The Revenge of the Mute Wife [Completed]

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Chapter 291

Good afternoon, Nicholas.

Now that everyone's here, let's head to the boardroom to talk business, Deborah said, taking her husband's hand

The father and son were confused, but the five of them went back inside the company building and

headed to the boardroom.

Upon entering, they noticed everything was set up to welcome a client, with coffee and some snacks laid

out.

e room.

"First of all, let me introduce you to Mr. Henry Gonson, Nicholas said as they entered the

A pleasure, Eric Cooper," Eric said, shaking the guest's hand."

Nice to meet you, Jayden said, then looked over at his father-in-law. "Um... excuse me, but why is Mr. Gonson here?"

To hire you to help me build several luxury apartment complexes, Henry explained, taking a seat and sipping his coffee. "Your father-in-law here sings your praises, and after seeing the buildings you've done around the city, I can see it's not just talk. You have great talent and quality in your work."

That's right. Our motto is not just to create something beautiful but also something that lasts, Eric said as he took a seat.

And it shows. Nicholas also mentioned that the genius behind these designs is his son-inlaw, Henry said, looking at Jayden. "So I came to talk to you about designing my buildings. I want to create about four of them."

Uh... ah, of course, Jayden began to say, noticing his wife handing him his sketchbook and a pencil. Thanks, love," he said, smiling at her before turning to sit next to the new client to discuss his preferences and the building designs.

Taking advantage of the moment when they were distracted, Deborah left the boardroom to talk to the accountant and the head of Human Resources about what was going to happen now.

After a few hours of discussion, Jayden left the boardroom in high spirits as they said goodbye to Mr.

Gonson.

So, that's settled, Eric said, shaking the new client's hand once more.

Yes, we'll meet in a week to see Jayden's design proposals and review the project's estimate.

Yes, the Coopers said happily.

So, how did it go? Deborah asked as she saw Mr. Gonson leave.

I'd say it went very well, right, guys? Nicholas said.

Jayden looked at his wife with a big smile on his face.

It's-Woah! Deborah couldn't finish her sentence because Jayden suddenly lifted her off the ground.

I love you, I love you, I love you, Jayden said, spinning her around in the air.

Hey, does that mean you didn't love me before? she teased, raising an eyebrow.

Um... well, you know what I mean, he admitted sheepishly, making Eric and Nicholas laugh.

My love, welcome back, she said, kissing him on the lips.

I'm sorry, love. I've been such a jerk, haven't I?

Yes, and that's why I'll tell you it's going to be tough for you to earn my forgiveness. And you also owe a big apology to our kids.

Sorry to ruin this happy moment, Eric began to say, "Deborah, thank you for getting us a new client, but we've sold a lot of things, and I don't think we can do the job." "That's true..." Jayden said sadly as he gently put his wife down. "We might have to turn him down."

Why? Nicholas asked.

It's just that we don't have... Eric began to say.

In that case, you just need to ask the new owners to lend you the items or sell them back to you," Nicholas suggested.

But... with what money? We don't have the money to buy back what we sold, let alone pay the employees, Jayden said.

What if you come to an agreement with those buyers? Deborah said.

But... Eric started to say.

Actually, Deborah is right, Jayden said happily, looking at his father. "Jimmy, can you come here for a moment?"

Yes, sir? Jimmy asked, entering the boardroom.

Please get me in touch with the buyers who purchased the brick factory and the material warehouses, Jayden requested. "And also, cancel the sale of the machinery."

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Right away, sir, Jimmy sold, smiling as he pulled out his planner to dial the buyer's number so his boss could speak to them.

"As

you always say, Dad, talking makes people understand each other, and I know I'll reach a reasonable price to get everything back

""You're right, son."

Boss, they're on the line.

Yes, good afternoon, this is Jayden Cooper. I'm calling about the purchase-

Dad?

Huh? James? Jayden said, confused, looking at the phone and thinking maybe Jimmy had dialed the wrong number.

Brother, who is it? Elizabeth's voice could be heard.

It's Dad.

Daddy? I want to talk too! she said, and they activated the speakerphone. "Hi, Daddy!"

Hi, Ellie. How... how are you? For some reason, Jayden felt a lump in his throat as he wondered how long it had been since he had heard that cheerful voice speaking to him. "Good, but we miss you," Elizabeth replied.

Yes, Dad, are you not mad at us anymore? James asked, sounding a little sad.

