

The Revenge of the Mute Wife [Completed]

Chapter 71-80

Chapter 71

Are you sure you didn't pressure him too much? Typically, men like him would abandon their mistress and return to their real family, said the nurse.

Deborah hates him for being a traitor, so I doubt she'll forgive him, Sophia said.

Well, with the new guy she's got, she wouldn't go back to someone who's now broke, the nurse remarked amusedly.

Exactly, Sophia said, getting out of bed to stretch a bit. "By the way, what about the witch?"

Mr. Peterson took her away last night.

Wow, the old man finally did something good.

But, don't let your guard down, my friend.

Don't worry, I know what I'm doing.

"Oh, and while you were practically on your deathbed, your associ handing Sophia her phone to check the news.

nade their move, the nurse said,"

What? They did... oh... Interesting. Sophia commented as she watched the news about what the Andersons were up to. "Wow, this is very interesting. Now the big question is, how can I use this situation to my advantage?" she wondered excitedly. "And I also have a message from Vox..."

At the mention of her brother's nickname, Sophia grew serious as he rarely contacted her.

Meanwhile, Roger left the hospital and decided to return to his apartment to get some rest, having been by Sophia's side all night. When he arrived home, he noticed for the first time how quiet the apartment could be, which was both strange and somewhat welcome. Yet, it also carried an air of loneliness and

emptiness.

He headed straight for his bedroom to lie down, but his mind wouldn't let him rest, replaying the events of the previous night over and over.

Damn it... what's wrong with me? he muttered, annoyed as he sat on the edge of the bed.

His gaze then fell on a note addressed to him, recognizable by his mother's handwriting. He picked it up

to read it.

[Roger, your father has provided a house for me to stay in. If you're feeling lonely, you can come live with me. He also mentioned that you haven't been evicted from your apartment, but given everything that's happened, it might be best for you to distance yourself from Sophia. Yes... I know I was the one who encouraged you to be with her, but you've seen all the trouble she has caused us.

I know this may sound harsh, but if she no longer has your child, I don't see why you should stay with her. She's turned out to be more trouble than Deborah.]

Wow... now that you ended up hating Sophia, you're calling the mute by her name now, Roger

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commented with a grimace and a sigh.

[By the way, Roger, there's something Sophia told me that has me worried... she claims to be the one who saved your life when you were a child, but that's not true. It was Deborah who saved you because you spent time together as kids; your father and her mother were childhood friends.]

“What? Sophia lied to me

[I don't know why she lied or how she knew about that accident, but now that there's no baby to bind you, try to distance yourself from her because I feel like she approached you with bad intentions.

Take it as a mother's advice, and if you need to, come see me. This is my new address...]

No... this...” Roger was in shock, realizing he'd been deceived. The reason he started a relationship with Sophia was because she claimed to have been the one to save his life. Now, it was all a lie. ““Damn it... she used me,”” he said furiously, clenching his fists. ““But she'll pay for this.””

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Deborah had a broad smile on her face as she left the doctor's office with Jayden. The examination. revealed that the damage to her throat wasn't severe enough to require a risky surgery.

Technology has helped medicine a lot. This non-surgical operation is something new to me, Jayden remarked as they exited the building.

[It certainly would be faster to have the surgery but I don't want to do it because of the baby. According to the doctor, he'll carefully remove the tissue blocking my vocal cords bit by bit, trying not to reopen the wound.] “That sounds complicated, but you seem very happy and excited about it.”

I've been longing to hear words that give me hope for years.]

“You know, now I'm going to be jealous of the doctor, Jayden commented as he opened the car door for

her.

[What? Why?] Deborah asked playfully as Jayden got into the car.

Because I've never seen that radiant smile on you before,” Jayden said while buckling his seatbelt.”

[I'm just thrilled to regain something I thought was lost!] Deborah signed as she settled into her seat.

Well, if you put it that way, I can't be jealous, can I?

[No, you can't.] Deborah leaned in to kiss him on the lips.

Alright, my love, but remember, all of this is happening because you had the courage to take that important step toward your freedom, he said, starting the car.

[Actually, someone else gave me that strength and courage.] Deborah placed her left hand on her belly. If this little angel wasn't here, I might still be trapped in that apartment, begging for scraps of love.] "James knows what's good for you."

[James?]

That's what I'm going to call the baby now.

[You already picked a name?] Deborah was amused at his excitement.

"Of course,

e, we need a name to refer to him from now on, since we know it's a boy, he said playfully.

"Or... did you have a special name in mind for the little one?"

[No, I hadn't thought of a name yet.] Deborah smiled. She noticed he started to look a bit nervous and sad. [But... I like the name.]

Yay! A point for me, Jayden said, amused. At that moment, her phone started ringing. "Is someone trying to contact you?"

[It seems so.] Deborah pulled out her phone to read the incoming messages.

