

The Revenge of the Mute Wife [Completed]

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Chapter 201

Everyone was gearing up to drop the bombshell of the latest gossip. A generous donation had been made. to ensure that the scandal hit the morning news, sparking malicious rumors about the couple's life. The goal was to rattle them enough to finally coax an interview out of them.

Just as they were about to air the interview, someone arrived and stopped the show.

Despite the protests, the program was immediately canceled. The reason? Someone had threatened that the Coopers would not only take legal action against the reporters, but also shut down the entire channel if any lies about the couple were broadcast. So, as expected, the reporters chose to return the donation and politely ask that they not be contacted again. They didn't want any trouble.

Of course, the ones who had schemed behind the scenes were far from pleased. It was clear that they couldn't win this power struggle unless they found someone else to back them.

So? Eric asked, sipping his coffee.

Our friend acted quickly. The story won't be airing.

God... Reporters sometimes seem more like vultures than humans.

You know how they are. They're only after scandals to keep selling their magazines and interviews, Samantha commented blandly as she spread jam on her toast.

Although he did ask for something in return for his help, the older man added with a smirk. "He wants us to give him the exclusive privilege of introducing James to the world." "Ricky never misses a beat."

What does Ricky want now, huh? At that moment, they saw Jayden approaching, looking thoroughly exhausted.

Good morning, son, his mother greeted.

Morning...

James didn't let you sleep, did he? Eric chuckled.

Boss, would you like some coffee? asked the maid who had come to refill Eric's cup

Yes, please, Jayden said, sitting down at the table. "And ye he was very active last night."

Well, son, you're going to have to get used to these sleepless nights. It's normal for the first few months.

I know it's just until he's a bit older, but still... He yawned again.

Here you go, boss, the maid said, handing him a cup. It's a bit strong.

Thanks, he said, taking a sip. "So, what happened that made Ricky want exclusive news?" he asked, looking at his parents, who quickly filled him in on the events. "We found out after the party and, of course, acted swiftly." Eric said, his brow furrowed.

Parasites, Jayden grumbled, mirroring his father's expression. "Luckily, we've got friends everywhere."

Hm... the older man muttered.

So, what do you think about Ricky's interview...? Samantha began to ask.

James's cry echoed in the background.

Duty calls, son, Eric said with a grin, noticing his son's resigned expression.

Seems like it, he said, standing up and nodding to the maid. "You can go ahead and have our breakfast

prepared."

Right away, boss, she replied, heading to the kitchen to place their order.

Jayden smiled and went to check on his little one, who was now in his mother's arms.

There, my love... Mommy's here.

He already woke you up? the blond asked.

Yes, hehe, I think I finally understand what they meant by having light sleep with a newborn around, she said, leaning in to give him a kiss on the lips. "Is he hungry?"

No, it seems like the culprit is his diaper, she said, laying the baby on the bed to check. "Yuck... yeah, this is definitely the culprit," she said, making faces to amuse her little one. Jayden chuckled at the interaction, noticing how she placed a cloth over their son to cover his lower half.

It's a cloth diaper, she explained as she finished changing him. "Your mother suggested alternating between these and plastic ones to avoid irritating his skin." "Oh," he murmured, watching her finish up. "Hehe, all clean now," he said, moving closer to pick him up.

Watch him for a sec. I'm going to grab him some clean clothes... Deborah stifled a yawn as she opened the wardrobe. "How about this one?" she asked, pulling out a pastel yellow shirt. "I like it, he'll stay cool in it," Jayden said.

Yes, especially since my phone alert says it's going to be really hot today, so we need to keep an eye on him, she said, moving closer to change his clothes.

James cooed happily, enjoying his mother's attention.

By the way, love, it seems like someone still hates you, Jayden said..

Huh? What are you talking about?

Someone paid off several reporters to start some nasty rumors, hoping to ruin our happiness.

Really? Deborah asked as she tidied up James's things. "How so?" she asked, looking at Jayden in confusion.

They hired some reporters to take photos at the hospital and with what they got, they cooked up an interesting home-wrecking soap opera for the public. God... if it's not one thing, it's another..."

Do you have any idea who might be behind this?

actually have two suspects in mind," Deborah mused.

I think I know who you're talking about, Jayden replied with a sly smile. "And what do you plan to do?"

Isn't it obvious? I'm going to teach them a lesson. It's time to return the love, affection, and respect they've shown me, Deborah said, her brow furrowing slightly

Sounds like you've got something planned.

1. do. Knowing them, I can already guess what they'll try to do and how they'll try to hurt me," she said, glancing at James. "And that's something I won't tolerate, this little one is the reason I've changed, and I won't let anyone harm him."

Well, I can help with the first strike, Jayden offered.

What do you suggest, love?

"Since they tried to spread bad news, we can fight back the same way.

Huh?"

How about giving an exclusive interview to introduce our little one and show off how happy we are?

I like that idea-it'll drive them crazy. And if you're up for it, we can also announce that we'll be talking about our wedding plans soon.

So soon, love? Jayden asked, surprised. I thought we'd wait until James was a year old or until your company's grand opening and

Relax, love, that's part of the trick, Deborah said, winking at him.