Ah... no, I... actually, I'm sorry, kids. I haven't been myself these past few days, Jayden said, feeling his eyes well up with tears.

That's what Mommy said, James commented.

Yes... I... I'm really sorry because I haven't been much of a dad lately.

Yes, Daddy hasn't been Daddy, Elizabeth complained

This morning, we got scared when you yelled at Mommy because of the twins, James said.

Forgive me. I let the pressure from work get to me, but I promise it will never happen again.

"Do you

you promise? Elizabeth asked, starting to tear up."

1 promise, I'll never be that mean Daddy who scared you again.

Are you coming back now? James asked.

Yes, son, we'll be back for dinner together. How about I bring your favorite cake to celebrate?

Yes!" they said happily.

Come back safely. James said, ending the call.

Jayden smiled at the sound of their happiness, feeling once more the warmth of his family, which he had missed.

Feeling better? Deborah asked, seeing her husband's smile.

Yes, my love, thank you, he said, turning to kiss her on the lips. "And I'm also sorry for being an idiot these past few weeks." "Hm... but don't let it happen again."

I promise, he said, imitating his daughter. "Alright, now Jimmy, get me in touch with the buyers."

Um... sir, I did call their number,

What? Jayden looked at him in confusion.

Surprise, Deborah said.

James and Elizabeth Cooper are the new owners of those places, Nicholas said, showing them the legal documents proving those acquisitions.

But... Eric said, amazed as he looked at the documents.

Wait, honey, you... Jayden was stunned to see this.

I told you they had savings, Deborah said, winking at him. "And remember, I told you if you ever felt overwhelmed, you could ask me for help. We're married, and we stick together through thick and thin... together," she said, holding her husband's cheeks and pinching them as a reprimand.

Yes... Ah... L... I understand, Jayden said, rubbing his cheeks when she let go.

That's true... I fought with Samantha, too, said Eric sadly.

"And it hurt her because my mother-in-law was crying. Deborah said, frowning.

I think both of you should apologize to your family,"" Nicholas said."

You're right, Nicholas. Even though this is my life's work, it's just material, and it doesn't compare to my beloved Samantha. I really need to apologize to her and my grandkids.

That makes two of us, Dad, Jayden said. "Let's try to stay positive with this job, and then..."

What's wrong? Nicholas asked, seeing his son-in-law look disappointed again.

Well, we might have work now, but those people stole all our clients, and when this project is over, we'll be back to square one, Eric said.

What do you mean, Debbie?

If my suspicions are correct, I think tomorrow we'll know why we're losing clients so fast, and we'll find a way to solve this problem.

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Extra 7: Apology

After quickly reorganizing the company and leaving the managers to do the inventory, Deborah insisted that Eric and Jayden go buy something special to apologize to everyone. She had already arranged for the chef to prepare a special dinner.

Meanwhile, Eric and Jayden stopped by the mall to buy some bouquets of flowers, toys, and a big chocolate cake.

Once they had everything they needed, they returned home, where they were greeted by the little princess of the house.

Daddy! Grandpa! Elizabeth called out, running up to them.

Hey, Jayden smiled, catching his little girl and kissing her on the cheek.

Hello, princess, Eric greeted.

Welcome home, James said, holding his little brother Michael.

Good evening, Samantha said, carrying Nicole

My love, Eric said, walking over to her-and offering her a bouquet of flowers. "I... I'm sorry, my love, I shouldn't have-"

Samantha smiled and kissed him on the lips, cutting him off. "It's okay, my love. Welcome back."

Eric began to cry as he gently hugged Samantha to avoid disturbing his little granddaughter.

Jayden saw Jayden looking at him, so he carefully put Elizabeth down.

Well, I... kids, I'm sorry for acting so strange these past few days, he said sadly, pouting.

James and Elizabeth exchanged a look before glancing at their mom, who raised an eyebrow at his behavior.

James walked over to his mom and handed her his little brother.

Um... I... Jayden was worried because his kids didn't seem to want to talk to him.

We forgive you, Daddy, Elizabeth said, throwing herself into his arms for a hug.

But don't do it again, James said, frowning, as he also hugged him.

You heard your son, first and last time, Deborah said, walking over to kiss him on the lips.

I promise.

Jayden laughed and tried to hug his family, letting a few tears of joy fall.

With that said, they all sat down to dinner, and during the meal, Jayden tried to hold and cuddle his twins, feeling like it had been a long time since he had spent time with them. That night, Jayden made it a point to tuck in all four of his kids and tell them a bedtime story.

