

## Chapter 7: Odd Common Behavior

"Ready?" Kyle asked his sister.

"Ready!" Confirmed Kenzie.

While the twins were about to enter the CEO's office without permission, Samantha was explaining to John Garcia her situation.

A hiss left John's lips, and he said, "You see Miss Davis - "

The sound of the children trying to push the door opened alerted John that he got up from his seat, "Kids! No! Don't do that!"

"Why is this door so heavy!" Complained Kyle as he was pushing with his might!

"Urggghhh!" Kenzie grunted while helping her brother.

Sadly, no matter how hard they pushed, the door would not budge.

Samantha rushed in their direction and said, "Guys! What are you doing? Are you trying to get me in trouble?!"

Walking behind her was John. He said, "

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It's okay. When Mr. Wright is on a meeting, the door can only be opened from the inside." He pointed to the security system by the side and said, "See that? That's high technology."

The frown on the twins' faces became evident.

Kenzie shook her head at his brother while Kyle squinted at the door. He shot a nasty stare at the security lock and said, "just our luck." 13

John placed both his hands on the twins' arms and said, "Kids, let's get back to my table. If the boss finds out." He pointed to the camera above the door and added, "Uncle John will lose his job. We don't want that to happen, right?"

"Sorry, uncle John," said Kenzie. "You'll still give us Christmas gifts, right? It's two in one; a birthday gift and a Christmas gift!"

"Kenzie!" Samantha scolded her daughter before she explained to John, "I'm sorry, Mr. Garcia. They were both born on the 25th of December - fraternal

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Sam pursed her lips. She took a deep breath and said, "Three thousand dollars."  
"

"That does not even cover half of your salary, Miss Davis. What were you so worried about?" John easily wrote on his checkbook while asking for the name of the school, "Which academy?"

"Um, the North Bright Academy," Samantha softly answered.

John smiled and resumed writing the check. He said, "Actually, that school is partly owned by Mr. Wright's mother. However, we don't have time to ask a favor from her right now." He tore the check and offered it to Samantha. "Here... Payable whenever."

Samantha awkwardly took the check and gawked at it for a second. She gulped down her own spew before saying, "I - I don't know how to thank you enough."

"Hmmm... How about I eat for free when you start working at the hotel? I am bound to go there one of these days," said John.

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Nodding her head, she confirmed, "Absolutely! That's a done deal." She extended her hand and repeated, "thank you so much!"

Turning to her kids, she said, "Let's go, guys! We are running late!"

Meanwhile, Kyle had been standing right next to John's table. He had been earlier looking at the Silver Surfer penholder in front of him.

It was a very stylish penholder, but what really made him stare was the fact that John had placed it at the very center of his desk.

From his stance, it was blocking his view of John. Something in him just itched that he moved the penholder to the side of the desk, right where it should be. He remarked, "It looks better this way."

For a second, John was once again taken aback. The actions of the boy were very familiar, but before he could point his finger at it, Samantha bid goodbye, suggesting she was in a hurry.

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"Goodbye, Mr. Garcia. Thank you again."  
Holding her children, she rushed out to where the elevators were.

Seeing Samantha leave, John pondered on his desk for a moment. He really wanted to take a picture of Kyle. Heck! He wanted to show the boy to his boss!

He couldn't be mistaken. After two years of working for Ethan Wright, he was sure the boy looks so much like him! He hissed and returned the penholder to where he preferred it to stay and said, "Maybe another time."

Just as he was drowned in these thoughts, the door of the CEO's office swung open.

Ethan Wright, in his grey suit, walked with poise towards John's table. He placed several documents on his desk and told, "Is the 9:00 AM appointment already here?"

"No, sir. They haven't arrived -"

"Consider them late! How dare they request for an investment aid when they could not come on time!" Ethan instructed.

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"Ah, sir. There are still fifteen minutes to nine - "

"In every appointment, John, one must arrive half an hour early! It's a business standard! Cancel the appointment and tell them I am not interested!" With his stern and raspy voice, Ethan repeated his directive.

"Yes, Mr. Wright. As you say," said Jonathan while getting up in acknowledgment.

Ethan was about to leave when he suddenly saw an eye-sore. He turned back to John and said, "What's wrong with you, John?"

Grabbing the Silver Surfer penholder, he said, "These are supposed to stay on the side of the table!"

He further tightened his eyes and told, "It's an eye-sore at the center of your desk!"

While watching his boss reenter his room, John still moved back his penholder to the center of his table. He

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shook his head and said, "What - an - odd - common behavior!"

Suddenly, having a lightbulb moment, he rushed into Ethan's office and ogled in his presence for a second. He stuttered as he suggested, "Boss, um..."

"What is it, John? Hurry up. I don't have all day," Ethan reminded.

"What - what are the chances that - that you have... kids that you don't know of?" John asked fearfully.

John Garcia suddenly felt his heart racing. How he now regretted bringing up the idea.

He watched as Ethan Wright put down his pen and cast him a murderous stare. He heard his boss asked him, "Do you like your job, John?"

"Uh, Yes. Boss." John knew what was coming, that he retreated a few steps back. "I'm - I'm sorry, Mr. Wright. It's just that Miss Davis came by, bringing her kids, and oh, boy! Does her young boy looks like you! Haha!"

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## Chapter 8: The General's Daughter?

"Do I get to keep my job, Mr. Wright?"

Ethan Wright felt himself about to lose his patience. He leaned back in his chair and loosened his tie while maintaining to gaze at his assistant.

Following a heavy sigh, he sarcastically said, "I asked you a question, John, and you answer with another question? Answer me!"

"I'm sorry, Sir. Yes. Samantha Davis came by, needing help for her kid's school requirement. Um... She - she did not have enough to pay for the school's enrollment fee." John explained how Samantha meant to just use an employment certificate to commit for her children's school fees before he explained, "I ended up lending her the money instead."

"Which school?" Ethan asked.

"Boss, coincidentally, The North Bright Academy," reported John.

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"Hmmm," said Ethan before resting his face on his fist.

"Anyway, Mr. Wright. That's when I noticed how her son seemed to be a younger version of you." John scanned Ethan's facial structure, his eyes, and the shape of his lips. He hissed and added, "Damn, really boss, the resemblance is uncanny - though his eyes are lighter than yours."

John cleared his throat and repeated, "That's how the idea of you having secret kids came into my mind." After shrugging, he followed it with another suggestion, "What are the chances they are yours, boss!"

"John! Have you gone insane?! Samantha Davis' husband will have you killed!" Suggested Ethan before twitching his mouth with irritation. "Your eyes are just playing tricks on you!"

"Oh, but... Mr. Wright... Samantha is not married. She is a single mother, and she had not said a word about the father of her children," revealed John.

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For a second, Ethan examined the expression of his assistant. After making sure he was not faking it, he probed, "She - she is not married? How come someone with that kind of." He paused, trying to find the right words to describe Samantha's overall allure. "That kind of - "

"What is it, sir?" John probed before he tried to supply the words for his boss, "Kind of charm, beauty, elegance?" 7

There was a moment of silence after John's words. Ethan did not like it when someone, especially his assistant, would try to put words into his mouth.

With narrowing eyes, Ethan resumed his thoughts, "How can someone with that kind of physical... tangible attributes be without a husband, only to be abandoned with kids?"

'Physical, tangible attributes,' John repeated in his thoughts. His eyes nearly rolled thinking to himself, 'Wouldn't beautiful be simpler?'

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After facially expressing confusion, John shook his head and responded, "Ah, sadly boss. I did not probe further. Whatever is her circumstance, it does not change the fact that we both loved the way she cooked. In my view, she is still the best option to become First Diamond's head chef." ⑤

"Back then, when I attempted to explain to you her situation, you sort of jumped into a confusion that she was... married," John added to his report.

With another gasp, Ethan's eyes shifted from one corner of his room to another. After sitting up from a slouch, he ordered, "Give me Samantha Davis' profile."

"Oh, don't worry, Sir. Our Human resource department has already done their background check on Samantha. You have nothing to worry about her," assured John.

Once again, Ethan was left squinting at his assistant. He said, "I don't care what HR says. Get - me - her profile now!"

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"Yes, sir! Yes!" Said John before excusing himself and walking out the door.

It took just ten minutes for John Garcia to return with Samantha's bio-data, resume, birth certificate, photocopies of government-issued IDs, and scholastic records. Her folder also included her beneficiaries' birth certificates; Kenzie and Kyle Davis.

As soon as John left Ethan with the necessary documents on his desk, The CEO dropped everything that he was doing and started going through Samantha's information.

"Samantha Turner Davis. Single," he read the name and her marital status. His eyes then shifted to her parent's name.

In Samantha's bio-data, she filled her mother's name. Ethan read, "Sarah Turner Davis." His eyes narrowed, and he muttered, "Turner. Why does that sound so familiar?"

He immediately noticed how Samantha did not fill out her father's name, and that made him frown.

