

The Revenge of the Mute Wife [Completed]

Chapter 311-320

Chapter 311

James was happy that his grandfather wasn't upset with him for choosing to be like his dad and that he would support him in his studies. Motivated by this excitement, James showed him his sketchbook. They weren't full-fledged blueprints like his dad made, but it was a great start.

George was certainly a little sad that the boy didn't choose to follow the family tradition of pursuing a career related to precious stones. But he understood that James had fallen in love with architecture because he saw what Jayden did every day. Now all he could do was support his first grandson in his dreams.

After finishing their conversation, they went to find the others so they could go eat.

On the way to the restaurant, they picked up Elliot's partner and son to spend some family time together. They arrived at their favorite family restaurant, where they first found a table to sit down and then placed their orders.

While waiting for the waiter, they started chatting amongst themselves.

I see someone is already wearing the gift I sent, Erika said, looking at Elizabeth.

Yes, Auntie, it's so pretty, the younger girl said, touching the teddy bear charm.

Hehe, I'm so glad you like it! You know, I have more ideas for accessories in that style, and I'll talk to your mommy later because I want you to be my model for those pieces. "Yes!"

Hehe, Ellie, you're going to be famous, James said, seeing his sister's excitement.

You could be a model too, James, Elliot suggested.

Um... The younger boy blushed and looked away.

George smiled at their interaction. In fact, he was still surprised when his son proposed a new division in the company dedicated to children's jewelry, to be led by Erika.

At first, he had his doubts. But seeing how well those costume jewelry pieces were selling and gaining popularity, those fears disappeared, replaced by a sense of pride. His son and daughter-in-law were genuinely committed to growing the company, which meant it would thrive for many more years.

While they chatted, the waiter came to take their order

During the conversation, Elizabeth couldn't resist telling her aunt and uncle what had happened to James the previous day.

Wow... lucky your friend reacted quickly and recorded the incident so everyone could see what jerks those boys were, Erika said, looking at her nephew.

Hmm... he was so fast, I didn't even see when he turned on his phone and hid it,

Hehe, well, Edward is the son of a lawyer, so thinking of that precaution came naturally, George said.

That's true, Elliot agreed.

Ah... At that moment, his son started babbling excitedly when his mother took a jar from her purse. "Hehe, I'm coming. Howard," Erika said, putting his bib on while Elliot opened the jar to start feeding him.

I can help, Auntie," Elizabeth offered eagerly.

Sure, but remember, go slow and be careful, the older woman said, showing her how to feed the baby.

Elizabeth listened carefully to her aunt's instructions, though sometimes she giggled, which made her little cousin laugh and spit out some of his food.

James laughed too at what had happened, but was also paying close attention to his sister's movements. He wanted to learn more about this since soon his own siblings would start eating solids and he wanted to be ready to help.

Just then the food arrived, so Erika took the jar of baby food to finish feeding Howard so Ellie could eat. After lunch, the children went to the restaurant's play area for a bit while the waiter brought their dessert.

Be careful, Erika said as she watched them take off their shoes to go play.

Yes, Auntie, they answered in unison.

Max stood up and followed them to keep an eye on them as they headed to the ball pit.

Once inside, they joined other kids to play and have fun until Erika came to get them, letting them know that dessert had arrived.

Dessert! Elizabeth said excitedly. "See you later," she said, waving goodbye to the kids they were playing

with.

Bye, said the kids, who continued playing.

Bye, James said as well.

Come on, Ellie, let's go wash our hands, Erika said, reaching out to hold her hand so they could go to the restroom together. "I'm coming..."

Come on, James, I'll go with you, Max said, helping the kids out of the play area,

The children obeyed and went to wash their hands with the adults.

James, wait a moment, Max said, entering the restroom.

Okay, the boy said, turning to wash his hands thoroughly.

Then he saw a man standing next to him, but he tried to ignore the man, focusing on washing his hands well.

Well, I finally got to talk to you, the man said as he took a paper towel to dry his hands.

... James kept scrubbing his hands, but noticed in the mirror that the man was staring right at him. So he looked up to meet his gaze. "Are you talking to me?"

Chapter 312

Chapter 312

Obviously. Or do you see anyone else? the man asked sarcastically, pointing out that they were the only ones washing their hands at that moment. "Who are you, and what do you want?" the boy asked, frowning.

Who I am isn't important, but let's say I've been looking for you to talk about something very important.

And how can you tell me something important when you're a stranger?

Wow, for a kid, you sure use your brain.

And you, for being a competitor of my family's company, are kind of dumb.

What... Gabriel was now surprised, looking at the boy who smiled arrogantly.

"Well, now you're not a stranger, but you still are to me

Wait a minute. How do you know who I am?"

Oh, please... James said in a bored tone, letting out an audible sigh. "Remember, the internet exists, and these days nothing is a secret." "Tch... whatever."

Bye bye then. I'm not supposed to talk to strangers.

But you're already talking to me, so now you need to listen to me, the older man said, trying to grab his arm to keep him from leaving. "Let go of me!"

"Calm down, James. Instead of being aggressive with me, you should thank me for what I'm going to tell

you."

Let me go. I don't want to listen to you, James ordered, trying to break free.

Well, you have to listen because your whole life is a lie.

