

Unbreakable 2211

Chapter 2211

Returning to the familiar expanse of their once-shared bed, Jarrod found himself lost in thought for what felt like an eternity.

Reprimanding himself internally, he acknowledged that tonight marked the end of his emotional entanglement with Nicole. He couldn't allow her to hold sway over him any longer.

Having navigated the treacherous waters of the underworld and emerged victorious from countless business skirmishes, it seemed inconceivable that he still couldn't purge her from his mind. She, a woman devoid of compassion, was not worthy of his continued affection.

The following day, Nicole arrived at the courthouse wearing a striking green coat, a hue that only she could wear with such alluring elegance.

Determined to present her best self in the face of impending judgment, Nicole found solace in Rhett's reassurance. Miss Lawrence, rest assured. As long as Jarrod remains afflicted and compliant with his treatment, he stands no chance of gaining custody.

The notion of a parent, plagued by mental instability, caring for a young child was one that no legal system would condone.

Though partially reassured, Nicole remained wary. Jarrod awaited her next move, unaware of the ace she held up her sleeve, an advantage she intended to exploit to its fullest.

Glancing at his watch, Rhett broke the silence, asking, Ready to head in?

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Nicole nodded, about to take a step forward when a piercing, scornful voice cut through the air.

Well, well, look who's dressed in green. Trying to flaunt your affair with Jarrod? The voice belonged unmistakably to Doreen.

Despite Nicole's intention to ignore the provocation, Doreen persisted, still seething over the disdainful glance Roscoe had cast her way during their last encounter. Even though Jarrod had assured her that Roscoe's memory loss would lead to acceptance, why did Roscoe continue to gaze at Nicole with such longing? He had never looked at her like that before.

Though Nicole tried to brush off Doreen's words, her gaze inevitably fell upon Roscoe, who stood beside Doreen in a dapper gray suit, clutching a white handbag. His thoughtful demeanor, once directed toward her, now lavished upon another.

A sudden recollection struck Nicole. Roscoe had pledged to stand by her side during significant events. Yet here he was, a mere spectator on the opposing side of her struggle.

Nicole's heart ached with a pang of betrayal, yet she knew she had no right to blame Roscoe. He was innocent, enduring unjust treatment due to the conflict between her and Jarrod. It was her fault, entirely.

Nicoles look of anguish clouded Roscoes features once more, a sight he had grown accustomed

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to over time. He couldnt comprehend why Nicole always regarded him with that mix of sorrow and empathy, as though she pitied him for some reason.

Standing by Roscoes side, Doreen grew increasingly agitated, observing Nicoles deliberate disregard for her presence, which only stoked her fury. She had come to court today seeking entertainment, hoping to revel in Nicoles discomfort.

Nicole, heard youve run off with Jarrods child, Doreen jeered, unaware of Nicole and Roscoes past elopement. Jarrod had enforced a strict code of silence, and gossip was unthinkable.

Logically speaking, Jarrod wouldnt want the woman who had left him to be with another man, so who would dare spread such rumors?

Youre quite the piece of work, cuckolding Jarrod! Doreen delighted in Nicoles provoking Jarrods wrath, relishing the prospect of Nicoles future misery.

With a sneer, Doreen continued, You have no shame, daring to challenge Jarrod for custody. He could have had you and your lover killed together. Consider yourself lucky he showed you mercy. Shameless adulteress Like you deserves to be torn apart!

Doreen spat out her words venomously, ensuring Roscoe heard every damning accusation against Nicole. To her, Nicole was nothing but a promiscuous harlot who had bedded countless men.

Outside the courthouse, a place always buzzing with conflict, many people walked by or paused to observe.

It wasnt rare for arguments with mistresses to happen, so nobody was really shocked.

Nicole, if I were you, Id play it smart by getting down on your knees and asking for forgiveness. Jarrod isnt too fond of that rebellious streak you have. I bet hes just as rude as you

Chapter 2212

Doreen kept talking, seemingly unable to hold back.

Suddenly, Nicole lifted her hand and slapped Doreen.

Slap! The crisp sound made Doreens ear tingle painfully. It took her a moment to respond before she touched her numb face, shock evident on her features.

You Youve lost your mind! Doreen had never thought Nicole would actually strike her. She saw Nicole as frail and meek, someone easily intimidated, the type to yield under a mans pressure.

Doreen was sorely mistaken.

