

# The Revenge of the Mute Wife [Completed]

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“These frames have some beautiful letterhead designs, Deborah said, admiring the sheets displayed on the wall.

Look at this one, love,” Jayden said, pointing to a frame that featured a design with rubber ducks riding waves on little boats. “Waa!” James got excited when he saw the picture and tried to reach for it.”

I agree, son, it’s a cute design, Deborah said.

Looks like we found the perfect invitation for his birthday. Samantha commented. “And it fits the season of his birthday perfectly.”

Good afternoon, said a woman entering the room, carrying several sample books.

Good afternoon, the family greeted in return, taking seats around the table.

I see you like the specials, the woman said, pointing to the wall. “Specials?” Deborah asked.

Yes, these sheets are the most requested designs by our clients, she explained as she began opening the sample books. “David mentioned you’re looking for wedding invitations, so I brought the models we currently offer. But if none of them suit your taste, we can create a custom design,” she added, handing them the sample books.

Ah... James got excited when he saw the books and reached for them, crinkling the plastic that protected one of the sheets.

No, son, not these, Jayden said, moving the book out of his reach.

James frowned and tried to grab the papers to play with them.

Someone’s getting rebellious, Samantha commented with amusement.

No, James, you need to learn that no means no, young man, Deborah gently scolded him.

The little one started crying, so Jayden stood up to rock him and distract him.

Sorry about this; my grandson is starting to become a little rebel, Samantha apologized.

Don't worry, it's normal at that age. I have a three-year old, and she's just as, if not more, mischievous. But a little firmness always helps, the woman said with a smile.

They thanked her for her understanding and began browsing through the samples while Jayden played with James to keep him entertained, occasionally offering his opinion on the sheets they showed him. "Look, love, we've narrowed it down to three designs for you to choose from," Deborah said, standing up to show him the sheets.

I see why they're the finalists-they all have something special, Jayden said, looking at the sheets. "Right? They each have elements I like, but you're the one who gets to choose."

Okay, in that case, I'll choose... he began, reaching out to take one, but...

James seized the opportunity to grab all three sheets with his little fist, crumpling them.

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No, James, his parents scolded him as they tried to take the sheets away, but he clung to them more tightly, trying to put the paper in his mouth.

For James, it was a game, but when his mom finally managed to take the sheets away, he began to cry.

James, that's not allowed, Jayden said as he used a cloth to wipe his mouth.

Are you okay? Samantha asked, standing up to approach the three of them.

We're sorry, miss, Deborah said, noticing the woman grimacing at the sight of the crumpled, wet, and torn sheets on the floor.

Don't worry, accidents happen.

We'll cover the cost of these samples and... Samantha began to say apologetically, but when she looked at the floor, she noticed that the crumpled combination of sheets created a new

design. "Guys, look," she said in surprise, pointing to the floor. "Huh..." The couple looked at the sheets and were amazed by the design that had emerged from the unusual fusion of the sheets,

It seems James has chosen the best of the three, Jayden said.

It's a beautiful design, the woman said, pulling out her phone to take a picture of the result.

So James did it on purpose, Jayden joked, noticing how happy his baby looked.

Even so, what he did was wrong. Deborah said, seeing her little one now playing with his hands and smiling at her. "You little manipulator," she whispered, leaning in to kiss his cheek.  
-End of Flashback-

My nephew's already getting mischievous.

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Yes, he's starting to cause trouble, Deborah said with a sigh.

Well, at least that little mishap turned out well, Caroline commented.

Although because of that, we're keeping a closer eye on James, especially since his teeth are starting to come in-everything goes straight into his mouth. "Poor thing, his gums must be itching."

Yes, in fact, we've started applying that special cream today to help ease the pain.

In that case, he'll love my gift, Caroline said, happily showing the paper bag she had brought and handing it over.

Wow... he'll definitely love it, Deborah said as she saw that it was a set of soft plastic rattles filled with water for James to chew on.

And tell me, when are you going to see your dress? I want to go with you.

"Actually, you beat me to it-I was no

Friday to look at the dress.”

to call you this afternoon to ask if you could come with me this

I'd love to! Caroline exclaimed, thrilled. “What time?”

My appointment is at 11.

Perfect, I'll meet you at your place, or...

We'll pick you up, Deborah said.

nt to sneak

Great! I imagine Jayden will into that appointment.

He wanted to, but it coincides with the company's monthly meeting, so he won't be able to join us.

Poor guy, but it's better this way-he'll be so surprised when he sees you walking down the aisle.

And the next day, we'll look at suits for him and my father-in-law because my dad's suit has already been chosen.

Are you not getting a suit for James?

David suggested we make his suit a week before the wedding because he's still growing.

Ah, that makes sense. It wouldn't be useful to take his measurements now if he's going to grow in a few months, and we'd have to make alterations to the clothes. “Exactly.”

And what else have you looked at?

Nothing else for now, but next Sunday we're going to meet with his private chef for a tasting tour.

