

# The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana Chapter 15

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## Chapter 15

Leaving the ice cream parlor, Gerard turns to see Luz, the sun's rays at that time of the afternoon make the girl look like a true angel, she just hopes that the employment relationship goes well and that her daughter can have someone who cares about her, as much as he does.

For her part, Luz does not stop looking at the man, who has a mixture of joy and sadness in equal parts on his face. She sees him typing something on her phone and as soon as he sees her face again, she feels the message notification.

-The address is already there, if you have problems getting there, don't hesitate to let me know, please.

-Thank you for this opportunity, I hope to live up to your trust – says Luz with a smile that immediately warms Gerard's heart –

"Maybe he can redeem himself, after all," he thinks hopefully and, without taking any more of Luz's time, he holds out his hand.

– Welcome, Miss Mendez. See you in a couple of hours.

"See you later, Mr. Finnick," she tells him taking the man's hand, feeling that desire to throw herself into her arms and not escape from there.

She sees the man walking purposefully towards the car, until she decides to ask Rafael where she is, but the boy's voice interrupts her.

-Light! -she turns and, without thinking twice, throws herself into the arms of her friend-

As soon as Rafael sees the girl running towards him, he opens her arms, moving closer to her. When the bodies meet, the boy presses her against her body, breathing in the scent of her hair, and then pulls her apart a bit to see how she is doing.

-All good? Him – he asks her, separating completely and taking her hand to walk-

-Yes... I've been given the job!

-That is great! – Rafael tells her, lifting her off the floor and turning her around -. I am so glad to hear that your projects are working out for you.

He keeps her there, right in front of her face, the precise seconds to make Luz nervous and for Gerard to want to end that torture of knowing that the young woman has a boyfriend, he asks the driver to take them home, unable to put aside that sad feeling that overwhelms him.

Luz feels nervous at her proximity to Rafael, she gives him a little touch and he lowers her, embarrassed by her impulse.

-I'm sorry, it's just that I... I can't help but feel happy for you and want to show you how much I care about you.

-I know, that's why it hurts because I can't see you as anything other than a friend.

A part of me desperately wants to give you a chance and I sure would have if not... – Luz's eyelashes moisten, but Rafael puts an arm around her shoulders and guides her towards the car -.

-Don't think about it anymore, just let yourself be pampered by this unconditional friend you have. And don't forget, I'll be there for you at all times – she nods and he smiles at her -. Well, when do you start?

-Today, if you can take me to my house to prepare a suitcase, as soon as I have it ready I will order a taxi and...

"You, miss," he tells her, standing in front of her with an offended face. He doesn't stop despising my help-he sighs and she blushes-. Light, my words are not in the air. If I tell you that I will accompany you at all times, it is because I will, unless I am sick, nothing will stop me. one

- But your work...

-Nothing - they return to the path -. I'll wait for you and take you to your new job. And from now on I tell you, I will go for you and I will leave you, if you want it that way.

-Although the transfer is included, I prefer that you do it. I wouldn't want to be alone with my boss.

-Why? -she tells him with an alert voice as she opens the door for him-

"I don't trust men, not others," she tells him before Rafael's surprised face. You protected me from the first moment, I know that I can count on you and that you would never hurt me.

-Well, no more talking.

Rafael helps her up, puts her seatbelt on her and then closes the door, quickly surrounds the car and they head to Luz's house so she can talk to her parents and pack her bags.

Meanwhile, on the other hand, Gerard has remained thoughtful, from time to time he looks at the hand with which he touched Luz, until his daughter speaks to him, taking him out of her thoughts.

- Daddy, are you sure Luz will come with us?

-Yes, princess, she only went to her house for some clothes, start today.

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to your house

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-Oh daddy, what joy, she is a princess, like me and between princesses we understand each other.

"I hope so," because he truly wants Luz in Charlize's life...only hers.

Luz and Rafael park outside her house, they both walk inside, but Luz stops and tells her a little nervously.

-Maybe you should wait here, we already discussed at lunch when I called them.

-Safe? I can be a good bodyguard.

- Better wait here, but if I see that there is no risk that a vase will come to your head, I will tell you.

He laughs at Luz's exaggeration, but the truth is that when her parents get upset, it's not long before the decorations in the house blow up.

when i entered, the girl realizes that they are both in the kitchen, when she gets closer she hears her mother sobbing.

-I can't believe she's leaving just like that and all for a babysitting job. What if something happens to him in that house?

-You must trust the girl, I'm not happy either, but the pay is good and if she works for them for at least a year, she can pay for the whole university.

-I don't want to, Miguel... I don't want her to go.

ie they have given the job and

-Mother, father - says Luz entering the kitchen with a certain indifference - I start today, it will be the test days.

-Don't go, Luz, please.

-Mom, I'm not leaving home, I'm just going to work, I'll be here Friday afternoon and I'll leave on Sunday night.

- But you won't be here for dinner on weekdays - the woman tells him sobbing -

-It's the law of life, if it wasn't for work now, it would be for college tomorrow or for marriage one day-her mother breaks into tears and runs out of there-.

- Come on, I guess you didn't just come to say goodbye - my father tells me, hugging me and kissing my hair -. I'll help you with the suitcase. Thus, father and daughter go to the room, talking about how her work will be and Miguel is reassured that she only goes as a babysitter, she should not even be in charge of cleaning the girl's room. When leaving her, she says goodbye only to her father, because her mother did not want to go out to wish her luck or anything. Rafael approaches her to help her and promises Miguel that he will be watching her in case he requires him to go look for her. For Luz it is the beginning of a new life, moving away from her parents so they don't see how sad she has become, but now she has the opportunity to remake a part of her that died a few nights ago.

