

It was late at night and the three children in Eliana's house were tired after playing for a long while and had fallen asleep. But Eliana was still up.

Nana hadn't return home yet, which made Eliana so worried that she found it hard to sleep.

Finally, when it was eleven o'clock, there was a slight rattle at the door and someone came in.

Eliana quickly walked over to turn on the living room light and a sneaky figure appeared.

It was Nana who had returned.

"Eliana, you're still awake?"

Nana, hunched over, had intended to enter quietly but was caught in the act by Eliana.

With a straight face, Eliana was just about to interrogate Nana when she suddenly noticed that Nana's eyes seemed swollen.

She couldn't care less about what she was going to ask and cupped Nana's face, asking urgently, "Nana, why are your eyes swollen? Did you cry? Did someone bully you?"

At that point, Nana knew she couldn't hide it from Eliana.

She sighed, pondered for a moment, choosing to tell the truth.

"Eliana, I met... Huey today."

"Huey! That scum of your ex-fiance!" With her mouth agape, Eliana looked Nana up and down. "Nana, are you okay? Was that scum bothering you?"

"It's alright. Someone has helped me out."

Instantly, Nana recalled the scene where Corbin shielded her behind him.

Helplessly, her cheeks flushed red.

Eliana looked at Nana's flushed face, noticing something.

She must have fallen in love with someone else.

Understanding, Eliana didn't ask any further.

They both washed up and prepared for bed.

Suddenly, something occurred to Eliana.

Tomorrow was weekend, which was also the day she agreed to meet up with Ethan.

She went to Nana's room and told the sleepy Nana, "Nana, I have something to do tomorrow. Can you help me take care of the children for a day with Kimora?"

"What's wrong? Isn't tomorrow weekend?" Nana rubbed her eyes, trying to keep her spirits up.

"Have you forgotten? Ethan, Hodge's son, wants to meet with me tomorrow."

It was then that it reoccurred to Nana, but after giving it some thought, she still felt uneasy deep down.

"Eliana, how about you don't go? I feel it's

dangerous."

"It's okay. I'm just going to get the document about the Pierce Group. Nothing will go wrong."

Eliana seemed so determined that she couldn't be persuaded. In the end, Nana couldn't resist the drowsiness and finally gave in to sleep.

"Nana?"

Eliana was still talking just to realize that Nana had fallen asleep. With a helpless smile, Eliana tucked her in and walked out quietly.

The next day, Eliana was on time for the appointment. The cafe they were meeting happened to be the place she and Hodge had met the last time.

When she arrived, Ethan was already there, waiting

for a long time.

It was obvious that things had been rough for Ethan lately. He was wearing a camel-colored coat and a white shirt inside. The clothes looked untidy with dirt and dust, as if he had been wearing them for a few days. His face looked worn out and there were dark circles under his eyes. His beard hadn't been shaved for a few days. In a nutshell, he looked completely downcast.

Maybe he had been pressured hard by Hodge's creditors.

Eliana sat opposite Ethan, looking as usual.

"Here you are, Eliana." This time, Ethan was very gentle. "I have ordered coffee for you. Let's talk over a drink. I apologize for what happened the last time. I was just so angry, and I regretted it when I calmed down. I grew up under the watch of your parents. I remember them hugging me as a child. At that time, I attended your first birthday..." Ethan's voice trailed off as he looked totally remorseful.

When Eliana heard him mention the past, her expression gradually softened, and she was not so resistant to Ethan.

"Now that I'm here, where is the information you said you'd get?"

Not forgetting the main purpose of this meeting, Eliana asked Ethan for the Pierce Group's information.

"Look at me, I've been so caught up in the conversation that I almost forgot." He took out a paper bag from behind. "Here, this is the information you asked for."

Eliana was so excited that she took the bag, so eager to open it.

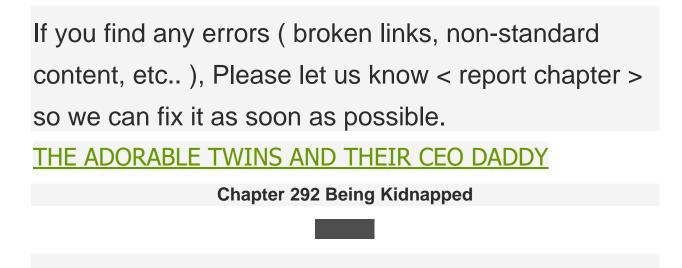
To her surprise, as soon as she opened the bag to take out the document, her finger suddenly hurt as if it had been stabbed by a sharp object.

Eliana took a closer look, just to see a slender long needle in the bag.

What was going on?

Before she could react, her head had begun to spin.

Instantly, the whole world spun before Eliana's eyes and the second before she passed out, she saw a sinister smile on Ethan's face.



With a splitting headache, Eliana opened her eyes and slowly realized that she was inside an abandoned warehouse filled with a variety of broken and tattered items.

She was lying sideways on the cold floor. As she struggled to regain her senses, an alarmed look flashed across Eliana's face when she noticed that her arms and legs were tied up. She couldn't move at all.

Her eyes suddenly darted to a familiar figure standing nearby. With her mobile phone in his hand, Ethan

stared at her with cold-blooded intent in his eyes.

He had kidnapped her.

'What a bastard!'