Tasting tour...?” Caroline repeated, confused. “Oh... you're going to taste the food.”

“Uh-huh, we'll try different dishes to choose from, and we'll also sample various desserts in case we want

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to set up a dessert table because that's the current trend at parties.”

And it's true. The other day at a client's party, I saw their dessert table, and wow.., it was such a beautiful addition that complemented the event perfectly. Despite the name, everyone flocked to try all the mini personalized desserts that matched the theme. “Now I'm convinced to have one at the wedding.”

Count me first in line, Caroline said playfully. “And have you chosen the rings yet, or are you using the ones you already have?”

I think the answer is obvious-I wasn't allowed to recycle or buy new ones.

Let me guess: Elliot...

Yep, last night he called when he found out and told me, ‘Debbie, I forbid you to buy your wedding rings because I'm going to make them for you, Deborah said, imitating the teenager's voice.’ “How sweet. By the way, how long until he takes over as CEO?”

His birthday is next month, and if I'm right, they're planning a big party where will officially name him as the company's CEO.

He deserves that title.

Yep.

But didn't you tell him you already have wedding rings?

I did, but he insisted that we need new ones for the ceremony, and besides, it'll be his gift to us.

Aww... he really is a sweetheart.

Well, let's change the subject. Now, tell me is it true? Deborah asked with a playful tone, her eyes fixed on her friend's belly. Caroline was wearing a loose dress, which was unusual for her. Ugh... nothing gets past you, huh?”

Nope, Deborah said with a grin. “So, how far along are you?”

A month and a half, Caroline said excitedly.

Waaa, congratulations! Deborah exclaimed, hugging her. "Christian always keeps his promises."

Yes, Caroline said, blushing happily.

Does he know yet?

Not yet. I just found out yesterday when I took the test at home, and the doctor confirmed it today.

He's going to be over the moon.

Yes, I'm planning to tell him tomorrow at our monthly family dinner with our parents.

The grandparents are going to be eostatic.

I know, but shh... don't say anything yet.

My lips are sealed, but now you owe me a shopping trip to buy some goodies for my new niece or nephew, Deborah said, watching her friend's excitement. "So, tell me, what do you hope it is?" "Honestly, I don't care much. We're going to love whatever comes," Caroline said, placing her hands over her belly.

Is that true, Caroline? Just then, Caroline noticed her uncle entering the office.

Yes, you're going to be a granduncle, she said, standing up to hug Nicholas.

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With each passing day, James was growing up quickly, showing it not just in his size but also in how he was gradually developing his own personality.

At the moment, James was going through his first "rebellious phase," as the grandparents called it. Now at six months old, he was more aware of his surroundings and often tried to put everything he touched into his mouth to relieve the terrible itching in his gums. That morning,

he woke up as usual, simply opening his eyes without crying and starting to babble while grabbing one of the toys around him.

Ah... bl... he babbled to himself while gnawing on a stuffed bear. But then he felt someone watching him, so he began looking around until he found those blue eyes he loved so much, which made him light up with excitement.

Good morning, little one, Deborah said, noticing the slightly cheeky behavior of her son.

Upon hearing his mother's voice, James immediately dropped his toy and reached out to be picked up.

Deborah laughed at his actions and quickly scooped him up, kissing him on the cheek.

Good morning.

Ah... James tried to touch his mother's face, laughing as she kissed his tiny hands.

Good morning to both of you, Jayden said as he entered the room, making James even more excited. When he reached them, he ruffled James' hair, which made the little one smile, revealing a big surprise.

Woah, James, you have your first teeth! Deborah exclaimed, excitedly noticing the white spots in her son's gums.

Haha, you'll soon have bunny teeth, Jayden joked, pulling out his phone to take a picture. "Mom, Dad, come see! James is a little bunny now."

Don't call him that, Deborah scolded playfully.

Believe me, he will be, Jayden said, amused.

What's going on? Eric and Samantha asked as they entered the room.

Make James smile, and you'll see, Jayden suggested

The grandparents agreed and started talking to James to make him laugh. As he did, they spotted the tiny pearls that had appeared in his gums.

James didn't understand what was happening, but he could tell everyone was very happy and excited about making him laugh, and they kept taking pictures of him, which he enjoyed. The best part was that the horrible itching in his mouth was finally gone. "Now that he has teeth, he can start eating purees," Samantha said excitedly.

Why purees? Jayden asked.

"Because we need to start with soft, easy-to-digest foods to gradually accustom his stomach to solids. For now, he's only had milk and water. According to this baby guide, we can also start giving him some

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natural juice, Deborah explained, showing Jayden the book recommended by the nutritionist. "Oh..." Jayden said as he read what she showed him."

Eric and Samantha smiled as they watched. They already knew this from experience, but they enjoyed seeing their children learn how to take care of James.

So, when will he start talking and walking? Jayden asked excitedly.

When he's about a year old, he'll start trying to sit up on his own, crawl, and stand, Deborah explained.