Nicole had always been resilient and determined, from her earlier days to the present. She would have crumbled under the pressure if she weren't emotionally strong. She refused to yield to Jarrod's plans.

From the start, Nicole was intent on proving Jarrod was wrong.

Miss Schultz, that slap was payback for you, Nicole declared. My child isn't unruly. If you have problems with the things between Jarrod and me, you should hear them from Jarrod before accusing me. I won't take your advice, but if there are any slaps

Nicole paused, her eyes hard. I will reciprocate.

Nicole was convinced that she would not start trouble as long as no one troubled her. But if Doreen played dirty, she was ready to retaliate. Now, she wasn't alone and needed to stand her ground, so those who tried to push her around would realize they couldn't just walk over her.

Doreen stood there, stunned by Nicole's words, unable to speak.

Meanwhile, Roscoe remained impassive. As he saw it, Nicole had made things clear and hadn't slapped Doreen for no reason.

Everyone should bear the consequences of their actions, even if that person was his girlfriend.

These were the world's rules, and even though Roscoe couldn't recall much, the idea of rules stayed firmly in his mind.

You cheap woman, stop right there. Don't walk away! Doreen finally snapped and charged up the steps to confront Nicole. She had never faced such humiliation in public before!

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Rhett intervened to stop Doreen.

Doreen angrily shoved him aside, yelling, Get out of my way, you lackey!

Rhett scowled. He was no stranger to dealing with spoiled, arrogant young women. Raised in wealth, they often ignored the laws, acting recklessly and dictatorial. Doreen appeared to be the type who enjoyed causing trouble and bullying others.

Rhett quickly pulled out a business card and handed it to Doreen, saying firmly, Miss, I represent Miss Lawrence. You may reserve the right to hold Miss Lawrence accountable for the slap.

Doreen's face softened at his words. You're right. I'll make sure this woman pays for what she did! she said arrogantly, sounding like she could control the security services and have anyone she disliked imprisoned.

Nicole kept her composure. Even though she hadn't known Rhett for long, Raegan's strong recommendation made him seem reliable. In their interactions, she discovered that Rhett was really honest and professional.

Indeed, the next moment, Rhett coolly stated, Miss, you are fully within your rights to take legal action against my client. However, I must inform you that your behavior in public, including

insulting, humiliating, lying, and intimidating, constitutes multiple illegal acts. I have recorded all of this as evidence, and we retain the right to take legal action against you.

Doreen was left speechless.

Rhett continued, Furthermore, my client mentioned returning a slap, which suggests you had slapped her first. I will legally obtain surveillance footage to confirm the events of today. Additionally, your false accusations have caused significant psychological damage to my client and damaged her reputation, creating a civil liability. We will pursue this matter through legal channels.

Chapter 2213

Shut up! Doreen was furious, unprepared for the lawyers eloquent speech. He talked using terms she didnt understand. But it showed her that this lawyer wasnt someone to mess around with.

She insulted me too, Doreen claimed, her logic faltering.

She did not. I have everything on video, Rhett countered.

You! Doreen was seething and at a loss for words. She couldnt outsmart this lawyer. He was well-spoken. How could she possibly win an argument against him?

Doreen then grabbed Roscoes arm and pulled him closer. Roscoe, are you just going to stand there and let them bully your girlfriend?

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Roscoe kept quiet. He thought the Lawyers argument was reasonable.

Doreen was too aggressive. It was ironic, considering that everyone said he used to be deeply in love with Doreen. It was hard for him to believe that he could have ever been fond of such a shallow woman.

In frustration, Doreen stamped her foot and said, Roscoe, didnt you promise my dad youd look after me? That woman slapped me.

Roscoe ignored her complaint and stated, Go inside and find Jarrod. He should be here.

Doreen was not pleased.

Why did Roscoe always seem to change his stance around Nicole?

Rhett lost interest in the ongoing scene. He turned to Nicole and said, Please, Miss Lawrence.

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As Nicole ascended the stairs, she paused, turned to Doreen, and declared coldly, Also, the man I love is not some adulterer. He is a decent, honest man who deserves my affection.

With that, she glanced at Roscoe and continued her ascent without stopping.

That look wasn't about blaming. In moments like these, she felt scared and longed for someone to be by her side. But it was fine if she was alone. After all, she had long become accustomed to dealing with disappointment.

Humph! I see you don't care about me at all, Doreen stated it bitterly.

