

Master odells 521

Chapter 521

It was a tug-of-war competition between all the participating families. Since there were exactly six groups of families at the scene, it would be played out in an elimination format. Each family would draw lots to see who they would be matched up against, and the winners of each matchup would advance to the next round. This meant it would be a best-of-six, then a best-of-three before moving onto the grand final.

The winners would get a mermaid doll. The mermaid dolls were being displayed on a table. Each doll had been delicately made, depicting a chubby and adorable little mermaid. Most of the fathers in the participating families were large and burly men. Sylvia had been separated from Odell while accompanying Isabel and Liam as they went around the area.

This meant it was just the three of them at the moment.

There was a chance they would not even get past the first round. Since Isabel was very eager about the competition, Sylvia did not want to ruin the occasion for her, so she let her go ahead and draw a lot.

The lucky number they got was six.

They were matched up against a family of four, which consisted of a large and stocky father, along with the mother and two plump boys.

When the two plump boys saw that their opponents were Isabel and Liam, they chuckled at the sight of the two little pipsqueaks, as if they had already won the round before it even began. Isabel scoffed and made a face, "You better watch out, we're not afraid of you!"

At this point, the two plump boys were laughing so hard that they had practically doubled over from laughter. Even their parents began snickering when they saw the comical scene of the tiny Isabel taunting them. Sylvia grimaced quietly. Liam wore the same look as his mother. There was no way to back down unless they were to give up entirely. Sylvia stood behind Isabel and Liam and picked up the rope with them. Their opponents, a family of four, also picked up the rope.

Seeing how obviously outmatched they were, the father of the family gave a wry smile and said, "Miss, let me apologize beforehand."

Sylvia felt something catch in her throat but kept quiet. Shortly after, the referee stood at the middle point and announced, "Begin!" Sylvia immediately yanked the rope with all the strength in her.

However, their opponents were significantly stronger than them. Even though she had already exerted all her strength, they were still being tugged towards the other direction. Forget about offense, they could hardly play on the defense.

Just when it looked like their feet were about to cross the middle point, the rope suddenly jerked from behind and stopped. Sylvia felt a powerful pull on their side, the sheer force of this pull was so overwhelming that within seconds, they had gained ground over the other team again. Sylvia was bewildered. Moments after that, she heard the low, masculine voice of Odell from behind her, "Don't zone out, just pull." Sylvia suppressed the restless feeling in her chest and tugged as hard as she could.

In no time, they managed to pull the rope all the way back. The two boys on the opposite team lost their balance and tumbled onto the ground, losing control of the rope. The referee raised a hand and announced ceremoniously, "Congratulations, you are the winners."

"Yay!" Isabel jumped for joy and stuck her tongue out at the two fat boys who had made fun of her.

Sylvia smiled and turned to Odell.

He was standing behind her, staring at her quietly. Sylvia was perplexed and asked, "Why are you here?" He answered coolly, "You'd have lost if I hadn't come." Sylvia's lips pursed Odell raised his hand and patted her head, "Come on, it's time for the next round."

Seeing as he had been the main contributor to their victory, Sylvia knew better than to get upset about him patting her head and answered with a brisk "Sure".

The family they were matched against in the second round was also a family of four, only this time the entire family looked like they were all into fitness and gym, which was evident by their fit and muscular build. One of the kids was nearly as tall as Sylvia.

The parents almost fell in love with Isabel and Liam at first sight, their eyes glowed up when they saw how adorable they were.

The mother said to Isabel, "What a lovely girl, I don't have the heart to defeat you guys!"

Isabel immediately turned her nose at her and boasted, "Hmph, we won't know who wins or loses before the game starts. You guys better be careful, we won't go easy on you!"

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"Hahaha..."

They began laughing heartily upon seeing Isabel's confident taunts. Part of it was because they were charmed by how cute she was, but their laughter was also mixed with some ridicule.

That was no surprise, considering how Isabel and Liam were a pair of four-year-olds, while both Sylvia and Odell looked fairly skinny.

One thing they had to admit was that this was a rather good-looking family. Isabel was so angered by this that she turned around and cried out to Sylvia and Odell, "Mummy, Baddie, we have to show them what we're capable of!"

Sylvia answered meekly, lacking the confidence to back up Isabel's talk, "Okay."

Odell smirked, "Got it." Shortly after that, upon the referee's signal, they all picked up the rope.

Then, the whistle sounded.