And around the same time, you can start encouraging him to talk, Eric added.

What was Jayden's first word? Deborah asked.

Mama, Samantha replied happily.

He said 'papa' after that, but yes... she beat me to it, Eric said, pouting.

I'm... sorry," Jayden said nervously, noticing his father's sadness.

Don't apologize, son. You spent more time with Samantha since I was at work, so she got the first word. "That's why I'm going to spend more time with my boy, right, James?" Jayden said, holding him up so they were face to face. "You're going to say 'papa' first." James giggled, enjoying being lifted by his father.

Is that a bet? Deborah asked, amused.



Sounds like a plan, Jayden said with a grin. "But... what are we betting?"

How about the loser plans a surprise vacation for everyone? Samantha suggested.

I like that plan. How about during the next summer vacation? Deborah proposed, noticing that everyone liked the idea.

In that case, we've got plans for the future, Eric said, amused.

And if we plan it right, it could be at the beach so James can see the ocean for the first time, Samantha said excitedly.

This sounds more like a family plan now, Jayden said, laughing.

Speaking of family plans, Eric began, "we need to take care of something." He signaled the butler, who went to fetch some photo albums. "What's that?" Deborah asked.

James cooed curiously at the new object.

Yes, little one, soon you'll enjoy this event, Eric said.

Yes! It's time! Jayden exclaimed.

You see, Deborah, in the Cooper family, we love parties and celebrations. So, every special time of year, we decorate the house, Eric explained.

Does that mean..."

It's time to design this year's haunted house for the kids, Jayden said happily. "When I was little, I loved those haunted houses because I got to play with all the neighbors and my school friends."

Ah... I remember hearing about that haunted house and sometimes seeing photos, but I never got to go, Deborah said as she looked at the photo album.

Well, now you'll not only attend, Deborah, but as Mrs. Cooper, it's your duty to create a house worthy of horror and fun, Eric declared.

James excitedly touched the album.

And I know James will continue the tradition of being a cute little pumpkin, Samantha said as she searched for a specific photograph. "Tradition?" Deborah repeated.

Yes, look, Samantha said, showing a photo of a young blonde boy dressed as a pumpkin.

Aww... what an adorable little pumpkin, Deborah said as she hugged her husband. "You've convinced me to continue the tradition, right, James?"

James burbled in response.

The grandparents smiled and began sharing their ideas for this year's decorations and games for the kids. who would visit, while Deborah eagerly added her own ideas.

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Friday had arrived-it was a big day and Jayden was feeling particularly sad because he couldn't accompany the ladies to pick out the wedding dress.

But why does it have to be a secret from me? We're already married, Jayden complained, pouting.

Because I said so, and I'm your mother, Samantha declared firmly.

Son, listen to your mother. Besides, it's better if you leave it as a surprise so you can get emotional when you see her in the dress at the altar, Eric advised. "That's right, Jayden. You can't see it," Nicholas said as he held James.

Jayden, I promise it'll be worth the wait, Caroline said, having arrived with her uncle at the house to go with them.

And besides, son, I need your help with the company Inventory.

Fine... Jayden said, reluctantly giving in.

Deborah approached and kissed him on the lips. "I'll make it up to you later, okay?"

Well, if you put it that way, I'm convinced. But remember to choose the best one.

That's why she's going with us," Samantha said. "We'll help her with the search." "Okay, see you later, my love," Jayden said, smiling as he kissed her again.

With that, everyone left the house. Eric and Jayden headed to the office while the others went to the bridal boutique,

When they arrived, David was already waiting for them, and they were quickly escorted to a special area to start the consultation.

Good morning, I'm Peter, and I'll be your consultant today. So... who's the bride? asked a young man with yellow hair streaked with blue.

Me, Deborah said, smiling and raising her hand.

Perfect! Then come with me to start looking for your dress, he said, guiding her to the fitting room. The rest of you, my colleague will be here shortly to make you comfortable." "Thank you," Samantha said as a young woman approached to guide them to a waiting area while Deborah changed into her first dress.

Ah... James called out for his mom, who was walking away

Mommy will be back soon, little one, Nicholas said, comforting James.

Everyone settled on the large sofa they were directed to.

In the fitting room, Peter started a conversation to get to know Deborah's preferences.

Okay, Debbie, tell me, do you have any dresses in mind?

"Not really. I've browsed a few magazines with my mother-in-law, but I haven't found one that screams I'm the one."

Don't worry, I'm here to help you with that dilemma. So, let's start with a silhouette that catches your eye."

Mermaid silhouettes appeal to me, but I'd also like to try a classic princess style.

We can start with that. Now, do you prefer beading or lace?

Both,

Okay, now, what kind of neckline do you like?

A regular one-I don't like anything too deep or with too much of the back exposed.

With or without sleeves?

Either.

Perfect, and now the most important question-what's the budget?

"Price doesn't matter; I just want something beautiful.

