

"I'm not hungry yet..."

"It doesn't matter," she interrupted.

"It's already afternoon, and we still have to eat. Lunch is on me."

Fiorella held her head up high and looked at Jared. She was waiting for him to get up and head out with her.

Seeing Fiorella's insistence, Jared knew that he could not decline.

Knowing this, he casually stood up and said, "Since you're here in my turf, I'll be buying us lunch instead."

"You're always so thoughtful. I'll gladly accept, then."

Fiorella smiled and walked out together with Jared.

Back in the restaurant, a portion of Harvey and Nicole's order had been served.

"Sir, please enjoy your food. The rest of the order will be served shortly," the waiter explained in a soft tone.

"Alright."

"Let's give it a try, Nicole."

Harvey's eyes lit up as he stared at the dishes.

"The plating makes the dishes look really inviting."

"Well, it's pretty good,"

Nicole complimented after she took a piece of yam and chewed it.

"Yeah. Even these chunks of beef stewed in the broth. Every bite is so rich in flavor."

Harvey could not help but express one flattering remark after another about the dishes on the table.

"Anyway, you still haven't answered my question. When are you flying abroad?"

Harvey mentioned again. He was eyeing her, eagerly awaiting her reply.

Nicole looked at him.

"Are you that interested in coming along for the project of the manned flying car?"

"Actually, I'm not interested in joining," he said.

"I'm just curious about it."

He could not be forthcoming with the fact that he wanted to come along because of her.

Otherwise, he would have lost his chance of going with her.

"Curious? There is a time and place for you to fill your curiosity, and this is not it. If that is your reason, I would suggest not going at all. There's nothing there. Our days will be boring and uneventful, filled to the brim with discussions, experiments, and repetitions the entire process until we achieve a desirable result." Nicole explained to Harvey truthfully.

After all, there was nothing attractive there for her as well, and if it were not for Jared, she would not have agreed to join the project.

Nicole was furious at the thought of Jared. She scooped a piece of the food in front of her and took a big bite.

"Don't you think it's cool for a group of people to work on a problem together? Everyone has different ideas and when it all comes together, interesting things tend to occur. To me, it's a place filled with challenges and innovation. Even if I have no knowledge about these things, being able to witness these experiments will be a joy,"

Harvey said, trying really hard to make his explanation sound reasonable.

"I've never seen you being this persistent over something."

She looked at him with a deadpan expression on her face.

"Because you're so eager to come along, I'll let you know once everything is confirmed. But I have one request."

"What would that be?"

Harvey stared back, his seriousness matching hers.

"When we're there, you may only follow me around. You can't wander around or touch anything on your own. Wherever I go, you go. Whenever I leave, you leave too. You can't stay there with the development team on your own and get in the way of their work."

Nicole laid her demands out, unsmiling.

"Not a problem!" he said.

To Harvey, these demands are nothing but boons for him.

After all, she was the only reason as to why he wished to come along.

If he could stay by her side all the time, he would be screaming with joy.

"Okay, but let me make this clear," she said.

"If, and when you do go against our agreement, I'll send you back at once, and you won't be allowed to follow me around anymore."

"I've always kept my word.I'll fulfill whatever I've promised you, so don't you worry."

Harvey maintained a deadpan expression on his face as he assured Nicole.

"Anyway, try this out."

Harvey scooped a dish and served it to Nicole.

Coincidentally, Jared was walking toward their general direction when he saw the gesture taking place, and it was then that Fiorella saw that Jared had stopped walking.

She walked up to his side and asked, "Are we sitting here?"

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Chapter 1117

Jared did not answer Fiorella's question, as his eyes were still fixed on Nicole and Harvey.

Fiorella, who was confused, proceeded to trace Jared's gaze, only to find Harvey serving Nicole some food.

Seeing that, she smirked.

Then, Fiorella pretended to give him a look of surprise.

"I think that's Nicole and Harvey over there.Should we head over and say hi?"

Once again, Jared did not offer her a forthcoming response.He had the urge to rush forward and ask Nicole, but when he recalled Nicole's cold attitude toward him, he gave up on the thought.

Then, he turned toward Fiorella, "Let's just sit here?"

"Alright."

Fiorella replied at once, not minding the seating position; her work was done as long as she managed to sow a sense of misunderstanding between the two of them.

"Hello, what would you like to order?"