What? James was now scared, looking him in the eyes. "What are you talking about?"

“That’s right, James. It turns out you’ve been living a big lie.

Huh?””

That’s right, kiddo, because it turns out your mother’s been lying to you. You aren’t... The biological son of Jayden Cooper,” the boy said in a monotone voice. “Correct, and your real father is...” Gabarted to say but then realized something “Wait... you knew?”

That’s personal, and I’m not obligated to answer you, James said, managing to free himself from his grip. “Now it’s my turn to ask: why are you telling me this? What were you hoping to gain?” “Um... well, L...

“Yes, I’d like to know what you gain from this too. Because this is a personal matter for the Cooper

family, Max said, opening the bathroom door with his phone in hand to record what was happening.”

Who are you?

I’m the boy’s bodyguard. I pretended to hide to see what you were up to, which means I recorded everything.

What? Now the older man was a little nervous and worried about that information

Don’t bother explaining. I already called the police for harassment.

You’re joking, right?

Nope,” James said.

I noticed you following us ever since we left the Peterson company, so we planned this controlled encounter to see what you wanted, Max said.

Controlled? Gabriel repeated, confused.

That’s right, which is why we came to this specific restaurant. It belongs to my brother-in-law, so we have maximum security and control over the situation, Elliot said, appearing to block

the main door along with a blond man, showing his annoyance. "...” Gabriel was scared, realizing he was cornered.

When Max informed us of what was happening, we contacted my brother-in-law to make sure everything was ready because we couldn't understand why you were following us, Elliot explained. "Now I ask you, who do you think you are, telling my nephew something like that?"

Well, I..."

Wow. We thought you were just a pedophile, but you turned out to be something much worse, Harry said, frowning as he stepped in. "'Harry..." Elliot said.

Yes, brother-in-law, the police are already inside the restaurant and are on their way to take him away, the blond man said angrily.

Gabriel trembled a little, clearly at a disadvantage against three young men.

Now, just give me one damn good reason not to smash your face in. My nephew was supposed to find out about this later when his parents felt it was the right time to tell him the truth, Elliot demanded, clenching his fists.

Uncle... James was worried to see him so upset, so he ran over to hug him and try to calm him down. "Don't worry, Mr. Peterson, we'll handle this." Just then, several police officers entered.

Gabriel was terrified; he never thought something like this would happen. But despite his protests and struggles, the officers took him away in handcuffs to the police station on charges of harassing a minor.

Obviously, the arrest caused a big scene, and everyone in the place took out their phones to record what was happening and to try to find out what had happened.

Elizabeth ran over, scared to see that her brother had been the target, and hugged him, crying.

Meanwhile, George and Erika had an idea of what was going on. Naturally, they'd thought it would be a stalker or a pedophile, not a crazy man revealing James's true origins.

But what worried George and Elliot the most was learning that James already knew the truth. They wanted to know how he found out as they'd known that Deborah had planned to wait until he was a teenager to tell him.

Chapter 313

Chapter 313

Extra 18: Roger and James Par

After the incident at the restaurant, Elliot decided to take the kids to his house so they could rest a bit since he wanted to talk to James about what had just happened,

When they got to the house, Erika tried to distract Elizabeth so they could talk in private before Deborah and Jayden arrived. They had already been informed about what had happened. George and Elliot took James to the study because they wanted to question him.

James, come here for a moment, George called, gesturing for him to sit in one of the chairs in the room.

You too, Max, come over, Elliot said in a serious tone.

Wow... the way you said that made me feel like a little kid about to be scolded by his dad, Max joked. "Well, maybe we will have to scold you and your sister, George replied playfully. "Ugh..." Max said, sitting down next to James.

Why are you going to scold him, Grandpa?"

Before I answer that... George began, getting comfortable in his seat. "James... tell me something, Is it true what your uncle told me?"

About what...

Do you know who Roger Peterson is?

Yes, he said, grimacing as he started to fidget with his hands.

James... The office door opened just then, and Deborah and Jayden walked in, looking anxious.

Mom, Dad, the boy said, feeling them hug him.

Mr. George, what are you doing? Jayden asked, frowning, because they had overheard the question he asked James.

Dad, don't be mad at Grandpa, James pleaded before looking at the older man. "And yes, I know who he is... he's Grandpa's first son, and..." He glanced at his dad before lowering his eyes. "My biological father." "James..." Deborah was frightened to hear those words coming from her eight-year-old son.

Jayden was also speechless, now clenching his fists. "Who... who told you that?"

No one told me... I figured it out on my own.

But son...

Mom, don't be mad at Uncle or Grandpa. I did my own research because I was curious after what I heard at Grandpa's party, so I started looking into it on the internet.

Deborah and Jayden both grimaced, because it was obvious that with a quick search, he'd find the truth they didn't want him to know until he was a teenager. Chapter 313

James.....

Don't cry, Mommy, he said, hugging her. "I don't blame you for leaving that man, besides, I'm happy with you, Dad, and my siblings." "James..." Jayden smiled and hugged him.

I promise, from now on, we won't have any more secrets, okay? Deborah said.

James? Jayden raised an eyebrow at that comment.

Well, we... he said, glancing at Max, who looked nervous, "we do have one more secret."