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### Chapter 16

As they get closer to the Finnick house, Luz begins to feel a sense of insecurity and anguish that threatens to paralyze her. He takes several deep breaths, closing his eyes, until Rafael stops a mile before reaching his destination, gets out, and approaches her through the door.

-Light...

-It's just that I'm afraid of staying alone in that house, I don't know anyone and besides, at least I know that there are two men, with a body similar to his, and I - her breathing became heavy, the words were they got stuck in the throat and nothing that he had calmly decided, now they were in his memory -

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-Bella, you can take it back, I can help you find another job, really yes. "No, I already said I would and I can't go back," she manages to calm down a bit and look Rafael in the eye. I left without saying goodbye to my mother, because she didn't want to leave her room, at least not in vain. Let's keep going. -Are you sure? - She nods and Rafael gets back in the car -.

In the remaining journey, Luz began to feel calm, just remembering the purpose of being there and the little person who needed her. Because this was just for that, to achieve her goals and to take care of the little girl.

Upon reaching the huge gate, two men approach the car, one on each side and ask for their identification, seeing that it was Luz, they immediately let them in and indicate that they are waiting for them at the entrance.

Arriving at the front door, Gerard is there with Charlize, behind them a perfectly presented woman, in a two-piece suit with a jacket and pencil skirt, blonde and stern eyes. Next to her, an older woman, with gray locks in a hairstyle that exudes elegance, unlike the other woman, this one she maintains a good-natured smile.

Rafael stops and before he can get out to open the door for Luz, Gerard walks over and does so with Charlize in her arms.

-Light! -says the girl, throwing herself into her arms-. I thought you wouldn't come anymore.

-I had to go get my things, princess, but I'm here- they both look at each other and Luz's fears vanish, that girl has such a beautiful aura, that she is able to scare away the greatest grief-

-Let's go to my room - Gerard takes her from her arms and leaves her on the floor

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-I think the right thing to do would be to say hello before going to your room, princess – Luz winks at her and the girl takes her hand smiling, but jumping up and down -. Mr. Finnick-she extends her hand to him and he accepts willingly-. Thank you for the opportunity.

-I am the grateful one, believe it or not, my daughter does not meet everyone in this way, her teacher still has problems reaching her.

-I think that's something we can see on her way – he says following Charlize, who pulls her towards the stairs-

Meanwhile, Rafael stands next to Gerard, with his hands in his pockets and smiling because he is relieved by the welcome from father and daughter.

-Gerard Finnick- he says to the boy with a handshake-

– Rafael Williams – he answers the greeting -. I only ask that you take good care of her, Luz is a wonderful girl, she may be young, but she is very responsible and she has a lot to give, although they will realize that as they get to know her.

-Thanks, Rafael – Gerard frowns for a second and asks him – Do you have something to do with Barb Williams?

The boy tenses up when he hears that name, but it goes unnoticed by Gerard, because he is aware of Luz and Charlize who are talking to Darcy and Georgia, his mother.

-No – the boy walks to the trunk of the car to unload Luz's things -. Who do I give the suitcase to?

-I'll take her, but if you allow me, I'll go rescue Luz from my cousin, she's unpleasant with everyone, so you don't misunderstand.

Gerard goes to the women, he realizes that Darcy is in a hostile plan, while her mother listens to Luz talk about her studies and how much she likes children.

-Have you thought about being a teacher? – asks Georgia –

-Oh no, I have a maternal instinct, but only for two or three children, taking care of twenty is not my thing – the girl tells him with a smile –

– Well, I'm telling you that Charlize is equivalent to about ten, I hope you don't lose the patience you say you have – Darcy tells her –

-Count on it, for her I am willing to do everything on my part – Luz tells her firmly, because she has not liked the way the woman expresses herself towards the girl-, although I do not think that this pretty princess with so many problems . Maybe she's just a lack of understanding, she's only five years old and sometimes we forget about that.

-Any problem? – says Gerard, whom the women had not seen coming because they were facing each other with their eyes –

-Daddy, am I worth ten children?

"Of course," the man tells her, taking her in her arms. Especially when you give those hugs that I like so much, do you give me one now?

The girl smiles and throws herself into her father's arms. He leaves her on the floor and says go to his mother.

-Mother, take Charlize inside, please. I want Luz to have space to say goodbye to her and I need to talk to my cousin.

– Come on, princess.

Luz immediately understands the hint, so she goes with Rafael to say goodbye to her, she is going to take his suitcase, but he refuses.

-Your boss said he'll take her, so there's no rush-look at the scene and see the woman raise her arms -Is it her wife?

-Her cousin of hers and she's calling her attention because she said something I didn't like about the girl – Luz grabs her hands without being aware of it-.

-And neither does he, from what I see – the woman enters the house in a fury, Gerard denies with the

head and puts his hands in his pants

Her fights with Darcy always end the same way, with her playing the victim of her for losing her family and being treated badly by her remaining family when she tries to do what's best for them.

She gets to where Luz and Rafael are, she receives the girl's suitcase and says goodbye to the boy. As she walks toward the house, Luz says goodbye to her friend with a big hug that forces her to stand on tiptoe, he soaks up her scent so as not to miss her so much and then looks at her seriously.

-Whatever, at any time, I'm for you. I won't let go of this thing – she tells him showing her her phone, so she calls for whatever, okay? "Yes," she tells him amused. Thanks for everything and I'll let you know the time you can come for me tomorrow.

-It will only be one night, but I really hope it will be the first of many, because I know this is very important to you – he hugs her again, kisses her on the head and separates -. Go, your boss is waiting for you at the entrance. Love you.

Rafael doesn't wait for Luz's answer, he walks around the car, gets in and leaves, leaving the girl with the desire to one day be able to repay him or any man, but that for now is a mere fantasy.

