

Master Odells 561

Chapter 561

"Mommy!" Isabel scuttled away from Aunt Tonya and ran toward her mother.

Sylvia carried the little girl in her arms and sat down beside the quiet little boy

She then smiled at Aunt Tonya. "Aunt Tonya, I'll take care of them. Why don't you go have some rest?"

Aunt Tonya rubbed her eyes tiredly. "Okay. you too." "Thank you."

Aunt Tonya then went out of the room.

Sylvia sat down on the bed with both of her children in her arms

The two little ones looked at her and the girl asked, "Mommy, why is your face red?"

Sylvia recalled Odell's forceful kiss and it made her blush even harder.

She gasped for air and forced a smile on her face. "Maybe it's the wind."

"Are you sick again?" Isabel then got up and put her tiny hand on Sylvia's forehead. Her soft and warm hand stroked the forehead for a few seconds before she retracted it. She could not tell if her mother was having a fever or not.

Sylvia smiled and stroked her head. "Don't worry, Mommy is fine" The little girl hummed a reply obediently Liam then asked, "Mommy, you're early today."

"The event ended early, so I came back."

Liam tilted his head and stared at her with his obsidian-like eyes. He was a four-year-old but his gaze felt like an adult. Sylvia nervously blinked a few times.

Liam pursed his lips and hummed a reply before he continued playing with his toy.

Sylvia sighed a breath of relief. She accompanied the two of them until they were sleepy. After she put them to bed, she got up and returned to her room.

Meanwhile, at Carter residence, Odell had been sitting beside Madam Carter's bed ever since he got home. A while later, the phone buzzed. He pulled it out and answered, "What did you find"

Hill's voice came through the phone. "I found out that the Second Master is teaching elective PIA classes in the Art Academy, but he didn't jol at the same time is Madam. He was amely there a month brlore Mariann joined"

Odell furrowed her brows. "Since when did the Art Academy provide elective piano courses?"

"I've checked on that as well. This elective course was introduced just last year and since Second Master is a musical genius from Liberty Music Academy, they had been wanting to invite him to teach at the academy."

"Does he have any other jobs in Westchester City other than this?" "So far we only found out that he's teaching at the Art Academy." Odell's gaze turned frosty. "What about his mother?" "She's still abroad."

The men we arranged there informed us that she has been living more or less the same routine daily and would only go out shopping once in a while.” The frostiness in Odell’s eyes softened a bit. He continued, “Continue to keep an eye out on her. Send someone to the Art Academy to watch Thomas as well. Starting from the next semester, I want to know every interaction he has with Sylvia.” “Yes, Sir. I’ll make the necessary arrangements.” The call ended. Odell pocketed his phone and stared out the window. Thomas was a few years younger than him. He was not exactly close with his brother but there was no conflicting interest as well. Even though Odell chased Thomas’ mother out of the company back then, there was still no argument between the brothers. However, as a widely recognized musical genius, why did he not pursue his musical career or even teach in a more prestigious institute such as the one he graduated from? Why would he come to Westchester City to be an elective course lecturer? He was teaching in the same place as Sylvia and joined the institute a month earlier than her.

The coincidence was uncanny.

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On the second morning, Sylvia was still fast asleep when she felt something heavy on her stomach. It felt like a soft rock falling on her.

She opened her eyes and saw Isabel giggling at her. “Mommy, the sun is up! Hurry up and wake up!”

“Isabel? Why are you awake at this hour?” Sylvia got up with a confused look. “The baddie is here. He said he’s taking us to some fun place today.” Isabel then looked outside the door.

Sylvia followed her gaze and saw Odell waiting outside the door. He was leaning on the frame with a sleepy Liam in his arm. He had been staring at her deeply when she was still asleep. Sylvia glared at him the moment she widened her sleepy eyes. He got in! Not only that, he came all the way to her room! Odell curled his lips. “I’m here to bring the kids out. Are you coming?”

Sylvia did not want to talk to him but she tended to be less frosty to him in front of the kids. “I have to attend some events at the Art Academy today. I don’t have the time.” Odell’s delight froze and shattered. Before he could say a word, Isabel pouted and bawled. “Mommy, why are you busy again? You don’t like to play with us anymore?”