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Ethan wound up searching through her birth certificate and saw how her father's name was Winfield Davis. He hissed and caressed his chin. He mumbled, "Even more familiar-sounding... General Winfield Davis?"

He had met the general on two occasions since he took the presidency seat at the Wright Diamond Corporation and as far as he knew, the said General only had one daughter and that was...

Ethan sadly could not figure out the name. The woman who was said to be the General's daughter was so insignificant that he could not even remember her name!

"No matter," Ethan said to himself. The point is, he had met the General's daughter, and she was not anything like Samantha. He set aside the birth certificate and concluded, "There are many Davises in this country. It's possible there is another Winfield Davis -"

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His trail of thought was interrupted upon seeing how Samantha was born in Braeton City. His mouth twitched before he said, "What a coincidence?"

He then went through the information of Samantha's kids and saw how both Kenzie and Kyle had no father's name on their certificates. ④

It was not like Ethan to poke in someone else's life, but he could not help himself. The woman who caught his attention more than a month ago in Monroe City was just utterly stirring his interest.

Ethan could not point a finger to it, but there was something about Samantha that intrigued him.

This was the first time that a woman affected his thoughts! When his assistant told him that Samantha had kids, he immediately assumed she was married, and that ultimately arrested his eagerness to learn more about Samantha.

Now, knowing that she was not married in the first place, it was a different story.

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After going through Samantha's scholastic records, he noticed there was something missing. There were about five years missing!

"Right after finishing high school in Braeton City, she did nothing? Then she took up culinary in Monroe City after about five years? How is that possible?" He asked himself. 3

Ethan understood that she might have halted her schooling when she fell pregnant, but referring back to the year when her twins were born, she should have three years in college somewhere.

Something just did not add up to Ethan. He spread out the documents and took pictures of each paper. Only then did he send them via email. 5

He dialed the number of his private contact; a hacker who had long been on his payroll. His name was Aiden.

A reliable hacker was always necessary to remain on top of the competitive business world; someone who cannot be directly linked to the Wright Diamond

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Corporation, but skillful enough to do the dirty work.

As soon as Ethan's call was answered, he said, "I sent you some documents. I need someone investigated and I need to know everything about this person."

From the other line, the same person said, "Yes, I see them. Samantha Davis?"

"Yes, Aiden, I want an update in twenty-four hours. She has two kids. I want to know who is the father of her children - the incompetent father who abandoned his own kids," instructed Ethan. 19

"Yes, Sir. I'll look into this and let you know," responded Aiden. "This should be easy." 21

After the phone call, his eyes were still glued to the papers spread on his table. The next thing he knew, he was calling the North Bright Academy.



"Maybe that was just a coincidence!" He bowed his head, nearly reaching his knees before saying, "My apologies for even thinking it!"

"Wait! The chef? Samantha Davis, the chef?" Ethan immediately asked.

John thought he heard himself wrong. He tilted his head as he made the slowest turn back to face his boss and he asked, "Do I get to keep my job, Mr. Wright?"

## Chapter 6: Secret Kids

"Kyle, what time is it? It's already nine in the evening. It's time to put your new tablet down," said Samantha right before she was about to enter the bathroom.

She was sharing a room with her kids and they were both settled on the bed. Matilda gave both of them, new tablets, a doll for Kenzie, and a sling bag for Kyle.

Kenzie was already ready to sleep, but Kyle was still downloading apps on his tablet, or so his mother thought. Hearing his mother asked him to put the device down, he sighed and said, "Okay, Mom. Can I ask you about Dad?"

"I'll give you ten minutes' extension on the tablet," said Samantha before escaping into the bathroom.

Seeing their Mommy avoid the topic again, Kyle and Kenzie looked at each other. Kenzie chuckled while Kyle shook his head.

"Maybe Dad is a government spy!"  
Suggested Kenzie.

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"Or just someone with secret kids," said Kyle.

"Hah! A rich man that needs to protect us from bad guys!" Concluded Kenzie. "That's why we are secret kids!"

"Whatever, Kenzie. The point is, Mommy is hiding something about Daddy," suggested Kyle.

"Did you get what the woman said earlier? About you looking like their boss?" Kenzie asked.

"Yes, I heard. That's why I have been on the tablet," said Kyle. "There are no pictures of him."

"But his name is Ethan Wright," added Kyle.

Kyle's eyes tightened at the picture of the Wright Diamond Corporate Office. He said, "I wonder how far is this office building?"

"Are you planning on going there?" Kenzie asked, leaning forward to her brother. "You can't ride a bus on your own!"

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Kyle turned to the bedside table and saw his Mommy's documents from the Wright Diamond Corporation. A smirk became painted into his face and he said, "I guess... We'll have to make it happen."

The next morning, Samantha was getting ready to bring the kids to their new school. They were lucky enough to decide on leaving just when the school had just started for two weeks. It was an easier transfer for Samantha and the twins.

However, since Samantha did not have enough money to pay in advance the required deposit, she had been furnished in advance an employment certificate that would attest to her capacity to pay.

She meant to show it to the school so they would have no qualms in accepting her children. However, that morning, the same employment certificate was missing from her folder.

Flipping through her papers, Samantha was in a panic. It was nearly seven-thirty in the morning and school starts at nine! They were bound to be late! It was inevitable!

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"Oh, my God! Why is this happening now?" Samantha ran her fingers through her hair, unsure of how the said paper was suddenly missing.

There was only one way to get another, and that was to head over to the Wright Diamond Corporation.

Riding in a taxi, Samantha had to bring her kids along. She hoped she could furnish the certificate in less than an hour, in that way her kids could still make it to their class.

At eight-thirty sharp, she arrived at the lobby of the Wright Diamond Corporation. With the twins tailing her, she went straight to the reception and asked for John Garcia.

"Do you have an appointment, Miss Davis?" One receptionist asked.

"No, sadly I don't and I have been trying to reach Mr. Garcia, but he doesn't seem to be answering," Samantha explained her sudden arrival. "It's really urgent that I speak with him."

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The two receptionists looked at each other, worried about whatever decision they would make. However, since the beautiful lady before them was so elegant looking and charming, they concluded, she wasn't telling a lie.

Moreover, Kenzie joined in to help and said to the receptionist, "Please! Please. My Mom needs a paper for us to go to school. Please help us."

"Okay, I'll call Mr. Garcia. Give me a moment," said one receptionist.

From the twentieth floor of the Wright Diamond Corporation, John was going through his boss' schedule for that day.

As his assistant, he needed to be in the office by seven in the morning. Ethan Wright often arrived at seven-thirty.

His coffee had to be ready by the time he arrived, including the most important documents to be signed.

When he received a call from the receptionist, he was stunned to learn it was Samantha Davis, the beautiful chef that his boss thought was married.

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"Hmmm." He said, "Let her up. It must be important."

It took only ten minutes for Samantha to reach the floor where the CEO's office was, and she easily found John's desk. To John's surprise, she was with her twins!

John was not fond of kids, but seeing the little girl was just so delightful. It was the same warm feeling he had with Samantha.

As if Kenzie knew what was on John's mind, she walked straight to him and extended her hand. She said, "Hi, I'm Kenzie. I'm Mommy's little princess!" The little girl then flipped her hair and said, "The most beautiful five-year-old in the city."

"Four. She is turning five this December, but she is still four in the next two months or so," Samantha explained. She then grabbed her daughter and said to John, "I'm sorry. She is always... friendly."

"Don't be sorry at all! The little girl is adorable!" Exclaimed John. "She looks

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just like you!"

"Hello Kenzie, my name is John. You can call me, uncle John." The secretary happily shook Kenzie's hand.

"Uncle John?" Kenzie turned to her mother and asked, "Does uncle John give us presents during Christmas too?"

Her words and excitement granted a laugh from John and the attention of the other secretaries that were cubicles away from him.

"I'm so sorry, about that," said Samantha.

"And the guy behind you is?" John asked, trying to find the other twin who was holding his mother's skirt.

"Um, this is Kyle - Kyle buddy. Come on. Introduce yourself to Mr. Garcia," said Samantha while pulling Kyle by the hand and showing him to John.

When Kyle stood in front of John, there was an obvious silence from the executive assistant. He leaned back, and he leaned forward again.

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John did not know how many times he tilted his head from side to side, at the sight of the familiar-looking boy. He said, "Damn! You look like my boss!"

"Is your boss a kid too?" Kyle gave a sarcastic answer, narrowing his eyes at the same time. His way of responding made John laugh even harder.

"Damn! Even talks like him!" Remarked John.

"Mr. Garcia, Um. Maybe it's just a coincidence that he looks like your boss - I mean, sometimes, it's just a perception, " Samantha suggested before she got to the point "Mr. Garcia, I'm here on a very important matter and I hope you can help me."

"Oh, okay," said John. He set aside the uncanny resemblance between the child and his boss, asking, "What can I help you with Samantha?"

