

Chapter 41

The team-building program was actually announced two days ago, but Sylvia had not signed up. She simply had a glance and put her phone away, but then she quickly got tagged by Betty in the chat group. "Sylvia, you are coming, aren't you? Mr. Ledger said that family members can tag along and the team-building event is happening at Starz Club. I heard only rich people go there. Other than entertainment for adults, there are also activities for the kids. Bring your kids along." The others echoed in agreement. "Yeah, come join us." Sylvia was moved. Tomorrow would be a Sunday, and there was a high chance that Odell would go out with Tara again. Given Madam Carter's age, it was not that convenient for her to bring the kids out on a Sunday, and it was not ideal for them to stay at home the whole day either.

Sylvia had been to Starz Club before. There was an amusement corner specifically built for kids, so it was more family-friendly than other venues.

Some serious consideration later, Sylvia looked at Madam Carter. "Grandmother, I want to bring Isabel and Liam for a Sunday outing tomorrow. Is that okay?"

"You are their mother. Of course, you can bring them out," Madam Carter replied with a smile, "But you have to be careful as well. Tell Jacob and Ben to tag along so that they can take care of you."

"Great."

No doubt it would be better with the bodyguards tagging along. Right after that, Isabel jumped up and cheered happily. "Yay, Brother, we are going out with Mommy tomorrow!" Liam also curled his lips into a grin. "I want to pick out a beautiful dress!" Isabel wanted to run back to her room immediately, but Sylvia frowned at her.

"Isabel."

Isabel stopped right away and looked at her mother with jutting lips. Sylvia patted her head and said, "Be a good girl and finish your dinner first." "Okay." Although reluctant, she obediently returned to her seat at the table. Sylvia put more vegetables on her plate. In response, Isabel pouted, but she managed to finish everything Liam also quietly ate the carrots that his mother put on his plate. He usually never touched the carrots, but today was different.

Madam Carter saw everything and got sentimental. Odell was a strict father, but the kids remained rebellious. They always did the opposite and never ate the vegetables they disliked.

Even she was unable to persuade the little rascals to eat any of the greens.

Now with Sylvia at the table, they ate whatever she put on their plates without any complaints.

The kids really needed their mother by their side.

After dinner, Sylvia followed Liam and Isabel to their rooms.

The room was actually modified to fit Isabel after Odell brought her home because there were two beds inside.

One of them had an ocean theme while the other one was colored with fruits.

The blue one belonged to Liam, and the colorful oranges belonged to Isabel. Other than the beds for kids, the room was also filled with all kinds of toys. Sylvia played with them for a while and even told them a bedtime story. After tucking them into bed, she got up and left the room. The night was cold. Sylvia tightened her jacket and strode towards her place. She promised her kids that she would bring them out tomorrow, so she could not afford to fall sick again.

Meanwhile, at Lake Victoria Villa, where Tara lived, she lay on the bed with a pale countenance and an exhausted body.

Odell frowned as he sat down beside the bed. He lifted his watch. It was already 10 o'clock at night, thus the little rascals must be asleep.

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Tara stared at him subtly. When she noticed Odell looking at her, she said in a hoarse voice, "odell, why don't you go home to the kids? I should feel better from the fever after some rest. I'm fine."

Odell put his hand on her forehead. It was still a little warm.

"I'll go after you fall asleep." "Odell, I'm really fine... Cough."

Before Tara could finish her sentence, she coughed.

Odell frowned. "Don't go out when it's raining. I'll call you next time when I'm coming over. You don't need to wait for me outside."

Tara immediately said, "Okay. It's just that I haven't seen you for a few days now, and I missed you, that's why I waited for you outside. No more next time, I promise."

"Mm-hmm. Take a rest."

Tara obediently closed her eyes.

Time flew by quietly. Half an hour later, Odell noticed that she had fallen asleep. He got up and wanted to leave, but it was then that he heard Tara coughing in her sleep.

Her cough somehow got louder and more intense.

Odell sat back down and said softly, "Tara?"

Tara opened her eyes and looked at him with bloodshot eyes. She said feebly, "Odell, can I hug you while I sleep?"

Odell furrowed his brows.

'The two little rascals should already be asleep now... Fine, I'll stay for the night.'

He sat beside her and hugged her in his arms.

As Tara gripped his waist tightly, a faint grin appeared on her face.

