Wendy Chen 2/12/15

Class 700 ELA

 **"The Decision"**

 “Omigawd!!! You guys, I miss you so, so, so much!” Nicole squealed as she swung the door open and ran to hug her two FBFFs (Florida Best Friends Foreva).

 “So do we!” Britney and Alicia squealed back, jumping up and down and hugging Nicole. Britney pulled Nicole back and glanced at her from head to toe.

 “Wow, Nicole, I love your style. It is amazing! It’s like you’ve been… Nikkified,” Britney exclaimed, exchanging looks with Alicia. Nicole wondered if they had already planned this out.

 “Nikkified? What in the world does that mean?” Nicole asked, suddenly feeling left out.

 “It means, Nicole,” Alicia paused. “That you’ve been put under Nikki’s spell! You dress like her, act like her, and even speak like her!”

 Before Nicole could say anything, Britney spoke up, “Well that’s too bad, isn’t it? Me and Alicia are entering the town’s Miss Florida Pageant show since both of us just turned 16 this June.”

 “Wait! But guys, I thought we promised to spend our Sweet 16 together by entering the pageant show together!” Nicole exclaimed.

 “So sorry Nicole, but the next pageant show will take place in next year and we can *not* wait for that long,” Alicia replied.

 Nicole looked down at her Marc Jacobs that Nikki had bought for he as a departure gift. She tried to fight back tears as she thought how much he FBBs had changed in a yea. “Well,” Nicole finally spoke. “I guess I can just sit in the audience, cheering for you guys.”

“Aww, thanks for understanding, Nicole. You’re the best!” Britney said, smiling at her.

At least that’s a relief to hear, Nicole thought.

The next day, Nicole, Britney, and Alicia went to the Miss Florida Pageant show building on Summerhaven Drive for Britney and Alicia to sign up and join. They took about 45 minutes to get there (no thanks to no drives!) and finally took the elevator to the 8th floor.

“Welcome! May I help you girls?” the lady behind the counter asked.

“Oh hi. We’re trying to join the Miss Florida Pageant show this June,” Alicia answered.

“All of you?”

“No, just me and her,” Alicia said, pointing to herself and Britney.

“Here,” the lady behind the counter said, giving Britney and Alicia each one a form to fill out. “Fill out the form while I address the show’s manager.”

After a few minutes, a lady with a stylish red bun came out to greet Britney and Alicia, while Nicole stood back and found a seat. As Nicole heard them talking, she wished she hadn’t visited Florida over the summer, especially when the Miss Florida Pageant show is happening! She browsed through the pictures and selfies she and her the IT clique took in her Iphone.

Suddenly, the lady with the red bun came over to her. “Well hello there. Are you not entering the pageant show?”

Nicole jumped up from her seat and faced her. “Oh hey. Um, I’m Nicole-”

“OH MY GOD! Are you *the* Nicole Fabray from the movie *Rising Alpha*? You totally look like her!”

Nicole laughed. “Right, I get that a lot.” She paused and saw the woman’s face dropped. “Just kidding, I actually am *the* Nicole Fabray you’re talking about.”

“I knew it! Do you know how *much*  I love your movie? It’s fabulous! Oh and by the way, I’m Lindsay Lopez and I’m the manager of the Miss Florida Pageant show.” She introduced, giving Nicole her name card.

 “Thanks. Um, I better get going. My friends are waiting for me,” Nicole said, looking at Britney and Alicia’s way.

“Wait! One last thing, do you mind if you would be the judge for the Miss Florida Pageant show this June? I’m sure everyone will love you and you’ll receive 500 dollars for judging this show,” Lindsay explained.

Nicole thought this over. If she received 500 dollars, that could let her go shop for the clothings she needed from *IT Clique’s Top Secret-Nikki’s Back to School List: A Guaranteed List to New School Year, New Glamourous Me* since the Fabray’s family weren’t that rich. “Um I don’t know what to say. I guess, sure! Why not?” Nicole replied.

After clearing it out with Nicole’s parents and getting the *Miss Florida Pageant Handbook: Judge,* Nicole went to meet her friends as she’s dying to spill the beans to them.

“Guess what guys?! I’m an official judge!” Nicole nearly screamed.

“What do you mean ‘an official judge’?” Britney questioned.

So Nicole told what happened during her conversation with Lindsay Lopez of how she liked the movie *‘Rising Alpha’* and how she wanted her to be the judge of the show this year.

“Wait so-Hold on! So you mean you can vote for *me* in the show to win for the crown?” Britney asked.