Deborah leaned in to explain her plan, knowing that if she was right and that those two were the ones trying to stir up trouble again these happy announcements would drive them mad and provoke them into attacking, just as she hoped. Jayden smiled, understanding the plan and adding his own touches to help his beloved, making the upcoming interview even more interesting to ensure their enemies would take the bait

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With that plan in mind, they headed downstairs for breakfast, sharing the details with the elders, who fully supported the idea. already called Ricky to help us with this,” Samantha said.

Seems like my daughter is quite the force to be reckoned with,” Eric commented in amusement.

Of course, Father. I’m not going to let anyone mess with you or my son, Deborah said, her expression

Firm

That’s the spirit! You know, I’ve got a suggestion for you too.” Samantha said, smiling slyly.

Of course, go ahead, Mother.

Since we’re giving an interview, you should dress the part. We need to show strength and power through your appearance.” “She’s right. Nothing sends a stronger message than that. It tells the world, ‘Look what I have,” Eric

added.

think I even have a cute outfit for James,” Samantha said excitedly.

in that case, let’s get changed,” Deborah declared, knowing that flaunting luxuries they could no longer have would hit them where it hurt. With that decided, the couple went upstairs to change while the elders contacted Ricky and explained their plan for the special interview. Once ready, Jayden and Deborah made their way to the living room to wait for Ricky, who arrived shortly

Sir, the guest has arrived, the butler announced.

Let them in,” Jayden ordered.

The Cooper family, it’s an honor to see you again,” Ricky said, a man with a somewhat flamboyant appearance but a serious demeanor. “Wow, I’m honored-everyone’s dressed so elegantly,” he remarked, noting how the couple was dressed in formal attire. “And I’m

guessing this is the little star of the show.” he said, approaching the baby. “What a handsome little guy! He looks just like his mother,

Doesn't he? Jayden joked.

love the outfits, by the way! So, are we ready?”

Yes, Deborah replied, her tone filled with determination.

Then let's get ready to kick off the big show, Ricky declared, signaling his assistants to set up in the bving room

With that, the assistants arranged the lights, cameras, and microphones for the interview, ensuring everything was ready without having to move James from the house.

Since everything was in place, the lights flicked on, and they went live.

Good afternoon, my lovely audience, Ricky began, slipping into his role as the charming reporter.” Today's show is very special because I'm here with the couple of the moment, Jayden Cooper and his wife, Deborah “He trailed off, giving her the chance to introduce herself. “Good afternoon. My name is Deborah Anderson, and yes, I'm Jayden's wife,” she said, giving the camera a confident smile

And we're also joined by their little one, Ricky added, gesturing to the baby in her arms.

“That's right, this is our son, James Cooper Anderson, Jayden said proudly, introducing their son

Wow, he's so handsome! How are you finding parenthood?”” Ricky asked.”

It's been a wonderful adventure, even though we're still adjusting to it all, Jayden admitted with a smile.

And what about you, Deborah? How has it been for you?

It's been-an incredible experience, and I'm so happy to be a mother. I wouldn't change it for the world. she said, her gaze tender as she looked at her son

Now, I have to ask how does it feel to have everyone's eyes on you?

We understand that people are curious, but we're just happy to be together as a family. That's all that matters to us, Jayden replied.

And speaking of family, I've heard rumors that there might be some exciting news on the horizon. Could you tell us more?

Yes, actually, we're planning our wedding. Deborah announced, a mischievous gleam in her eye.

Really? Ricky asked, surprised. "Can you tell us when?"

"We're still working out the details, but it will be soon, Jayden said, his tone teasing.

Well, you heard it here first, folks!" Ricky exclaimed, beaming at the camera. "I can't wait to see what you have in store."

The interview continued, with the couple sharing their happiness and future plans, all while keeping their true intentions under wraps. By the time the interview wrapped up, they had painted a perfect picture of their life, leaving no room for doubt or rumor. "Thank you so much for having me," Ricky said as the cameras were turned off.

It's always a pleasure, Ricky, Jayden replied, shaking his hand.

Anytime you need, just give me a call. I'll always have your back

Same here. Deborah said, shaking his hand as well.

With that, Ricky and his team packed up and left, leaving the couple to bask in the afterglow of their successful interview

Meanwhile, in a different part of the city, two women were watching the interview unfold on their TV screen, their expressions growing darker with every word spoken

She dared to do it...! one of them hissed.

Calm down, Sophia. Let's not lose our cool, the other woman, Mia, said, trying to maintain her

composure.

I can't believe that bitch just announced their wedding like it's no big deal!

Relax, Sophia. We'll have our chance to strike back.

And how do you plan to do that, huh? They've got everyone wrapped around their finger! If we don't do something soon, they'll have it all!

The other woman narrowed her eyes, her mind already working on a plan to retaliate.

Don't worry, Soph. We'll make sure they don't get away with this. But we need to be smart about it.

"What do you mean?"

We need to find a way to hit them where it hurts the most. And I think I know just the way to do it."""

Are you sure about this, Mia?

Positive. It's time to play dirty.

Sophia smirked, her anger giving way to malicious glee

Then let's make them pay.

With their new plan in motion, the two women prepared to launch their next attack, unaware that Deborah was already ten steps ahead of them.

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Wha... Debbie...

