

Dangerous Love

Book by Nicole K.

The Dangerous Love series

Dangerous Love

Coming soon: Dangerous Desire

DANGEROUS LOVE

NICOLE K.

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First paperback edition April 2021

Book design by Nicole K.

ISBN 978-1-5011-7321-9 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-4767-4660-9 (e-book)

For me

-to write off my bucket list

I

Every night I see them again. The faces of all the people I've lost. The people I've let down. I turn around in my bed in hope to get some more sleep but I can't. I can't stop thinking about the things I've done or the things I didn't do. It feels like I'm stuck in my past again. Like I always am lately.

I got up out of bed. I need to clear my mind. I went to the balcony for fresh air. I leaned against the railing. I need to get a grip. This can't go on like this. It's been years. It needs to stop.

I need to get my life back together. I run a business and I can't fail at that. It's everything I have.

I still think about how I got here, one of the worlds best fashion designers and brand. My clothes are my life. With clothes you can make a statement with no

words needed. I built this company from nothing when I was 18 years old. Now, 6 years later I have 8 offices in the United States and 2 in Holland, my origin country. I have over 500 employees worldwide. I design clothing for the royals, celebrities and for companies. With that I also have an haute couture and ready wear collection. My brand 'Fox' is worldwide well known, and we are going to expand in more countries. We are working on a global expansion strategy.

But even though I'm good in business, there still are a lot of things that are missing. Like a home. I feel like I don't belong here. Or anywhere, for that matter. Only when you have it all, you can feel the emptiness, the loneliness.

The thing with me is that I don't belong, at home with my family or here in New York City. With my family I'm the outcast, the black sheep. I've always tried so hard but could never make up to their expectations. I feel like I've failed. I work in the fashion industry. To my family I'm a joke. I don't even try to be nice anymore, just to please people.

I've only started in the fashion industry because nobody believed that I could do it. I wanted to

prove a point that I can make it on my own. That I don't need anyone to tell me what to do or who to be.

I'm just tired. Like I'm done with life for a while. Maybe tomorrow will be better. When I'm at work I forget all of my troubles.

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The sun was shining in my eyes and I realised that it was already morning. I looked at the alarm.

Shit.

I wanted to go on a run before work. I'll just take a quick shower so that I won't be too late to the meeting. I'm meeting the founder and CEO of Brown. Brown specializes in programming software. They want us to use their software. They work with a new kind of system that they want to use in the company. They also want to work with us to help set up the new software. To get everything in the system. I really don't want them in my company. I am handling everything good on my own and we have no problems with the current system. The board thought it would be a good idea to let

someone in from outside the company in for guidance and renewing. Like we need that. All we need is to get back to work and stop with all this nonsense.

I turn the shower off en begin dressing. I need a classy and elegant dress to impress, so I picked a bordeaux satin dress that hugged my curves and put on some new black stilettos. I looked at the clock and it was already 8. I rushed out of my apartment and hailed a taxi.

When I went into the building it was already 8:25. I had to hurry if I wanted to be on time. I was greeted by Kevin, my assistant on my way to the office. We walked towards my office to pick up some papers that I need in the meeting and we walked towards the meeting room.

“I already have everything set up for the meeting and Mr. Brown is waiting in the meeting room for us” Kevin said.

I openend the door to the meeting room and saw a handsome man with dark hair and the brightest blue eyes I had ever seen sitting on one of the chairs. He rose out of his chair and made his way forward,

towards me. I also saw that the members of the board were already sitting and they looked pissed that I was late. I quickly made my introductions.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Brown” I said and shook Mr. Brown’s hand.

“Pleasure to meet you Miss Fox” he smiled.

And of course, even his smile is perfect. I got to my seat and Mr. Brown started his presentation.

“Thank you all for coming today. I am Thomas Brown. The founder and CEO of Brown. I firstly wanted to show you my findings of flaws in your computer system and ways to resolve them with my new software. The systems you use now won’t be big enough to handle the global expansion you want in the company” His voice was dark and somehow mysterious.