As she read the messages, her smile faded, which worried Jayden because that meant bad news.

Uh... can I know what's going on?

I don't even know.]

[Elliot says his dad invited us to dinner at his house.]

Us? Jayden asked, raising an eyebrow.

[Yes, he invited all of us... Christian, Caroline, you, and me.]

That's very specific and strange. Did he say why he wants to gather us?

[Yes, he said it's about a promise his father made to my mom.]

Your mother had ties with the Petersons?

[If I remember correctly, I think my mom and George were childhood friends. That's why I sometimes went to their house to play with Roger and Elliot.]

Oh, so you've known the monster since childhood, Jayden said, as if you knew him from before, why did you marry him?"

a jealous. "But I don't understand....

[He wasn't like this as a child. He was the complete opposite, and I held onto the image of that kind, cheerful, and loving boy I knew in my childhood.] Deborah let out a sigh. [I never thought he would change so much, and for the worse.] "And you didn't notice the change?"

[Well, when my mom died, I became like an old piece of furniture in my own house. I lost contact with him, and foolishly, I fell in love with his looks when I saw him again. I thought he was still the same Roger I knew as a child.]

I understand. I suppose that's normal when it comes to love.

[But now that I think about it, you're more handsome and sexy.]

Well, those compliments don't work on me, he said playfully, noticing that it made her laugh

[Right, you're not a vain person.] Deborah teased.

Jayden laughed as they arrived at a restaurant for lunch. They found a secluded table near a window to continue enjoying the pleasant day

Hey, let's change the subject, Jayden said as they looked at the menu. "How's the lawsuit going?"

[Christian's handling it. I'll ask him about it when I tell him about tonight's meeting.]

Right, I hope there's good news about that.

[By the way, my love.]

Yes?

[Will you come with me tonight to the Peterson mansion?]

Of course, it will be my pleasure to accompany you, my love.

[Thank you] Deborah smiled, pulling out her phone to text her friends about the meeting that night.

Christian and Caroline agreed to come, so they planned to meet there in the evening.

Deborah! Caroline greeted her with a hug. "So, what is it?"

[It's a 'James 1

Wow, how lovely that he already has a name.

[Jayden picked it.]

Already embracing your role as a future father? Christian joked as he joined them. "Obviously. Besides, it's better to call him by his name rather than just "baby.""

Caroline and Deborah laughed, watching their partners talk that way.

So my nephew will be called James, Elliot said as he came out to meet them.

[That's right.] Deborah then received a strong hug from Elliot.

By the way, hello everyone, Elliot greeted the others. "Come on, Dad's already waiting for you."

Hey, Elliot, do you know what the meeting is about? Jayden asked.

No, he hasn't told me either. But with everything that's happening... I'm worried about Dad's health,

[Don't worry, we'll find a way to help him.] Deborah reassured him.

Yes, you're not alone, and maybe he called us to ask for our help, Caroline added.

Thanks, Elliot said happily, pulling away from the hug

They entered the mansion and made their way to the dining room, where they were already expected.

Welcome, everyone, George greeted them.

Good evening, they all said.

[Good evening, George.] Deborah signed.

Come in, have a seat, George said.

As they sat, everyone remained silent while they were served their meal.

[Sir... please tell us what's going on.] Deborah asked. (Why did you call the four of us?)

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Actually, I only wanted to talk to you, but I know they are your pillars of support in this new stage of your life, George said as he looked at Deborah's friends. "And what I'm about to tell you is complicated." [Elliot told me it's related to my mom.]

That's right, dear," George said, becoming slightly serious. "With this new step you've taken, I think it's time for you to start your vengeance."

[Vengeance?] Deborah was confused.

Yes, it's time to teach a lesson to all those who hurt you, a strange voice said, causing everyone to turn to the left to see a well-dressed man with red hair.

[Wait, you're... Deborah stood up, astonished as she looked at the man.

You've grown so much, Debbie, the red-haired man said with a smile.

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[It's you!] Deborah ran to hug the redhead, a wide smile on her face.

You've really grown. You're not the little girl I remember, the redhead said, amused, as he returned the hug.

Jayden felt a twinge of jealousy at the sight, although the man seemed somewhat older. Caroline, on the other hand, sighed and smiled, recognizing the person. It was time to reveal the truth. Meanwhile, Elliot and Christian watched the scene intently. "Dad, who is he?" Elliot asked, eyeing the redhead curiously.

He's a friend, said George.

You know, I'm surprised you recognized me, the redhead said, pulling away from the hug.

[It's because you haven't changed much.]

Oh, that's a compliment. But you know, I haven't changed because I stole the fountain of youth, the man joked, making Deborah laugh.

Jayden cleared his throat, frowning at the redhead. "And you are...?" he asked, raising an eyebrow

[Right, guys, let me introduce you to Nicholas. He was my grandfather's best apprentice at the stock exchange.]