Ever since Isabel was brought home, they had not spent a lot of time together.

In truth, she had purposely stood in the rain last night. Although her fever was not severe, she made him stay by her side for the whole day.

It seemed like he cared about her the most after all.

The next day, Sylvia arrived at Carter Residence early in the morning. To her surprise, Odell was not home.

Sylvia greeted Madam Carter before she took Liam and Isabel out.

Liam wore a cool-looking suit and even combed his hair neatly, looking a lot like a prince. Isabel tied her hair into twin pigtails and wore an orange dress coupled with leather shoes. Her

pink bag and orange hair clip were a contrast to Liam's calm and cool outfit, but her accessories made her look like a princess. Sylvia brought them to Starz Club for her team-building event, and their attendance attracted a lot of attention.

People would unconsciously steal a glance or two at the two of them. When they arrived at the gathering spot, Betty and the other girls screamed in delight. "Oh my goodness, they are so cute!"

"Isn't she the child actor, Isabel? She's Sylvia's daughter?" "Sylvia's son is also very cute!"

A bunch of people surrounded them.

The two of them were not afraid of strangers at all, especially Isabel. She smiled sweetly and greeted every one of them.

"Hello, big sisters, big brothers."

Liam simply looked at them quietly. He was a cute little boy, but the way he looked at them felt like an adult gazing at them. Their new fans giggled and chuckled at their adorableness. The group only dispersed when Tristan came over. "Sylvia, are they really your kids?" he asked after a glance at the two of them.

"Yeah." Sylvia then pulled the two of them to her side and said to them, "Isabel, Liam, this is Mommy's boss at the studio. You can call him Uncle Tristan." Upon hearing his mother, Liam obediently greeted him. "Hello, Uncle Tristan." Tristan smiled kindly at the boy. "Hi."

He then turned to Isabel.

Isabel was staring at his handsome face with eyes filled with stars. Tristan was intrigued by her fascination. He curiously asked, "Isabel, why are you staring at

me?)

Isabel said sweetly, "You are so good-looking!"

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Although Tristan's looks lost slightly to her baddie daddy's, he was still a handsome guy.

Tristan was stunned. He did not know how to react to Isabel's comments.

Betty and the other girls were also caught off guard. They did not expect the little girl to be a simp for handsome men. Sylvia's face twitched helplessly at her daughter's comment. She said resignedly, "Isabel, speak properly to Uncle Tristan." Isabel pouted. "Fine, but Uncle Tristan is really handsome."

Sylvia was speechless.

Tristan burst into laughter. He bent over and wanted to pinch the little girl's cheek, but Liam stepped in and stopped him. With caution, the boy said, "You mustn't simply touch a girl's face."

Tristan was caught by surprise. Isabel widened her googly eyes and said, "But you can pat me on the head."

Her meek voice was cute, and it complemented her cute and energetic features.

Tristan smiled and patted her head.

"You and your brother sure are cute," he said.

Isabel showed a smirk, as though she agreed with what Tristan said. Liam remained quiet. There was barely any reaction on his face, but his eyes were carefully sizing Tristan up from top to bottom.

Tristan furrowed his brows slightly. He somehow felt pressured by the three-year-old. A moment later, he regained his composure and said to everyone, "You guys can go in first."

The group then went inside. He then turned around and put his hand out. "Isabel, may I pick you up?" Isabel turned to Liam who declared, "A girl mustn't be simply carried by other men."

Isabel nodded.

Tristan was once again speechless. He was just trying to carry a three-year-old but was denied by her brother.

He helplessly looked at Sylvia, but she could not do anything as well. She smiled and said, "Let's just go in first."

Tristan nodded with a smile. "Okay."

The group finally entered the club.

The club had many different sections with distinctive features and functionalities. Betty and the others went for the adult attractions, which were not suitable for kids. On the other hand, Sylvia brought Isabel and Liam to the kids' amusement section instead.

To her surprise, Tristan followed them.

"Tristan, I can look after them alone. Why don't you go play with the others?" Sylvia said.

Tristan sat beside her and watched the kids playing with toy race cars. He said, "I don't like what they are playing."

Since he insisted, Sylvia simply allowed him to stay and did not dwell further on the topic.

Meanwhile, at the Carters' mansion, Odell finally came back from Lake Victoria Villa. He parked his car in front of the gate and came down with a bunch of toys that he had bought from the toy shop. However, the living room was devoid of cheerful children's voices. Only Madam Carter and the servants were chatting. Both the rascals who could turn the house upside down were nowhere to be found today.

