

The Revenge of the Mute Wife [Completed]

Chapter 271-280

Chapter 271

The wedding was simply perfect-everything from the decorations, the food, the entertainment, the ambiance, and the surprise of the new baby made it an unforgettable event for everyone.

However, the highlight was undoubtedly the special month Jayden and Deborah spent enjoying their honeymoon on the beach.

As the month came to an end, it also marked the end of their vacation as they were coming back just two weeks before James's first birthday.

Fortunately, since James was still so young, they decided to keep it simple-a small gathering with only close family members.

James might not remember much of his first birthday, but his parents and staff decorated the house with large balloons and even gave him a roll of streamers to play with, which he loved at that age.

What Deborah would remember vividly, though, was the déjà vu she experienced when the gift competition began again, just as she had imagined.

The competition was fierce, with James reacting positively to all the presents, up until it was Elliot's turn.

Look, James, this is my gift for you. Elliot announced, revealing a dark blue walker decorated with star patterns. "It's a luxury model because not only does it have toys for you to play with, but it also has a spot where we can put cookies or snacks," he explained, demonstrating the mechanism.

Oh... James's eyes lit up with excitement at the sight of the toys.

Hehe, I think we have a winner here. This gift is going to be incredibly useful, Jayden commented.

Wait, is he already walking? George asked, his excitement palpable.

Instead of telling you, let us show you, Deborah said, stepping back a bit. "Come on, love, let's put him down so his grandparents can see him in action."

Jayden gently lowered James to the ground, supporting him to keep him steady. As soon as James felt his feet touch the flat surface, he began to smile with excitement.

James, my love, come here, Deborah called. "Come here, sweetie, come to Mommy."

Hearing his mother's voice, James started moving his feet slowly, placing one in front of the other as he advanced with his dad's support.

"Ah....."

Yeah, let's go to Mommy," Jayden encouraged."

Oh my god... Samantha was thrilled to see this. "How long has he been doing this?" she asked, turning on her phone's camera to record the moment.

He only started trying to stand and walk on his own about a week ago, Jayden said. "Though, of course, we're close by to catch him if he falls or gets hurt."

In fact, we were just talking about getting him a walker to help him get used to moving his feet, Deborah added as she carefully scooped up her little one. Chapter 271

"Ah... hehe..., James was thrilled to have reached his mom.

Wow... what a talented little boy," Elliot commented, recording the moment as well."

And how's he doing with words? Nicholas asked. "Or is he still too young for that?"

According to the pediatrician, he's at the age where he should start talking. Deborah said. "It could be today or in a few months. The usual age range is between 12 and 18 months." "So he's still taking his time," Eric noted.

Exactly, but that's why I'm determined to make 'Papa' his first word, Jayden declared confidently, raising his right fist as if making a promise

Well, he could also say Mama”,” Samantha suggested, though she regretted it when she saw Jayden’s

reaction.

Maybe, but I’m putting my effort into making sure his first word is ‘Papa,” Deborah said.

Aww.. my beloved indulges me, Jayden said happily, hugging her and kissing her on the lips.

That’s all sweet and all... but dear, Nicholas began, “remember that soon you won’t be able to James anymore.”

Don’t worry, Dad. I know, that’s why I’m making the most of carrying my sweet boy now.

So will we know in a week? Eric asked.

What do you mean? George inquired.

About Deborah’s next appointment with the gynecologist, Jayden said. “Because at that appointment, we’ll find out what we’re having.”

Hehe, true, Elliot agreed.

Well, our big interest in knowing the sex of the baby is so we can decide whether to keep James’s clothes or set them aside, Samantha said, averting her gaze slightly to avoid making it too obvious.

About that, regardless of the baby’s sex, I still plan to reuse James’s clothes, Deborah said, giving her son a kiss on the cheek. “Some of those clothes were only worn about three times and are still almost new.”

True, I remember you bought a lot of clothes, Nicholas said.

James had a huge growth spurt, Jayden explained. “And I agree with Deborah that we should reuse some of those clothes that still look new. Of course, if it turns out to be a girl, we’ll just buy her some dresses for when she goes out and some headbands with big bows for her little head.”

Samantha smiled at the thought of that. “I like that plan”

It's clear you've put a lot of thought into it. I like the idea too, Nicholas said.

Okay, may I have everyone's attention? the butler interrupted the conversation, bringing out James's birthday cake, decorated with a brown teddy bear with a big red bow around its neck and a number 1 candle on the side.

Chapter 271

Immediately, everyone began singing to James, encouraging him to blow out his candle. They even playfully smudged a bit of frosting on his nose to simulate him having bitten into the cake, and let him have a little taste of the dessert while his grandparents took many photos.

Chapter 272

Chapter 272

The gynecologist delivered the best news ever-Deborah was expecting a beautiful little girl.

This was a huge delight for the whole family. Samantha and Eric had longed for a lovely daughter, and now life was blessing them with a beautiful granddaughter to spoil and care for.

