master odells 461

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"Yeah. Tara must have sent her away from the city. What are we going to do now, Sylvia?" Sherry asked.

"Wait. We wait for her to show up," Sylvia said as she narrowed her eyes.

Two weeks went by.

It was a Saturday and Tara arrived at the Carters' residence early in the morning.

Odell was not home but Isabel and Liam were.

Like always, Tara went to the living room as soon as she arrived, but Aunt Tonya stopped her at the entrance. She smiled and said to Aunt Tonya, "Aunt Tonya, I'm here to see Isabel and Liam, and also Grandmother. Please move aside."

Aunt Tonya bellowed, "Tara, you are not welcome here. Get out of this house immediately!"

Tara had a glance into the living room and wanted to go in.

Although Aunt Tonya stopped her again, she forced herself through and even tried to push Aunt Tonya away.

Feeling irritated, Aunt Tonya pushed back. She barely used any strength as she just wanted to stop Tara from going in.

To her surprise, Tara faltered and fell down to the ground.

Tara's eyes got teary as she wore a wronged look. She cried, "Aunt Tonya, I don't mean anything. I'm just here to see Isabel and Liam. They lost their mother at such a young age, and it's important that they receive the love and care from a mother figure."

Aunt Tonya frowned. She pointed at Tara and continued, "Shut your mouth!"

Isabel and Liam were in the living room, and until now, Aunt Tonya had not told them about what had happened to Sylvia. She could not let the two of them hear what Tara said.

Tara cried louder and even raised her voice, "Aunt Tonya, I know there's some misunderstanding between us, and I admit there was some conflict between Sylvia and me in the past, but Sylvia is dead. I just want to care for the kids. If the two of them can grow up healthy, Sylvia will be happy."

"You..." Aunt Tonya choked on her anger.

Tara seemingly wanted to continue causing a scene that wore her patience thin. She approached Tara and wanted to drag the woman away, but at this point, she noticed the two little ones standing by the door behind her.

Isabel and Liam were looking at them with widened eyes.

Aunt Tonya was shocked.

Isabel's eyes became teary, and even Liam furrowed his brows.

"Aunt Tonya, is it true? Is Mommy dead?"

Aunt Tonya got nervous. She could not bear seeing the two little ones cry, but Sylvia was indeed gone and the lie could not continue forever.

The two of them took Aunt Tonya's silence as an affirmative answer.

Isabel pouted and broke down in tears while Liam furrowed his brows tightly and wore a sorrowful look.

Aunt Tonya did not have the time or mood to care about Tara anymore. She immediately went to the two little ones and hugged them tightly.

As Isabel cried a river, Liam hugged his sister and consoled her quietly.

Aunt Tonya was at a loss of action, so all she could do was sigh helplessly.

Tara then got up on her feet.

The tears and snot on Isabel's features put a grin on her face. She went closer to them and feigned a worried expression. "Isabel, Liam, I know your Mommy is not here anymore, but I'll take care of you two for her."

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Isabel cried even louder, and Liam shot a frosty gaze at her.

Tara's gaze shifted when she saw the boy's eyes, but she quickly regained her composure because they were just a pair of four-year- olds who had just lost their mother.

Suddenly, Aunt Tonya got up and slapped her on the face.

The force of the slap sent Tara faltering backward.

Tara covered her face in pain. While she cursed Aunt Tonya deep in her heart, she continued to feign a teary look and said, "Aunt Tonya, I meant what I said!"

Aunt Tonya pointed at her and scolded, "Get out of this house immediately, or I'll slap you again!"

Tara then left with a recalcitrant expression.

Aunt Tonya grunted and turned around to the brother and sister. Liam was rather calm, but Isabel cried ceaselessly.

Both Aunt Tonya and Sebastian tried everything they could think of and still could not stop the girl from crying, so Sebastian was forced to call Odell.

After the call with Odell, Violet heard the crying and came out of Madam Carter's room. When she saw the little girl crying a river, she asked, "Sebastian, Aunt Tonya, what's wrong with Isabel?"

Aunt Tonya grumbled, "It's that Tara. She came earlier and pretended to care about them. Se even said she wanted to take care of them now that Sylvia is gone. I told her to leave and she started to cause a scene, so they overheard the conversation."

Violet understood what happened.

Tara came causing a scene because she wanted Isabel and Liam to know that their mother was gone. She must be trying to persuade them to accept Sylvia's death so that they could accept her and Odell being together.