Now Eliana was fully aware of her dire situation, and her heart sank. Cold sweat began to form all over her body, and her brain went haywire.

"You're finally awake."

Ethan walked over with a sinister smile and looked down at Eliana, his eyes full of malice.

Eliana propped herself up and glared at him. "Are you out of your mind?"

"Shut up. You're in no position to insult me. If you hadn't hurt my father and used Maurice's influence to

cover up your crime, then I wouldn't have resorted to taking you captive. This is all your fault!" Ethan snarled in contempt.

How could he be so sure that it was her who had hurt Hodge? It didn't make sense.

With her eyes wide open in fear, Eliana made a guess.

It seemed that someone framed her and Maurice for a crime they didn't commit.

"Ethan, whoever said that is lying to you. Someone else did it. I swear! You have to believe me. Please!"

"Shut up!"

Gritting his teeth in anger, Ethan crouched and slapped Eliana hard across the face.

"You murderer, how dare you not accept responsibility for your actions? I'll make you pay for what you did!"

Eliana fell to the floor and lost consciousness momentarily. Her cheek was burning in pain, and her ears were buzzing. A few seconds had passed, and she still couldn't regain her bearings.

"Come here, you little bitch. There's something I need to see."

Ethan yanked her by the hair and forcibly held her face in front of the phone to unlock it.

"What the hell are you up to?" Eliana roared in defiance.

"Don't worry. You'll find out soon enough."

With a wicked sneer, Ethan opened the photo album on Eliana's phone and saw pictures of her and the little twins. 'Eliana has two children? Wait a minute, could it be? Ah, it all makes sense now. No wonder Maurice always stood up for her. It turns out that they have been together for a long time. This makes things much more interesting.'

The sudden discovery of the two children greatly piqued Ethan's curiosity.

"Who is their father? Is it Maurice?" Ethan asked after leaning closely.

"Of course not! Are you insane? Five years ago, I didn't even know Maurice. How could I have a child with him?"

Eliana immediately denied it.

Narrowing his eyes at her explanation, Ethan was still doubtful of her words. But then again, she could be telling the truth. If she had indeed hooked up with Maurice back then, the Pierce Group wouldn't have gone bankrupt.

"Enough. It's pointless to talk to you about it. After all, I'll soon have Maurice in my clutches. If he refuses to speak, I have no problem beating the answer out of him."

His next target was Maurice! And now Eliana served as bait.

Hearing his frightening words, Eliana gulped anxiously and lowered her eyes.

Ethan didn't bother with the topic any longer. He turned his attention back to the phone and opened the contact list. But after a minute of searching, he couldn't find Maurice's name anywhere.

"Where is Maurice's phone number? Tell me this instant," Ethan said impatiently.

"You won't find it there. I don't have his phone number."

"Bullshit!"

Eliana was telling the truth. She didn't save Maurice's phone number and never memorized it. It was a longstanding rule of hers to keep him out of her private life.

However, Ethan didn't believe her. Unwilling to give up, he kept scanning through her phone data. Later on, he found an unknown number on the blacklist.

Finally!

Grinning triumphantly, he showed the phone screen to Eliana and said, "You said you didn't have it. But look what I found."

Eliana's eyes widened in shock, and her jaw dropped in disbelief. It was Preston's phone number.

When she had bid her final farewell to Preston, she deleted his name and blacklisted his number because she didn't want to have anything to do with him anymore.

But she didn't expect that Ethan would think that it belonged to Maurice.

"That is not Maurice's number!"

Seeing Eliana's fierce reaction, Ethan became more certain that he was on the right track. With an evil grin

on his face, he immediately dialed the number.

Inside the old house of the Moran family, a shrill ringtone interrupted the peaceful silence.

The special mobile phone for Preston lit up and began to vibrate. Curious to know who it was, Maurice picked it up and furrowed his eyebrows. He was stunned to see Eliana's name on the screen.

Didn't that woman just break up with him recently and tell him to get out of her life? Why was she calling all of a sudden?

The phone kept ringing incessantly. Maurice pondered for a moment whether to ignore it or not. But he couldn't resist learning why she was reaching out to him. So he accepted the call and held the mobile device to his ear. On the other end of the line, Ethan was thrilled to finally get through. Without hesitation, he went straight to the point and voiced his threat.

"Maurice, I have Eliana as my prisoner. Don't call the police, or there will be grave consequences! If you truly value her life, take the ransom money to the abandoned warehouse at No. 528, Brilliance Road. Otherwise..."

Before Ethan could finish his words, a muffled groan escaped from his mouth. While he was preoccupied, Eliana summoned all her strength to get up and rush forward, tackling Ethan to the floor.

The phone flew out of his hand and crashed to the floor.

As a result, the call abruptly ended.

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THE ADORABLE TWINS AND THEIR CEO DADDY

Chapter 293 Make A Deal

"Fuck! You are such a scumbag!"

Angry, Ethan sprang to his feet, seized Eliana's collar, and hauled her off the floor.

"Are you terrified of what could happen? He has not yet spoken. Why were you so tense?"

He recklessly took out his rage on Eliana and crushed her to the floor.

She had used all of her energy in the assault just now. Eliana's heart was heavy with sadness as she tumbled to the floor.

Such a call would be seen as a joke by everyone.