The rope was jerked into a straight line in an instant.

Although Sylvia was not very confident about their chances this round, she gave it her all for Isabel's sake.

Within seconds, she felt the rope being tugged in their direction as they all took several steps backward, drawn by the momentum of their pull.

The referee blew the whistle and raised a hand to declare the winners.

Sylvia was baffled. Isabel jumped up and down enthusiastically, "Yay, Mommy, Baddie, you two are so strong!" Sylvia chuckled dryly, before hearing Odell chuckle the same way she had from behind her. She could not quite put her finger into it, but she could make out what seemed to be a sarcastic element in Odell's dry chuckle. It must be because she had contributed next to nothing, it was mostly thanks to his strength that they managed to win. She turned to look at him.

Odell smiled and stroked her head, "Come on, let's go to the next round."

After saying that, he went to the other side of the field.

Sylvia frowned and walked over to him with Isabel and Liam. Their final opponent was also a family of four, but they seemed on the thinner side compared to their first two opponents. The children were not particularly large either.

However, they knew better than to judge a book by its cover. Their last two opponents had seemed very strong but what had been the outcome? They had managed to defeat them.

Sylvia composed herself for the finals. The moment the whistle sounded, they yanked at the rope with all their strength, nearly causing their opponents to tumble to the ground and drag their bodies against the grass.

Needless to say, they won first place.

Isabel jumped in celebration,

Odell caught her in his arms and carried her to the podium. Isabel happily claimed the mermaid doll and wrapped her arms around them.

The sun was setting by now, and their side of the mountain was basked underneath the evening glow.

Isabel sat in Odell's arms, still holding the mermaid doll with a wide grin on her face. With a satisfied smile on his face, Odell turned to look in Sylvia's direction. The afterglow of the setting sun cast on his handsome face and suddenly filled Sylvia with an unnerving, dizzy feeling.

She immediately looked away. Odell approached her with Isabel in his arms.

Isabel showed her the doll, "Mommy, look Isn't this doll pretty?"

Sylvia looked at the doll and said to her with a smile, "It's beautiful."

Isabel chuckled.

"There's a hot spring and restaurant combo over there, let's go get some rest at the hot spring, then we'll eat dinner," said Odell, making the decision for them,

Before Sylvia could offer any opinion, Isabel held up the doll in her hand and announced, "Okay! I'm going to the hot spring in my mermaid dress!" Sylvia had no choice but to take Liam and follow both father and daughter.

When they arrived at the hot spring, they were attended to by the staff members.

They were taken to a separate section of the yard.

There was a large hot spring that had steam rising atop its surface.

The water was clean and slowed like a steady stream.

The staff promptly left after taking them here.

Sylvia took Isabel to the women's locker room while Odell took Liam to the men's locker room.

Both father and son were wearing black bathrobes with belts over their very similar, lean figures.

Sylvia wore a white bathrobe with a belt tied around her waist, while Isabel wore a red dress that they had just bought, with frills that had been stitched like the fins of a mermaid.

The dress was not very tight-fitting but was wrapped comfortably around her chubby little body.

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Upon wearing the dress, Isabel now looked like a chubby little mermaid.

After coming out of the locker room, Isabel ran over to Liam and immediately began to ask, "Brother, how do I look?"

Liam stroked the hair of her head and complimented her in a very polite manner, "You look good."

"Hey, let's go to the hot spring then." The two of them slowly lowered themselves into the hot spring, holding hands the entire time. Sylvia followed after them. When she walked past Odell, she suddenly found her arm being tugged by him. Sylvia immediately pulled her arm back and scowled at him.

He cautioned softly, "Careful, it's slippery. Be careful when you go down and make sure you don't fall."

Sylvia ignored him.

She was not an idiot nor was she blind, of course she could tell that it was slippery.

She went to the edge of the hot spring. Just as she nervously raised her right foot and prepared to step in, her left foot suddenly slipped on the surface of the slippery tiles.

There was no time for her to react and she instantly tumbled into the hot spring.

The hot water immediately submerged her and the dramatic temperature change almost made her lose consciousness.

She tossed and turned in the water, searching for a way out. Suddenly, she felt a hand firmly placed around her waist and with a gentle tug, she found herself being lifted out of the water in an instant.

She immediately gasped for air. Then, she saw his handsome face only inches away from her.

There was a hint of a seductive and teasing smile lurking in the corner of his eyes,

She was immediately overcome by a wave of embarrassment and shoved him away from her, feeling infuriated.

