

Marrying 571

Chapter 571 I'm Not Hungry

Serafina beamed with a radiant smile. "Ren said Mommy is going through a tough time."

"But Mommy said she's alright."

I'm confused, I don't know if Mommy is really struggling."

"Your mommy..."

Damien raised his hand and tousled her dark hair. "She must be going through a tough time."

"Ren thinks so too!"

The man nodded in agreement.

For the past five years, Cherise had been singlehandedly taking care of two children.

She had refused financial support from Zachary and assistance from Beckham. She chose to work and raise her children alone.

Damien shook his head in resignation.

She was as stubborn as she was five years ago, beyond any hope of change.

Once she set her mind on something, she persevered, no matter how challenging or exhausting it was.

She had made a decision regarding both the children and her job. Thus, she refused any financial aid from the Tanner and Miles families.

She was stubborn but also unwavering.

"Mister, do you have strawberries here every day

Serafina's innocent voice snapped Damien out of this thoughts.

The man smiled softly. "Yes, every day."

"Do you want to come and eat strawberries every day?"

"That might be a bit difficult."

The little girl frowned

She pondered for a moment, feeling distressed. "Mommy was distracted today, so I managed to sneak out unnoticed."

"I don't know about next time."

As she spoke, she looked at Damien earnestly. "But don't worry, mister. If I have time, I'll definitely come and finish them for you!"

"Okay."

Damien smiled, raising his hand to wipe off the red stains from the little girl's face with a napkin.

A message from Blake flashed on his phone. 'He's back.

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At this moment, the man reluctantly looked at the little girl on the sofa. "Your brother is coming back. You should go to the elevator and wait for him."

After that, he handed the little girl a card. "This is the card to my house. There'll be strawberries here every day in the future. You can sneak over and eat them whenever you have time."

"Okay!"

The child accepted the card gleefully. "You're so kind, mister!"

She tucked the card into her pocket, left reluctantly, and stood beside the elevator.

The elevator arrived shortly.

Soren emerged from the elevator carrying two jars of salt and two ice creams. He coolly handed both ice creams to his sister. "Didn't I tell you to stay home and not wander off?"

"I was worried!"

Serafina turned away guiltily and followed Soren home.

Damien sat at home and watched the two children enter the house one after the other through the surveillance camera in the corridor. A faint smile appeared on the corners of his lips.

"We can eat after you finish your ice creams!"

Cherise hadn't noticed that her daughter had snuck out. She cheerfully instructed her children while placing food on the table.

"Okay!"

Serafina sat on the sofa, licking her ice cream, secretly sighing sorrowfully.

Strawberry ice cream isn't as good as fresh strawberries!

As Serafina slowly finished her ice cream, Cherise's food had cooled.

Soren walked over when he saw his sister taking her time. He wiped ice cream stains from the corners of her mouth. "Go wash your hands. It's time for dinner!"

Serafina frowned. I'm not hungry."

She had eaten an ice cream and many strawberries at Damien's house. She was already full and couldn't eat anything else.

Cherise furrowed her brow. "That's all you're eating?"

Soren hadn't bought a large ice cream for Serafina. It was probably only three to four ounces. Although ice cream is high in calories, it shouldn't be enough to fill her up, right?

Chapter 572 I'm Not Feeling Well

"Hmm."

Serafina patted her belly, feeling slightly embarrassed. "I can't eat anymore!".

“Mommy, Ren, eat slowly. I’m going to watch cartoons over here!”

Cherise returned to the dining table, casting a suspicious glance at Soren. She lowered her voice, “What did you give her to eat?”

Soren looked perplexed, “I only bought her ice cream.”

“Is that all?”

“Yes.”

Soren was equally puzzled, “She usually eats more than me every day. But tonight...

“Perhaps she’s not feeling well.”

Cherise sighed faintly. “I’ll leave work early tomorrow and take her to the hospital.”

Soren nodded, “Okay.”

