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Nicole had already guessed that this would be the result. While looking at Lulu's smiling face, she suddenly stopped on her way. "Wait for me here."

Lulu inexplicably watched as Nicole jumped over the wall and out of the school. Five minutes later, Nicole jumped back into the school premise with a cup of hot coffee in her hand. Nicole handed Lulu the milk tea in her hand and patted Lulu on the head. "You did me a favor, and I bought you a coffee."

"Really?" Lulu did not expect Nicole to go out of the campus to buy her coffee. Her eyes welled up involuntarily. "I can't believe that you would buy me coffee. I am so touched."

Nicole did not expect a cup of coffee would make Lulu so happy. She thought to herself that she would treat her better from now on. "Drink it now. Don't let Ms. Emerson find it out."

Lulu nodded quickly. The two of them walked slowly toward the classroom building. Lulu finished drinking all the coffee before entering the classroom. Everyone was in the classroom. They all had mocking expressions on their faces when they saw Nicole come in. The post about Ashley was the most viral topic right now. But whenever Nicole showed up, the image of Nicole together with Samuel and Spencer would still come to mind of those in Class B.

In their eyes, Nicole was disgraceful and an embarrassment for them. 'Not only did she bully Snow, but she also hooked up with the handsome Riddle brothers.'

The class monitor, Vivian Collins, who was sitting in the first row, shot Nicole an icy glare. "Even if you don't bother about your reputation, you should not embarrass Class B. You flirting with two boys at the same time brings shame to our class. People have been talking nasty things about our class because of your frivolous conduct. Yet, you don't seem to feel shame. We are not as thick-skinned as you are."

Everyone nodded in agreement as Vivian had spoken their minds.

Nicole did not even look at Vivian as she walked straight to her seat. It was Lulu who felt a little angry and wanted to speak out. But she thought better of it when she saw Nicole ignore Vivian.

Gary was sitting in the last row. His eyes were glinting while looking at Nicole, who was not bothered.

When he saw that intimate photo of Nicole with Samuel and Spencer on the forum, somehow a fit of indescribable anger had arisen within him. He was so furious that he had thrown a cup in his hand away. Even now, he still had a hard time suppressing that anger. What Vivian had said might sound unpleasant, but Gary agreed with Vivian's remarks that Nicole should be mindful of her conduct to prevent others from questioning her virtue.

When Gary saw Nicole come over, he said coldly, "You should be mindful of your action and behave yourself decently to avoid becoming a gossip subject. The most important thing for

a

girl is reputation; no boy likes a girl with a notorious reputation.”

Nicole did not expect Gary to talk to her, let alone about this topic. She gave him a smirk before putting on a stern expression. “You think you know me very well? I have the freedom to do whatever I want. Mind your own business.” Her tone was as cold as a piercing sword. Her words startled Gary. It was true that he could find nothing about her background, and his knowledge of her came from internet rumors.

However, he thought, ‘Aren’t those photos real? She was caught on camera treating Snow badly and acting intimate with many boys. Those photos are plain evidence. Yet, she does not feel any remorse but felt nothing wrong with her conduct.’ Gary’s face sank when he thought of this. He said indifferently, “It is up to you since you don’t listen to advice.” Nicole paid no heed to his words. She pulled out her chair and sat down without saying another word to him.

Gary looked at her from behind and clenched her fists. After finishing her lunch with Lulu at noon, Nicole went alone to the Maths Olympiad training class.

There were only a few people in the lecture hall. Nicole walked to the last row and laid her head on the table lazily to take some shut-eye.

After a while, a loud noise came.

“You see, Gary and Raine are attending the training class together again. The two of them are indeed a couple!” a girl exclaimed.

“I am so envious of Raine. Gary has always been known as unapproachable, yet he is now together with Raine. It seems that the rumors are true,” her companion echoed what the girl had said.

Nicole was not interested in that gossip. When she kneaded her forehead, her long eyelashes gently caressed his beautiful face like a butterfly’s wings, making her look stunning. Nearby, a boy stared at her with mouth agape. He jabbed at his buddy and said, “I know Nicole is no match for Snow in other aspects, but with her face alone, I will give my vote to her for being the prettiest girl in the school.”

His buddy also looked at Nicole and nodded involuntarily. But he then shook his head anxiously. “I am a fan of Snow. I am no traitor!” He turned his head as he spoke, moving his attention away from Nicole. As if he was trying to brainwash himself, he mumbled, “I will vote for Snow. I will vote for Snow...”

Gary and Raine sat in the third row from the last, which Gary had asked for. Raine did not dare to refuse. Her face contorted from anger when she heard what the boys said at the back

‘I’m also a beauty queen in this school. Not enjoying the same fame as Snow is one thing. Losing to Nicole is quite another!’ Raine whined silently.

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Raine gritted her teeth in anger at the thought of Nicole's face. She looked at Gary next to her and saw that he was tilting his head, looking in Nicole's direction. This made Raine even angrier.

Gary had been treating her coldly ever since the embarrassment at the café. Although he had finally allowed her to follow him today, he kept staring at Nicole.

A grim look flashed in Raine's eyes. But thinking that she was still the one with Gary right now, she took a deep breath and returned to her usual lovely self. With her sweet voice, she called out to Gary, "Gary, I don't understand this math problem taught in the last lesson. Could you explain it to me?"

Gary looked at her with an impatient frown, thinking, 'Didn't Mr. Louis explain it to you in the last lesson? Or you did not listen to him?'

Gary was then reminded of Nicole's immediate rejection when he volunteered himself to explain the math problems the other day. Hence, with other intentions in his mind, he picked up a pen and explained the math problem to Raine.

Raine did not expect Gary to explain the math problem to her willingly. She looked at Gary, whose expression remained indifferent, and felt proud the moment she heard the envious voice of the other girls.