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While Samantha was explaining her predicament to John, Kyle and Kenzie were walking around the office, finding the nameplate that belongs to Ethan Wright. 8

They found themselves by the CEO office's door, gawking at the name.

"Could this be our Daddy?" Kenzie asked. 9

"There is only one way to find out," said Kyle. "Let's go in." 111

## Chapter 7: Odd Common Behavior

"Ready?" Kyle asked his sister.

"Ready!" Confirmed Kenzie.

While the twins were about to enter the CEO's office without permission, Samantha was explaining to John Garcia her situation.

A hiss left John's lips, and he said, "You see Miss Davis - "

The sound of the children trying to push the door opened alerted John that he got up from his seat, "Kids! No! Don't do that!"

"Why is this door so heavy!" Complained Kyle as he was pushing with his might!

"Urggghhh!" Kenzie grunted while helping her brother.

Sadly, no matter how hard they pushed, the door would not budge.

Samantha rushed in their direction and said, "Guys! What are you doing? Are you trying to get me in trouble?!"

Walking behind her was John. He said, "

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## Chapter 9: Scholarship

"I'd like to enroll my kids, please," said Samantha to the registration office of the North Bright Academy. She handed the check as payment, together with the enrollment form of her twins, plus the online evaluation her kids had taken long before they moved to Braeton.

The academy offered an online discussion and assessment, facilitated live by one of their teachers as an option for students who are enrolling from other cities. This was the primary reason Samantha chose the North Bright Academy.

She noticed how the lady in charge was taken aback by the paper in her hand, and the same woman stood up to make a phone call a few meters away from the counter where Samantha patiently waited.

When the lady returned, Samantha was told, "Miss Davis, you can take the children to their teacher. They are both assigned to K1 Kindness. A teacher assistant will be with you shortly to accompany you."

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"When you return, the principal would like to speak to you," said the lady from the school's registrar's office.

"Ummm... That's it?" Samantha asked, utterly perplexed.

"Yes! Your kids are officially enrolled. After your discussion with the principal, we can cover the books and other things your children will need," added the lady.

"Okay, that's great! Thank you so much!" Said Samantha.

Samantha and her children arrived at the classroom, already in the middle of the discussion. Still, they were warmly welcomed and introduced to all eight other students who were present. Only after seeing that Kenzie and Kyle were settled, did Samantha return to the school's offices.

As earlier instructed, she went straight to the principal's office.

As soon as Samantha walked into her office, the principal had nothing but a smile on her face and she extended her

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hand outright. Pointing to the seat in front of her desk, Zara said, "Please, take a seat, Miss Davis."

"Good morning, Miss Davis. My name is Zara Kholi. I am the principal of North Bright Academy and have been for two years now," said the middle-aged woman who had a wonderful brown glow on her skin.

"Miss Kholi -"

"Oh, I wish, I am still a miss, but I am already married," corrected the principal.

"I'm sorry. Mrs. Kholi," Samantha quickly retracted. "It's nice to meet you, and may I just compliment the warm and friendly vibe the school offers. And I'm rather surprised that your enrollment process is so quick and so smooth!"

"We, Miss Davis, we remembered your children to have scored the highest during the online evaluation, and given Kenzie's and Kyle's marks during nursery, we knew they were special. In fact, that is the reason why we called you over," said Mrs. Kholi.

"We actually offer a scholarship program for children whose parents work for The Wright Diamond Corporation. If you would like your children to give it a try, they can take the scholarship exam," suggested the principal.

"Wow!" Exclaimed Samantha. "That would be great! Sure! I'm sure they will do great!"

Samantha was confident of her kid's unusual brilliance. In fact, the previous school where her kids were enrolled suggested they skip levels, but Samantha did not want her children to miss out on all the good fun; experiencing what it was like to be a child.

"Well then, we can have Kyle and Kenzie take the exam after their class," told the principal.

An hour passed, and Samantha's twins were asked to remain in their classroom. They took the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale and Classroom Assessment Scoring System exams.

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A teacher facilitated both assessments whereby the twins were presented with situational problems to solve, aside from a written exam that covered lessons in their age group.

In just a little over half an hour, both were done. The twins passed with flying colors, especially Kyle. It was clear to the teachers who aided the assessments that the twins were mature and more knowledgeable for their age.

Both Kenzie and Kyle easily received praises from the teachers and high recommendations.

Kenzie did more chitchat with the teacher in charge of her evaluation and thus, they took more time in the assessment.

It was typical of Kyle to be direct to the point with his answers and conversations. Thus, he finished first.

They were granted the scholarship, and Samantha received back the check she had earlier surrendered as an enrollment fee.

She could not believe her luck! Back in Monroe, there were no scholarship programs available for preschoolers.

It would seem as though, returning to Braeton was not such a bad idea after all. Not only was she offered a high-paying job, but she also had a free home and free tuition for her kids!

Samantha was so ecstatic that she reported the good news to John, eagerly calling him on the phone while she was still at school.

Fortunately for her, John Garcia was free to take his call as it was already lunchtime.

"Miss Davis, it's nice to hear from you. What can I help you with?" John asked on the other line.

"Mr. Garcia! I did not know that the North Bright Academy offered scholarships for children of The Wright Diamond Corporation employees! And guess what? My kids were offered the option, they took the exams, and they passed!" Samantha shared before she

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explained, "I only have to pay for miscellaneous and the books, but they said I could arrange it to be deducted to my salary. So... I can give you back the check later on!"

"A scholarship?" John asked. "I - I did not know that we have that either! Haha! Well, I don't have a child and perhaps I did not bother inquiring. I'm sorry, Miss Davis. This should have been an option I could have shared with you." 4

"It's okay. It's not your fault. I was told that it was a new employee benefit!" Samantha added. "Hah! Talk about timing!"

"Anyway, Miss Davis, there is no hurry to return the check. My offer still stands - " John's words were suddenly cut off. Samantha heard John practically choke, and a few seconds of silence followed without notice. 4

"Mr. Garcia? Are you there?" Samantha asked.

It took some time, but the next thing John said was, "But if you would like, you can

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"Oh, Mr. Wright! We will definitely live up to your standards! Besides, your mother, Amanda Wright, she is very hands-on in ensuring that we offer only the best services for our children's education," revealed Mrs. Kholi.

"That's good to know, Mrs. Kholi. I expect no less," responded Ethan.

After putting down the phone, he hissed at his own actions. He muttered, "What in the world am I doing?"

He had never gone through such length to help someone, much more a woman with two kids! His gut feeling just urged him to do so... or so he claims. ②

Realizing that Samantha Davis may return to give back the check, he walked out of his office, and just as he did, he noticed his assistant was already on the phone.

"A scholarship? I - I did not know that we have that either! Haha! Well, I don't have a child and perhaps I did not bother inquiring. I'm sorry, Miss Davis. This should have been an option I could have

shared with you." Ethan heard John say on the phone while his assistant was swiveling his chair around.

Knowing who his assistant was speaking to prompted Ethan to hasten his steps. He made it in front of John's desk in no time.

"Anyway, Miss Davis, there is no hurry to return the check. My offer still stands - " He halted John's words, turning back his chair in his direction. He gestured to his assistant to keep silent of his arrival and hold the line.

Ethan opened a message box on his phone and typed, "Have her return the check." He showed it to John outright.

"But if you would like, you can come by the company later. It's up to you - " Right after glaring at John, the poor assistant corrected his proposal. "I mean... you should come over!"

It was as if his own assistant knew what was going through his mind, that John seemed to have supplied the words himself. John said to Samantha, "Actually, Miss Davis... Since you are

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coming here... why don't you... tell him yourself."

"Oh, you don't worry about that, Miss Davis. Who knows? Mr. Wright may be expecting you - I mean, I'll let him know you are coming to see him. I'll pencil you in his schedule... say about two in the afternoon?" Responded John.

"It's fine, Miss Davis. He looks forward to seeing you - " With another glare from Ethan, John changed his words. "I mean... I look forward to seeing you."

After putting down the phone, Ethan saw the smirk on his assistant's face. He heard John say, "Did I do well, boss?" 11

"Miss Davis said, she wants to personally thank you for taking her into the company," explained John.

Ethan simply crossed his arms against his chest and said, "Make sure my schedule is clear at two PM."

"Yes, sir. You actually don't have an appointment at two," revealed John.

The CEO glanced around and was pleased the rest of the secretaries had already left for lunch. No one would find out about the help he had just extended to Samantha Davis.

Turning back to John, Ethan reminded, "No one is to know about the scholarship. You understand, John?"

"Yes, sir," acknowledged John.

Ethan took a deep breath. He saw the eye-sore once more and returned John's penholder to the side. Only then did he say, "Now, get me my lunch and I'll wait for you in the office... Remember, I don't like soy sauce. Remind the cook to use anything but that." 2

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Meanwhile, back at the North Bright Academy, Samantha brought the kids to the school's cafeteria. She had the twins settle at one table as she buys the food for all of them.