Serafina, who was watching her cartoons from a distance, was oblivious to the seriousness of the situation.

She was secretly planning how to sneak over to Damien’s house to eat strawberries again tomorrow...

After Cherise bathed the two children and tucked them into bed at night, she couldn’t sleep. She went to the balcony to look at the stars.

There was no news from Damien at all.

She held her phone, repeatedly replaying the video Syatt had sent her.

Was I really that bad-tempered this afternoon?

Was my temper so bad that... it made Damien give up even though he had been searching for me for five years? Does he not want to approach me anymore?

She sighed and deleted the video from her phone, feeling the cool night breeze,

Forget it.

So be it if he doesn't want to approach me again.

After all, she had survived the past five years without him.

The next afternoon, Cherise left work early and picked up the two children from kindergarten.

"I'm not feeling well!"

Serafina cried on the way to the hospital. With tears streaming down her face, she said, "I don't want to go to the hospital!"

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"Dr. Lovell is so scary!"

“She’ll give me an injection!”

“I don’t want an injection!”

Soren rolled his eyes at her. “You’re not eating properly and yet you claim you’re not feeling well.”

“Mommy is doing this for your own good.”

“I’m not feeling well! Boohoo!”

The little girl wailed. “I’ll eat well today!”

“I don’t want to see the doctor!”

The little girl’s cries tugged at Cherise’s heartstrings.

Her hands froze on the steering wheel. “Do you promise you’ll eat properly from now on?”

“Mm-hmm!”

The little girl wiped her tears, crying pitifully. “I’ll definitely eat well!”

“Alright, I’ll give you one more chance.”

Cherise took a deep breath and turned the car around. “You must see the doctor if you skip meals again, okay?”

“Mm!”

Soren leaned back in his seat. frustrated, and glanced at Cherise, “Ms. Cherise Shaw, shouldn’t you be less

soft-hearted as a doctor?”

Cherise shrugged nonchalantly. She glanced at Serafina’s flushed, tear-streaked face in the rearview. mirror. “You do it since you’re so aloof.”

Soren was taken aback. He turned and looked at Serafina.

Before him, the little girl’s big black eyes were still filled with tears. She looked at him pitifully, “Ren, don’t you love me?”

The little girl’s voice was soft and tearful, coupled with her usual innocent. gaze...

Soren’s body stiffened.

A moment later, the little boy turned to look out the car window as he complained to Cherise in a huff. “You’re our mommy. Why do I have to play the bad guy as her brother?”

Cherise smiled exasperatedly.

Between her two children, Soren was only five minutes older than Serafina. However, Cherise worried. about how mature he seemed.

Although he seemed to treat his sister disdainfully on the surface, Cherise knew he actually cared for the little girl even more than she did.

Chapter 573 Sour Strawberries

As Cherise thought about it, she glanced at Serafina in the rearview mirror, who was still wiping her tears. with her tiny hands miserably. "Alright, stop crying."

"Make sure to eat well tonight!"

Serafina nodded furiously.

She wasn't really sick last night...

It was because...

Since they still had plenty of time, Cherise decided to go straight to the supermarket to buy groceries.

"What would you like to have for dinner tonight, Serafina?"

The woman parked the car smoothly and asked gently as she grabbed her handbag and stepped out.

Serafina climbed out of the car with Soren's assistance. "I'll eat anything."

Cherise chuckled. "Remember what you said. You must eat whatever I make tonight."

"Otherwise, I'll have to take you to the hospital again tomorrow!"

The little girl pouted but still agreed softly. "Okay. I'll eat whatever you make, Mommy."

Cherise noticed Serafina's slightly yellowish hair ends and led her two children to the fish and vegetable

section.

When they passed the fruit section, Cherise remembered Serafina's poor appetite for the past few days. She held the little girl's hand. "Would you like some strawberries?"

Upon hearing the word 'strawberries, Serafina's eyes widened instantly. "Where?!"