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Luz arrives next to Gerard, he gives her the way to enter first and the girl is completely amazed by the interior.

Contrary to what he thought he would find, a house full of luxuries and decorations that demonstrate the category of a millionaire, the truth is that he did not find any of that.

The decoration is minimalist, very cozy and invites you to stay in it on a rainy day next to the beautiful fireplace that dominates the room with soft sofas.

- I want you to feel comfortable, as if it were your home. Let's go to the kitchen, surely my daughter is there with my mother – he shows her the way and she follows him looking to calm down in the face of such security, because that lost feeling has come suddenly, with the certainty that nothing is wrong in this house. will happen and that scares her -.

-Thank you – is all that comes out of his mouth –

Arriving in the kitchen, a delicious smell of mint filling his nostrils, he sees Charlize with a cup of hot milk with mint leaves in it.

– That is one of his favorite drinks at night, he says it helps him sleep better.

“Yes, it’s delicious and refreshing,” says the little girl. Light, could you sit with me?

– Of course, princess – Luz takes a seat next to her and the girl smiles happily  
-. What else do you like at night?

– The chicken, jelly and peanut butter sandwiches. -Don’t you prefer a different dinner? – She asks him stroking his head –

-No, unless they let me eat at the table with the adults – Luz opens her eyes in surprise, she realizes that Georgia is not there, but Gerard is, visibly uncomfortable -.

-Don’t you eat with your daddy and your grandmother? – She asks the girl, but looking with half-closed eyes at Gerard, who blushes and lowers his eyes-

– No, they always give me dinner before they do, my aunt Darcy doesn’t like to have dinner with me because she says I’m a spoiled and tricky girl to eat, but I ask you, Lucecita – says the girl leaving her empty cup to one side – Would you eat a cod with hollandaise sauce or some asparagus in a cheese risotto? For an adult it may be a delicacy, but for me it is... – he approaches her to whisper -. I don’t mean gross.

-I understand, but I’m sure we’ll look for an alternative, right? – But those words are more for Gerard than for Charlize, he nods and the little girl yawns – Do you want to go to sleep?

-Yes please.

The three of them stand up, Luz places the little girl’s cup in the sink and takes her hand, allowing her to guide her through the house. She manages to make out several photographs of the girl, but none of her mother.

They go up some semicircular wooden stairs, when they reach the second floor everything becomes even more homely, but she knows that this is only an effect of the little girl, because there is a long way to go before she can be called home.

– This is my room – says the girl pushing a door and Luz is amazed at what

beautiful place – A double bed, covered with tulle of different colors, painted all pale pink, stuffed animals, a small full mirror... it’s a dream for any girl of that age.

-She is very beautiful – Luz tells her and Georgia arrives –

-My dear, go with my son while I take care of Charlize’s bath, they must talk about certain things and settle you in your room, which is already ready with the basics, if you need anything, let me know.

-Thank you – the little girl stares with her sorrowful face, which shakes Luz's soul  
-. I'll come back to read you a story, do you think?

– Yes!

The adults laugh at the girl's exaggerated joy, but the happiest is Gerard, who sees in his daughter more encouragement to talk and be herself with a complete stranger. The man indicates to Luz

to follow him and realizes that his room is next to the little girl.

– For obvious reasons, her room is next to Charlize's – she lets Luz go in first and her surprise is that it has a double bed, it's a little bigger than Charlize's and everything is decorated in all white and lilac. There is a desk, a large mirror and what she likes the most, a huge glass door with access to a balcony-

-I understand, I'm here for her – Gerard pushes the suitcase and leaves it near a pair of white doors, where Luz presumes the closet is -. And for the same reason, I need us to talk seriously about my work, I listen to you first and then you should listen to me.

The girl takes a seat on the chair that is in the place and Gerard takes a place on the edge of the bed, completely amused by the girl who looks very sweet, that is undeniable, but she has her character and apparently it has already taken her so long fondness for the girl, who has earned her disapproving look.

– Well, my daughter gets up at six thirty in the morning, they help her get dressed, comb her hair and then go down with her to have breakfast in the kitchen, they prepare the food that she likes. Then she takes him to school, they wait for him to return and he is attended to with his homework, any activity that she wants can be organized, he is given dinner in the kitchen and then he is brought to sleep.

– Perfect, do you have breakfast at the same time as her?

-Yes, but in the dining room with Darcy. . .

-Well, not anymore – Luz tells him and stands up, defiantly in front of him at a safe distance for her -. If she wants me to stay, there are things that will have to change. You and she will eat together from now on.

-The problem is that she throws tantrums at mealtime and I like to eat quietly.

-And the tantrums, why are they? When was the last?

-Two years ago...

– You tell me that you sent your three-year-old daughter to eat in the kitchen, why does it bother you?

Light, it's not...

– Look, things are going to change, basically because I see a beautiful girl full of love and tenderness, but I also see a father who loves her above all, so the question I'm going to ask you I need you to answer with full sincerity. Was it you who sent the girl to the kitchen or her cousin?

Gerard opens his eyes and is silent for a few seconds, a sigh escapes him, and then

beautiful place –

A double bed, covered with tulle of different colors, painted all in pale pink, stuffed animals, a small full mirror... it is a dream for any girl of that age.

-She is very beautiful – Luz tells her and Georgia arrives –

-Querida, ve con mi hijo mientras yo me encargo de bañar a Charlize, deben hablar ciertas cosas e instalarte en tu habitación, que ya está lista con lo básico, si necesitas algo, me lo haces saber.

-Gracias – la pequeña se queda viendo con su cara de pena, que le estremece el alma a Luz -. Volveré para leerte un cuento, ¿te parece?