Raine then gave Nicole a provocative glance. Gary, on the other hand, quietly looked at Nicole from the corner of his eyes while explaining the math problem, anticipating her reaction. Unfortunately, Raine and Gary were both doomed to be disappointed. Nicole had been looking outside the window while fiddling with a pen between her fingers. She seemed to be deep in thought.

Gary pulled back his gaze with disappointment, and Raine noticed his absent-mindedness. Although she maintained the smile on her face, she clenched her hands, her fingernails sinking into her skin. 'It is all because of Nicole!'

Just then, the school bell rang, and Mr. Louis hurried in with dozens of answer sheets. Raine smiled when she saw that. 'I never score lower than 85 marks on tests. No matter how proud Nicole is, she is incompetent in academics. Let's see whether Gary will still be interested in you when the test results are announced!' Raine looked confidently in Mr. Louis' direction, her nose in the air.

Mr. Louis wiped the sweat on his forehead. "The test results are out. Most of you have done well, especially Gary. He has the potential to get the gold medal. At the same time, some did not do well. But don't be discouraged. Work harder next time. The next Maths Olympiad competition beckons to you. But this time, just treat it as extracurricular knowledge. I'm giving you back your answer sheets."

Raine chuckled. "The one who did not get good grades must be that country bumpkin.' Mr. Louis said nothing further as he started to return the answer sheets, the first of which was

Gary's. "Gary Finley, 94 marks. Well done! You are just two marks away from the perfect score. You have no problem winning the award. Try to aim for the top spot."

Gary stepped out to take his answer sheet and said no words. However, his eyes were looking at Nicole pridefully. "Raine Riddle, 91 marks." Raine could not help but feel ecstatic

when hearing that she had scored above 90 marks. Her test result was just right behind Gary's. She almost trotted up to get her answer sheet back and could not hide the pride on her face. Her eyes looking at Nicole were filled with disdain. The other classmates looked at the two with admiration. "Wow, they scored first and second, respectively. They are known as a perfect couple for a reason!" The moment Raine heard those words, she raised her head even higher and sat closer to Gary. "Noah Elliott, 90 marks."

"Lilly McCarthy, 82 marks."

The individual test results were announced one after another. But Mr. Louis had yet to mention Nicole's name.

'Nicole had answered every question before submitting her answer sheet, but her name is not mentioned yet even though it's approaching the passing mark. In other words, she has likely failed.' A smile could not help but creep up Raine's face when she thought of this. 'It must be the case. Those from small towns are just not competitive enough.' "David Doyle, 60 marks."

A boy got up and happily took his test paper back. He had just barely passed, saving himself from embarrassment.

Mr. Louis paused. There was only one answer sheet left in his hand. With only Nicole not receiving her test paper, it was easy to tell who was that answer sheet's owner.

Suddenly, all eyes were on Nicole. There were stares of curiosity, contempt, and even schadenfreude. None showed empathy or sympathy.

Nicole was reading a book with her chin resting on her hand. She did not seem to be bothered by those stares.

Gary frowned, remembering that Nicole had told himself last time that the questions were too simple. Little did he expect she would fail the test. 'What a liar she is.'

Raine also looked at Nicole with a sneer. "I'm surprised that she can still pretend to be calm despite failing the test."

Mr. Louis reached out and wiped the sweat from his forehead. He then took the last answer sheet and announced, "Nicole Wallace, zero mark."

There was an instant uproar in the classroom. Laughter and loud chatter rose around Nicole. "When I saw she didn't pay attention during class last time, I thought she was full of confidence. Little did I expect her to get zero marks."

"Exactly. What a funny joke! I wonder what Ms. Emerson was thinking when she let Nicole and Gary join the competition. Is she trying to make the challenge faced by Gary harder?"

"Only people as smart as Raine deserve to be Gary's partner. I can't wrap my brain around why letting Gary pair with such a poor candidate."

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As he spoke, everyone went from laughing at Nicole to speaking out for Gary. Raine felt vindicated to hear these words. The indignation and jealousy she had harbored for the past few days because of Nicole had finally found a venting outlet. This made her feel much better.

Listening to others praising her and Gary, Raine turned to Gary and boldly asked, "They all say we are a good match. What do you think?"

However, Gary was still looking in Nicole's direction. When he heard that Nicole had scored a zero mark, the first thought that came to mind was, 'I knew it.' But then he was in mixed feelings, worrying that Nicole's feelings would get affected.

'Since when have I become so concerned about what Nicole thought? Apparently, I have always been right about her. Not only did I offer to help her with tuition, but I also admonished her. I had never treated others like this.' Gary did not mind when Nicole rejected his kindness. But what upset him was that she gave him the cold shoulder.

Raine, who was bending her blushing face, thought Gary was angry when he ignored her. So she glanced up and tried to explain nervously, "Gary, I mean nothing else."

Halfway through, she noticed Gary was not even looking at her but in Nicole's direction, as if he had not heard her words. Anger instantly rose within Raine. She stared at Nicole coldly.

How she wished she could slice Nicole up and chop her into pieces.

Nicole got up and took her answer sheet back nonchalantly.

Mr. Louis looked at her unflustered face and said softly, "Don't give up. Your ideas are good. Just that you didn't complete each answer. I believe you will win the gold medal in the next Maths Olympiad competition if you work harder."

Nicole looked at Mr. Louis with surprise upon hearing that. He was smiling at her without the slightest hint of impatience. Instead, his eyes spoke of encouragement. So she bowed her head and said, "I know. Thank you, Mr. Louis." Whispers did not stop even until Nicole returned to her seat and sat down. So Mr. Louis smacked the lectern and shouted, "Be quiet! Let's start by reviewing questions." The lesson passed just like this. Nicole packed her things and was about to leave when Gary shook off Raine's hand and chased after Nicole.