Cherise pointed to the strawberries in the fruit section. After asking the staff for permission, she popped a strawberry into Serafina's mouth. "How is it?"

The sour taste filled Serafina's taste buds.

Her small face instantly scrunched up. "It's so sour."

Then, the girl looked up at the strawberries in front of her with her dark eyes. "And they're not red enough."

Compared to the strawberries from Damien's house yesterday, these not only looked inferior, but they also weren't as delicious.

Serafina shook her head. "Mommy, let's not get these."

"I don't like these strawberries."

Cherise was taken aback.

This was the first time her daughter had turned down strawberries in five years.

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Hasn't she always enjoyed the strawberries here?

As Cherise thought about it, she picked up a strawberry and tasted it.

It was pretty sweet.

Hasn't Serafina always eaten the strawberries here?

Why had she suddenly developed a dislike for them?

The woman was perplexed.

But since her daughter didn't want the strawberries, she didn't buy them.

When they returned home in the evening, Cherise was surprised to discover that someone seemed to have moved into the house across from her that had been vacant for five years. There was even a pink rug

at the door.

The woman furrowed her brows slightly. Is the new neighbor a very feminine and ladylike woman?

I should find the time to get to know the new neighbor,

She opened the door and ushered the two children into the house as she thought about it.

As soon as Soren entered the house, he took out a puzzle from his bag and scattered it on the living room. carpet. "Mommy, the teacher gave me this puzzle today as a reward!"

Cherise glanced at the puzzle on the floor.

She recognized it.

Soren had always been fond of such brain teasers. Zachary had once wanted to buy Soren a set while shopping with her, but Cherise had stopped him.

Because... it was too expensive.

This set of puzzles cost thousands.

Zachary had even teased her for being too stingy with her own children.

It wasn't that she was stingy. She just felt it was unnecessary.

Although she led a frugal life, she never treated Soren and Serafina poorly. She had always provided them with everything other children had.

She had never wanted her two children to feel inferior for lacking necessities.

But when it came to toys...

She felt that all toys were the same, regardless of the price.

Chapter 574 A Well-earned Reward

Therefore, toys were not necessary.

Most importantly, she did not want to owe Zachary too many favors.

Despite his constant insistence that it was alright because he was her brother, she still felt uncomfortable.

“Soren.”

The woman furrowed her brows and stared at the puzzle on the floor. “Are you certain this was a gift from your teacher?”

“Yes.”

Soren blinked. He looked at Cherise, puzzled. “The teacher said it was my reward for coming in first in today’s test.”

Cherise’s brows furrowed. “Really?”

“Absolutely.”

The woman’s doubtful expression caused Soren to frown as well. “Mommy, is something wrong with this puzzle?”

Cherise shook her head before entering her room, While changing her clothes, she texted the children’s teacher. “Hello. Soren brought home a puzzle today and claimed it was a reward from you.

I’m curious where this puzzle came from... After all, I’ve seen this puzzle on display, and it’s more expensive than Soren and Serafina’s combined school fees this term.

After a long time, the children’s teacher responded. ‘Let me explain. This puzzle was donated by a generous individual who also donated all the books in our reading room.

“The puzzle was reportedly significantly discounted. I’m not certain about the details, but when it was donated, it was intended to be given as a reward to the kindergarten’s top-performing child.”

‘Soren excels in every aspect, so I believe this puzzle is a well-deserved reward for him.’

Cherise stood in the room and sighed deeply as she stared at the message on her phone.

After changing her clothes and leaving her room, Soren and Serafina were still seated on the carpet, quietly assembling the puzzle.

She remembered the teacher’s words. “This puzzle is a well-deserved reward for Soren.”

Her heart instantly filled with warmth..

Her son was indeed very thoughtful and intelligent.

He was just like his father... They were almost identical.

Soren resembled Damien in appearance, intellect, and character.

Soren was reserved with strangers, but at home, he was a warm-hearted boy who showered his little sister and mom with affection.