Well, I'm not sure if I'm the best. That title belonged to your mother, Nicholas corrected, amused.

Oh, an old subordinate, Elliot noted, seeing Deborah nod.

[But Nicholas, what are you doing here? I thought you went abroad to find work when the exchange closed.]

Actually, I need to confess something, Deborah, George said, drawing everyone's attention. "The stock exchange never closed its doors and is still operating today."

[What?! But... but that's impossible because Frederick dismantled it and sold it to the highest bidder.]

That's why we called you here, I have... or rather, we have many important things to explain to you, Nicholas said, taking Deborah's hand to guide her back to her seat.

As she sat down, Deborah felt Jayden take her hand, his jealousy evident. She smiled and leaned in to kiss him on the lips, noticing how it brightened his mood. "Ahem..." George sought everyone's attention, noticing the couple blushing and laughing like kids who had just pulled a prank.

Aww... how sweet. I know Alexandra would love to see this, Nicholas said, making Deborah blush.

Well, let's leave that aside and get to the point. First, I want to apologize to Deborah for lying to her and keeping things from her all this time, George said. [George, don't say that. You haven't lied to m-] she began, but he interrupted her by taking her hands and giving her something.

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To start my apology, I give you this, which I've always been keeping. George said.

Deborah opened her hands and felt her breath catch in her throat. He handed her her mother's locket, a piece of jewelry she thought Vanessa had sold.

What a beautiful piece, Elliot said, examining it.

[But... where did you find it?]

As I said, I've always had it because your mother gave it to me for safekeeping in case something happened to her.

[I thought it was in her chest with the other jewelry Vanessa stole from me.]

It's a lovely piece. Does it have a picture inside? Jayden asked, taking the locket as Elliot tried to open it.

It doesn't open, Elliot complained.

[There is a special trick to it.] Deborah explained, taking the locket and showing that it unlocked by turning a small rose-shaped ornament. Inside was a photograph of a brunette woman hugging a little girl, both had big smiles on their faces. [This photo was taken the last time w it to the beach.] Seeing the image, Deborah felt a wave of nostalgia.

You look a lot like your mom, which means you'll be even more beautiful as you get older, Jayden said, looking at the photo. His comment made Deborah blush, momentarily forgetting her sadness.

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That's true, you're your mom's spitting image, Caroline said, leaning in to look at the photo.

Let me see, Elliot requested.

Yes, Deborah is the living image of Alexandra, Nicholas commented amusedly. "By the way, Christian..."

Yes? Christian replied, also looking at the photo.

I heard from George that you're looking into crushing those usurping worms, Nicholas said, looking Christian in the eye. "But if you're relying on that old will, you won't win."

Old will? Christian repeated, surprised. "I think you're mistaken, Nicholas. The copy I got was from the government archives and..." He trailed off as Nicholas handed him a folder to read.

It's a fake will. It was created with specific terms to catch Frederick's attention and keep him busy trying. to circumvent them.

But... wait, this date... Christian said, noticing the detail.

As a lawyer, you know that the most recent will is the valid one, George explained. "The one you have was left on purpose because Frederick knew of its existence. But in secret, Alexandra had made a new will for security reasons." [What do you mean by that?] Deborah asked.

You see, we hid the true will as a security measure. The original plan was for Alexandra and you to hide in a safe place while the police and lawyers arrested Frederick and Vanessa for

fraud. Alexandra discovered her marriage wasn't valid because he was already married before that, Nicholas explained.

What a scumbag. Jayden commented, noticing Deborah's frown.

[This will states that I'm the universal heir to everything, and my mom named you my legal guardian if anything happened to her.] Deborah looked Nicholas in the eye. [If you were my guardian... then why? Why didn't you come for me? Why did you leave me alone with those monsters?] Deborah asked, her eyes filling with tears.

"That's true. If you were supposed to protect her, why didn't you? Jayden asked, hugging Deborah, trying to support her and wipe her tears.

It's because he beat us to it and acted faster," Nicholas said, embarrassed. "The day of the accident was supposed to be the start of Alexandra's plan, but when they didn't arrive at the meeting point, we got scared. And that was the night we heard the terrible news... I was in shock, and by the time I reacted, that bastard had used his connections to force a judge to place Deborah in his custody using the old will he had."

We underestimated him because I didn't think he'd be cold-blooded enough to attempt to kill his own daughter for money, George declared angrily. "Luckily, that will forced him to keep you alive if he wanted -any of the Andersons' fortune."

Scum, really, taking advantage of someone's misery for their own gain, Jayden said, upset.

Yea. Nicholas said. "And yes, I tried to rescue Deborah," he said, looking at Jayden, "but at that time, Frederick had many corrupt friends in the police. With their help, he put me in prison on false charges and almost had me killed there, but George managed to save me in time." "After that, we focused on protecting everything he stole and kept an eye on him. Everything Frederick. and Vanessa sold for quick money, I bought." George said. "And that includes the company." [What_7]

Deborah, the stock exchange never closed. It's still running and waiting for you to lead it, just as your grandfather always wanted, Nicholas said.