It's good to see you back, love, Deborah sald as she watched Jayden adjust Nicole's blanket.

You're going to remind me of this for a long time, arent you? he said, noticing her walking over to tuck in Michael.

Yep, because I told you I could help, and you didn't listen, she said, leaning in to kiss him on the lips. But I'll give you a chance to make it up to me for those weeks of absence and bad mood," she added in a teasing tone. Jayden smirked and scooped her up in a bridal carry, heading to their bedroom for a passionate reconciliation.

The next morning, Eric and Samantha went to the company to start organizing the materials, with Nicholas accompanying them, as he would be financing the purchase of the missing materials to get the company operational again. Meanwhile, Jayden stayed home to help care for the twins and also took the opportunity to start designing the four buildings.

Deborah was also home to take care of the babies and attended to her work from her laptop.

They were both in the living room, working quietly while the twins slept in their crib nearby.

They're calmer than James and Elizabeth were, he said, watching them sleep.

Well, that's because our older kids used to coordinate their crying. Remember? Deborah said, reminiscing. "Ellie would cry, and James would imitate her."

That's right. Their crying chorus was quite funny.

So far, they've been calm. I think they sensed your rejection of their cries.

Um... I guess... Once again, Jayden felt bad because it seemed like they wouldn't let him easily forget what had happened.

Sir, ma'am... They looked up to see the butler entering with an envelope. "This came for you."

Oh, thank you, Deborah said, taking the envelope and opening it.

I think it's the results of what I asked Brandon to investigate.

What... Jayden said, suddenly alarmed. "Deborah, don't tell me you... you asked him to...." he started to say, fearing the worst. "Huh? What's wrong with you?" she asked as she opened the envelope.

You asked him to k-kill them...

Wow... hold on, of course not.

Then what?"

I only asked him to investigate that new company. It seems odd to me how it grew exponentially and took over the market in just three months.

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That's true; it's strange, Jayden said, frowning.

They haven't just hurt you; they've also harmed the smaller companies in the city.

Huh? Them too? Jayden said, surprised. "I didn't know that."

Hm... they're monopolizing the market, which is very suspicious, and I want to know why.

Jayden looked at his partner with concern while she started reading the papers. "And... what did Brandon find out?"

I don't know.

Huh? But..."

This isn't his envelope. It's the sample invitations I ordered.

Invitations?

In a month, it's a certain little princess's birthday.

Jayden looked at his wife, surprised. "God..."

Yes, I know, my love. Stop torturing yourself. "But..."

Instead of that, why don't you give me the budget to create this masterpiece from your other page?

Huh? He flipped the page and saw his design of a princess castle with various playground features. "Oh, yeah, I was thinking of making this for her birthday." "Then let's get to work," she said, noticing how excited this made him.

I'll start working out the budget and materials for it right away. It'll be my gift to her.

Getting back on topic... I think there are more people involved in this matter, she said, annoyed.

Because monopolizing the market isn't easy, and you also saw yourselves that the material was very cheap and unsafe.

I know, love, clients prefer it for the cost savings, but find it very strange.

Why? I mean, everyone's free to choose the product that suits them best economically.

Yes... but the problem is that cheaper doesn't mean quality, and there should at least be some report of complaints about shoddy work or something like that. That's true. We found that with those materials, the buildings aren't very safe."

"Right, meaning there should be at least some lawsuits or complaints."

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Yes... and you're right. It's weird not to have heard about that, especially since the media loves to gossip. about those details.""

Exactly, which makes it strange, Deborah said, letting out a sigh. "And I suppose if Brandon is taking his time with his report, it's because he found something more complicated than I thought."

It could be. Now that I think about it more clearly. It's strange how that guy managed to get to our clients, make them change their minds, hire his services, and drop us.

, could there be a disgruntled employee?

No... Jayden said, puzzled, trying to remember, "We've always treated all employees equally, and we've never failed on payments or retirements. In fact, we even grant special leave when requested." "Hm... could someone be envious of you?"

No idea, I can't remember... he said, making a face as he tried to recall.

What about your father?

Um... I don't think so. But why do you ask?

Well, because it's a family business, and this attack felt very personal.

We can call Dad to ask him.

Hm... Deborah said, frowning.

I can save you the call, they heard Brandon say as he entered the house with his son.

Babies! Joshua exclaimed, running to the crib excitedly and peeking in to see them. "Hello, ma'am. Are these yours?" he asked, recognizing Deborah.