Like her, Kenzie liked fried food, while Kyle wanted a more saucy type of food.

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Pointing to a sauteed pork with a brownish sauce. It did not have a label, so she asked the lady in front of her, "Excuse me, does that have soy sauce because my kid hates the taste of soy?" 5

"No ma'am, that's sauce is made out of oyster sauce," the lady answered.

"Great! One of that and one fried chicken please," said Samantha.

She knew her kids did not quite like food from cafeterias, even from restaurants, but since she had committed to seeing Mr. Garcia, they had no choice for that day.

Her kids were so used to her cooking, they both had high standards for their meals.

Making her way back to the twins, she saw how Kyle frowned.

Kyle asked, "Why - are we eating here?" He then studied the utensils on the tray and asked, "How clean are these." 16

"I'm pretty sure they are clean, Kyle. The academy has high standards for cleanliness." Samantha pointed to the

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surroundings and said, "Look around you."  
"

Her son had an issue with cleanliness, among other things. She nearly laughed when she saw Kyle practically rotate his head three hundred sixty degrees! She then heard him say, "It's passable." 4

"Anyway guys, since you both got the scholarship, I want to return the check to your uncle John. That is why we are eating here. After this, we will go back to the Wright Diamond Corporation," Samantha revealed while taking out the rest of the food from the tray.

"So bear with this for now. Tomorrow, we'll be eating home cooked meals made by Mommy, I promise," Samantha swore.

She did not notice how her kids were essentially looking at each other for seconds. Kyle and Kenzie formulated a plan on their heads as if they were in synch.

This time around, they weren't going to leave the building until they see their Daddy.

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This time around, they weren't going to leave the building until they see their Daddy.

With a sweet smile, Kenzie answered, "Okay, Mommy!"

Kyle ate a piece of the sauteed pork and said, "It's satisfactory. It lacks salt and pepper, but it's satisfactory."

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John chuckled and said, "Oh... he does... now. Haha!" After settling his laughter John said, "But seriously Miss Davis, I think the boss wanted to get a commitment from you that you will give The First Diamon Hotel... a Michelin star rating soon enough."

"Oh!" Yet again Samantha could not help but feel overwhelmed. To get a Michelin star rating on a restaurant would be such an achievement, and she was stunned to hear how they were expecting that from her.

She took a deep breath and said, "I will certainly do my best!"

Glancing at the CEO's office, Samantha asked, "So do I get to see Mr. Wright?"

Kyle, on the other hand, just did not mind their conversation. His eyes were glued at the CEO's office just a few steps from them. He then heard John say to his mother, "Well, that is the thing... Mr. Wright suddenly had an emergency meeting at the main conference room, but! He is still looking forward to having that discussion with you."

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"I hope you don't mind.. waiting," proposed John.

Kenzie and Kyle immediately looked at each other. While Samantha and John resumed their exchange, the twins settled in one corner to talk.

"Oh, you know what? I should have known better. The president must be a busy man. There is really no need for me to see him. I just feel embarrassed altogether," responded Samantha. She acted to collect her belongings and that of the kids before she said, "Please do extend my gratitude to Mr. Wright. That is more than enough for me."

"Maybe we should go," added Samantha.

"Miss Davis, please. Please stay. I swear, Mr. Wright is expecting you," advised John. He was so adamant to let Samantha stay that he got up from his seat and stood next to her. "He probably won't take long, and Mr. Wright is just two floors down. I'm sure he will be back in no time." 3

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While John was convincing Samantha, the kids behind them were forming a plan of their own.

"We can't leave before we see Daddy," suggested Kenzie.

"Then, let's proceed to Plan B. Did you hear that? Main conference room. Two floors down," told Kyle.

Kenzie nodded and said, "Let's go find our Daddy!"

Meanwhile, Samantha was nearly convinced that it was best to wait. Besides, if the CEO himself was expecting her, she should not deny gracing him with her presence.

However, just as she thought this, John received a call from Ethan. His mobile was ringing loudly, and he instantly picked it up in front of Samantha.

"Mr. Wright? I see. So it's taking you longer?" A clear sigh escaped John's lips, and he said, "Okay, Mr. Wright. I'll inform Miss Davis."

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After putting down the phone, he turned to Samantha and said, "I think... he is having a problem with the meeting."

That was Samantha's cue. She got up and said, "You know. I understand. It must be very important. Maybe... Some other time. Yes, some other - "

She halted her words, realizing her kids were not anywhere around them. "Kenzie? Kyle?" 4

Carrying her bag and that of the children, she took a full turn and called again, "Oh... My... God!"

"Kyle? Kenzie? Where are you?"

Samantha unwittingly walked distances, covering some areas of that office floor in search of her children. Yet, despite her efforts, she could not find them.

"I'm sure they are just around here," John said, also seeking the twins.

He walked to the other side of the office floor, asking the secretaries at the same time. Unfortunately, none of the secretaries noticed where they left off to.

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"You know what? I think I noticed them going towards the lift. I just wasn't sure if it was before you said they disappeared," suggested one employee, and that prompted Samantha to run off to the elevators.

Unfortunately, the twins were not there either. What were the chances that the twins took the elevators? It was likely possible.

With Samantha dreading, John had to warn the receptionist, their roving security, and all the personnel who were guarding all exits of the building.

After twenty minutes of searching for the twins, John determined it was best to check all surveillance cameras. He offered to take Samantha to the security room when they heard a familiar voice.

"Mommy! We found Daddy!"

Samantha turned in the direction of the office floor entrance and to her shock, she found Kenzie being carried by an impassive, tall, and alluring man with deep-seated eyes. ③

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Samantha turned in the direction of the office floor entrance and to her shock, she found Kenzie being carried by an impassive, tall, and alluring man with deep-seated eyes. 3

On the man's other hand, he was holding her son, Kyle.

"Mommy, Daddy said he'll buy me donuts!" Kenzie added with a sweet smile. 4

## Chapter 12: Bingo!

Twenty minutes earlier.

A cleaning lady was vacuuming the carpet of the eighteenth floor. She noticed someone poking at her back.

The lady halted her cleaning when she saw two young and adorable children.

"Hello, can you point us to the main conference room?" Kenzie asked with her usual bright smile.

"Um." The lady was puzzled as to why there were kids in the area, but soon the children gave their reason. ②

"Our Daddy is at the main conference room," added Kenzie before she gave another beaming smile.

"Okay. It's that way." The lady pointed and said, "Just take the right turn, and the centermost conference room is what you are looking for."

"Thank you, ma'am. Have a good day," said Kyle before pulling Kenzie by the hand. ③

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As the two made their way through various divided offices, they came across employees who were shocked to see children inside the building. Still, that did not stop the twins to make their way to the conference room.

They had already gone down from the twentieth floor, taking the lift to the eighteenth floor.

It was now or never! ⑤

They needed to find their Daddy!

\*\*\*

"Mr. Wright, we wanted to know what made you interested in making a family-oriented theme park resort?" Asked Mr. Song.

After Mr. and Mrs. Song had a taste of the exquisite coffee and canapes, they resumed asking Ethan specifically about his interest in making the partnership with them.

They had earlier grilled him about the stability of the company, and Ethan was

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beyond ready. Now, Ethan could tell, they were shifting to a different aim.

The Songs were determining if Ethan was in it with them... for the right reasons.

The Asian couple wanted to maintain the brand of their theme park and after getting a persistent request from the Wright Diamond Corporation to bring over the same brand to Braeton, they personally came to see what kind of Character does Ethan Wright had.

'The money.' Ethan thought in his head, but he had seen the same couple speak before the crowd in front of national television and he knew he had to answer along with their mission and vision.

With a confident yet slightly perilous glance, Ethan raised his head to say, "I've always believed that entertainment should be... experiential. Nowadays, people are stressed about their daily lives. Especially here in Braeton City!"

Pointing to the windows next to him, Ethan revealed, "I'm sure you have the

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skyscrapers in this town. It clearly reflects the kind of economic progress Braeton had achieved, but along with it, the residents of this city had slowly forgotten how is it like to live."

He turned to his other assistant, Joel, and said, "We have already conducted a study."

It was Joel's cue to hand over the study their company had made before approaching Mr. and Mrs. Song with a proposal to expand in Braeton City.

"We have found out that many of our natural settlers here in the city have relocated elsewhere, and the common reason was their inability to unwind," added Ethan.

"This is also part of the reason why I have begun investing in the hospitality industry. The First Diamond Hotel will be the first condominium hotel to offer packages for families, include facilities that can accommodate short-term holidays for new families with children," Ethan added.

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"I envisioned a better Braeton City - a city that can keep growing while keeping its inhabitants happy and entertained." Crossing his legs, he raised a hand and added, "Braeton should not just be all about work, work, work!"

After Ethan's explanation, Mr. Song glanced at his wife. It was obvious to Ethan that Mr. Song was trying to get approval from Mrs. Song. He realized the wife held the key and not the husband.