What secret? asked Jayden.

... I've already spoken in person with Mr. Roger.

What?! all the adults said, except for Max.

Wait... what do you mean you've already spoken with my brother? Elliot exclaimed.

When? Deborah asked, worried.

When I found out everything, a month after Grandpa's party. I asked Max to help me find him so I could talk to him in person.

Max... Jayden and Deborah looked him in the eyes, making him tremble slightly under their piercing

gaze.

Seems like you'll be getting punished like a little kid, George said, giving Max a sideways glance.

Um... in my defense, it was more of an order than a request, and I'm supposed to obey as well as protect him since he's my bosses' son.

Ah... Jayden let out a loud sigh, feeling like all this information was going to make his head explode." We'll talk about that later... but now tell us, how did you find him?" he asked, looking into his son's eyes.

Chapter 314

Chapter 314

That's my fault, Max admitted. "When James asked me, I asked for time and started looking into where Roger lived and worked. After spying on him for a week, I knew his entire routine and waited for the perfect moment to have them meet casually." "What... spying?" Elliot asked, shocked.

That's actually one of the many skills I hired him for to be Deborah's bodyguard, Jayden explained.

Hehe, sounds like you're some kind of hitman, George joked.

Um... Max just averted his gaze, making the others a bit nervous. "Well, I haven't had to do that in this job yet."

Ahem... let's get back to the main topic, please, Elliot requested. "So, you found the right time and place to see him, and then...?"

James and Max exchanged a look before the younger one started explaining what he had done.

After discovering the whole truth online, James didn't know how to feel. It turned out his family wasn't his real family... well, halfway. But now his head was a mess, and he didn't know what to think, so he grabbed Chip to try and calm his tears. "Meow."

Sniff... you're lucky, Chip... you don't care who your parents were.

Meow... purr... Curiously, the kitten seemed to understand him and started purring as she rubbed her little body against his to make him smile and calm down.

You're right. I shouldn't cry about this because we have a beautiful family, right?

Meow.

"Hehe, yeah, I'm silly... that man means nothing to me. He made a face, now understanding why they had three grandfathers. Despite being young, he also noticed that he resembled Grandpa George a little. Suddenly, a knock came from the door.

"Can I come in?" James was startled to hear Max's voice, so he quickly wiped his tears and tried to act

casual.

Come in.

James, look, I brought the materials from the list you gave me for the... he began to say, but then he saw the boy's swollen eyes. "What happened? Why were you crying?" "Huh? Um... L

Did you play rough again? he asked, approaching to pet the kitten.

Meow! the kitten protested, trying to bite him before jumping onto the bed and curling up on the pillows.

Let me see if you got scratched.

She didn't hurt me.

Then why are you crying?

James grimaced and opened his laptop to show Max what he had found.

James... Max was shocked to see that and just hugged him, listening to the boy cry and trying to soothe his pain. In a way, he understood the confusion he was feeling; after all, his bosses had ordered that everyone be silent about this matter until they could talk to him themselves. "Tell me, why did investigate this?"

you

It's just... I was still wondering about what I heard at Grandpa's party... Max, help me. I want to see him.

But James, that idiot never cared about you, and I don't want you to get hurt.

You knew? James pulled back from the hug and looked at his friend in surprise.

Max, he complained, frowning.

Well, yeah, I knew... I mean, Danielle and I lived through most of the drama, which is why I'm telling you you're not missing out by not knowing him.

I want to be the one to judge that.

Max, that's an order. Help me find him so I can talk to him.

"But your mom..."

It'll be our secret, please."""

Um... fine, but give me a few days to look into it, okay? In the meantime, be the good kid you always are. Do you promise?

I promise. Thanks, Max, he said, hugging him.

Chapter 315

Chapter 315

315

Extra 18: Roger and James, Part 2

After a week passed, Max took James out with the excuse of buying some school project supplies.

So, repeat the rules to me, Max said while driving.

Don't leave your side, and listen to everything you tell me.

Yes... despite everything, we don't know how he'll react.

Yes, Max, I'll be a good boy and obey you.

Max let out a sigh and smiled as he parked the car.

With that, they got out and started looking for Roger since they knew he would be at the park around this time, playing with his stepdaughter.

After walking a little, they found them in the play area.

Hehe, take it easy, Cassie, Roger said cheerfully, pushing her on the swing.

Higher, Dad! Haha! she said with a big smile.

Max couldn't help but roll his eyes at that hypocrisy. He was taking care of a girl who wasn't even his own flesh and blood while rejecting his real son.

If you want, you don't have to talk to him, he said when he saw the grimace on the boy's face.

No... James said, starting to walk towards them.

The laughter stopped when the girl noticed his presence.

What do you want? she asked, frowning as she stopped the swing.

Roger looked at the boy closely, feeling a little strange.

James only stared Roger in the eyes, ignoring the girl.

Hey! I'm talking to you! she snapped.

Get lost, girl, he said in a monotone voice.

Kid, stop intimidating my daughter, Roger complained, frowning, but then he noticed the adult with the boy was also frowning.

Are you sure she's your daughter? As far as I know, I'm the only son you have... Mr. Roger, James said, smirking arrogantly. "... " Now Roger did recognize him and was surprised by his attitude.