Nicole walked slowly and soon saw him standing in front of her.

Gary frowned and felt angry when Nicole had no expression on her face when facing him. "Your improper conduct is one thing, but lying is another. Didn't you say the Maths Olympiad was easy? So why did you get a zero mark on this test?"

Nicole shot him a cold glance, wanting to leave without saying a word to him.

Gary continued to speak from behind her back, "Everyone says you are going to bog me down. Nicole, please prove that they are wrong, and don't let us be so humiliated. I'll ignore the lie

you told last time and tutor you in maths. But you must promise me not to have any more contact with those boys." Nicole turned back. She casually tugged at the cuffs and lazily carried the bag behind her. After looking at Gary with a strange expression for two seconds, she suddenly smiled. At that moment, her beauty was indescribable. She was as beautiful as spring sunshine. Gary was stunned a little. He closed his mouth even though he had not done speaking. Nicole had never smiled at him before; this was the first time. He had seen

countless pretty girls since he was still a child, and this was the first time he was so amazed that he was at a loss for words.

Nicole's smile soon faded from her face. Instead, a look of indifference appeared in her eyes as she looked at Gary, who was frozen in place like a statue. She stood there with an expression as cold as winter, but her face was as beautiful as summer. "Gary, I will say it again: mind your own business," said Nicole faintly before leaving, giving Gary no time to react. Gary was rooted to the spot. It was the second time he had been rejected. Nicole's attitude toward Austin was even better than toward him. 'What I was trying to do was for your good,' thought Gary as he looked at Nicole from behind and clenched his fists as she left. Nicole did not care what Gary was thinking. She went to the café as usual and sat there for a while before returning to the dormitory. In her dormitory, she sat down at the desk and prepared to read a book for some time. Lulu had just finished answering the Maths Olympiad questions. After thinking for a while, she turned on her computer and logged in to the school's online forum. The heated discussion was still taking place on the forum – Ashley had been kicked out of the Holmes family and expelled from the school; it was a disastrous ending for Ashley. Today's second hottest post actually had something to do with Nicole. Someone had posted news of Nicole scoring a zero mark for the Maths Olympiad online, and many people were mocking her. "I told you so. Nicole is from the countryside, and her grades are terrible. She is not comparable to Snow and Raine." "I agree. But I heard that she and Gary are in the same class. How can there be such a huge gap between them? We are talking about 94 versus zero. I don't know how she still has the nerve to stay in the Maths Olympiad training class. She is embarrassing Gary." "Absolutely. I saw Gary catch up with Nicole after school and talk to her, offering to give her tuition. But Nicole just spun around and left, not giving a second glance at Gary." "That is too much. Nicole should not have offended Gary, even with Austin's protection."

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Lulu froze when she was looking at the zero-score answer sheet. Nicole had taught her the solutions for similar math problems. And Nicole's approach was much clearer and simpler than the standard answers. She wondered how Nicole got zero marks.

Lulu turned to look at Nicole, who was reading a book. "Is this Maths Olympiad test paper with a zero score really yours?"

Nicole looked at the computer screen; it had been indeed uploaded to the school forum.

"Yeah, it is mine. Why?"

Lulu was even more surprised when Nicole admitted it. "But you could answer all these questions. You have even taught me. How was it possible for you to score a zero mark?" "I forgot how to answer." In fact, Nicole just did not bother to write all the steps. She had

gotten the answers in her mind after writing only a few steps. So she skipped most steps and stated the answer directly. With Mr. Louis's level, he must not have understood Nicole's train of thought, so he gave a zero mark for her. Lulu stared at Nicole suspiciously, doubting Nicole's words. When Lulu got stuck during her revision earlier, Nicole had taught her how to approach the math problems after casually taking a glance. 'Nicole can memorize everything she read. How could she forget about the solutions? When Lulu was trying to ask for clarification, June suddenly said, "Lulu, just stop already." Lulu had always been a little afraid of June, whose tone made her think she had disturbed her. She felt a little discontent but did not continue to speak.

Nicole glanced at June. She knew June stopped Lulu from asking further because June knew she did not want to explain.

Interesting Nicole looked thoughtfully at June, whose back was to her. June seemed to have sensed Nicole's stare and was on pins and needles. She glanced back at Nicole and then immediately buried herself in the exercise.

Nicole raised an eyebrow but said nothing. There was a sudden, loud noise outside the door. Lulu patted her thigh and shouted, "By the way, I forgot to tell you two that some seniors are coming to spot -check the room today. Let's clean up the room now!" After saying that, she realized that she was talking too loud and hurriedly covered her mouth. As soon as her voice trailed off, the door was rudely pushed open. "Spot check. Everyone, out!" Lulu was startled. Nicole calmly walked out while June followed her.

As they came outside, a few girls stood there with stern looks on their faces, looking at them with unfriendly eyes.

The leading figure was a fat girl. When she saw Nicole's beauty, anger and jealousy almost burst out of her eyes.

"For coming out too slowly, you all are indolent. I'll deduct ten points."

The dorm score in each dormitory was ten percent of the total score at the end of the semester, and there would be extra points for the excellent dormitory. So each dormitory attached great importance to the spot check. Other students poked their heads out to rubberneck. They gloated and snickered when they heard that the fat girl in the corridor outside Nicole's room had started deducting points.

Nicole's expression turned frosty when points were deducted for no good reason. 'This fat girl seemed to single out our room.'

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Lulu was the last to come out and quickly apologized. "I am sorry. I was in bed just now. I won't be that slow next time. Could you please not deduct these ten points?"

The full score for a room was a hundred points. Those dormitories with 90 points and above

were excellent. If ten points were deducted, their dormitory room would fall out of the excellent category. Lulu looked at the fat girl with a pleading face. .