-¡Sí!

Los adultos se ríen de la alegría exagerada de la niña, pero el más contento es Gerard, que ve en su hija más ánimo de hablar y de ser ella misma estando con una completa extraña. El hombre le indica a Luz

que lo siga y se da cuenta que su habitación está al lado de la pequeña.

– Por razones obvias, su habitación está al lado de Charlize – deja que Luz entre primero y su sorpresa es que tiene una cama matrimonial, es un poco más grande que la de Charlize y todo está decorado en todos blancos y lilas. Hay un escritorio, un espejo amplio y lo que más le gusta, una puerta enorme de vidrio con salida a un balcón –

-Entiendo, estoy aquí para ella – Gerard empuja la maleta y la deja cerca de un par de puertas blancas, donde Luz presume está el closet -. Y por lo mismo, necesito que hablemos seriamente sobre mi trabajo, lo escucho primero y luego usted deberá escucharme a mí.

La chica toma asiento en la silla que hay en el lugar y Gerard toma lugar en el borde de la cama, completamente divertido por la chica que se ve muy dulce, eso es innegable, pero tiene su carácter y al parecer ya le ha tomado tanto cariño a la niña, que se ha ganado su mirada de desaprobación.

-Bueno, mi hija se levanta a las seis treinta de la mañana, se le ayuda a vestirse, se le peina y luego se baja con ella a tomar desayuno a la cocina, se le preparan los



alimentos que a ella le gustan. Luego se le lleva al colegio, se le espera a que regrese y se le atiende con los deberes del colegio, se puede organizar alguna actividad que ella quiera, se le da la cena en la cocina y luego se le trae a dormir

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– Perfecto, usted desayuna a la misma hora que ella?

-Sí, pero en el comedor con Darcy...

-Pues ya no más – le dice Luz y se pone de pie, desafiante frente a él a una distancia prudente para ella -. Si quiere que me quede, hay cosas que deberán cambiar. Usted y ella comerán juntos a partir de ahora.

-El problema es que ella hace rabietas a la hora de comer y a mí me gusta comer tranquilo.

Y las rabietas, ¿por qué son? ¿cuándo fue la última?

-Hace dos años...

– Me dice que envió a su hija de tres años a comer a la cocina, ¿Porque le molesta?

-Luz, no es...

– Mire, las cosas van a cambiar, básicamente porque veo a una niña preciosa llena de amor y ternura, pero también veo a un padre que la ama por sobre todo, así que le haré la pregunta que le haré necesito que la responda con plena sinceridad. ¿Fue usted quién envió a la niña a la cocina o su prima?

Gerard abre los ojos y se queda en silencio unos segundos, se le escapa un suspiro, para luego

responder.

– Fue ella.

– Perfecto, me quedo más tranquila – dice ella satisfecha y se sienta otra vez -. Si está confiando en mí para que cuide a su hija, está confiando en que haré lo mejor para ella, ¿cierto?

– Así es – le dice él con tranquilidad, porque eso es totalmente verdad –

– Por lo mismo, desde ahora tomaré iniciativas y decisiones que puede que a los demás no les guste, pero si usted las aprueba se harán, incluso algunas a Charlize tampoco le serán agradables, pero ella no es quien manda.

-Se equivoca, ella...

-Ella es una niña que sabe lo que quiere sobre juegos, peluches y cuentos, pero no de comida o de deberes. De eso se debe encargarse el adulto responsable, en este caso usted y yo. ¿Queda claro?

-Sí – le dice él mirando al piso, porque se ha dado cuenta que hasta en poner normas ha fallado –

-Sé que quiere darle en el gusto a todo lo que ella quiera, pero debe poner límites a esos gustos – ella baja la vista y trata de sonar delicada -. Ella necesita amor, pero también disciplina, ambas van de la mano. No me refiero a que le pondrá un dedo encima – le dice en cuanto él pone cara de horror -, yo misma se lo devolvería sin pensarlo, pero los límites no le harán daño.

-Usted es tremenda, a pesar de ser joven, tiene claras muchas cosas. Solo me sorprende lo mucho que le interesa mi hija.

-Como no se puede imaginar, me robó el corazón desde el primero momento – le dice mirándolo a los ojos con una sonrisa y Gerard puede reconocer que esas palabras son verdaderas -. Por lo mismo, solo me entenderé con usted acerca de ella.

-Está bien – acepta Gerard –

-Si hay una emergencia, aunque su madre esté a mi lado, lo llamaré a usted – le dice ella levantando una ceja –

– Pero a veces estoy en el tribunal y no puedo...

-Entonces asegúrese de decirme que estará allá, para que yo le deje el recado, pero si ese es el caso tomaré decisiones por ella, porque para eso me contrato, para cuidarla y eso involucra tomar decisiones.

-Está bien.

Gerard no tiene como debatir a la chica, en especial porque sabe que no está pidiendo nada extraordinario, la verdad es que saber que alguien tan responsable y comprometida, más que su madre y su prima, sea quien cuide desde ahora a Charlize le da garantía de que cuando él ya no esté...

Su niña va a estar bien.

For this reason, he will study her these days and it may be that Dan is not the only one who must take responsibility for his little girl when he goes to fulfill his destiny.

He stands up and extends his hand to Luz, she accepts it and feels that sensation again when she touches him. But before her body takes her down that uncertain path of feelings, he speaks to her more relaxed.

– Well, Luz Méndez, welcome home, but I’m afraid you offered something to my daughter and she is worse than souls in pain, she collects everything that is promised to her.

-I count on it! – the girl tells him smiling, warming the abandoned and tormented heart of Gerard, who accompanies her to the little girl’s room

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The alarm sounds and wakes up Luz, who for the first time in a long time wakes up with energy and joy, despite everything that has happened in recent days, she can feel a slight hope in her future, something she cannot explain.