The girl was furious and tried to hit him, but Roger stopped her, seeing that the adult with James was ready to harm her. "Cassie, why don't you go buy some ice cream?"

But Dad, this kid insulted me, and...

I'll set him straight. Go get your ice cream, and I'll catch up with you, he said, handing her some money

... The girl took the money reluctantly and left, furious that the boy had bested her

Alright then, what do you want? Roger asked irritably, crossing his arms.

Wow, you're one of those who never learn or change, even as you get old, Max remarked.

Relax, Max, James requested. "And you know, I don't want anything from you. I was just curious, so I came to see you in person."

So, has Deborah already told you the truth? Roger sold sarcastically, looking at the boy with a superior attitude.

No, I figured it out on my own.

So, what do you want? A round of applause or something? Because if you did your research, you should know I don't have any money. So, don't come to me asking for support. I won't ruin my life just because you had a tantrum or a fight with Cooper. "Do you realize you're talking to a child?" Max protested, already wanting to hit him, but he felt James holding him back by grabbing his hand.

Let it go, Max. And you, Roger, don't worry; I won't ruin your family fantasy with that ugly girl.

You":

I can call her whatever I want because she's nothing to me, and now that I see you in person, I only have one thing to say to you. "And what's that?"

Thank you?

Yes, thank you for letting Jayden Cooper be my father. Otherwise... I'm sure I'd be as pathetic as you.

You... Roger clenched his teeth and raised his hand to hit James, but he received a punch in the face instead.

What do you think you're doing, huh? Max asked, ready to hit him again.

Max...

Don't worry, James, I'm fine. And I'm ready to teach anyone who tries to hit you a lesson.

I think this boy needs discipline.

You're not his father to decide that. Besides, as far as know, he just told you the truth, Max said. "The one who needs discipline here is someone else."

Roger was about to protest, but seeing several people staring at him... he decided to walk away angrily to find his daughter.

Thanks, Max. James hugged him as a few tears escaped his eyes.

It's my job. Also, you're a very brave boy."

Hm... Max, take me home.

At your service, he said, picking up the boy to take him back to the car.

I'll kill him... Jayden declared.

I'll join you, Elliot said, clenching his fists.

Neither of you will do anything. George ordered.

Calm down, Deborah said, holding Jayden's hand. "And you-why did you put yourself in that situation?" she asked, looking James in the eye. "He could have really hurt you."

Sorry, Mom, I... I just wanted to see that man. And you know, Mom... just by seeing him and hearing how he talks, I understand why you left him.

Oh James... Deborah sought to embrace him.

Hove you, Mom, and I love you a lot too, Dad. I was just curious to meet that guy, but I want you both to keep being my parents.”

Oh, James... that will never change, Jayden said. “You are our son, and we love you very much.”

Hm... I love you both a lot too, he said, hugging them,

And what about me? George said, extending his arms, making James smile as he moved over to give him a hug.

Ah... God, you know, Max, now you have my blessing because I also feel like punching my brother, Elliot

But ignoring this drama, who does that man think he is to say those things to my son? Jayden said, frowning. “If James hadn’t figured it out... right now, he would be facing serious emotional and psychological damage from that revelation.” “I think that’s what he wanted,” Deborah said, frowning.

What’s wrong with that

old man? Elliot questioned. “Why did he want to hurt my nephew?”

I have no idea, but I think it’s the same reason he’s been targeting our company.

Why do you think that? Eric asked, frowning.

Because last night, I got a strange message telling me not to leave my son’s side for anything in the world... Deborah said, showing them a message from an unknown phone number. “At first, I thought it was fake or a wrong number, but after what happened today... I think it was a warning for us.”

*Looks like the sender sent it and then destroyed the phone because it shows an error when you try to call,” Jayden said, as he had tried calling the number.

I don't like this at all, Samantha said, concerned because their family was being directly attacked.

34

You know what... I'm tired of this, I'll be the one to look for Brandon to help me investigate this guy so we can start clipping his wings, Jayden said, frowning and clenching his fists.

Son... you can't...

Don't worry, Mom. I'm not going to ask him for anything crazy. I just want him to find all the people who were silenced after complaining about problems with the buildings his company constructed. I want to contact them to convince them to file a joint lawsuit to get real justice and, at the same time, destroy his façade of having a perfect company.

, I think what Jayden is planning is the right thing to do since we'll be helping a lot of people, Eric said.

Well, if that's the plan, I support it, Samantha said.

Me too, Deborah added.

why we've always made sure to use and create safe, durable materials," Eric said. "Because what we're building isn't just any structure; it's a home where people will live, and obviously, they need a safe roof over their heads." know, my love."

That's right, Dad. You always showed me the importance of being honest with customers about the materials. I doubt that guy warned anyone about that.

But, son, how much will Brandon charge us for this special investigation? Eric asked, concerned because they didn't have much money to offer as payment at the moment.

Chapter 316

Chapter 316

Extra 19: New Plan

Back at home, Deborah focused on comforting her son to make sure he was alright, but she noticed he seemed calm and collected as he chatted with his sister, telling her about what they did at the company.

In fact, James was excitedly telling them that his grandfather had said he would support his decision to become an architect.