'Scheming against two four-year-olds? What a horrible woman! ' Violet thought.

She then went over to Isabel and Liam and said, "That's not true. Don't listen to her. Your Mommy is temporarily away and she can't make it back now. She's not dead."

Isabel paused her crying. She continued sobbing and choking as she asked, "Really?"

Liam also stared at Violet.

"Of course!" Violet answered firmly.

Liam simply stared at her while Isabel turned to Aunt Tonya and Sebastian. She wanted to hear from them that her mommy was still alive.

However, Aunt Tonya and Sebastian did not know that Sylvia was actually alive, and since they did not want to lie to the little girl, they simply averted her gaze.

Isabel realized that her mother had been gone for a few months, and if she was still alive, she would have come back. Violet must be lying to stop her from crying!

She continued to sob and said in a small voice, "Violet is lying..."

Violet was silenced. She really wanted to tell the girl that her mother was alive, but due to the promise she had made with Sylvia, she was forced to swallow the truth for now.

Tara did not actually leave after being slapped. She stayed outside and waited beside the gate.

Now that the two kids had learned that their mother was dead, they ought to throw a tantrum.

Sebastian would have to call Odell to tell him about the situation, and he would definitely come back. Tara was actually waiting for Odell.

She wanted him to see the mark from the slap she got from Aunt Tonya and make him think that she had not divulged Sylvia's death to the kids on purpose.

Soon, Odell's car turned in from the junction and screeched to a stop in front of the house.

Tara went up to the car immediately.

The man's towering figure came out of the car and she went up to him with teary eyes.

"Odell, I'm sorry. It's my fault. I didn't know Aunt Tonya hated me so much. I shouldn't have come here to check on Isabel and Liam at this hour."

Odell saw the reddish cheek on her face and asked in a gravelly voice, "What happened to your face?"

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"It's Aunt Tonya..." Tara observed the reaction on his face and continued, "But I believe she doesn't mean it. I didn't know Isabel and Liam were in the living room, and I explained that I was there to see

them. It slipped my mind and I accidentally mentioned Sylvia's death, so the kids heard it, then she slapped me."

Odell frowned. "Go home first."

He was worried about the kids and had no time to comfort Tara.

Tara immediately said, "Okay. Go check on Isabel and Liam. They need you right now."

While Odell hummed a reply and went into the house, Tara sighed a breath of relief and wore a grin. Now that the two little monsters knew their mother was gone, they would stop asking for her.

All Tara needed to do was visit frequently and show them care and love. They might then start to accept her and rely on her as a mother figure.

Until then, she could be with Odell again without any more hindrance.

Odell strode into the living room.

Isabel was still crying loudly while Liam was hugging her. Both Sebastian and Aunt Tonya were helpless when it came to comforting the girl.

The two of them stepped aside when Odell came in. He then carried the two of them back to their room.

Isabel was crying her lungs out and did not even care about who carried her. She buried her face in Odell's neck, and her tears and snot wet his collar.

Liam was relatively calm. He turned to his father and asked, "Daddy, is Mommy really dead?"

He widened his big eyes in silence and observed his father's reaction.

Odell was taken aback by how calm Liam was.

However, the boy was quiet and never expressed his emotions easily.

With that aside, Odell decided to be frank with the two of them. "Mommy fell into the lake and we still can't find her now."

Liam thought for a moment and asked, "Then, is there a chance that mommy is still alive?"

Odell went silent for a moment before he hummed a reply. It was possible that she was still alive, but the odds were slim.

Liam then turned to Isabel and said, "Sis, Daddy still hasn't found mommy. Mommy might be alive."

Isabel paused her crying and looked at her brother with reddish eyes. "Really?"

"Really. Mommy will come back soon."

"What if Mommy never comes back?"

Liam wiped her tears and snot away and said, "Then, we'll continue to wait."

The determination in his eyes calmed Isabel down. She sniffled and said, "Yeah, we'll wait for Mommy to come back!"

Odell pursed his lips at Isabel's brightened mood and the strange hope that they grasped onto. For the first time in months, he finally wore a smile on his frosty face.

Later, Isabel and Liam finally went to sleep. Odell sighed a breath of relief and left the room.

The room returned to silence, but the little girl's tears continued to trickle down her cheeks.