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As she thought about it, the woman put on her apron and went to prepare dinner for her two children in the kitchen

“Ren. I’m going to the restroom?”

Upon seeing Cherise enter the kitchen, Serafins quickly got up. “Wait for me”

Soren was still engrossed in assembling the puzzle “Alright”

Serafina tiptoed to the door and stepped into the corridor,

Standing on the pink rug outside Damien’s house, the little girl cautiously took the card from her pocket and lightly swiped it at the door

The door swung open with a beep.

The house was empty.

But countless large and fresh strawberries were placed on the coffee table in front of the sofa, just like the previous day.

Serafina’s eyes instantly lit up!

I was right to tell Mommy not to buy strawberries at the supermarket!

The strawberries at the supermarket are nowhere near as appealing as the ones in this handsome man’s house!

And they aren’t as delicious either!

Unable to resist her cravings, the little girl dashed excitedly towards the strawberries.

She ate one strawberry after another....

The tangy and sweet flavor made Serafina grin from ear to ear.

Serafina patted her belly and let out a satisfied burp when she was about seventy percent full.

She had not forgotten her mom's warning about going to the hospital if she did not eat well tonight.

She had to save room for dinner!

But

The little girl eyed the bright red strawberries before her longingly.

Maybe just one more?

Just as the little girl's chubby hand reached for the last strawberry, a child's clear voice echoed at the door.

"You're still eating"

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Chapter 575 Stealing Food

"You've already eaten eighteen."

This voice...

Serafina was startled and dropped the strawberry she was holding.

The crimson fruit fell on the plush pink carpet, and the young girl looked up towards the voice.

Soren stood at the doorway with crossed arms and looked at Serafina coldly with his dark eyes. “No wonder you didn’t want to eat dinner last night and refused strawberries from the supermarket when Mommy offered to buy them. It turns out you’ve been sneaking food here.”

Serafina’s eyes widened. She pouted, feeling unjustly accused by Soren’s words. “I’m not...”

“I’m not stealing food.”

“Isn’t it considered stealing if you come into this house to eat when the owner isn’t present?”

“I’m not...”

Serafina’s face flushed.

Even though she was only five years old, she understood that the word ‘steal’ had a negative meaning.

Therefore, she defended herself vehemently. “A handsome man invited me to eat the strawberries!”

“I didn’t steal food!”

“The handsome man said he doesn’t like strawberries, but someone delivers them to him daily. I came to eat them because he has no other choice!”

“I’m doing him a favor!”

Soren scoffed. He shut the door and slowly approached Serafina with his arms crossed. He scrutinized the strawberries laid out before him. "Even the best strawberries Mommy can buy at the supermarket can't compare to these."

"The strawberries here must cost more than the fish we eat."

"How can someone casually offer you such expensive fruit?"

Serafina's eyes widened. "But the handsome man said..."

"Perhaps these strawberries are poisoned."

Soren intentionally frightened her. "Didn't Mommy warn you against accepting food from strangers?"

"Maybe you won't recognize me or Mommy after eating these strawberries."

Serafina's eyes widened. "Really?"

"Yes... I've seen it in many cartoons."

The little girl's tears began to flow at once, "What should I do..."

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Soren scanned the room. "You must tell me who the owner of this place is."

"It's me."

As soon as Soren spoke, a deep masculine voice echoed from the direction of the bedroom.

The bedroom door swung open simultaneously, and a tall man emerged.

Soren's eyes widened.

Serafina instinctively retreated. "Ren, it's this handsome man."

Soren stared at the man who had appeared before him and was momentarily speechless.

Is this man... my dad?

But didn't Mommy say that my dad passed away long ago?

Then why does the man standing before me look like me?

We don't just look alike. We're identical.

He's like an adult version of myself.

Damien smiled faintly. He strolled leisurely to the sofa and settled down.

Perched at the other end of the sofa, Serafina instinctively recoiled due to Soren's words. She didn't dare to approach Damien.

"Are you shocked?"