See, I told you, honey, she said.

Hm... Grandpa said he taught me about jewelry because he just wanted to share his knowledge.

And James is good at it, Elizabeth added.

Oh? Why's that? Jayden asked while rocking the twins, who were still awake.

"Because he quickly figured out that his auntie's gift was cosmetic jewelry and not a real gem.

What? Is it really not real?" Samantha asked, looking at the little girl's necklace."

It's what's called luxury jewelry. James explained, blushing when he saw everyone looking at him in amazement. "Uh... Uncle Elliot taught me about this. It's a special process used to polish plastic so that it mimics the shine and appearance of a real gemstone. "Wow... my son is a genius." Jayden declared. "Haha, I'm no good at that."

Haha, someone paid attention to Grandpa's explanations, Deborah said while fixing James's hair.

I thought it was interesting and wanted to learn because I saw it's really important for the company.

Congratulations, sweetheart. Being curious and having a thirst for knowledge is admirable, Eric said, noticing the boy blushing and hugging his mom.

Well, I'm glad you inherited something good from my son, Jayden thought to himself.

And what about me, Daddy? Elizabeth asked.

What about you?

What am I talented at?

Let's see.. my princess is talented at matching colors, clothes, and accessories for her dolls.

Nooo Daddy...

Ellie, that's actually a big talent because not everyone can do that, James pointed out.

Oh, really?

Yes, Elizabeth, that's how great fashion designers got their start, Samantha said. "By mixing and matching their dolls' clothes or even colors in their drawings." "Oh..." Elizabeth was thrilled to hear that.

Haha, and besides, you still have many years to discover what you want to be when you grow up. Eric

said, hugging her.

Everyone goes at their own pace, sweetie. You don't need to compare yourself to anyone. Deborah stated.

Your mom's right, honey. Just keep playing and exploring.

Okay...

And now it's time for bed, Deborah said.

Noooo... the kids responded in unison.

Yes, just because it's Saturday doesn't mean you can stay up late. Go on, off to bed, Deborah ordered, hearing the complaints and laughter of her children. They put the kids to bed this way.

Once they ensured the kids and pets were asleep, Jayden and Deborah returned to the living room to discuss what happened at the restaurant with the older family members.

Oh... my poor grandson, Samantha said after hearing what had happened.

That man has really crossed the line, Eric said angrily

Yes, Dad.

But why would he want to hurt a child? Samantha asked, clearly distressed.

No idea... though I think it's the same reason he's been attacking the company.

Because last night, I received a strange message telling me not to leave my son's side for anything in the world... Deborah said, showing them the message from an unknown number. "For a moment, I thought it was fake or a wrong number, but after what happened today... I think it was a real warning for us."

It looks like they sent it and then destroyed the phone because it shows an error when you try to call, Jayden noted, as he had tried calling the number.

I really don't like this, Samantha said, worried because their family was being directly attacked.

You know what... I'm fed up. I'm going to look for Brandon myself to help me investigate this guy so we can start clipping his wings, Jayden declared, frowning and clenching his fists.

Son, you can't...

Calm down, Mom. I'm not going to ask him for anything crazy. I just want him to find all the people who were silenced after bringing up problems with the construction projects. I want to contact them to convince them to file a joint lawsuit to achieve real justice and, along the way, destroy that man's façade of a perfect company.

, I think what Jayden is planning is the right thing to do. We'll be helping a lot of people," Eric said.

Me too. Deborah added.

That's why we've always made sure to use and create safe, durable materials, Eric said. "Because what we're building isn't just any structure, it's a home where people will live, and obviously, they need a safe roof over their heads." "I know, my love."

That's right, Dad. You always showed me the importance of being honest with customers about the materials, and I doubt that guy warned anyone about that.

But this man... how much will he charge us for his special investigation? Eric asked, worried. They didn't have much money to offer as payment at the moment

Chapter 317

Chapter 317

Oh, don't worry, Dad. I think I know what I can offer him in exchange Jayden said, smiling slyly, already having a pending visit in mind. for the job instead of money,

With that in mind, they continued talking a bit more before heading to bed for the night.

On the other hand, Gabriel was furious. He had just gotten out of prison because he'd only now managed

to get released since his idiot assistant took forever to post bail and get him out of there.

Tch... I never thought I'd set foot in such a disgusting place, he said once they were out on the street.

Hopefully, this time you'll learn your lesson, Boss. And honestly, this was your fault.

My fault?

Harassing a minor is a serious offense.

I wasn't harassing him. I just wanted to talk to him.

And that looks suspicious because you're nothing to that boy.

Tch... whatever."

So, and...? the assistant asked, worried.

And... what? Gabriel asked, frowning.

Did did you tell him?

Oh, that... yeah, I told him, but it turns out the brat already knew he was a little bastard, Gabriel said, letting out a sigh.

Phew... maybe his parents already told him about his background.

Maybe... but either way, I got screwed over because they ruined my plans. I wanted to see the desperation and pain in that brat's eyes, but he only looked at me with indifference and a bit of arrogance. Tch... how are they raising that kid? "Huh?" The assistant looked at him, confused by his words.

Whatever... but now the problem is I have to find another way to attack that family because that construction project can't succeed.