With the news of the new princess in the family, George grew a bit concerned about James. Strictly speaking, this little girl would be Jayden's biological child, and George worried that James might be sidelined because of his new sister. "What's on your mind, Dad?" Elliot asked, noticing his father's distracted look.

Oh, hehe, sorry, I was lost in thought, George said, glancing at the clutter on his desk.

Don't worry. If you're tired, you can rest on the sofa.

It's not that, son. Let's just say I'm worried.

Worried about what? Did something happen? Elliot asked, approaching to look at the papers in his father's hands.

"Don't worry, it's not about the company.

Then what is it?"

It's about James,

Did something happen to my nephew?

No, nothing bad, but I'm a bit concerned about the new addition to the family.

Hmm? The baby?

Yes... I know Jayden has loved my grandson dearly, but now his biological daughter is coming, and I'm not sure if he'll start focusing more on her and less on James. "Hmm... Dad, I don't think that'll be the case."

I can see that Jayden genuinely loves James and sees him as his own son. Even though they're not biologically related... he's been with Deborah from the beginning of the pregnancy until now. I'd say he's really James's father. "Hmm... you're right about that, but I still feel a bit anxious."

Well, Dad, if you're worried, we could set up a backup fund just in case something goes wrong, but I doubt it.

In fact, I was thinking of putting some money into an account and giving James 5% of the company's shares. I don't want to leave my grandson unsupported, so I at least want to give him a special gift.

That sounds fair, especially since he shouldn't be left with nothing because of Roger.

"Hmm... I'll talk to Deborah about this later, but it will be something my grandson will inherit when he's of

Chapter 272 age."

You could also discuss your concerns directly with her. Hehe, though I don't think they'll ignore James because of the new baby.

You're right. You can call her and see if she wants to have lunch with this old man.

Sure, Elliot said, already typing a message.

Elliot: Hi, sis 😊 Do you have any plans for today?

Deborah: No, actually, I'm at home with James.

Elliot: Do you want to join us for lunch?

Deborah: Sure 😊 Do you want us to meet at the office or at the restaurant?

Dad," Elliot said.

Deborah asks if she should come here or if we should meet at the restaurant. "Did she say yes?"

Yes,

Hmm... then ask her to come to the office.

Okay, Elliot said, happily typing back to his sister. "Yay, she says she'll arrive in about 30 minutes." "Thanks, son."

Well, Dad, you always told me that talking things out is the best way to understand people. "Hmm... thank you, Elliot."

Let me tell Fabian to expect their arrival, Elliot said, calling the redhead.

About twenty minutes later, Deborah and James arrived, accompanied by Max and Danielle.

Welcome, Fabian greeted as they entered the company.

Hello, Deborah said, pushing James's stroller,

Please, come in. We'll use the private elevator to go to the offices, Fabian said, guiding them through the building.

Thanks, Deborah replied, following him with her bodyguards. "How have you been?" she asked as they entered the elevator and it started moving. "Pretty good, though I can't complain about the workload."

That's good to hear.

Yes, although it may sound strange, there's more work with Elliot in charge.

That's a testament to his work, Deborah commented

Indeed. Would you like some juice or water?

the water

I'll take a glass of water, handsome," Danielle said, winking at him.

I'd like some too, please, Max said.

A little water for everyone, then. Deborah said.

When the elevator doors opened again, Fabian went to get while the guests entered the office.

After waiting a bit and enjoying the water, everyone headed to the nearest restaurant to chat and pass the time.

Just as they were about to order dessert, Elliot took James and the bodyguards so that his father could speak privately with Deborah.

Just remember not to shake him too much, Deborah asked.

Okay, Elliot said, drawing out the word, then headed towards the restaurant's play area with James.

Hey, sweetheart, can you listen to this old man's complaints? George asked.

Huh? Complaints?

Well, more like my insecurities about what's coming. he said, noticing her nodding.

George began to share his concerns about Deborah's new pregnancy. It wasn't that he was against it, but he worried that his grandson might end up being overshadowed or replaced by the new baby.

I understand your fears, but I promise you, that will never happen, Deborah assured.

Regardless of who James's biological father is, Jayden loves him deeply, and he is my son, my first baby. and the reason I can call myself a mother. I will never neglect or stop loving him because of Elizabeth's arrival. "Elizabeth?"

Hmm... yes, we've already decided on her name, just as we did with James when we learned his gender.

George was astonished. He hadn't known about this and could see that they had considered both children equally.

Thank you, Deborah," he said, letting out a sigh. Seeing her had reassured him and eased his fears. "Eh?"

You've convinced me that my worries are unfounded because you love your children so much, he said, taking her hands in his.

Don't worry. It's normal to want the best for your grandson, and I can assure you everything will be alright.

Chapter 273

Chapter 273

With those worries behind them, the months went by, and Caroline and Christian soon welcomed a little dark-haired boy into the world, who quickly became the joy of his parents.

Little Edward was born in the middle of the night, giving his parents quite a scare when Caroline's water broke in bed, waking them abruptly.