"Mr. Wright, what kind of rides do you like in a theme park?" Mrs. Song asked with a rigid expression.

From his insides, he was cursing. Ethan's parents were so strict while he was growing up, he never really enjoyed going to theme parks.

With a sigh, Ethan said, "Hmmm... Which ride?"

"You don't look like a person who even goes to a theme park, Mr. Wright," suggested Mrs. Song.

"I have - I have as a child, but my

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parents only brought me to one once - in Gale City. They closed the entire park for me to play," revealed Ethan. "I'll be honest with you, I did not enjoy that theme park visit, at least in my memory. I should at least have a playmate right?"

"But I wanted to change that. I want the children of our younger generation to have a better experience," added Ethan.

Somehow, he seemed to have captured the attention of Mr. and Mrs. Song, but Ethan could tell, they weren't entirely convinced. He wondered what would.

While he was thinking of other ways to convince Mr. and Mrs. Song, the door to the main conference room opened, and came in a little girl with blonde and straight hair. She had a beautiful smile and glow on her face, directed straight at Ethan.

It was Kenzie, and she screamed, "Daddy! I found you!"

While she sped towards Ethan, Kenzie failed not to take a bow, princess style,

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and said to the Song couple, "Good afternoon, I'm Kenzie." ③

Only after her greeting did she run to Ethan and practically jumped at him.

Ethan was still in a state of shock, but he could let the beautiful little girl fall and so he carried her in his arms.

He was about to ask who the girl belonged to when Mrs. Song reacted.

"Ohhhh! What a beautiful little girl!" Mrs. Song's eyes essentially twinkled in delight at the sight of Kenzie.

Mrs. Song stood up to approach Kenzie and lightly pinch on her plump cheek. "Is she your daughter? How adorable!"

Kenzie chuckled and said, "Yes, this is my Daddy!"

Pointing to the door, Kenzie added, "And that's my brother! Kyle!"

When Kyle came into the picture, Mr. and Mrs. Song shifted their gaze from Kyle to Ethan. Their jaws drop before Mr. Song remarked, "Undoubtedly! Haha! Mr.

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Wright! We did not know you were married!"

"Look at his young man! He is absolutely good-looking, just like his father!"

Remarked Mr. Song.

Joel, the replacement assistant, also had the same shocking reaction. He heard John say about a kid that looked like the boss, but he never thought it was true!

While Joel was gawking at Kyle, Ethan was equally taken aback. However, being the CEO of the company, he needed to act fast and assess the situation.

Ethan Wright quickly saw the shift in Mr. and Mrs. Song's reaction, right after seeing the children. He concluded silently, 'Mr. and Mrs. Song likes children.'

Ethan tried his best to make out a smile, one that he rarely tries to do, and said to Kenzie, "Baby... I am in a meeting." 8

"Oh, you know what, Mr. Wright! That's fine! Keep them here!" Mrs. Song said, utterly adoring Kenzie before she

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explained, "We love kids! We have a big family from the start - five children to be exact, and two of them are pregnant now! We will be grandparents soon!"

It was the first time that Mrs. Song opened up during their entire discussion that somehow, Ethan understood that the kid's arrival helped.

"Excuse me. Excuse me," said Kyle while bowing his head. He was making his way to Ethan and when he did, he held Ethan's hand and said, "Daddy, Mommy Sam is waiting for you upstairs."

'Bingo!' Ethan said to his head. 'These are Samantha Davis' kids.'

"Oh, then! We should not keep Mr. Wright here, sweetheart," said Mr. Song to his wife. "We did come unscheduled."

A laugh left Mrs. Song's lips, and she said, "Yes, we did. We are sorry about that."

"Let's have another meeting. Over dinner perhaps?" Suggested Mrs. Song. "She pinched Kyle's cheek and said, "Don't

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"Let's have another meeting. Over dinner perhaps?" Suggested Mrs. Song. "She pinched Kyle's cheek and said, "Don't forget to bring your entire family!" 9

Mrs. Song wrinkled her nose and added, "We just love kids!"

Ethan gulped before he faked a fake smile again. He said, "Of course, I'll bring... my entire family."

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### Chapter 13: The Favor

Ethan's other assistant, Joel, aided Mr. and Mrs. Song out of the conference room and down to the building lobby.

The great CEO of the company, however, was left with two little kids, claiming him to be their "Daddy."

Despite making him an instant father, he had the kids to thank for the pleasant parting between him and the Songs. So he turned to the little girl who remained in his arms and said, "Thank you for the help. For that, you get anything you want."  
"

Kenzie, with her little arms, embraced Ethan and said, "You are welcome, Daddy!" She put a finger on her chin before asking, "I want creamy donuts!"

"Daddy, I put a check mark on the checklist here. These are characteristics of our Daddy. All of which, you possess. Therefore, we conclude, you are our Daddy," Kyle suddenly spoke, showing Ethan his tablet.

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Curiosity got to him that Ethan accepted the tablet to have a look.

1. Looks like me. Check! ④

2. Handsome. Check! ⑫

3. In Braeton City. Check!

4. Taller than Mommy. Check!

5. Wears nice clothes. Check! ④

6. Rich. Check!

7. Intelligent. Check! He should be, he is the CEO! Check! Check! Check! ④

He nearly gagged on the list of qualities the young boy was looking for as his Daddy, especially at the latter two. ③

"Some qualifications you have here, boy," remarked Ethan.

Ethan Wright was not fond of children, but for some strange reasons, he was not irritated by Kenzie, nor was he offended by young Kyle's odd autocratic presence.

He did not know how long he stared at Kyle, but Ethan ended up hissing.

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It was no wonder his executive assistant mistook Kyle for his son. Ethan, himself, could not deny the similarity! He even wound up glancing sideways at the glass wall divider, stealing glances at their reflection.

'This is just a coincidence,' Ethan silently convinced himself.

After giving back the boy's tablet, Kyle said to him, "So Daddy, let's start by answering... Why have you not come to see us all these years?"

That practically made Ethan choke. It resulted in him to cough so hard, Kenzie had to pat on his back, offering aid.

"Are you okay, Daddy?" Kenzie earnestly asked, showing concern for Ethan.

Clearing his throat, he answered, "Yes. Yes, Kenzie."

Ethan offered his hand to Kyle and said, "Let's go find your Mommy. I need... to have a talk with her."

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Reaching the twentieth floor, Ethan could easily make out the panic coming from John and Samantha. He understood that Samantha lost her children.

While being held in his arms, Kenzie called for her mother, "Mommy! We found Daddy!"

Ethan saw the same woman with golden hair turn in his direction.

He was immediately reminded of what first caught his attention back at the four-star hotel of Monroe City.

It was as though time had stopped, and he recalled the reason why he offered this woman a job at The First Diamond Hotel.

Despite losing the color of her skin, he could not deny how Samantha Davis looked utterly... well crafted. ⑥

Her hair was soft, shining as it waved down to her shoulders. Her small face was her best feature, next to her striking blue eyes.

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As his thoughts were drifting away into undeniable praise, he quickly dismissed his views and focused on the situation at hand. Besides, he was not one to express any admiration. Especially to women.

"Miss Davis, how did your children reach the eighteenth floor without an adult accompanying them?" Ethan Wright said before raising his chin.

He could tell his words made Samantha even more nervous.

Ethan was about to suggest they resume the discussion in his office when Kenzie cut off his thoughts.

"Daddy, please don't get mad at Mommy. It was our fault! We ran away. We wanted to find you!" Kenzie explained before she hugged Ethan around his neck.

The entire twentieth floor went ultra-silent, seeing the CEO of The Wright Diamond Corporation being affectionate with a child. Moreover, call him "Daddy."

Samantha's face turned white like a ghost while John Garcia's jaws dropped. Of

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course, it had been that way the second he saw Ethan carry the little girl in his arms.

"Let's take this inside the room, shall we?" Ethan said, pointing to his office.

Turning to his assistant, Ethan instructed, "John, accompany the children while I speak to Miss Davis personally. Have one of the staff buy Kenzie, her creamy donuts."

"Yes, sir! Yes!" Confirmed John.

After putting Kenzie down on the floor, Ethan let Samantha leave a brief instruction for the kids before going into the CEO's office with her.

It was from his office desk that he probed about the circumstances of her children.

"Please take a seat, Miss Davis," said Ethan.

While settling herself on the chair, Samantha said, "Mr. Wright. I am really sorry for what my children did. I hope they did not ruin your meeting."

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"Relax, Miss Davis. I do not bite," said Ethan. "On the contrary, your kids helped me with my meeting."

"While I do not approve of children going around the office, I appreciate the unexpected benefit, especially from Kenzie," revealed Ethan while leaning back in his chair.

After admitting that no damage was done, Ethan finally noticed how the color of Samantha's face returned. He could tell she was relieved, and he ended up appreciating the blush on her cheeks.

"They helped?" Samantha clarified.