He let go of her and stepped back. He cautioned again, "Be careful."

She ignored him.

That was when Liam and Isabel approached them. The first thing Isabel did was to ask, "Mom, did you hurt yourself?"

Liam only fixed a wide-eyed stare at her.

Sylvia gently touched the top of their heads and assured them with a smile, "Mommy is fine. I accidentally slipped but it didn't hurt."

She avoided looking at Odell who was just standing next to her. Then she went to the other side of the hot spring where she leaned against the wall and basked in the warm temperature of the hot spring.

Liam followed her.

Isabel was wading around in the water like a little plump fish.

One moment, she would drift near Sylvia, then she would suddenly switch course and go to Odell's side in the next.

They stayed in the hot spring for a long time. The heat of the hot spring was perfect for relieving the built-up fatigue from all the activities throughout the day. Soon, Sylvia noticed that even the pent-up anger inside her had slowly deflated.

After some time had passed, she heard Odell's low-pitched voice from behind, "Come on up, it's time for dinner."

Sylvia opened her eyes.

Odell had already gotten out of the hot spring, he was holding the little plump and exhausted mermaid, Isabel, in his arms.

Her vision slowly regained focus and she merely hummed in reply before stepping out of the hot spring with Liam.

After getting changed, they went to the restaurant outside for dinner.

Halfway through the meal, Isabel fell asleep in her chair.

Liam was beginning to drift off to sleep as well and was fully asleep by the time he was finished with his meal.

Sylvia put down the cutlery and took him into her arms. Odell also took the sleepy Isabel into his arms. He looked at her, "Shall we go home now?" She replied, "Let's."

The kids were asleep, so there was no point in staying here. Moreover, the three days she had given Odell were now up.

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An hour later, they returned to Odell's house.

Just like the previous two nights, Odell dressed Isabel and Liam in their pajamas all by himself, then he put them into the bed and covered them with a quilt.

The room was quiet

After he was done, he turned to look at Sylvia with a deep look in his eyes.

Sylvia looked back at him.

Seeing that he was looking at her, she suddenly blurted out, "Your three days are up, have you made up your mind yet?"

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Sylvia's figure was reflected in Odell's obsidian eyes. He studied her for a few seconds before suggesting, "Let's talk outside." "Alright." With Isabel and Liam sleeping in here, this was not an ideal location to discuss their divorce. They went to the balcony of the next bedroom. There was a table and chairs on the balcony. Several bottles of beer and a box of cigarettes could be seen on the table.

Sylvia sat across from Odell.

He picked up a bottle of beer and offered, "Would you like a drink?"

Sylvia was not a fan of liquor. More importantly, she was not in the mood to share a drink with him so she turned down the offer, "I don't drink."

Without saying anything, Odell reached for a bottle of beer and poured it into a glass. Then, he leaned back in his chair, picked up the glass of beer, and drank cheerfully and casually

All the while, he did not speak

Sylvia could not stand it anymore and repeated the question, "Odell, it's been three days, have you made up your mind?"

Odell looked at the impatient look on her face and saw the look of determination that showed how much she wanted the divorce. Pursing his lips, he said, "Send me another copy of the divorce settlement agreement. I've been busy these days, and I haven't had time to read it."

Sylvia took a deep breath and swallowed the urge to give him a scolding, before taking her phone out to send him another copy. Very slowly, perhaps even gracefully, Odell reached for his phone.

Sylvia watched his movements closely. She saw him lazily opening the messages application and scrolled to her contact. Something that would have only taken a second or two, now took him up to ten seconds to accomplish

He continued to sip on his drink as he read.

She took another breath, folded her forearms, and rested them on the table as she sat with her back straight while aiming a penetrating stare at him.

There were only three pages to the divorce agreement and was no more than two thousand words long. The font was considerably large which made it easy to read as well. It could be read in two minutes, yet even after ten minutes had passed, he was still reading it. Her patience was reaching its limit so she asked, "Odell, have you finished it yet?"

"Not yet."

"How many more pages do you have to go?" "Two pages left." Sylvia, "...Can't you read faster?" Odell glanced at her and stated in a compassionate voice, "If you're in a hurry, you should get some sleep first. I'll give you an answer tomorrow morning." She stared at him in disbelief, "Are you doing this on purpose?" He frowned, "Doing what on purpose?" Sylvia drew a deep breath, then she rose and walked out. She went back to the children's bedroom and searched for her bag in one of the cabinets. After she found her bag, she took out a small leather satchel (rom inside the bag. Taking the leather satchel, she went back to Odell's room.