In my defense, that combo tasted really good, Deborah said, blushing slightly.

Haha, James was so demanding with his cravings, Ricky teased. Just then, one of his assistants approached and handed him a sheet of paper. "Oh, look, we've got the first questions coming in," he announced, reading the paper, "Alright, here's one for Deborah: What inspired you to choose your baby's name?"

Actually, Jayden was the one who picked the name, and I loved his suggestion. It's the name of a character from a book I adored as a child.

Are you talking about the book *The Adventures of Young Duke James*? Ricky asked.

I love that book too! It's such a fun, lighthearted romance, Ricky commented before glancing at the next question. "Okay, next up... Oh, this one's a toughie. Jayden, are you really going to raise a child that isn't your own blood?"

Jayden's expression darkened. "Of course I am. I've watched him grow, and even though we don't share blood, I love him and consider him my own son," he said, clearly irritated. "In fact, anyone who dares say otherwise better have the guts to say it to my face."

Grr... easy there, tiger, Ricky laughed. "I think it's pretty clear to everyone that you genuinely love this little one. It's silly to even ask that, considering how obvious it is," he remarked as he received another sheet of questions. "Alright, next question: Deborah, what diet did you follow? You look amazing, especially since just a month ago, you seemed a lot heavier."

Well, it wasn't so much a diet. I just tried to control my cravings because I often wanted junk food. But! gradually trained myself to crave fruits and vegetables instead, since that's healthier for the baby too.

That's some great advice, Ricky noted. "Next question: What fortune will James inherit? Will you pass on the Anderson estate to him? Will the Coopers recognize a child who isn't their blood, or will you force Mr. Peterson to hand over his fortune to his first grandchild?" Deborah's brow furrowed, instantly recognizing who had asked that question. There was only one person obsessed with that topic. "That's something that will only be decided in the future."

What do you mean by that?

Because it will depend on what my son wants when he grows up. He should be able to pursue his own interests, she said, glancing at her son, who was calm in her arms, trying to suck on his hand. She gently prevented him. "And if in the near future, he tells me he wants to design jewelry like his grandfather George and his uncle Elliot, I'll talk to them about giving him an opportunity in the business. If that's not possible, I'll ask for their support to help him start his own business, so he can follow his passions... But I'll never demand something that doesn't belong to my son, because the Peterson family fortune is something that belongs to Elliot Peterson and no one else."

That's true, and that kid definitely has talent, Ricky said, showing off the bracelet he was wearing. "He's a genius when it comes to design, and it's just foolish to try to change that," he remarked, enjoying the couple's laughter. Chapter 203

And speaking of changes, Jayden added, "we want to take this opportunity to announce that soon, we'll no longer be engaged."

Wha... Does that mean you're finally taking that big step?

Uh-huh. We've almost got everything ready, but we postponed it because of James.

I understand, dear. That way, you'll look even better in your wedding dress.

Now that I think about it, your previous wedding... well, there wasn't much talk about it.

No, because to my ex-mother-in-law, it was a disgrace. I only had a closed-door civil ceremony.

Oh... That's so sad to hear, dear.

But things will be different this time because we're going to have a grand wedding to show that Deborah deserves all the luxuries in the world and more, Jayden declared with an arrogant smile.

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Damn it! Sophia screamed in fury as she continued to listen to Jayden talk about his plans for a grand, luxurious wedding, all because his beloved deserved nothing less.

That brat has lost his mind! How can he possibly welcome a child that isn't his blood? Isabelle complained.

The two women had gathered at Isabelle's house to watch the interview, curious about what they would say. Isabelle also wanted to see if that child was worthy of being called a grandchild or not... and she absolutely hated the boy at first sight. He didn't resemble her son at all... maybe a little in the face, but he still had more of Deborah's features.

It's not fair that she's getting my dream wedding. Sophia whined, recalling how she once longed for all those luxuries. But even her parents had told her that spending money like that didn't make sense... which frustrated her, considering they were supposed to be the kings of the underworld, yet they had to live like humble people because of appearances and to avoid getting caught by the police.

Stupid, cowardly reporters.. if they hadn't backed out, this interview would've gone very differently, Isabelle said angrily. "I guess I underestimated Samantha a bit. It's obvious she still has contacts in the media."

So, does that mean now that you're divorced, you're a nobody?

Don't insult me, girl. I still have some power left.

Oh yeah? Because from what I see, your name means nothing now.

And let me remind you that this is all your fault.

Mine? I didn't even know her when she decided to hire my father's services to get rid of her second child.

Shut up! That was a mistake on her part because they kidnapped my baby, not that boy, Isabelle said furiously. "But you're not one to criticize me either; you had a lot, and you walked away from it because you wanted to."

That's because I hate living like someone humble. I want to be popular and have power that's easily recognized... That's why I hate the idea of living in the shadows and having to undergo those ridiculous- weapons training sessions like my brothers' partners did, Sophia said bitterly.

Wait and your older brother, isn't he just a regular civilian now? Isabelle asked.

"Well, he's not that regular since he runs a very important law firm... but I doubt he'll help me with this.

So, we're screwed."""

Seems like it, Sophia said, making a face..

Just then, there was a knock at the door, and a paper slid under it. Sophia noticed and went to see what it

was

What is it? Isabelle asked.