“If we want to make this global expansion happen, we need to have the systems ready and secured. I also know a lot about business strategies that I can help with.”

“Brown also invest a lot in new companies and builds them up. Currently we have almost helped 200 companies from going under”

He raised his eyes to mine and I immediately avoided my eyes. I have always had this thing with men. I can't look them in the eyes without blushing. With men I have always felt like I was second, like my opinion doesn't matter and I fucking hate that, so I raised my eyes again and looked directly into his bright blue eyes. He was showing us how his system works and how it benefits the company to have him working with us.

As the meeting was almost over, the board asked him some more questions about how this is going to work and how this profits Fox. The board finally decided that it was a good idea to put Mr. Brown in the company. In my company. As head of the software systems and business management. They want me to work closely with Mr. Brown to help with the switch between the systems. I've built this company from scratch and I certainly don't need someone to watch my every move or to take over my work. I made this company great so why would we need someone else to do that?

The board shook hands with Mr. Brown and left. Peter waved the board goodbye and walked over to me.

“You know that were not doing this because we think you can’t handle it alone, right?” Peter said.

“Well, it does feel like it. You know how much work I put in the company. Why would I need someone to help me?”

His features went softer. “Look, we only want to help you. You are at the company 24/7. It’s not healthy. And to be honest Adelaide, I’m worried about you. You’ve been so stressed lately. See this as an opportunity to clear your head, to get some time off” he sighted.

“This global expansion will cost a lot of time and energy and if someone can take over the business side of the company, you can relax a bit’

That made me angry. Does he think I can’t handle it alone? If someone knows how hard I worked to achieve this, it will be him.

“Why would I need time off? I’m doing just fine, and the company has never been more of a success. I don’t need time off. I need to work.”

Peter put his hand on my shoulder and smiled kindly.

“Adelaide. I know how good you are, and I love you, but we think the business is too big to handle alone now. We want to help you. We really do and that’s why we’ve decided to let someone help you with the expansion.” He sighted.

“Look Adelaide, you know I would never make a decision that isn’t for you or the company’s benefit. I really do want what’s best for you”

“Yeah, I know, but I don’t want him here. He won’t be of any help” I said stubbornly.

“I’d say give him some time. He won’t be working here fulltime forever. Only a little while and then he will only be on the background as a business manager” He squeezed my shoulder softly.

“Plus, if you really don’t like him, we can always look for someone else. But I really want this to

work, I really want you to be a little less stressed and happy” Peter said.

I gave him a look. “I am happy”

“I know you are not, and you haven’t been in a while. I think that it would do you good to get some help in the business and work normal times. And don’t forget that he brings a lot of new customers with all his contacts” he said with a smirk.

“Thanks Peter. I will try but if this doesn’t work, we let him go.” I looked Peter directly in the eyes, so he knows I’m serious.

‘I know you will and if you really don’t think he will be a good asset to the company I’m 100 percent on your side. Just let him try.” And with that he squeezed my shoulder again and said goodbye.

Peter is an old family friend and has helped me set up de company and always kept believing in me even when no one did. I’ve put him in the board because I want someone I can trust in the board. Someone who will tell me everything and I’m thankful for Peter and all the work he’s done for me. He’s like a

father figure to me and I will try to make this work for him.

The rest of the board was now leaving, and I was packing my things to leave too when I heard a low and deep voice next to my ear. “I guess that we will be working closely together Miss Fox and I can’t wait to work with you”

I tensed. He was standing directly behind me and leaned over me. I could smell the cologne he was wearing. The fresh scent of mint, wood and lemon filled my nose and I turned around to face him.

He was tall and had a devilish smile. He took my hand and kissed it.

“I hope to see more of you soon” He winked and walked out the door.

What did just happen? He was the most handsome man I had ever seen. Up closer he was even more beautiful. What did he mean by I hope to see more of you soon? Like professionally or? He did wink. I couldn’t wrap my head around it.

Here I was standing in the meeting room alone and worked up. This has never happened before. Like never. Sure, I've dated some men before, but they never gave me this feeling and I don't know if I like it. It's just another reason to get him out as quickly as possible.