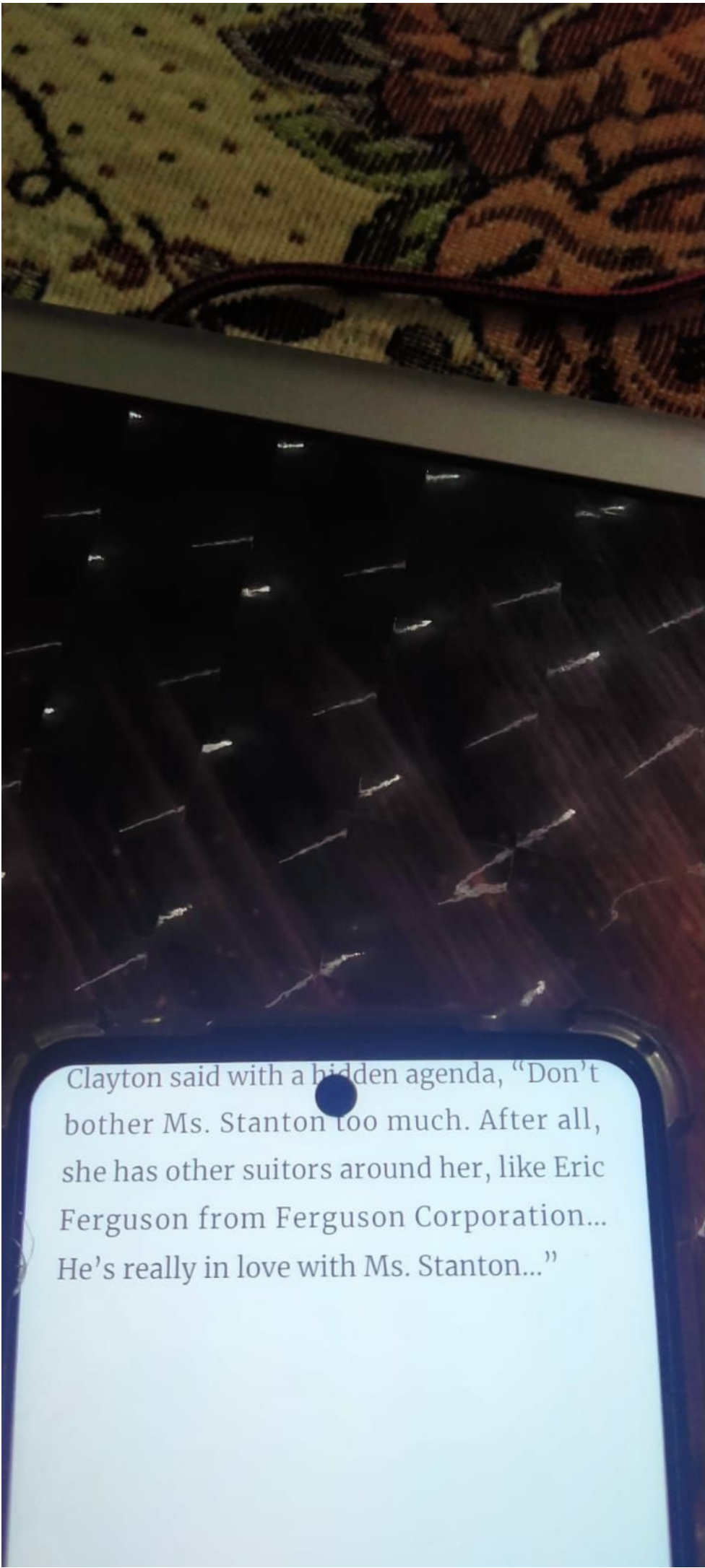
“Daddy, just go with confidence! I’ll definitely take good care of Pretty Lady. No... Pretty Lady will definitely take good care of me!”

Clayton hooked his lips. ‘Our father-son relationship is surprisingly no match for his fascination with his pretty lady?!’

If it was not for Eric Ferguson pestering Nicole, Clayton would have taken Lil Michael with him.

Lil Michael staying by Nicole’s side was definitely an obstacle to Eric!

Clayton said with a hidden agenda, “Don’t bother Ms. Stanton too much. After all,



Clayton said with a hidden agenda, "Don't bother Ms. Stanton too much. After all, she has other suitors around her, like Eric Ferguson from Ferguson Corporation... He's really in love with Ms. Stanton..."