It’s six in the morning, she goes to the shower, gets dressed quickly and dries her hair a little, when she sees the time on her watch it’s already six thirty, time to wake up the princess.

When you leave your room you can’t hear any movement in any of the other rooms, although the thickness of the walls makes it hard to hear anything. Upon entering the little girl’s room, Luz approaches her very carefully and begins to give her soft kisses on her cheek and forehead. Charlize stirs a little in bed, smiles when she feels the pampering of the girl and opens her eyes a little.

-Good morning, Princess Charlize, it’s time to wake up – Luz tells her as she opens the curtains, letting the dawn come in little by little -. We have to go down to breakfast to go to school.

As soon as she sees Luz take the uniform, the little girl crosses her arms and says with conviction.

*-And I’m not going to wear that.*

-Oh, then you won’t be able to go undercover princess... what a pity! – Luz tells him in a mysterious and dramatic tone –

Undercover princess? What’s that? – Charlize’s curiosity has been piqued -.

-Well, sometimes it can be difficult for princesses to go out on the street and not be recognized, so they wear clothes so that others don’t know that they are princesses – Luz tells her sitting on the bed –

-So, if I go in that uniform, no one will know that I’m a princess? not even the bad ones? – Not even witches – Luz tells her in a low voice, the girl smiles and takes off her pajamas -. -I want to be an undercover princess, Luz, please.

Luz smiles seeing that the first battle of the day has been won. She helps the girl dress her, who keeps asking her questions about things that undercover princesses can and can't do, and promises that she will take care of her all day long so she won't be found out by bad guys and witches. .

- You do know about princesses, are you one?

Luz in other times would have answered yes, but the truth was that it no longer was.

-No, but I am a princess's helper – in other times they were called maidens, but even that was not worth saying of herself -. Now, let's do your hair.

-I want a braid like yours, the one from yesterday.

-Of course, Princess Charlize!

She starts brushing her hair just as Gerard walks into the room to see his daughter, and he can't hide his surprise at seeing his daughter in her school uniform, after they couldn't get it for a single day all year. Even he was forced to ask the school psychologist to help him with one exception, at most, the girl went with the diver, but Luz...

-Good morning, princess – he says kissing her hand so as not to interrupt Luz, but the girl moves a little and he kisses his daughter on the head -. I see you're with...

-With her undercover princess costume – Luz tells him quickly -. We agree that she will use

these clothes to go to school so they can hide from bad guys and witches, right, Princess Charlize?

-¡Sí! – grita emocionada la pequeña y Gerard sonrío feliz – Ahora Luz me hará un super peinado, ella sabe mucho porque es ayudante de princesas.

-Doncella – le dice Gerard riendo – 1

- Prefiero ayudante de princesas – le dice Luz algo tensa -.

Gerard se queda ahí hasta que la chica termina el peinado y Charlize se mira al espejo, su padre la ayuda a dar una vuelta y ella se queda con la boca abierta.

-Vaya... así nadie me va a reconocer – se voltea y se lanza a los brazos de Luz -. ¡Gracias!

Sale de la habitación saltando en cuanto Luz la pone en el suelo otra vez, Gerard se acerca a ella y le dice con una sonrisa radiante.

-Gracias.

-Oh, no es nada. Al menos la primera mañana está ganada en el inicio, ahora vamos por el desayuno.

-Solo le pido que le tenga paciencia...

-Señor Finnick, tengo mucha paciencia para ella, el problema lo tendré con los adultos, así que recuerde en lo que quedamos, solo me entenderé con usted. Mientras no olvide eso, no tendremos problemas.

La chica sale de la habitación y ve a Charlize sentada en el primer escalón, se acerca a ella con rapidez, la niña se pone de pie, le toma la mano y bajan juntas por las escaleras.

-Ya quiero que me vean con mi disfraz, la profesora dejará de decir que soy una niña problemática – ante las palabras de Charlize, Luz se voltea a ver enojada a Gerard -.

-Tú no eres problemática, mi niña. Ya hablaremos con la profesora, ¿verdad? – le dice más a Gerard que a la niña –

-Sí, hoy iré con ustedes al colegio, para presentar a Luz con la directora...

-Y con su profesora – dice la chica con firmeza -.

-Eh, no creo... – pero la mirada de Luz lo hace asentir sin dudarlo -. Sí, es mejor.

Luz camina con Charlize hacia el comedor y la niña pregunta extrañada.

-¿Voy a comer con mi papi? -Sí, princesa, desde ahora comerás aquí todos los días, desayuno y cena.

-¿Aunque tú no estés? – le pregunta esperanzada -.

-Aunque yo no esté – le responde con una sonrisa y mira a Gerard, que levanta las manos en señal de rendición –

-Buenos días, Gerard querido... – el saludo de Darcy se esfuma en cuanto ve a Luz y Charlize allí -. ¿ Qué significa esto?

Pero cualquier respuesta queda en el aire cuando la chica del servicio llega con una enorme bandeja con los desayunos de los dos adultos y de la niña.

Gerard se desabotona el saco y se sienta a la cabecera, Luz lleva a la niña para que se siente a su derecha y Darcy se queda parada con los brazos cruzados cuando ve que Luz se sienta al lado de la niña, recibe el desayuno de Charlize y le ayuda con la servilleta para que no ensucie su uniforme.

-¿Ella también comerá con nosotros? – dice molesta, tomando asiento al lado de Gerard y señalando de manera despectiva a Luz -.