"Grandmother, where are Isabel and Liam?" Odell asked.

"They went out with Syl," Madam Carter answered.

"Sylvia?" Odell furrowed his brows. "Where did she bring them?"

"Her studio is having a team-building session, so they went to Starz Club." Odell's mood sank. He put the toys down and went out.

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Back at Starz Club, Isabel and Liam got tired of playing with the toy race cars, so they went on to the bumper cars instead.

Isabel wanted a crowd, so she dragged her mother into the game as well. The mother ended up playing with her children in the bumper car pit.

"Mommy, I'm coming! "Bro, I'm coming for you also!" Isabel teased her mother and brother and went after them. Sylvia easily dodged her car, and Liam also turned his steering wheel away, leaving Isabel missing the two of them and bumping into the edge. Sylvia could not help but laugh. Even Liam grinned. Tristan was watching from outside the pit. His eyes were locked on Sylvia, and her laughter put a smile on his face as well. Odell had also arrived at the club a moment ago. He was hiding in the corner as he watched Sylvia play with the kids. He also noticed Tristan watching them from outside, and it put a sullen expression on his face.

People who did not know better might have assumed that they were a family of four. Odell grunted and pulled his phone out.

The phone rang

Sylvia stopped the car and pulled her phone out. She furrowed her brows when she saw Odell's name, but she answered it nevertheless.

"What is it, Mr. Carter?"

The man's cold voice sounded on the other end of the call. "I'll give you five minutes to bring the kids out, or you will never see them again."

He hung up the phone before Sylvia could say a word. She was stunned.

'What does he mean? Is he here?' Isabel noticed the shock on her face. She asked nervously, "Mommy, what's wrong?" Sylvia sighed and regained her composure. She put on a weak smile and said, "Daddy's here." Liam and Isabel frowned immediately. Sylvia got up and carried them out from the bumper cars. "Come on, let's go out," she persuaded them. Tristan noticed the abrupt end of their little game.

"What's wrong Sylvia? Why did you stop?"

“Odell is here to take them back. I have to bring them out.” The look on Tristan’s face changed as well. He said, “I’ll go out with you.” “It’s okay. I can bring them out alone.”

He then smiled and said, “It’s another opportunity to meet Master Odell, so I’ll just go say hi.” The Ledgers were a well-known family in Westchester and they had worked together with the Carters a few times now, thus it was only appropriate for him to say hi. Sylvia noticed she was overthinking. She awkwardly smiled and said, “Sure.” She brought the kids out with Tristan following behind them. Right after they stepped out of the entrance, they saw Odell’s car parked outside. He was sitting inside the car.

Before she could even have a clear look at his face, Sylvia already felt the chills go down her spine

Tristan went up first and greeted, “Master Odell. I’m holding a team-building session for my studio employees to let them have some fun. If you have the time, why don’t you join us and relax for a bit?”

Odell glared at him and said coldly, “I’m busy. Thank you.”

“Right.” Odell then turned to Sylvia. “Take the kids inside.”

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Isabel turned around and hugged her mother’s thigh. She cried, “Mommy, I don’t want to go back with him. I wanna stay with you.” Liam did not say a word or do anything. He simply stood by Sylvia’s side expressionlessly. Sylvia smiled at Odell and said, “Odell, they still want to play a little more. Can I accompany them for a little longer?”

Her tone displayed obvious flattery.

Odell tightened his lips.

Before he could say anything, Tristan stepped in. “Master Odell, it’s still early. I know you and Sylvia are over, but she’s still the kids’ mother. She has the right to accompany them.” Odell’s face turned even colder. He curled his lips into a grin and said, “You’re right, but I decide if she has the right or not.”

Tristan was silenced.

Odell had a glance at Sylvia. “I’ll say it one more time. Take the kids inside.”

He sounded cold, and even his voice took on a dictatorial tone.

Sylvia was used to his tone, so it was nothing to her, but Tristan had enough of his attitude. Upset, he blurted, “Master Odell, Sylvia is your ex-wife. You guys spent two years together. Can’t you at least speak properly to her?” Odell grinned. “You have no right to meddle in our business.” Sylvia noticed things were getting out of hand, so she tugged at Tristan and said, “Tristan, that’s enough.” If he continued, Odell might really forbid her from seeing the kids again. Annoyed, Tristan furrowed his brows, but he could not do anything either. He helplessly shut his mouth.