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Deborah was stunned by what she had just heard.

And to clear up that nasty accusation from earlier, I never neglected you... What I did was ask someone very special to take on that task.

[What...?]

Someone's been watching over Deborah? Jayden asked, raising an eyebrow.

Not exactly, Nicholas replied, pointing to Caroline. "I couldn't approach you directly to help because Frederick was too close. So, I asked my niece for help. [Niece...] Deborah looked at her friend, who simply smiled.

Yeah, my mom is his sister, Caroline said, stepping closer. "But before you think or do anything crazy, let me tell you that he asked me to become your friend and take care of you. Over time, though, I did it because I wanted to, not because I had to. I like you, Deborah, and you're my best friend," she said, taking Deborah's hands and looking into her eyes.

Deborah was amazed by what she heard, but when she felt her friend trembling slightly and saw the fear in her eyes, Deborah simply smiled before hugging Caroline tightly.

Debbie...

[Mission or not, you're my best friend, Caroline, and we're the two musketeers, always supporting each other.]

Yeah... you're right, my dear friend, Caroline smiled, shedding a few tears.

[So, everything's okay?] Deborah asked.

Of course, Caroline said, wiping away her tears with a laugh.

I think the present is more important than how it all began, Christian said, noticing how happy they both looked.

I agree, Elliot said, amused.

And while Caroline was helping me with Debbie, I was the intermediary, keeping an eye on and buying everything they sold. We stored it all in a special house.

[So, I didn't lose any of my mom's things?]

“That’s righ

right, my dear. Everything is safe. In fact, each purchase is a new lawsuit against them because they weren’t allowed to sell anything from the house, George explained.”

And everyone at the company they sold is waiting for you. They’ve been watching the trial on TV, Nicholas mentioned.

[Everyone?]

I contacted all the employees who quit or were fired to hire them back. I also explained what happened, and of course, they decided to return to work because they’re loyal to your grandfather’s and your mother’s ideals, Nicholas explained. In fact, many are already waiting for you to take over the company.

[All of Grandpa’s old employees?] Deborah asked excitedly.

Yes, and I heard from a little bird that you’re an excellent accountant, Nicholas said, glancing at his

niece.

That’s true, Jayden added. “She recently helped me with my company in that matter.”

[Well, it wasn’t that big of a deal because your accountant had already done most of the work and-]

Deborah, don’t sell yourself short. I’ve seen how good you are at your job, Christian said.

guy, right?”

“Let me guess, the company is operating in the shadows to avoid drawing attention from that gu Jayden asked, looking at George and Nicholas.

Even if he finds out it is operating, he can’t do anything because he sold it,”” George said, showing the proof of purchase.”

And these are papers my niece will use when we validate the will, Nicholas said, handing a folder to Christian. “They had no right to sell Deborah’s belongings.”

That plan is brilliant because not only do we recover the money that from selling those items, but those same purchases are evidence against them, Jayden commended.

Yes, we had to adapt to the new reality we were facing after Alexandra's death, Nicholas said.

[But why are you telling me all this now?]

Because you've decided to change, George said.

[What...]

Come on, Debbie. Before, you only tried to endure without resisting your father's and his family's abuse, Caroline scolded her. "Even after you turned 18, you continued living with those leeches. If they gave you money, I have no doubt Frederick would have found a way to steal it all."

That's true, Jayden agreed. "Even I held back from doing what I wanted because you seemed content with your life. But now, you've broken free from those chains, seeking happiness."

[They're right. I was weak and -]

"I wouldn't say

any weak, George said, stepping forward to take her hand. "You went through a lot at a young age and were afraid to do anything that might make you lose the little you had. It was your way of protecting yourself."

But it still sounds cruel, leaving her alone to face them, Jayden started to complain, but then felt Deborah take his hand to get his attention.

[I think they did it for my own good. They're right... if they had given everything back to me and I left that house, Frederick wouldn't have rested until he stole all my money, using the cheap excuse of being my biological father.] Deborah started to shed a few tears. [Besides, maybe everything happened for a reason. Now, I'm sure of what I want to do, and most importantly, I won't fall for his false words of paternal love that I always longed to hear.]

Debbie... Jayden hugged Deborah to comfort her.

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Sophia felt a mix of anger and anxiety. It had been four days since she kicked out that idiot Roger, and he still hadn't returned to see her. Adding to her frustration, she found out that the medical bill hadn't been paid-the hospital was now threatening to call the police if it wasn't settled soon.

This has to be a joke! You kill your own child and now you abandon me? She fumed, waiting for Roger to answer her call. "Damn it, pick up!"

I told you not to push him too hard, her friend mocked from beside her, flipping through a magazine.