Yup, but let's not make too much noise because they just fell asleep.

Just watch over them, Joshua, Brandon said, sitting at the table with his friends.

Yes, Dad, Joshua whispered, gazing at the babies because he wished he had a little brother or sister.

You're quite at home here, Jayden said, seeing his friend help himself to a cup of coffee.

At least I take care of my things.

Jayden's eye twitched.

Alright, calm down, both of you. No fighting in front of the kids, Deborah scolded them.

Sorry... they both said.

So, what did you find? Since you're here in person, it must be serious.

It is, Debbie. It's pretty sensitive, and... um... He looked around before meeting Jayden's eyes. "Hey, where are your parents?"

They're at the company because Deborah got us a client, and they're reorganizing everything to start working.

Great, because Laura told me I mean, 'ordered' me that she wants to hire you for a special job at the house, Brandon said with a grin. "Um... sure, I'd be happy to."

Ahem... you can talk about that later, Deborah chimed in.

Right. The thing is, everything that's happening now is because of your old man.

My father-in-law?

"You're saying my dad is sabotaging his own business?

Um... not exactly. It seems like it's an enemy of your dad's who's come back to town to ruin his business."""

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Extra 8: Old Rivals

After listening to Brandon's explanation and promising to visit his house to see the work Laura wanted done, Jayden and Deborah got ready to head to the construction company and tell everyone what they had discovered.

With Danielle and Max's help, they got ready to go to the company with the twins.

When they arrived, the place looked like it had never had any problems. They saw people coming and going, organizing things, arranging materials, and loading trucks.

Careful, ma'am, Max said as he got out and opened the car door to help Deborah down, as she was holding the twine

Here I come, Jayden got out quickly to get the stroller from the trunk. "Here, love," he said as he unfolded it.

Wait, sir, you still need to stretch it out, Danielle said, running over to help him finish setting up the stroller before placing the babies in it.

Huh? Oh, thanks, Jayden said, a little embarrassed to see he had missed a step and needed to put the lock in place.

Don't worry, love. I can still hold them both without any problem, Deborah said as she carefully placed the twins in the stroller.

All the employees smiled at the lovely family scene and made their way over to greet their bosses. Just a moment ago, they had thought they'd lost everything, but now the lady of the house seemed like their guardian angel for getting the company back on track and bringing everyone back.

Good morning, all the employees said as they passed by.

Good morning, Jayden and Deborah replied.

Good morning, sir, ma'am, Jimmy greeted. "Wow... finally, I get to see the twins. Hi, cuties!" he said excitedly as he looked at the babies.

The twins looked at him curiously and waved their little hands.

They're so different from James and Elizabeth, Jimmy said.

Right? Danielle said, amused.

They're much calmer, Max noted.

Jimmy, where are my parents?

oh yes, they're now-

Jayden. They heard Eric and Samantha calling as they walked over.

Oh! You brought out my grandchildren! Nicholas said as he approached the stroller, seeing the twins awake and calm. "Hi, kids," he said, making faces to get them to smile.

I thought you were staying at home, Samantha said as she came closer to adjust the hair accessory Nicole was wearing.

Well, we came to see you because we need to talk about something very important, Deborah said, frowning slightly.

Did something happen? Eric asked, confused by her tone.

Jimmy, can you prepare the boardroom and bring us something to drink?

Of course, Jimmy said, turning to order something from the cafeteria for his bosses.

Max, Danielle, could you go pick up the kids?" Deborah asked.

You got it. Should we come back to pick you up, or should we take the kids to eat? Max asked.

We're going to be a while, so here, Deborah said, pulling out her wallet and handing them a card. "Take the kids to their favorite pizza restaurant, but only use \$100 of credit each for games." "Can we play too?" Danielle asked.

That's taking advantage, Jayden said with a laugh.

\$100, but shared, Deborah specified.

Yay! Come on, brother, we've got 30 minutes to get the kids, Danielle said, getting into the car.

We'll finish eating and take them home to do their homework, Max informed them.

Thanks, guys, Jayden said.

Back to business, Nicholas said. "Debbie, I'll give you the notes later about the purchases we made to fully stock the inventory."

Is the company restocked already? Jayden asked, surprised.

That's right, son. Nicholas provided the money to pay the suppliers, Samantha said. "It also helped that your father talked to them and explained why we were so behind. Luckily, they understood, waived the interest, and immediately resupplied us." "That's wonderful, everyone," Deborah said.