Excellent! In that case, I'll be right back. If you'd like, you can change into this robe while I bring some dresses for you to try on," he said, pointing to the robe hanging on the wall, Deborah nodded and watched him leave, then quickly changed while she waited for him to return."

After a few minutes, the young man returned with three dresses.

Look, I brought these to start with, he said enthusiastically, hanging them on the hooks on the wall for her to see.

Deborah chose the princess-style dress, but when she walked out, it didn't create that special reaction- she didn't even feel comfortable walking in it.

You get lost in that dress, Samantha observed, analytically examining the dress.

Yes, it doesn't seem to flatter her figure, David added,

In fact, that dress makes her look heavier, Nicholas commented as he held James.

Deborah grimaced at the remark.

It's definitely a no, so let's try another one, the consultant quickly said, urging Deborah to return to the fitting room.

Unfortunately, the other two dresses didn't fare any better, and now the consultant was starting to get nervous as he went out to select more options. Meanwhile, Caroline and Samantha decided to explore the boutique themselves to help in the search.

“How about this one? Caroline suggested, holding up a princess-style dress adorned with beads and a deep V-neckline with long sleeves.

My daughter will not be wearing that thing, nor will I let her leave the house showing off her chest like that,” Nicholas grumbled upon seeing the dress.”

I’m not a fan of too much beading either, Samantha added. “But what do you think of this one?” she asked, pointing to a dress on the central mannequin. It was a white mermaid-style gown with a sweetheart neckline adorned with some beading and an Illusion lace that seemed to cover the neck and shoulders with delicate lace details.

I do like that dress, Nicholas admitted as he admired the mannequin. “But the back...”

Low backs are in style, David commented.

I’m not a fan.

If you like, we can ask the seamstress to make some modifications to raise the back or cover it entirely with the same material used for the neckline.

If they do that, I’m sure I’ll like it, Nicholas declared.

Miss, could you please take this dress to my daughter-in-law to try on? Samantha requested.

The young woman nodded and carefully removed the dress from the mannequin to take it to the fitting.

Just as she arrived, her colleague was returning with more dresses.

Here, this one’s from her mother-in-law.

Thanks, the young man said, taking the dress and entering the fitting room. “Debbie, I brought some more dresses, and this one was chosen for you,” he announced, showing it to her. “Wow... this one is beautiful,” Deborah said, examining the dress closely.

Would you like to try this one on?

Yes, she said excitedly.

With that, he helped her put on the dress, and as soon as she felt the fabric on her body, she knew it was the right one, filling her with excitement.

Shall we show them?

Deborah nodded eagerly, gathering the trail of the dress a bit before heading out to where they were waiting.

Wow... everyone exclaimed as they saw her step onto the small platform for a better view.

So... what do you think, Deborah? David asked though he could already tell from her expression that this was the one.

I like it. It feels super comfortable, and I love how the silhouette looks.

Turn around, turn around, Caroline urged, and Deborah spun around so they could see,

James reached out, wanting to touch the shiny beads on his mommy's dress.

You look radiant, my love. You know, seeing you now feels like I'm looking at Alexandra again, Nicholas

said, getting to his feet.

You look stunning. I say yes, Caroline agreed.

I do like it, but... Deborah started, making a slight grimace.

But...? David asked, concerned.

I don't like the back being so exposed.

I told you, Nicholas said with a chuckle.

We can fix that, the consultant assured her, taking a piece of fabric to demonstrate how they could subtly modify the back.

With those changes in mind, Deborah agreed to the dress.

After finalizing the dress, they chose a veil to match and went to the seamstress to take Deborah's measurements for the adjustments.

Since they had some time left, they also looked at dresses for Samantha and Caroline. It was agreed that their dresses would be the same color but with different designs so they could be comfortable at the wedding.

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spooky fun.

The wedding was slowly taking shape, but preparations were put on hold for something even more important: the Cooper family's famous Haunted House event. This annual event was well-known in the city, inviting children and teenagers to come and enjoy a day of "I imagine they've paused the wedding plans for the big Halloween event," one reporter commented.

This event is actually more exciting because it will be the first one organized by Deborah, another reporter added.

I'm already eager to see how it turns out.

Everyone is curious to see if this year's event will live up to the grand creations made by her mother-in-law, or... if it will be a total disappointment. "We'll find out in a few days."

Thanks for adding more pressure, Deborah muttered with a grimace, letting out a sigh as she turned off the TV and refocused on her organization plan.

James was sitting in his chair, keeping her company.

You know, James, I envy you. You just have to wear a costume and have fun.

The little one laughed as he played with his rattle.

Don't worry, sweetie. Mommy will work hard to learn about these events so that when you're older, you can enjoy them with your friends and create beautiful memories, unlike mine, she said, sighing.

Having grown up somewhat isolated from the world, Deborah never had the chance to attend these kinds of events in her childhood, but that wouldn't stop her now. She was determined to create a haunted mansion that everyone would love.

