

Unbreakable 2231

Chapter 2231

With a serene smile, Vicki addressed him thoughtfully, Its crucial to try on the wedding attire well in advance. If youre tied up, I can handle it solo.

Jarrods gaze narrowed slightly as he studied Vickis expression intently. She spoke graciously, her face remaining radiant, seemingly devoid of any hint of grievances.

Agreeing with a nod, Jarrod replied, Im buried in work. Set it up whenever suits you.

Alright, take care then.

As Jarrod turned to walk away, Vicki watched him silently, her countenance soft and her smile tender, portraying the image of a devoted fiancée.

Only after he vanished from sight did the warmth in Vickis smile gradually fade.

Crash! In a sudden outburst, she swept the dishes off the table, sending them crashing to the floor.

Aware that Jarrod had left her for Nicole again, anger simmered within Vicki, yet she compelled herself to suppress her emotions.

Vicki refrained from causing a scene, aware she was still under evaluation. Despite the courts ruling, Jarrod hadnt entrusted her with Austins care yet. He didnt have enough faith in her to entrust her with his child.

Jarrod truly cherished Austin. And so did Nicole. Realizing she had identified their Achilles heel, Vickis smile crept back onto her face.

Instead of succumbing to daily anxieties, fearing she couldnt marry Jarrod with the fear of another twist of fate, she resolved to leverage their Achilles heel, no longer living in fear.

Vicki summoned the servants to clean up the mess. Before retiring for the night, she instructed the butler to procure the freshest, finest ingredients tomorrow for a soup she intended to prepare for Jarrod.

Even if Jarrod never tasted a drop, as long as he acknowledged her thoughtfulness, that was all that mattered.

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Jarrod was on his way out while Alec was waiting in the car.

Spotting Jarrod, Alec quickly stowed away his phone and stepped out to open the door for Jarrod.

Jarrod glanced at Alects phone, now silenced and resting on the seat, and directed without a backward glance, Youre driving.

Alec immediately got behind the wheel.

This type of instruction usually stemmed from an important matter Jarrod needed to attend to without disclosing the details to the driver.

As they pulled away, just as Alec was about to inquire about their destination, Jarrod interrupted Alec with a stern look.

Hand over your phone, Jarrod commanded.

Jarrods demand left Alec puzzled and uneasy. Why the sudden need for his phone?

But with Jarrods unyielding gaze fixed on him, Alec didnt dare to hesitate. He unlocked his phone and handed it over.

Jarrood found an encrypted number and inquired, Who is this?

Alec faltered, I Its

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Think carefully before you answer, Jarrod warned sternly.

Startled, Alec whispered, Mr. Schultz, I

You have thirty seconds to clear this up, and dont omit a single detail, Jarrod demanded, his face stormy and imposing.

Alec, now frantic, confessed, Derek didnt leave town after taking the money. Hes been flaunting it in Ardlens. I found out Miss Lawrence was investigating Derek. When Derek called for advice, I
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Jarrood, his patience wearing thin, pressed on, And then what?

With a gulp, Alec admitted, Then I directed Derek to run her over.

At Alecs words, the atmosphere in the car turned icy, as if plunged into a deep freeze.

Alec dared not utter another word. He understood Nicoles significance to Jarrod. His actions stemmed from frustration with Nicoles constant schemes against Jarrod.

Especially since Nicole had just lost a legal battle, Alec assumed taking Austin away from her would keep her subdued for a while. But to his dismay, she lost in court in the morning and by the afternoon, she was already snooping around the forensic lab. Finding nothing, yet undeterred, she even secured a job there to unearth clues.

Nicoles unwavering resilience exasperated Alec, making her seem invincible. Frankly, her tenacity frightened him, always leaving a nagging fear that she would be the ruin of Jarrod. So when Derek called him in a panic, he impulsively issued that fateful order.

Alec wasnt afraid of Jarrods retaliation. He did what he deemed necessary. Even if it failed, he had no regrets. He couldnt stand idly by and watch Nicole harm Jarrod. Even if it meant paying the price, he was willing to do it.

After hearing this, Jarrod asked emotionlessly, his countenance inscrutable, Did you act alone, or were you paid?

Alecs heart sank, not anticipating Jarrod to hold him in such low regard. Jarrod had once saved his life, and he prided himself on his loyalty. How could he possibly be bribed?

Mr. Schultz, I would rather die than Alec began, but Jarrod had lost interest.