Roscoe appeared not to hear her, his gaze fixed intently on Nicole ascending the steps. How could someone make green seem so elegant?

In the courtroom.

The trial was private. As a result, the gallery hosted only a few close family members of the plaintiff and the defendant.

On Nicole's side, there was no one. She had decided not to involve her friends, like Raegan, to spare them the worry, and she had not mentioned her lawsuit.

On the defendant's side, Jarrod sported scholarly gold-rimmed glasses, and his expensive suit made him look particularly dashing.

He didn't appear to be someone with a mental disorder based on his appearance alone. His eloquence and how he answered questions were calm and flawless.

Someone like him was either really good at pretending or had no problems.

When it was time to show proof, Rhett was the first to hand in a video, the scandalous one from the event that had surprised everyone in Ardlen's.

Chapter 2214

It was a cruel act from Jarrod's side against Nicole.

Jarrod hadn't seen this coming because he believed he had erased that video across the Internet.

Yet, Nicole still possessed the original.

A slight smile crossed Jarrod's face. It looked like Nicole was really committed to this lawsuit and had done a lot of preparation.

Roscoe, who was there too, watched and found himself clenching his fist, feeling a sudden wave of anger he couldn't quite explain.

Even though the video was blurry, he felt the urge to jump into the scene and start beating Jarrod. His own reaction surprised him. He wasn't typically impulsive or quick to anger.

After the video concluded, Rhett stated, Your Honor, as depicted in the video, it shows my client and the defendant in an incident of abuse where the defendant forces my client into submission. While my client initially consented for justifiable reasons, the footage clearly shows unilateral harshness, which suggests that this individual is not suitable to be a father. Additionally, we have evidence that Mr. Schultz has been under treatment for mental health issues.

Rhett then introduced a pharmacological report that detailed Jarrod's medications.

After reviewing the evidence, the judge scrutinized it and asked Jarrod if he concurred with the plaintiffs allegations.

I do not agree, Jarrod quickly rebutted.

Nicole shivered at his reply, and even Rhett noticed it.

Rhett swiftly wrote Relax on a note and showed it to Nicole.

Nicole gradually regained her composure and nodded at Rhett.

Jarrod didnt defend himself but deferred to his attorney. His attorney was also highly competent. Regarding the video, my client Mr. Schultz and the plaintiff Miss Lawrence were single back then. People have their own tastes in relationships. Also, its obvious from the video that Miss Lawrence wanted the encounter with my client. They were just engaged in role-playing. There was no force.

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Nicole went pale as she listened to these audacious claims, her fingers pressing into her palms. This shameless guy actually claimed they were just engaged in role-playing.

Rhett quickly countered, I disagree with the defense attorneys interpretation. The video clearly involves a third party. This isnt merely a consensual role-play between a couple but obvious coercion.

The defense attorney calmly asked, Could the third party testify that this was an instance of coercion or abuse?

Rhett looked troubled. He had previously asked Nicole if the third party could testify. The person in the video could have been excellent proof.

Regrettably, Nicole had indicated the third party would not testify.

The defense attorney continued, Clearly, the plaintiff cannot substantiate this. Shall we consider that the third partys involvement was part of a consensual act?

Nicoles face went pale. This question had to be Jarrods idea. He was confident Roscoe wouldnt testify because Roscoe remembered nothing. How could he?

Nicoles face looked miserable. From Roscoes perspective, she appeared completely helpless and pitiful.

Nicole wanted to glance up at the gallery several times but held herself back. Roscoe was no help. He remembered nothing.

The defense attorney added, Furthermore, the drugs mentioned in the plaintiffs report arent the ones my client uses. Hes fit and fine, proven by his latest medical check-up and the mental evaluation we got from the court.

Chapter 2215

The defense attorney carefully read each word of the report, saying, This report conclusively shows that my client has no mental disorders.

Nicoles face turned utterly pale. Jarrod had even anticipated her move, having applied for a court evaluation beforehand. This meant he knew she had accessed his psychiatric medications, intending to use them against him. All her meticulous preparations Jarrod had anticipated them all!

Nicole felt like she was suffocating.

Rhett was confused. Wasnt it confirmed that Jarrod had a mental illness? How come suddenly he did not?

The credibility of a judicial evaluation was high.

Moreover, the fact that the defendant had requested it in advance indicated the knowledge of their cards.

The defense attorney kept pressing, Clearly, all of this is merely the plaintiffs speculation. The plaintiff has a history of several years of medical consultations, which indicates that the plaintiffs physical and psychological conditions are unstable.