It's all thanks to you, Debbie, Eric said, taking her hands. "Thank you for your help, your father also convinced me to invest some money to have a backup in case something like this happens again."

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That's a good idea, Jayden sald. "Because after what happened, I've learned it's best to have a backup or investment that's separate from the business."

You're right, son. We've learned our lesson, Eric agreed.

That's right because our grandchildren just taught us lesson by saving us from this situation, Samantha said, amazed to learn that James and Elizabeth were the ones who bought the parts of the company that had been sold.

As they chatted, they made their way to the boardroom, noticing that Jimmy had already set out coffee, water, juice, and some snacks so they could talk comfortably.

Thanks, Jimmy, Eric said, watching the young man nod and leave.

Alright, let's talk about serious matters, Deborah said, taking a seat.

What did you find?" Nicholas asked.

Hey, Dad, Jayden began, "does the name Gabriel Gates ring a bell?"

Huh? Eric and Samantha said. "Gabriel... Gates..."

Oh, wait, wasn't he your ex? Eric remembered.

Oh, right, Samantha said. "It's been ages since I heard that name. I wonder what happened to him. I remember he went abroad when we broke up, and-"

Ahem... Eric cleared his throat while frowning. "And why are you asking about that man?" he asked, looking at his son.

Because he's the one attacking the company, Jayden replied.

What?! Eric and Samantha said, shocked.

Wait... you're telling me that guy is directly attacking the company? But... why? Eric asked.

No idea, Dad, but apparently, he came back and, with the help of a hacker, stole our client list. It also seems he has some political connections because Brandon found out there are complaints about his terrible material quality, but they were silenced quickly with compensation done so quietly, Jayden said, frowning. "That's why we haven't heard anything in the news, and their reputation has remained intact."

Turns out we accidentally ruined his plans, Deborah added. "He intended to buy everything you put up for sale, but obviously you went with the highest bidder offering full payment in cash."

Well, we needed the money urgently, Eric said. "That's why we accepted that cash offer. It was also the asking price."

And that's what we thought, Nicholas mentioned. "That's why we made the offers in that manner."

Thank you once again for watching out for us from the shadows, Eric added gratefully.

The point is that this guy was trying to destroy the company and acquire it at a low price, Deborah said, frowning slightly

Wait... that means he created this crisis to buy the company, Samantha said, her brow furrowing. "That's right. It was all a trick so he could buy the company himself," Jayden sald angrily. "That scumbag, how dare he?" Eric said furlously, clenching his fists.

But two can play that game, Jayden declared, also clenching his fists.

What do you mean, son?

We'll beat him at his own game, taking advantage of the fact that he hasn't let those lawsuits come to light.

And what exactly is your plan?

To do nothing, Jayden said, smiling slightly.

Huh? The older people were confused. "But son..."

We're going to keep offering our services as usual and do what we do best, to show everyone that Cooper Construction is great because we offer the complete package: luxury, quality, and a fair price. "Wow... well said, son," Samantha said proudly.

Right, so we're going to focus on the new project and also look for smaller jobs to bring in some extra income, just like we've always done.

Those words greatly encouraged Eric and Samantha, and they got to work right away to get the company back on track. What mattered most was that their work shone, as it always had, and they would let time prove who was the better builder.

Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.

Chapter 297

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Extra 9: Broken Heart

Meanwhile, a certain man named Gabriel Gates was anything but pleased.

At that very moment, he had been getting ready to celebrate his victory over his great rival.

He hated Eric Cooper, who he saw as the opportunistic fool who had stolen his beloved Samantha Potter. Though strictly speaking, Eric didn't actually steal her since Gabriel broke up with her after a couple's fight. Of course, he later regretted it and tried to find her, but it was too late because, when he saw her again, she was already in the arms of that blonde guy, and they had a child.

Naturally, he swore to take revenge and teach a lesson to that traitor who didn't wait for him, though... he had never told her to wait. But he thought that she really loved him and would wait for him forever.

What hurt the most was finding out that she had helped Eric build that entire empire. In other words, it would have all been his if he hadn't fought with her and had proposed to her that day instead.

So out of envy, he devised a plan to ruin them.

That plan took several years to materialize because he needed to gather enough capital to launch his attack, which is why he had only recently put his plan into action.

The plan was simple: attack the market that Cooper Construction controlled and gradually take away their clients, driving them to the brink of selling and breaking up their great empire so he could buy it up and take over everything.