Little troublemaker, you should be more considerate of your father.... can't you see the dark circles around my eyes? Christian complained, watching their baby feed from Caroline. "Hehe, to me, you're a sexy raccoon," Caroline said, leaning in to give him a kiss. "The important thing is that our little boy is finally here."

Hehe... true, but seriously, why at night?

Come on, Christian."

Alright, alright, I won't say anything.

If you want, you can go lie down for a while.

Don't worry, I want to be with you right now. It's not like I'm a bad husband.

But I know you're a hardworking husband, so no one will judge you if you fall asleep for a bit, Caroline assured.

Don't worry, seeing you two gives me energy. Besides, I already messaged Alan to let him know I won't be at the office tomorrow so he can apologize to some clients for my absence. "Are you sure

Well, they should understand that there are more important things in life than lawsuits and court cases.

Aw...

Christian smiled and tried to embrace his wife as they spent the night admiring their new baby.

The next morning, all their family and friends arrived to meet little Edward. The first to arrive were Jayden, Deborah, and James. "Dad... ah..."

Yes, James, look, it's a baby just like you, Jayden commented, noting his son's excitement at seeing the little dark-haired infant. "He's curious," Caroline said with a smile as James tried to grab the baby's hand, to which Edward wriggled and frowned at.

I think this is the start of a great friendship, Deborah said, watching the babies interact.

And in a few months, we'll be like that too. Jayden said excitedly.

What's more, Christian is forbidden from touching me, so we won't be having sex until Edward is four years old, Caroline said. Chapter 273

Wait... what! exclaimed Christian, who had just taken his son in his arms. "Caroline..."

Deborah has help for her two babies, but I don't, and I want to enjoy my baby.

Hey! Why the aggression toward me? the blond complained, pouting.

Carrie, don't bother Jayden, Deborah said. "And even though it was a slip, I don't regret what happened."

That's right, the blond said, hugging his partner.

But now those special moments will be more regulated because we'll wait a few years for the next baby. right sweetheart? Deborah said, her tone soft yet clearly threatening, which slightly scared the blond. "Of course, we'll be more careful. Though..."

I'm just kidding, love. Despite everything, I know my raccoon dark circles will return once Ellie gets used to sleeping through the night.

If you want, let's take advantage of the 2-for-1 makeup offer because I'll need it too, Christian said, causing his wives to laugh. ""Bl.. haha."

Ah..

The little ones didn't understand what the adults were talking about, but both were calm, exchanging some babbling.

Although they joked about it, they did end up buying some makeup to cover their dark circles.

Fortunately, Jayden didn't have to use it for long, because three months after Edward's birth, Elizabeth arrived.

She decided to make her entrance right at lunchtime.

At that moment, Deborah and Nicholas were about to have lunch. They had just come from a work meeting and were with James since Jayden had a meeting that morning and his in-laws had gone abroad- for some business. Fortunately, the three were accompanied by Daniel and Max, who quickly calmed Nicholas down and took Deborah to the hospital.

Nicholas took it upon himself to inform Jayden that it was time. Understandably, Jayden abandoned the meeting and rushed to the hospital to be with his wife for the birth of their second daughter.

Jayden arrived just minutes after Deborah was admitted to the delivery room, and after donning a hospital gown, he went in to join her.

After several agonizing moments for Deborah and a few threats of castration towards Jayden for making her relive the horrible pain, a little princess with golden hair and blue eyes was born. Nicholas was outside the delivery room waiting for news with the others, including James.

Don't worry, sir, everything will be fine, Danielle said, trying to calm him down.

I know, but.....

Waaa... Waaa... Suddenly, the cry of a baby was heard

Hehe, looks like someone is officially a big brother, !

She's here! Jayden emerged from the room, holding

Chapter 274

Chapter 274

Let me see! Danielle was the first to approach. "Wow, she's so cute."

She has my daughter's eyes, Nicholas said, observing the baby.

James looked at the baby in his dad's arms and frowned. "Waaah..." He began to cry, calling for his father. "Calm down, James, don't cry," Max said, gently rocking him and trying to soothe him.

WAAAHH! Elizabeth also started crying, prompting a nurse to quickly take her back to the delivery room

to return her to her mother.

Come here, jealous boy, don't cry, Jayden said, holding his son, who immediately stopped crying.

Haha, that's what he wanted, Danielle said, amused.

James, don't tell me you're jealous of your little sister, the blond remarked, noticing his son hugging him without saying a word.

I'd say that's a yes, then they saw Caroline arriving with little Edward, accompanied by Christian.

Hehe, you're going to have a tough time," Christian commented.

Thanks for the moral support, Jayden sighed.

They chatted for a while until a nurse arrived to tell them that Deborah and Elizabeth were in their room and they could go see them.

Just then, hurried footsteps were heard approaching.

Oh... son, Samantha said breathlessly.

Mom, Dad... what's going on? the blond asked, worried as they arrived running.