Jarrods lawyer brought Nicoles recent medical records from international and local consultations.

By comparison, Nicole appeared to be the one with a mental disorder.

The proceedings moved swiftly. Clearly, Nicole was utterly defeated.

Even Jarrod, by simply stating his disagreement, had easily bested her.

Its not like that Nicole struggled to speak. Its not like that. That man is a monster, a lunatic! He forced me to have the child, and now he wants to drag me back to continue a shameful relationship. He is ill. Trust me, he really is!

Nicole became increasingly distraught toward the end.

Rhett had to intervene.

The court valued evidence highly, and such emotional outbursts only made the judge perceive Nicole as a psychologically unstable one.

Plaintiff, please remain calm and respect the decorum of the court, the judge instructed.

Jarrods lawyer spoke again. What the plaintiff says isnt accurate. My client, Mr. Schultz, got engaged five months ago, and the wedding is in three months. Theyre both emotionally steady and completely ready to raise a child.

As the lawyer made his case, Nicole noticed that Vicki had entered the gallery at some point. She was smiling at Jarrod, the picture of a loving fiancé.

Nicole was in total panic. Their argument was nearly impeccable. She felt she was on the verge of losing her sanity. If she lost Austin, and if Austin was raised by someone so cruel as Jarrod, she couldnt even imagine what Austin might have to face. This monstrous Jarrod planned for another woman to raise Austin.

The final judgment came as no surprise. Austins custody was granted to Jarrod, his biological father, who was emotionally stable and financially capable. Nicole would need to obtain a hospitals certification of her mental health before she could have visitation rights.

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Why? Nicole was not reconciled. She frantically looked around, screaming, Thats my child! That was the baby she carried for ten months! How could it be under someone elses control now, with her not even allowed to visit?

Nicole sank weakly to the floor. Nothing felt more agonizing than separating a child from their mother.

Jarrod had no qualms about thrusting Nicole back into the abyss once more.

Nicole felt as though a suffocating net had been cast over her head, trapping her in its grip no matter how vigorously she struggled.

Chapter 2216

Witnessing Nicoles desolation, Rhett couldnt help but offer comfort.

Miss Lawrence, dont despair. If youre certain that Mr. Schultz has been taking his medication, then there must be some explanation. Stay hopeful. We still have a chance.

The lawyers pragmatic words jolted Nicole back to reality. Jarrod had indeed taken the medication. So, what was truly unfolding here?

Rhett promptly reached out to an acquaintance at the courthouse to inquire about any irregularities with Jarrods testing organization.

He instructed Nicole to wait for him in the car.

Nicole walked absentmindedly toward the door and accidentally collided with someone. Feeling a sharp pain in her nose, she hurriedly apologized, Im sorry, Im sorry

Its alright. The mans voice startled Nicole.

As Nicole lifted her head, she saw that it was Roscoe whom she had bumped into, intensifying her distress. Fearing she couldnt contain her tears, she lowered her head and murmured once more, Im sorry.

Then, she turned around, wanting to leave.

Miss Lawrence, please wait a moment. Roscoe suddenly called after her.

Hearing his voice, Nicole halted. Roscoe gestured toward her hand and handed her a silk handkerchief. He spoke gently. Please use this to tend to it, Miss Lawrence.

Roscoe remained the epitome of kindness and gentleness. Nicoles sorrow deepened. Shaking her head, she murmured, No, thank you.

As she moved to depart, Roscoe seized her and swiftly bandaged her wound.

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The entire process took less than thirty seconds. He proved to be a skilled professional, proficient in each step.

Once her hand was wrapped, Nicole promptly withdrew it. She didnt wish to cause any trouble for Roscoe. Now with the memory loss, he might face repercussions if others dealt with him because of her.

Roscoes brows furrowed at her withdrawal, prompting him to inquire, Miss Lawrence, have we met before?

His question caught Nicole off guard. Transient memory loss could occur, and Roscoe might retain fragments of memory about her. It could be considered positive that he felt a sense of familiarity with her.

I Nicole was about to speak when Doreen, returning from the bathroom, hurried over.

Roscoe, have you been waiting for me long? While speaking, Doreen directed a glare at Nicole.

Doreen had become noticeably more guarded ever since her encounter with Nicoles formidable lawyer. She refrained from speaking out of turn, fearing the lawyers potential return. Regarding the slap, she was determined not to forget or forgive. She vowed that Nicole would face severe consequences!