Honestly, he didn't know much about construction, but he didn't care. The only thing that mattered to him was destroying that girlfriend-stealing thief. He thought that if Samantha saw that idiot ending up broke, she would leave him and come back to Gabriel,

At that moment, Gabriel was in his office, opening a bottle of wine to savor a sip of victory, but....

Sir... someone entered hts office.

What is it? he asked, frowning slightly.

Um... sir, we've got a problem.

If it's another lawsuit, you know what to do.

It's not that... the man said, sounding anxious.

Then what is it? Come on, speak up, he ordered while taking a sip of his drink.

It's just that the Coopers are working again.

What?! he said, choking on his drink. "That's impossible. They're bankrupt. How is that possible?"

Well, um... sir, someone just injected a large amount of money into their construction company, and they even got back the businesses they had previously sold.

Tch... did they make a deal with the buyer? he asked, gripping his wine glass tightly before throwing it to the floor. "Ugh... that's why I told you to quickly find out the identity of that anonymous buyer so that I could negotiate with him and acquire those companies." Chapter 297

Well, about that... I just found out who the owners are, but I doubt they'd want to make a deal with you. Plus, I don't think they can sell the companies.

And why not? I mean, obviously, they sold them to that guy.

My informant told me that the companies are being used under a legal lease agreement because, legally. those companies can't be sold or have their ownership changed.

Huh? What the hell does that mean? Did the new owners mortgage them or something?

It's because the companies are owned by two minors, so they can't be sold since it's their only asset.

What? Hold on... how does a minor have that kind of cash to buy a company of that size?

Um... I don't know exactly, sir.

And how did they manage to buy it?

Because their legal guardian was the one who bought the companies for them.

Do you have the names of those brats?

"Then give me their damn names! I'll go negotiate with their guardian myself to take those companies from the Coopers and give them to me,-and-

It's just that, sir, the kids are James Cooper and Elizabeth Cooper."""

"What... that's impossible. They're supposed to have no money, and besides, that would be tax fraud and

It's not fraud because that money is an inheritance their mother, Deborah Cooper gave them. Also, the purchase was made without the knowledge of her in-laws or her husband, with their maternal grandfather, Nicholas Fiore, acting as the intermediary."" Gabriel stared at his assistant, dumbfounded. ""This is a joke…"" he said, snatching the papers the assistant was reading to look at the report himself. ""I thought I left them penniless… It can't be possible that the wife had that much money stashed away and-"" "Actually, it is believable, sir,"" his assistant said, ""Because Ms. Deborah is the owner of the Anderson Investment Brokerage."""

She's related to old Alexander Anderson?"

She's his granddaughter, and it seems she created investments for her children in secret. Seeing her in-laws in trouble, she used her money to save Cooper Construction without telling them.

Tch. damn it. How can they have so much luck?" he asked, frowning and crumpling the throwing them on the floor.

papers

before

And she's the one who got the company working again because she landed them a new contract.

That's impossible. I managed to monopolize the market and even took away their government contracts.

It's because it's a foreign client who came to them through Nicholas Foster's recommendation. "Damn it... with that job, they'll return to their former glory, and that's something I can't allow." "What do you plan to do?"

Well, now that my plan got ruined because of that woman... Investigate her.

Excuse me?

Find all her dirty secrets because we'll break up her marriage. That way, her father will stop giving money to Eric's son because he broke his daughter's heart. "Um... but sir, are you sure? I mean, they just had twins, and..."

I Don't care about that. All I want is to see Eric Cooper's total downfall at any cost. So move it and don't come back until you have something to break up that marriage.

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Extra 10: A Day with Dad, Part 1

With his plan underway, Jayden focused on designing the buildings.

That day, he didn't feel very inspired despite wanting to create an innovative design that would mark the return of Cooper Construction. At the moment, he felt like his sketches were too basic, and he didn't want to make a classic design that was already common in the city... he wanted to create something new that would easily stand out.

Ah... this isn't working. Jayden said sadly, crumpling the paper and tossing it into the air. Felix, thinking it was a game, caught it and brought it back, waiting for Jayden to throw it

again. "Well, at least someone likes it." "Cheer up, love. I'm sure the inspiration will come to you and..." Just then, Deborah's phone rang, and she saw it was a message from her father. "Oh no..." "What's wrong, my love?"

Um... Dad and my experts just noticed some strange movements in the stock market, she said, standing up. "I have to go check it out because this could mean trouble for our clients. It could be a sign of a scam." "That sounds serious."

