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- "You cannot imagine!"
- "I am so sorry about that. And what did Ashton say?"
- "He was really p*******d! I told him the whole thing is over and I want nothing to do with him."
- "And before you start supporting him. You know how triggered I am by office drama? I really want nothing to do with him anymore and I made that clear already."
- "That is so sad. I was seriously rooting for you both. He must have been so crushed." Victoria shrugged.
- "That is not all. I also had a talk with Oscar. I am sure Gabriel will fill you in on it."
- "Yes, he mentioned it. I am so sorry about that."
- "Never mind, it is fine. Love is just not for me."
- "Don't say that, Babe. I do not want you to give up. I don't know how but I know that happily ever after is. going to be yours."
- "You should slow down on those romantic movies. I am good, really? As long as I have got Sophie, I am really good."
- "Him joining the company is just a way to get back at me. And based on the conversation we had earlier. I got to know that he dumped me because the company was in some sort of crisis so he had to marry someone else to save it"
- "His mother was angered by me and decided to end me by making me homeless."
- "That might not be his fault but I still believe he is an a*********e. He never really loved me. If he did, he would have informed me about everything from the onset instead of making me look like a fool."
- "But that is not what *******d me off the most. He thinks I never really loved him and ran off with someone and got pregnant. I do not know if he knows or he is just denying the fact that Sophie is his."
- "In as much as he is an a***le, I am trying so hard not to feel any form of pity for him." "Please don't. He does not deserve it. After all, we went through together, I cannot
- believe he would look me in the eye and indirectly accuse me of cheating on him."
- "Life is really crazy!"
- "I know!!! But not that I am supporting him, do you think fear and pain are what is leading him to be in such denial?"
- "I mean. I am sure he never expected to see you here in Australia, then finding out he is

a father? Men can be really big babies as well as sad ists."

"I do not know and honestly, I do not care. It is a painful past but I am glad that I came out strong. I found Gabriel and my daughter which is the best thing that has ever happened to me."

"I am glad for you too and I am so proud of you and Sophie. Sometimes, I wonder where you get your strength from. You are so strong"

"Wait! Did I hear you say "Strong?" Vicky chuckled. "You might want to take that back, Sis. I cry a lot. I still cried today after the confrontation with Oscar."

"I promise you that we all cry and break down at some point. But what happens afterward is what defines our strength. And I am proud of you for that. No cap!"

"You always know what to say to make me feel better."

"Definitely! You deserve all of the accolades."

"Yeah, I want to ask. Don't freak out."

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"You say that when you are about to say things that freak me out."

"I'm listening, Go on."

"What if Oscar wants you b...?"

"Never!!!!" She interrupted before Lara could even complete her statement.

"What if he wants to be in Sophie's life?"

"I am asking because this is no longer about you anymore. Your little princess is in the picture. And trust. me, you have got the most charming daughter ever. I can't tell you how proud I feel to be her aunt."

Victoria sighed, massaging her temple. "Honestly, I have not really thought about it because I didn't think that the day would come."

"Sophie is the best gift this life has given to me and I would never want to see her get hurt. She has proved to be understanding and accepted the fact that her father is dead. So I would like for it to stay that way. If not, I would be forced to come up with lies and unreasonable explanations as to why Oscar is no longer dead."

Lara's eyes widened. "You said that? You told her Oscar was dead?"

"Please do not look at me that way. You know I am not an evil person. You also know how persistent Sophie could be, especially when she really wants answers."

"I think that day I was not in a good mood, she asked the question, I thought of all the sh

itty things he did to me and I honestly lost it. I don't even know how it fell from my mouth. It just happened."

"Wow! And she did not cry afterward?!"

"You know that is inevitable. You know how manipulative and emotional Sophie could be."

"She cried so much that I wished I could take back my words but it was too late. I had to bring out the Bible and read out certain verses to her, of G od promising to never leave us or forsake us. We prayed afterward, it calmed her and I gave her an ice cream treat." "So you both indirectly conducted a funeral on behalf of Oscar?" Lara said, still shocked, trying so hard to contain her laughter."