"You know, Boss... instead of trying to hurt them, you should focus on improving the quality of your

materials."

And that's what I wanted to do by buying the Cooper companies, but someone couldn't close the deal.

It wasn't my fault. They chose the better offer with full payment in cash.

Tch."

But, Boss, instead of that... he said as they reached the car.

What now... Gabriel grumbled, then saw the folders the assistant was holding. "Oh no... not again."

Seriously, Boss, we need to start thinking about finding better suppliers.

I'm going to have to make a lot of calls to fix this mess, Gabriel said angrily, grabbing the folders to start reading them.

The assistant just sighed, opening the car door for his boss to get in so he could drive him home.

It was becoming a real problem seeing how the lawsuits were starting to pile up little by little. They had started as a few cracks, but the bigger the construction, the bigger the structural issues.

And that made him mad because after investigating the Coopers, he found that there were no complaints like that about them, and it was all because they had their clients sign a special contract when they chose to use cheaper materials than those recommended for the construction.

Gabriel was feeling pretty frustrated. All his fame and glory were ending so quickly, including his fortune. but the saddest thing was that he still hadn't gotten anywhere with Samantha, and that was what pissed him off the most.

What did he have to do to see his beloved again?

Should he look for her?... but... what if she rejected him or wasn't alone?

Maybe he should forget about the construction company and go straight for her because surely she hadn't forgotten him...

But wasn't the whole construction thing meant to hurt that wife-stealer....

What should he do?

Although... Stealing Eric's wife should hurt him, shouldn't it? And with that, he'd suffer the same way Gabriel did when he realized he'd lost her...

That could be the best thing, and then he'd see about putting up with Jayden and the grandkids...

You know, I think I'll make you happy, Gabriel said, raising his eyes to look at his assistant through the

rearview mirror.

What are you talking about, Boss?

I'm going to leave this construction stuff behind and change my focus.

Huh? What do you mean, change your focus?

I'm going to change my plans to win back my Samantha.

Um.... honestly, I don't like how that sounds.

Since that idiot will be busy, I'll find the perfect time to get her back.

Sir, I don't think that'll work.

Why not? Gabriel asked, frowning

Because you just tried to hurt her grandson. I don't think she'll welcome you with open arms like you're imagining.

That boy isn't her grandson. He doesn't share her blood.

So what? It's clear they love him a lot, even if they don't share a blood bond.

Tch... and does that mean I should give up on my beloved?

Mr. Gabriel... You know, I don't know how you were raised or what's going on in your head, but when you saw she was already happy with someone else, you should have moved on, found a good woman, and started your own family. "No way, because that would mean I'm a loser, and I refuse to accept defeat."

... The assistant didn't reply and just rolled his eyes before focusing on the road.

By the way... isn't there a mafia-style gang around here?

Um... I think so... why do you ask?

Because I know what I'm going to do now.

Chapter 318

Chapter 318

Extra 20: Request

—

Hey babe, guess what, Brandon said, reading the message he'd just received from Jayden.

What is it? she asked as she turned off the stove flame since she was cooking at that moment.

Your special arrangement is a done deal, he said, showing her his phone.

Aw... my man always delivers, she said playfully, giving him a kiss on the lips. "What do you think he needs? This would be the second time he's asked you for something as Vox."

"I think it's probably something related to his company, considering Deborah also asked us to investigate

it."

That's true. In that case, I'll get a head start and do a little digging on Gates Construction, she said, taking off her apron. "Alright, put your phone away. Lunch is ready."

Haha, I'm on it, he said as he walked over to the sink to wash his hands. "And you know, it's most likely to be about that. Even in my wildest dreams, I can't picture Jayden asking me to kill someone."

That guy deserves it, though. I heard he tried to harass little James yesterday," she said. "Joshua, lunch is ready!" she called out while opening the door to the garden.

Coming! Joshua shouted excitedly.

What? Brandon looked at his wife in shock as he dried his hands with a kitchen towel.

Yeah, my contact at the police department told me he was arrested at a restaurant where he cornered James in the bathroom.

Wait, what? he said, frowning.

Daddy, help me.

Oh, yeah. Up you go, champ, he said, lifting him so he could wash his hands. "Hey, Laura, did he do anything indecent to James?" he asked, already imagining various ways to deal with that man. Brandon hated those types of people who preyed on kids. "No, he kept swearing he just wanted to talk to James alone."

All done, Daddy.

Here, son, dry your hands well, he said, putting him down and offering the towel he'd used to dry his own

hands.

Thanks, Joshua said, giggling as heed the towel aside and ran to the table to take a seat.

I have no idea what he wanted to say to him in private, but since the whole thing was shady. He spent some time in holding until someone came to post his bail, Laura said. "Here you go, sweetheart. Remember, you have to finish everything on your plate, she added as she served lunch to Joshua.

"According to the spy who just joined that guy's construction company, he wanted to get close to the kid

to tell him he's a bastard because Jayden's not his father, said Sophia as she entered the kitchen."

Auntie Sophia! Joshua ran to hug her.

Aww, hi, my little cutie, she said, hugging him and kissing his cheek.

"Haha, funny that you'd be the one giving me that info, Brandon teased.

Rude,"" Sophia complained."