Odell was still sitting on the balcony. He had already put his phone back on the table, probably thinking that she was not returning. When she entered, he was still holding a glass of beer and gracefully drinking from it. She returned to her seat.

Something gleamed in Odell's eyes when he saw her. She looked at him and got straight to the point, "Odell, I know you don't want to get a divorce, and everything that you've done so far is an attempt to convince me to not divorce you." Odell grimaced and directed his attention to the leather satchel that she was holding. "What are you holding?" Sylvia opened the satchel and took out a stack of paper, which she set on top of the table in front of him.

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"Second, you are not allowed to take them out of Westchester without my permission. If they leave the city without my explicit permission, I will reclaim full custody of them."

Deal."

"And third," he peered into her eyes, and announced solemnly, "You can't remarry. If you remarry, I will reclaim full custody of them as well."

"Deal." Sylvia answered readily.

She had no plans to ever marry again.

Seeing that he was done with his terms, Sylvia said, "If you have no other requests, I'll be taking my leave now."

"Hmm." He remained in his seat, a dark shadow enveloped him.

Without staying a moment longer than necessary, Sylvia turned and left.

In the morning

Aunt Tonya knocked on the door at the same time as usual.

Sylvia opened her eyes.

Liam was awake and already dressed himself. Sylvia woke Isabel who was lying on top of her. Just like the previous mornings, she took them to the living room after they had washed up and gotten dressed.

Only Aunt Tonya and the butler were in the living room. Odell was nowhere to be seen. She thought about their conversation concerning the divorce, and turned to the butler with a stern frown, "Sebastian, do you know where Odell went?" The butler answered dutifully, "He left in the middle of the night last night. It seems that he had an urgent matter that he had to take care of."

"Alright." Sylvia did not press for more information. She ate breakfast with the kids and sent them to kindergarten.

After watching the two enter the kindergarten hand in hand, she turned around and took out her phone to call Odell.

It rang a few times before the call was finally picked up.

Sylvia was about to ask him where he had been, but he cut her off before she could get a word in, "Finalize the divorce settlement agreement and meet me at City Hall at three today afternoon."

"Okay." Sylvia responded in a cheerful voice. Then, she ended the call and drove to Sherry's.

Borrowing Sherry's computer, she added the three terms that Odell had proposed to the divorce settlement agreement. Then, she printed out three copies

Sherry observed Sylvia at work and felt like she had to ask, "Sylvia, don't you think his condition about you not marrying again is crossing the line a little?"

"He is willing to give me full custody of both Liam and Isabel. I don't think that's excessive at all."

Sylvia had never even imagined that he would give her custody of both children. Sherry frowned and asked, "But what if you meet a man that you like in the future?" "It won't happen." She was done with romantic relationships. It was too exhausting. Having Isabel and Liam by her side was all she needed.

At Carter Tower

Although the weather was considered rather pleasant, there was a cloud of fog, surrounding the tower

From the top floor of the tower to the basement, every single person that was employed at the Carter Tower scrupulously went about their duties. Not a single one of them dared to slack off at work

Meanwhile, in the office on the top floor. Odell had been working since he had arrived at the tower last night and ordered the lights to be turned on

Not only had he cleaned up the outstanding work that he had left from the previous days, but he had also gathered all the supervisors of each department for a meeting. They went over every single ongoing project in the company, during which two junior executives had even been fired in the process of the

meeting. At the moment, he was sitting in his usual leather chair. After he wrapped up the phone call, he took a break from work and stared absent-mindedly out the glass window, his mind drifting off somewhere else.

Knock knock

A steady knock sounded on the door.

Odell announced, "Come in."

The door was pushed open and Cliri appeared. "Master Carter, I found the Greenstein Hospital you were talking about,"

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Odell's attention perked up, "Go on."

Cliff began an elaborate brief, "The night the missus fell into the lake, she was admitted into this hospital. The doctor who operated on her was the best doctor employed in the hospital. According to the words of the doctor's assistant, the missus was indeed in critical condition when she was brought there. However, the injury in her leg was severe but not fatal. She had sustained major injuries all over her body because of the altitude that she fell from, which had also led to the miscarriage. They say that if she had been brought to the hospital even a moment later, she might very well have died."