Lets go, Doreen asserted, seizing Roscoes arm and leading him away.

Observing the backs of the departing figures, Nicole drifted into contemplation.

Nicole found herself uncertain whether Roscoes lack of recollection was a positive or negative occurrence.

Not far behind her, Jarrod emerged from the courthouse, accompanied by Vicki.

Chapter 2217

Observing Nicoles gaze fixed on Roscoe, a surge of anger swept through Jarrod. Without uttering a word, he strode past Nicole.

Unperturbed by his presence, Nicole remained indifferent, but Vicki paused and politely greeted, Miss Lawrence.

Nicole looked at Vicki, albeit puzzled by her acknowledgment.

Nevertheless, she replied courteously, Miss Hampton.

With a graceful smile adorning her face, Vicki addressed Nicole, Miss Lawrence, during your testimony in court, you mentioned that Jarrod had threatened you to return to him with the child. I believe there might have been a misunderstanding.

Nicole remained silent as Vicki continued, Jarrod and I have enjoyed a strong relationship since our engagement a few months ago, and our wedding date is already set. I have faith in Jarrod.

Understanding Vickis intention to both flaunt her relationship with Jarrod and issue a warning, Nicole replied, Miss Hampton, your belief in Mr. Schultz is your prerogative. Theres no need to involve me. Ill stand by my convictions as long as you stand by yours.

Unfazed by the rebuttal, Vicki maintained her smile and remarked, I simply think Jarrod tends to be concise. Perhaps youve misunderstood his intentions. He would never betray me.

Not inclined to engage further, Nicole replied perfunctorily, Thats reassuring.

Vicki appeared displeased and seemed about to say more when she noticed Nicoles attorney approaching.

Quickly masking her discontent, Vicki said, Rest assured, Miss Lawrence. Ill take excellent care of your child.

Nicole was taken aback by Vickis words. Instead of genuinely intending to care for Austin, Vicki used the guise of concern to issue a warning.

Nicoles tone turned cold as she stated, If you harm Austin, youll regret it.

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At that moment, Vicki felt triumphant, wearing a faint smile as she retorted, Miss Lawrence, Im not sure what youre insinuating.

Vicki proved to be far more astute than Doreen, who seemed oblivious to such tactics.

Vicki had lived a privileged life, shielded from much injustice, and bolstered by Waynes favoritism. Consequently, her reputation remained untarnished by negative gossip.

However, Vicki was not unprepared to handle adversity. On the contrary, her pristine image afforded her numerous opportunities and advantages, as was evident now.

Nicole trembled at the realization of Vickis implicit threat. Vicki had already threatened her with Austins safety even before starting to take care of Austin. Given Austins frailty and delicate condition, even minor accidents could pose significant risks to him. This vulnerability made it all too easy for Vicki to potentially harm him.

Vicki! Nicoles warning was sharp and severe. If you even think about harming my child, I swear Ill make you pay!

Vicki appeared taken aback, her hand flying to her mouth as she trembled. Miss Lawrence, whats gotten into you

Dont pretend! Nicoles expression turned icy, seeing through Vickis earlier smile.

Though Vicki covered her mouth, her eyes betrayed a smug satisfaction.

It was evident she was attempting to unsettle Nicole.

Gritting her teeth, Nicole advanced toward Vicki. Im dead serious, Vicki. Ill kill you

Chapter 2218

Before Nicole could finish her threat, a scream pierced the air, and Vicki tumbled down the front steps.

Thankfully, Vicki only descended three steps, but she still appeared to be in agony. Her cries echoed, and a red mark marred her ankle, quickly swelling.

Nicole regarded Vicki with suspicion. She hadnt laid a hand on Vicki moments before.

Vicki murmured in a hushed tone, Miss Lawrence, youve completely misunderstood

Before Vicki could finish her sentence, a man approached with a cold demeanor. Who are you planning to harm?

Jarrold noticed that Vicki hadnt been following him, and upon returning for her, he overheard Nicoles threat to kill someone just before Vickis fall down the steps.

Jarrold hurried to Vickis aid, carefully examining her for injuries.

Once assured there were none, he inquired, How did you fall?

Leaning against Jarrods chest, Vicki appeared frail and frightened, evoking sympathy from those around her.