With just a week left before the event, today was the final day to present her idea to the family. Admittedly, design wasn't her strong suit, and it showed in her strange conceptual drawing, which consisted of some circles with stick figures and a few words to explain things. "What do you think, James?" she asked, showing her drawing to the little one.

James was more interested in his rattle than in what his mommy was showing him.

I bet you'll be drawing better than mommy, she said, grimacing. "Well, it's time for the moment of truth," she decided, picking up her little one and heading to the living room where the others were waiting. James babbled excitedly.

Thanks for the encouragement, she said, smiling as they made their way.

When she arrived in the living room, she noticed that the Coopers were already there, looking a bit serious as they waited for her.

Well, Deborah, we're all ears, Jayden said in a serious tone, which made Deborah a little nervous. "Yes, um..."

Why don't you hand James to us so you can present without any trouble? Eric suggested, noticing she had a large poster in her hands.

Oh, right, she said, passing the little chair to her in-laws, who placed James comfortably between them. Um... okay, so, as you can see," she began, unfolding the poster.

Ma'am.

Hm? she looked up to see one of the servants bringing over a whiteboard for her to pin her drawing on for a better explanation. "Oh, thank you," she said, pinning the poster to the board. "Now, let's start."

She took a deep breath and began explaining her plans-the activities for the children, how the decorations would be distributed throughout the garden, and all the little details she had thought of to make the event special. "And that's everything... um... what do you think?" she asked nervously.

The Coopers exchanged looks, whispering to each other while occasionally glancing at Deborah, who was starting to feel more anxious.



After a minute-which felt like an eternity to Deborah-Jayden stood up and approached her, placing his hands on her shoulders. "Jayden?"

You know something, Deborah... he began, his tone serious.

Yes? Now Deborah was a bit scared.

This design is incredible! he declared, grabbing her by the waist and lifting her off the ground.

Woah... Jayden, she laughed, surprised by his actions as she clung to his shoulders to avoid falling or getting dizzy. "Are you serious? But my drawing..."

This isn't a blueprint competition, sweetheart, Samantha said. "Besides, you've explained your idea clearly, and we really like your vision because you're introducing fresh ideas that will capture the attention. of our young guests."

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"Really?" Deborah now looked happy and confident.

I loved your idea of starting the event with the children making their own candy bags," Eric said. "That way, we can see each child's creativity." "We can tell you put a lot of thought into this and considered many little details that turn out to be the most important ones," Jayden added. "Well, that's something I do at work-consider all angles before investing." she said, feeling very pleased. with the compliments. "It shows, my love."

"And I think we can make this a new tradition for the beginning of all our events because sometimes. there were kids who didn't bring a candy bag, and it was sad to see them not taking as much candy as they wanted because they couldn't carry it," Samantha added, grimacing as she recalled that fact.

"Well, since it's such an important event, it's better to have extra bags. I saw online that there are many tutorials for making them with recycled materials, or even complex ones made with fabric."

The Coopers were thrilled to see that their daughter-in-law was taking their passion seriously and was working to create something special to continue their tradition.

They listened to all her suggestions and watched the videos she had consulted, getting excited as they refined Deborah's ideas.

“Now that we have this plan in mind, let’s get started with the organization,” Samantha declared enthusiastically.

At that moment, Deborah noticed that several designers from the company were already coming in to discuss and begin constructing the attractions for the children to enjoy, from a small fair with games to win candy and prizes to a haunted house and a maze of fear. “It seems like everyone is excited,” Deborah commented as she, Jayden, and James supervised the creation of the games and interactive sculptures.

“I told you this is a family tradition, and I hope you’re ready to be my sexy Mrs. Claus because we also do something special for the kids at Christmas.”

“It will be an honor to participate. By the way, what are you dressing up as?”

“I’m deciding between a zombie and a vampire,” he said excitedly. “And you?”

“Your mom suggested I be a witch to accompany my little pumpkin

James babbled, excited to see people coming and going.

“In a few years, you’ll be directing the show, son,” Jayden said, ruffling the little one’s hair.

“Woah... it’s that time of year,” one of the neighbors said as she approached the entrance.

“Yes, ma’am, so if you want to bring the family to play with us, you’re more than welcome,” Jayden declared.

“Thank you very much. Will you announce it?”

“Yes, there will be a car going around announcing so everyone knows what time we’ll open.”

“Let me guess, the same entry fee as always?”

“Huh?” Deborah looked at her husband, confused.

“Yes,”

“In that case, we’ll see you on Saturday,” the lady said as she resumed her walk.

“Entry fee? Do we charge admission?”

“Yes and no. We ask for the luxurious and expensive fee of one bag of candy.”

“Pfft...Well, that’s expensive.”

“We ask for candy to supplement what we buy because one time we ran out of candy, and some of my friends didn’t get any. So my parents made an agreement with the neighbors that for future events if they could help by donating a bag of candy, it would be great.” “What happens if there’s candy left over?”

“We take it to an orphanage along with any leftover food and gifts.”

“I like that charity plan.”

“Well, we should be kind to everyone and share what we have.”