Shut up. He loves me and owes me his life and eternal gratitude.

Doubtful. Maybe he's not coming to see you because his mom already told him the truth about your lie.

Sophia hung up after the tenth unanswered call, gripped the phone tightly, and snapped at her friend, "You know, I didn't ask for your opinion."

Why don't you just use some of the money you stole from him and pay it off? Sophia's friend asked.

Why don't you pay my hospital bill?

And... why would I do that? You've never helped me like that.

Sophia scowled, knowing it was true, but she was still angry that her friend wouldn't help her. "I don't have

any money."

God... you're unbelievable, her friend laughed. "Let me guess, you spent them all like a queen without saving anything for emergencies, right?" She noticed her words made Sophia even angrier. "You're such an idiot." "Shut your mouth," Sophia demanded.

Well, since I've hit the nail on the head and you're already hysterical, her friend said as she stood up and straightened her clothes, "I'm going to leave because I have important things to do. So, goodbye."

What? Wait, you're not going to... Sophia started, but her friend ignored her and left without looking back. "Idiot... now what do I do?" Sophia muttered, realizing that George had something to do with the unpaid medical bills. Now that she knew who was to blame, she had to think of a way out. She was in a serious dilemma, but her thoughts were interrupted by her phone's ringtone. Checking it, she noticed an interesting notification. "Oh right, I have the twins in my grasp," Sophia mused, looking at news notifications about the Andersons still causing a big fuss-they must be making money from selling those interviews.

Since the Andersons had money, it was time for them to help her as payment for their previous failure. After a call and a bit of drama, she only had to wait an hour before she was allowed to leave with the bill paid. She felt a bit guilty for deceiving them, as she didn't know how to help them gain access to the main Anderson family fortune, but she loved making people do what she wanted.

Once she was out, she headed straight to see Roger to confront him about abandoning her. However, when she arrived at the building, she saw a sign that the apartment was available for sale or rent.

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Impossible... She ran quickly to catch the elevator.

He couldn't have been thrown out. And even if he had been, where did her things go? She had many high-end items that she didn't want to lose.

When the elevator doors opened, she saw Roger standing at the door, talking to some workers.

Everything's loaded on the truck, sir, one of them informed Roger.

Perfect, take it to the agreed address and- Roger began, shaking the worker's hand.

Roger... Sophia interrupted, approaching him, but she noticed he ignored her.

Please, go ahead, Roger instructed the worker before turning to Sophia. "I see you're out of the hospital."

Roger, what does this mean?

Exactly what it looks like. I'm moving my things to my new home.

Why? That guy gave up trying to kick you out and-

And how do you know that? Roger asked, frowning.

What? Sophia looked confused.

Sophia, how do you know I wasn't kicked out of the apartment? I never told you that.

Ah... Sophia realized her slip-up. "Honey, what are you talking about? You mentioned it to me, silly. Don't you remember?"

Hm... well, Roger made a face, noticing her obvious lie. "Regardless, I'm not staying in this place full of gossiping neighbors anymore. So, I'm moving to a new house."

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A house? Sophia repeated, excitement lighting up her face. "That's fantastic, honey!"

Yeah, I convinced my father to give me another chance so he bought me a new house to live in.

That's wonderful, honey. It means you'll slowly get back everything that belongs to us and-"Us?" Roger raised an eyebrow, his tone turning mocking. "What are you talking about?"
"Well-

Sophia, I'm moving out. As for you... I don't care what you do from now on.

Roger, are you abandoning me now that we lost our baby?

What baby?

"What do you mean, 'what baby?' Our child, the one I lost because of that stupid argument.

All I remember is you faking a faint and spilling blood on my expensive carpet."""

What...? Sophia looked at him, shocked and slightly angry. "How n you talk like that about my miscarriage?" she shouted, starting to cry.

Sophia, I won't fall for your bad acting, Roger said, frowning. "You should know that while you were asleep, another doctor examined you and told me you were never pregnant."

What?! What nonsense are you spouting?! I... Ahh! Let Go of me! You're hurting me! Sophia screamed as he grabbed her arms, his eyes full of hatred.

I should be the one screaming because you deceived me all this time with your lies.

Let go of me, you idiot! she demanded, feeling his grip tighten.

My father was right. You're just an opportunistic leech. he said, pushing her hard and making her fall to the floor.

Jerk, that hurt, she complained angrily.

Be grateful I didn't hit you. I know the truth now, and thanks to you, I ruined my perfect life, he said furiously. "I regret ignoring Deborah, the woman who saved my life and who has loved me since we were kids."

Let me guess

Your witch of a mother told you the truth, right?"

lost

Yes and no. She told me the truth about you, and I recently forced myself to remember my memories. There was no blonde girl in any of them. Deborah has always been the one by my side because her mother was a family friend. Sophia was scared now, realizing she hadn't considered this possibility. She was in deep trouble. "Roger, I

Save it and get lost before I forget you're a woman and smash your face for all the damage you've caused me.