I Im okay It wasnt because of Miss Lawrence Vicki faltered, her words sounding more like a defense of Nicole rather than an explanation. She seemed intent on avoiding conflict.

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In an instant, Vickis reputation improved further. An empathetic wealthy heiress became even

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more desirable.

As expected, Jarrold regarded Nicole with a frigid expression and demanded, Apologize to Vicki. He paid no heed to Vickis words or the truth. He simply believed what he had seen.

At this moment, Jarrold exuded the same cold demeanor as before.

Jarrold had resolved to teach Nicole a lesson, fueled by her repeated opposition to him in the past. He had decided that he would never again indulge her or plead with her. He desired for her to experience fear and to beg him as she had done in the past.

Nicole spoke icily. Firstly, I didnt push her. Secondly, I wish harm upon her because she intends to harm Austin. If you permit her to do so, I wont hesitate to kill you as well!

Vicki, covering her mouth in shock, protested, Miss Lawrence, whats gotten into you? Did I say anything negative about the child? I only expressed sympathy for your situation

Seemingly overwhelmed with emotion, Vicki choked on her sobs, tears streaming down her face. I only expressed sympathy for you as a mother, hence the offer to take care of your child. Did I say anything inappropriate?

Miss Lawrence, please refrain from slinging mud at me. Ive never committed any wrongdoing since childhood, as is evident to all,

Vicki asserted, turning her head with a tone of grievance. Jarrod, I swear on my familys life, I never intended any harm to her child. I merely mentioned caring for him

Jarrod nodded reassuringly, his tone gentle. I believe you.

Then, his gaze turned cold as he addressed Nicole, Apologize to Vicki!

Me? A mocking smile tugged at Nicoles lips. She scolded herself for being naively clinging to the hope that Jarrod might genuinely care for Austin. To Jarrod, Austin was merely a means to assert control over her.

Jarrod, its been over two weeks since you took Austin away. Have you taken him for a medical check-up? Do you even know the extent of his illness? Do you truly care for him? If not, why did you take him away? Answer me! Nicoles voice cracked with despair. She felt a sense of pity for both Austin and herself. They were like kites tethered by strings they couldnt shake loose.

Jarrod sneered, Its just a heart condition. Im searching for a donor for him.

Chapter 2219

Jarrod was aware of Austins heart condition, but finding a compatible donor was proving challenging. Despite his wealth, locating a suitable match was no easy feat. Otherwise, with his financial resources, he should have been able to locate a donor promptly. Once the right person emerged, he was willing to go to any lengths to ensure they donated.

Nicole felt hopeless. She knew she couldnt expect Jarrod to share her concerns. All she could hope for was Austins safety during this precarious time. She made a concession and said, Austin cant consume cold foods, and there are certain taboos. Only the nanny is familiar with them. Please, dont dismiss her. Shes been caring for Austin for years, knows him well, and wont harm him. Austin also relies on her greatly. I implore you

For the first time in a long while, Nicole had humbled herself.

Jarrod felt validated in his decision. He should have treated her this way earlier. Anyway, she wouldnt appreciate his kindness.

Apologize to Vicki. Jarrod was intent on seeking justice for Vicki, not letting her grievances go unnoticed.

Nicoles demeanor turned cold. Thinking of Austin, she reluctantly offered an apology. Im sorry, Miss Hampton. My misunderstanding led me to speak out of turn. It would be best if you harbored no ill intentions.

After a brief pause, Nicole added, One day, when you become a mother, youll understand that a mother will do anything for her child, even sacrifice her own life.

Though it appeared to be an apology, Nicoles words carried a subtle warning to Vicki. If Vicki dared to harm Austin, she would face dire consequences.

Vicki, perceptive as ever, understood the implicit threat. Though displeased internally, she maintained a composed facade. Of course, Miss Lawrence, I understand where youre coming from. Once Im married to Jarrod and become pregnant, Ill experience motherhood firsthand. Every mother holds her child dear and would never act against their best interests.

Vickis response served as a warning to Nicole, cautioning her against any wrongful actions.

Nicole grasped the implied message and replied tersely, Congratulations regardless.

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Vicki offered a shy smile in response.

Jarrod, disinterested in their conversation, lowered his head and asked Vicki, Can you walk?

Vicki responded, Let me give it a try.

Vicki attempted to take a step but winced in pain. Ouch

Without a second thought, Jarrod scooped her up and walked away without looking back.