Where? Jarrod asked abruptly.

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Alec hastily replied, knowing Jarrod inquired about Derek, Im not sure. He called me a while ago and then vanished. When I tried calling back, his phone was off

Send me the location he was last seen and the recording, Jarrod commanded.

Alecs phone was specially designed to record calls and messages with a single button and could be wiped clean just as swiftly in an emergency, ensuring no evidence fell into the wrong hands.

Alec sent Jarrod the recent recording and the location.

Jarrods voice turned cold as ice. Get out of the car.

Alecs heart raced as panic gripped him. Mr. Schultz, its too risky for you to go alone. Please, let me accompany you. I wont make another mistake

Do I need to repeat myself? Jarrods gaze froze Alec to the core.

With a heavy heart, Alec reluctantly exited the car, but his resolve remained unyielding as he clung to the window. Mr. Schultz, please, let me come with you. I promise to follow your orders. Let me protect you, please

Alec wasnt concerned about Derek, who stood no chance against Jarrod.

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Even outnumbered, Jarrod could undoubtedly prevail.

Alecs concern over Jarrods safety was because of Nicole. From his perspective, she was akin to a lethal weapon. Regardless of Jarrods assertions about being cold to her, it hadnt been a week, and they already rang hollow.

Alec was concerned Nicole likely caused harm to Jarrod.

Tell me, Alec, how long have you served by my side? Jarrods sudden question caught Alec off guard.

Sixteen years, Mr. Schultz, Alec replied.

Sixteen years Jarrod echoed softly.

In the blink of an eye, Jarrods gaze shifted to Alecs hand, and without warning, he swiftly raised the window, trapping it tightly.

Alec winced in agony, biting his tongue to stifle a cry of pain.

Alec knew this was Jarrods way of disciplining him for overstepping his boundaries. He had indeed violated one of Jarrods rules, and he accepted the consequences. Yet, he remained steadfast in his belief that he had done no wrong. He was a straightforward man, not one for schemes.

It wasnt until Jarrod spoke again that Alec felt a shiver down his spine.

No matter how long you have served by my side, if you ignore my orders and act on your own, even if youre capable, youre no more valuable than a rat in my eyes, Jarrods icy voice declared.

Alec felt a wave of sadness wash over him as he absorbed the rebuke.

Alec had always held Jarrod in high regard. Yet, despite his years of dedicated service, he still fell short compared to Nicole in Jarrods heart.

It was only when Alecs fingers turned purple and black, numbing to the point of losing all feeling, that Jarrod finally rolled down his car window.

Alec tried moving his numb hand with his other.

There wont be a next time, Jarrod stated coldly.

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Then, the car pulled away, leaving Alec kneeling on the ground, utterly defeated.

Alec puzzled over whether he had really erred. Nicole, that relentless woman, was fixated on driving Jarrod to his demise.

Despite losing her childs custody, her resolve remained unbroken.

Alec felt he had only intended to shield Jarrod from complications.

Why, even after everything, did Jarrods feelings for Nicole linger?

Undoubtedly, Vicki from the Hampton family was a better choice. She had shown support to the Schultz Group and was wholeheartedly devoted to Jarrod. In comparison, Nicole was utterly ineffectual.

Alec grappled with confusion and disbelief. One thing remained clear.

He would put no stops in ensuring no harm came Jarrods way. Should anyone dare to pose risks to Jarrods well-being, he wouldnt hesitate to deal with them.

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Determination filled his eyes. He would not allow Nicole to pose threats to Jarrod.

Nicoles car was struck by Dereks silver sedan and flipped over.

Fortunately, it landed in a muddy ditch where the soft earth cushioned the impact, and the timely deployment of the airbag prevented more severe injuries.

Momentarily stunned, Nicole soon felt an overwhelming pain in her back as if her spine had shattered.

She grimaced, struggling with the safety belt, and then dragged herself from the wreckage.

The window was cracked but held together just enough for Nicole to force the remaining shards apart with her hands. As she did so, the glass sliced into her skin, causing her to bleed. Nonetheless, she pushed on, pulling herself free from the car.

She scanned her surroundings. Quite the isolation. There was no one nearby, no passing cars, and with her phone destroyed in the crash, she couldn't call for help.

Turning her attention to a nearby noise, Nicole noticed Derek's car crumpled against a tree, smoke rising from its engine.