In addition, it had been a long time since she had spoken to Preston. She didn't expect him to show up and rescue her.

However, she remained hopeful. She was having a hard time getting up and gave Ethan a snarky look.

"Ethan, you're a complete moron. In addition to blackmailing the incorrect person, you are also duped without your knowledge. What I'd do is get in touch with the folks who said it if I were you. Why should we foot the bill for your father's medical care if it was truly me and Maurice who hurt him? Wouldn't it be preferable if he died without a witness?" "You bitch..."

The fury on Ethan's face had frozen. He was desperate to contradict, but he was at a loss.

Eliana's explanations made perfect sense.

Why should she shoulder the costs of his father's medical treatment if she had hurt him?

It would be impossible to remove the seeds of mistrust once they had been sown.

Ethan was not naive. He had been so enraged that he utterly lost his composure. When Eliana reminded him, he instantly felt something was off.

Gerald should have shown up after Hodge's vehicle accident if he felt as bad as he claimed.

Gerald's so-called truth was really riddled with inconsistencies. At that moment, Ethan was furious and didn't have the patience to double-check anything.

Now, Ethan realized that he had been duped after rethinking.

Anger drove him to call Gerald's phone number.

"Hello, Ethan. So, what's up?"

On the other end of the line, Gerald's voice remained soothing.

"Put an end to this charade. Everything is now clear to me. You lied to me, fuck you!"

Ethan's eyes bulged, and he clutched his hair in one

fist due to his distress.

"I'm dead meat! You're to blame for this. Not only am I in debt, but I'm also facing abduction charges. My whole life will be on the line as a result of this mistake."

Gerald deciphered Ethan's rambling curse and uncovered the vital words.

Kidnapping? Who had he taken hostage?

"Ethan, take a deep breath and relax. I want to know who you abducted," Gerald asked softly.

Ethan became irritated and yelled, "Eliana, of course! Other than her, who else could it be?"

That was fantastic! Gerald was enthralled with enthusiasm.

Ethan surprised him by doing him a great favor. He was certain that Maurice would make a move now that Eliana was in danger.

Calculating this, Gerald said, "Let's make a deal, Ethan. If you offer me Eliana, I'll give you a significant quantity of money. Do you have any thoughts? Will you agree?"

Gerald's remarks sounded like a devil's murmur.

"Should I believe that?" Ethan's eyes were filled with a glimmer of optimism.

Quite simply, he abducted Eliana for financial gain. It did not matter to him whether he received money from Maurice or Gerald. He had no interest in what would happen to Eliana. After accumulating sufficient funds, he would be able to settle his father's gambling debts and medical bills.

"Of course, there's nothing to worry about with this deal."

"Deal!"

Ethan readily accepted Gerald's demand and struck a bargain with him over Eliana.

Eliana was certain after hearing the whole conversation that the person on the other end of the call was the one in the background. It was possible that this guy was connected to the culprit she was searching for.

"Ethan, who are you conversing with?"

Eliana was eager to know.

Ethan put his phone away and yelled angrily at Eliana, "Simply remain put. It's okay if you don't have all the details down pat."

He had to keep an eye on Eliana now that she was worth as much as an immense amount of money.

However, Eliana's phone, which was lying on the floor, rang at this point in time.

Ethan had just phoned the number.

Eliana muttered, "Preston."

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THE ADORABLE TWINS AND THEIR CEO DADDY

**Chapter 294 A Victorious Counterattack** 

Ethan's vigilance was heightened.

He could now get money from Gerald. He no longer cared about Maurice. But if Maurice got involved, things would go downhill fast.

"You're going to take this." Ethan took the phone and placed it in front of Eliana. "Tell him right now that it was all a joke. Follow my instructions exactly. Avoid engaging in deception."

After that, Ethan answered the phone and placed the speakerphone on.

A guy said with eagerness, "Eliana! What is your location? What transpired? I'll be there at a moment's notice."

Eliana was taken aback by it for a moment. Preston

clearly cared for her, and she could tell. At the same time, her eyes started to become red and she felt a lump in her throat.

Preston was such a blundering idiot. Despite the fact that she had been harsh to him, he still deeply cared for her.

As a result, Eliana became more reluctant to put him in harm's way.

"Nothing. It was simply a joke. I was defeated in Truth or Dare. Preston, are you serious? It's absurd. I've already informed you that our relationship ended. Please don't bother coming. There is no way I'll ever see you again!"

Eliana lied to cover up her anguish. She made slanderous remarks about Preston in an attempt to stop him from coming. Preston, on the other hand, was unconvinced by her inept deception.

He believed that Eliana would say anything against her will as she was in danger.

"Eliana, please hold."

Preston made good on his word and ended the call.

"What a sweet pair!" Ethan grinned. "Miss Pierce, I did not anticipate you to be so beneficial. You've dated a lot of guys."

Ethan's arrogance grew when he realized that it wasn't Maurice on the other end of the phone.

He discarded Eliana's cell phone and waited idly by, awaiting the arrival of Gerald's crew. He would deliver Eliana to them when they paid. Then he could put an end to all of his problems.

Eliana seemed to be doing nothing except sitting calmly in the corner, but she was really keeping an eye on the situation and attempting to figure out how to get out.