A chilly breeze swept by, causing Nicole to shiver and her arms to break out in goosebumps. A sense of foreboding washed over her as she fretted over Austins well-being.

Right then, Rhett emerged and called out to Nicole, Miss Lawrence, this is Mr. Schultzs testing organization.

He handed Nicole an address and explained, This is a reputable organization. There havent been any issues, and the doctors are highly skilled. Logically, if Mr. Schultz had a mental illness, it shouldnt have led to this outcome.

Though Rhett harbored suspicions about Nicoles claims, he chose to express them subtly. He didnt want to discourage a mother who had lost visitation rights to her child.

Nicole shook her head resolutely. I cant be mistaken. Hes been taking medication, evidenced by the large bottle. Its similar to what he used to take, and about two-thirds of it is gone, indicating hes been adhering to the treatment regimen. The absence of a medication reaction in his system suggests he may have tampered with it.

If your assessment is accurate, Ill continue investigating. Regarding visitation rights, dont fret. Once you demonstrate emotional stability during your three doctor visits, I can reapply to the court. In the meantime, try not to dwell on it too much. Lets collaborate to regain your visitation rights promptly. Rhett remained professional and compassionate, refraining from chastising Nicole for her unverified claims.

Few lawyers would dare to take on Nicoles case, wary of offending powerful individuals who had risen from humble beginnings.

Considering their backgrounds, it was likely that these individuals had attained success through cutthroat means.

Chapter 2220

Thank you, Rhett, Nicole expressed her gratitude, clutching the note in her hand. Ill visit this organization to see if I can uncover anything.

Rhett harbored doubts about the efficacy of her visit but refrained from dampening Nicoles spirits.

Handing Nicole a business card, he remarked, The individual in charge there is a former classmate of mine. You can inquire with him when you arrive.

Thank you, Mr. Bates, Nicole said, acknowledging the advantage of having an insider to assist in gathering information.

Rhett was ever thorough and conscientious. Feeling slightly embarrassed, Nicole added, Ill increase your payment later for your extra time.

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Theres no need for that. Rhett then added, We agreed on a fee, and I charge by the case, not by the hour.

Rhett reassured her further, I owe a lot to Mr. Dixon from the Dixon Group, and his wife personally requested that I take your case. Ive committed to seeing it through to the end. Miss Lawrence, if any issues arise later on, just communicate with me.

Nicole nodded and expressed her thanks once more.

After they parted ways, she took a taxi to the forensic agency listed on the address she received from Rhett.

The building was imposing and serious, covered with posters promoting whistLeblowing.

Report any collusion or bias among doctors or assistants anonymously to receive a substantial reward, one poster read, highlighting the agencys independence from nepotistic influences and its credibility as a judicially appointed professional institution.

Nicole wondered how Jarrod had managed to pass their screenings. She met with Mr. Castillo, an acquaintance of Rhett, to understand thoroughly the testing process.

Miss Lawrence, each of our procedures is quintuple-checked to ensure nothing slips through the cracks. If someone tampers with the initial tests, they cant fool the last three ones, which are anonymously rechecked by other facilities. Falsifying results here is next to impossible, Mr. Castillo stated.

It was true that the result would be determined after several rounds of inspection.

Mr. Castillo, have there really been no issues over the years?

Nicole inquired.

Mr. Castillo frowned, disliking the implication. As a man of integrity, he placed great trust in his workplace and disliked any negative implications about the agency.

Im sorry, Mr. Castillo. This place is my only hope. I just want to learn more because my child is severely ill, and its making me very worried, Nicole hastily added.

Mr. Castillos demeanor softened when he learned of her situation, particularly because he too had become a father to a beautiful Little girl this year. He empathized with parental worries, recognizing that mothers often felt the strain more acutely than fathers.

In the past, there was a case where an employee manipulated test samples, he explained more gently. The person involved had accepted bribes and acted independently. Once discovered, they were sentenced to three years and fined heavily. Since that incident, we have implemented stringent background checks on our employees to ensure they have no debts, no gambling habits, and uphold strong ethical standards.

He added, Look at the numerous warning signs and awareness campaigns throughout our facility. We have ensured our staff are well-compensated, reducing the likelihood of such risks.

Despite his assurances, Nicole retained her doubts. She recognized Mr. Castillos integrity but remained aware that not everyone might adhere to such high ethical standards. With enough motivation, some might still succumb to temptation.

Mr. Castillo, could you provide me with a list of recent staff departures? Nicole inquired.