Sylvia immediately pampered the girl and said, “Isabel, Mommy loves you and Liam the most. I wish I could play with you all day long but I have to attend an event at the academy. You and Liam can go play with Daddy. Be a good girl.” Isabel pouted her puffy face. “I want to play with Mommy, Liam, and the baddie!” Sylvia shot a troubled gaze at Odell and furrowed her brows, signaling him to calm the girl down.

Odell turned a blind eye to her. Not only did he ignore Sylvia, but he also started patting Liam.

Sylvia choked on the reaction she received.

Isabel was still throwing a tantrum in her arms. The girl nuzzled her head against her shoulder and pouted as if she was going to cry.

Sylvia knew the little girl well enough to know that the girl would not simply cry because of such a trivial matter. She was merely acting

However, the acting worked and Sylvia started to feel bad for the girl

She hugged the girl for a while and came up with an excuse. "Isabel, I've already promised I'd attend the event, so I can't just leave like that. If the event ends early, I'll go find you and Lian How about that?"

Isabel's pouty expression changed "Really?"

"Really," Sylvia said.

She had to attend the Art Academy's New Year event but even if the event ended early, she would probably not join her kids.

Isabel believed her and the pouty expression went away. "Mommy, then you must hurry up and go meet us later!"

Sylvia smiled. "I will."

The little girl jumped down and ran to Odell. Odell stood outside the door and shot a cold gaze at Sylvia.

Sylvia's expression turned frosty as she shot a strong gaze at him.

The little girl reached his side. Odell bent over and carried Isabel up with his idle arm. He had one last glance at Sylvia before he went away with the kids. Sylvia sighed a breath of relief. She got up and started to prepare for the event later.

The New Year event was held in a spacious hall. Christopher invited almost all the lecturers of the academy.

The event was filled with all kinds of activities and they were all quite interesting.

The event started at 10:00 a.m.

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Sylvia arrived at the event venue just on time and it was already crowded with people. She greeted the other lecturers she saw on the way as she went inside. Christopher found her soon enough and waved at her. "Sylvia, come on! We're preparing to bake our New Year's cake! They are all waiting for you!"

Sylvia went over with a smile.

The cakes were already baked, so all that was left was the decoration. There were colorful creams, icing, chocolate-made figures, and all kinds of intricate decorations for everyone to decorate their own cake. Almost everyone participated in the cake-decorating event. It was even livelier than the Springsteen family's event last night.

The liveliness spread swiftly and Sylvia soon found herself decorating the cake with several other lecturers.

One of the lecturers asked, "Ms. Ross, I heard you and Mr. Carter danced at the Springsteen family's ball last night." Her words directed almost all the attention toward Sylvia.

Sylvia's gaze shifted as she said calmly, "We were standing together and the spotlight just so happened to pick us, so we had to dance."

“Why do I think you and Mr. Carter are perfect for each other?”

“Yeah. Mr. Carter has a frosty personality and he doesn’t like to talk to us. Before you joined the academy, we invited him to many events but he never once showed up. It was after you joined, that he would attend events that you attend. Look, speaking of the devil, there he is!”

Sylvia furrowed her brows and saw Thomas standing with the other male lecturers on the other side.

His tall figure and outstanding presence stood out from the rest, making him easily recognizable.

When Sylvia looked at him, he too, looked at her. Sylvia slightly furrowed her brows and retracted her gaze. She continued decorating the cake and explained, “Our parents were good friends, and we knew each other since we were young, so we’re rather close.”

“Really!”

“Yeah ” Sylvia put an end to the topic with that last word

The other lecturers wanted to continue the gossip but Sylvia remained quiet throughout the Tolentirse questioning, so they all returned to the cake decorating

Alors Sylvia divorced Odell for the first time, she learned culinary skills from Auni Tonya and i granted les am o ur of food, be it necorating or cooking

The other lecturers were also creative in their decorations Half an hour later, everyone was done with their cakes. Sylvia and the lecturers sat down for a rest and snacked on the fruits provided. However, the other female lecturers were only interested in Thomas’ private life, so the topic eventually switched back to him. Two of them even had multiple glances at Sylvia.