Heh... looks like luck is on our side. We've got a new ally, she said with a mocking smile as she handed

over the letter.

Naturally, they got in touch with this person who kindly offered their help to mess with Deborah. That abandoned woman was stealing what was hers, and that was something she wouldn't allow.

They didn't quite understand everything, but the important thing was to have help in annoying the ex- mute, because her changes had ruined their lives.

Meanwhile, Deborah and Jayden had just finished their interview.

Well, my dear viewers, with that last question, today's show comes to an end. We'll see you next week with another special guest. Until then, may God bless you all, Ricky said, blowing a kiss to the camera. "And... cut."

That's a wrap Ricky, you were incredible as always, the director praised.

Thanks, Ricky said, clearing his throat a bit since he had altered his voice for the show.

It's amazing how easily you switch personas, remarked Jayden.

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It's all part of the role since Ricky's a sensitive host who really connects with women by getting them into the latest gossip about stars, the rich, and the famous.

He's a true professional, Samantha remarked.

And I wouldn't be anything without this amazing woman, Ricky added, "She believed in my talent and paid for my education." "Really?"

Yes, though he surprised me, Samantha confessed. I offered scholarships and support for those wanting to pursue design and building decorations. But when he came to me with such determination, asking for a sponsorship, I decided to make an exception." "Oh..."

ain wealth,"

Thanks to Ricky, the Coopers made a lot of connections in areas not directly related to our Jayden explained. Word of my mother's support spread quickly, and soon, others came seeking opportunities."

So, if you need anything related to fashion, film, TV, or radio, just let me know, Eric said with a wink, We've got well-placed friends in those circles."

Deborah smiled at the thought of helping others shine with their talents.

After that, Ricky's team packed up and left, bidding their farewells.

Now that they didn't have to keep up appearances, the couple went to change clothes while the grandparents stayed with James.

Of course, a certain someone took advantage of that fleeting moment to be a bit mischievous, cornering his beloved in the closet for a few stolen kisses.

When they came downstairs, Deborah was blushing deeply, and Jayden had a satisfied smile on his face.

"Took your time Samantha teased as she fed James with a bottle.

You know how it is, Mom."""

Sorry for the delay.

Don't worry about it. Besides, I love having this little prince here. He's so calm, she said, noticing James's eyes beginning to close.

So, after going through the audience's questions, I'd say they took the bait, Eric commented.

Yes, though I think Jayden went a bit overboard, Deborah said.

Me? What do you mean?

Well, you got so excited and described a fairy tale royal wedding. “No...”

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I agree with her, son. Saying that the reception would have golden chandeliers with diamonds was a bit much. But the idea of Deborah having a grand wedding dress with a train adorned with fine jewels did excite me, Samantha added, “And having a Bengal tiger deliver the rings? Aww.....

I never mentioned a tiger,” Jayden pointed out.

That’s your mother’s dream,” Eric confessed. “But I think the diamond crown is something we could actually manage.”

It’s not necessary, Deborah said, embarrassed.

Debbie... Did you not like anything I suggested for our pretend wedding? Jayden asked, worried and a little sad.

Well, I did like the centerpiece decoration you mentioned.

Yes, I could actually visualize that bouquet of blue, gold, and white roses with some fantasy diamond chains draping down in a cascade. “Yes! One point for me.”

It was then that James stirred, disturbed by the noise.

Darling, don’t shout, Deborah scolded gently, moving to pick up their baby and soothe him.

Oops, sorry, son. I got too excited, Jayden said, lightly touching James’s arm and watching him smile before his eyes closed again.

Since we’re on the topic, do you want to start planning the real wedding? Samantha suggested, revealing that she had already stashed away a collection of bridal magazines.

Have you been waiting for long? Jayden asked with amusement.

A bit, but I knew we needed to wait until James was born.

Well, the wait is over, mother-in-law, Deborah declared, seeing the excitement on Samantha's face as she began showing them the interesting things she had marked in each magazine. They spent the rest of the afternoon poring over designs and decorations. Chapter

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Days started to pass by in a blur of work and sleepless nights, but despite everything, Jayden and Deborah were incredibly happy as they discovered something new about James each day.

Nicholas, Elliot, and George took turns visiting Deborah and James as work sometimes got too hectic for them to come by regularly. Caroline also stopped by the house now and then, though she was quite busy with the end-of-term social

events.

That morning, Nicholas received a call from George, who informed him that everything was ready, so he should come to the office. "Nicholas," George greeted him as he arrived in the company's reception area.

Made it on time.

"So it

So it seems. Come on, let's go take a look."""

Let's go.

Hm.... I can proudly say that my boy's work is top-notch.

Heh, I'll be the judge of that.

e judge of that

Amidst conversations and bad jokes, they took the elevator up to Elliot's office.

Where's Debbie? Elliot asked, puzzled when he didn't see her.

She's not here. I came to get you, Nicholas explained.

Aw... I wanted to see her reaction when she saw them, Elliot said, sounding disappointed.

And you will, as long as you're willing to help me with the surprise I have in mind.

Huh? The father and son duo looked at him, confused.

With +

help of Eric and Samantha, I did something special for this decoration because I don't agree with her wearing it." "Uh, but my sister..."