She couldn't simply sit back and wait for her demise. The implications would be unthinkable if the person behind the scenes got their hands on her.

What options did she have?

Eliana's eyes stumbled upon a large broken porcelain vase in a nearby pile of trash at this point.

She conceived an idea.

"Ouch..." Eliana whimpered softly on the floor,

drawing Ethan's attention.

"Why are you behaving in this way?"

Ethan came grudgingly over here for the sake of the money.

"My tummy hurts..."

"Your tummy hurts?"

On the floor, Eliana writhed in agony while Ethan watched her warily. He was at a crossroads. Was she being dishonest with him?

"I may be suffering from diarrhea. I just need to use the restroom. You may accompany me if you're worried that I would run away. Surely, as a man, you don't fear that I'll flee, right?" The pallor of Eliana's face suggested that she was in considerable distress.

After some consideration, Ethan agreed, "Let's go ahead, but don't attempt to fool me. I'm behind you."

"Then you have to untie the rope on my wrists and feet first, else how can I go to the toilet?" Eliana said.

Ethan released Eliana from her bonds without any thought. He had an overinflated sense of confidence. How could a frightened and vulnerable lady escape him?

Eliana staggered to her feet, her hands on her tummy, and made her way to the waste, one step at a time. Ethan was right behind her the whole time.

As she approached the large broken porcelain vase, Eliana came to a halt in her tracks. "Well, here we are. Turn the other way."

Ethan didn't hesitate in turning around. "Hurry up."

Eliana took up the large porcelain vase next to her and smashed it right at Ethan's head as soon as he turned around.

A loud bang could be heard.

Ethan collapsed to the floor without a whimper as the large porcelain vase smashed onto his skull.

It was a success.

After the victorious counterattack, Eliana's whole body trembled.

She raced away from Ethan, who was lying

unconscious on the floor.

She fought to open the door and fled in the darkness.

Unfortunately, the location that Ethan had selected was too distant, with no one living nearby.

Eliana's heart was racing and she was dripping perspiration from her brow.

When she took a look around, she knew she couldn't get out of here on foot.

Suddenly, a vehicle blocked her path. Several individuals jumped out of the automobile before she could respond.

There was yet a glimmer of optimism.

Eliana's face lit up and she said, "Please, I need your

help! Help me, please!"

Gerald smirked at Eliana, who had no idea what was going on and was approaching them freely, as he sat in the backseat of the automobile.

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THE ADORABLE TWINS AND THEIR CEO DADDY

**Chapter 295 He Still Came** 

What a poor little lamb! She was about to fall into a trap, and without realizing it, she still asked her hunter for help.

Gerald was surely going to win.

He complacently watched his men as they surrounded Eliana.

But all of a sudden, the sound of a roaring engine filled the air, and a dark blue Ferrari raced toward their direction and headed straight for Gerald's car at breakneck speed.

The distance between the two cars was reduced significantly in seconds, but the Ferrari appeared as if it was only speeding up more.

"Damn it! Avoid it! Avoid it!" Gerald shouted in fear.

Sean, who was driving for Gerald, was also frightened by the racing Ferrari. He immediately stepped on the accelerator and drove away.

Gerald ran away, but his men were still there.

The Ferrari immediately veered off course and went after Gerald's men.

"Run!"

Gerald's men were scared out of their wits. Suddenly, they weren't in the mood anymore to catch Eliana. They hurriedly scattered in all directions, afraid that they would be run over by the Ferrari if they didn't move fast enough.

Eliana was also shocked by the sudden happenings. Her knees buckled, and she fell to the ground.

Just when she thought that the crazy driver of the dark blue race car would hit her, the Ferrari stopped in front of her.

Then, a tall man stepped out of the car.

Eliana couldn't open her eyes against the car's bright headlights, which were shining directly on her face. She raised her hand to block some of the light.

The car's driver approached.

"Eliana, are you okay?"

His deep and hoarse voice sounded as if he had just finished a marathon.

What a familiar voice!

Raising her head, Eliana found herself staring into a pair of dark eyes. The blood in her veins suddenly froze, and for a few moments, all she could hear was her own heartbeat.

"Pr... Preston?"

He still came.

Eliana lowered her head, her eyelids fluttering slightly and one of her hands clenching involuntarily. She knew how disheveled she looked right now even without a mirror in front of her.

"Can you stand?"

When he saw the unharmed Eliana in front of him, Maurice felt his restless heart finally return to its normal beating.

He squatted down, put an arm around her waist, and picked her up. He let her lean against his arms.

Reflexively, Eliana trembled all over. The moment Preston wrapped his arm around her waist, she felt his warmth, and it made her blush. She couldn't help feeling lucky that her face was covered in dust right now. Otherwise, Preston might have seen how red she was in the face.

Meanwhile, when Gerald looked back and didn't find the Ferrari behind them, he finally realized that something was wrong. He immediately ordered Sean to drive back.

'It must be Maurice,' he thought.

When they got back, Gerald saw a strange man helping Eliana, shocking and enraging him at the same time.

Who was this man that suddenly appeared out of nowhere? How dared he ruin his good plan?

"What are you waiting for? Get them!" Gerald roared at his subordinates. "Don't be afraid! He's alone!

Teach that intruding bastard a lesson he'll never forget!"

After a few moments of chaos, Gerald's men surrounded Maurice.