-Oh no, yo solo estoy aquí para ayudar a la princesa con su desayuno, no se preocupe. Se pone de pie y se para tras la niña, atenta a lo que hace. Charlize está feliz porque le han servido dos de sus desayunos favoritos mezclados, huevos revueltos y yogurt con cereales.

-Ella debería comer avena, ese desayuno la hará engordar...

-Darcy – le dice Gerard con un tono tan frío que a Luz le da miedo, se le hace que es el mismo que usa en su trabajo -, Charlize estuvo dos años comiendo en la cocina por “dar problemas” en la mesa.

El hombre se va a su plato sin mirarla, mientras que la pequeña come tranquila, en silencio y con unos modales más que dignos de una princesa. Cuando la niña termina, Luz se acerca a ella porque la ve bajarse de la silla sin decir nada.

-Princesa – le dice Luz bajando a su altura -, cuando terminamos de comer, debemos esperar a que los demás terminen para pararnos.

-Lo siento, es que siempre comí sola, entonces... no lo sabía. -No pasa nada, ahora ya lo sabes.

Without a single tantrum from him, the girl returns to her seat. Luz removes the dishes and leaves them on the tray, Gerard can only feel admiration for the young woman, that he has managed to treat her with her daughter without tantrums or anything. Only with words. Just sweetly.

It seems that raising a girl was not as difficult as it was painted. one

Sure his Margaret would have done a thousand times better than him, but Luz is here to help him.

## The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana Chapter 19

[/ The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana](#)  
Chapter 19

Darcy leaves the house as usual, without saying goodbye to the girl and telling Gerard not to be late, because he has an important meeting with some clients.

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-I know, Darcy, that's why Dan will be the one to take care of them. – But they made an appointment with you, they 're going to leave with another buffet! -If that happens – Gerard tells him, taking the backpack from Luz's hands -, then they weren't for us.

-But...

- Do you think that for one or two clients that we lose we will go bankrupt?

-It is the prestige, that case is very important.

-If they don't stay, the counterpart will come, so... - Gerard shrugs, takes his daughter's hand and opens the door for the woman to leave at once -

Darcy storms out with anger, Gerard has been behaving strangely for days. He separated her from Charlize, in addition to hiring that girl who looks like she is low class and worse, she is putting the girl through Gerard's eyes. one

She gets into her car and storms out, all the while thinking about the intruder.

-At least this one isn't going to end up in Gerard's bed, but if that happens, there are always things I can do against him to make him run away.

Meanwhile, Gerard walks the women to his car.

-Can I go ahead, daddy? -says the girl with her manipulative face-

-Eeehhh... - Gerard hesitates, but Luz comes to his aid -.

-Princess - he says, lowering to her height -. It's safer if you go back, in your chair. Also, if a policeman stops your daddy and overtakes you, they can take him to jail for breaking the law - the girl puts her hands to her mouth -. So where is it safest for the princess to sit?

- Back !- She says raising her hands-

Luz stands up applauding and Gerard lifts Charlize to seat her in the car, once secured, he closes the door and turns to Luz to help her get in, but before he takes her hands and kisses them, causing both of them a new sensation, but the two decide to ignore it.

-Miss Méndez, I am very grateful, you have no idea the enormous difference between a few days ago and today.

- She's just a girl, who needs love, understanding and time, don't forget, Mr. Finnick - Luz slowly takes her hands out, because she would like to prolong that feeling as long as possible -. If there's nothing more to say, we'd better go.

-Yes, yes... - says the man detaching himself from that feeling -. Let's go up.

He helps her up, closes the door, and circles the car with more spirit than he's had for these long five years.

The journey to school is made between children's songs that Luz knows perfectly, thanks to the fact that

her neighbors have two little twins and every day they played the music in the patio, while the children played.

As they pull into the parking lot, Charlize begins *to say that her stomach hurts* and that she thinks she can stay in school.

-Don't worry, princess, I'll take you home... – but Luz puts her hand on hers and winks at her that Charlize doesn't see -.

-Yo creo que es mejor que nos vayamos al hospital, para que un doctor la revise, no es normal que le duela el estómago – se quita el cinturón y se gira para tocarle la frente -. No tienes fiebre, pero puede darte, mmm... – dice como dudando y mira a Gerard -. Llévenos con su doctor, para que la revise.

-Claro – le dice Gerard, quien hace el movimiento con el volante, pero la niña lo detiene -.

-¡No, papi! No es necesario, ya se me pasó, seguro es porque estaba un poquito nerviosa, ya ves que vengo de princesa encubierta.

-¿Segura? – le pregunta Luz -. Porque ir al doctor no estaría mal...

-Muy segura, Lucecita.

Luz vuelve a sentarse, Gerard la mira con la boca abierta, sin poder creerse que su hija en tan solo un día consiguiera hacer tantas cosas sin pelear con ella.

-Usted es increíble.

-Solo soy una chica que hace poco creció – dice ella sonriendo -.

Llegan frente al colegio, Gerard se baja de inmediato y se da la vuelta, abre la puerta de Luz para ayudarla a bajar, para luego bajar a Charlize.

-¿Pueden darme la mano los dos?

- Por supuesto, princesa – le dice Luz -.

Gerard se echa la mochila a la espalda y los tres caminan hacia el colegio. Luz se da cuenta que Charlize se comporta como una niña que viene por primera vez al colegio, aun cuando ya se supone que está a la mitad del preescolar.

También se da cuenta que el colegio es muy exclusivo, hay dos guardias a cada lado de la puerta que saludan a los adultos y los niños, todos entran de la mano de alguien, pero lo que Luz escucha de Charlize termina por remover su corazón.

-¿Me acompañarás hasta mi salón, verdad?