I think I understand, George interjected. "So, what's the plan?"

Nicholas explained the plan he had in mind and showed them the photos.

It's a beautiful gesture, George remarked as he looked at the gift.

Ah, now I get it. It's definitely going to stand out, Elliot declared, showcasing the jewel.

Alexandra, Nicholas said, carefully touching the jewel "Kid, you've got magic hands. Thank you so

much."

No problem. I knew it was something special, so I made sure to be meticulous with every detail, Elliot said, proud of his work.

So, tell us, how can we help? George asked,

Nicholas smiled and began explaining how they could assist with the party while also sending a message to a certain blond couple to let them know that the jewel was ready. "Looks like it's time to move," Eric commented after reading the message.

In that case, I'll call the florist to have everything delivered and inform the chef, Samantha said.

Remember, everything needs to be done discreetly.

Yes... Um.... Juan, she called to the servant nearby, "Tell me, where are my daughter-in-law and grandson now?"

They're currently napping in the garden.

Excellent. Make sure someone keeps an eye on them and inform the head butler that Plan T is starting now. Be discreet, she said, standing up.

Understood, he replied, leaving to carry out her orders.

, where are you going?

Isn't it obvious? I'm going to take a picture, she said, showing her phone.

Eric chuckled at that and followed his wife to go see Deborah, who was cuddling James while they napped in the floating chair.

Just then, Jayden returned from a meeting and saw his mother taking the picture, so he walked over to where they were.

Aw... this photo needs to be framed, Samantha said, looking at the image on her phone.

Just like the one Deborah took of me, Jayden commented, startling his parents.

Son, they scolded him.

Oops, sorry...

But yes, it's just like that, his mother said happily.

Jayden smiled, remembering how they surprised him with that framed photo in James's room. He loved having those special pictures to cherish the memories. "Son, let them rest," Eric suggested.

Yes, come help us with something. Samantha added, stopping Jayden as he seemed ready to join the

nap.

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Huh? With what?

Jayden was confused, but he followed his parents, eager to see the surprise they had prepared for Deborah.

He was thrilled to join in and helped with the decorations until they were informed that James had woken up. Now, they were in the baby's room, ensuring everything was just right. To keep Deborah away from the surprise, Jayden offered to help her bathe and feed James.

Hey, love, Jayden started, gently putting a onesie on James.

Yeah? she replied, searching for a book to read.

How about we take a little evening stroll? he asked, putting a tiny hat on their son before picking him up.

Uh, sure.. but we can't stay out too long.

I know. Come on, I want to show you something, he said, taking her hand.

Alright, she agreed, allowing herself to be led.

The walk was peaceful, the garden's golden hues blending with the deepening black of the evening sky.

What part of the estate is this? Deborah asked, unfamiliar with the area.

It's a special part of the house.

Oh, it seems I still have a lot to explore.

You'll enjoy it. Look, we're here, Jayden said, gesturing toward a greenhouse they were approaching.

Let me guess.. special flowers or maybe a unique painting?

Well, there are flowers, but this is something even more special than just a painting, he said, pointing to

the center of the room.

Really? What could... it be... Deborah's words faltered as she took in the sight before her.

In the center of the greenhouse stood an obelisk, with a photograph of her mother and grandfather. Below the image hung a locket, adorned with their diamonds. Deborah slowly approached, her hand trembling as she reached out to touch it, tears welling up in her

Surprise! Suddenly, she turned around to see her in-laws, Elliot, and her father standing nearby.

This...

Sweetheart, I didn't want you to wear this jewelry, so we all worked together to create this resting place, Nicholas said, taking her hands in his "It's a beautiful spot, but..."

This greenhouse is yours, dear. It's a special place where your mother and grandfather can rest,

Samantha said, stepping closer. "And it's right here, so you can visit them whenever you like."

Thank you so much... I... this is... Deborah began to cry from the overwhelming emotion, and as James saw her tears, he started crying too.

Jayden smiled, moving to embrace his wife, while gently soothing their son.

Hey, no tears now, or my dear mother-in-law might think I'm making you suffer, Jayden teased, trying to cheer Deborah up. She wiped her tears away, still staring at the monument.

Just then, James stopped crying, his eyes drawn to the obelisk, and a bright smile spread across his face as he reached out with his tiny hands.

Yes, James, that's where your grandma and great-grandfather are resting, Deborah said, kissing her son's cheek, continuing to express her gratitude for the beautiful gift.

As for James, he happily waved his little hands, gazing at a figure who looked like his mommy, smiling warmly as she gently touched his cheek.

Hello, James. Take good care of your mommy, she said before lifting her gaze to Deborah. "I'm so glad you're not alone anymore, darling, and this time, you've chosen a good husband. I'll always be watching over you. I love you," she said, slowly fading away. James looked up at the sky, smiling, just as his father leaned down to kiss his forehead, unaware that he had just received his late mother-in-law's blessing.

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After the touching gift, Deborah made it a daily ritual to visit her mother every afternoon, accompanied by James and Jayden. During these visits, she shared stories of her life with her son, while Jayden also joined in, reminiscing about his own childhood.