The fat girl sneered at her. "Next time is next time; this time is this time. How am I going to know your performance for next time? I'll deduct ten points this time." She wrote on the scorecard and deducted ten credit points as she spoke. Following that, two girls swaggered into Nicole's dormitory. They randomly picked up a few girls' belongings, threw them aside, opened the wardrobe, and pulled the drawers to look for prohibited items. At last, they found a commemorative pen at June's desk. The fat girl was overjoyed. "This is a prohibited item! I'll deduct another twenty points!"

June stepped forward and explained, "It is just a pen, which is allowed in the dormitory. It is not a prohibited item!"

But the fat girl shoved June away. She looked at June and sneered, "I say that it is a prohibited item. If you argue against me, I will deduct thirty points!"

June stopped talking when seeing the fat girl's truculence. Satisfied, the fat girl turned and continued to rummage through the room. She claimed that the floor and windows were dirty, so she deducted ten and twenty points, respectively. After a while, the fat girl bent down as if she were looking at something. She then beckoned her two companions to come and see. "Can you tell if this is an ant hole?"

The two girls got the hint and nodded their heads, saying that it was an ant hole.

The fat girl looked back at the three and said triumphantly, "This dormitory is too unhygienic. There is even an ant hole. I'll deduct another forty points."

The fat girl wrote a zero on the scorecard with a big stroke of her pen.

When it was done, and just as the fat girl was about to leave with two companions, she suddenly laughed when seeing an Esperian Language book on Nicole's desk. "Zero-scorer is reading an Esperian book? I'll confiscate it."

Lulu looked at Nicole worriedly, knowing that Nicole had always treated her books as her precious treasure. This fat girl had crossed her redline. Nicole stood in the doorway with her arms folded as if she had no intention of stopping the fat girl. She had even made a 'please' gesture.

The fat girl was even more arrogant and took the other books from Nicole's desk when she saw Nicole was so cooperative. She heard Nicole was nasty, so she was here today to give Nicole a bloody nose.

She just did not expect it to go so smoothly and that Nicole looked like just a softie.

Apparently, those juniors of hers were afraid to confront this girl. Thinking of this, she looked at Nicole with a hint of disdain in her eyes. The fat girl was about to walk out of Nicole's dorm with her head held high. Lulu clenched her fists in anger, and June gritted her teeth. They got zero scores for no reason. The fat girl was too much. Just then, Nicole by the door raised her leg and kicked the fat girl out of the door. Before the fat girl could react, she crashed into the wall opposite Nicole's dorm room. Her flesh trembled a few times in pain, and the book and scorecard in her hand fell to the ground. Nicole bent down and picked up the books, ignoring the scorecard with a big zero on it.

The fat girl's face contorted from pain. "Nicole, what are you doing? How dare you hit me!"

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Nicole walked over and gently smacked the fat girl's face. "So you know who I am." The fat girl shivered in fear like a pig waiting to be slaughtered as Nicole stared at her with frosty eyes. At last, she understood why people called Nicole all sorts of names, but none dared to confront her. It was because Nicole was too terribly aggressive. There was an instant silence in the corridor. The fat girl chickened out. She must not let Nicole know she was there looking for trouble with her. "I-I don't know you. Your name is on the scorecard."

Nicole looked at her with a smirk, her eyes cold as frost.

Even a fool could tell that this fat girl deliberately targeted Nicole and Lulu's dormitory. The fat girl had even called out Nicole's name, which showed that the fat girl aimed at her.

"You had better explain yourself. Don't force my hand."

Cold sweat popped up on the fat girl's skin, and she closed her eyes and gave up resisting.

"It is all because you seduce Samuel and fool around many boys. Samuel has been deceived because he is too naive. I must avenge him!"

The fat girl kept her eyes closed, expecting Nicole to hit her. When nothing happened after a long while, she slowly opened her eyes again. The fat girl saw Lulu looking at her with pity. As for Nicole, she had already carried her books and returned to the room.

Lulu looked relieved. Thinking that the fat girl was coming to Nicole for this, she said sarcastically, "Who are you to Samuel that you want to do Nicole in to avenge him? You should be worried that Samuel will avenge Nicole when he finds this out."

Lulu knew Nicole was the favorite daughter of the Riddle family. Samuel would surely help his sister get justice when he found out about this incident.

The fat girl looked in surprise at Lulu with her mouth agape. She failed to understand why Lulu had said that. When her two companions saw Nicole was gone, they hurriedly helped the fat girl up and fled without bothering to check the remaining dorm rooms.

Unbeknownst to everyone, a pair of eyes lurking in the dark had been observing what happened here.

The person really did not expect those seniors to be so useless. She had spared no effort in badmouthing Nicole before them, thinking they would definitely teach Nicole a lesson. Yet they were intimidated by Nicole and fled with their tails behind their legs.

The person watching in the dark was Norah. Gritting her teeth in anger, she could only turn around and return to her room in frustration. She would try to find other ways to fix Nicole. Peace returned to the room again. But Nicole felt something did not add up. 'Even if these people are Samuel's fans, how did they manage to find my dorm room to look for trouble? Someone other than Snow and Raine in the school must have started targetting me recently.' Nicole keenly knew that there must be a mastermind behind all this.

Lulu looked at the ransacked dormitory, picked up the dirtied doll from the floor, and dusted it, feeling like crying. "They were too much. Just because your brother treated you

well, she targeted our dormitory and deducted our score. If I were Samuel, I would never have liked her.

Seeing her pitiful look, Nicole could not help but get up to help her remove the doll. "It is going to be okay. Don't worry." Even if all points were deducted, Mr. Ellison would not expel her.

For some reason, Lulu felt more assured after hearing what Nicole said. If Nicole said it would be all right, it would be all right.

Lulu had no idea why she trusted Nicole so much. Somehow, she found Nicole's words convincing. By the time they had cleaned up their dorm room, it was almost 10.00 pm. So they quickly went to bed.