Yes, um... well...

Go. I'll take care of the kids and make sure the kids do their homework.

Yes, go on. They need you.

Thanks, love. I'll be back for dinner, she said, leaning in to kiss him on the lips.

Good luck, my love, Jayden said, watching her leave the house with Danielle. "Ah... well, back to the design," he said to himself, picking up his pencil and rulers to continue working on the design. Just ten minutes after Deborah left, Jayden heard the hurried footsteps of his little girl.

Mommy. can you help me? Elizabeth asked, coming up to him with her math notebook. "Huh? Where's Mommy?"

She went out for a bit to take care of something at work, Jayden said.

Oh... um... okay... Daddy, can you help me? she asked, showing him her math book.

Of course. Let's see, Jayden said, pushing his drawing aside to help his daughter with her math problems.

Then he noticed James sitting next to him, quietly working on his homework.

Alright, what's giving you trouble?

This part, Daddy, look at this problem," she said, pointing to the page.

Let's see... he said, reading the problem. "So you have 10," he said, holding up his hands, "and you take away 3. So how much do you have left?" he asked, folding down three fingers. "Um..." Elizabeth smiled and started counting them. "One, two, three, four... um..."

Five.

Yes, five, six, and seven! she said happily.

Good, Jayden said proudly, watching her write the answer. "Sweetheart, when you find an operation difficult, you can use your fingers to help."

Hmm... she said, trying to solve the next problem on her own.

Dad.

Hey, he said, turning to James.

Can you help me check this to see if it's written right? he asked, showing him his notebook

Sure, let's see, Jayden said, taking the notebook to read his assignment. "Look, son, here you need to change this because, remember, 'vase' isn't written with an 'e' but with an 'a." "Oh..." James said, taking his eraser to fix the mistake. "It's just that sometimes it's hard."

I know, son. You know what helped me?

When I had doubts about how to spell a word, I looked it up in the dictionary.

Hold on, wait, he said, standing up to find something. "Aha, look, this is the dictionary I used when I was your age," Jayden said, handing it to James.

It looks old, Elizabeth said, seeing the yellowed pages.

Okay, it makes sense that it's old since it's the one I used when I was a kid, just like you, he said, noticing James's grimace. "You know, son, I made the same faces when your grandma gave me this book."

Really? James blushed a little. "Um... sorry, Dad, but it's just that I don't want anyone to make fun of me," he said, handing the book back.

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You know what? Let them make fun of you.

They might laugh at you now, but he who laughs last laughs best.

Huh? the kids said, looking confused.

What I mean is, maybe not now, but later, you'll be the one laughing at them when you're the smartest kid in class and they're still struggling. It takes wisdom to acknowledge your own flaws and weaknesses, and that's what school is for, right? "Hmm... you're right, Dad," James said, taking the book back.

And you know what? As you keep using the dictionary, it'll gradually become normal and natural for you to look things up when you have questions.

Okay, said James, smiling. Then he noticed something funny on the book cover: It had a sticker that said, "Property of Jayden. Do not touch, except Jayden."

Yeah, I know. Back then, I found your grandpa's label maker and used it to put messages on all my stuff.

You were a naughty boy, Daddy, Elizabeth said.

A little, he said, sticking his tongue out to make his kids laugh.

Hey, Dad, does Grandpa still have that label maker? James asked excitedly.

Hmm... I don't think so."

Aww, the kids pouted.

But we e can buy one and play with it.

Yes!

But I don't know where they sell them, he said, making a face.

Sir, if you want, there's a store that sells it online, and they deliver the same day, one of the maids, Camilla, said, showing her phone screen where a virtual store sold labels and label makers. "You can shop from your phone? Wow, now I really feel old. I didn't know about this magic," Jayden said, looking at the phone screen.

Camilla, do they have a label maker like Daddy's? Elizabeth asked, coming closer to see the screen.

Let's see, I'll check the catalog and... Camilla said, scrolling through the screen. Oh, yes, look, here it is," she said, showing them a machine that made the same kind of labels as the dictionary. "Daddy, can we order it, please?" Elizabeth pleaded.

Let's see... the price is reasonable, so we can."

Can you order it, Camilla? Jayden asked.

Sure thing, boss, she said, typing quickly on her phone. "Done. It'll arrive at the mansion in an hour, and it'll be \$358, including shipping."

Huh? That fast, and they deliver it to the door? Jayden asked in surprise.