The prying gaze started to make Sylvia feel uncomfortable, so she simply came up with an excuse and left the group.

She went over to the literature side of the event where some of the literature lecturers were reciting famous quotes from books. Sylvia listened to the recitation and got carried away. She did not even notice that a man was standing beside her. “Okay, everyone. Stop what you’re doing. It’s time to eat cakes!” It was until Christopher called out to everyone, only then Sylvia regained her composure. The moment she turned around, she saw Thomas standing beside her.

His hands were pocketed in his jacket and he was listening to the recitation until Sylvia turned around.

Sylvia smiled at him and wanted to go back to the cake section. It was then a chilly finger stroked the tip of her nose.

Chapter 564 Sylvia froze

Thomas stroked and wiped the tip of her nose and then smiled at her. “There’s icing on your nose.”

He smiled softly, as though he was a flower that bloomed in the spring after the snow melted away.

He looked a lot warmer than his usual frosty self.

Sylvia had a difficult time smiling or appreciating his kind gesture.

Thomas noticed her blank reaction, so he asked, "What's wrong?"

"N-Nothing. Let's go back, our cake is waiting," she stammered and nervously walked away, trying to draw distance from him. Thomas felt slightly disheartened, but he followed her nevertheless.

However, when he was at the table, he saw Sylvia got herself sandwiched between two female lecturers.

He paused for a moment and sat down opposite her.

The group soon gathered around the table.

A piece of cake, taken randomly from everyone's masterpiece, was served together with boxes of fruit juices. Christopher said with a smile, "Before we dig into our masterpiece, let's have a toast using the juice box!"

Sylvia raised the juice box along with everyone else but she met Thomas' gaze as soon as she looked up. The man was looking at her with a frosty gaze.

Sylvia's gaze turned evasive before she nervously looked away. After a sip of Juice, she started scooping the cake into her mouth. Thomas sat opposite her, eating his own plate of cake while watching her eat.

He felt disheartened when he noticed she showed no intention of looking at him.

The event continued after the cake-eating session but Sylvia lost interest to enjoy the other activities.

She tried her best to avoid Thomas' gaze at all times. She either squeezed herself into a group of female lecturers or stayed beside Christopher.

When it was time to play inint games and everyone way requested to have intiinate Interaction, she carne up with an excuse and escaped to the wasliroon.

She managed to make it until the end of the event.

fter Christopher announced the end of the event, Sylvia grabbed her coat and left from the nconspicuous side door, attempting to flee to the parking lot without being noticed. However, the moment she stepped out of the door, a person came in from the side and stood in front of her. The man stared into her eyes coldly. Sylvia awkwardly smiled and asked, "Thomas? What are you doing here?" "Why are you avoiding me?" Thomas went straight to the point with his question. Sylvia's gaze turned evasive. She said, "W-What? Since when am I avoiding you?" "From the cake-eating to the mini games, you have been avoiding me," he said as he continued to stare into her eyes, Sylvia gulped nervously. His eyes were crystal clear with a hint of resentment. He was like a boy whose candy was taken away from him.

Sylvia felt bad and guilty because of his gaze. A few seconds of awkward silence later, Sylvia helplessly said, "Thomas, I'm not avoiding you on purpose." "Then why?" "If we're too close, it will raise a lot of questions and garner unwanted attention. A lot of people think we're romantically involved." A quick pause later, she continued, "You're still young. You haven't even started dating. I cannot ruin it for you." He continued staring at her. "Are you telling the truth?" She avoided him because she was afraid to ruin

his future? Or had she noticed his feelings for her, hence the intentional avoiding? Sylvia blinked blankly and said, "of course, I'm telling the truth." Thomas looked at her. "You won't ruin it for me." Sylvia was stunned by his words and also his deep and sincere gaze,

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He curled his lips and eyes and continued with a warm smile, "You're only ruining it for me when you avoid me."

His words were like explosives that went off in Sylvia's head. It blasted all the messy thoughts away and widened her eyes in shock

What did he mean by that?

Thomas noticed the blank look on her face. He pinched her nose and said, "Stop staring into the air Aren't you going home?" His touch felt like a sting from a bee and it startled her, causing her to stagger a few steps to the side.

It was at that moment that she saw Odell standing further behind Thomas.