“Or you mean *me*?” Alicia said, pointing to herself in the chest. “You know Britney, I’m like, *wayyhayyy*-”

Nicole’s Iphone rang. “So sorry guys, but I got to answer this phone call,” Nicole said, as she digged inside her purse to get her phone. “Hello? This is Nicole and who-”

“Puh-lease, it’s me, Nic,” the girl on the other side of the phone said.

“Nikki?” Nicole guessed.

“Yup, it’s me.”

“Why are you calling in a different phone number?”

“You bet. Guess what, Nicole? I’m officially here!” Nikki screamed into the phone as Nicole’s eardrums rang.

“What do you mean you’re *here*?” Nicole asked, suddenly afraid of what’s about to happen.

“I’m here in Florida, duh! Just downstairs of the Miss Florida Pageant building. All right, talk to you later, I’m coming up,” Nikki said and hung up.

Nicole’s hands began to sweat and her heart was beating as fast as a running horse. Nikki here? What if Nikki and her two FBBs didn’t get along with each other? Nicole thought.

As Nicole turned around to apologize for the interrupting phone call, she could smell the Sweet Angel Wing perfume and that could mean only one thing. Nikki Valentine is really in Florida.

“Excited much?” Nikki greeted Nicole.

“Yeah,” Nicole replied weakly.

“NO WAY!!! Is that Nikki Valentine?!” Britney yelled.

“Uh, yes way!” Nikki muttered as she roll her eyes at Nicole’s two uncool friends.

“We’ve heard *so* much about you, Nikki, you look even more glamorous than the picture Nicole showed us. Wow, everything you wear is the latest trends on *Teen Vogue*!” Alicia exclaimed.

“Um, do you work at the grocery store?” Nikki asked, crossing her arms.

“Uh, no?”

“Then why are you checking me out?” Nikki smirked.

At this time if Alicia wasn’t one of her FBBFs, Nicole would have laughed along with Nikki as Alicia failed to make a quick comeback.

“Just to let you know, I don’t know who you are and what you are, but *so* sorry. I did *not* hear anything about you guys. Now let’s go in, Nicole,” Nikki grabbed Nicole by the arm.

“Um Nikki, why are we going in? Shouldn’t we be going out the building?” Nicole said as she tried to keep her cool.

“Oh I didn’t tell you?” Nikki asked.

“Tell me what?”

“Oh you know, I’m entering the Miss Florida Pageant show too, just like those two losers. But instead, I’m going for the crown and I know I will most *definitely* win because I get what I want,” Nikki said.

As Britney and Alicia were catching up, Nikki was already filling out the form. Alicia pulled Nicole aside out of Nikki’s earshot.

“What is *she* doing here?” Alicia asked, glaring at Nicole as if this was all he fault.

“I thought you admired her, Alicia,” Nicole said, wanting to change the subject badly. She most definitely did not want to be in the middle of Nikki and her FBBFs fighting.

 “After her ugly attitude to us? I don’t think so,” Britney jumped in. “Anyways as Alicia said before, what *is* she doing here?”

“She is, um, coming to visit me, you know,” Nicole replied.

“Like that’s a surprise,” Britney said, rolling her eyes. “But I mean, what’s she doing inside Lindsay’s office?”

“She’s uh… I don’t really know…”

Sensing that Nicole was not going to tell them, Alicia said, “She’s entering the Miss Florida Pageant show, like us, isn’t she?”

“Yup, that’s right!” Nikki cried out loud as she came toward Nicole, Britney, and Alicia.

“Nicole…? Tell me that this isn’t one of your revenge plan because you couldn’t enter the Miss Pageant show like us,” Britney said, looking straight into Nicole’s eyes.

“*Me*? I didn’t, I promise. Why would I ever do that to you two, right?” Nicole answered back as she found herself in a very complicated situation.

“Because you’re more into Nikki than us and you’ve changed so much! I feel like you don’t even want us, *‘losers’*, to be you friends anymore!” Alicia exclaimed.

“No! That’s not true! You’re all my besties and I do want you and Britney to be my friends. I don’t want to lose-”

“Well then prove it! Prove it to me and Britney that you wanted to be our friends more than Nikki. Prove it to us by voting for us in the Miss Florida Pageant show as the winner so *we* win and not Nikki,” Alicia snapped.

Nicole knew this was going to happen sooner or later. “I… I can’t choose! I-just can’t.”

“Oh sure you can! I mean come on, Nic! *Me* compared with *those* two? You’ve got to be kidding me! Of course you’ll choose me, duh!” Nikki stated.

Britney and Alicia gagged. “You think too highly of yourself, so conceited!” Alicia said, loudly for other people in the building to hea.

Nikki smirked at Britney and Alicia and focused her eyes on Nicole. “So, Nic. You are going to choose me, yea?”