Come on, love, don't tease your sister. Besides, I told you my lessons work wonders, and Sophia's back on the right track, Laura said, winking at her partner. "Auntie, where's my cousin?"

She's at her grandparents' house with her dad, but she'll come over soon so you two can play together.

"Joshua, sweetie, let Auntie go and finish your veggies

Nooo...""

If you do, I'll give you ice cream," Sophia said.

Okay! Joshua said, returning to his seat to finish his meal.

If that guy targeted the Coopers by going after James, I can understand why Jayden is reaching out to me, Brandon said, frowning as he sat down with his son.

And we'll help in any way we can because James is a sweet kid. I hope he's alright, Laura said as she handed her husband his plate.

We'll ask him in a bit. He said he'd come by this afternoon, and...

Boss... They saw one of the guards enter the office, looking worried.

What's up? the blonde asked, frowning.

A new client just arrived.

Were you expecting someone? Sophia asked.

No, you know I don't take appointments at this time since I love having lunch with Laura and Joshua.

Hey, who is it? Laura asked.

It's Gabriel Gates. He says he wants to make a deal with you.

Interesting... how did an outsider know where to find us? Laura wondered.

No idea, but let's see what he wants, Brandon said, amused, standing up. "Babe."

I know, she said, pulling a dagger from one of the kitchen counter drawers. "Sophia, take Joshua to my in-

-laws."

Of course. Come on, sweetie, let's go to Grandma and Grandpa's, Sophia said, picking up the little boy to take him away. After all, the young heir shouldn't be around new clients.

Good luck at work, Mom, Dad, Joshua said as his aunt took him away.

Hey babe, I'm going to test out the new girl.

Hm... alright, but stay close, Brandon replied as he put on his work clothes. After adjusting his mask, he went to greet their guest.

Gabriel was admiring the room where he'd been instructed to sit. He honestly felt a bit nervous seeing a man in each corner of the room, keeping watch with their weapons in plain sight to prevent him from making any sudden moves.

Chapter 319

Chapter 319

He was scared, yet excited at the same time. This showed that this guy wouldn't let him down and would fulfill his request.

Sorry for the wait, Gabriel looked up and saw a blond man with some red streaks in his hair enter the room, hiding part of his identity behind a black mask adorned with gemstones and a few feathers. "I wasn't expecting a visit from the millionaire who suddenly showed up and monopolized the city's construction industry. Quite an impressive feat... something even Eric Cooper himself couldn't pull off."

Wow, it seems like information is your thing

It's not the only thing I handle, he said, smiling slightly, his eyes turning serious and scaring Gabriel for a moment. "And as you can imagine, I'm a bit curious. How did you find the Great Shadow of Light?" he asked, sitting down to face Gabriel. "Why do you need to know my source?"

Curiosity, and also to send a gift to that informant, he said, reaching for one of the apples in the fruit bowl on the table and crushing it with his hand.

Gabriel was a bit scared but tried to stay calm. "Well, seeing how merciful you are... I know you're the right man for the big favor I'm here to ask."

I can do anything.... as long as it's something I want, or you meet the right price.

At that moment, a young, beautiful brunette woman entered the room, carrying two glasses of wine. She silently set them down with slow, sensual movements before bowing to her boss and standing beside

him.

Now this is service. I see you're involved in many things, Gabriel said, admiring the provocative dress the girl was wearing.

Careful, don't let appearances fool you, the blond man said, amused, taking a sip. But as the liquid touched his tongue, he frowned, realizing it was hibiscus juice, not wine.

Haha, well, back to the real reason I'm here. I want you to kidnap someone, Gabriel said, placing his glass on the table.

Hm... who's the target?

I want you to kidnap Samantha Cooper and bring her to my house.

5.5 million in cash.

What...? Gabriel said, startled.

That's the price you'll need to pay for me to deliver that woman to you.

What makes you think you can ask for that amount? Gabriel demanded, not expecting such a high price.

That's my price. If you don't like it, you can leave because I, the Great Shadow of Light, won't accept anything less.

T'll give you 1 million, and...

01-Feb

Mr. Gates, I don't think you understand the situation you're in right now, the blond said, standing up. "I'm not a charity, and I don't let clients mock me either. So take it or leave it... because if I lose my patience, you'll find out that this beautiful girl isn't the prostitute you thought she was."

What... Gabriel was startled to see the girl standing behind him with a dagger already inches from his neck.

5.5 million, or you can leave, and I'll forget this conversation ever happened.

Wait... no... we don't need to resort to violence... but could you at least explain why the price is so high?

Fine, I'll tell you since you're new, he said, sitting back down. "Even though you've hurt the Coopers financially... they're not alone, because Jayden's marriage did what no one imagined: it united the three wealthiest and most powerful families in this damn city." "..."

Gabriel looked at him, worried. His cheap investigator had told him Deborah Cooper had money because she was Alexander Anderson's granddaughter... but how did that connect to the Petersons? "From the look on your face, I see you don't get it. The answer is that the boy you went to harass is George Peterson's first grandson."

What? But... I thought the boy was related to an employee at that company, not that he was George's grandson... plus, he left with a man who didn't...

You've been away too long. Let's say things have gotten chaotic and interesting. You're still stuck on the idea that Roger Peterson was the sole heir, but life took some unexpected turns, and now the one in charge is Peterson's second son. "Im... impossible."