The scene immediately looked like a setup for a melee.

Individually, none of Gerald's men could defeat Maurice in a fight. However, they had a shot as they outnumbered him. As a result, Maurice had to block consecutive attacks from several people while protecting Eliana.

He eventually found himself at a disadvantage because of his injured left hand. He couldn't exert as much effort as he wanted, and it steered the tides to the enemy's favor. Feeling Preston's difficulty, Eliana was as anxious as an ant on a hot pan.

But she knew that she wasn't strong enough to help him. If she recklessly made a move now, she would only distract him and make him lose the fight faster.

All she could do now was to try her best to dodge the attacks directed toward her and protect herself.

Seeing that the man who protected Eliana was about to be defeated by his men, Gerald smiled more and more widely, as if Eliana and the man were captured already.

But before long, Sean suddenly shouted, "Bad news, boss! Look!"

Gerald turned his head, and the smile on his face got snuffed out like a candle in the wind. If you find any errors ( broken links, non-standard content, etc.. ), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

THE ADORABLE TWINS AND THEIR CEO DADDY

Chapter 296 The Approaching Truth

Suddenly, a large group of people in several cars appeared and rushed toward them.

Damn it! The man had backup.

Gerald didn't feel like the situation was favorable to him anymore. If he and his men continued to fight, they would most likely lose.

He gritted his teeth and ordered reluctantly, "Everyone, retreat!" But it was too late. Maurice's men had already surrounded Gerald's men and instantly subdued them.

"What do we do now, boss?" Sean was flustered to see the critical situation.

"Forget it. Let's go."

Gerald didn't care about his subordinates. He ordered Sean to drive away. His men were all captured by Maurice's men.

Thanks to Preston's backup, Eliana was finally out of danger.

She breathed a sigh of relief.

While the others cleaned up the mess after the fight,

she turned to look worriedly at Preston who had bravely protected her.

After all the chaos, he was still standing in front of her. He was trying to catch his breath. Sweat trickled down the side of his face from his forehead, and he was shaking slightly.

Eliana approached him and asked, "Are you okay, Preston?"

Maurice shook his head. He was in pain after the fight, but seeing the bruises on Eliana hurt more than his own injuries.

"Let's get out of here."

Maurice fought the urge to touch Eliana's red, swollen cheek. He led her to his car and left the damned place. In a dark corner, Ethan, who was still bleeding from his head, saw everything. His unwillingness and resentment were rolling in his heart, making him look like the devil.

In the car, Eliana and Maurice sat in the back seat. Maurice leaned against the seat with his eyes closed, frowning as if he was enduring a great pain.

Seeing that, Eliana felt restless. She was worried out of her mind.

"Where did you get injured, Preston?" She couldn't help reaching out to touch him, but he leaned away.

As he moved, Maurice felt a sharp pain in his injured left arm. His whole back was wet with cold sweat.

If he and Eliana stayed in one place together much

longer, Eliana would eventually realize where he was hurting, and then he wouldn't be able to hide his true identity anymore.

"Don't pretend to care about me, Eliana. I don't need it." Maurice deliberately put on a cold face and acted like he was disgusted. "Can you not be so stupid next time? I can't come to your rescue every time you need me. And didn't you already break up with me? It's too late to regret your decision now."

Eliana's hand froze in the air, and her courage to touch Preston suddenly vanished.

Preston's words weighed on her heart like a massive boulder. They felt so heavy that she found herself having trouble breathing. She opened her mouth to say something but decided against it. She couldn't say caring words to Preston anymore. He just said himself that he didn't need them. In the end, Eliana dejectedly put down her hand.

What Preston said was right. She couldn't expect him to be there for her or ask him to stay.

Their entire trip downtown, they kept dead silent.

"I'll get out of the car here." Eliana finally voiced out what she had been thinking since Preston avoided her touch.

Maurice didn't ask her to stay. He just let her out on the street on her own.

As soon as Eliana stepped out of the car, it sped away as if it was desperate to get away from her.

As the car disappeared from her sight, her eyes welled up with tears.

She wiped her eyes stubbornly.

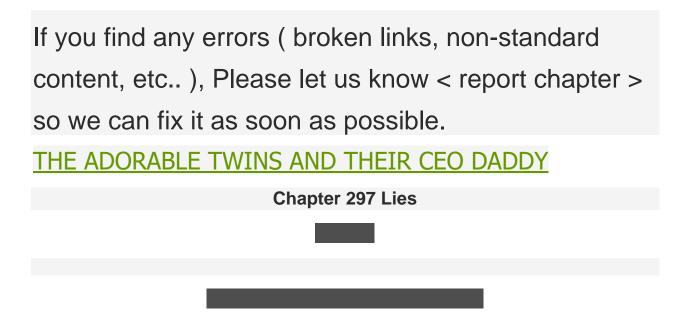
She owed Preston. She couldn't feel aggrieved.

Maurice felt bad, too, after leaving.

He tried hard not to look back because he was afraid that if he glanced at Eliana's pitiful eyes again, he would completely surrender and then tell her everything.

Maurice had a vague feeling that it wouldn't be long before the truth came out, and it would be time to tell Eliana about his double life.

When that happened, they would either start over or end up as strangers. No one knew which.



Eliana made her way home, but she seemed to be occupied with something else.