Are you seriously going to hit me?

Maybe, because I had a perfect life until you ruined it with your damned schemes.

That's funny because you ruined your happy life all by yourself, Sophia said, standing up. "So don't play the victim. You accepted my lies and this relationship. You were never going to be happy with that mute girl." Roger clenched his fists, knowing she was right.

"You're just a sore loser with nothing left, thrashing around in desperation. Even the mute girl left you and is happy with someone else now-

Shut up!" Roger screamed as he slapped her. "Maybe it wouldn't have been different, or maybe it would, but now I'll never know because of your damned lies," he said, turning to close the apartment door. "Do what you want, but first, give me my things."

What things?

"Don't play dumb. Give me my clothes and everything else I left apartment."

I think you're mistaken. There was no

of yours in the apartment."

Everything there was bought by me or with my money, so they're mine.

You can't take them from me! You gave them to me!

I gave it to the person who was my savior, and since that's not you, it's only logical I take back all those gifts, don't you think? he said, walking towards the elevator.

You bastard, you can't... Sophia ran to stop him, but the elevator doors closed, leaving her outside.

Sophia was furious. That jerk was abandoning her without a second thought.

"How pathetic... if that's how you want it, that's how it will be. I'll make you and that mute cry tears of blood," Sophia thought as she touched her reddened cheek.

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Chapter 78

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Since the meeting with Nicholas and George, a week had passed. Things got more complicated as Christian and Caroline formulated a new plan against the Andersons.

'Why does everything have to be so complicated?' Deborah thought, letting out a sigh as she stood up to stretch a bit after working on her computer.

Everyone had been busy with paperwork, silently reclaiming all her family's properties and putting them under James's name. The plan was to attack Frederick and his family legally later on. While the plan made sense to her, it also filled her with fear. Putting everything in her son's name was risky, just like Alexandra did with her. Coupled with Frederick's greed, her mother ended up dead.

What if Deborah suffered the same fate as her mother? What would happen to her baby? Would James be handed over to Frederick with the pathetic excuse of being his grandfather? Would they give him to Vanessa to raise?

Deborah doubted Vanessa would ever care for the baby with love and tenderness... The thought terrified her. She feared that little James would suffer the same abuse she endured at the hands of those greedy people. James might not survive long as a newborn. The idea sent Deborah into a panic attack and she fell to her knees, struggling to breathe. She didn't want history to repeat itself or for her death to be caused by cursed money.

Deborah continued to gasp for air. She tried to calm down but couldn't because the trauma was too intense. She needed to calm down or she might harm her baby. Just then, she felt something that made her react-she looked down at her belly in amazement James..." she thought, placing both hands on her belly and feeling the tiny kicks that filled her with a profound sense of emotion, erasing her fears. "You're right, son. History won't repeat itself because we're not alone, and we have many people who love and protect us,' Deborah thought. She immediately calmed down as she gently stroked her belly. Her breathing returned to normal with every little kick from James."

At that moment, she heard the front door open.

My love, your handsome messenger is here with your delicious vanilla ice cream with choc-Deborah! Jayden had just entered the house with a plastic bag to satisfy his partner's craving when he noticed Deborah on the floor. Alarmed, he dropped the bag and ran over to help her up, completely forgetting about the ice cream. "My love, what happened?" he asked, lifting her princess-style to place her on the sofa and check her for bruises.

[It's okay, Jayden. I just... I had a moment of panic.] Deborah was still trembling but she was feeling much calmer now.

A moment of panic? About what? he asked, gently holding her hand.

Deborah took a deep breath. [I was just thinking about everything... about how we're putting everything in James's name, and what if something happens to me like my mother? What if Frederick tries to take him?] Jayden squeezed her hand reassuringly. "Nothing's going to happen to you or James. We're here for you. Christian, Caroline, Nicholas, George... We're here to protect you and James. You're not alone in this." Tears welled up in Deborah's eyes as she nodded. [I know. It's just... sometimes the fear is overwhelming.]

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I understand, but remember, we're stronger together, Jayden said, brushing a tear from her cheek. "And I'm here with your favorite vanilla ice cream with chocolate, just to make things a bit better." Deborah managed a small laugh. [Thank you, Jayden. I needed that.]

He smiled, kissing her forehead. "Anytime, my love. Now, let's get you some ice cream so you can relax. Everything will be alright."

[I'm okay.]

Deborah... you need to be careful.

I know, James reminded me that I need to stay calm.]

*James?" Jayden asked, confused. Then he felt Deborah take his hands and place them on her belly. At first, he was puzzled, but then he felt a slight movement beneath his hands, making his eyes light up with excitement. "Did it move?" he asked, astonished, a broad smile spreading across his face.