"Yes, they did. Apparently, the couple whom I had a meeting with liked kids!" Confirmed Ethan.

"Oh! I bet Kenzie - won - them with her charms." Samantha smiled and looked down at her hands before she explained, "She is very amiable."

"She is! The couple who I wanted to join ventures with, adored her," added Ethan.

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"They also had equal admiration for Kyle."  
"

"There is just one problem, Miss Davis."  
Ethan shifted his position, leaning forward to Samantha. He told, "When your kids found me, they immediately called me their Daddy."

"So it created a misunderstanding, something that I could not deny. It was either... I acknowledge it or admit that my office building lacked security, allowing children to go around my office," Ethan said.

With his jaws slightly clenched, he added, "I also... do not know how to break to the children... How... I am not their father."

"Tell me, Miss Davis. How is it that they think I am their father?" From his last probing, Ethan saw how Samantha paled again. He recognized it was a sensitive topic that she may not be willing to share.

Taking back his words, he said, "It's fine. I guess. It's something you need to talk to your kids about -"

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"I - I told them their father is working here in Braeton," Samantha replied before biting her lip. "I think I might have told them that their father looked like Kyle."

With a frown, she reasoned, "Who would ever thought."

Ethan literally saw how Samantha studied his face.

He easily understood what was going through her mind. Yes, it was indeed a coincidence that he looked like Kyle.

Chuckling at her words, Samantha said, "Who would ever think that the great Ethan Wright would look like my son."

"Do they not know their father?" Ethan probed. While he had Samantha investigated, there was no harm in trying to get the information from Samantha herself. 6

Samantha's mouth parted, but no words came out of her mouth. She said, "I'm sorry - "

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"It's fine. I'm sure you had your reasons," Ethan cut off her words, sending her reluctance. "But given the situation, I'm afraid I needed to ask you a favor."

"Anything. Anything at all, Mr. Wright," Samantha answered.

"Mr. and Mrs. Song, the same couple that Kenzie and Kyle met at the main conference room, already believe that your children are mine. Rather, they think I am married."

"Before they would leave Braeton City, they want to have dinner with me... together with the kids and of course... You have to be there," Ethan closed the proposition.

With her brows furrowed, Samantha asked, "Are you suggesting that we - "

"Yes, just for one occasion, we will let them believe that we are in fact... a real family." Raising his hands, he told, "After the dinner, they will leave Braeton and will communicate only with me and my assistant."

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"But." Samantha raised a brow, fearing the worst. "What if they will find out? "

"For now, they won't. My records are sealed. No one knows anything about me except for close friends, family and John," told Ethan. "By the time they would find out, our contract has already been signed."

"We could say... it was a secret marriage," added Ethan.

"I.. don't know about this, Mr. Wright," Samantha tried to object, but what Ethan said next made her feel accountable.

"Remember, Miss Davis. It was because your children came to the conference room and called me their Daddy that the Songs now had that perception of me," reminded Ethan.

Seconds passed, Samantha defined, "Just once?"

"One dinner," said Ethan.

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#### Chapter 14: Crazy Coincidence

"I - I suppose it would be fine." She could not help how her brows were drawn together before Samantha clarified, "I mean... It's just one dinner, right?"

"Yes, just one dinner. Why? Were you expecting another one?" Ethan asked, raising his chin at Samantha.

With her mouth parting, she thought, 'How in the world were my words interpreted that way?'

"Um. No! Of course not," Samantha awkwardly said. "One dinner."

"Good. Then I'll have my driver take you and the kids to the hotel," suggested Ethan.

"Oh, there is really no need," Samantha said while raising his palm at his offer.

"I have to. You are supposedly my secret wife," Ethan answered. "For all we know, Mr. and Mrs. Song are still waiting outside, observing the building."

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After calling his assistant and giving instructions, Ethan said, "I'll have John contact you again for when we will plan the dinner."

"Okay, Mr. Right. I guess, I'll see you soon," said Samantha.

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"Wow! The donuts are so yummy!" Exclaimed Kenzie after taking a bite at one treat. "What will you have Kyle?"

Kyle was sitting next to Kenzie, in the middle of their living room, installing WhatsApp. He then invited Ethan Wright as his first contact.

He smiled right after seeing an acceptance.

Looking up to Kenzie, Kyle said, "I'll have chocolate."

"Daddy is just so great, right!" Kenzie remarked right after taking another bite.

"Yes, he is amazing," said Kyle as he grabbed one chocolate frosted donut. "He even gave us ride home!"

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As the two youngsters were enjoying their treat at the sitting area of their condominium unit, Samantha was having a serious conversation with her aunt Dianna from the balcony.

"What in the world got into you, Sam?" Diana asked, utterly frowning at the news. "Why would you even agree to that?"

"Shhh... lower your tone, aunt." Samantha glanced at the kids before saying, "My kids got him in trouble! Somehow, I felt... obliged to commit."

Diana shook her head and asked, "Why would they even think he was their Daddy?"

"The man kinda... um... looks like Kyle," Samantha revealed before sneering. "Coincidence?"

"Noh! No way! Are you serious, Sam?" Diana asked.

Samantha only nodded and said, "I swear. I was literally staring at him, for I

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don't know how long! It's a crazy coincidence!"

Sighing at Samantha's tale, Diana suggested, "Sam, what if... I mean, what are the chances that Mr. Ethan Wright is their father?"

The words of her aunt made Samantha laugh hysterically!

She was laughing so hard; she snorted towards the end. "That is silly, aunt. Why in the world would somebody like Ethan Wright stay in a hotel in front of the military camp!"

She raised both her hands and said, "There is absolutely no view!"

"Well, who knows... circumstances brought him there," Diana insisted. "How could a man look so much like your son then? How do you explain that?"

"Aunt, please. You can google many uncanny resemblance between stars and regular people! It happens!" Samantha said while still frequently chuckling.

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"Okay, fine! If you insist!" Resting her hand on her waist, Diana mumbled, "I don't know why you did not try to find their father, anyway."

"I told you, aunt Diana. My father already did that. The great General threatened every man who lived within the camp and near it!" Revealed Samantha.

"Only people from the military would use the hotel. It never gets any tourist and that day, was the wedding day of one of our senior cadets. All those that stayed at the hotel were all from the military or were either their relatives!"

"I know what you were thinking, aunt, but I'm sure my father did not miss any details. Nothing slips in his hands. That is how he is," declared Samantha.

"Yeah? Well, what if the man you slept with is more powerful than your father? Someone capable of erasing records, paying off the hotel staff," Diana pointed out. "Did you ever think of that?"

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Somehow that made sense, but to Samantha's point of view, the hotel's location was just too inconvenient for prominent people to stay in.

The property was owned by the former general. It was meant for the military to use as part of their relaxation time, and it was also commonly used as a home to those who were temporarily reassigned to Braeton.

"It just doesn't make sense, aunt."  
Holding her aunt's hand, she added, "It could not be Ethan Wright. It just could not be."

With a heavy sigh, Diana said, "Well, regardless... what is clear to me is that you need to tell your kids the truth... You just have to, Sam. You have lied to them for so long."

Samantha bit her lip at the words of her aunt. She understood how her aunt was right.

Swallowing her own spew, she said, "I'll tell them tonight... I promise." ③

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In the evening, while settling the kids under the sheets, Samantha kissed the cheeks of each of her twins. ④

She sat next to Kenzie on the bed and said, "Guys... There is something that I need to tell you. Something that I should have told you long before."

"What is it, Mommy?" Kenzie asked eagerly.

"I'm tired, Mommy," said Kyle before yawning.

"Well... It's about your Dad," Samantha finally delivered after exhaling dramatically. "The thing is... your Dad... your Dad is - "

"Oh, we already know, Mommy! We found him, remember?" Kenzie said while chuckling. "Silly, Mommy."

"Yes!" Echoed Kyle.

"He is just the greatest and we love him!" Exclaimed Kenzie with twinkling eyes. "He bought me donuts! He loves me so much." ⑤

"We understand, Mommy. He is a busy man," said Kyle.

"He needs to protect us from bad guys that's why we are secret kids!" Added Kenzie, tightening her eyes as she spoke with conviction.

"Ah." Samantha did not know how to react to the conclusions of her kids. It left her gaping for seconds.

"Yeah, rich kids get kidnapped a lot," suggested Kyle.

Samantha choked on that. She said, "You guys are watching too many movies."

"No, Mommy, you said that... You said it was good that we are not rich so we don't get kidnapped for ransom," revealed Kyle. "Also read it in the news."

"Oh... I did - say that," she acknowledged before sneering.

With a sigh, Kenzie said, "Mommy, we are so happy, we found Daddy."

"Yeah. I'll finally tell my classmates I have a Daddy," said Kyle. "I hate it when

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they think I don't have a Dad." ❄

Sadly, Kyle's words made Samantha feel a pang in her chest. This was also one reason why she lied. She did not want them to be judged, just because they did not have a father.