“You better wipe that smirk out of you face, Nikki,” Britney shot back. “‘Cause before you-”

“OH MY GAWD!” Just let her talk. Can’t you ever stop flapping that gigantic mouth of yours?!” Nikki yelled.

Before Britney can say something back, Nicole interrupted their argument. “Stop! Just stop, okay?”

As if remembering Nicole was still there, they all speaked at once to her.

“Choose, Nic,” Nikki stated.

“Choose, now,” Britney and Alicia said.

Nicole thought about this over. She could just leave and ignore them, but then she’ll lose all her friends. If she choose her FBFFs over Nikki, Nicole would still be friends with TWO of her friends. Nicole could talk to Nikki in forgiving her and talking to the other IT club members into convincing Nikki to forgive Nicole. Anyways, 2 BFFs are always better than just keeping 1 BFF, right?

“Um, I guess-I’m sorry, Nikki… I-” Nicole stammered.

Immediately, her BFFs smirked and Nikki’s face dropped. “You’re kidding, right?” Nikki confessed.

“No, I’m not kidding, Nikki. I’m really, really sorry. We can talk about this at home, okay? Just-just give me time. I just want to have fun and reunite with-”

“ENOUGH! You’ve got to be kidding! I can’t *believe* you would choose them over me!”

“I’m sorry, Nikki. I really am but-”

“FINE! Don’t talk to me, okay?! From now on, I, Nikki Valentine, leader of the IT clique, hereby announce that Nicole Fabray is officially OUT of the clique.” Nikki announced. “I can win this show by myself! Happy?” And for the first time since Nicole have met Nikki, she lost control of herself and cried in front of the public.

Nicole wanted to comfort Nikki, but Nikki called her private cab and left. Nicole let it all sank in on everything that happened just now. Out of the IT clique? Out of everything else Nikki could have said to her, this was the last thing in Nicole’s mind. She tried to dial Nikki’s phone but she wouldn’t pick up. Frustration began to swell up inside Nicole and she started to cry too.

Britney and Alicia came forward and gave Nicole a hug. “Don’t worry, Nicole. We’ll always be there for you, even when you get back to New York,” Alicia said as she patted Nicole’s head.

“Thank you, guys. I-I just can’t believe Nikki would be so angry at me-”

“Nicole! Let’s not think about those negative things right now! It’s just so upsetting to hear it. Why don’t we go shopping? I know you *love* shopping and we girls just wanna fun!” Britney cried out loud and the 3 of them, like old selves, old friends, took each others’ hands and went to the mall.

“So, what are we shopping for?” Nicole asked.

“What do you think?” Britney asked.

“Uh, I don’t know?”

“Of course we’re shopping dresses for the pageant show! It’s just in a few days and I can’t wait to win!” Alicia gushed.

“Um *we*? As you and Britney?” Nicole said, feeling left out.

“Well, you could give us advice on which dress to wear so I’ll definitely win,” Alicia replied.

“What do you mean *you’re* going to win?!” Britney said, looking through racks of out of style dresses.

Nicole rolled her eyes as she feels another problem is going to stir between her friends. “Um guys. How about this dress?” Nicole randomly held up a red dress on the rack.

“Thanks, Nicole. I’ll take that,” Britney smirked at Alicia and snatched the red dress away from Nicole’s hands. “With this, it’s a definite that all judges are going to vote for me!”

“Gimmie that!” Alicia yelled as she tried to get the dress from Britney’s hands.

“Nicole! Don’t tell me you’re going to be on Britney’s side, are you? Tell us who you’re going to vote!” Alicia said, pouting.

“I already chosen. I said I was going to vote for you guys!” Nicole replied.

“Don’t play dumb with me. You know you can’t even vote for 2 contestants, silly,” Britney said.

Suddenly, Nicole was sick and tired of all this drama. Why not quit being a judge? Why hasn’t she chosen this the first place? Now she has nothing left. No BFFs, no friends, no forgiveness, nothing. Why should Nicole care? Nope, she don’t want to care, but what about Nikki? Nikki was the friend that helped her go through bad times. She was the friend who helped her not feel left out in school. She’s also the friend who accepted her, the one Nicole could talk personal stuff to and share secrets to. Is Nikki the BFF that Nicole wanted to have for the rest of her life? Nicole thought this over and knew the answer. But is it too late to get Nikki back?

In a few days, the pageant show was here and Nicole totally can’t wait for it to end. All the contestants were busy with their makeup and clothings and the judges were busy posing and signing autographs for their fans in the audience. As Nicole sat on the red chair, she uncomfortably looked to her right and left. To her right are Shailene Woodley,Ariana Grande and Adam Levine. She knew nobody there so Nicole took out her phone and looked at her Instagram.