That's what we're asking you. We got home, and everyone at the mansion was in a frenzy, saying Deborah was taken to the hospital, Eric explained. "What happened?"

Samantha, Eric, calm down, Nicholas said. "Elizabeth was just born."

Already? Samantha asked excitedly.

Yes, Mom, she's a little blonde, Jayden said. "And they've just been moved to the recovery room."

Well, let's go see them, Eric said happily.

With that, everyone went to the room to meet little Elizabeth.

Hello, Deborah greeted them, looking a bit tired, a small bundle wrapped in pastel pink blankets in her

arms.

Hi, honey, how are you? Nicholas asked, moving closer to kiss her forehead.

Tired, but look, she said, moving the blankets slightly so the older one could see the baby.

She's beautiful and looks like you.

Isn't she? Jayden said, coming closer as well.

...James was serious, staring intently at the intruder in his mom's arms.

What did the doctor say? Danielle asked.

Everything is perfect, no issues.

God... Ellie, you're so mean to your grandparents. You scared us, Eric said, moving closer to see the baby.

Aw... it's the combination of you two, so cute, Samantha remarked, as the baby had her eyes open.

James noticed everyone was talking about that thing and he wasn't the center of attention, so he began to cry loudly, causing Elizabeth to start crying as well. "James, don't cry," Jayden said, beginning to rock him

"Son, no...

Ma... James started to say, stretching out his hands towards her, wanting her to hold him and let go of that thing. "'Eh?'" Deborah and Jayden were astonished as it was his first word."

Noooo! James, why? his father complained, pouting. Son, you were supposed to say 'papa,' not 'mama'."

Pfft, Eric couldn't help but laugh at his son's dramatics.

Let me help you hold James, Samantha said, taking the baby so that the brunette could hold James. "Deborah, you're so cruel! You cheated!" Jayden pouted as he handed the younger one over.

Eh? What are you talking about, love? I didn't do anything.

Waaah! Elizabeth continued to cry despite her grandmother's attempts to calm her.

Let me have Ellie too, Deborah said, wanting to have both her children together.

When both babies were close, James looked attentively at his little sister, trying to touch her with a frown. "James," Deborah called, "this is your little sister, Elizabeth,"

The younger one said nothing and continued to look at the little blonde who was also watching him closely. They're sizing each other up," Eric commented, amused.

"Pa... pa... James said, reaching out his hands towards her, as he didn't want to be near that girl.

Yes! I won, said Daddy," Jayden said happily, lifting his son and making him laugh."

Is it just me, or is someone going to be a little jealous control freak? Caroline remarked.

More like this will show they'll be good siblings, Jayden said, sitting with his beloved so they could all be together.

Hehe... I know they'll be partners in crime and great friends, Deborah said as she adjusted her two

babies in her arms.

Chapter 275

Chapter 275

Elizabeth was born without complications and was a healthy baby, so the next day they were already home and received a warm welcome.

Having recently practiced caring for James during the nights, they quickly adjusted to the sleepless nights with Elizabeth, organizing themselves to take care of her when she cried. To help Deborah, Jayden stayed home, supporting the office via video call and only going to the office at specific times, but trying to be away for as little time as possible.

Two months after Elizabeth's birth, Jayden had to leave the house for a meeting, taking advantage of the fact that Elizabeth was asleep at that moment.

Deborah was playing with James. After a while, they went to check on Elizabeth.

"Ma... James said, looking at the baby.

James, don't be jealous," Deborah said, gently moving him. "We're just checking on your sister."

ing room

Come on, let's play while she sleeps, Deborah said, carefully leaving the room to play in the living with James, where they continued practicing for him to stand on his own. They played calmly for about 30 minutes until Elizabeth started crying.

They're calling you, Samantha said, observing her play with James. T'll take care of him, you go."

Thanks, Mother, Deborah said, giving a kiss to James before getting up to fetch her baby.

Deborah returned to the living room with Elizabeth and sat down with them.

James reached out to hug her and looked with suspicion at the little one feeding from his mom.

James tried to hold Elizabeth's hand, and she frowned.

Son, don't bother her, Deborah said, kissing his forehead.

Mama, he said happily.

Yes, love, but don't bother your sister, she said, adjusting both her children in her arms.

Aw.... my grandchildren are so adorable, Samantha said, taking a photo.

I'm back, they heard Jayden's voice as the front door of the house opened.

Daddy, James said happily when he made eye contact with him.

Wow.. I love hearing my son call me, the blond declared, tossing his coat onto the couch and going to hug his son.

How did it go? Deborah asked, giving him a kiss on the lips.

It went well. Today we started discussing the plans and design for the new place, he said excitedly. And guess what..."

What happened? both women asked.

That new project is for a grand new shopping center, which will include a spa, a pool, a gym, a supermarket, several movie theaters, and more stores. "Wow, it will be a huge building," Samantha commented.

Wow... congratulations, my love.

Yes, and I'll start working on some drawings for the plans and layout soon, to present the drafts to the client in two weeks.