As the days passed, the couple's major projects were nearing completion, Jayden's grand hotel opening was just days away, and Deborah was preparing for the relaunch of her grandfather's company. The day before the big relaunch, Deborah went to the company to check on the final details and take a look at the newly renovated façade, which had been covered to keep it a surprise until the official reveal. That day, since the in-laws were busy, James got to go to work with Deborah, accompanied by Max and Danielle, who had received the usual stern warning to protect them at all costs, or else...

Yes, Jayden was a bit extreme when it came to this, but the siblings didn't mind. They could see that their boss genuinely loved his wife and son.

Hey, sweetheart, Nicholas greeted her as he opened the car door, clearly excited to see them since it was James' first visit to the company.

Hi, Dad, Deborah greeted him as she carefully got out of the car with her baby.

Hey, boss, Daniel said, opening an umbrella as they stepped out to shield the little one from the sun.

Welcome, everyone, Nicholas said warmly. "Come on, sweetheart, we shouldn't keep my grandson out in the sun for too long." he gently scolded her. "Let's go inside. I have a surprise for you in the office." "Yes, we're coming. Oh, wait, Max..." Deborah turned to look at him.

Don't worry, boss, I've got it, Max said, holding up the diaper bag.

Thanks, she replied with a smile before following her father inside.

As they entered the building, Danielle closed the umbrella and helped her brother with the diaper bag as they followed their bosses to the office.

Along the way, many employees approached to greet Deborah since it was her first time back since giving birth, and they were eager to meet little James.

Oh my, what an adorable little one, Deborah's secretary gushed when she saw him. "He looks just like you."

James babbled, waving his little hands.

He does, doesn't he? Look, James, I have something for you, she said, pulling out a gift bag and revealing a fabric rattle that made a soft jingle when shaken.

The sound and bright colors delighted the baby, who immediately grabbed it and shook it, a big smile on his face.

Looks like he likes it, Nicholas said.

Thank you so much, Deborah said warmly.

"No problem, dear. Oh, and I've already placed today's les on your desk, along with a cold chocolate

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drink, Tatiana added.

What about us?" Danielle chimed in."

There's some for you too.

Yay!

Tatiana, you're really spoiling them, Nicholas chuckled as he picked up his grandson. "Wow, you're getting heavy, little guy!"

Ah... The baby happily shook his new toy, smiling.

But come on, sweetheart, let's go see the surprise, Nicholas said, leading the way.

Deborah smiled and walked into the office, noticing that it had been slightly renovated. The curtains and wall colors had been changed to give the room a brighter appearance. The old sofas had been replaced, and there was a crib in the corner. "This is amazing, Dad."

The idea is for you two to come to the office every day.

Haha, well, now that we're fully operational, that might actually happen, she teased, noticing how excited her father was.

While her father and bodyguards played with James, Deborah sat down to review the paperwork and checked the stock market movements.

She decided to set up two independent accounts to play around with buying and selling stocks. She wanted to be cautious, so she was creating an emergency fund and another for James' education and that of his future siblings.

Of course, it wasn't really necessary since she and Jayden had plenty of money, but her grandfather had always told her that it was wise to have some savings set aside for emergencies.

You look really focused. What are you working on? Nicholas asked as he played with James and his stuffed bear, while the siblings returned from the cafeteria.

I'm making some investments and setting aside money for the future.

So, you're setting up a fund for James.

Yeah, it's for him and his future siblings, she said with a smile.

Speaking of that, sweetheart, I'd love for you to give me lots of grandchildren, Nicholas said happily." But, you know, it'd be great if they all looked like me." "Jaja, well, that's not entirely up to me, but I have to admit, I'd love to have a little blonde girl who looks like Jayden," she said, imagining the idea.

A mini-you, but blonde? That would be cute.

Deborah laughed at that, picturing a little girl running after her dad and big brother, laughing. "Yes, that would be really cute."

Just then, Tatiana entered with some more papers and informed her that the architect had arrived.

Deborah stood up, followed by her father and son, to go see the partially revealed façade.

I love it, she said, admiring the finished work.

Wow... it's like stepping back in time, Nicholas commented, impressed.

Well, this is what you requested, the architect said with a smile.

Thank you so much for this, Deborah said, turning to him.

My pleasure, and actually, I should be thanking you for this challenge, boss. This restoration wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. We had to recreate these old decorations based on some old photos, the architect said, clearly enjoying the project. "And it's great that you finished right on schedule," Nicholas added, adjusting James in his arms as his arm began to go numb.

Here, let me help you, Dad. He's getting heavy, Deborah said, taking her son from him. "Tomorrow is going to be a big day for all of us."

I hope I'm invited to the relaunch, the architect joked

"Of course, you are.

The whole point of this event is to remind everyone that they can earn extra money by

buying and selling stocks."

In that case, I'll be there to boost my savings, the architect quipped.

After saying his goodbyes, the architect headed back to Cooper Enterprises.

You know, sweetheart, Nicholas started.

Yes? Deborah tilted her head.

Listening to you talk like that reminds me so much of your mother, Nicholas said, watching as Deborah smiled and moved to hug him. "She must be so proud of you." "She's proud of you too, Dad," she said, taking his hand as they headed back inside the company.