"I am like Mommy and Kyle is like Daddy! Right, Mommy?" Kenzie probed with a wide grin. After not hearing an answer from their Mommy, she repeated, "They look the same, right Mommy?"

"Mommy?" Kenzie repeated. "Kyle looks so much like Daddy!"

Bringing her back to her senses, Samantha said, "Um... Yeah, they have similarities -"

"See Kyle, I told you. You look so much like Daddy!" Kenzie insisted. She placed her hands against her cheeks and said, "I like Daddy so much! Don't you think he is just awesome, Mommy?"

"Umm.. Yeah... He is awesome. He really is," said Samantha before taking a deep breath and getting up from the bed. "

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Okay. Well, you guys better get some sleep now. You'll have to go to school tomorrow." 7

"Goodnight, Mommy!" The kids said in unison.

"Goodnight. I'll be back after I prepare your bags," Samantha said before closing the door. 4

Right after she shut the door behind her, she closed her eyes and leaned back. 6

When she opened her eyes, she saw the glare of her aunt. She gulped and said, "I - I'll tell them after the dinner with Mr. Wright's business partners."

"Ah, Sam... You are hopeless," said Diana.

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## Chapter 15: Self-Defense

"Mr. Wright, I'm very sorry, but Miss Davis' records are sealed!" Revealed Aiden, the hacker Ethan employed to look into Samantha.

"What do you mean sealed?" Ethan asked while holding up the phone to his ears. He was leaning back in his seat, utterly disappointed at the report given by Aiden.

"Well, I have her basic details and it's like what you had thought. She is the daughter of General Winfield Davis," Aiden reported. "I found a marriage certificate between Miss Davis's mother, Sarah Turner, and one Winfield Davis."

"And there is no other Winfield Davis that lives in the city or any neighboring cities," added Aiden. "It could only be the general -"

"Make sure of it, Aiden!" Ethan countered, raising his voice. "I don't want hunches!"

"The thing is sir, most of her records are blocked from within the military itself.

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Thus, I can only conclude Miss Davis is related to the military somehow. Anyway, I went through some old photos from some members of the Davis family, not necessarily General Winfield's but from their relatives, and I happen to find one photo of Miss Davis. I have sent this information to you," Reported Aiden.

"It could not be a coincidence," added Aiden. "Anyhow, sir. I'm still working on hacking into the military camp's server, but it will take time... maybe a few more hours."

A hiss left Ethan's lips before he said, "Do your job, Aiden I'll give you another day to find the answer I am looking for."

After putting down the phone, he returned to work.

It was already sometime later in the afternoon that John came into his office to report the phone call coming from Mr. and Mrs. Song.

"Mr. Wright, Mr. Song called and asked if you can have dinner with them this

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Saturday," said his assistant. "Together with... your kids and wife? Haha!"

John choked on his laugh, seeing how his boss was squinting at him.

"Is it funny, John?" Ethan asked in his classic domineering tone. "you know what to do. Call Miss Davis and tell her I will speak to her at the hotel. In any case, I need an inspection at the hotel."

"Yes, sir, Mr. Wright," said John Garcia. "I'm on it!"

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From inside the living room space of a condominium flat, Samantha was checking her kid's daily exercises from school.

She suddenly heard her phone ringing, which startled her outright.

When she saw it was John Garcia, she answered promptly, "Mr. Garcia. Good afternoon." 2

"Miss Davis, the boss would like to see you later. Perhaps at six in the evening,

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right after he finishes here in the office. In any case, we will call you once we are at the First Diamond Hotel. He wanted to discuss the plan for the dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Song," explained John on the other line.

"Oh," said Samantha before sneering. She did not really think it would happen sooner. "When is the dinner?"

"This Saturday," confirmed John. "He wants to meet you at the hotel's one-carat conference room."

The hotel's conference rooms were named after carats, depending on the size of the room.

Samantha bit her lip and said, "Wow, a conference room? This is just a meeting between the two of us, right?"

"Yes, Miss Davis. Mr. Wright does not like to be seen by other people," told John. "Most of the time, he reserves a private room for all his appointments."

"Okay. I understand. Six in the evening, then. I'll get ready," said Samantha.

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After the phone call, Samantha felt utterly nervous.

"Maybe because, he is just a scary guy," she convinced herself. "Or, you are getting conscious, Sam!"

"Pffft! Why would I feel nervous looking at a tall handsome man who looks like my son," Samantha resumed mumbling, trying to dismiss her stirring emotions.

She checked the time and saw how she only had less than two hours before Ethan wright would arrive.

She gulped, suddenly feeling the need to release all the tension in her body.

Recalling how there was a public park, a block behind the First Diamond Hotel, she decided to take a run.

Samantha first told her aunt how she wanted to explore the nearby park. She left Kenzie and Kyle in Diana's care right after she changed into her running attire.

Clothed in tight grey leggings and a sweatshirt on her torso, Samantha

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merely tied her hair into a ponytail before making her way down to the hotel.

She had her phone with her and her AirPods, kicking the mood for some music as she rode on the lift.

The park was exactly where she remembered it would be.

It was a round park in the middle of the busy streets where several trees shaded the walking path. At the center of the lawn stood a small playground, and benches were spread across the place. 2

Samantha had to cross the street to reach the park. Fortunately, there was always a n enforcer who stood close to the pedestrian lane that she easily made her way inside the fenced park.

As soon as she stepped foot on the stone walk path, she started briskly walking before going all out on a run.

Samantha loved to run. It was her best way of cardio exercise.

Of course, since she had been in Military

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school for three years, she knew several work-out sessions that could build her stamina.

Despite having been kicked out from the Military, Samantha tried her best to practice what she had learned; from keeping her body in a good shape and training on her combat skills.

Now, she merely called it self-defense, but she knew deep down, she knew more than just protecting herself. After all, her father was in the military and the great General Winfield Davis had expected her to follow in his footsteps.

Since she was young, she had already been exposed to martial arts training.

After an hour of running around the circular park, Samantha noticed how she was being followed by a man in a hooded jacket.

She shook her head, feeling the uneasiness in her chest.

Going through an isolated walking path of the area, she noticed how the man was

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speeding in her direction. She then heard him say, "Hey pretty lady! Why don't you give me your cellphone and I'll be on my way!"

When the man caught up with her, he took out a knife and pointed in Samantha's face.

"Come on, sexy lady. Hurry up! I don't want to hurt you. Just give me your phone and I'll be on my way." The man studied Samantha's frame and face before licking his lips. He said, "Maybe I could also just... touched your boobs a bit - "

Without warning, Samantha grabbed the man's wrist as she rotated her body beneath his frame. The man's torso wound up being on top of Samantha's back, and she easily lifted the man with her own weight.

With all her might, she threw the man's body against the ground, flipping him to lie on his back.

The next thing the man knew, his arm was being twisted vigorously by the slender woman with blonde hair.

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"Ahhhh! Fuck!" If that was not enough, Samantha kicked him in the stomach before finally getting a hold of his knife.

She then ran away as fast as she could, not missing to ditch the knife in the nearest garbage bin.

Samantha noticed how other concerned citizens had come to give the man a beating. It was clear to her that the hooded man was a regular troublemaker in the park. Unfortunately for him, that day, he met his match.

"You sure showed him!" She heard one woman say to her. "That guy has been causing trouble 'round here!"

"You are amazing, young lady!" An old man remarked while others clapped their hands to praise her.

With an awkward smile on her face, she said, "Oh, just some basic self-defense."

Samantha sneered as she exited the park. She did not expect to get into action, but at least, she thought, she went easy on the hooded man.

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Catching her breath, Samantha waited for the streets to clear of the many vehicles passing by.

From a distance, she noticed a Black Maybach speeding in her direction. It would seem to her that the same vehicle had taken a full turn around the park.

It halted right in front of her abruptly, causing her to take a few steps back. She wound up exclaiming, "What the hell!"

The passenger's door opened and Ethan Wright came out, standing tall and taking all the attention around the busy streets. With his chilly tone, an icy stare, he ordered, "Get inside, Miss Davis."

Samantha wasn't sure why, but she felt like she had practically offended the man.

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## Chapter 16: Obvious Concern

"John, let's go to meet Miss Davis," said Ethan Wright to his assistant. He walked out of the CEO's office unannounced, telling John to get ready to leave.

It resulted in John Garcia panicking. John checked the time and said back, "Boss, it's still four-forty in the afternoon. I thought you are meeting her at six?"

With eyes narrowing at his assistant, Ethan answered, "We can't let traffic get in the way, now... can we? I am never late for my appointments."

"Right! Right! I'll call the driver, sir," said John as he frantically grabbed for his belongings.

"Did Edgar already secure what Kyle had requested?" Ethan asked while walking in the direction of the lift.

"Yes, sir. He should have it in the car," assured John.

In just a matter of minutes, they made their way to the building lobby and exited to where Ethan's Black Maybach was

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waiting.