I know you'll design a great building, just like all the ones you've done, Samantha said proudly.

I agree with your mom. I know they'll love your design."

Thanks to both of you.

Well, let's change the subject a bit. How are my lovely little angels? Jayden asked, noticing that Elizabeth was done feeding and now yawning.

As you can see, someone just finished eating, and before, we were practicing standing up, Deborah said, looking at her smiling son, while Elizabeth watched them attentively. James saw that his sister was looking at him, so he moved closer to take her hand, making her smile.

Aw... how sweet, Samantha cooed as she took more photos.

See, love, you shouldn't worry. I know they'll be great siblings, Deborah said. "They know we love them equally."

You're right, Jayden said, sometimes worrying when he saw James showing jealousy towards his sister.

Aw... those are very sweet words, Samantha said, continuing to take pictures.

It seems we arrived at a good time. The family saw George and Elliot arriving, the both of them hadn't been able to visit Elizabeth due to work. "Welcome," they greeted.

Hello, Elliot greeted, approaching the little ones. "I have something special for a very special little princess," he said, revealing a sky-blue teddy bear, "Ah...El..." James protested, as he hadn't received that toy.

And now... huh? Wait... did you just talk? Elliot said, astonished, looking at the little one.

He's talking already? George asked, sitting down next to them,

Yes, this little guy is talking, Deborah said.

In fact, his first word was 'ma,' and he said it the same day Elizabeth was born. He also said papa," Jayden said, looking happy and proud.

Yay, so this means I'm his third word, Elliot said happily. "So this gift is for your first word," he said, showing a toy cube. "They say it's good for familiarizing yourself with shapes." Chapter

Wow... look at the toy, James, Jayden said.

Ah.. haha, El.

Thanks, Jayden said, helping James sit on the floor to start playing with his new toy.

By the way, let's see how beautiful Elizabeth is... Aw, she looks like you, Debbie.

She's a blonde version of Deborah, Jayden commented.

May 1, Deborah? George asked.

Chapter 276

Chapter 276

Yes, Deborah said, carefully handing the baby to him,

George smiled as he held the little girl in his arms.

At some point in his life, George had dreamed of having a beautiful daughter, but it never happened due to various circumstances. Now, holding this little one and seeing her smile felt like living a dream. "Come here, James," Elliot said, taking James to put the siblings together and see how they interacted.

Deborah and Jayden stood up to watch the heartwarming scene.

Look what I brought for Ellie, announced Eric as he entered the room and pulled out a fabric headband with a large flower on it from a paper bag. He carefully placed it on Ellie's head.

The headband is bigger than she is, Elliot joked as he looked at the baby.

My granddaughter looks beautiful, Samantha said.

Now I'm going to get upset, Nicholas said as he arrived. "There's a grandparent gathering and no one

invited me?"

Well, join us, George suggested.

And I brought something for my lovely Ellie too, Nicholas said, taking out a light blue and white cotton dress from a paper bag.

It'll match her eyes, George commented.

walry for little

You know, now that we have Ellie, I want to make some costume girls, Elliot said excitedly.

Doesn't that already exist? Eric asked, raising an eyebrow.

Yes, but my idea is this, Elliot said, pulling a necklace made of shiny plastic beads from his pocket.

Oh.. James grabbed it and started playing with it.

It's polished hard plastic, making it look like crystal, Elliot said proudly. "It's one of my new business projects. We're still talking about jewelry, but using different materials. We need to be realistic; I can't rely solely on fine stones or precious metals. For jewelry, we can use quartz, polished stones, obsidian, plastic, glass.. Actually, on one of my trips abroad, I saw jewelry made from seeds and even candy bracelets."

Wow, you've really done your research, Deborah said, seeing Elliot's enthusiasm.

"Well, I've been studying it because I want to pitch the idea to the board. In fact, I was thinking of asking if

I could use my niece and nephew as models for this new jewelry line, he said, looking at Deborah."

Of course, but I suggest you study your market a bit more. You need to be mindful of the size and durability of your product because... Jayden was saying when James dropped the necklace and some of the plastic chipped a little. I think your nephew just gave you some feedback."

Aww...James, that was my prototype number three, Elliot said, grimacing as he put the necklace away and started playing with his nephew.

I think this is a life lesson, Nicholas commented.

That's right, don't get discouraged, Samantha said, encouraging the young man.

Psst... come here, love, Deborah heard Jayden say as he took her hand and gestured toward the garden.

She smiled, and they slipped out quietly, seeing that the older ones were absorbed in their conversation,

Is something wrong? she asked when they were outside.

I just wanted to tell you that I love you, Jayden said, looking into her eyes.

Deborah, I love you.

I love you too, Jayden.

You know, thank you so much for giving me this wonderful family, he said, wrapping his arm around her waist and pulling her close.

I think your thanks are misplaced.

What... Jayden looked at her confused, but she held his face so they could look into each other's eyes.

I'm the one who should be thanking you for supporting me and showing me that I could and deserved to have a happy family, just like I always wanted. "Aww... honey."