Fortunately, Liam was there to hug her to sleep.

A while later, he noticed a moving figure outside the door, so he quietly had a glance at the doorway.

Outside the door, Violet leaned against the wall and took pictures of inside the room with her phone.

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After getting a picture of the brother and sister sleeping soundly, Violet sent the picture to Sylvia.

"Madam, don't worry. Isabel isn't crying anymore."

"Thank you, Violet."

Violet chatted with Sylvia for a while before sneaking away.

Little did she know, the boy was watching her with his big eyes from inside the room.

Inside a secret room in Lush Heaven, the windows were shut tight. Sylvia was sitting by the window, studying the picture she had gotten from Violet.

The picture showed Isabel curled up in her brother's arms. Her face was flush, and there seemed to be tears lingering at the tip of her eyelashes.

Liam was the same age as her, but he looked after her like an adult would.

The picture choked Sylvia up and made her emotional, but thinking that Tara was the one who caused all this stopped her from tearing up.

It was not the time to be emotional. She had to find a way to locate Melanie!

Back at the Carters', Isabel and Liam went to Madam Carter's room after dinner.

Isabel lay down beside Madam Carter and rambled away as usual, and she bad-mouthed about Tara exclusively today.

Violet listened to the little girl's complaints and giggled.

Then, Liam suddenly said, "Violet, can you lend me your phone? I want to play a game."

"Okay." Violet gave him her phone without a second thought.

Liam sat opposite her and turned the phone horizontal to make it look like he was playing games.

In fact, he was checking on the chat history Violet had with the secret contact.

He widened his eyes and read through all the contents of the chat.

After he went through all the messages, his hands trembled a little. He was certain that this secret contact was his mother.

His mother had told Violet to check on their emotions for the day, and if she noticed anything out of the blue, she was to inform her right away.

Besides that, he even saw in their previous chat history that his mother had told Violet to look for her in Lush Heaven.

'So, Mommy is in Lush Heaven?'

Violet then suddenly said, "Liam, hold the phone further away.

Your eyes will be strained if you're too close."

Liam subtly closed the chat window and continued playing his game.

At night, the brother and sister slept beside Madam Carter.

Odell came in and carried them back to the room where Sylvia used to stay. They had been sleeping in this room for some time now, and it felt just like they had done so many nights ago.

He took their jackets and shoes off before tucking them under the sheets.

The moment Odell went out, Liam opened his eyes. He shook his sister's arm to wake her.

Isabel opened herblurry eyes and asked, "What is it?"

Liam said in a small voice, "Sis, I know where Mommy is."

Isabel widened her eyes in surprise. "Really?"

Liam protruded his lips and said, "Cross my heart."

"Then, let's go find Mommy!" Isabel got so excited that she tried to climb out of bed.

Liam pulled her back and whispered, "Don't be reckless. Mommy is in a secret place, so we cannot expose her. We must first come up with a secret plan, and we mustn't let other people know, not even Aunt Tonya."

He could tell from Violet's chat history that his mother did not want anyone to locate her at the moment, so they had to act in secret.

Isabel hummed a reply, pleased that she could finally see her mother.

The two of them hid under the sheets and devised a plan to reunite with their mother.

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Odell was in the other room and had no idea that his children were plotting to locate their mother.

He stood in front of the balcony with the windows opened. The night breeze blew against his towering figure.

He was leaning against the wall with a cigarette in his mouth while toying with a wooden tortoise in his hand. The wooden tortoise's edges had been filed down by the repeated caresses, but the words carved on its stomach was still visible.

As he stared at the little tortoise with a deep gaze, his mind uncontrollably played the scenes of that woman.

Her arrogance, the injustice to her, and the blank expression that she wore...everything was being replayed in his mind. From the moment he confirmed his feelings for her to the moment she jumped into the lake, every expression on her face flashed in his mind.

He still failed to understand why would the woman, being the shameless person who cared a lot about the kids, would have jumped into the lake.

If he could start over, he would not have broken her leg anymore. As long as she acknowledged her mistake and promised to live a peaceful life with him, he could forget about her affair with Edmund and even his grandmother's incident.

All of a sudden, a strong gust blew.

It blew the cloud of smoke away and cleared his vision together with his thoughts.

It had been four months, four whole months since she had fallen into the lake.

If she were alive, she would have come back for the kids, but she was nowhere to be found. There was not even a trace that she was alive.