The waiter stood politely beside them, at the table, and waited to take their order.

Fiorella held the menu up and glanced around.

Then, she turned to the waiter and asked, "It's our first time here. Could you recommend a few dishes?"

"Sure, the dishes on the first page of the menu are pretty good," *ισονελεβσοκ.φσm* the waiter suggested.

"Alright, then I'll have one of each," Fiorella replied.

"Jared, what would you like to eat?"

Fiorella turned to Jared after she had ordered a few of the dishes she would prefer, but it was then that she noticed that his gaze was still fixed on Nicole's table.

Fiorella then waved her hand in front of Jared's face.

"Jared, what would you like to eat?"

It was only then that Jared came back to his senses and looked at Fiorella.

"I'm fine with anything. You may go ahead and order up."

"Okay."

Fiorella nodded, after which she turned toward the waiter.

"We'll just stick with those which I have just ordered."

"Alright, I'll bring some snacks over, so the both of you can have a much while you wait," the waiter said.

"Sure,"

Fiorella uttered, satisfied with the restaurant's service.

After the waiter had left, Fiorella turned her attention toward Jared and attempted to initiate a conversation.

"Jared, I ordered quite a few dishes today. I'm afraid I might empty your wallet."

"It's fine, as long as you're happy," Jared replied to her absentmindedly.

"Jared, you've been staring for quite some time now. Why not go over and say hi?"

Fiorella said in purpose, attempting to persuade him.

Based on her understanding of Jared, the more she coerced him to do something, the more he would be unwilling to do it.

"No, it's fine."

Jared averted his gaze and centered it back at Fiorella.

"Have you made the order for the both of us?" Fiorella chuckled.

"I did. Are you really this forgetful? I've just asked your opinion regarding the order too."

It seemed that Jared was so engrossed in the act of staring at Nicole that he had forgotten about all that had just happened.

"Oh, is that so? Perhaps I didn't notice," Jared explained, albeit awkwardly.

"Jared, what do you like to do during your spare time?" Fiorella asked, not wishing to spend all of her time talking about work-related things with him, as she wanted to know him on a personal level too.

"Whenever I'm free, I like to read, play sports, and travel..." he said, but the instant he spoke about traveling, he recalled that he made a promise to travel together with Nicole.

However, one incident led to another, and that had caused a delay to their trips.

Then, Jared turned toward Nicole and looked at them again.

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Chapter 1118

"I wasn't expecting you to be so productive during your spare time."

Fiorella smiled and looked at Jared, attempting to seduce him from time to time.

"How about you?" he asked.

"What do you like to do when you're not working?"

"I like swimming. That sense of freedom it provides is amazing. On top of that, I can cut down on some weight. It's good for my health," Fiorella said, after which she looked at Jared with a grin on her face.

The server approached them with a tray in hand.

"Hello, these are the dishes you've ordered."

"Their food seems authentic, and the aesthetics look pretty good," Fiorella said, as her eyes were drawn to each dish.

The waiter proceeded to leave after serving them their meal.

"Jared, give this a try."

Fiorella scooped from one of the dishes and placed a chunk on Jared's plate.

"Thank you."

Jared took a bite.

'It is pretty good, I must say.Fiorella proceeded to dig in, whereupon she engaged Jared in a merry conversation, and from time to time, she would let out a loud laugh.Her motive was to get Nicole to notice them.

"Jared?"

Nicole suddenly blurted.

Harvey heard her remark, and turned around to see what was going on.His eyes widened at that instant.

"It really is Jared.How is it that he is here as well? And who is that lady with him?"

Nicole was asking herself the same question as well.

'Why does her figure look so familiar?"

It was at this moment that Fiorella turned to her flank and waved at the waiter.

Nicole instantly recalled, "Fiorella Fisher? Why are they together again?"

Harvey noticed that Nicole's expression had soured, and so, he asked, "What do you mean by 'together again'? Do you always bump into them spending time together?"

Nicole glared at Harvey, and in a harsh tone of voice, replied, "I bumped into them a few days ago.They were playing golf together.Harvey nodded and replied, "Perhaps they're just talking about work."

Harvey came to realize that he was defending Jared after he had blurted those words, and thus, he quickly added, "Or who knows, they might just be chatting?"

Nicole rolled her eyes at Harvey, "Aren't these one and the same?"