Early the next morning, Nicole and Lulu came to the classroom together. Bradley was doing revision. When he saw them coming, he beckoned them to come and sit down.

Nicole walked slowly over, and just when Bradley was about to say something to her, a noise came from outside the door.

"Austin is here again. Is he here looking for you again?" said Bradley in surprise. Nicole said nothing. Everyone in the classroom watched as Austin rushed in, shouting, "Boss!"

Nicole felt helpless as she did not expect Austin to be so persistent in making her his boss. Austin came in front of her with his underlings and signaled for them to speak. The few of them looked at each other and said, "Boss!"

The entire class watched with their mouth agape. No matter how many times they watched, the scene of Austin trying to please Nicole was still impactful.

"What are you doing here again?" Nicole frowned.

There was a hint of aggrievement on Austin's fearsome face. "Boss, there is something that I have not done well. I ask for your forgiveness."

"What is it?" Nicole asked.

Austin was flattered when he saw Nicole was so patient with him. "Boss, we at first wanted to go to the Northon Institute to find Cain to avenge you, but we waited for several days, and he was still nowhere to be seen. We caught one of his underlings, and only then did we learn you had beaten him, and he was in the hospital."

Austin looked up at Nicole and then continued to say cautiously, "Boss, I am sorry. I had thought of avenging you, not knowing that you were so badass. Please don't be angry with me.

The entire Class B heard what Austin said and looked at Nicole as if they had seen a ghost. Who was Cain? The famous bully of San Joto and Celia's boyfriend. Celia had revealed that her boyfriend had been beaten by Nicole, and he was now in the hospital. She had even uploaded a picture. But because the post about Ashley was the hot topic, no one paid attention to her post. Besides, no one would think it was true even if people saw it. They looked at Nicole with horror in their eyes. 'A transfer student from the countryside, not to mention she was a girl, beat Austin, the school bully, and knocked out Cain, the bully in the school next door. Is Nicole not a little too badass?'

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But Nicole did not care about what they were thinking and spoke to Austin, "You've seen it too. I could handle this whole thing myself, so I don't have to be your boss. Don't come to me anymore." Everyone in the class gasped sharply as the only person who dared to talk to Austin like that was Nicole.

They thought Austin would be upset after listening to such harsh words, but Austin just smiled and scratched his head as he responded, "How could you say this, Boss? Once my boss, forever my boss. You are my boss no matter what!" His followers nodded one after another, expressing that they wished Nicole could be their boss.

Initially, Austin pestered Nicole just because she was pretty. Then, he asked her to be his boss because his father asked him to. But now, Austin really admired Nicole from the bottom of his heart.

According to Cain's underling, who had just got discharged from the hospital, Nicole had fought over ten people singlehandedly that day. Her strength is terrifying! Austin had nothing to lose for having Nicole as his boss. Nicole saw that Austin spoke genuinely, so she gave in to his persistence and thought about it before she slowly said, "Austin, I can be your boss, but on one condition. I'm not sure if you can accept it."

'Austin asked Nicole to be his boss, but not only did she not feel thankful to Heavens and accept him with gratitude, but she wanted to lay out her terms and conditions!'

Everyone was looking at Nicole weirdly.

Austin was elated when he heard her giving in and smacked his chest as he guaranteed, "of course, I can! No matter your condition, I'll accept it as long as you're okay with being my boss!"

Nicole looked into his sincere eyes and spoke without hesitation.

"I want you people to get top 20 for this month's exam!"

Suddenly, the whole world went quiet,

No one dared to laugh at Austin at his face, so they were all fighting back their laughter as they waited for Nicole to make a fool of herself.

Austin scoring top 20 was purely outrageous! Vivian rolled her eyes as she had always been one of the top 10 students. The thing she looked down on the most were delinquents who were bad in their studies. 'Making these delinquents top 20 is nothing but an insult to the current top 20 students!' Gary, behind Nicole, did not expect her to make such a request either. 'Getting Austin and his

followers into the top 20? Impossible! Everyone thought Austin would turn and leave as he would never agree to such an absurd condition. But Austin's expression changed as he asked Nicole in a low voice, "Boss, could you change the condition? We always get the last places for exams, so it's really hard for all of us to get into the top 20 for the upcoming exam." Austin's followers were all showing sour expressions. 'We have always been bullies

that go around beating people up, so there's no way we can sit still to study.'

However, Nicole's expression remained the same as she said flatly, "I only have one condition, and it will never change. Let's forget this whole thing if you can't accept it."

Austin saw that Nicole was serious, so he immediately pulled a long face and said, "Alright, alright! I promise you, Boss. If we become the top 20 scorers for the upcoming exam, you'll be our boss then, deal?"

Nicole looked at him. She raised her eyes gently as she said, "Deal." The coldness in her eyes melted.

Many male students were stunned as they stared at her beauty.

It was the first time Austin felt how gentle Nicole was to him. He was so taken aback that he froze on the spot. Standing behind them was Gary, whose blood started to boil when he witnessed the scene. 'Am I not better than Austin? Why does Nicole treat him nicely but give me the cold shoulder?!

Nicole slightly frowned when she saw Austin frozen before her.

And that was when Austin pulled himself back from a daze. He quickly replied "deal" twice and ran off with his followers.

'I have to study hard to make Nicole my boss. That way, she will treat me as gently as she did today!' Austin had a plan in his mind. He would get his inferiors to study hard as soon as he got back and hit those who did not listen to him.