"It was not intentional. Sometimes, these kids can make you do the unthinkable."

"So since then she never brought up the Daddy issue?

Vicky shook her head. "Just a few times when she draws a family tree. I think she is now more interested in having a baby brother than a father."

"So if Oscar wants to be in her life, which I really doubt, then it is going to be pretty difficult."

"Plus you know how clingy Sophie tends to be? I do not think she would be able to bear the distance."

"My life is here. Oscar has a life miles away. He has a company to run and lots of investments to oversee. He is always busy. I doubt he would be able to make time for her."

"She would want him to come for her school plays and all and I am sure he has no time for that."

"If I ever see him again, I will just ask him to leave and never come back here."

"I am not too sure but I think he is still married to his arranged wife. They probably have children together and I do not want Sophie to have a step-sibling relationship. It is always toxic."

"We do not need Oscar or his money. That is why I am working really hard just to save up for her and for college so we do not need to rely on him for anything."

"We have always been fine without him and we will continue to be. I just want my baby to be healthy and happy."

Lara nodded, "What about her request for a baby brother?"

"Well, there was a time that request was bugging me since we all know how persistent

Sophie can be bur not anymore."

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"Okay?!" Lara said, looking confused, awaiting for a more detailed explanation.

"I had it in the back of my mind that I was going to talk to you about it. You and Gabriel, you both are taking forever!"

Lara chuckled, "You have got to be kidding me."

"No, I am not. I know you both want to enjoy some time alone before kids come into the picture but you all are starting to take so long about it. Sophie wants a baby cousin."

"Between you and Sophie, I can tell that you are more manipulative."

"No, I am not. Let us not even argue about it. Sophie is Miss Manipulative. All she needs to do is to give you those puppy dog eyes and boom!!!! She has already crawled into your heart."

Lara laughed, knowing her sister-in-law was right.

"Aunt Lara!" The very lively voice came through as she ran towards her where she was seated.

"My love." Lara pulled her into a hug.

Pulling away, she gave the little girl a kiss on the cheek.

"You look so pretty and your hair, Wow!!!, so gorgeous,"

Sophie's hair was neatly styled in a bun and she was putting on leggings, a matching top, her jacket, and sneakers.

"Thank you. Mommy made my hair and Gloria picked my outfit."

"Hope you thanked them?"

She nodded, smiling, "I did."

"You are excited for this trip. Aren't you?"

"Yes, where is Uncle Gabriel? I thought he was coming with us?"

"Yes, my love. We will be meeting him at the airport. We are going to have so much fun!"

"Go say bye to your mommy so we can be on our way."

Sophie nodded, then ran towards Vicky.

Victoria

"I am going, "er daughter into a warm hug after which she showered her face with kisses."

miss you."

"I am going to miss you too, mama." Sophie leaned closer to her mom and kissed her cheek."

"Be a good girl to you."

She nodded.

aunt and uncle."

"Have fun and I am going to call you every day, okay?"

She smiled, Yes, Mommy,"

Soon enough, Gloria, her nanny, came out with Sophie's box which had her stuff for the weekend."

"We should get going so as to meet up with our flight." Lara rose to her feet.

Victoria followed suit

They made their way out of the house, with Gloria following them behind holding Sophie's luggage as

well as her iPad.

They got to the car where the driver was waiting for them. Gloria kept the box in the trunk, while Vicky said goodbyes to her daughter and Lara who both occupied the back seat. She waved at them until the car was totally out of sight.

She went back inside with Gloria. But Gloria immediately packed her bags and got ready to leave.

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"Goodnight ma'am,"

"Thank you, Gloria, Goodnight."

"You have the weekend off since Sophie won't be back till Sunday."

"Okay, ma. See you on Monday."