Sylvia then turned to the kids.

Isabel was pouting while Liam wore a glower. Sylvia had to coax them. “Isabel, Liam, go back with Daddy first. I’ll see you guys soon.”

“I don’t want to! I want to be with you, Mommy!” Isabel hugged her thigh even tighter.

Liam did not say anything but did not move either. Sylvia was out of options. “Isabel, be a good girl. I will see you soon,” she said as she carried her into the car. The moment Isabel was placed on the rear seat, Odell gripped her. She could not break free at all. All she could do was wave her hands in a flurry, whining for her mother.

Liam was better. He simply sat down quietly after Sylvia carried him inside, but the grumpy look on his face was obvious as well.

Sylvia was having a heart-wrenching moment as she watched her kids being taken away. Liam was grumpy while Isabel almost broke down in tears.

Fortunately, Sylvia was able to keep her calm and rationally closed the door. Right after the car drove away, it started to drizzle. Despite the light shower, it was rather cold.

Sylvia stood like a monolith as she watched the car drive away.

Tristan went up to her and said, “Sylvia, let’s go inside. It’s raining.”

Sylvia did not react. She wanted to wait for the car to leave her sight.

Meanwhile, inside the car, Isabel was throwing a tantrum. “You baddie! I hate you! You big baddie!” Isabel punched Odell’s chest.

Liam stared at the window and at the drizzle outside. He furrowed his brows and said softly, “It’s raining.”

Isabel blinked before she, too, looked outside the window.

Indeed, it was raining. Liam then said, “Mommy just recovered from a fever yesterday. She can’t be in the rain again.” Odell furrowed his brows upon hearing that. It reminded him of the scene where Sylvia had apologized to him in the rain the other day. Isabel continued punching her father’s chest and screamed, “Big baddie, hurry up and go back for her! If she’s sick again, I’ll hate you when I grow up!”

Odell was speechless. He tightened his lips and then said to the driver, “Turn around.”

The driver immediately turned the car around.

Two minutes later, the car arrived at the Starz Club entrance again where Sylvia and Tristan were still standing. When she saw the car come back, it surprised her.

Tristan was also surprised. His hands that were holding his jacket as he tried to put it over Sylvia froze as well.

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The window rolled down and Isabel’s voice came piping. “Mommy, come in!”

Sylvia was stunned, and she hesitated until she heard Odell’s voice commanding, “Get in.”

Sylvia finally moved. Before she got in, she said to Tristan, “Tristan, please tell Betty and the others that I have to leave early.”

Tristan put his jacket away and forced a smile on his face. "Okay."

Sylvia opened the door and got into the car. The interior was spacious but had limited seats

She carried Liam into her arms. The little guy was fluffy and petite He quietly leaned in his mother's arms and even had a soft smile on his face. Isabel also quietened down and left Odell alone. However, when she saw her brother in her mother's arms, she pouted. "Mommy, I want huggie"

Sylvia looked at Odell who wore a grim look on his face and it was obvious that he was upset.

Sylvia said to Isabel, "Isabel, Mommy is carrying Liam. I can't hold both of you together. Why don't you let Daddy carry you first?"

Isabel pouted harder Moments later, she turned her attention to Liam and said, "Brother, I want to switch."

Liam usually responded to Isabel's request, but this time, he simply grinned and said, "I'm allergic to him. Just hold on for a while."

Isabel did not understand the rejection. She really thought Liam was allergic to Odell, so she simply hummed in disappointment.

On the other hand, Odell wore a bitter look after knowing that his son disliked him

Sylvia was beside him, so she was able to feel the grudge She even chuckled uncontrollably She did not do it on purpose, but when even the two of them disliked him, it felt great

As expected, her chuckle put a gloomy look on his face.

His lips turned into a frown as he said, "What's so funny?"

Sylvia nervously explained, "Nothing. I was trying to sneeze. I didn't mean to laugh or anything of the sort."

Despite her nervous explanation, a grin was still pasted on her face

It further darkened the broodiness on his face "If I see that grin on your face again, I'll throw you out of the car."

Isabel punched his chest right away "You big baddie, don't scold my Mommy!"