The delinquents facing Austin's threats were miserable, so the only thing they could do was to pick up their textbooks and study from the very first chapter. Suddenly, the whole class was filled with the sound of flipping pages. Austin nodded with satisfaction when he saw them studying. He then pulled out and started studying the subject he hated most – Mathematics. He heard that Nicole was a candidate for the Math Olympiad competition. So, as Nicole's inferior, his Mathematics could not be too bad as well. Austin and his followers were all studying passionately while the students in Class B exchanged looks. They did not expect Austin to agree with Nicole's request. Everyone in school knew how bad Austin's academic performance was. He was even considered fortunate to get the second last place. No one would have expected that he would accept Nicole's terms just to make her his boss! The news of Austin wanting to get into the top 20 for the upcoming exam spread like wildfire in school. Countless students were waiting for Nicole and Austin to make a fool of themselves. After all, they only had about two weeks until the exam started. Even if they sat on a rocket, they could not make their test scores higher in such a short period of time. Gary's expression darkened as he thought, 'Nicole really knows how to fool around. She already scored a zero for her Math Olympiad assessment, yet she wants others to study well?

'How ridiculous!

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Chapter 68

Gary looked at Nicole coldly as his eyes burned with disgust and confusion. If one looked closely, one could see a hint of disappointment in Gary's eyes as well. Nicole did not bother about the way everyone looked at her. She just rested her chin on her hand lazily as she played with her pen.

The class started, and Ms. Emerson walked in with a sour expression. She did not look at Nicole throughout the entire class.

When the class ended, she called Nicole and Gary over to the office. Firstly, she told Gary to work hard and prepare himself for the competition to bring an award back to school. Then, she turned to Nicole and sighed before speaking.

"Nicole, I asked you to join the competition because I trusted your ability. But Mr. Louis told me that you actually scored a zero on a mock assessment. Can you explain yourself?"

Nicole figured that Ms. Emerson looked for both her and Gary because she wanted to talk to them about this issue. Nicole looked up at Ms. Emerson, but a peculiar voice rang behind her when she was just about to speak.

"Oh, Ms. Emerson. Isn't this the genius who scored a zero for the Math Olympiad assessment from your class? What's wrong? Are you trying to talk to her?"

It was Mr. Kennedy. He was walking toward them with his thermos cup as he gloated.

"Is there no one else in Class B? One of your candidates is the third-lowest scoring student in the class. The other one is even worse; she actually scored a zero. This has really enlightened me! Why aren't you pulling your students out from the competition when their levels are this

low?"

The two candidates from Mr. Kennedy's class were top students in the school: one was the first place and the other second. Mr. Kennedy thought, 'The Math Olympiad competition award will go to my students!' He looked at Ms. Emerson even more disdainfully upon having this thought. Ms. Emerson was really angered by him. "I've seen how good Nicole and Gary are in Mathematics. Don't look down on people based on their grades!"

Mr. Kennedy could not help but scoff when he saw Ms. Emerson, who used to always swallow her anger, talking back to him. "You've got to be clear about this, Ms. Emerson. If you send both of these students to participate in the competition and they get bad results, they will bring down the name of our school. So it isn't your personal matter!"

Ms. Emerson did not want to give in and wanted to clap back. But when Nicole heard what Mr. Kennedy said, she turned to tell Ms. Emerson, "Ms. Emerson, I want to drop out of the competition."

Mr. Kennedy heard Nicole and smiled until his small eyes behind his glasses were squinted. "Look at how wise Nicole is. She knows her place. She did not want to trouble the school, so she asked to be pulled out of the competition!"

Ms. Emerson felt an indescribable sense of grievance when she heard Nicole's fast decision to drop out of the competition. However, when she thought about Nicole getting a zero for the assessment, she perceived that Nicole might not be able to catch up, so she did not want to force Nicole.

Ms. Emerson calmed herself down and said, "Nicole, if it's too challenging, it's okay to

withdraw yourself from the competition." Nicole looked at her and smiled faintly, "No, Ms. Emerson. I want to withdraw from the competition because the questions are just too simple. I want to challenge something harder." After she said that, not only Ms. Emerson and Mr. Kennedy were shocked, but Gary was also stunned.

Subsequently, an unexplainable fit of anger rose within Gary. 'Nicole is bluffing again! She said the assessment was too easy last time, yet she got a zero in the end!'

Mr. Kennedy sneered, "Don't make me laugh. Are you really saying that the questions are simple? with your standards?" Ms. Emerson looked at Nicole too. She also felt that Nicole was too much when she said the questions were easy. But after listening to Mr. Kennedy's words, Ms. Emerson said, "I believe Nicole could do it!"

Nicole arched her brows as she did not expect Ms. Emerson to have so much trust in her. She then turned to Mr. Kennedy and said flatly, "Mr. Kennedy, do you want a bet?"

Mr. Kennedy looked at her with disdain. "What are we betting on?"

Nicole tapped on the desk lightly with her finger. "We'll bet that Ms. Emerson's class will get the first place in this competition instead of your class, Mr. Kennedy!"

Mr. Kennedy almost laughed out loud. He looked at the uppity Nicole and agreed immediately.

"Sure, let's bet on this. What are the stakes?"

Nicole said coldly, "If I lose, I won't join the Math Olympiad competition ever again. If you lose, Mr. Kennedy, you'll have to admit in front of the whole school that Ms. Emerson is the best teacher for the junior year in Royal Creek Institute during our break time!" Although Mr. Kennedy was a little upset by Nicole's words, he was certain that Nicole had no chance of winning the bet after some consideration. So, he simply agreed to her suggestion.

"Alright, Nicole. I admire your courage!"

Then, Mr. Kennedy howled as he left, looking like he had secured his victory. After Mr. Kennedy left, Ms. Emerson looked at Nicole worriedly as if she wanted to say something. But Nicole acted like nothing had happened and said, "Ms. Emerson, why did you call me here just now?"

Ms. Emerson remembered that she wanted to ask why Nicole got zero for the assessment, but it was no longer important. Ms. Emerson asked hurriedly, "Nicole, are you confident about this competition?"