The man looked at his five-year-old son indifferently. "Who's the winner now?"

Shock flickered through Soren's eyes.

"You're the one I doused with water that day?"

water that day?

Damien's eyes narrowed slightly. "I'm the one who chatted with you on WhatsApp that day."

"Oh."

Soren nodded. "You're worthless."

After that, he walked over to Serafina in a dignified manner and extended his hand to his sister. "Let's go home. Pay no attention to this strange person."

Serafina nodded. She extended her tiny hand to grasp Soren's, and the two siblings hastily exited Damien's residence./

Chapter 576 It's My Duty

"Ren."

Serafina tried to explain herself as she closed the door to Damien's house. "I know I'm not supposed to talk to strangers."

"But you saw him, Ren."

"That man really resembles you."

"I don't think he's a bad person."

Soren furrowed his brows slightly. "But he's not a good person either."

As it turned out, this man had recently moved into the house across from them.

Does he expect me to call him Dad?

No way!

When Soren brought Serafina home, Cherise had already prepared dinner. She was seated at the dining table, glaring at them indignantly.

"Why didn't you tell me you went out to play?"

"And Soren, don't think I don't know that Uncle Zach gave you a phone."

"If you didn't inform me, at least take your phone with you."

"I was on the verge of contacting the police if you hadn't returned!"

Soren held Serafina's hand and shielded her behind him. "I'm sorry, Mommy."

"I was frustrated because I couldn't solve the puzzle, so I took Sera out for some fresh air."

"It's my mistake for not informing you, Mommy. I promise it won't happen again."

The boy spoke with his head down. "I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me, Mommy."

Cherise sternly gazed at the two children standing before her. She couldn't scold them any further.

The woman sighed. "Alright, go wash your hands. It's time for dinner!"

After that, she glanced at Serafina. "You must finish your meal tonight."

"Otherwise, I'll take you to the hospital tomorrow!"

Serafina nodded and hurried towards the washroom.

"Thank you, Ren."

Serafina whispered her gratitude as the two children huddled by the sink.

Soren flattened his lips and said casually are you thanking me? It's my duty."

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"But Serafina, in the future, keep your distance from the man in the house across from us. He's not a good person."

"Mm! I understand!"

Although Serafina didn't eat much for dinner, it was a significant improvement from the previous day.

After Cherise had dinner with the two children, she helped them complete the puzzle before taking Serafina for her bath.

Once Serafina was done, it was Soren's turn.

Cherise tucked Serafina into bed as usual. Then, she got up and headed to the laundry room.

When she remembered that Soren and Serafina had gone out to play, the woman decided to wash the children's clothes.

To her surprise, there was no dust on Serafina's clothes. Instead, there was a red stain.

The red stain was on the front of Serafina's clothes. Cherise sniffed it, and it smelled like strawberries.

The woman furrowed her brows in confusion. Strawberries?

If I remember correctly, Serafina was wearing a different outfit when she ate strawberries at the supermarket today...

Why would there be a strawberry stain on the clothes she wore at home?

As the woman pondered, her hand brushed against the little girl's pocket. There was a hard, square object

inside.

Cherise took it out. Is this an access card? And it's... for the house across from us?

The woman's brows furrowed tightly.

Why would Serafina have an access card for the house across from us in her pocket?

"Mommy."

Lost in her thoughts, Cherise saw Soren standing at the laundry room doorway, wrapped in a towel, looking at her. "Mommy, can you tell me about my dad?"

Cherise was slightly surprised. "Why this sudden interest?"

"I'm curious."

Soren smiled at the woman. "Our teacher asked us to share interesting stories about our dads today."

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Chapter 577 Are You That Surprised?

"I mentioned that my father had passed away, and the teachers comforted me and Serafina. They even gave us an extra apple."

Cherise's smile was slightly forced as she tossed Serafina's clothes into the washing machine. "Isn't that

nice?"

"Even though you don't have a dad, many people still care for you and Serafina..."