And I think I've given you enough free information. So do you accept the deal, or...? Gabriel panicked as he felt the cold metal touch his skin.

I accept, but I need three days to gather the cash.

In that case... The blond man looked into Gabriel's eyes.

The woman moved the dagger away from Gabriel's neck and handed him a green card.

What's this? Gabriel asked, confused as he took the item.

This is the place and time for the money drop-off in three days. Once the full payment is made, you'll receive your special delivery in four hours, which you'll find in your bed.

Gabriel looked at the man, stunned, and a smug smile spread across his face. Excellent. Then I'll see you in three days, Great Shadow of Light."

Chapter 320

Chapter 320

Extra 21: Combining Requests

He's gone, one of the guards announced after Gabriel left.

Good. And by the way, great job, Barbara. You really impressed me with your speed, Brandon said as he took off his mask. "Thank you for the opportunity, boss," she replied. "Hehe, though I did feel a bit nervous with that old guy staring at me."

Don't be. You were perfect with your sensual movements. And besides, we were all ready to protect you if that guy had tried anything weird, Laura said as she emerged from her hiding spot behind one of the large paintings on the wall, holding a sniper rifle in her hands. "Thank you, ma'am," said Barbara, blushing slightly.

Alright, you can go change and have lunch now. I'll see you this afternoon to continue your training. Laura said, extending her hand.

Barbara handed back the dagger and said her goodbyes before heading off to join her other colleagues for lunch.

You were right, she's a very talented girl, Brandon said as he put away his mask in its special case.

I told you, I have a good eye for spotting new talent, Laura said as she leaned in to give him a kiss on the lips. "By the way, are you sure about this?"

About what?"

About accepting that guy's request.

Yes, because I've thought of something fun that could mean a big reward for us, he said, pulling her close by the waist. "But I can assure you that, at the end of the day, Jayden will be the one who benefits. Gabriel made a huge mistake, though: I hate hurting people through their children."

I feel the same way, love.

With that, they finished putting away their gear and went to find their little one so they could finish having lunch as a family.

Later that afternoon, Jayden arrived at the pier with his little princess as she didn't want to stay home alone and had asked to come with her dad.

Okay, princess, Jayden began, "repeat the rules for going out."

Don't let go of your hand and point to what I want or where I want to go, and... um... oh yeah, don't talk to strangers.

Very good, sweetheart, he said as he parked the car and turned around to help his little girl with her seatbelt.

Meanwhile, security noticed Jayden's sports car, so they approached to welcome him.

Uh... Daddy... Elizabeth said, seeing several people approaching the car, which made her a little scared.

What's wrong? he asked, seeing her point to the security team. "It's okay, honey, don't be scared, just remember what I told you, alright?" "Mhm..." she said, jumping into his arms and clinging to his neck.

Jayden patted her back gently and carefully got out of the car, with someone even opening the door for him.

Thanks, he said, smiling at the young man before turning to the head of the group and handing him a black card. "Good afternoon, gentlemen,"

Welcome, Mr. Cooper. Vox is expecting you, one of the guards said after confirming the card was genuine. "This way, please."

Jayden nodded, adjusted his little girl in his arms, and followed the guard to the VIP waiting room.

Entering the room, he saw that Brandon was already there, waiting while sipping some water. "Welcome..." Brandon began to say as he heard the door open, but he was surprised to see that Jayden hadn't come alone. "Oh wow, what's this surprise?" "Uncle!" Elizabeth said as she slipped out of her dad's arms and ran to hug him.

Oh, look at that... we have a beautiful princess with us Brandon said, kneeling down to catch the little girl. "What's the occasion?" he asked, lifting her into his arms.

I didn't want to stay home all by myself.

Oh... what do you mean all by yourself? Why?

Well, James is working on a school project at a friend's house, the grandparents are at work, and the twins are with Mommy at the office.

Oh, I see. So, are you taking care of your daddy?

Yes! she said proudly, making the adults laugh softly.

Ellie! Elizabeth turned and saw a little redheaded boy running over to greet her.

Joshua! she greeted. Brandon put her down, and she moved to hug the younger boy.

Jayden smiled at the scene. Looking up, he saw Laura coming in behind her son, smiling at the children.

Good afternoon, Jayden greeted.

Good afternoon to you too, Laura returned.

Auntie!

Hello, Elizabeth. How are you?

Good.

Hey, would you like to help us? We were about to make chocolate cookies, Laura suggested.

Yes.... uh.... um.... The little girl looked at her dad, who smiled at her. "Daddy, can I go with Auntie?"

Go on, honey. I'll be here talking with Uncle Brandon, but remember to do everything Auntie Laura says Yes!" she said, running over to give him a kiss before taking Laura's hand.

The kids started chatting with each other about how they wanted to make their cookies and the candies they'd use to decorate them.

They sent you with a bodyguard, Brandon said with amusement as he poured himself some more water.

"It just

so happened that it was only us at home, and she begged me to bring her along."

Hahaha, well, it's all part of the dad package. Want some? he said, offering him a glass of water.

Sure, and it seems you're on a tight leash too since I don't see your liquor collection anymore.