Scanned with CamScanner

Ms. Emerson did not know why she imagined things. Nicole had already gotten zero for the assessment, let alone the actual competition? How could she get the first place?

"Forget it, don't tell me. Go back to class, the two of you. Study some Maths Olympiad questions together when you have some free time."

Nicole knew what Ms. Emerson was thinking just by looking at her expression, but there was no need for her to explain herself.

Both Nicole and Gary left the office, and Gary immediately exploded.

He looked at Nicole coldly and asked, "You're such a liar. Why did you say that the questions are easy? If they were, why did you get a zero? Besides, why did you make that

bet with Mr. Kennedy? Do you know you've completely ruined my plan? Great, now I have no choice but to get the first place!"

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Chapter 69 Nicole walked indifferently, not bothering to respond to him.

Gary followed behind her. He was questioning her initially, but he was tired of it afterward, so he just left Nicole his words, "You're on your own," and left.

After he left, Nicole turned and walked to Mr. Louis's office.

When Gary walked back to class, he had a long face.

Jack and Wayne saw his expression and thought that something big had happened. So they immediately went to Gary and asked, "What's wrong, Gary? Who made you angry?" Gary clenched the pen in his hand tightly and responded chillingly, "Nicole placed a bet with Mr. Kennedy, betting that we'll get the first place in the Math Olympiad competition. She sure has the guts to say that, though I'm the one who's going to clean up her mess!"

Jack and Wayne looked at each other, and Jack recalled the time when Gary was rejected by Nicole when he offered to tutor her. So he got angry and said, "Nicole doesn't know what she's missing!"

Wayne nodded in response.

Gary did not want to talk any further and went back to his usual lazy self as he furrowed his brows and started looking at the questions.

At that moment, in Ms. Emerson's office. Mr. Louis was surprised as he looked at Nicole, who was standing before her. After Mr. Louis recollected himself, he smiled and said, "How can I help you, Nicole?"

Nicole looked at his kind expression as she gradually said, "Mr. Louis, I'm here to inform you that I will be attending other pieces of training, so I can't attend your Math Olympiad training class anymore."

Mr. Louis was stunned, but he agreed without saying anything.

After Nicole left, the staff in the office asked him, "Mr. Louis, isn't that the student who scored a zero? Why are you so nice to her? You're allowing her to skip classes just because she said she couldn't attend?"

Mr. Louis shook his head. He had looked at Nicole's assessment paper multiple times. Although her math workings were messy and slightly different than the workings in the model answers, he found it extremely special

Mr. Louis felt like he could not catch up with Nicole's approach. A genius was called a genius because of their distinctive thought process, which was always ahead of the average joe. Perhaps, Nicole was the true genius in their school. Nicole did not care how others perceived her. She went over to the cafeteria to grab a meal and gave Mr. Ellison a phone call after she was done.

Mr. Ellison was elated upon receiving Nicole's call. "What brought you here, Nicole? Did something happen in school? Just let me know if anything happens. I'll resolve it for you." Nicole did not beat around the bush and immediately told him about the three girls finding trouble with her.

Mr. Ellison listened and responded in an instant, "Don't worry, I'll penalize three of these students. Your dormitory won't score a zero either. I'll definitely give you an explanation." Nicole said, "It isn't that serious. I just don't want my roommates to suffer because of me." Mr. Ellison let out a sigh of relief as he was worried that Nicole was upset with his school and did not want to study there anymore.

After a short pause, Mr. Ellison said carefully, "Nicole, Harvey is coming back to school next Monday. I'm thinking of getting the both of you to meet up. Please..."

Nicole thought about Harvey's relationship with Snow and had no interest in Mr. Ellison's grandson. She immediately interrupted him flatly, "Mr. Ellison, I'm participating in the Math Olympiad competition soon. I'm afraid I don't have much time." Mr. Ellison sighed softly from the other end of the phone. He knew that Nicole always had her own stance and that she would not change her mind easily.

"Alright. Get ready for the competition. You don't have to worry about anything else."

Nicole responded with an "okay," and Mr. Ellison reminded her to take care of herself before their call ended.

Nicole's expression remained the same as she kept her phone away and walked out.

After Mr. Ellison ended his call with Nicole, he smiled at the VIP sitting across from him.

"Hello, Mr. Johnston. Sorry for not giving you a better welcome." Mr. Ellison still remembered the last time Jared had called him suddenly with the intention to start a café in front of Royal Creek Institute. Usually, Mr. Ellison would not have allowed those non-essential businesses to be opened near the school premise. But since Jared had made the request in person, there was no reason for him to reject Jared. Mr. Ellison just did not know why Jared wanted to see him again. Jared came in a little late, so he could only hear the last few words Mr. Ellison said before hanging up the phone. But he felt that Mr. Ellison sounded exceptionally kind when he spoke to that person, so he arched his brows and asked suspiciously, "I wonder who the person you were speaking to was. You sounded so concerned, Mr. Ellison." Mr. Ellison waved when he heard what Jared said, "It's someone important to me. You probably don't know that person, Mr. Johnston." Somehow, Jared thought of Nicole. She had also mentioned that she was rather close with Mr. Ellison.

At that moment, Mr. Ellison went back to the main topic. "How may I help you, Mr. Johnston?" Jared could tell that Mr. Ellison did not want to talk too long, so he did not bother asking

irrelevant things and cut to the chase, expressing the aim of his visit. "There are many skilled students in your school, so do you have any computer geniuses in mind?"

Jared tracked the information of that online account in his café, so he was even more certain that the person behind that account was a student from the Royal Creek Institute. A hacker like Lucifer was definitely a somebody in Royal Creek Institute.

That was why Jared went to see Mr. Ellison, to dig out more information about the hacker.