"Thank you for being the cheerful neighbor who always cared about me and encouraged me in tough

times."

And you know... I'd do it all over again if I could because you're a valuable woman who deserved it, he said, kissing her on the lips.

Thank you, my love, for helping me take revenge on them.

Heh, well, it wasn't exactly revenge, was it? You just sought justice against those who hurt you for so long.

Hm... and now we have a new challenge to face.

Oh yeah? What's that challenge?

Raising our children.

Whew... now that I think about it, can't we return them? he asked, a playful tone in his voice.

Nope, no returns on this merchandise, Deborah laughed.

Boo.. he complained, pressing his forehead against hers. "Well, then we'll have to work hard."

That's right, my love, she said, kissing him again.

Waaah! They heard the siblings crying in unison.

They're calling us, Deborah said, smiling as she intertwined her hand with her husband's.

It had been a long road to reach where she was now, but she was happy, surrounded by people who loved her. And yes... it was all thanks to her decision to change and seek vengeance on those who hurt her while working on building her own strength and courage to face them to achieve her happy ending.

And maybe her happiness wasn't perfect because new challenges would always appear. But truth be told, that didn't matter. Whatever problems came to their doorstep, she would overcome them with her husband and family.

Because now, she had chosen this happiness, and she would fight to maintain it, never allowing anyone to diminish or hurt her again.

The End

Chapter 277

Chapter 277

Epilogue: Siblings

Years passed, and it certainly had been a challenge to raise two young children who only had a year in age difference.

Elizabeth and James were demanding in their own ways, but as they grew, things eased up. Instead of competing for their mother's attention, they would team up to play tricks on the adults or have fun in the big backyard.

Samantha and Eric loved seeing their grandchildren run and laugh throughout the garden, fully enjoying the play area, the treehouse, the pool, and the greenhouses.

One of the siblings' favorite places was the treehouse with a slide that their dad built for them when they turned six and five years old. They also loved playing in Grandma Alexandra's greenhouse because of the atmosphere in that place. They enjoyed visits from their Aunt Caroline, who would bring their cousin Edward along. Being in a group of three meant having even more fun together.

It was a peaceful and perfect life for these siblings. But that happiness wavered a little when they were eight and seven years old.

The day was unfolding normally when a van pulled up in front of the house and out hopped a brunette boy of eight and a blonde girl of seven. Both ran straight to the door the moment their feet touched the ground.

Hearing the hurried footsteps, the butler opened the door with a smile on his face.

Welcome home, young masters, he greeted as he watched them enter the house.

We're back! James shouted happily as he came in.

Hello, my dears, Eric greeted them, looking up from the crossword puzzle he was working on in the

living room.

Hi, Grandpa, Elizabeth ran over to kiss him on the cheek.

How was school?"

Good, the siblings answered in unison as they dropped their backpacks on the couch.

That's great, kids. By the way, it's just us today. Your grandma went out to lunch with some friends.

What about Mom and Dad? James asked.

They're at work, but they'll be back in time to take you to the party.

Yay! James and Elizabeth said in unison, excited because it was Grandpa George's birthday.

Well, let's go wash your hands for lunch, then it's homework time.

Nooo, they said, laughing.

Come on, kids, remember the deal you made with your parents.

Oh, right, James said.

We'll get good grades so we can have a puppy! Elizabeth declared excitedly.

Eric laughed at his grandchildren's enthusiasm and asked for lunch to be served. They sat down to eat while telling their grandpa about their day at school.

Later that afternoon, Deborah and Jayden arrived home.

Welcome back, the kids shouted, tackling them as soon as they came in.

Whoa... hey, Jayden greeted, looking a little tired, but that didn't stop him from catching his kids and picking them up.

Now the question is... are you happy to see us or because you get to go to the party? Deborah joked, laughing as she received a kiss on the cheek from each of her children. "Both," the siblings said in unison.

Well, let us change so we can get ready for the party, Jayden said as he put them down and stretched.

You two go get changed too.

Mom, can I wear my new dress?

Of course, and remember, Grandma left some accessories in that box to match your dress, she reminded her little girl.

Yes!" she said, running to her room.

Mom, can I bring my console? James asked.

No, honey, remember what happened last time, Jayden said.

Oh... right, James said, making a face.

James, don't be sad. Remember, Grandpa promised there'd be piñatas for you to play with, Deborah said.

That's right. Then I'll wear my pants with lots of pockets, James said happily, running off to his room to get ready like his sister.

You reacted quickly, love, Jayden commented.

Yeah, because I know how things would end if he brought it. The last time, he was having so much fun. with the others and forgot about the console which got damaged. If he does the same thing this time, it could fall, break, or get spilled on, Deborah said as they walked to their bedroom.

True, I didn't like seeing him upset then, Jayden said, letting out a sigh.

Well, let's get changed, or they'll beat us to it, Deborah said as they entered their room together..