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The faint sound of music and a blinking light suggested Derek's phone was active inside. Her heart racing, Nicole limped toward it.

Inside, Derek lay unconscious, his phone within sight but just out of reach on the passenger seat.

She stretched and twisted, finally grasping the device.

But as she prepared to use Derek's phone, a drop of something wet hit her hand, unsettling her. More drops followed, prompting her to recoil and turn back.

To her horror, Derek, bloody and weak, was reaching for Nicole, barely able to whisper. Save me
Save me

Only then did Nicole notice Derek's other hand was pinned under the steering wheel, severely injured. The pain appeared intense. He struggled to breathe, likely having broken several ribs.

Immobilized, Derek could only depend on Nicole for help.

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Miss, save me Please Derek's plea was filled with desperation.

Nicole eyed him warily, recalling his recent attempt to harm her. Her trust waned. She was more interested in securing Derek's phone to uncover any incriminating evidence than in his welfare. Now, he was of no use to her.

Sensing her reluctance, Derek implored, Miss, I'm useful. The person behind this is too powerful. My phone alone won't suffice. I can testify and provide evidence that I was coerced into tampering with the samples. Isn't that what you need?

His words struck a chord in Nicole. Jarrod's influence was indeed formidable, and having Derek as a witness could prove invaluable.

Realizing the potential, Derek pressed on, Look at my condition. I'm hardly a threat now. You're safe with me. I just want to survive

The smoking car posed a looming threat, its potential explosion imminent, trapping Derek in a precarious situation.

Miss, please, Derek implored, his desperation palpable. I have a two-year-old daughter. Shes just starting to speak, calling me dad. I cant leave her behind-

Understanding Nicoles motive, Derek realized she fought for custody because she cared for her own child. He was betting on Nicole getting softhearted when he mentioned his daughter.

In truth, Derek harbored no affection for his daughter nor any desire to take his wife and his incessantly crying daughter to leave with him.

Chapter 2235

Lacking parental experience, Derek remained indolent and self-centered, devoid of any sentimental connection to his daughter.

Yet, in this critical moment, his daughter became a bargaining chip.

Aware of the softening effect children had on women, Derek persisted in his pleas, his forlorn countenance compelling. He extolled the virtues of his daughter, emphasizing her charm and adorableness, weaving a convincing narrative of paternal devotion.

Initially skeptical, Nicoles skepticism dissolved upon hearing about the child, softening her heart.

Derek indeed had a two-year-old daughter. The thought of the childs pitiful fate if her father perished tugged at Nicoles compassion.

Despite Dereks flaws, his child remained innocent in her eyes, and Nicole couldnt bear the thought of another shattered family.

With determination, Nicole circled around to the cars opposite side, shattered the remaining window, and exerted her strength to dislodge Dereks trapped hand.

Ouch! You. Derek intended to curse, but he swiftly changed his tune, cautioning, Careful now. Its Its painful.

Nicoles demeanor was less than sympathetic as she chided, You think you can evade consequences for your misdeeds without enduring a little discomfort? Is that it?

Furious but wary of provoking further ire, Derek could only mumble, I understand, miss. Youre being kind. Ah! Please, be gentle

Then, a resounding crack signaled Dereks liberation as Nicole finally freed his hand.

Ah! Derek cried out in agony.

Derek paid a steep price for freeing his hand as the skin on his hand was ripped off, exposing the raw, bloody flesh beneath. It was a horrifying sight.

Ah! You're trying to kill me, aren't you? Derek accused.

No, I just had to pull your hand out, Nicole replied calmly. She could have been gentler, but she chose not to and used all her strength to yank him out instead.

People like Derek, though not deserving of death, should endure some hardship to understand that they had to pay for their misdeeds dearly, and to prevent them from further wrongdoings.

Derek stifled the urge to lash out at Nicole as his left hand was so badly hurt that it was practically useless.

He realized Nicole was sharper than he had anticipated. She added to the severity of his injury to lessen his threat level. He cursed silently, yet he depended on Nicole to help him escape the wrecked car.

Miss, please help me get out of here. It's too dangerous. Derek begged, looking at the smoking car.

Seeing the urgency, Nicole pushed past her own discomfort, wrenched the twisted car door open, and dragged Derek to safety.

Once outside, Derek collapsed on the ground, breathing hard. He resembled a stranded fish, mouth gaping wide, desperate for a breath of air.