To a normal person, Jared's question was nothing out of the ordinary. But Mr. Ellison's face changed for a second before he put on his kind expression as he smiled and said, "Royal Creek Institute is just an educational institute. If you're looking for a skilled person, you should get Mr. Graham to hire a professional. Why did you come to me?" Jared saw that Mr. Ellison was not only trying to avoid his question but also trying to fish something out from him, so Jared could not help but smile intriguingly.

"No reason. There are too many complicated people in society, so I just plan to personally train talent from Royal Creek Institute. You don't have to be so nervous, Mr. Ellison." Mr. Ellison seemed to notice that the way he acted was slightly overboard just now. Jared was extremely sharp, so Mr. Ellison was worried that Jared had noticed something...

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Chapter 70

Though Mr. Ellison had only met Jared a few times, Jared's presence was nowhere weaker than his every time they met. 'This young man, Jared, definitely has a bright future.'

Jared stood up gracefully when he saw that Mr. Ellison did not continue the conversation. Jared walked slowly toward the end of Mr. Ellison's long office desk, which had a massive floor-to-ceiling window next to it. At that moment, the sun was bright, illuminating Jared to the point where he looked like he was glowing.

Mr. Ellison's office was on the top floor, so they could clearly see Royal Creek Institute's entire campus. Jared stood in front of the window and chuckled strangely. "Mr. Ellison, I want to invest in your school."

Mr. Ellison did not know why Jared had such a thought, but he was immediately alert when he thought about how Jared wanted to get someone from him. "Why are you saying this all of a sudden, Mr. Johnston?"

Jared turned to look at Mr. Ellison. Half of his charming face was basking under the sun while the other half was in the shadows. He smiled with his eyes and looked painfully handsome.

"It's obviously because Royal Creek Institute has a lot of potentials."

Jared thought, 'You even have a genius like Lucifer.' He squinted his eyes slightly when he thought about the hundred million dollars Lucifer made him lose, which was an accident that he had never made. The area of search for Lucifer is gradually getting smaller. If I keep my eyes on Royal Creek Institute, I will definitely catch Lucifer.'

Mr. Ellison hesitated further when he heard Jared's response. But he did not want to offend Jared too much, so he slowly said, "Mr. Johnston, this is something long-term. Give me some time to consider."

The Johnston Group was a big company, and even its divisions were strong. Mr. Ellison had to ponder about this further.

Jared was clear of Mr. Ellison's worries, so he did not want to pressure him. Jared immediately agreed, saying, "Sure, I hope you can give me a satisfactory response, Mr. Ellison." Mr. Ellison walked Jared out of his office. His worries doubled as he looked at Jared's cynical figure from the back.

Jared coming back as the unofficial heir of the Johnston family this time was a talk in San Joto. Moreover, Mr. Ellison had not risen to prominence in Hustuaburg yet, so he was rather fearful of Jared.

Mr. Ellison thought about Jared's words as he frowned slightly.

Meanwhile, Nicole, unaware of any of this, was walking toward her dorm.

She did not have to attend the Math Olympiad training class this afternoon. But she had yet to decide where to study the example math problems. After all, she had already made a boastful promise in front of everyone. If she did not put more effort into studying like how a normal person did for maths, she might get another zero again. Nicole was frustrated, unaware that Gary was already sitting in the lecture hall waiting for her. "The class is about to start, so why hasn't Nicole come yet?"

'Nicole sure is stubborn. She already made a bet with Mr. Kennedy this afternoon, saying she would get first place. But she's not even attending class now. With her standard that got her a zero, does she really want to win by self-studying?' Gary wondered.

Gary also thought about how she did not respond to him when he questioned her. He could not help but ask himself whether he was too harsh.

"How fragile. I've only questioned Nicole a little, and she doesn't want to come to class now." After he said that, he paid attention to class gloomily. Raine was sitting next to Gary when she heard his remarks. She turned and saw that Nicole really did not show up to class. She then connected it to what Gary had said. She was certain that Gary was waiting for Nicole just now! Raine's eyes were filled with jealousy and frustration when she thought about this.

'What's so good about Nicole? Why is she always in Gary's mind?'

Raine could not help but think of Nicole's words. Nicole was a vixen. She wouldn't have seduced him because she was in the same class as Gary, right?

After their class ended, Raine forced a smile while she said to Gary, "Gary, the café we went to that day did not appreciate us. To make it up to you, let's go somewhere better for coffee later.

She grinned brightly as she looked around the campus as she was sure that Gary would accept her offer. Raine had splurged for this date. She had spent every cent of her monthly allowance to book a seat in that café.

Raine looked at Gary, full of confidence. She was already prepared to listen to him saying yes to her asking him out.

However, Gary did not even spare her a glance and said coldly, "I have things to do these days. I'm afraid I don't have the time to go with you."

Nicole had pushed him over the brink when she made such a bet with Mr. Kennedy, so he had to study and get the first place like his life depended on it.

When Raine saw how he did not bother to sugarcoat things, she immediately thought of the

things he said before their class started. How could Raine not know that his excuse had something to do with Nicole?

Raine's blood boiled instantly as she watched Gary leaving without turning back. She pulled out her phone and sent a text message before she smiled coldly.

'Nicole, if you have the guts to seduce Gary, you'll have to pay!' she thought.

Norah's phone rang after some time. After she saw Raine's message, she let out a laugh.

'What did Nicole do to make Raine angry that Raine wants to mess with Nicole again?' Celia and Ashley were all friends Norah had introduced to Raine and Snow. But now that they could not offer help anymore, Norah had no one in mind except the few seniors yesterday...

She did not know whether they would still help her out. She thought about it and decided to use Raine's name to send them a message, asking them to meddle with Nicole. After some time, they replied to her text. Norah unlocked her phone, and her smile immediately froze. 'What?! The seniors rejected her request! 'Are these people terrified of Nicole after yesterday's incident that they don't dare to mess with Nicole again?'