The man was wearing a navy blue coat. The frosty expression on his face was as cold as the weather Isabel was in his left arm and Liam was on his right, holding his hand.

The brother and sister were also staring at her and Thomas.

Sylvia froze "Odell? Why did you bring Isabel and Liam here?"

Thomas heard her and turned around too.

Odell stood there and glared at her and Thomas for a few seconds before he said, "Isabel and Liam miss you. I brought them here to pick you up."

He then put Isabel down on the ground

The little girl ran toward her mother and then sized up Thomas from top to bottom

Liam also came over and did the same.

The girl then asked, "Mommy, who's this handsome guy?" Sylvia awkwardly chuckled Before she could explain, Odell's gruff voice said, "He's your uncle."

Uncle? Isabel's eyes gleamed she turned around to her father and asked, "So, he's your brother?"

Odell hummed a reply

Isabel then turned back to Thomas and introduced herself with her meek voice, "Hi, Uncle. I'm Thabel. This is my brother Llam."

The girl was infatuated with Thomas' good looks.

Thomas smiled and greeted her and Llam, "Hello"

Isabel grinned and her eyes curved into the shape of crescent moons

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Isabel then curiously asked, "Uncle, what are you doing here with Mommy?" Before Thomas could explain, Sylvia said, "Mommy and your Uncle Thomas are working here in the Art Academy, so we attended the event together." "Oh, I see."

The girl had no more questions. Thomas and Odell stood opposite each other. One of them emanated a frosty presence and the other one looked like a monster with obvious killing intents. Sylvia felt the awkwardness in the air and it gave her chills.

She carried Isabel into her arms and held Liam's hand. She then said to Thomas, "It's getting late. I have to bring the kids back home."

She then had a glance at Odell and he shot a deep gaze at her. Sylvia retracted her glance and walked past him with the kids. The mother and children headed to the parking lot.

Soon, she brought Isabel and Liam to the car. She strapped the two little ones in the rear seats before she got into the driver's seat. It was then Isabel asked, "Mommy, are we not waiting for the baddie?" Sylvia had a glance at the side door. Odell was still silently confronting his brother. Neither of them budged and they seemed to have a lot to talk to each other. Sylvia said, "I think Daddy has a lot to talk to your uncle. Let's not wait for him." "Okay." Isabel obediently sat down on the child's seat and Sylvia started the car.

Chapter 566

At the side door of the hall, the chilly wind whirred in the air.

"It's been a long time, Brother" It was Thomas who spoke first after the long silent confrontation

Odell shot a deep gaze at him and asked, "Why are you teaching here at the academy?"

"For a particular someone."

Odell's frosty expression turned grim. He uttered each word with a hint of coldness, "She's your sister-in-law "

Thomas' calm and frosty look remained as he said, "As far as I know, you divorced her already"

"Even if we were already divorced, she could only be mine! She's not someone you can extend your filthy fantasy to"

Thomas grinned in silence

Odell also pursed his lips in silence

As he regained his composure from his sudden anger, he said to Thomas, "I'd stop whatever thoughts I have for her if I were you I'll spare you this time but if I find out you're trying to do anything to her, you'll suffer the consequences." Thomas did not answer. His calm and frosty look remained on his face

Odell had another glance at him and went to the parking lot,

After he left, Thomas grinned and mumbled, "Brother, you're going to be disappointed. I can never stop thinking about her for the rest of my life"

When Sylvia reached home with Isabel and Lian, it was already dark

Aunt Tonya Was preparing dinner in the kitchen

Sylvia left the two little ones to play in the living room while she lent Aunt Tonya a hand

Son, dinner WAS Served

Isabel and Lian rathered at the table obediently and got into their seats Sylvia put dishes onto their plates Just when she wanted to sit down and have dinner, a figure one in through the door

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Melaoked at Aunt Tonya and said, "Aunt Tonya, can you get another set

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Therefore, she could not chase him out of the house in front of the kids.

A quick thought later, she shot a glance at Aunt Tonya.