'Is she really dead?'

After that, he tossed the cigarette butt on the ground and uncorked the whiskey on the table. He swigged straight from the bottle instead of pouring it into a glass.

The next day, Isabel and Liam got up as usual, but no matter what Aunt Tonya and Sebastian said, they refused to eat. They simply grabbed a few bites and that was it.

Aunt Tonya even tried to coax them with their favorite snacks, but it was useless. Not only Liam, but even the gluttonous Isabel also refused to look at the snacks.

In the afternoon, Sebastian told the kitchen to prepare their favorite food and they still refused to eat.

Aunt Tonya asked, "Isabel, Liam, are you two feeling alright?"

Isabel pouted. "Here. This hurts."

She pointed at her chest.

Aunt Tonya helplessly turned to Sebastian, requesting help.

Sebastian then pulled his phone out and called Odell.

Then, Liam suddenly said, "We want to go out."

Sebastian held the call and said, "You want to go out and play?"

Aunt Tonya was intrigued too.

Isabel then said, "We want to go to Aunt Sherry's place."

"Who's Aunt Sherry?" Sebastian asked.

Aunt Tonya said, "Sherry is Sylvia's best friend."

"Then, let's contact her immediately," Sebastian said.

"Okay, I'll give her a call."

Aunt Tonya just happened to have Sherry's contact, so she made the call. Meanwhile, Isabel and Liam stood side by side and stared at Aunt Tonya with an intrigued gaze.

Half an hour later, Sherry drove a fancy pink car to the house.

"Isabel, Liam, my babies! I'm here!" Sherry strode into the living room.

Liam and Isabel exchanged a quick glance before they ran towards Sherry.

Liam politely greeted, "Aunt Sherry."

Isabel said, "Aunt Sherry, you look so beautiful today!"

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Isabel and Liam's cuteness was Sherry's weakness, so she lowered herself to their eye level to hug and kiss them. She left a ton of kiss marks on their puffy cheeks before releasing them.

Liam might not be a fan of intimacy, but for the sake of his mother, he tolerated being ravaged.

Isabel was fine with the kisses and hugs, and the thought of her mother made her return a kiss on Sherry's cheeks.

The returned kiss almost melted Sherry's heart. She smiled and hugged the two of them, and asked, "Where do you two want to go today? I'll bring you anywhere you want!"

Isabel looked at Liam expectantly.

Liam said, "We want to eat hotpot!"

"Let's go then! I'll bring you two to the best hotpot shop in town!"

Sherry held their hands and wanted to leave the house, but Aunt Tonya wanted to follow them.

Liam turned to Aunt Tonya and said, "Aunt Tonya, why don't you take a rest today? You don't need to accompany us."

Sherry also said, "Yeah, Aunt Tonya, don't worry. I'll send them home before dark."

"Okay, but I'll send Ben to watch over them." Sylvia was already gone, and even though Aunt Tonya knew that Sherry was Sylvia's best friend, she still had her concerns.

Sherry nodded. "Okay."

Liam pouted but did not say anything. Ben then followed the three of them.

Sherry brought the two little rascals to a famous hotpot shop and asked for a private room.

Isabel and Liam were free to order whatever they liked.

Isabel had skipped two meals for this, and her stomach was growling, so she spared the courtesy and ordered everything she and her brother liked.

Soon, a boiling pot was served together with the ingredients they ordered.

Sherry and Isabel enjoyed the meal, and even Liam ate quite a bit.

After the satisfying meal, Sherry asked, "Do you guys want to go to an amusement park?"

Isabel shook her head and said, "We don't want to go anywhere else. We just want to be with you, Aunt Sherry."

Sherry was a little surprised. She appreciated their enthusiasm, but it was too much to handle at times.

Liam then said, "Aunt Sherry, you are like our Mommy. We can almost smell her scent on you."

Sherry was taken aback.

Sylvia's scent? Indeed, she had been spending a lot of time with Sylvia lately, so could she have accidentally picked up Sylvia's scent?

Just as she tried to gather her thoughts, Isabel jumped into her arms and hugged her. She said meekly, "Aunt Sherry, we just want to be with you. We promise we won't be naughty, so please let us stay with you."

Sherry's heart was almost melted by the girl's meek voice. She hugged the girl and said, "Isabel, even if you are naughty, Aunt Sherry will never leave you."