The room was filled with a deathly silence

There was such a terrible look on Odell's face that anyone would be too intimidated to look at him.

Cliff barely dared to look at his face. He lowered his head and continued, "They don't know the name of the person who sent the missus to the hospital, they could only remember that it was a very handsome young man. After the missus was no longer in critical condition, he took her and transferred her to another hospital overnight. They left Westchester and went to a very reputable private hospital in Glanchester"

*Dig up every single piece of information that you can that has to do with her recovery timeline in Glanchester!"

"Yes!"

Cliff hurriedly walked out Odell's office was filled with silence yet again. He soberly shut his eyes, as every word that Cliff had uttered in his report continued to play in his mind. Grave injuries, broken leg, miscarriage, had nearly lost her life. It was no wonder that she hated him so much that she even wanted to see him dead. If they getting divorced could quell even a tiny ounce of her anger and resentment, then so be it.

After having lunch, Sylvia arrived at the entrance of City Hall close to 2 p.m. with the divorce settlement agreement and relevant documents in hand.

She texted Odell, "I'm here, what time are you coming?" Shortly after, her phone rang. She quickly answered the call and immediately heard his voice through the phone, "I'm right behind you"

Sylvia turned around immediately. He was standing less than two meters behind her. He was wearing a suit as usual and stood tall

as a totem pole

His charming looks drew the attention of several women who happened to be passing by and caused them to fawn over him

Pursing her lips, Sylvia asked, "Did you bring all your documents?"

"Yeah." He looked at her and asked, "Has the divorce settlement agreement been finalized?"

"Yeah" Sylvia said and took out the three printed copies of the divorce settlement agreement from her bag and handed them to him

Odell took it in his hands and quickly slipped through them.

He went through all three copies of the divorce settlement agreement

Sylvia asked, "Is everything alright?"

* Yeah."

"Then let's go in"

With that, Sylvia walked towards the entrance of City Hall

Odell frowned and went after her

The process was rather elaborate. First, they had to head to the counter for divorce applications, then hand over the documents and the signed divorce settlement agreement to the staff. After that, they had to wait for the staff to review the documents

The person at the counter was a middle-aged lady

Sylvia and Odell had only just sat down when they felt the lady's eyes sizing them up rapidly

She did not seem to be in any rush to review the documents, but instead asked them with an enquiring smile, "Are you two getting divorced willingly?"

Sylvia had already expected to hear questions along these lines. These veiled attempts at persuading them to not go through with the divorce were the same as when they had gone through their first divorce. She remembered how the staff had also tried to dissuade them from going through it. However, Odell had been very adamant about going through with it so she had stayed silent.

Since this was not her first time going through a divorce, she stated calmly, "We know what we're doing."

The clerk turned to Odell.

Odell was staring at Sylvia, he observed her indifferent expression and mumbled, "Yeah,"

The clerk suddenly commented with a flash in her eyes, "Oh, it looks like you guys were divorced once and then remarried again. What happened this time that made you want to go through the hassle of getting divorced again?"

"Nothing inuch" Sylvia was tired of these idle talks and stated nonchalantly, "The first divorce was la ause he cheated on me. It's the same this time" 1

wirl," "

The smile on the clerk's face was instantly wiped away. She darted a cross look at Odell and muttered, "You look like a fine man, why couldn't you just keep it in your pants?"

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Odell pursed his lips.

Sylvia continued to keep an indifferent look on her face.

The clerk went through their documents and asked Sylvia, "Miss, have you two divided your assets properly?"

"Yes, it's all written in the divorce settlement agreement."

"Very well." The clerk sighed and went through the procedures. Shortly after that, she set down two copies of the proof of divorce in front of Odell and Sylvia. Sylvia took her copy, thanked the clerk, and left. "Miss, wait a minute." The clerk suddenly called her. Sylvia stopped. The clerk glanced at Odell, who was still standing there, "Why are you still here?" Odell darted a look at Sylvia, then he grabbed the divorce papers and left. After he left, the clerk suddenly became much more friendly and conversational. She spoke to Sylvia with a gentle smile, "Miss, you are still young and very beautiful. You still have a whole life ahead of you. Don't be discouraged because of a man like him. I have faith that you will find a much better husband in the future!"

Her warm smile was infectious so Sylvia responded with a kind smile to her, "Thanks for your kind words, I will take good care of myself."

With that, she left.

The moment she stepped out of the city hall, she bumped into Odell who had the same dark and sullen expression on his face as always.