She didn't want to bother the children or Nana in any way. She got ready for bed and went to sleep shortly after.

She requested a day off and did not wake up until the sun was high in the sky the second day.

The youngsters were sent to school by Nana. When she got home, Eliana went out of the bedroom, her left cheek red and puffy. She was afraid.

"Oh my goodness! How come your face looks so bad?" Nana hurriedly approached Eliana and held her face in her hands. "Who the hell hit you? I'm ready to take him on!"

In order to remove Nana's hand from her face, Eliana pushed it away. "I'm feeling much better now. Don't be concerned. Yesterday, something occurred. I was smacked by Ethan."

"Ethan! I've already told you that he is a bad guy. I'll grab the ointment for you. What happened? Please tell me later."

She cursed as she went to the medicine cabinet, held Eliana on the couch, and then sat down. Eliana's face was treated with ointment. Eliana informed Nana everything about the abduction that occurred yesterday.

Even though Nana was enraged, Eliana kept her from taking revenge on Ethan.

"How could you simply let him go?"

Nana was fit to be tied. Right then and there, she wanted to hand Ethan up to the cops.

"Ethan will soon have a taste of his own medicine. Hodge's creditors are going to cause him a lot of difficulties."

Sighing, Eliana then became silent.

Nana proceeded to apply the ointment to Eliana's wound without saying anything more.

In a strange turn of events, Eliana, who was typically scared of pain, did not scream at all when she was treated with the ointment. Nana regarded her with bewilderment and saw that she was in a stupor.

'Oh no! What is happening?'

Nana held a finger up to Eliana with a startled expression.

"Honey, how many of them are we looking at?"

Eliana regained her composure and chuckled, "Nana, don't worry about me. I'm simply ruminating about something right now."

Nana sighed with contentment. "Just tell me what you have to say. What do you need? Let me know."

"My thoughts are racing right now." A perplexed expression appeared on Eliana's face. "Preston is always there for me whenever anything bad occurs to me. I get the impression that he is a trustworthy person, but I keep the children a secret from him. Please tell me whether you believe I should inform him about the children."

Was Preston still a romantic interest for Eliana?

Eliana's thoughts were known to Nana. "And Maurice?" she inquired.

Eliana thought about Maurice, who had put his own life in jeopardy to rescue her in utter darkness.

She was even more distressed when the faces of the two guys overlapped.

"You can't even figure it out on your own," moaned

Nana. "In telling Preston that you have two children, you'll simply make things more difficult. You have a way of making people fall in love with you. Preston and Maurice are in love with you and have saved your life several times. I'm not sure who I'd choose either if I were you."

Something didn't feel right!

Eliana had a flashback of yesterday's tumultuous fight.

Prior to the fight, Preston's left arm seemed to have been hurt. He refused to allow Eliana to examine his wound after the encounter.

Eliana had a sudden flash of inspiration.

The wound was similar to Maurice's.

"I believe something is really off about this, Nana."

Eliana informed Nana of her estimate.

"You're saying they're the same person?" Nana sucked in her breath.

"You can bet on it. It's the only explanation for the bizarre coincidence that occurred between them," Eliana opined.

"That means... It's all a prank, isn't it?" Nana erupted in fury, her mouth gaping out wide. "Maurice was able to become quite close to you by assuming two separate personas. It's really happening! That being the case, you'd be wise to avoid them at all costs!"

"Nana, you could be right after all."

Eliana wore a sarcastic grin.

If this were true, it would imply that everything was built on a falsehood.

Could deceit foster the growth of love?

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THE ADORABLE TWINS AND THEIR CEO DADDY

Chapter 298 Are You A Mother

Meanwhile, Corbin and the doctor had been waiting at Maurice's home for a long time. When the doctor saw the injured Maurice walk in, he rushed over to him.

After careful examination, the doctor told Maurice with a serious face, "Mr. Moran, your left arm is seriously

injured now. You must recuperate peacefully. Remember not to exert too much strength with your left hand, or your injury will not heal properly and you will have sequela."

Hearing the doctor's words, Corbin immediately became anxious. "Boss, I'll arrange for you to be hospitalized right away. Please don't come to the office tomorrow."

"No." Maurice refused without hesitation. "My grandfather has a project for me tomorrow. I have to go abroad."

"But, boss, your hand ... "

"I'm fine," Maurice interrupted his assistant. "If anyone asks about my whereabouts, tell them that I've gone abroad tonight."

That way, he couldn't be here when Preston was.

Maurice came up with this perfect idea after thinking it over.

He had exposed too many flaws today. He had to make up an elaborate lie so that Eliana wouldn't be suspicious.

"I'll make your travel arrangements then."

Corbin wanted to say something else but stopped on second thought. He could say nothing to convince Maurice to reconsider what he wanted to do, so he just booked him a flight for tomorrow morning.

Of course he knew what his boss was doing. It was all for Eliana.

What torturous love! Corbin couldn't help sighing.

It wasn't easy in love nowadays. Despite being a CEO, Maurice got injured frequently.

Corbin swore to himself that he would never suffer like this when he fell in love with someone in the future.

"All right. I'm okay. You can go now."

Maurice's face was pale. He leaned against the sofa and closed his eyes.

It seemed that the boss was still going to hide Preston's identity.