"Then, can you bring us along with you?" Isabel widened her googly eyes.

Sherry answered without a second thought, "Of course! Of course, you can! I'll give my life away to make sure you two are with me!"

After that, she brought the kids out of the hotpot shop.

The two of them refused to go to the amusement park and chose to stay by her side quietly instead. They were obedient and quiet kids, and Sherry wished she could give them all her love.

After they got into the car, before Sherry could think of a place to bring them, Isabel fell asleep on her lap. Liam was also dozing off by her side.

A quick thought later, Sherry said, "Ben, can you bring us to Lush Heaven?"

Ben knew it was a nightclub, so he voiced his concerns, "Ms. Fowler, you're bringing Isabel and Liam to a nightclub?"

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"Isabel and Liam just want to be with me, and I have a lounge for them to rest there. There's no one there at this hour, so it's quiet. Don't worry about it."

Sherry simply wanted Sylvia to have a peek at them while they were asleep so that she would feel a little better.

Ben was forced to comply since the two little rascals clung to her. He hummed a reply and drove the car to Lush Heaven.

Twenty minutes later, the car arrived at Lush Heaven's entrance.

Both Isabel and Liam were fast asleep. Sherry told Ben to carry Liam while she carried Isabel down from the car.

They went up to the first room on the second floor. Sherry knocked on the door before she opened it. The room was actually a spacious and well-lit bedroom.

Both Sherry and Ben then placed the two little rascals on the bed.

Sherry said, "Ben, you can go out now. I'll accompany them."

Ben had a glance at the two sleeping children and said, "Okay."

After he went out, Sherry locked the door. She looked around to make sure there was no one else around. She then turned to the bathroom and called out, "Sylvia, the coast is clear!"

Sylvia had been hiding behind the bathroom curtain. She came out and saw her kids who she had not seen for four months.

Immediately, her hands trembled emotionally.

Sherry nudged her and said, "Go on. They are asleep."

Sylvia went to the bed and caressed their puffy cheeks before she gave each of them a kiss. Just when she wanted to stand up, she felt a tug on her shirt.

She turned around and saw Isabel's hand grabbing her shirt.

Sylvia tried to remove Isabel's hand, but as soon as she pulled the girl's fingers off, the girl grabbed her shirt once more.

Sylvia stared at the girl's puffy face. Both her lips and even her eyes were tightly shut.

Sylvia's expression shifted. She removed the girl's hand and stood up.

In the next second, the girl bolted up and hugged her at the back of her neck. The girl squeezed her as though she was afraid that her mother would abandon her. She even cried, "Mommy, please don't go!"

Sylvia pinched her puffy cheeks and wore a helpless smile. "You are still pretending to be asleep?"

Isabel immediately opened her eyes to stare at her mother. She had not been sleeping from the start.

Liam realized they were exposed, so he also opened his eyes and sat up.

Sherry was surprised to find the two little rascals awake. She came over and asked, "You guys aren't asleep?"

Isabel giggled. "We faked it."

Sherry was baffled. She looked at Liam, but he was calmly staring at Sylvia.

Sylvia then sat down in between them and hugged both of them in her arms. She asked, "Did you two ask Sherry to bring you here?"

Isabel looked at Liam who hummed a reply.

Sherry was still baffled about what was going on.

Isabel then said, "Bro found out from Violet's phone that Violet was chatting with Mommy, and he suspected that Mommy is here, so we thought of asking you to bring us here."

Sherry finally understood what happened. The two of them had used her and the excuse of getting hotpot to locate their mother.

However, looking at their adorable expressions, Sherry pinched the two of them on their faces. "You two little rascals!"

They were two four-year-olds, yet they managed to string her along!

Isabel giggled silly.

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Sherry could not help but giggle at the girl. She was not mad at the kids at all.

"I'm sorry, SyL." She looked at Sylvia apologetically. She had promised Sylvia to keep her existence a secret and shut off all possible news that might lead to her discovery.

Sylvia smiled. "It's alright. It's not your fault."

She would never have thought that Liam would be smart enough to search Violet's chat history with her and even devise a plan to use Sherry to bring them to her.

The two little rascals were not at all guilty even after their schemes were exposed. They even clung to Sylvia tighter than ever.

Isabel curled her tiny arms around her mother's neck and nuzzled against her cheeks.

Liam also sat closer to his mother. His big eyes also showed an obvious sense of delight.