He had not left yet, and continued to look at her gloomily.

Now that they were divorced, Sylvia had no reason to fear him. She raised an eyebrow and questioned, "Odell, why are you looking at me like that?" She had not badmouthed him or anything like that. After all, it was true that he had cheated on her. She had already been generous enough to not bring up the fact that he had broken her leg. He suddenly took a step in front of her, cutting off her path with his large frame, "Are you going to look for another man?" Sylvia took a quick step back. She figured out that he must have overheard her conversation with the nice clerk back there. She answered, "I just told her that I wasn't planning to look for another man."

He narrowed his eyes as he continued to stare at her.

It was as if he wanted to peer into her mind.

She reassured him, "I will follow the terms laid out in the divorce settlement agreement, there is nothing for you to worry about, I won't be looking for a stepfather for Isabel and Liam." "You can be with a man again."

She was rather shocked by this.

He stared into her eyes, "However, that man can only be me."

Sylvia choked up and it was some time before she could even answer him. "Odell, the moment you broke my leg, it was over between us. I'll never look back, but I still wish you all the best in your life"

After her calm declaration, she turned and walked away.

Odell's figure stood in the same spot like a monument, clutching the divorce certificate tightly in his hand, nearly crushing the cover.

Without moving, he watched as Sylvia walked away without a second thought.

It was only until Sylvia drove away that he mustered up the strength to drag his feet to leave

Inside the parking lot, an expensive black car was parked near the entrance.

Upon noticing Odell, Cliff quickly stepped out of the car to open the door for him.

Odell entered the car.

Cliff did not dare to check on Odell's expression, but instead, immediately returned to the driver's seat

After starting the engine, he asked in a low voice, "Master Carter, shall I take you home?"

"Back to the office." Cliff did a double-take. He peered at Odell's face through the rearview mirror and answered dutifully, "Alright."

The black car drove out of the parking lot and headed towards the city. Meanwhile, there was an unassuming car parked on the corner of the parking lot. In the backseat of the car was a young man with a slender figure in a loose gray sweater.

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Beneath his fluffy bangs was a pair of sharp eyes which was closely following the black car that had just driven out of the parking lot.

There was a certain composure within his hazel eyes, mixed with the barest hint of a smile.

Sylvia drove to her new place.

After locking up the divorce certificate along with the divorce settlement agreement in a box, she tidied up the house before heading back to the kindergarten.

Shortly after she arrived, the school bell rang.

She stood outside the gate like the other parents.

A group of children happily ran outside Isabel and Liam were more composed than the other kids as they followed behind while holding hands.

Almost all of the children had already come out by the time they showed up. When they saw Sylvia, they quickened their pace. "Mommy!" Together, they ran over to her. Sylvia smiled and bent down to embrace them.

They threw a glance behind her. Noticing the absence of someone, Isabel pouted and asked, "Mommy, why didn't Baddie

come?"

Something changed in Sylvia's eyes for a split second before she answered, "Your father has something to attend to. Mommy will take you home." "Okay." Isabel muttered.

Liam kept quiet. Sylvia took their hands and walked out. She took them back to Odell's house. The butter and Aunt Tonya were in the house, but Odell was missing. Sylvia was not bothered by his absence. After playing with the children for a while, she had dinner with them.

After dinner, she took them back to their room.

'The divorce had already been finalized, and she had already bought a new place. She was not planning to stay here inuch longer.

The problem was that she could not let them know about the divorce.

They were children and they needed their parents to be by their side. After some consideration, she turned to Isabel whose attention was fixed on the television and Liam who was busy gaming, "Isabel, Liam, Mommy has something to tell you two." Liam promptly put the controller away upon hearing this and Isabel turned to her with rapt attention as well.

Sylvia smiled and announced the good news, "Mommy bought a house near your kindergarten and I'm planning to move you two there." Isabel asked curiously, "Why did you buy a house? Why are we moving there?" She explained, "Mommy will begin working in that area in a few days, it's a little inconvenient to get to work from here."

It was true, she would be teaching at the art academy soon.