"Boss, it's not a good idea for you and Eliana to be like this," Corbin reminded Maurice, despite feeling like he was speaking out of turn. Maurice slightly opened his eyes, trying to conceal the struggle in them, and said in a hoarse voice, "After I come home from abroad this time, I will find an opportunity to make things clear to her."

Confused, Corbin asked, "You're going to talk to her face-to-face?"

"I have to. That's the only way I can minimize the fallout."

One day after the kidnapping, Eliana's face had healed a little and she was back at work.

She wanted to confirm her hunches, so she went upstairs to see Maurice.

However, before she arrived at the CEO's office, she ran into Lilian and Harriet.

Lilian was still afraid of Eliana because of the coffee incident. Since then, Lilian didn't dare provoke Eliana again.

However, Harriet walked over casually and greeted Eliana.

"Hi, Eliana. Did you come here for Mr. Moran?" Harriet flashed Eliana a wide smile.

"Yes. I have something important to report to him," Eliana answered flatly.

Harriet raised her perfectly shaped brows and replied, "Well, that's going to have to wait. Mr. Moran's not here. He went on a business trip abroad the night before yesterday."

Maurice had gone abroad? On a business trip?

Wasn't it the night before yesterday when she was kidnapped and Preston came to save her?

Eliana's mind was in a mess. Did she think too much this time?

The only way for her to find out the truth was to wait for Maurice to come back from abroad and ask him in person herself.

Seeing that Eliana stood still, Harriet said, "Eliana, if you're not too busy or anything, come with me. I have something to ask you."

Hearing that, Eliana snapped back to her senses. What did Harriet want to ask her?

"Okay, Miss Stone."

Since it wasn't proper for Eliana to refuse a request

from her superior, she followed Harriet to her office.

As soon as they were inside, Harriet shut her office door, turned around, and eyed Eliana carefully.

"Are you a mother, Eliana?"

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THE ADORABLE TWINS AND THEIR CEO DADDY

**Chapter 299 A Common Enemy** 

How did Harriet know Eliana had children?

Eliana was stunned for a while, and then she said calmly, "That is a very personal question, Miss Stone. I don't think I have to divulge pieces of my personal life to you."

Harriet was rendered speechless and hated Eliana in her heart.

She knew about Eliana being a mother because of the photo given to her by the private detective she'd hired to investigate Silas. Looking at the photo in which Eliana was talking and laughing with three children, Harriet was so shocked that her jaw dropped.

How could Eliana know Silas?

And who were the other two children in the photo?

Could it be possible that... all the three children were Eliana and Maurice's?

This possibility was like a small, sad stone in Harriet's

throat. She immediately asked the private detective to continue the investigation. It wasn't until the private detective told her that Silas was actually the child of Maurice's younger sister that Harriet breathed a sigh of relief.

Then who were the parents of the other two children?

Harriet came up with an idea.

"I'm aware that everyone is entitled to his or her own privacy, Eliana. I'm not forcing you to answer me if you don't want to. It's just that I've been hearing rumors going around the office recently. I just want to ask for some information."

Harriet continued pretending to be a good and wellmeaning person and put on an embarrassed face.

That set off alarms in Eliana's head.

She had never mentioned to anyone in the office that she had children. How could there be rumors?

And Harriet was acting weird. Instead of inquiring about work, she was asking about the private life of one of her subordinates.

"With all due respect, Miss Stone, my personal affairs are not your or the company's business."

Eliana flashed Harriet a cold stare.

"Don't be upset. I just want to know the truth. I have nothing else to ask now. You can go."

Bearing the dissatisfaction in her heart, Harriet ended the conversation.

The diplomatic expression on her face suddenly

vanished after Eliana stepped out of her office.

Eliana was so good at pretending.

Fortunately for Harriet, she had made too many enemies, and there were plenty of people who wanted to deal with her.

Harriet took out her phone and pulled up her contacts. She found a phone number under the name Erica, and her lips arched into a complacent smile.

Since Harriet was smart enough to investigate Eliana's background, she also knew that there was some bad blood between Eliana and Erica.

She would just ask Eliana's deadly enemy about her personal life since Eliana didn't want to talk about it with her.

Without hesitation, Harriet dialed the number, and before long, the call connected.

"Hello, is this Mrs. Harrison?" she said in a soft voice.

"Who are you?" Erica asked in a hoarse voice from the other end of the line.

"You don't need to know who I am. You just need to know that you and I have a common enemy who is Eliana Pierce. I called you because I want to meet with you and discuss how we're going to deal with her. Are you interested?"

The sound of breaking glass came through.

"You know that bitch, Eliana? Okay, I'm interested. When and where shall we meet?" Erica agreed without hesitation. Harriet smiled triumphantly at the enraged excitement in Erica's voice.

God helped her. Harriet didn't expect that Erica hated Eliana so much. She thought that it would take a lot effort to convince Erica to join her little crusade, but it turned out to be so easy.

"In two hours. The cafe at No. 27 Forest Road. See you there."

"Okay."

Two hours later, Harriet arrived at the appointed place first.

After a while, Erica walked in.

Harriet had seen photos of Erica before, so when she saw the slovenly woman at the door, she was

shocked. She even considered that she might be looking at another woman.