Sherry pinched the kids' cheeks once more before she left them with their mother.

After nuzzling their mother for a while, Isabel asked, "Mommy, why are you hiding here?"

Sylvia furrowed her brows and said in a small voice, "Mommy got into some trouble, and I have to handle all of them before I can go back to you guys."

"But the people outside said you are dead, and so did Aunt Tonya and Uncle Sebastian. That ugly woman wants to marry big meanie and she visits Great-grandma frequently. She even cooked for me and Bro but we are too smart to fall into her trap."

Her tiny mouth was ceaseless when she mentioned Tara.

Sylvia could not help but giggle at the girl's enthusiasm. "Isabel and Liam, you are the smartest."

Isabel giggled shyly when hearing the praise.

Liam then asked, "Mommy, Daddy said you fell into the lake. Why did you fall into the lake?"

He looked up at his mother and stared at her with a curious gaze.

Sylvia's gaze shifted. "I accidentally fell into the lake."

She was not trying to defend Tara, but she did not want her kids to know how malicious a person could be at such a young age. If she revealed the truth, she might traumatize their growing minds.

Liam pouted and stopped with his question.

Isabel then took over and continued, "Mommy, how long more are you going to stay here for?"

"Soon. When I handle everything, I 'll go back to you guys." A quick thought later, Sylvia continued, "But before I return, please keep this a secret. Promise me, don't let anyone else know I'm here.

Okay?"

The two little rascals chorused in the same voice, "Okay."

While they wore a determined look on their puffy faces, Sylvia wore a gratified smile.

Later that evening, Odell returned home earlier than usual.

He brought Isabel and Liam's favorite snacks home, but when he entered the living room, he only saw Aunt Tonya and Sebastian. The two little rascals were nowhere to be found.

"Where are Isabel and Liam?" he asked.

Sebastian answered, "Isabel and Liam went out with Ms. Fowler, Sherry Fowler."

"Sherry Fowler?"

"Yeah. Maybe they just want to go out and have some fun. Since they remembered Ms. Fowler, Tonya called her in the afternoon, and Ms. Fowler happily brought them out."

Odell had a glance at his watch. It was almost 6 p.m.

"Did no one follow them?"

"Ben went out with them."

Odell pulled his phone out and called Ben. The call got through right away.

"Are Isabel and Liam coming home now?" he asked.

Ben answered in a small voice, "Isabel and Liam are still with Ms. Fowler."

"Where are they?"

Ben stuttered, "T-They are at Lush Heaven and I think they are still sleeping."

Odell's expression turned grim. "Keep an eye on them. I'm coming over."

"Yes, sir!"

Odell put his phone away and stormed out of the door.

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Back at Lush Heaven, Sylvia was in the room with her kids who were still clinging to her.

Sylvia talked to them about their lives, how things had changed and how they were adapting.

Liam barely spoke as Isabel did all the talking.

Isabel talked about how much she missed her mother, how she accompanied her great-grandmother with her brother every night, and even the things she encountered at kindergarten.

Sylvia simply listened to her blabbering until Sherry's phone rang.

After she answered the call, she turned to Sylvia with a horrified look "Syl! My security told me Odell is coming!"

Sylvia's gaze shrunk She immediately turned to her kids and said, "Isabel, Liam, I cannot let your Daddy find me. Remember what I said. I'll find you after I've handled everything. Remember!"

Liam hummed a reply and Isabel pouted. "Mommy, please come back soon!"

"I will." Sylvia kissed both of them on the cheeks and ran towards the window.

The bedroom had no place for her to hide except in the bathroom, and there was only one shower curtain inside. One could easily spot her through the translucent shower curtain.

She could not afford to let Odell find her now, so she climbed out of the window immediately.

Sherry went over to the kids and sat down beside them. "Isabel, Liam, pretend to be asleep!"

The two of them responded swiftly and lay back down on the bed with their eyes closed.

Then, knocks came from the door.

It was Ben. "Ms. Fowler, Master Carter is here for the kids."

"Oh, okay!" Sherry ruffled her hair to make it look like she had just woken up from a nap before she opened the door.

Odell was right in front of the door.

Sherry had a glance at him before she stepped aside and let him in.

He strode all the way to the bed and carried Isabel in his arms. He glanced at Ben and signaled him to carry Liam, so Ben did as he was signaled.