“Wow... you know, I had no idea I married such a just and charitable man,” Deborah said playfully, kissing him on the lips.

“Ah...” James placed his tiny hands on his parents’ faces as if to protest against their interaction, making both of them laugh. They turned and kissed him on the cheek at the same time, much to his delight.

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The big day had arrived, and the decorations around the house were terrifying-in the best way possible. From the facade to the Interior, every inch was covered in spooky décor that amazed both young and old. Even the reporters were giving glowing reviews, commenting

on all the various setups and interviewing families who had come to enjoy the night.

The haunted house, in particular, lived up to the expectations of even the toughest teenagers. A long line had formed to enter, and those who emerged were visibly excited.

Whoa... that was scary, some teenagers exclaimed as they exited the haunted house.

Again?

Yes!!!

Hearing these comments made Samantha and Eric smile. They had always dreamed of having a big family, but fate had only allowed them one child. When they tried for a second, they were met with the cruel news that it would not be possible, leaving a void in their hearts. To fill that void, they had poured all their love and attention into their little Jayden.

They couldn't say they had a bad life, their little blond boy had brought them endless joy. And now that he was a family man, he had promised to fill their home with grandchildren who would play with them day.

every

And that promise seemed to be slowly coming true, as they now had a little one at home to shower with love, and they knew more little ones would soon follow

Ah...ah... James was thrilled with all the activity around him, but sleep was gradually overtaking him. His eyelids drooped slowly until he drifted off into the world of dreams.

Aw... he's asleep, a little girl commented, watching the tiny pumpkin resting in his mommy's arms. "That's because he's still a baby and can't stay up as late as you can," Jayden explained, noticing Deborah adjusting James in her arms. "Yeah."

I bet you were like this when you were little, Deborah commented.

That's what my mommy says.

Angelica, come on, her mother called from a distance.

I'm coming! Bye, and thanks for the candy, the little girl said happily as she ran to grab her mom's hand. Her mother also waved goodbye to the couple.

What a sweet child, Eric remarked as they approached to help their daughter-in-law.

"In a few years, James will be running around like that. Deborah said with a smile.

He took a while to fall asleep tonight," Samantha noted."

He was too excited to sleep, Deborah agreed, giving her little pumpkin a kiss on the forehead.

Sweetheart, let me take him inside, Samantha offered, stepping closer to take James.

Deborah smiled and carefully handed him over.

Thanks, Mom.

You two go ahead and see off the guests. We're heading in, Eric said, helping his beloved wife inside. Jayden and Deborah thanked them for the gesture and turned back to chat with the neighbors, who had come to congratulate them on another successful Halloween event and to say their goodbyes. Some reporters took advantage of the end of the event to approach the couple for interviews about the party and their upcoming wedding.

By midnight, the last reporters had left, and the servants were busy cleaning up and packing away the leftover items.

And with that, the haunted house is officially closed, Jayden announced playfully.

In that case, we can start the real trick-or-treating, came a voice from behind them.

They recognized the voice immediately, and as they turned around, they saw Brandon standing there with Sophia. "You guys?" Deborah said, surprised.

Of course, I'm here for our annual extreme trick-or-treat game, Brandon said, approaching to shake Jayden's hand.

I remember your friendship, but... what about you?" Deborah asked, eyeing Sophia.

Well, go on, say it, Brandon urged, giving his companion a nudge.

Deborah, I'm sorry for being a jealous bitch, Sophia began, grimacing. "I swear, one thing was saying I wanted to get rid of your baby, and another was the crazy thing she did."

That was clear back then, but I don't understand-what are you doing here?

Well, Debbie, she's the hysterical black sheep of the family, Brandon explained. "Despite everything, my parents love her and pulled some strings to clean her record and get her out of prison. But one of the conditions for her release was that she had to apologize to you sincerely."

Yes, so...

Instead of giving me your rehearsed and memorized apologies, Deborah interrupted, crossing her arms and frowning, "just tell me why?"

Because I always wanted to be popular, and I thought the easiest way to climb the social ladder was by having a wealthy man by my side. So... when I met Roger and saw him alone, I assumed you two were getting divorced, and I saw my chance. I tried to 'stumble into him at every event and start going out with him, Sophia explained, nervously playing with her hair, I got blinded by what I could have with him, so didn't care that what I was told was a lie or that I was hurting you with my actions.. so I apologize to you both," she said, looking at the couple:

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"Don't look at me, technically, your fight is with Debbie, Jayden quickly said.

In that case, let's make our bet and leave them to sort things out,"" Brandon suggested, pulling a clown mask from his clothes."

Fine, this time, I'll make you scream like a girl, Jayden said, adjusting his zombie mask.

And with that, they headed off to the straw maze, where the others were waiting for their nighttime scare game, leaving the two women alone to talk in private.

"Um... Deborah... Sophia began, noticing that Deborah still looked angry.