Deborah nodded, smiling as well. They both felt the baby moving, which excited them because it was the first time they ever experienced it.

Thank you for taking care of your mommy while I was away, Jayden said, moving his hands gently over her belly "See, my love? Our son is showing that he's the little man of the house, taking care of his mommy while Daddy is out," he said happily.

[You're right, my love. I have you and James looking after me.] Deborah smiled. Then she remembered something important. [By the way, Jayden, what about the ice cream?]

Ice cream? Jayden suddenly remembered the purchase and turned to see the forgotten bag on the floor. He quickly got up to retrieve it. "Phew... it's still okay, it's still in its container."

[You're in luck]

Well, you scared me.

[I'm sorry, my love.]

Jayden kissed her on the lips before heading to the kitchen to serve the ice cream for both of them.

With strawberries?

[Yes]

By the way, Christian called earlier.

[Did something happen?]

"Don't worry, it's not related to the plan. It's great news.

[Oh, what is it?]

He asked for help with Caroline's birthday party."""

'll help. I was planning to take her out for a meal and shopping that day.]

www

He knows and that's why he plans to throw a party in the evening with everyone.

#

[So I'll be the distraction?]

Yes and no. He asked for help decorating the new house, Jayden said, pulling out a set of keys from his pocket.

[New house?]

Yeah, remember the new store they're building across the street?

[Yes, it's going to be a beauty salon and...] Deborah then saw her partner's mischievous smile. [Wait... you mean they'll be living across the street?]

Exactly. But that's why he asked for help decorating, as the plan is to have everyone celebrate there after the outing.

[Wow... that's great! Of course, I want to help.]

And you know, Christian's dedication to this inspired me-I also want to give you something as valuable and precious.

[Jayden, that's not necessary. I'm happy just having you by my side]

Even so, I want to give you something.

[Well, I'm looking forward to that special gift.] Deborah kissed him on the cheek.

By the way, I'm going to talk to one of my best decorators tomorrow to get a catalog so we can start looking at decorations for James's room. I also wanted to ask you about that. [What about?]

Well, my love, tell me. Do you want us to live here, or should we move to the Cooper mansion?

[I think it doesn't matter where we live as long as we're together.]

Aww... my girlfriend is so romantic, he said, hugging her and getting a bit affectionate as he stroked her body and kissed her lips.

Deborah smiled and let herself be pampered by him.

[Actually, I have something special for you.] Deborah pulled away slightly to stand up and head to the

cabinet.

Ooh... what is it? Jayden asked, acting like a little kid as he watched her carefully.

[Close your eyes and extend your hands.]

Jayden grinned and obeyed, closing his eyes and extending his hands. After a few minutes, he felt something heavy in his hands. When he opened his eyes, he saw a black leather box. “Deborah, is this what I think it is...?” he asked, blushing slightly and feeling a bit sad because he wanted to be the one-to propose to her.

Jayden Cooper, would you like to be James’s dad?] Deborah asked before opening the box to reveal a pin that read, “New Dad.” Chapter

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Jayden looked at the pin in amazement before a broad smile spread across his lips.

Of course, I accept being James’s dad, he said, taking the accessory and pinning it to his shirt. He leaned in to kiss Deborah’s lips. “You’re such a tease, you scared me.”

[Huh? What are you talking about?] Deborah asked with confusion in her eyes.

It’s just that when you came over with the box, I thought you were going to propose to me.

[Oh, no. It was just the perfect box I found to put the pin in.]

Good. I thought you had outdone me and ruined my plan.

Ah nothing, my love, Jayden said quickly, laughing nervously as he mentally scolded himself for almost ruining his own plans. “Um, well, as James’s official dad, how about we go to the company tomorrow to look at the catalog for children’s room decorations?” [I like that idea.]

Yay, we have plans for tomorrow. And also, do you remember tonight’s plan?

[Yes, my love. Later, we’re going to have dinner at your parents’ house.]

Yes, Jayden said happily, as he had arranged everything with his parents for that special evening.

After finishing their dessert, they talked about their ideas for decorating the baby’s room which would make use of the extra room in the house.

When the afternoon came and Deborah had finished her classes, they headed to Jayden's parents' house?

How was the class? Jayden asked as he helped Deborah into the car.

[Excellent. I love seeing how the little ones get excited because they can now have a conversation halfway through with signs.] Deborah shared, her joy reflected in her eyes.

"That's great, my love. Soon your students will master the language, Jayden said as he got into the car

and started it.

[Yes, since language is best learned through conversations and games.]

I see, and you know, I can see you have great skills as a teacher."""

[Honestly, I like teaching because I love children.]

It shows, and I like that because it means James will be very pampered when it comes to doing his homework.

[Well, I'm not very good at biology or science, though.]

I'm not either, my love. That's why I studied to build houses," Jayden confessed with pride, making Deborah laugh because they both studied fields related to math. "We'll just seek help if needed.* [Sounds good.]