Aunt Tonya received the signal and went into the kitchen for another set of cutlery

Odell sat down beside Sylvia

Sylvia also sat down on her seat but she could not hold her urge back and stepped on his foot

They reached an agreement before this and yet the man came here to have dinner

What was he planning? Odell did not react to Sylvia's stomp on his foot as if he could not feel pain. He started eating without saying a word.

Sylvia also started eating without being overly concerned

All of a sudden, the talkative Isabel said, "Baddie, why are you free tonight? Are you not busy anymore?"

Odell had a glance at Sylvia and said, "Mhmm. I'll come here every night from now on."

Isabel's eyes widened brightly Sylvia lost her appetite. She glared at him as fiercely as she could. Odell responded to her glare with a ridiculing gaze. The grin on his face reeked of disdain and frostiness Isabel noticed the expression on her mother. Confused, she asked, "Mommy, what's wrong?"

Sylvia curled her lips and answered, "I'm fine, honey" "Then why are you staring at the baddie?" Sylvia bit the bullet and answered, "You're mistaken. I'm not looking at him. Isabel continued staring at her mother and father curiously Then, Liam said, "Isabel, your food is getting cold" "Oh, oh!" Isabel shifted her attention from her parents to the plate of food before her. She dug in and no longer cared about what happened before Sylvia and Odell, Sylvia sighed a breath of relief. Dinner went by peacefully.

Odell remained seated without showing any intention of going back. Not only that, but he also said 10 Isabel and Liam, "Liam, bring your sister back to the room. I have something to talk to your mother."

Liam hunched a reply Isabel possibly "Aladkkle, are you going to wluisper to Momny"

Chapter 567 Odell curled his lips and hunched a reply

"Okay Liam and I will leave you be."

The mature little girl then followed her brother upstairs to the room. Aunt Tonya cleaned the table and took the plates into the kitchen

The living room became quiet, and so was the atmosphere.

Sylvia got up and took a few steps back to draw distance from him.

She then asked coldly, "Odell, what is it?" Odell remained seated on the chair as he stared at her. "Come closer and I'll tell you."

"I can hear you just fine Speak and leave."

He pursed his lips and stared at her silently

Some time passed but he showed no intentions of speaking

Sylvia took a deep breath and said, "What is it that you want to say?"

He grinned "Come closer "

Sylvia just wanted him out of the house, so she begrudgingly stepped forward.

Before she knew it, his long arm grabbed her and hugged her around the waist.

She fell onto his lap before she could even scream

She pushed him away but his other hand caught both her hands

He was strong and Sylvia was too weak to break free from his constraints

He glared at her and cried, "Let go of me!" Odell stared at her with a frosty gaze His voice was gruff when he said, "He touched your nose Just now, didn't he?" Sylvia's gaze shifted. She was also surprised when Thomas touched her nose It was at that moment that she learned of Thomas' feelings for herself He wanted to be Tomantly involved

The constraints married to render her uncomfortable she did not have the mood to explain, so
e und -ho is between me wvd hun li's one of your business"

Hi Mn wou forgotten the terms on the divorce paper" he asked with the coldest voice Who could have
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He narrowed his eyes. "How can you make sure?" Make sure? Why would he need assurance for
something like this?

A quick thought later, Sylvia said, "I can assure you that nothing will happen between us. We're just
friends."

"What if he touches your nose again?"

"I won't let him."

"I said if." He lowered his voice and moved his frosty face closer to hers.

Sylvia tried to move backward but he caught her by the waist. She could not do anything as he moved
his face closer to her, to the point that the tip of his nose touched hers. She clenched her teeth and said
in a small voice, "There's no if." Odell moved his lips closer to hers and emphasized each word he said,
"If I see him laying a finger on you again, I'll move in and stay with you." Sylvia was rendered speechless.
She was choked by her grievance. She wanted to scream and argue but for some reason, she was unable
to utter a single word. Odell hugged her waist. "Do you get me?" Sylvia clenched her teeth. "Mhmm..."
Then, his lips pressed onto hers. The man's thin lips ravaged her luscious ones.

Sylvia's eyes widened and wanted to struggle but due to the constraints, she could not do anything He
took some time ravaging her lips before he released her.

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Sylvia glared at him with a flush. Odell grinned. "This is the punishment for letting him touch your nose."
Sylvia widened her eyes at him.