Nicole picked up Derek's phone to call for help but realized it was locked and couldn't place an emergency call.

Usually, a cell phone could do this. Even if it wasn't unlocked, it could still call for help. It looked like Derek's phone was made just for him.

Nicole glanced at Derek, sprawled on the ground like a fish out of water. Letting her guard down a bit, she approached and asked, What's the passcode?

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Derek weakly replied, You can use facial recognition.

Facial recognition? Nicole took the phone and aimed it at Derek's face, but his features were covered with blood, and the phone failed to unlock.

Derek suggested, Maybe if you get a bit closer, it will work.

Following his advice, Nicole crouched closer, aiming the phone at Derek's face while keeping an eye on his every move.

The phone unlocked as she moved closer.

Relieved, Nicole prepared to stand up and make a call, dividing her attention.

But just as she was about to rise, Derek, who had appeared weak on the ground, sprang up and wrapped his arm around Nicole's neck.

Ah Dereks phone slipped from Nicoles grip and clattered to the ground as her face turned a mix of red and purple from the choking.

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Dereks eyes burned with malice as he threatened, Ill kill you, you little bitch! I could have vanished without a trace, but you just had to mess up my plans!

Nicole belatedly realized she was dealing with a true menace. Derek was that cold-hearted danger. He felt no gratitude for her rescue in the critical moment. His thoughts were still on murder.

Nicole grasped such a person had no conscience and didnt care about his two-year-old daughter waiting at home. His previous weakness and tears were merely a performance to trick her.

She fought back, flailing with punches and kicks, but Derek only laughed, saying, Its useless. Ill kill you today.

Before, Derek had exaggerated his weakness, only half-faking it. Sure, he was hurt, but not as much as he claimed. Even against a wounded woman, he maintained the upper hand.

The chokehold was tight, and Nicole couldnt use her full strength, but fortunately, she had recently peeled the skin from Dereks hand when yanking his hand out, revealing his vulnerability. She reached for

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Dereks injured hand, clawing into the torn flesh with all her might.

It was a gruesome scene when Nicole worsened Dereks injury.

Ah! Damn it! Derek howled in agony. The intense pain caused him to loosen his grip slightly.

Nicole seized the chance, putting extra pressure on Dereks injured hand. She dug deep and created five fresh wounds, revealing the bone beneath.

Bitch! Let go of me! Derek screamed and hastily released Nicole, overwhelmed by the excruciating pain.

Nicole gasped for air, her Lungs filling with freedom, and she gazed up at the sky, panting. After regaining some strength, she slowly rose and limped into the woods, vanishing from sight.

Derek steadied himself, retrieved his phone, and prepared to pursue Nicole.

He grabbed a stick from behind the car, clenched it in his fist, and yelled, Ill find you, you little bitch! Ill kill you!

He marched into the woods, declaring, You think you can hide? No way! Ill definitely find you!

With those words, he vanished into the forest.

Jarrold played the recording of Alecs phone call with Derek since he drove. He was aware that both Derek and Nicole had vanished after the car crash.

Chapter 2237

But after the crash, Derek had made a call to Alec, and Jarrod wanted to pick up any clues about their location by listening to it.

Alecs voice could be heard on the recording. Whats taking so long? Have you made it yet?

Derek inhaled deeply before replying, Not yet. I just had a near miss. But that crazy woman drove like a maniac, and I ended up hitting a tree

Alec hesitated and advised, She might not be as strong as you, but shes smart. Be careful.

I know Damn it! Ill kill her today. Derek assumed Nicole had seen the tree ahead and intentionally swerved at the last minute, causing his car to crash into it.

Derek was no longer just following Alecs commands. He was driven by a murderous rage, intent on killing Nicole.

Alec didnt fully trust Derek, worried Derek would mishandle things.

He pondered for a moment before suggesting, Forget it. You should leave the country now. Ill handle the rest.

Alec planned to deal with Leighton and fake a mental illness certificate for Nicole, rendering Nicoles testimony useless and inadmissible.

But Derek disagreed and was not ready to quit insisting, Just give me half an hour, and Ill catch up to her..

Didnt you crash the car? Where are you now? Alec inquired.

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Shes running down this muddy path, and Im going after her now..

Dereks voice abruptly stopped.

The call ended suddenly.

Listening to the dial tone, Jarrods heart raced with worry. Nicole, youve always managed to escape

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danger. Dont get into any trouble this time!