"But Mommy." Soren interrupted.

He wasn't very tall but had an exceptionally mature expression as he stood at the doorway. "I want to know. if my father has really passed away."

"Or did you just say he passed away because you separated from him?"

Cherise's hand froze as she was about to press the washing machine button.

She frowned and turned to Soren. "You're acting strangely today. Did someone say something to you? Why this sudden interest?"

Soren pursed his lips. "Mommy, do you still believe that Serafina and I are too young to know the truth?"

Cherise was taken aback and looked away. "Soren, it's not that I don't want to tell you. It's just that the situation between your dad and me... is complicated. Even if I explained, you might not understand. So, it's easier for you and Serafina to assume that he's no longer around and has passed away."

"Mm." Soren took a deep breath. "I understand."

After that, he glanced at the card in Cherise's hand. "Serafina didn't steal that, nor did she find it. Our neighbor gave it to her. She hasn't been feeling unwell for the past two days either. She doesn't have much, appetite for dinner because our neighbor has been treating her to delicious fruits."

He wrapped himself tightly in his bath towel and added, "I'm going to bed, Mommy. Good night."

Cherise looked at the access card in her hand.

Our neighbor has been giving Serafina fruits?

She sighed. This silly girl.

She didn't even tell me after accepting food from someone else.

I must thank the neighbor.

Furthermore, Serafina can't keep our neighbor's access card with her...

Cherise took a deep breath. She rummaged through the fridge and found some pierogi dough and filling.

She sat under the light and wrapped a batch of pierogis. After cooking them, she got up and left the house with the pierogis.

Her daughter had been staying at their neighbor's house for two days without her knowledge. Now that she knew, she needed to repay her neighbor's kindness.

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Upon hearing the door close, Soren let out a light sigh as he lay on the bed before closing his eyes.

Cherise had brushed her hair and changed into casual clothes before she walked over with a plate of steaming pierogis. She rang the doorbell of the house across from them.

She had noticed that the lights in the house were still on, indicating that the owner was still awake.

A man's voice quickly came from inside. "Who's there?" Damien deliberately lowered his voice..

Cherise took a deep breath and cleared her throat. "I'm your neighbor from across the hallway. My daughter has been eating your strawberries for the past two days, so I've made some pierogis for you in

return."

The man inside chuckled lightly. "That sounds good. It's been a while since I've had your pierogis."

Cherise was startled. This voice, this tone....

Before she could process it, the door swung suddenly open. A tall man in light gray pajamas smiled at her from the inside.

Cherise was so taken aback that she almost dropped the plate. Thankfully, the man was quick to catch it. "Are you that surprised?"

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Chapter 578 Be Good

Cherise snapped back to reality only after the man took the pierogis from her. "Do you live here?"

"Yes."

The man yawned and gestured for her to come inside. "Let's talk inside. It might get noisy if we talk in the hallway, and it could disturb the children."

Cherise furrowed her brows and cautiously stepped inside.

To her surprise, the interior decoration didn't match Damien's typical minimalist style.

Instead...

There were pink rabbits and light blue dolphins.

The room was decorated in an adorable, childlike manner.

She frowned and took a seat on the sofa with a stern expression. "Is this how you enticed Serafina?"

“Essentially.”

The man took a set of cutlery from the kitchen and began to eat the pierogis elegantly on the sofa.

After eating two pierogis, he looked up at Cherise. “Do you have sour cream and mustard?”

“They taste a bit bland.”

Cherise pursed her lips.

These pierogis were made with the leftover filling she had prepared for the children a few days ago.

Cherise liked to keep her children’s food as organic as possible.

The woman sighed and rose to walk towards the kitchen.

“I don’t have anything here.”

Damien smiled faintly. “Do you have any at your place?”

Cherise rolled her eyes at him. She wanted to leave.

But...

She glanced at the strawberries on the coffee table.

The strawberries were large and a deep red. They must have been expensive, right?