Odell then released her hands and waist with a mischievous smile.

Sylvia bolted up and took a few steps back from him. Her eyes remained glaring at him as she said,
"Odell, I can agree to whatever request you come up with today but please follow the terms we agreed
on the divorce papers. Don't break your promise." Odell got up. Seemingly in a good mood, he shot an
amused gaze at her and said, "As long as you listen to me, I'll keep my promise."

The man strode toward the exit. Sylvia cursed the man in her heart until he completely left her sight.

She took a deep breath to calm down and then went upstairs to Isabel and Liam's room. The two little ones stared at her with their puffy faces. Isabel curiously asked, "Mommy, why are you up already? You finished talking to the baddie?" Based on all the TV that she had been watching, the girl truly believed adults must kiss for a long time before separating. She thought she would have to sleep early with her brother tonight as her mother would be busy kissing her father. "Yeah, we're done." Sylvia went over and sat down beside the girl. Isabel had a glance at the door. "Where's the baddie?" "He left. He has work to do." "Okie dokey," Isabel murmured with protruded lips. Sylvia stroked her head and then looked at Liam.

Liam was sitting beside her playing with his little toy. He looked quiet as if he did not hear their conversation at all.

Liam was a lot more mature than his sister. He barely asked questions or asked to be pampered, so Sylvia barely had to cheer him up or explain herself out of guilt. She felt relieved to have such an understanding boy. She accompanied them until they fell asleep before she returned to her own room. Right before she went into the bathroom for a shower, her phone rang. It was from Thomas.

"Did I scare you today?"

Sylvia was hesitant when she saw the message

"What? What are you talking about?" Sylvia decided to play dumb. If she acknowledged what he said, it would mean she acknowledged his feelings for her. She could never develop a relationship with Thomas. She had no intentions to hurt him. He saved her and helped her multiple times. He was not only a savior to her but also a close friend, like Sherry. After much careful consideration, she decided to try her best to maintain the fragile layer of ambiguity. Two minutes later, Thomas replied, "Nothing." The chat ended without a result. Sylvia sighed a breath of relief. "Thomas, good night." "Good night." Sylvia put her phone down and took a shower. Meanwhile outside her house, there was a tall figure standing under the tree diagonally opposite the street. The street lamp failed to shine through the leaves, hence leaving the man's cold expression in the dark. He stared at Sylvia's window with a deep and frosty gaze.

A quiet night went by. On the second morning, Sylvia woke up without the alarm and she heard giggles outside the door.

It was Isabel. Sylvia curiously walked to the window, opened it and saw Sebastian, the butler of Carter residence, outside the yard. Other than Sebastian, Ben, Jacob, and several other bodyguards were also there playing with Isabel.

The girl was having a great time judging from her ceaseless giggles. Liam was there but he did not join her. He watched from the side quietly with a delighted expression.

Sylvia was surprised by the visit.

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"Shouldn't Sebastian and the others be at Carter residence? Are they here because they miss the kids?"

While Sylvia was baffled by the surprise visit, a black MPV drove over from next door and stopped in front of her gate.

She knew at first glance it was Odell's personal car.

Isabel also recognized it. She moved her short legs and ran to the gate before she shouted, "Baddie! Are you going to work?!"

The door opened and Odell's towering figure emerged from within. He carried the little girl into his arms and said, "Yeah, I'm going now." Isabel pouted. "You don't want to eat breakfast?" "I had breakfast." "Oooh, okay." The girl protruded her lips, seemingly unwilling to part with her father. Odell patted her head. "Go play. I'll come back and have dinner with you guys." He then put the girl down. Then, the man looked up to the second floor, where Sylvia's room was.

Their gaze met mid-air and Sylvia immediately turned around to avoid it.

Odell grinned. He shot a gaze at Ben and Jacob further away to signal them. The two bodyguards stood straight up and wore serious looks. Odell then returned to his car and left for work. Ben and Jacob returned to the yard. One of them played with Isabel and the other one looked at the house.

The mission they received from their boss was to watch Sylvia. Whenever she left the house or interacted with other men without the presence of a third party, they were to report it to him.

After Odell left, Sylvia came down.