Yes, sir. I'll let the butler know to be on the lookout for its arrival.

Wow, I'm really behind the times. Now we can order things as fast as fast food, he said, watching his kids' excitement. "But let's finish your homework so we can play and-"

Just then, the twins' cries filled the air, and Jayden got to his feet to check on them.

Coming, sweethearts, Jayden said, hurrying to see them. "What's wrong, babies? Why are you crying?" he asked softly to soothe their tears. "Daddy's here, don't cry," he said, gently patting their chests. "Dad," James called, coming into the room with two bottles.

You're such a great big brother, Jayden said.

Thanks, I've learned a lot by watching Mom take care of them, James said, blushing a little.

With that, they each carefully picked up a baby to feed them.

Elizabeth watched and wanted to help too, so she brought them a bib and a cloth to keep the twins from getting their clothes dirty.

Jayden held Michael in his arms while James fed Nicole. Elizabeth wound up the music box to calm her siblings.

Daddy, I want to help too, Elizabeth said, trying to move closer to hold her brother.

Okay, carefully now, Jayden said, shifting carefully to hand the baby to Elizabeth.

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Extra 10: A Day with Dad, Part 2

Seeing his older kids holding their younger siblings, Joyden took out his phone to snap a picture. He stayed close by to help, as his kids didn't yet know how to burp the twins.

Just then, Jayden heard a meow, noticing a certain little kitten approaching and trying to lick Michael's bottle.

No, Chip, that's not for you, Jayden said, pulling the bottles away from the kitten's reach.

Suddenly, a small dog came running into the room..

Felix, shh... you'll scare the bables, Elizabeth sald, petting her puppy.

Surprisingly, the twins were looking at the pets and moving their little hands, trying to touch them.

Instead of being scared, it seems your siblings are already used to them.

Well, they've been taking care of them along with Mommy, James said.

see," Jayden replied, watching as the pets settled beside the kids, with the babies seeming content with their presence. "I also see you've beaten me because you know how to take care of your siblings better than I do," Jayden praised James and Elizabeth, causing them to smile with pride.

How funny. He really felt like he was dreaming, seeing himself with four kids and two pets at home. Jayden had always been alone at home because his parents worked a lot. Sure, they had family playtime during their free moments, but it wasn't the same. Now, he saw that his kids had loyal friends and playmates, so they'd never feel lonely.

After changing the twins' diapers, they went out to the garden to play while waiting for the delivery.

When the package arrived, they opened it immediately to start assembling the machine and reading the instructions

James and Elizabeth watched excitedly as their dad followed the instructions to put the label maker together.

And now we load the paper, and... done, Jayden said, typing something into the machine and printing out a label that said, "Daddy loves his kids," which he stuck on his drawing notebook.

Me! My turn! Elizabeth said happily, seeing that it worked. She typed: "I am a princess," and stuck it on one of her pencils.

Now me, James said, eagerly taking the label maker to write something and put it on his book.

The message was the same as the one in his dad's dictionary.

Excellent label, son, Jayden said, ruffling James's hair.

After that, they started playing around, putting funny labels on everything in the house, including some of the babies' things and the pets' food dishes.

Jayden was having a blast. Afterward, they played hide-and-seek with all four kids, carefully carrying the twins while they all laughed, as the pets joined in the game too.

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After a while, Elizabeth suggested changing the game, so now they were using sock puppets to entertain the twins. James was also trying to make everyone laugh with his impression of Mr. Grumpy Bear. Everyone in the mansion was happy to hear the laughter and subtly helped their boss take care of the kids, leaving some snacks and drinks within reach to quench their thirst after all that playing.

When the sun began to set, Samantha and Eric arrived

Samantha offered to help her son bathe the twins, while Eric sent the older kids to bathe.

Alright, kids, time to eat and then to bed, Eric said, seeing his grandchildren start to yawn. "But... ah... and Mommy... Elizabeth said, rubbing her right eye with the back of her hand. "Hey everyone, I'm back." They heard Deborah's voice as the front door opened.

Ah... The twins started wiggling their hands and feet at the sound of their mother's voice. "Mommy!" James and Elizabeth ran over to hug her.

Hi! Did you behave?

Welcome home, my love. How did it go? Jayden asked, approaching to kiss her on the lips while holding

the twins.

It went well. Ah... it was a bit complex, but all the investments are secure. We managed to alert our clients about those strange movements in the new companies, which could represent a significant risk. We warned our clients to be cautious.