Come, let's get something to drink,"" Deborah suggested, moving towards the area where they were packing up the food that had been offered to the children. She grabbed two bottles of juice and handed one to the blonde. ""Thanks,"" Sophia said, accepting the juice."

You know, Sophia, I hated you from the moment I met you because of everything you did.

Sophia grimaced at that.

And you three didn't stop hurting me until I said enough, and even then, you tried to keep hurting me, despite me stepping aside, Deborah continued, glancing at Sophia, who made another face.

I was angry that everything I had was falling apart because you rebelled.

So, in your logic, I should have stayed in that apartment until I died with James still in my womb? “Um, no... of course not, but...”

But you know what? I don't hate you anymore.

What? But... but I ruined your marriage.

Yep, and thanks to that, I'm in this position now, Deborah stated. “And honestly, I'm grateful you interfered because it gave me the courage to leave those who were hurting me.” “Does that mean you forgive me?”

Yes, I forgive you because holding onto resentment would mean I still feel something for Roger, and that's not the case. I want to leave the past behind and focus on my future and my new family. “Thank you, Deborah,” Sophia said, trying to move closer to hug her, but Deborah dodged her.

I forgive you, but that doesn't mean I like you or that we're now friends. “Heh yeah. I guess that's fair.”

Hm we're just acquaintances now, and that's it. But I hope you do things right this time.

Yeah... that's what my parents told me too.

In that case, I hope this time your happiness isn't built on someone else's misery because, as you've seen, it can backfire.

Totally agree, I've learned my lesson, Sophia said with a smile.

Just then, they heard a somewhat effeminate scream from the straw maze. It startled them at first, but then they burst into laughter.

A few minutes later, Brandon and Jayden returned, laughing at what had just happened.

You totally got me, man, haha! Alright, I lost, so guys, bring the bet, Brandon said as some bodyguards came over with two black sacks and placed them next to Deborah. “What's this...” Deborah looked at the sacks, confused.

Well, we're off now. See you at Christmas for my nightmare before Christmas, Brandon said with a grin. Ready, sis?”

Yes, Sophia took his hand, waved goodbye to the couple, and headed to the car to go home.

Driven by curiosity, Deborah opened one of the bags and discovered it was filled with toys and candy.

This is an extra for what we'll take to the orphanage tomorrow.

Ah so the loser has to give toys.

Exactly. Jayden said as he hugged her. "By the way, you really surprised me tonight."

Why do you say that?

I thought you'd still hate her, and the sight of her still made me a little angry.

Were you spying on us?

Yes, he admitted, kissing her neck.

Well, I forgave her because there's no reason to hate her anymore. Technically, she helped me, and now have you, my beloved zombie.

You know, it makes me so happy to hear you say that, he said, now kissing her lips. I love it when you tell everyone that you're mine and no one else's."

Grr..how possessive, she said, giving him another kiss before being swept off her feet and carried princess-style into the house, ready to enjoy their own private trick-or-treat for the rest of the night

Very much so, my little witch. How about you cast a spell on me or tie me up with a love charm? "Pfft, you say the silliest things."

Well, I think you did cast a spell on me because I love you madly.

Well, I don't remember doing that, but you must have enchanted me too because I can't imagine living without you. "Then the love potion I gave you worked."

Of course, she laughed as they entered their bedroom and settled into bed to show each other the depth of their love

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The Halloween event was a huge success, with everyone buzzing about the various themes and the trending videos that captured the funny moments people had experienced there.

What Deborah loved most was the following day when they delivered the leftover gifts and candy to the orphanage.

It was a home that the Coopers had long cared for, and while the children there may not have lived in luxury, it was clear that they were in a warm and loving environment as they waited to be adopted. The home was supported by several foundations that provided medical, dental, and vision care for the children...

You know, love, I'm going to create something special for them, Deborah commented as they said goodbye to the kids.

"And I know you will. If you

them for Christmas."

Yes, I'd love to help.

Ah.. bl.

want, you can help us pick out their gifts because we do a Secret Santa with

Are you going to help us too, son? Deborah asked, doting on James.

In that case, we need to buy James his elf or Santa's helper costume, Jayden said, already imagining James in those outfits. "Why not a mini Santa?"

That too, haha.

Just then, Deborah's phone rang.

It's David. He's asking if we can go see the floral arrangements and my bouquet in an hour.

Sure, have him send you the address.

Deborah nodded and confirmed the appointment with David. After receiving the location, they headed to the flower shop.

When they arrived, they saw that David was already waiting for them.

Good afternoon! How are you? David greeted them as they got out of the car.

Good afternoon, they replied, closing the car doors.

By the way, you guys looked great in your haunted family photos, he said, showing one of the articles that featured them.

Thanks, it was fun creating that scene, Deborah said, adjusting James in her arms.

By the way, Debbie, if you ever get tired of numbers, give me a call. I loved how you organized and decorated the space, David added with a wink. "Really?"

See, love? And you were worried your ideas weren't good enough, Jayden teased, taking her hand. "It's the magic in the details that made the decorations special, something some organizers forget over the years." "Thank you," Deborah said, blushing slightly.