-Claro que sí, princesa, con mucho gusto, ¿por qué lo dudas? – Porque nunca nadie me ha acompañado – la niña hace un puchero y Luz la toma en sus brazos —

La pequeña se entierra en su cuello, mientras Luz fulmina con la mirada a Gerard. Sabe que tiene que medirse con sus reacciones, pero es inconcebible que esta niña estuviera en tal nivel de abandono.

Es como si la estuviese castigando por haberlo dejado sin mujer y Luz no puede soportar la estupidez de ese hombre, que se ve es muy dulce, dedicado, pero que recién viene despertando.

– No llores, princesa – le dice ella, haciéndole un gesto a Gerard para que no se acerque -. Desde ahora y hasta que tú lo quieras, entraré contigo de la mano, cargaré tu mochila y te daré un beso en la mejilla para despedirme de ti.

-¿Como las mamás de mis amigos? – dice la niña separándose para verla a la cara –

– Algo así... será más bien de amiga a amiga, ¿te parece? – la niña asiente y la baja —

Charlize se aferra a las manos de su padre y su nueva amiga, respira profundo y comienza a caminar. Mientras Gerard no puede dejar de ver a aquella chica con más admiración de lo que ha visto jamás a nadie. Si ella trabajara en el buffet, seguro mantendría a raya a varios clientes y asociados, incluso a los mismos jueces.

Su apariencia es sencilla, solo lleva jeans, un suéter largo de color gris y el cabello suelto que le cae hasta la cintura, pero todo en ella es la actitud de una mujer que le gustan las cosas bien hechas.

Al llegar a la puerta, los guardias saludan a Gerard, pero detienen a Luz.

-Si nos permite, señorita, necesitamos su identificación para registrarla en la base de datos.

-Claro – ella saca una pequeña billetera y busca su identificación —

-Luz Amelia Méndez – dice uno de ellos y el otro escribe en el computador instalado en una pequeña caseta de vigilancia – Asociada a Charlize Margaret Finnick

-Anotada, registrada y autorizada por Gerard Ambrose Finnick – Gerard firma en una pantalla y les dejan pasar –

La niña salta de la felicidad, le cuenta a Luz acerca de cada espacio que se puede ver y le dice que su sala está en el primer nivel. La única que habla es Charlize, contando todo lo que recuerda a la vez, sin conseguir terminar la historia que ya ha empezado.

Se detiene frente a una puerta, dentro está la maestra sentada sin prestar atención a los niños que la saludan al ingresar por estar mirando su teléfono. Eso le molesta a Luz, así que se aclara la garganta y la mujer se pone de pie de inmediato, pero sabe que es más por Gerard que por ella.

-Señor Finnick, que... que sorpresa – se guarda el teléfono y le extiende la mano, mira a Luz como si fuera un bicho raro, pero la saluda de todas formas –

– He venido acompañando a mi hija, porque necesitaba hablar con usted y con la directora.

-Claro, solo deje pedir a alguien que se quede con los niños.

Presiona un botón y en pocos segundos llega una mujer adulta, con el cabello gris y rostro severo.

– La subdirectora Suddish – dice la maestra y le explica a la mujer lo que ocurre –

Luz se acuclilla y le da un abrazo a Charlize, le da un beso y le sonrío.

-Te veré por la tarde, cuídate mucho y recuerda quién eres – le guiña un ojo y la pequeña se tapa la boca al tiempo que ríe -. Te quiero mucho, nena.

-Yyo a ti, Lucecita.

La niña entra sin problemas y las dos mujeres se quedan con la boca abierta, miran a Luz y luego a Gerard, quien sonrío y le dice a la profesora.

-Es por ella que necesito hablar con las dos.

Toman el camino a la oficina de la directora en silencio, con la profesora delante para guiarlos, Gerard va muy cerca de ella, provocando cierto nerviosismo en ella. Pero no ese que siente con los extraños, sino uno que no puede describir.

La profesora llama a la puerta donde un pequeño letrero indica el nombre de la directora. La voz severa de una mujer indica que entren y la profesora entra anunciando a Gerard y a una chica, porque no se ha tomado la molestia de preguntar su nombre.

Luz respira profundo, le toma el brazo a Gerard, bajo riesgo de derretirse, y este la mira sonriendo,

-Lo que sea que digas, tienes todo mi respaldo, así que solo te pido que no les restriegues en la cara tantas verdades.

La deja pasar primero, sintiendo unos nervios tremendos, porque no tiene idea de cómo será esta entrevista.

– Tanta que, cada uno de los ocho niños que entraron le dijeron buenos días, pero usted no fue capaz de responderles porque estaba entretenida con su teléfono – le dice Luz cruzándose de brazos –

La reacción de la directora es la quijada hasta el suelo y la profesora escondiendo su cara carmesí entre sus manos. Gerard le pone la mano en el hombro a Luz, ella lo mira y él sonríe satisfecho.

Porque en verdad lo está.

Ella se dio cuenta de decenas de cosas en menos de veinticuatro horas, las mismas que él debió detectar hace meses, años... pero está a tiempo de corregirlas, aún puede conseguir algo de redención por el trato que le ha dado a su hija y por el daño que le causó a esa chica.

-Bien – dice Gerard con seriedad -. Me temo que aquí debe haber consecuencias más severas que una simple amonestación, puesto que en el reglamento señala que los profesores no pueden estar en las salas de clase con sus teléfonos.

– No, por favor... es la primera vez que lo hago, tenía una emergencia familiar y...

-Ok, haré que le creo – dice Luz con tranquilidad -, pero si yo tuviera una emergencia familiar no sonreiría como boba ni mucho menos estaría en el trabajo.

La chica se pone de pie, mira a Gerard con una sonrisa y se dirige a la puerta.