Odell was silenced, and Sylvia wanted to laugh even more He immediately glared at her, forcing her to put her hands over her mouth. Things soon became quiet inside the car Isabel stared outside the window for a while. She looked at the drizzle on the window and

grumbled, "I don't want to go back. I still want to play." Sylvia looked at Odell and said softly, "Odell, it's still early. Why don't we bring the kids somewhere else to play?" Odell did not answer. He stayed quiet for a few seconds before he said to the driver, "TO Astroland." The driver answered. "Yes, sir."

Sylvia's eyes glimmered with interest. She knew Astroland was an interior playground for kids specially built for the children in the wealthy circles. Only registered members were allowed access.

The place had almost all kinds of amusement attractions for kids.

Astroland was located further in the suburb, away from the city center. It took almost 30 minutes for the car to arrive.

Odell carried Isabel out of the car, and Sylvia followed with Liam in her arms. The receptionists came up to Odell the moment they arrived and welcomed them. Moments later, they were already inside Astroland. As expected, it felt like another world inside. Every corner of the place felt like it came out of a fairy tale

The moment Isabel set foot in the place, she dragged Liam to run inside happily. Sylvia was a little worried, so she followed them inside.<

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The fun lasted for the whole day at Astroland.

Isabel got so carried away that she did not even want to have lunch. It was Sylvia who had to carry her away and force her to eat something to maintain her stamina.

Later in the afternoon, Isabel finally became tired but still did not want to leave. She dragged Liam to the doodling area where they started to draw all kinds of stuff with the paint provided.

Sylvia noticed that the kids started to settle down, so she grabbed a piece of wooden plank and started doodling on it.

Isabel sneakily smeared paint on Liam's face when he did not notice.

Stunned, Liam did not expect his sister to ambush him with paint.

Isabel chuckled when she saw her brother's messy face.

Sylvia heard the little girl's chuckle. She turned around, but to her surprise, Isabel's hands, covered in paint, caught her face.

She used to play a lot of similar games with the little girl back then, so it was not surprising. She held her laughter back and feigned annoyance as she said, "Girl, you're so done for!"

In response, Isabel also feigned fear and started running.

Sylvia covered her hands in paint and started chasing her.

Isabel ran around Liam in circles, and it took Sylvia several rounds before catching up with the little rascal.

The girl noticed her mother catching up to her, so she turned to Liam and said, "Help me, Brother!"

Liam remained seated. His face was still covered in paint when he crossed his arms with a grin. He was waiting for her to get caught by their mother.

Isabel knew that her brother was not going to help her, so she stuck her tongue out before running outside.

Sylvia chased after her.

Odell heard the little commotion outside the doodling area, so he got up to have a look. He then saw Sylvia chasing Isabel with the little girl chuckling as she ran. Sylvia also wore a big smile on her face as she tried to catch up to the little girl. Isabel ran closer to her father while Sylvia continued chasing her.

Odell stood there and watched.

Knowing that it was impossible to outrun her mother, Isabel screamed at her father when she saw him. "Big baddie, save me!"

For some reason, Odell stepped in and joined the mother-daughter's paint war. He stood in front of Isabel.

Sylvia almost got Isabel and failed to react in time when Odell stepped in, which caused her to bump into his chest.

Odell barely budged, but Sylvia faltered backward. Frightened, she stared at him. Odell looked at her face covered in colorful paint. Isabel had drawn a line on her face from the left to right, crossing the bridge of her nose. The colorful paint set off the fairness of her skin, and her nervous eyes seemed attractive as well.

Odell was stunned.

Sylvia was annoyed. She did not mean to bump into him. It was him who suddenly stepped in unannounced. However, her mind told her to apologize first before things turned bad. "I'm sorry, Odell. Are you okay?" Odell regained his composure and averted her gaze. "I'm okay. No more next time." "Fine."

Sylvia did not say anything after that and continued chasing after Isabel. Isabel was determined not to be caught, so she started running in circles around Odell. When Sylvia was behind Odell, Isabel ran to Odell's front; when Sylvia was in front of Odell,

Isabel slipped behind Odell. The mother and daughter ran in circles around the man. Odell stood there with tightened lips. He had a few glances at them, but there was no emotion on his face. Liam also noticed them from inside the doodling area. When he noticed his mother and sister running around his father, looking delighted, his eyes shone with interest.

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After a while, Isabel finally got tired and surrendered with her hands up.