After a few minutes, the family was ready. They got into their family SUV, and the four headed to the party hall where George Peterson's 55th birthday celebration would be held.

Chapter 278

Chapter 278

Grandpa! the siblings ran over to where George was sitting, welcoming his guests.

Ho ho, hello, George greeted them with a big smile, receiving a big hug and a kiss on the cheek from the little blonde girl.

What a nice welcome, said a blonde woman with curly hair, holding a three-year-old baby.

Aunt Erika! James and Elizabeth greeted.

Good evening. Jayden greeted.

Happy birthday, Deborah said, handing George a gift box.

Thank you very much, he said, taking the box.

Where's Elliot? Jayden asked, approaching Erika to take the baby

He's at the entrance talking to someone; he'll be here soon, the woman said, taking the chance to stretch her arms, as the baby was starting to get heavy "Hi, Howie," Elizabeth said, taking the baby's little hand

Howard has less hair, James said with a smile.

That's because we cut it recently so he wouldn't feel too hot, Erika explained..

Erika, dear, could you help me? George asked, handing her the box.

Of course, George, let me help, she said, taking the box to place it on the gift table.

We're going to find Uncle, Elizabeth said, taking her brother's hand to go look for him. "Don't run," Deborah called after them as she watched them walk away.

The siblings dodged the guests, looking for Elliot for a while.

They asked one of the waiters who told them where their uncle was.

His directions were accurate as they saw him at the entrance talking to another man.

Just as they were about to call out to him, they noticed he had a frown on his face and seemed to be arguing with the person, so they approached quietly.

Roger, seriously... why didn't you dress up? Elliot asked, seeing him in casual clothes, while he wore a tuxedo.

Because I didn't feel like it. Or what, are you not going to let me into your little party? Roger said sarcastically. "Roger, this is our dad's party. At least make an effort to dress up and celebrate," Elliot said, a little exasperated. "I just stopped by to say happy birthday before going back to my family."

"You know, hearing you say the word 'family' makes me want to punch you. You call that divorced woman

Chapter

and her son your family, but you turn your back on your real family.”

Real family? You all kicked me out, and then Deborah rejected me and let ‘that guy take my son. “”For real?”

Elizabeth and James exchanged scared looks because that man had said their mom’s name.

Roger, tell me, what did you expect to happen? You never cared about James, and now you’re a stranger to him, Elliot said, clenching his fists. “I agree with Dad; it’s not fair how you treat your son and stepson so differently.”

Come on, I don’t get what all the drama is about. I’m just living my life the way I want. Besides, Jayden recognized James as his own son, so I doubt that kid will ever need me to care for him, right?

You know... I thought you had changed, but you’re still the same old jerk, Elliot said as he watched Roger turn and walk away. “Ah... God, I hope you never regret this, brother,” he commented, watching him leave. But when he turned around, he was startled to see James and Elizabeth standing next to him, both with tears in their eyes.

Uncle.... what did you mean by what you just said? Elizabeth asked.

Is my dad not really my dad? James said, starting to cry.

What...? No, of course, he is. What you heard wasn’t true, and-

Liar! they shouted together and ran off as fast as they could.

No, kids, wait! Elliot yelled, panicking, but security reacted too late and couldn’t catch them.

The children ran out of the venue, and the security guards couldn’t stop them.

No... Elliot was distressed and ran to tell the others what had happened. Deborah and Jayden mobilized to search for the children.

What?! Deborah and Jayden shouted when Elliot told them what had happened.

Now I’m gonna kill him, Jayden exclaimed, clenching his fists.

Forget about that! Deborah ordered, grabbing his hand. "Let's find our kids."

Yeah..

We'll deal with this later, Deborah said, starting to run towards the exit while taking out her phone to try and call their children.

Damn it, and this had to happen on Max and Danielle's day off, Jayden grumbled angrily.

Chapter 279

Chapter 279

They're not answering. Deborah said worriedly, seeing that neither of her kids was picking up the phone.

Wait, love. Instead of calling, activate the phone tracker. I always leave that app on for them... I mean, that's why I pay for this family plan, Jayden said, pulling out his phone to activate the GPS and get their children's current location. Thanks to that, they managed to see where their kids were: they had taken refuge in a park two blocks from the party hall.

They ran to the park as fast as they could.

James! Elizabeth! Deborah and James began shouting as they arrived, shining their phone flashlights

around.

James, it's Mom and Dad, said Elizabeth, recognizing their voices.

You mean your parents, James said sadly, hugging his knees.

James, they're our parents.

No, they're not! I'm the son of that man who doesn't want me...

There they are! They heard their father's voice from their right, who was smiling as he climbed up the play structure where they were hiding. "Honey, over here."

Daddy! Elizabeth rushed to hug him and started crying.

You scared us to death! Don't ever do that again! Deborah scolded when she reached them, hugging James immediately..

Why did you run off like that from the party? Jayden asked.

Well, we saw a man talking to Uncle, and they were arguing, and... and... James began to say but broke

down in tears.

Did that man do anything to you? Jayden asked, frowning.