-Creo que lo que ustedes deban hablar, a mí ya no me incumbe. Solo quiero advertirle, señora Cunnings, que yo no seré de su agrado, porque leeré ese reglamento, para saber los derechos, deberes y responsabilidades de esta comunidad educativa, y no pasaré por alto ni una sola mala actitud hacia Charlize.

-Usted habla como si fuera su madre – al ver la expresión de Gerard, a Luz se le sube una acidez que solo se puede salir con palabras – 1

-No lo soy, eso está claro – dice señalando su cuerpo -. Pero créame que si lo fuera, ella ya no estaría aquí. Con permiso. 2 Sale de la oficina y se dirige a la entrada, toma asiento en la banca y, tal como hace siempre que le toca esperar, busca su teléfono... pero recuerda que lo ha dejado en casa y que solo le sirvió para la alarma, ni siquiera ha visto si hay llamadas de su familia o de Rafael.

Sonríe y suspira, pensando en qué puede estar pasando en aquella oficina.

Pero lo que allí está pasando no es nada comparado a lo que ella se está imaginando.

-Bien – dice Gerard tomando asiento frente a la directora -. Me temo que ahora las cosas son muy diferentes, porque fueron ustedes las que me recomendaron llevar a Charlize con la psicóloga del establecimiento y no he visto cambios para nada en ella, hasta hoy.

“Por eso mismo, quiero que me diga qué hará usted para que yo no saque a mi hija del colegio y para que no tome las acciones que correspondan.

-Bu-bueno – titubea la directora -. Podemos cambiar a Charlize de grupo y...

-¿Y si mejor cambia a la profesora? -No puedo hacer eso, señor Finnick, debe pasar por una revisión.... – Mentira, solo está dilatando el asunto y la verdad es que no tengo tiempo para eso. Pídale a alguien que vaya por mi hija, me la llevaré de aquí.

– ¡No puede, hay un contrato de por medio!

-Sí, que estipula que, ante el incumplimiento de una de las partes, queda disuelto y la parte transgresora deberá indemnizar a la agraviada – Gerard se pone de pie con elegancia y se va a la puerta, soltando la bomba -. Y usted no sabe de lo que yo puedo ser capaz por mi hija. No se moleste, y o mismo iré por ella.

Gerard sale de la oficina y a lo lejos ve a Luz sentada, la llama con un gesto de la mano y la chica sale corriendo hacia él

-¿Qué pasó?

– Pasó que me llevo a mi hija de aquí – dice con alegría – ¡Y se siente tan bien, gracias! 1.

In a fit, he takes the girl in his arms and lifts her up, spinning her around as if they were two teenagers meeting again after a long time.

## The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana Chapter 20

[/ The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana](#)  
Chapter 20

“Mr. Finnick,” the woman says as soon as she sees him enter. It’s a pleasure to have you here, can I offer you a coffee?

– No, thanks – he turns to Luz – Do you want one?

– No thanks.

-Take a seat, Mr. Finnick – but Gerard gives the seat to Luz, because the other chair has been occupied by his daughter’s teacher –

-Mrs . Cunnings, who really needs to talk to you is Luz Méndez, my daughter’s new tutor – Gerard refrains from using the nanny title, because even tutor is too small for her —

-Oh – for the first time the director notices the girl and her gesture is as if she smelled bad, something Luz is used to, because at events people used to see her like that -. I listen to her.

-I have certain qualms about the way Charlize is treated in this establishment.

– *You will excuse me, Miss Méndez, but children are treated well here, they are the most important thing in this institution, where values...* – but Luz interrupts her with a low giggle, although her look is angry pure — Did I say something funny?

-Yes, I just can't believe that all children are treated as "problem children" – Luz gives Charlize's teacher her murderous look and she shifts in her seat – If that's the case, her values institutional leave a lot to be desired, if it is not the case... I am afraid that someone should have a reprimand for psychological abuse of a minor.

-I think you're exaggerating – says the horrified teacher, passing her eyes between the director and Gerard, but without seeing Luz -, besides, that escaped me only once, when Charlize exhausted my patience.

"Could you be so kind as to provide me with a piece of paper and a pen, please?" – She tells the director, the woman first sees Gerard, who nods, and the woman agrees. Luz marks a dot in the middle of the page, one that is barely visible, and she places it in front of the woman-

-You're not going to use one of those metaphors with me...

<http://www.>

-Yes, I will, because if you don't understand it this way, then I think a reprimand is too little for you – the tone of voice is so severe that the woman is stunned -. This paper is Charlize and this dot represents the words that you "missed" – you hold out the sheet to the woman and she receives it reluctantly -. Now, I want you to erase it.

-It's impossible – he looks at the director's desk and asks for an ink corrector -. With this we can delete it.

-Do it – the woman smiles satisfied, but Luz's words stop her -, but that liquid will not erase the point, it will only cover it. No one in this office will be able to erase what you said to a poor five-year-old girl, all that remains for us is to scrape that page a little and try not to tear it, but the mark of that point will always remain.

"You are a qualified adult for this job, who knows how to handle children without hurting their feelings. Though she's so out of touch with them, she may not even remember everyone's name.

-I have a lot of affinity with them, Miss Méndez... So much so that each of the eight children who entered said good morning to you, but you were not able to

answer them because you were busy with your phone – Luz tells her, crossing her arms – .

The director's reaction is jaw to the ground and the teacher hiding her crimson face in her hands. Gerard puts his hand on Luz's shoulder, she looks at him and he smirks.

Because it really is.

Ella se dio cuenta de decenas de cosas en menos de veinticuatro horas, las mismas que él debió detectar hace meses, años... pero está a tiempo de corregirlas, aún puede conseguir algo de redención por el trato que le ha dado a su hija y por el daño que le causó a esa chica.

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