"No, there's a world of difference," he continued explaining as though he was an expert in the science of social interactions.

"Talking about work is, you know, merely about work, but when it comes to having a chat, the topic could be anything. They can be engaging in small talk, or they can be partaking in deep, meaningful conversations about their personal lives."

"What kind of expression is that?"

Nicole sneered at Harvey.

"Spoken as though you are some kind of expert."

"I won't say I'm an expert, but I've seen a lot. I must say, I do know a thing or two about instances like these."

Harvey looked at Nicole confidently.

"Then what do you think they are talking about?" Nicole asked out of slight curiosity.

Harvey turned around and scrutinized Jared's expression.

Then, a smirk appeared on Harvey's face.

"What are you smiling at?"

Nicole looked at him, puzzled.

"Oh well, Jared is also a man after all."

Harvey laughed.

"Would you be so kind as to further your explanation?" Nicole asked, unhappy at the sight of Harvey laughing all by himself.

"Things like these can only be understood through experience, not words," Harvey said with his brows raised.

"I see that you are displaying a lot of interest in whatever they could be talking about. Why don't you head over and say hi?"

"I'm not going to do that. You do so if you want."

Nicole rolled her eyes and continued eating.

"You're not even going to greet them, so why should I?" Harvey glanced at her.

Then, he continued eating as if nothing had happened.

However, he was leaping with utmost joy deep within.

Nicole took a few bites and realized that she could no longer stifle her curiosity. She looked up and gazed off at Jared's general direction again.

Coincidentally, her eyes met Jared's.

Seeing this, she whirled around and averted her gaze at once.

But to Jared, Nicole's actions made it seem as though she was hiding something from him.

At this point, the air around Jared was becoming so stifling that even Fiorella, who was preoccupied with her food, could feel it.

As soon as she looked up, she was almost shocked by the expression on his face.

"Jared, are you okay?"

Fiorella looked at him, concerned.

Hearing Fiorella's voice, Jared quickly collected himself. He had lost all appetite at this juncture. Then, he looked at Fiorella, maintaining his decorum as he said, "

Fiorella, I have matters I must attend to. I need to excuse myself.

The meal is on me, so you may enjoy the food on your own time."

"Jared, what is the matter?" she asked.

"Why are you in such a hurry? You didn't really eat much. Why not take a few more bites before you leave?"

In truth, Fiorella wanted to make Jared stay for a while longer because she was not sure if Nicole had noticed them.

"No, I'm good. Bye."

Jared took one last glance at Nicole and left at once.

"Jared, I'm coming with you."

Fiorella rushed after him, wishing to leverage this opportunity.

Nicole noticed the commotion at Jared's table, but as soon as she glanced over her shoulder to catch a glimpse of it, Jared had already walked out with Fiorella following right behind.

After having witnessed that, Nicole's appetite vanished. $\mu\sigma\upsilon\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\upsilon\sigma\kappa.\phi\sigma\mu$ She placed her fork down and slumped back against her chair. Harvey was able to register her feelings at once, during which he grabbed his juice and drank a little. Then, he looked at Nicole.

"It's fine. If you're unhappy, just let it all out. I'll pretend as if I didn't hear anything."

Nicole shot him a glance and maintained her silence. She did not need a listening ear. In fact, she could manage the pain, and recover on her own.

"Are you done eating?" Nicole asked after a long pause.

"We still have a lot of time."

Harvey looked at her with his forehead creased.

"Are you done yet?"

"Yeah, you can take your time." Nicole said that and stood up.

"I'll get the bill."

But as she was about to turn around and grab her belongings, Harvey stopped her.

"What do you mean? Are you leaving already?"

"Yeah."

Harvey dropped his fork and looked at Nicole, "Where are you going?"

"Home," she replied.

"Where else would I go to?"

"I'm coming along."

Harvey stood up, ready to leave with her as he did not wish to eat anymore.

"It's fine. It wouldn't be convenient for us. You should finish up the food, or else it'd be a waste."

Nicole smiled and left the restaurant.

Harvey stared at Nicole as she walked out.

As she had not eaten her share, Harvey understood that anyone would be unhappy if they were to see their other half having a meal with someone of the opposite gender.

This applied to Nicole as well.

However, the more distant they were, the better it would be for Harvey, and hence a higher chance for him to make Nicole his.

With that in mind, Harvey sat down and continued eating, relaxed in light of that which had transpired.