Aunt Tonya was in the living room, looking bitter. She expected Sylvia to see what happened from her room, so she said, "Syl, I heard from Sebastian that he bought the house next door and even brought Madam Carter over."

Annoyed, Sylvia frowned. 'What's this man trying to do?' It was then Isabel ran in after seeing her mother.

"Mommy!" Sylvia bent over and carried the girl into her arms.

The girl's puffy face flushed as she bawled, "Mommy, Baddie is living next to us!" Sylvia awkwardly smiled. The girl then tilted her head and asked, "But why isn't he staying with us?" "Our house is small and it can't fit that many people."

"O-Oh..."

Isabel had an odd feeling but since her mother's words made sense, so she moved on from the topic.

After breakfast, Sylvia texted Odell.

It was the first time they texted after the divorce.

"Odell, what's the meaning of this?"

A while later, she received a reply.

"What are you talking about?"

Sylvia choked for a few seconds.

"Why did you move next door to me? Did you forget our terms on the divorce papers?"

It clearly stated that they would stay out of each other's life. "Do the papers forbid me from moving there?" Sylvia was once again silenced. She gulped the grievance and decided to approach this matter with patience. "Odell, if you want to see the kids, you can come to see them whenever you want. I won't keep them from you but we're divorced and it's inappropriate for us to continue seeing each other." The text went out but he did not reply this time. Sylvia frustratedly tossed her phone aside. Both Isabel and Liam went next door to look for Madam Carter. It had also been some time since Sylvia visited Madam Carter, so after some struggle, she went next door as well.

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The house looked almost the same as hers. The interior and the decoration followed a minimalistic yet luxurious design style. It did not seem like it had just finished renovation. 'Did he buy the house fully furnished?' Madam Carter's room was located on the first floor, where it faced the east. When Sylvia walked into the room, Liam was beside the bed and Isabel was on the bed, blabbering next to Madam Carter's ears.

"Great-grandma, Liam and I will be able to come to see you every day. Wakey, wakey..."

The two of them were adorable and obedient.

Sylvia's gaze shifted. She stood by the door for a while before she went inside.

At night, Sylvia prepared dinner with Aunt Tonya as usual.

Both Isabel and Liam were in the living room.

For some reason, the girl did not come into the kitchen tonight, not even once. She would usually come in a few times to mess around. Sylvia was not overly bothered by her absence. When dinner was ready, she walked out of the kitchen and saw the man sitting on the couch with a book in his hand. He leaned on the couch with his legs crossed, slouching elegantly. He acted like he was the owner of the house. Isabel was beside him, leaning on his arm while playing with her tablet. Liam was sitting opposite them alone, reading a book Sylvia furrowed her brows and walked over. The father and children looked at the mother when they heard her footsteps. Odell stared at her expressionless. Both Isabel and Liam looked at her with googly eyes. Sylvia ignored Odell completely and said to her kids, "Isabel, Liam, it's time for dinner." Both of them hummed a reply and obediently got up. Odell also put the book down and naturally followed the kids to the table. Sylvia had a glare at him, but he turned a blind eye to her and sat down by the table. Aunt Tonya served dinner swiftly. Sylvia put the food on Isabel and Liam's plate but not Odell's.

Aunt Tonya sighed and took the initiative to put some food on Odell's plate. Dinner went by silently.

After Sylvia wiped Isabel's mouth, the girl ran over to Odell. Sylvia sighed subtly and wiped her mouth before she looked at Liam. The little guy said, "Mommy, you can go rest. You don't need to accompany me." As though the boy noticed his mother's sour mood.

Sylvia patted his head and said softly, "I'm not tired. Let me stay with you for a while." Liam widened his bright eyes. "Okay."

Sylvia carried the boy and sat down on the other couch, which showed her back at Odell. The boy quietly sat beside her with a book in his hand. Sylvia curiously had a peek at the boy's book and she realized she

did not understand a single thing about it. She took a few more glances and realized the book was about how to make a robot.

A four-year-old reading such a boring book?

Sylvia was surprised but she did not disturb him. She feigned ignorance and went on her phone to check the message she received. There was a text from Sherry asking how she was doing and there was also a text from Simon asking about painting tips. Sylvia chatted with them and eventually forgot about the annoying man in her house.