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Deborah ensured the event would reach a wide audience by inviting all the local business owners, the general public, and the media to cover the grand occasion. Her goal was to make the event as eye-catching as possible, hoping to attract future clients and thus help all

her loyal employees expand their portfolios.

Look, sweetheart, here's the list of confirmed guests, Nicholas said, handing her the list.

Excellent, Deborah replied, taking it and quickly scanning the names. Hmm... and the catering service with the waitstaff?"

All set. Almost all the TV stations have confirmed as well, Max added, helping out with the preparations.

"Oh..

You're going to be on TV,"" Danielle said while playing with the youngest child."

You're going to be famous, Deborah teased, watching her son laugh as Dani made funny faces at him while holding a stuffed bear.

I say, give it a few more years, and he'll be the one giving orders, Max observed, watching the little one. "No doubt about that. I can already imagine him running around, just like a certain little girl who used to hide important papers or draw on them," Tatiana commented, noticing Deborah blush and look away.

Did you do that, love? At that moment, Jayden entered the office.

James lit up when he saw his father and began reaching out to him.

Hello, son, Jayden greeted, approaching and smiling at his son's excitement as he picked him up. "So, are you going to be mischievous too?"

James babbled happily in response.

I'd say that's a yes, Nicholas chuckled.

And how did it go, love? Deborah asked as she approached to give Jayden a kiss.

Fantastic! Mr. Monty loved the location, so tomorrow all the furniture will start arriving, and we'll be ready for the grand opening this weekend, Jayden announced happily. "And how are things going here?" "We're all set for tomorrow," Deborah said excitedly. "In that case, tell me how I can help. I want to be by your side, love."

Are you sure? You look a bit tired.

Don't worry, I want to be with you right now, and I know you'd do the same, he said, hugging her and giving her another kiss.

Ah. James placed his hands on his parents' lips, giggling.

"The mini-boss has a point-too much sugar isn't good, Danielle joked, making everyone laugh.

Nicholas just shook his head, a smile on his face. Despite his fatherly jealousy, he was happy to see his

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daughter finally enjoying happiness with a good man.

The next day, the whole family was at the company early, overseeing the final details before the big moment.

Are we ready? What's left?" Deborah asked, watching the catering service she had hired."

They're just finishing the drinks and setting up the appetizers. Only a few decorations on the tables are left, Nicholas informed her.

Deb, the whole place looks amazing. Samantha said, admiring the large screens.

Well, we had to modernize to be up to the task, Deborah replied.

I like how it looks. You know, when I was younger, I came here once to buy some shares, Eric reminisced.

Really, Dad? Jayden asked, surprised. "But we never.

I know, but it was a bet I made with your grandfather. Let's just say I cheated a bit-I told him that if I made a certain amount within a week, he'd have to give me your grandmother's ring

“What?”

That's right. Your father cheated because your grandfather doubted our love. But after seeing his determination, your grandmother gave him her ring so he could propose to me, Samantha explained. “Oh... I didn't know that story. How did you do it, Dad?”

With some good advice on buying and selling shares with my savings.

Now that you mention it, I remember you, Tatiana said. “You're the guy Mr. Alexander helped, the one who turned his \$2,000 into \$150,000 in less than two days by buying shares in a small company that sold pine trees.” “Really?” Deborah asked, amazed, looking at her father-in-law, who nodded,

Yes, your grandfather helped me back then. He was the only one who supported my crazy idea because it was a risk worth taking, he said, taking Samantha's hand and giving it a kiss.

That story makes me want to try my luck with stocks, Jayden said.

I can help you. To achieve great success, you need to know which companies have the potential to grow. Then, when the time is right, you can sell those acquired shares to increase your capital, Nicholas explained. They continued chatting for a while until 10 a.m., when the family went to the main entrance to start the reopening ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all for attending this grand event. Today, we are reviving a company that was once thought lost. But despite everything, no one can destroy the memories and teachings that this place has accumulated over the years. So, it is with great pleasure that I tell you this place shines brighter than ever, Deborah declared, cutting the ribbon and letting the sheets covering the building's facade fall, revealing the restored building and its wrought iron sign. “It is with great pleasure that I say the Anderson stock exchange is once again open for business.”

The crowd applauded her heartfelt words before entering the building.

Everyone started enjoying the drinks and appetizers, while others prepared for the stock market opening.

Deborah was holding James at that moment, showing him the screens displaying the statistics of various companies.

The little one didn't understand what his mother was saying, but he was smiling because he could see how happy she was.

Jayden watched with a smile and discreetly tried to take a picture of them as a keepsake.

Well, this is a bit boring, a voice suddenly caught the family's attention. They turned to see a red-haired woman approaching them.

The woman was wearing a very tight and somewhat daring black dress, and she walked up to Jayden, boldly linking her arm with his.

Hello, handsome. I missed you so much, she said in a flirtatious tone, leaning in to kiss him.

Jayden frowned and tried to pull away, but he wasn't sure what happened next. In an instant, he found himself holding James while the woman was on the floor, having been pushed away by Deborah.

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Deborah had been explaining to James what was being shown on those large screens that were displaying numbers and images of companies. It was a special moment for her, as it reminded her of how her grandfather had explained the workings of the stock market to her.

