Chapter 23 Marissa kept her smile polished and sweet , but there was a hard edge to her voice .

I think we should just let it go .

Its all kids stu , right ? Lets not make a big deal out of it this time .

With that ,

Marissa reached out her hands with long nails , aiming to pinch Serenas cheek . However , Paisley swiftly buried Serenas face in her arms and gave Marissa a cold stare .

Not feeling embarrassed by Paisleys action .

Marissa let her hand drop and added .

But just so you know , there better not be a next time .

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We care bear our own kids being always picked on .

en foot in this school .

Paisleys eyes sliked over the three of them , and she couldnt help but regret ever telling Serena skip foot Thats so nice of you .

Ms.

Sutton , youd better get to apologizing right now . Michelle chimed in again , trying to smooth things over .

He thought if Serenas mother apologized , the issue would be settled with no fuss .

Paisley shot back with a better Laugh .

Why should we apologize ? We still dont have the full picture here .

Whos right and whos wrong is still up in the air.She sco ed and added .

Or do you judge students based on the parentss identities ? Those words hit Michelle like a slap , leaving her speechless .

Michelle was furious but had nothing to and increasingly hostile .

counter w with .

Her r gaze at Paisley turned cold Michelle scolded .

Ms.

Sutton , this is clearly Serenas fault .

She ran o and hurt the other kids .

Shes in the wrong here .

The two parents arent pressing charges, so a simple apology should settle it .

But youre .

Michelle trailed o her frustration plain .

Shed been about to say ungrateful .

Though she didnt voice it , her implication was crystal clear .

Throat my daughter .

She wouldnt hurt anyone for no reason .

I want the school to investigate this and clear her name .

Paisley said mly .

Her words rang with conviction , and there was no backing down .

Dominick was momentarily taken aback .

For a brief second , he didnt recognize the woman in front of him .

But then , it clicked .

This was the same Paisley he remembered strong , determined , never afraid to speak her mind .

what Marissa noticed the way Dominick was looking at Paisley and felt a knot in her stomach .

She pulled Stella over and said , Now , Stella , tell us w happerned again Stella had been ignored long enough and was pouting , clearly unhappy about the situation .

But when her aunt spoke , she couldnt resist .

She crossed her arms and added some extra dram to the retelling Basically , this bad girl just came over and started bothering Sonny for no reason .

Sonny ignored her , so she freaked out and started hitting him .

Not just him , she hit me too , said Stella .

As she spoke , she held out her palm , showing a few red , raw spots where the skin had been scraped .

Grayson , is that what happened ? Dominick turned to his son and asked .

Grayson hesitated for a second with guilt ashing in his eyes .

But the moment he saw Paisley holding Serena , he pouted and gave a sharp nod .

He pointed an accusing finger at Serena and replied .

Yeah , Stellas right .

Shes a total nutcase ! Serena , whod nally stopped crying , immediately started again when she heard Grayson call her a nutcase .

Serena protested , Mommy , Im not a Pandeys eyes licked to Serenas hands and found the cuts weren't deep .

She knew if they were from a normal child , the principal wouldnt have taken it so seriously .

The school made such a big fuss only because it was Dominicks son and Marissas niece .

They were afraid that the Vanderbilt family would get upset , and that was why they were making such a big deal out of this .

If she were any other parent , maybe shed have been left to swallow the injustice quietly .

After all , who would dare cross the school or its wealthy donors ? No more talking Paisley snapped .

Lets check the security fo expect an apology from them ? footage .

If the footage shows my daughr ete my daughter was wrong .

I apologize .

But if it doesnt , I