No, Daddy... but... sniff... while that man and Uncle were arguing, they said he was bad because he loved and took care of another boy instead of James, Elizabeth explained, also crying. "Daddy, was that man our dad?"

Jayden just frowned, feeling the urge to punch both of his brothers for confusing the kids. They were supposed to tell James about this when he was a teenager or maybe never. "Kids, that's not true. I'm your dad," he said, trying to dry his little girl's tears. "Am I really your son?" James asked, looking into his eyes.

Of course you are, Deborah said. "James, listen to me carefully," she began, moving her son a bit so he would look her in the eyes. "Forget what Uncle and that man said because that was an adult conversation"

"But

James, who is your dad?" Jayden asked, getting closer so all four of them were together."

You.

Then don't cry anymore, Deborah said, wiping his little face.

James, maybe they were talking about a different James, Ellie suggested.

Huh? But...

Your sister's right. How do you know they were talking about you and not another James? Jayden added. "But..."

They're right, son, Deborah said, smoothing his hair.

Maybe... James said, making a face.

Yes, James, remember Mr. James from that restaurant that one time? Elizabeth asked with a playful smile.

Hm...yeah, that was funny, James said, wiping his tears.

Yeah, because they brought you that huge, raw steak with that bitter juice, Elizabeth said, laughing.

That was funny, and as an apology, they gave you a big ice cream just for you, Deborah recalled as she wiped off the tears from her son's face.

Yeah, James said, smiling.

And now you see why we tell you not to listen to other people's conversations. You misunderstood, and while you were out alone on the street... Jayden said, sounding a little angry. "Sorry, Daddy."

And that's why you'll be punished, Deborah declared, frowning slightly.

Nooo.

Yes, because you left without an adult and permission Something could have happened to you, Deborah said firmly.

Sorry, Mom, Dad, James said.

It's okay, it's over. Also, son, remember something very important, Deborah said, a bit calmer now. "It doesn't matter what you hear or what others say, because Mommy and Daddy love you very much." "Alright, Mommy," James said, hugging her tightly.

Group hug! Jayden said with a smile, moving closer so they could all be together while the kids laughed.

Jarnes felt happy because it was true. They were his parents, and nothing would change that, not some adult conversation they overheard, because his parents loved him, and that was the most important thing.

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Chapter 280

Chapter 280

Extra: Responsibilities

What had happened was a wake-up call for Deborah and Jayden. They had hoped they would never have to tell James the truth, but it was obvious they would have to have that conversation with him eventually.

Now that they agreed they should tell him the truth, they asked someone to investigate Roger a bit to find out what he was up to.

A week later, they received the results of that investigation. They were informed that Roger had gotten married a year ago. What was interesting was that this woman was divorced... but the problem George had with it was that she had a six-year-old son, whom Roger had adopted and treated and loved as if he

were his own child.

In fact, Roger loved and cared for that boy so much that he even dared to take him to a meeting with George and asked him to acknowledge the boy as his grandson... Obviously, this infuriated both George and Elliot, as Roger was acknowledging and loving a child who had no connection to them while neglecting his own son to the point of not even acknowledging his existence.

This caused friction between them again, leading to another argument. George and Elliot distanced themselves from Roger again as it angered them to see Roger doting on that boy yet never caring to see his own son.

It was something Eliot couldn't understand because now that he was a father, he loved his little boy madly and did everything for him and his beloved wife. He couldn't understand why his brother rejected James.

Jayden and Deborah sighed after reading the report.

God... it seems like someone's back to their old ways, Jayden said, massaging his forehead. So, my love, tell me, what do you think about this?"

Look, I don't care what Roger does. It's good that he's learned to care for someone, though I feel a bit sorry for his partner and that boy. "Why?" Jayden asked, confused.

Because that love isn't sincere. In the end, I realized Roger never learned to love anyone for real. He always saw his own brother as a rival. Even though he knows where to find us... after the whole situation of getting his mother imprisoned, he never sought to reconnect or even thought of seeing James out of curiosity.

Hm... you're right.

That's why I understand their anger. He's deceiving his current partner and that boy... most likely. showering him with material things and setting a bad example, said Deborah.

I agree with that, Jayden said, reflecting on her words.

"What's important is that we focus on taking care of our own children. And, well, keep in mind that in a few years, we need to tell James the truth.

I wouldn't like to, but given what happened, I think it would be for the best."""

By the way, now we have something very important to do.

What's that? Jayden asked until he saw the flyer she pulled from her pocket. "Oh, right, their punishment is over now, so let's go."

Yes, she said, sm, as they put away the report and headed to find their children, who were finishing

their homework at that moment.

When they told the kids, they hurried to finish their tasks and ran to the car.

With that, they headed to the local animal shelter to adopt a pet.

When they arrived, they noticed other families were there to adopt pets too.

The kids held their parents' hands as they entered and began looking at the animals available for adoption.

After a few minutes of walking around, the children asked for permission to search on their own for their special friend.