Christopher had made the offer many times and upon receiving news that she was back, he had bombarded her with messages. The gist of it was that she would be a guest professor at the academy and would only be required to give two classes a week The pay would be very good as well. Furthermore, the art academy had already fired Tara. Word had it that Tara had committed a very serious mistake at work. As a result, many people had reported her over the past two days. The final decision by the academy had been to remove her. "What about Daddy, is he moving in with us too?" Liam suddenly asked. Sylvia turned to him without the slightest change of expression and said, "It's inconvenient for daddy to go to work from the new house, so he won't be moving in with us, but he will spare the time to come visit you two." Liam raised an eyebrow at this. His gut feeling told him that there was more to it than this. Isabel thought of Madam Carter and asked, "Mommy, will Great-grandma come with us?"

“Great-grandma needs to rest and will stay here where the professionals can take care of her.” After a pause, Sylvia added, “But if you visit Great-grandma, I will bring you here to see her whenever you want.”

“Alright.”

Isabel had no more questions to ask, so she turned her head and went back to watching cartoons.

Liam also lowered his head and grabbed his controller again. Sylvia breathed a sigh of relief.

Later that night, when the two had fallen asleep, Sylvia walked out of the room and looked for Aunt Tonya in Madam Carter’s room.

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Sylvia told Aunt Tonya about her divorce from Odell.

After she finished, Aunt Tonya stated, “I will support you whatever your final decision is.”

Sylvia smiled and informed her, “I’ve already bought a new place and everything has been set up. I’m planning to move in tomorrow.” Aunt Tonya was taken aback by this, “Are you in such a hurry? Have you talked to Isabel and Liam about it?”

“I have.”

“While you were away. Isabel and Liam began to grow rather attached to Odell,” Aunt Tonya muttered before asking, “How did you tell them?”

Sylvia answered truthfully, “I didn’t tell them about the divorce, I just told them that we’ll be moving to a new place that would make it easier for me to get to work and for them to go to their kindergarten.” “I see, I suppose that’s fine.”

It was getting late already Sylvia looked at the time and said, “Aunt Tonya, why don’t you get some rest? I’ll accompany Grandmother for a while.”

“Okay, I’ll go and pack my things.” Aunt Tonya got up and left. The room fell silent.

As Sylvia sat by the bed and looked at the old lady who was still sleeping, the look in her eyes softened.

She took Madam Carter’s arm and gently massaged her arm the same way she used to do when she had been imprisoned here by Odell. “Grandma, I just got divorced from Odell. Please don’t be angry or feel bad for me, we were just never meant to be together.”

None of this would have happened if she had never gotten together with him.

Whether it had been their first or second marriages, both had been an endless torment for her. Enough was enough. Even Madam Carter had ended up in a vegetative state. She and Odell were simply incompatible. Sylvia continued, “It’ll be a good thing for us to be apart. Don’t worry, he’s still Isabel and Liam’s father and I won’t stop him from visiting them. I’ll also bring them to visit you from time to time as well.”

She said softly Just on the other side of the door. Odell's tall figure was standing right in front of it. Through the wooden panel of the door, he had heard every word that Sylvia had said to

Madam Carter and he tightened his lips to a line.

After some time passed, his phone suddenly vibrated.

He turned around and walked to the end of the corridor before putting the phone to his ear, "What is it?"

Cliff's voice was trembling on the other end of the phone, "Master Carter, Miss Tara..." It took him a couple of seconds to structure his sentence properly before continuing. "She just cut her wrists. She tried to commit suicide." Odell's eyes were like a pool of still water, "Is she dead?" "No," Cliff informed, "She was found just in time and saved. She just called me and begged me to look for you. She wants to see you."

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Odell's eyes gleamed with ice, "No." "Alright."

"Wait.

Cliff prompted, "Sir, do you have any other orders?"

"There is no need to report her to the authorities any longer. Also, you no longer have to update me about how she's doing. I don't need to know whether she's dead or alive."

She must have had a breakdown and chosen suicide when she had been fired from the art academy and had her name taken down from the board of the art association.

This was what she deserved for what she had done to Sylvia.

He would not continue to prosecute her, seeing as he owed her for what she had done for him more than a decade ago on that fateful rainy night. However, he would have nothing to do with her from this point on.

Cliff answered dutifully, 'Understood, I'll make the arrangements.'

The next morning, after sending Isabel and Liam to kindergarten, Sylvia and Aunt Tonya packed their bags and moved into Sylvia's new place. The children's luggage was packed and taken there as well. After everything had been unpacked and tidied up, it was already evening. Aunt Tonya bought groceries and made dinner at home while Sylvia went to the kindergarten to pick up Isabel and Liam. The two of them still came out behind most of the other children. When they saw their mother, they smiled in unison.