After what seems like hours, the host, Lindsay Lopez took the spotlight of the stage and began talking. “Good morning everyone and welcome to the 25th anniversary of the Miss Florida Pageant Show! As usual, we announce our old judges first. Let’s welcome Shailene Woodley and Adam Levine!”

Shailene and Adam stood up and bowed to the audiences.

“Our new judges this season, Ariana Grande and Nicole Fabray!”

Ariana and Nicole stood up and waved to the audience.

“And now let the show begin!” Lindsay cried with delight as the green and blue lights beamed on staged and followed every contestant as they stroll down the runway.

Nicole was busy looking for Britney, Alicia, and Nikki to even care about the other contestants. Finally after the red haired girl went, Alicia came up the runway wearing an old-fashioned bright green dress that absolutely doesn’t suit her blonde hair. Just when she’s about to pose, she lost balance and stumbled on her unbelievably high heels. Everyone chuckled, even the judges silently laughed. Alicia’s face began to redden and she stomped out of the show.

Next up was Britney. As she walked closer, Nicole could see that Britney was smiling at the total embarrassment that Alicia had caused. She was wearing the red dress that Nicole had randomly picked out from the rack and it looked incredibly cute times ten on Alicia.

The last contestant finally came up and it was Nikki. She was wearing a lavender dress with a white slash. Her brunette hair was curled and it totally matched with the dress. She posed, twirled and blew a kiss to the crowd. They went wild and even the judges were happily clapping. In the end, all the beautiful contestants were lined up in the back.

“Wow, beautiful ladies! What an amazing show. All right, now is the hardest decision for the judges. Who are you guys voting for the winner of Miss Florida Pageant Show 25th anniversary?” Lindsay said. “Let’s have Shailene choose first.”

“Everyone was awesome, really. But who stood out the most to me is Ashley R. Smith,” Shailene chose. All the other contestants’ faces went down, except for Nikki’s. Nikki was still smiling on the outside, but Nicole knew Nikki will really kill the crap out of Ashley if she won the show.

“All right. One vote for Ashley! Thank you, Shailene,” Lindsay replied. “Adam?”

“The person that I am going to vote for is… Britney Cartney. I love her dress!” Adam exclaimed.

“A vote for Britney! Thank you, Adam,” Lindsay said. “Ariana? Your vote is next.”

“Um...okay. This is really hard, but I’ll have to vote for… Nikki Valentine.” Ariana said.

Nicole’s heart stopped. Is fate really that cruel? How come Britney and Nikki are both chosen from the judges? Why does Nicole have to repeat the same thing over and over again between her FBBFs and Nikki? Why does Nicole have to be the last judge to be the last one to decide who to win between Ashley, Britney, and Nikki. No, Nicole, you don’t, Nicole thought. You’ve already chosen to vote for Nikki.

“Nicole?” Lindsay said.

“Huh?” Nicole was snapped out of her thought.

“Who do you give your vote to?”

“I would like to give me vote to… Nikki Valentine,” Nicole said without any moment of hesitation.

“And we have this season’s Miss Florida, NIKKI VALENTINE!” Lindsay declared, clapping.

After the show was over, Nicole hurriedly went to look for Nikki to seek out for forgiveness. After looking around for half an hour, she finally saw Nikki standing near the snack section with some other girls.

“Nikki., I want to talk to you about something-”

“I’m sorry. I don’t want to listen!” Nikki cried back and quickly walked away from Nicole.

“Nikki!” Nicole shouted. “Nikki, listen to me!" She grabbed Nikki by the arms as she caught up with her. "Listen, I know you're mad at me right now and don't want to talk to me but you can do anything you want after I finish what I say."

Nikki smirked. "You think I would forgive you just because you voted for me to win the show? Then you must be wrong," Nikki said.

"I just want to say that I really, really miss you after the fight we had. I know this is all my fault and I know you will never forgive me for what I had done. But I have nothing left now, Nikki," Nicole tried to hold back her tears. "My FBFFs are better off without me because all they care about is winning, not me. Now I feel lonely as ever and I feel like I have nothing-"

"STOP! Just stop, okay?!" Nikki cried out loud and threw her purse down to the floor. She threw her arms around Nicole and they both shared a moment of shedding happy tears.

Nicole pulled back. "So..."

Nikki smiled. "Apology accepted."

Suddenly there was a loud crash. Everyone was startled and looked to see where it came from. On the floor were Britney and Alicia and they were both dripping wet because a liquid that looked like soda, spilled on them.

"Pretty funny, huh?" Nikki said.

"Totally." Nicole laughed and linked arms with Nikki.