Sylvia caught up to her and picked her up in her arms. She mischievously dipped paint onto the tip of Isabel's nose.

Isabel chuckled as she panted.

Sylvia looked at her daughter's messy but adorable face, and it made her laugh as well. They were so carried away by their laughter that they completely forgot about Odell beside them.

Odell watched for a while before he had to awkwardly clear his throat.

Immediately, Sylvia recovered and picked Isabel up.

Isabel was unhappy that their fun was interrupted. In Sylvia's embrace, she crossed her arms and pointed at Odell. "Big baddie, why did you cough?"

Since she was in her mother's arms, she was almost at Odell's eye level which granted her an intimidating presence.

Odell raised a brow. He wanted to take Isabel from Sylvia's arms, but then Isabel reached out to him and moved her hand over his face.

Before he knew it, his face was smeared with colorful paint as well.

Odell was stunned.

Isabel chuckled mischievously as her evil deed succeeded.

Sylvia quickly carried her away from her father. She held her laughter back and said to Odell, Odell, she's just playing with you. Don't be mad at her."

Odell gave her a cold glance.

Did he look like a grumpy person?

He walked closer to them.

Isabel thought he was going to punish her, so she shrunk and hugged her mother even tighter.

Sylvia also nervously moved backward.

Odell frowned. He just wanted to carry Isabel. However, before he could put his thought into words, his phone in his pocket rang. He pulled it out and answered it.

Sylvia was only a few steps away, so she was able to have a glimpse at the caller ID-Tara.

Tara said something to him on the phone which put a frown and a sense of worry on his face. He then said, "Stay at home. I'll go to your place later."

Sylvia's interested gaze dimmed.

Maybe because he spent most of the day accompanying her and the kids, she almost forgot that he cared about Tara the most.

After Odell hung up the phone, Sylvia seized the chance and said, "Odell, you can go if you are busy. I'll play with them here for a little longer."

Odell had a glance at her. "We'll go back now."

He sounded firm and indubitable. He then went over to the doodling area and brought Liam out.

Sylvia caressed Isabel's head and comforted her before following him out.

Fortunately, both Isabel and Liam were already exhausted from all the fun. The two of them fell asleep right after they got into the car.

The journey was a silent one.

Soon, the car arrived at the Carters' mansion.

Odell carried Liam out of the car while Sylvia followed with Isabel in her arms.

Madam Carter was in the living room. When she saw them come back together with paint on their faces, she bolted up in delight. Alas, before she could be any happier, Odell said, "Grandmother, I'm going out. I'm not coming back for dinner later." He put the sleeping Liam on the couch before he had a glance at Sylvia and left the house. He left in a hurry, making it rather obvious that he was going to Tara's place.

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The glance from Odell was obviously telling Sylvia to leave right after she put the kids back to bed.

Madam Carter was annoyed. She asked Sylvia, "Syl, where have you guys been? What happened to your faces?"

Her question came with a smile with a hint of anticipation. She was hoping for something to happen between Odell and Sylvia.

Sylvia then told Madam Carter what happened—from Odell taking the kids away from Starz Club in the morning to bringing them and her to Astroland. Madam Carter looked disappointed.

"Grandmother, the kids are tired. I'll tuck them in, and then I'll leave," Sylvia said.

She wanted to carry Isabel back to the room.

Madam Carter signaled the servant with a glance, and the servant came over to carry Liam to the room as well.

She then went up to Sylvia and said, "Syl, since Odell is not coming home tonight, stay for dinner. Isabel and Liam should be awake soon. They'll sulk if they don't see you when they wake up."

A quick thought later, Sylvia said, "Sure."

At Lake Victoria Villa, when Odell arrived, Tara was sitting on the couch in the living room wearing only a thin dress. She called him as soon as he opened the door. "Odell." She looked pale and weak while her eyes were reddish. Odell strode over to her and asked, "I thought your fever got better this morning. How did it get worse?"

Tara sank into his arms and said, "I don't know. I didn't go out like you said, but maybe because..."

She did not finish the sentence.

"Because of what?"

"Maybe because I missed you too much." She looked at him in fascination. Odell tightened his lips and hugged her tighter. Tara noticed the paint on his face. She asked, "Odell, what happened to your face? Is it Isabel again?"

Odell hummed a reply. Tara frowned. "Why is that little girl so naughty? She drew a tortoise on your face before, and now she's painting your face?" She felt bad for him.