Well, let's go in; my friend is already waiting for us, David said, opening the doors to the shop. With that, they entered the shop, which was filled with bouquets of various sizes, loose flowers, decorative paper, and sculptures of different sizes and shapes made from flowers and leaves. "Ah!" James got excited when an employee passed by carrying one of the floral sculptures.

Yes, darling, it's a teddy bear made of roses, Deborah explained, seeing what had caught her son's attention.

Does he like roses? the shop owner asked.

It's the color that caught his eye, Jayden replied.

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see. Well, first things first, what's the theme for the wedding?"

The wedding will have a nighttime crystal palace theme since we rented the old Bloom estate, David informed her.

In that case, let me show you the decorations I have with crystals and candles.

As for the candles, we want fantasy ones, not real ones. Deborah added. "We don't want any accidents with fire since it'll be outdoors."

I understand. Don't worry, we have both types of candles, the shop owner assured them as she led them to a room where some centerpieces were already set up for them to choose from.

They looked at the decorations, but none caught their attention, so the shop owner offered to design one on the spot based on their preferences, sensing that they had a specific vision in mind.

All that's left are the cascading crystals, the shop owner said, picking up the crystal chain they chose to complete the design.

Ah.. James reached out his hands to grab the decoration.

Look, son, Deborah picked up one of the roses they were using in the arrangement and brought it closer to the baby.

James forgot about the crystals and focused on the flower instead.

Watching the faces he made while examining the fragrant white object was amusing to Jayden, who took out his phone to record the interaction until James grabbed the flower and ripped the petals off the stem.

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Ah... James squealed with delight.

No, James, Deborah said.

He already broke it, love, Jayden said, amused.

James, flowers are for admiring and smelling, not for crushing.

Ah! James now whined because the white petals wouldn't stay in place.

You broke it, son. That's why it won't go back to normal, Jayden explained with a smile, seeing the pout on his son's face. James held up the stem to his mom.

But you broke it, sweetie, Deborah said, seeing that he was about to cry because he wanted his flower back.

Aww... how sweet, David said, watching the little one's tantrum.

Ta-da, it's done," the shop owner announced, showing them the completed centerpiece.

Waa. James cooed,

I agree with my son, Jayden said.

I love it, Deborah said, admiring all the details.

The square vase with these colored pebbles gives it a fishbowl feel, and the gel pearls help keep the crystals in place, creating the illusion that they're floating in water, David said, appreciating every detail of the arrangement. "And everything will have white, blue, and gold roses as requested. I used red, white, and yellow for this model," the shop owner explained.

Excellent, and we'll also make small planters with jasmine in the three rose colors to place on top of them these hairpins, which will be a gift from the bride and groom to the guests, David added, showing a sample of the pins. "Yes, look, this is how it would look," she said, receiving a bouquet from her assistant, which already had some blue and gold-painted flowers to show how it would look with the accessory.

Perfect, I love it, Deborah said.

It will definitely catch the guests' attention, Jayden agreed.

Ah... James reached out his hand to try and grab the arrangement.

You can't break this one, son, Deborah said, pulling it away.

Ah! The little one frowned, frustrated that his

mom wouldn't let him grab the item.

Come on, let's move you away from the temptation, Jayden said, picking him up and distracting him by showing him other nearby flowers.

So, sweetheart, how much would this centerpiece with the extras cost? David asked, pulling out his tablet to start calculating.

Let's see, the shop owner said, taking out her calculator and notepad to jot down the materials used. "It would be 350 each since we're painting the flowers, that's the price if you buy them," she explained while redoing some calculations. "If you rent them, it would be 220, although both prices may vary depending on the quantity you order."

We'll need about 70; we're planning for 60 tables and 10 for decorations at the entrance and the gift table. David said, still working on his tablet. "I think we'll go with renting them, and..."

We'll buy them, Jayden interrupted. "Because let's be honest, someone will probably take one home, and it's better to have them already paid for than having to apologize to you for losing some decorations," he said, looking the shop owner in the eyes. "I agree," Deborah said.

Then it's settled, the shop owner said happily, making more calculations.

Ah... ah... James kept trying to reach the flowers and started crying when he couldn't.

Someone's getting frustrated, Jayden commented, gently rocking his little one.

Look, James, Deborah said, reaching into the diaper bag to pull out a bottle of formula.

Ah... bl... Now James was excited as he grabbed the bottle and started drinking the liquid while getting comfortable in his dad's arms.

That's what he wanted, Jayden said, putting a bib on his son.

Sorry, little one, but we're almost done, David commented. "We just need to choose your mom's bouquet."

You know, I didn't think this would take so long, Jayden confessed.

Well, now you know; we learned something new, Deborah said.

The shop owner quickly fetched the bridal bouquet catalog for Deborah to choose from.

Luckily, the bouquet was easier to pick, and after paying for all the decorations, the bouquet, and the flower James broke, they returned home to rest for the day.

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