In the photos she had seen, although Erica wasn't a great beauty, she was still a sight to behold. Even through just photos, she exuded the kind of elegance and poise that could only come from old money.

But the woman in front of her right now was exceedingly different. She was wearing a wrinkled black dress that had spots on it. Her hair seemed to have been neglected for a long time and was shiny with grease.

Her face was sallow; her lifeless eyes had dark circles under them; and her cheeks were sunken.

At this moment, Erica didn't look like a rich lady but like a junkie who had been struggling with addiction for many years. Suppressing the shocked expression on her face, Harriet waved at Erica.

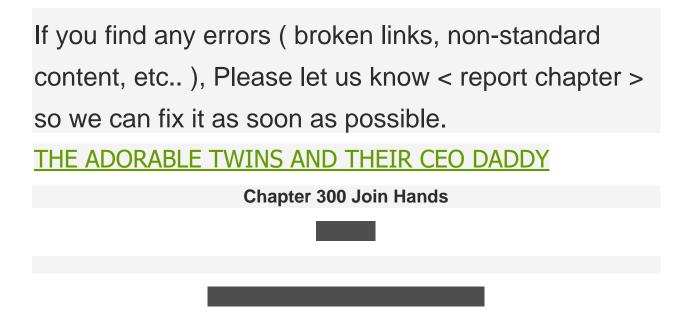
"Over here, Mrs. Harrison."

Erica turned her head toward Harriet's direction and then approached her.

"You mentioned that bitch Eliana on the phone. Tell me, has her doom befallen her?"

Erica's turbid eyes gleamed with anticipation. She looked like a dying patient who had recovered her consciousness momentarily.

It made Harriet tremble with fear.



"Don't be so anxious, Mrs. Harrison. Please sit down and we'll talk about it."

Unable to bear the smell of alcohol coming from Erica, Harriet moved away in such a way that Erica didn't notice it.

"How could I be calm in such a situation? Eliana made me lose everything that I had, and she made me look like a fool in public. She even tried to take my husband away from me. She won't succeed, and as long as I'm alive I won't let her!" Erica's sudden outburst drew the attention of most people in the cafe.

"Calm down, Mrs. Harrison. Here, have some water first."

Saying that, Harriet quickly handed a glass of water to her. Even though she was pretending to be gentle towards her on the surface, she actually detested her in her heart.

After all, in her opinion, it was really ridiculous to go so far for a man.

Hence, though Harriet seemed to sympathize with her, she was actually complaining in her heart.

"Eliana is such a disgusting bitch! You've really gone through hell because of her, Mrs. Harrison. To be honest with you, that woman is trying to steal my man away from me. That's why I asked to meet you. I want to work with you to suppress that bitch and put her in her place!"

Harriet's words helped Erica calm herself down. She felt as though she had finally found an ally in her battle against Eliana.

As soon as Harriet found the right chance, she immediately voiced out her opinions, "Don't you think that Eliana is insane? She already has two kids, right? I heard that Mr. Maurice Moran, the CEO of the Moran Group is the father."

"That's bullshit!" Erica sneered. "Their father is a gigolo."

"A gigolo!"

Harriet was not expecting to hear that shocking piece

of information.

"Since she was being so bold as to compete with me for a man, I certainly taught her a lesson! In fact, I was the one that sent that gigolo to her bed that night! I never thought that she would get pregnant and give birth to his bastard children!"

Erica did not even show a trace of guilt for the terrible thing that she had done to her former best friend. In fact, she was rather pleased with herself.

"Does Maurice know about it?" Harriet asked without thinking.

Upon hearing that, Erica's expression darkened at once. "I don't know what on earth Eliana did to turn the CEO of the Moran Group into her lap dog. So what's even the point of telling him?" 'Of course, it would make a huge difference!' Harriet thought to herself, trembling with excitement.

Eliana had gotten pregnant with a gigolo's children even before she was married. Even if Maurice trusted that woman, it would still be of no use. After all, a wealthy and influential family like the Moran family would never accept a woman like her as their daughter-in-law.

However, the current problem that she had now was to anonymously reveal the news to the Moran family.

Harriet was staring at Erica when an idea suddenly popped into her mind.

She realized that she had a shield in front of her.

"Mrs. Harrison, if you could take revenge on Eliana on your own and get a large sum of money in the

process, then would you be willing to do it?"

"That sounds too good to be true!"

Erica's eyes lit up, but she had no clue of what Harriet was planning.

In her eyes, she would do anything to make Eliana's life miserable, even if no one was going to pay her for it.

Meanwhile, in the Design Department of the Moran Group.

Thinking of Maurice and Preston all day long, Eliana was in a daze. She found it difficult to think of a solution to the matter.

All of a sudden, her phone rang. It was a call from Cheryl. Cheryl informed her that she had received the sample that the company sent her, and wanted Eliana to choose an outfit for her.

Cheryl rarely ever behaved so well.

Eliana realized that it was useful to threaten Cheryl with her affair with her sugar daddy, and sighed.

So without thinking too much about it, she agreed to Cheryl's request.

Eliana was still a little absent-minded when she arrived at the shoot location, because all she could think about was Maurice.

All of a sudden, she heard someone calling her from behind.

"Eliana."

As soon as she turned around, she saw a beautiful face.

It was Nicole. 'Why is she here?' Eliana wondered.

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