When she thought about how Serafina had eaten so many strawberries....

She sighed in resignation, turned around, and left. "Hold on."

Damien lounged on the sofa and watched the woman leave. A smile tugged at the corners of his lips. "Alright."

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When Cherise returned home, she prepared sour cream and mustard according to Damien's previous preferences and walked back.

As she reached Damien's house, she heard his phone ring.

The man set his utensils down gracefully and reached out to answer his phone.

"Yes, it's me."

Cherise heard the man's gentle voice through the door and abruptly halted in her tracks.

"I won't be able to come back for a few days."

The man took a deep breath and frowned. A hint of impatience flickered in his eyes. "I've already told you I'll be back a bit later."

"Don't let your imagination run wild."

"What happens between me and my ex-wife won't affect our relationship."

“Be good and don’t overthink anything. You should be sleeping at this time.”

“Yes, be good.”

Cherise stood frozen in her spot. She was so alarmed as she listened to Damien’s tender voice that she couldn’t speak.

This voice, this tone, this volume...

She had only ever heard Damien speak to her in this manner.

But now, he spoke affectionately to the person on the other end of the phone through the door.

The woman’s thin lips pursed tightly.

She recalled what Lucy had told her three years ago. “Damien met someone who pursued him the first year after you

left. A year after that, he even went on a blind date. He recently went on another date with his previous blind date’s sister. It’s absolutely true!

Cherise had already lost interest in Damien then, so she didn’t take it seriously. She had responded to Lucy gently. “Damien is a free man after we divorced and can be with whoever he likes. It has nothing to do with either of us. You don’t have to feel so upset.”

Cherise pursed her lips as she reflected on what she had said then. Her heart tightened abruptly.

Inside the room, Damien had already ended the call.

The man put his phone down. He looked up indifferently and saw the woman outside the door. "Come in."

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Chapter 579 I Did Nothing Wrong

Cherise entered the room with a furrowed brow, placing the condiments she was carrying next to his plate of pierogis. "It's getting late. I have work tomorrow, so I won't disturb you any longer!"

With that, she turned and left.

As she reached the door, something seemed to jog her memory. She spun around, took the access card from her pocket, and threw it onto the coffee table with a loud thud.

"Here's your card back. Please keep your distance from my children in the future. Thank you!"

And with that, she swiftly exited.

Damien watched her retreating figure, his brows wrinkling in confusion. He couldn't help but wonder, What upset her?

Just moments ago, she had a pleasant demeanor and even personally prepared condiments for him. Why did her attitude suddenly change?

He shook his head lightly. Women were unpredictable and difficult to understand.

Cherise was just as erratic and mysterious as the woman who had just called him.

Taking a deep breath, he looked down and continued eating his pierogis.

Although the pierogis were slightly bland, there was no denying that her cooking skills remained unchanged after five years.

These pierogis were just as delicious as the ones she handmade five years ago.

Damien had missed her cooking so much that he polished off all the pierogis in front of him.

The next morning, Serafina realized that her access card was missing.

The little girl cleverly deduced that her mother had confiscated it.

Serafina sat quietly during breakfast and the car ride to kindergarten. She didn't utter a single word in the back seat.

On the other hand, Soren was in high spirits.

The boy beamed at Cherise, "Mommy, did you sleep well last night?"

Cherise's hands froze slightly on the steering wheel. "Not bad."

"I noticed you weren't home when I woke up to use the bathroom last night."

Soren blinked at Cherise through the rearview mirror. "Where did you go, Mommy?"

Her son's innocent and earnest expression caused Cherise's brows to furrow slightly.

She took a deep breath. "Serafina, do you know what you did wrong?"

Serafina hesitated for a moment and shrunk back in her seat. "I didn't do anything wrong."

"You didn't do anything wrong?"

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Cherise's frown deepened. "You haven't been eating at home for the past few days. Did you have nice treats at someone else's house instead? Have I ever told you not to simply accept food from others or enter other people's houses? Do you think I don't know that you've been sneaking over to someone else's house to eat strawberries for the past few days?!"