"Bve"

"Goodnight"

Once Gloria left, Victoria shut the door, locking it from behind after which she heaved a long sigh. She could not believe that she was having the whole weekend to herself. She missed Sophie already but she was rest assured since she was going to be with her brother and sister-in-law. The people she trusts most in her life.

Deciding she was going to make this weekend worthwhile, Vicky made her way to the bar area, and reached for her favorite bottle of wine and a glass cup.

With the items in her hand, She proceeded to her bedroom and went directly to her

adjoined bathroom.

She positioned the bottle of wine and glass cup by the counter, and prepared a bath which took a few minutes because she wanted the right temperature. Once that was all set, Vicky undressed, put her clothes away, opened the bottle, and poured some wine into the glass cup, putting both items by the stand beside the bathtub.

Remembering something was missing, she dashed into her room naked and reached for her tab on her nightstand.

Getting back into the bathroom, she unlocked her iPad, migrating to her video playlist on YouTube. She started by playing the first video as she sat the tab on the stand beside the bath.

Vicky reached for the glass cup, took a sip of her wine, then settled into the bath, immediately feeling. very relieved.

Vicky literally spent the next forty minutes in the bathtub, relaxing.

After what felt like forever, she stood up and got into the shower for a quick bath.

She dried her body with a white towel and wrapped her wet hair with another one after which she exited the bathroom.

Unlike other days, Vicky took her time in applying her skincare products and when she was done, she dried her hair and went in search of a night dress to wear in her closet.

Vicky settled for a red silky night dress that stopped right above her knee. It revealed a lot of her cleavage, but who cares, since she was the only one at home."

Vicky was making me ntal notes to continue enjoying herself in the living room, eating while watching TV when an irritating sound came through, bringing her out of her beautiful thoughts.

It was the sound of her doorbell, making her frown, wondering who the hell that was.

At first, she thought she heard wrong until the sound came through again.

At a time like this that she was not expecting anyone, Vicky began to get even more furious as she made her way out of the bedroom.

After what felt like forever, she got to the door and opened it.

Before she could even process the identity of the person she met at her door, the individual immediately but gently pushed her aside, and made its way into her house. "What the hell?!" She said at the top of her voice, shutting the door, then approaching the known stranger where he stood.

He removed his beanie from his head, revealing his face, after which he bent a little,

trying to catch hist

breath.

"What are you f u cking doing here? How did you even get in here?" She said, looking furious. Just because

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of him, Her elder brother got extra security for her and her baby so she had no idea how he found his way in.

Getting no answer from him, Vicky left the living room for the direction of her bedroom. Having an idea of what she was about to do, He followed her to her bedroom.

He saw when she picked up her phone from the nightstand so he rushed towards her and sn atched the phone from her.

"Give it back!!!" She tried to collect it from her but he would not budge until he placed it in his pocket.

"I don't know what you are doing here or how you got in here, just return my phone and get out of here!" She glared at him.

"I risked my life to come to meet you. You think I am going to go away, just like that?!" His deep voice came through, trying to catch his breath.

"Get the hell out of my house, Oscar!" She pointed to the door of her room.

"Please calm down, I am here to talk to you."

"I do not want to talk to you. Just hand over my phone and get the hell out of my home!" "Look I am sorry, I am sorry for the way I behaved with you earlier at the office. But please you have to hear me out."

"There is nothing you can say to me to convince me. Just leave, Oscar!"

"That is not an option. I've told you already. You either sit and listen to what I have to say or I am going to force you to."

"What? You are going to force yourself on me?" She stared at him with nothing but disgust.

"Stop putting words in my mouth, Vicky! Let us just have a peaceful conversation."

"You bas ta rd! There is no way I am ever going to listen to you." She spat at him and started making her way toward the door when he went after her and grabbed her by her arm.

"Let go of me!" She tried to release herself from him but he would not budge.

Vicky was about to scream when Oscar grabbed her by her waist, pushed her against

the wall by the door, and covered her mouth with his, trying to stop her screaming but it led to something else.