Everything was fine until a voice pulled her out of that happy moment. She looked to her right and saw a red-haired woman walking toward them.

For some reason, the woman's walk and the way she swayed, combined with her clothes and appearance, made Deborah frown as it reminded her of something unpleasant.

To Deborah, everything seemed to happen in slow motion as she watched this woman approach her Jayden, revealing her bust through the deep neckline of her dress, and then link her arm with his, pressing her body against his.

This made Deborah frown even more because, in that moment, she no longer saw just any woman; she saw Sophia. The way this woman approached Jayden was eerily similar to how Sophia used to cling to Roger at every event.

For a moment, their eyes met, and Deborah noticed that the woman was smiling at her in a smug and superior way.

No.

This time, Deborah wouldn't tolerate something like this. This time, she would defend and fight for her happiness.

So she quickly moved, pulling Jayden away, making him hold James, and in the process, pushing the woman away from her man.

Frankly, she didn't care about causing a scene in her own company, even though the woman complained as she fell to the floor, trying to create a fuss to draw attention. But, unfortunately for her, only the Cooper family, Max, Danielle, Tatiana, and Nicholas witnessed what happened as the other guests were focused on the screens, having all placed some bets.

You stupid woman, that hurt, the red-haired woman complained, looking up to find a pair of cold blue eyes staring at her with indifference.

Oh, sorry, I didn't see you, Deborah said with a smirk, noticing how that enraged the woman. "But I think this is your fault. You got too close to my fiancé and my son, so please keep your distance. I wouldn't want them to catch anything from some strange germs you might have."

Everyone was stunned by Deborah's words. The women were holding back their laughter.

You bitch, what did you say?

Say?"

Show some respect. We're in public, so watch your language, or I'll have you thrown out of my company, Deborah replied, brushing off Jayden's arm where the redhead had touched before hugging him.

Jayden was speechless; it was the first time he had seen this jealous, possessive side of Deborah. He found it both thrilling and exhilarating because now, she was publicly declaring that he was hers. "Madam, my daughter is right," Nicholas began. "Behave yourself, or you might distract our guests, who

are currently investing their money."

The redhead bit her lip in frustration, furious that Jayden hadn't reacted to her presence and, worse, was ignoring her in favor of that brat.

You... How dare you, Jayden? I mean, after all this time, after everything, you just replaced me with that slut?"

Jayden clenched his jaw, feeling rage building up, but just before he could retort, Deborah stepped forward and slapped the woman hard.

You keep talking, and I'll do much worse than that, Deborah said, still holding her hand high and looking at the woman with an intense glare.

Tatiana let out a low whistle, knowing that this woman wouldn't leave with just a slap.

The redhead gasped, touching her stinging cheek. She had never been humiliated like this before, not even by her ex-boyfriend. All her thoughts of using emotional blackmail on Jayden faded when she saw how serious Deborah was. "So, Jayden, you're not going to do anything?"

Why should he? You're just a common woman who's already been replaced by someone better. Why would he care about you? Deborah retorted, feeling proud that Jayden hadn't paid attention to the woman's appearance and was now taking her side. Jayden cleared his throat, realizing it was time to take control of the situation. He handed James to Danielle and stepped between Deborah and the redhead.

Lady, we're in a public place, and I have no idea who you are. I think you're mistaking me for someone else, Jayden said in a calm tone.

Slut.

Hearing that, the redhead paled, realizing that Jayden didn't recognize her. It was then that she became aware of the changes in Jayden-his serious demeanor, his broad shoulders, and the refined way he spoke. He was no longer the insecure young man who fell for the first person to flirt with him.

You... You've really changed, Jayden...

I don't know who you are, and frankly, I don't care. Please, leave, or I'll call security," Jayden said coldly, brushing off the hand that had tried to touch him again,

The woman took a step back, noticing the security guards approaching. She had never expected that Jayden would become so indifferent to her.

Feeling utterly humiliated, the redhead quickly left the building before anyone else noticed her presence. Once she was gone, Deborah finally took a deep breath and relaxed, then quickly looked at Jayden. "I'm sorry," she said, looking at him with concern. "Sorry for what?" Jayden replied, a small smile forming "I should apologize. I didn't recognize her. But who was that woman?"

Someone you'll never see again, Deborah replied with certainty, seeing him sigh and shake his head.

Tatiana grinned. "She was right. You're too valuable to be lost over some ex-fling."

Deborah nodded, realizing how much Jayden had changed since their first encounter. He wasn't the Insecure man who would fall for a flirt. He was now a mature and reliable man, the one she had chosen to marry and spend her life with.

We should return to the guests. I don't want to make them wait, Deborah said, trying to lighten the mood.

Don't worry, love, Jayden reassured her, taking her hand. "I'll always be by your side, and I'll always love you."

Deborah smiled, feeling her heart swell with love for this man. She then returned to the event, feeling more confident and secure, knowing that together, they could overcome any obstacle.

As the Anderson stock exchange buzzed with activity, Deborah couldn't help but glance back at Jayden, who was happily playing with their son. Her heart filled up with love and gratitude. She knew they had faced many challenges together, but they had emerged stronger and more united.

This was just the beginning of their journey, and Deborah was ready to face whatever came their way. Together, with their family by their side, they were unstoppable.