His eyes narrowed as he floored the accelerator and sped off.

Suddenly, rain began to pour, intensifying the throbbing of Nicoles wounds. The pain drained her energy, leaving her weak and limp. She was already frail, and the recent events had depleted her strength completely.

Nicole concealed herself behind a clump of muddy bushes, trying to curl into the smallest, most unnoticeable ball possible. She was worn out, almost drifting off, when she heard footsteps getting closer, their rhythm uneven in the distance.

In the pitch-black night, she knew the only person wandering outside could be Derek.

With the rain washing away all traces, she didnt hold out hope for anyone to come to her rescue.

The heavy rain complicated any search efforts. Even if Raegan had dispatched a search party, Nicole doubted she could survive long enough for their arrival.

Clutching herself tightly, Nicole not only tried to minimize her visibility but also held her breath, afraid that Derek might detect her presence. Considering the physical advantage men typically had over women, combined with her weakened state, if Derek found her, she would have to accept whatever came next.

As she anticipated, the footsteps approached closer, followed by the sound of a stick pushing through the bushes.

Miss, stop hiding Dereks voice echoed through the rain-soaked forest, sending shivers down Nicoles spine, especially in the dark of night.

Chapter 2238

He whistled and teased, Watch out for pythons and wild critters around here. Its better to show yourself than end up as dinner. I can make it painless for you

Dereks laughter was sinister.

Nicole remained silent. The footsteps were closing in, and Derek had a flashlight. If he headed in her direction, he would definitely see her.

She glanced at the bracelet in her hand, which she gripped tightly to avoid any noise. In a moment of quick thinking, she tied the bracelet around a stone and hurled it into the distance, creating a diversion.

As expected, Derek followed the sound, chuckling loudly. Im coming to get you

She then heard Dereks footsteps moving toward the stone.

The nanny had gifted Nicole the bracelet, saying it was Austins favorite and meant to keep her safe. In this critical moment, the bracelet indeed proved its value.

Having diverted Derek with the bracelet, Nicole hoped he would search in the wrong direction, buying her some time.

Once she was sure Derek had pursued the stone, Nicole leaned on a tree to stand and then limped toward the forests edge. Had she been in the open with no cover, Dereks superior physical strength would have easily overpowered her. That was why she opted for the challenging terrain of the forest.

But now, some time had passed, and Nicole hoped a rescue team might be outside since she had managed to alert Raegan earlier. She trusted that Raegan would not just stand by and must have sent help. If she was fortunate, she might encounter the rescue team as she made her way out.

Relying on her memory, Nicole navigated toward the exit.

Suddenly, she heard Dereks angry shout. Damn it, where are you hiding, thinking you can trick me? When I catch you, Ill ruin your face!

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Spurred by Dereks furious voice, Nicole dared not pause and hastened her steps toward the exit.

As she neared the clearing, Nicoles face broke into a relieved smile, and she rushed forward.

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However, her relief turned to dismay once she was fully out. Shed taken the wrong turn. It was a downhill slope, and not only was their car missing, but there was no sign of help anywhere. It was clear she had chosen the wrong path.

Just as Nicole felt hopeless, a creepy laugh echoed from behind her.

Hatha. Ive finally caught up to you. Derek also emerged from the forest.

In the open area with no place to hide, Nicole had no option but to descend the slope. But her shaky legs slowed her down.

She had only taken a few steps when Derek violently grabbed her hair, cursing, Damn it, still trying to escape!

He then hurled her forcefully to the ground.

Crack! Nicole felt as though her knee had shattered.

You bitch, you did that on purpose to my hand, didnt you? Even with his hand wrapped in cloth, Dereks movements were still awkward.

Furious, Nicole snapped, I tried to help you, and this is how you treat me? Arent you afraid of karma?

Karma? Oh, come on. Ive committed plenty of wrongs, and if karma was to strike me, it would have done so by now. But look, Im still here, alive and kicking His voice trailed off as a sudden flash of lightning cut across the sky.

Chapter 2239

Derek stopped, gazing upward. Lightning had indeed flashed! Startled, he fell silent, wondering if it was a warning.

Then, a loud thunderclap followed as the lightning struck somewhere in the distance.

Ha-ha! Derek erupted into boisterous laughter. See? Even the lightning wont touch me.

Nicole spat in disgust and said, Dont be so smug. Your time just hasnt come yet.