On her way back to the Sea View Villa, Nicole could not stop thinking about the scene where Jared and Fiorella were having a laugh together.

'How could he be this happy around her? And the worst part is, he saw me but never bothered to say hi?'

Concurrently, Jared was also furious as he sat in the car.

'When she went out with Carl the other day, she almost got into trouble. Why is she hanging out with that b*stard, Harvey, again today? Has she lost all of her feelings for me already?'

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Chapter 1120

With the thought lingering in his head, Jared, who was heading home, quickly turned around and drove back to the restaurant.

Just as he reached the junction, he came across Nicole's car, which he could recognize through the windshield, and decided to follow her.

As Nicole's mind was racing with all that had occurred at the restaurant, she became a little too distracted while driving.

When she had reached the junction, she did not pay attention to the stoplight, and continued driving forward.

At that exact moment, a truck came careening over from her flank, and before she knew it, the truck had slammed into her.

Jared, who was tailing her from behind, became as pale as sheet upon witnessing that scene. He pulled over at once and dashed over to Nicole.

As soon as he had approached the driver's side of the car, he wrenched the door open and yelled, "Nicole, are you okay?!"

Nicole, whose hands were on her forehead, looked up and saw him, "Jared? Why are you all over the place?"

Upon uttering the last word, she passed out.

Jared immediately carried her into his car.

Then, he floored the accelerator and rushed to the hospital.

"Please wake up, Nicole. Just hold on for a while longer! We'll be reaching the hospital soon,"

Jared said while keeping an eye on her condition, after which he took his phone out.

"Martin, Nicole got into an accident. I'm rushing her to the hospital now. I need you to come over right away!"

"An accident!? That's it! I am coming over!"

Martin left all he was doing and rushed to the hospital.

Jared's car halted, whereupon Martin ran over and lifted Nicole onto an emergency stretcher.

As he was pushing her into the emergency unit, he asked Jared, "Where was she struck? Was it a serious accident?"

"It was not a very serious one, but she got hit in the head," Jared said, attempting to describe the whole situation to Martin.

"Excuse me."

Martin pushed Nicole to the emergency ward and began to examine her.

After a few tests, Martin became more relaxed, and turned to look at Jared, "Don't you worry. She only lost consciousness. There are no injuries on the other parts of her body save for some bruises on her head." Upon hearing Martin's diagnosis, Jared breathed a sigh of relief, "That's great. You should go ahead and treat her."

Martin proceeded to treat the bruises on her forehead with utmost meticulousness.

While he was doing so, Nicole woke up, surprised to see him.

"Martin? Where am I?"

"You're at the hospital."

Martin held her down so that she would stay still.

"Don't get up. You got injured in a car accident, and I'm treating your wound now."

"Max, I need you to head over to and take care of Nicole's accident," Jared ordered with his phone held up to his ear.

"Is she hurt?" Max hurriedly asked.

"Just some bruises," Jared replied.

"She's fine."

"Alright. I'll deal with it now," Max finished.

Jared hung up and strode into the emergency room.

By now, Martin was done treating Nicole's wound while she was already sitting up.

"How are you feeling now?"

Jared quickly walked over and asked. Wide eyed, Nicole turned, and stared at him, "How are you here as well?"

"He was the one who sent you here," Martin explained.

Nicole fixed her eyes on Jared.

As it turned out, the Jared she had seen in the crash site was not the one in her dreams, *ισνελεβσσκ. φσμ* but once she recalled him having gone on a lunch date with Fiorella, a strange feeling came over her.

"Weren't you having lunch with Fiorella? Why were you there when the accident happened?"

Nicole looked at him with a brow raised.

"I well, that's not important. How are you feeling now? Do you feel any sort of pain?"

Jared dodged the question and asked.

"That's none of your concern."

Nicole was still furious, and Jared's attempt at evading the question only made her more so.

"You should go," she said, not wanting to see him at this moment.

"What happened to the both of you?" Martin asked, sensing that something was wrong with the both of them, and that they seemed to have had an argument.

Seeing that Nicole was upset at him, Jared decided that he should not insist on lingering, and proceeded to leave her under the care of Martin, who he trusted.

"Nothing. Just do me a favor and send her home later on. I'll get going as I have matters to attend to."

"Hey Jared!"

Martin shouted, but Jared continued walking away.