Odell furrowed his brows. "Isabel just wanted to play with me. It wasn't a prank." The little girl had obviously painted on his face because she accepted him as someone close. To be honest, he enjoyed the little interaction as well.

Tara noticed the seriousness on his face, and she got a little evasive. She explained, "I'm sorry Odell. I thought the little rascal was trying to prank you with her brother again." "It's okay. Let's go back to the room and put you to bed."

Odell released her from his arms and held her hand instead as they went upstairs.

Tara also secretly sighed a breath of relief. In the bedroom, Tara obediently tucked herself in and Odell sat down beside the bed. A thought came into his mind and he said, "I have to make a call." Tara simply hummed a reply. Odell went to the balcony and called his butler at home. The call got through after a few seconds. "Has Sylvia gone back?" The old butler cautiously answered, "Master Odell, Ms. Ross is still here. Madam asked her to stay for dinner."

"Mm-hmm. What about the kids?" he asked. "Little Isabel and Liam just woke up, and they are beside Madam and Ms. Ross."

"Okay."

Odell hung up the phone with satisfaction on his face. The glance that he had given her before he left was actually him asking her to stay to take care of the kids.

The two little rascals were exhausted after playing for a whole day, and if they woke up with no parents around, they would probably be disappointed.<

Chapter 50

Odell went back into the room after the phone call.

Tara was eavesdropping behind the curtain, and when she noticed that the call had ended, she quickly jumped back into bed. Odell returned to his seat beside the bed. She maintained her feeble look and asked, "Odell, are you busy with something else?" "Nothing in particular."

Tara recalled him mentioning the kids on the phone. She had another glance at the paint on his face and then whispered her question, "Odell, were you with Isabel and Liam the whole day today?"

Odell simply hummed a reply. Indeed, he had been with the kids but just not at home. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, he did not tell her that he was with Sylvia together with the kids.

Tara looked anxious. She believed he must have spent time with Sylvia together with the kids, or else he would not have asked if Sylvia was still at the Carters'. She clutched her fists and said with a smile, "Odell, why don't you bring the kids out next week and we can have some fun together? I kinda like them."

Odell went silent.

The kids obviously disliked her, but since he would marry her in the future, she would eventually be their stepmom, so the ill relationship could not be allowed to continue.

Some thoughts later, he answered, "Okay."

Tara smiled. She could not let Sylvia use the kids to approach Odell anymore. She had to think of a way to keep that bitch away from him.

A new week soon arrived.

Sylvia went to work in the morning and fetched the kids from kindergarten in the evening. A normal week went by, and it was already Friday. While Sylvia was finishing her work for the day, Tristan came up to her. He sat on the edge of her table gracefully and asked with a smile, "Sylvia, are you free tomorrow night?" "I should be bringing Isabel and Liam out tomorrow. Is there anything?" she asked.

"There's a ball hosted by several industry veterans tomorrow morning. They want to make it a social event for people to mingle. Your wood carvings are highly reviewed, and they were impressed, so they wanted me to invite you." He then added, "The ball starts tomorrow at 6 o'clock in the evening. You can spend time with your kids in the morning and should be able to make it by that time, right?"

Sylvia did not reject the opportunity to meet more people in the industry, but her kids were clingy

Some thoughts later, she answered, "I can't say for sure. If I can go, I'll let you know ASAP." Tritan smiled. "Okay. Just tell me before 6 tomorrow."

Later in the evening, Sylvia arrived at the kindergarten to fetch her kids on time. She brought them to her place for a while before she brought them back to the Carters' before dark.

She went into the living room with the kids.

She wanted to say hi to Madam Carter and also tell her that she wanted to bring them out tomorrow morning, but to her surprise, Odell was present.

He was reading a book on the couch. He simply had a glance up when Sylvia came in and then returned to his reading. Sylvia did not speak to him either. She said to Madam Carter, "Grandmother, I've brought them home."

"Come. Have a seat." Madam Carter held her hand.

Isabel and Liam sat down beside their mother as well. Neither of them talked to Odell.

Odell's sullen face was hiding behind the book that he was reading.

Sylvia chatted with Madam Carter before she asked, "Grandmother, I want to bring them out tomorrow."

Madam Carter smiled. "Of course, where are you bringing them?"

Sylvia planned to bring them to a theme park but before she could reveal her plan, Odell's cold voice interrupted them.