Enraged, Derek thrust the stick down harshly on Nicoles knee.

Ouch Nicole yelled, her face twisting in pain.

Looks like your mouth still has some fire! Derek glowered at her menacingly.

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As another bolt of lightning streaked across the sky, it illuminated Nicoles face, washed by the rain, and her silhouette was accentuated by her clinging, wet clothes.

Dereks gaze shifted as he leered at her, poking indecently at her neckline with the stick.

You have a stunning figure, he said, his eyes gleaming with lust.

The way Nicoles body looked under the rain was surprisingly striking.

Her skin appeared soft and pale, far more appealing than Leightons.

Nicoles beautiful face seemed to set the scene for a sultry, wet spectacle, naturally drawing a mans gaze.

Derek, all worked up, shamelessly showed his excitement without any concern to hide it. He commented, Miss, how about I make you feel good before you die?

Ugh! Nicole spat at him, furious. Only over my dead body!

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Seeing the river below, Nicole thought shed rather dive in than tolerate insults from this jerk!

Thats fine. Even if you die, I can still It makes no difference to me. Derek had completely lost his mind.

Nicole was utterly revolted. Derek was devoid of any morals or principles and thoroughly corrupt. Now that he had committed crimes and possessed wealth, his inherent depravity had only intensified exponentially.

As he moved closer to her, Nicole didnt hesitate and rolled down the slope, but suddenly her arm was seized.

Derek harshly pulled her back up, announcing, Dont rush, beauty. Today indeed marks your end. But let me have my fun first.

With that, he started to unbuckle his belt.

Derek quickly tossed his belt aside and moved to pin Nicole down.

Nicole fought back fiercely, attempting to kick Derek in the abdomen, but he deftly sidestepped her.

Then, he raised his hand and struck her face harshly.

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Smack! The slap was really hard.

Nicoles mouth started bleeding, and her head spun. The slap weakened her already frail body, robbing her of any strength to resist.

Dereks filthy hands reached to tear at her clothes, causing her to feel sick, but she had nothing in her stomach to vomit.

Youll get whats coming to you! Nicole declared, her gaze icy and determined.

You are so stubborn! Derek sneered, leaning in to press her down once more.

With a fierce look in her eyes, Nicole gathered all her strength and bit down hard on Dereks ear.

Ah! You bitch, let go! Derek attempted to pull away, but Nicoles grip on his ear was relentless.

During the struggle, Nicole tore off a piece of Dereks ear, leaving him with a bizarre and somewhat humorous disfigurement.

Damn it! Derek recoiled, clutching his injured ear. The pain was intense.

Enraged, he seized Nicole by the neck, yelling, Give me back my ear!

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That piece was still attached to the ear cartilage, and it could have been reattached if handled properly.

However, Nicole quickly tilted her head and spat that piece down the slope.

Derek could only watch in frustration as it tumbled into the water, vanishing from view.

At this, Dereks fury boiled over, and he delivered two harsh slaps to Nicole, one after another.

Yet, these slaps did little to calm his rage. Clutching Nicoles neck tightly, his eyes bloodshot, Derek screamed wildly, You bitch, Ill kill you!

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Nicoles eyes rolled back as she struggled to breathe, feeling her chest tighten.

Just when she thought she might draw her last breath, a loud bang echoed.

Derek, who had been pressing down on her, suddenly rolled down the slope.

The rain poured heavily, and the wind howled like thunder.

Nicole noticed a man with short hair standing in the rain. He squinted through the downpour and said dismissively, You cant even deal with a piece of trash, and you think you can challenge me?

Jarrods tone was cold and scornful. In his eyes, Nicole was like a tiny ant now. No matter how hard she fought, it seemed pointless.

At the sight of him, a wave of relief swept over Nicole. Now, at least, Derek couldnt hurt her anymore. Maybe in the past, Jarrod could have, but she believed he wouldnt do that now. For reasons unknown, he wouldnt.

But Nicole wasnt interested in exploring Jarrods motives. She refused to believe anything he said. His past actions were beyond redemption. The thought that this demon could live so untroubled

gnawed at Nicole. She mourned for her deceased father and felt even sorrier for her mother, who remained oblivious to the truth. And poor Austin had turned into a pawn in this mess.

Austin couldve enjoyed a carefree childhood, but instead, he had to be on guard because of Jarrods unpredictable behavior.