The room looked cozy and quiet and there was no sign of anything inappropriate.

Odell's frosty expression softened a bit. Before he left, he had a glance at Sherry and said, "Thank you for accompanying them for the day."

Sherry grunted. "You don't need to thank me. I'm doing this for Syl."

Odell kept quiet and left with Isabel in his arms. Ben also carried Liam and followed his boss outside.

It was time for Lush Heaven to start its business for the day.

The crowd remained tame for now, but the staff was gathered in front of the changing room.

The changing room was located next to the bedroom where Isabel and Liam were supposedly sleeping.

Sylvia snuck into the changing room through the window and hid behind the door while having a peek outside through the seam. She saw the man's towering figure leave with Ben behind him. Both of them were carrying Isabel and Liam respectively.

Just when they were about to walk down the stairs, one of the dancers outside the room opened the door.

Bang!

The door was slammed into Sylvia's nose, causing her to squeal in pain.

The dancer immediately apologized. "Oh my gosh! I'm so sorry! Are you okay?"

Before Sylvia could reply, she sensed a familiar gaze aimed in her direction.

Odell, who was about to go down the stairs, heard her squeal. He backed up a few steps and shot his sharp gaze at the changing room.

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Sylvia quickly turned around.

Odell furrowed his brows and then strode towards the changing room.

Sylvia could already hear his footsteps approaching. Her pained squeal must have caught his attention.

The changing room was not as spacious as the bedroom, and if he barged in, he would definitely spot her. There was no time for her to think of a delicate plan, so she dashed out of the changing room and ran towards the toilet on the other end.

Odell was shocked to see the familiar figure run past him. He immediately hastened his steps and went after her.

Before Sylvia could step into the toilet, a strong hand caught her by the shoulder.

Sylvia froze.

It was at that moment that Isabel released a sudden scream.

Sylvia seized the chance and slipped into the toilet.

Odell's expression shifted. He wanted to chase after the woman, but Isabel started to punch him.

"Big meanie, why are you holding me? Put me down!"

Odell furrowed his brows. "Be quiet."

"Put me down and I'll be quiet!" Isabel continued punching him.

Odell had a glance at Ben, who also followed him to the toilet, and ordered, "Watch her."

He put Isabel down on the floor and stepped into the female toilet.

"Big meanie, why are you going into the female toilet!?" Isabel bawled and wanted to chase after him but Ben held her back. She frowned and wore a worried look.

'Is the big meanie going to catch Mommy?'

Odell's appearance in the female toilet caused the girls inside to scream. Nonetheless, he ignored everyone and went inside. He soon stood before a row of tightly shut toilet stalls and waited for the users to come out.

A while later, all the toilet users came out from their respective stalls except for the last one.

He went over to the last stall and knocked on the door, but there was no response.

He narrowed his eyes and said, "Sylvia, I know it's you. If you don't come out, I'll come in."

There was still no response after a few seconds, so he put his hand on the handle. Before he pushed the door open, the door opened from the inside.

A coquettish woman dressed in a revealing outfit appeared before his eyes. The woman furiously bellowed, "What the fuck is wrong with you? Can't a person take a shit in peace?!"

Odell was stunned.

The woman looked exactly like the person that he saw outside earlier. Be it the hairstyle or the jacket that she wore, they were an exact copy. Had he mistaken someone else for Sylvia?

The woman screamed, "You fucking pervert! Get the fuck out of my face or I'll call the cops!"

Odell's face fell and he left the female toilet.

After the left, the woman sighed a breath and closed the door, behind which Sylvia was actually hiding.

The woman smiled at Sylvia and declared, "Sylvia, he's gone."

"Thank you, Sammy," Sylvia said with a smile.

"It's okay. I got you, girl. I have to go back to work." The girl, Sammy, then took off the jacket and wanted to return it to Sylvia.

Sylvia immediately said, "Wait. Take it. I'm afraid that he will be back."

"Okay. I'll go out first." Sammy then wore Sylvia's jacket out of the toilet.

Sylvia sighed a breath of relief.

Sammy was a part-time dancer at Lush Heaven and was Sherry's most trusted employee. Sylvia had been hiding in Lush Heaven for a few months now and had gotten closer to Sammy.

It was fortunate that she ran into Sammy in the toilet, or else Odell would have caught her.

After leaving the toilet, Odell carried Isabel into his arms.