Serafina pursed her lips and sat in the corner, looking wronged. "I didn't sneak over. That man invited me."

"Have I ever told you not to trust strangers easily or accept food from strangers?"

Cherise spoke coldly and harshly, her expression stern.

I've spoiled my children. That's why Serafina would do such a thing

Thankfully, it was Damien living across from us this time. What if it were someone else? What if it were someone with malicious intentions? What would have happened?

I've been too lenient as a mother!

Serafina looked aggrieved. "I don't think that man is a stranger."

“Why is that?”

As the little girl spoke, she subconsciously glanced at Soren’s face. “Because that man looks exactly like Ren. That’s why I don’t think he’s a bad person.”

After that, Serafina blinked at Cherise. “Mommy, have you seen that man’s face?”

“He looks exactly like Ren

Cherise’s brows furrowed deeply.

“Even if he looks exactly like your brother, he’s still a stranger!”

Chapter 580 He’s Not Related To You

“But Ren has always been kind to me. Anyone who looks exactly like him must also be a good person,” Serafina passionately defended herself. “Mommy, is that man related to us? Why does Ren look exactly like him?”

Cherise furrowed her brows angrily. “He’s not your relative!” Damien’s deep, gentle voice from the previous night echoed in her mind once again.

Cherise’s gaze darkened significantly. “Remember this. The man next door is not your family!” Cherise emphasized, her voice cold and firm. “Keep your distance from him!”

Afterwards, she sighed, “I will consider it in the coming days. We might have to move or relocate. Both of you need to behave and avoid interacting with strangers. Do you understand?”

Serafina glanced at Soren, feeling upset. She didn't say anything more.

Meanwhile, Soren discreetly took out his phone to send a message to Damien. Look at the trouble you've caused. My mom is thinking about moving us away! It's all your fault! You have to convince my mom to change her mind. I don't want to move. If not, forget about ever winning over Serafina in this lifetime!"

After a long morning meeting, Cherise returned to her desk, clutching her notebook listlessly.

Lucy waved her hand in front of Cherise. "Is something bothering you?"

"No." Cherise shook her head and started flipping through her notes.

Numerous words were written in the notebook, but she couldn't process a single one.

Eventually, she closed the notebook in frustration and tossed it aside dismissively.

Seeing her like that, Lucy naturally didn't believe Cherise's claim that nothing was wrong.

"Has Damien not contacted you yet?" She leaned across the table towards Cherise and asked curiously.

"He did." Cherise pursed her lips. "He moved in across from me two days ago. He almost won Serafina over in the past few days. It took a lot of effort this morning to convince her that he's just a stranger who is not related to us and she should keep her distance."

"Well done!" Lucy gave her a thumbs up. "That's the spirit. Let him know he can't make up for his past mistakes with sweet talk!"

Her good friend's words brought some comfort to Cherise. She pursed her lips and looked up at Lucy. "By the way. When you visited me three years ago, you mentioned that... Damien went on a blind date, right? What happened after that?"

Lucy was taken aback. She had almost forgotten about it if Cherise hadn't brought it up. Damien did indeed go on a blind date back then. But she knew that the blind date had actually been arranged by Maeve and Charles because they thought Damien was too lonely. However, Damien had no intention of meeting that woman again.

After Lucy fell out with Lennon, she never heard anything about Damien again. When she came to Lermille to visit Cherise, she deliberately exaggerated and said Damien had gone on a blind date with someone else when she mentioned him, in order to make Cherise completely give up on him. She was somewhat surprised that Cherise still remembered it.

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The woman coughed lightly. "After that...

the subject. "Why are you suddenly asking about this?"

"No reason. It just came to mind." The woman sighed nonchalantly. She looked down, picked up her discarded notebook, and continued organizing the notes from the meeting.

Afterwards, she visited her patients in the ward with her folder as usual.