After a few minutes of driving, they arrived at the mansion and noticed the lights were off, which puzzled

them a bit.

Be careful, my love, Jayden said, quickly getting out to help Deborah out of the car.

[Thank you. Do you think they went out?]

I don't think so. I called them earlier and they said they were expecting us, Jayden said, confused and worried because it was supposed to be the special evening. Moreover, Jayden

and Deborah had agreed to arrive earlier to help out. They approached the front door carefully, where they noticed a blue envelope taped to it.

[What's that?] Deborah asked, pointing to the letter.

"No i

idea, let me see, Jayden said, taking the envelope to open it. ""Before dinner, we wish for you to participate in a special game,"" he read, raising an eyebrow. ""Wait, what...?""

[Ah, that's why the lights are off.] Deborah said excitedly.

Um.. it looks like a treasure hunt, Jayden said as he read the letter. (1)

-[That sounds fun.]

Yeah, but...

[But?]

Nothing. Let me read the rest: To enter the house, you must find the right path that will lead you to the special dinner location. For now, just look for the place where Mom's special color persists regardless of the sun or moon.... What? Jayden asked, confused. [Hmm... a color that persists regardless of the time.] Deborah thought about what the riddle meant.

Jayden thought, 'Oh no, Mom and Dad, what have you done? A treasure hunt? I think asking them to help. with the romantic evening to propose to Deborah was a bad idea.'

[I think I know.]

Huh? Really? Jayden asked, astonished as he saw Deborah nod. "What's the answer?"

If you think about it, it's easy. The answer is a painting because its original colors are not affected by external lighting.

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You're right. If it's my mom's special color, I know where we should start. Come on, Jayden declared excitedly, taking Deborah's hand to guide her along the garden path. They arrived

at a large glass greenhouse filled with multicolored roses. In the center were garden furniture and a large wall with a painting of a beautiful mountain landscape. "Look, this painting is her favorite because my dad made it and gave it to her on their first wedding anniversary." [it's beautiful.] Deborah admired the painting. Then she noticed something different. [Jayden, look in the lower right corner.]

Jayden looked and spotted a new envelope, which was green. "Good eye," he said with a smile as he took the envelope and opened it. "Let's see, next clue: For love, nothing better than a flower... but which flower is the right one?" [That's very specific]

Well, not exactly. It's tricky because my mom loves roses, and as you can see, the entire garden is filled with roses of different colors and sizes.

[True... hmm... does she have any other favorite place besides greenhouse?]

Yes, there's a big rose bush there, and it's her favorite because I gave it to her on Mother's Day.

[Then let's check it out.]

Jayden smiled and took her hand again to lead her to the grand rose bush, the centerpiece of the garden. However, when they looked around, they didn't find any envelope. "Nothing..."

[Hey love, does your mom have any other favorite flowers?]

Not that I know of, roses are her passion.

[Well, I saw some hydrangeas near the dining room last time.]

"Oh yes, we have those flowers. She placed them there because a friend gave them to her, but I don't think

[Well, those are my favorite flowers. I like them because of the way the flowers bloom.]

Jayden thought about this and realized the clue made more sense now. The 'right flower wasn't that of his mother's but Deborah's. The dinner that night was for her after all. Right, let's check those flowers, my love,'" he said with a smile as they walked to the dining room balcony."

Upon arrival, they carefully climbed the stairs, finding the area very dark-the moonlight was not enough to illuminate their vision.

Wait, my love, I'll turn on the lights, Jayden said, searching for the switch on the wall but he was unable to find it. "Ah... where is it?"

Just then, the lights turned on abruptly, momentarily blinding them. When their vision cleared, they saw that the balcony was decorated with light pillars and vine-style flowers. Flowers hung from the ceiling with the help of transparent wires, creating a romantic and magical atmosphere. In the center of the

balcony was a round table covered with a white tablecloth, decorated with a large vase of red and white hydrangeas.

The most eye-catching detail was the small black leather box next to the vase on the table, along with a plate and a golden napkin. [Wow...] Deborah was amazed, taking in every detail of the beautiful decoration that looked magical against the night sky.

Jayden was also surprised by the gorgeous setup. The place seemed magical and perfect, so he discreetly took the box, opened it quickly to see its contents, and smiled with satisfaction before closing it. He then walked over to take his beloved's hand-Deborah was still distracted by the decorations.

[Jayden, this...]

You know, Jayden began, kneeling in front of Deborah, "even though we've been together for a short time as a couple, I believe it's more than enough for us to arrive at this moment. You've shown me that you're an amazingly wonderful woman and I want to spend the rest of my life by your side. Today, you surprised me by asking me to be James's dad, confirming my desire to start a family with you. So..." Jayden said, opening the leather box to reveal a beautiful white gold ring with a diamond in the center. Deborah Anderson, will you marry me?"