As always, Ethan stayed at the back, with John sitting next to the driver in the front of the expensive car.

Even with traffic, they were roughly at The First Diamond Hotel in just twenty minutes.

"Mr. Wright? Are you excited to see Miss Davis?" John probed, nearly chuckling at his suggestion.

The driver, whose name was Edgar, also had his eyes widened? He asked, "Is Mr. Wright interested in a girl?"

"Both of you, mind your own business!" Ordered Ethan. He was reading through his email from his laptop when he heard his assistant try to put words into his mouth.

Ethan liked John's work. Even if he often pried on his personal life, he rarely would get mad at his assistant.

His usual cue was how he would glare at John, and his assistant would easily understand his limits.

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Reaching a block from behind the hotel, he heard John, "Oh, my! That's Miss Davis!"

Hearing the name, Ethan's eyes promptly shifted in the direction where John was pointing and he was shocked to see Samantha running around the park, located in the middle of the street.

His brows furrowed, watching her in tight, gray leggings and a sweatshirt on top.

While her sweatshirt hid her precious curves, it did not sit well with Ethan how her leggings were graciously taking the form of her slender and long legs. ③

His eyes quickly became hooded before saying, "What - in - the - world is she doing? Is it even safe to run in the park?"

"Ah, generally, Mr. Wright," Edgar filled in the answer for him.

"She is just taking a run, Mr. Wright - Oh, no! That man in front of her is holding a knife!" Exclaimed John.

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As they went past Samantha, dread could not help but fill Ethan's chest. He commanded with his voice raised, "Go back! Turn around!"

"Sir, we can't turn around from here, but we can circle back," told Edgar.

Ethan seemed to have felt fear for Samantha and he wound up looking back from the back windshield of the car!

John and Ethan practically saw how Samantha kicked the butt off the man who had a weapon in front of her.

"Woah! That was awesome, boss!"  
Remarked John. "Miss Davis is definitely amazing!"

As John and Ethan remained stunned at Samantha's actions, Edgar sped through the road, circling around the park until they found her again.

The round park was not significant in size, and Edgar managed to go around it in just about three minutes.

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From inside the car, Ethan noticed how Samantha was looking in their direction. He assumed that she was probably worried about the sudden speeding luxury car towards her.

"Stop in front of her! Stop - in - front of her!" Ethan demanded, and it resulted in Edgar to force the breaks in the middle of the road. 2

Poor Edgar had to put the hazard on, so as to warn the cars behind them.

As soon as they pulled over, Ethan handed his laptop to John and swiftly got out of the car.

After locking eyes with Samantha, he ordered, "Get inside, Miss Davis."

"Mr. Wright?" While calling out his name, Ethan could see the awed expression on Samantha.

However, given that they were in the middle of the road, he repeated his words, "Get inside now, Miss Davis. We need to get to the hotel."

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It did not take long for Samantha to get inside the Maybach with him, utterly turning red.

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'How did this happen?' Samantha thought in her head as she sat next to the block of ice from inside a luxurious car.

Just earlier, she worried that she was becoming conscious of a man - a specific man to be exact: Mr. Ethan Wright.

While she dismissed her own judgment, she earnestly hoped the alluring man had seen her in a better light!

Instead, here she was, sitting next to Ethan Wright, the CEO of the Wright Diamond Corporation, and she was in her leggings and sweatshirt! Worse, she was sweating like hell from all the running that she did.

Just when she thought she was in such a bad condition, she was feeling her throat dried up.

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Of course! She meant to buy water from the stall across the park!

Massaging her throat, she asked, "Mr. Wright, is there... water in here?"

Ethan promptly opened his storage compartment and handed her a bottle of water. He said, "Here."

At the sight of the water, however, Samantha froze. She looked back at Ethan and returned her gaze to the bottle of water before saying, "That's a Kona Deep water."

She laughed and announced, "I have never gulped down water worth four hundred dollars before."

"It's the only water, I have. Drink it. It has health benefits," Ethan said in his non-affectionate tone.

They say it was rude to refuse an offer, so she had no choice but to gulp down the expensive water.

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After quenching her thirst, Samantha practically calculated the cost of the fluid she had taken. She drank half of it! Half of it meant she drank two hundred dollars' worth of water!

Just as she was drowned in these thoughts, she heard the man say, "It's not good for a woman like you to be out in the park, taking a run by yourself! What if something dangerous happens to you - "

"Oh, don't worry, Mr. Wright. I can defend myself," reasoned Samantha as she closed the expensive bottle of water.

"Defend yourself?! What if that man had a gun, instead of a knife? What if there were four of them? Would you be able to handle that, Miss Davis? From now on, if you wanted to do cardio, you do that on a treadmill from the tenth-floor building of the hotel gym is available for you to use!" Ethan said with his face turning red.

It utterly surprised Samantha how she saw from him; an obvious concern for her wellbeing. She was unsure if she should feel touched or scared at his berating.

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Soon enough, it would seem to her that Ethan realized his misreading. He adjusted his tone of voice. Ethan said, "I'm sorry. As your employer, I want to ensure your safety. After all, you are the one who will give my hotel a Michelin Star rating." 4

"Please, Miss Davis, use the treadmill," he repeated while looking straight into Samantha's striking blue eyes.

While looking back at his intense eyes, she found herself gawking and said, "Yes, sir! Treadmill it is!"

## Chapter 17: A Beautiful Family

Arriving at The First Diamond Hotel, Samantha hurriedly distanced herself from Ethan Wright shortly after stepping into the lobby.

The idea of a girl in a sweatshirt walking with a tall and handsome man in a custom-made suit just did not sit well with her. She said to Ethan, "Excuse me, Mr. Wright, do you mind... If I get changed first before having the meeting with you?"

She gulped down her own spew right after expressing her words, fearing for what he might think.

"Why are you walking away from me, Miss Davis? We clearly came out from the same car and entered together. Why are you standing two meters from me?" Ethan probed after seeing Samantha walk ahead of him.

He turned to John and asked, "Is there something wrong with my face, John? Miss Davis seems to be ashamed of me."

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While John Garcia turned to Samantha with glaring eyes, Samantha reasoned, "Oh, no! It's not that!"

Samantha wound up chuckling and said, "It's really not that. You just look so great and I - I am sweating all over in my jogging attire. I did not want you to be bothered by it."

She immediately pointed to the lift and said, "Can I go now and I promise, I'll just take fifteen minutes! Then, I'll be back!"

Without warning, Ethan walked towards her and nearly closed the gap between them. He took out his handkerchief and wiped the sweat off her forehead. He said, "Your sweat doesn't bother me."

Following his declaration, time practically froze when the great Ethan Wright wiped off the wetness on Samantha's forehead.

Everyone else seemed to have zoomed in on them.

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From behind the scene, John Garcia thought he was ready to faint!

The receptionists that were working that day also saw the remarkable spectacle, including the same girl who aided Samantha when they first arrived, Cindy.

They all had their hands on their mouth, seeing how their boss was being affectionate with the new chef!

Aside from the number of eyes that were piercing through her body, Samantha, on the other hand, felt her heart raced. Her eyes widened by Ethan's actions and she found herself gulping repeatedly.

Realizing what he had done, Ethan pulled back his handkerchief and swiftly turned in the direction of the lift, and said, "Let's go."

"Um... to where?" Samantha asked after returning to her senses.

"Let's go to your condo," answered Ethan. "I need to give Kyle his request."

"Kyle?" Samantha asked while hastily following behind Ethan.

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It was already in the lift that Ethan explained while pointing out what John was carrying, "Your son sent me a message in WhatsApp, telling me how you need an updated windows version."

He glanced at the puzzled expression of Samantha and said, "I figured, you might as well get a new laptop."

Putting his hands in his pocket, he added, "Then, this morning. I thought, since you may be using this for work, it may be better for Kyle to have his own laptop. So I bought him his own."

Samantha practically heaved, covering her mouth with her hands, and said, "What?" After pausing, she stated, "Oh, Mr. Wright. You really did not have to! And since when did my son in contact with you?"

"Since we met... In any case, I already bought them. The computer shop has a no return policy," said Ethan with his stern expression.

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In front of them, John Garcia was utterly bewildered. Edgar never mentioned about a "No Return Policy." 7

John wound up attempting to correct his boss, "Actually, Mr. Wright, the computer shop - "

"There is a no return policy! I spoke to the owner himself!" Ethan cut off his words, seemingly understanding what John was about to say.

"Right. Right, Mr. Wright!" John's brows furrowed before he said, "Mr. Wright is always Right." 19

Everything was happening so fast that Samantha could not think of a way to counter the acceptance of the laptops. She thought, 'How in the world am I going to refuse this? This is just too much!'

"You are very generous, Mr. Wright, but," Samantha tried to object.

"Miss Davis, your son looks like me. He deserves to have the best," answered Ethan. 3

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Samantha, "???"

"Damn, boss. I wish I look like you too," John said, but after receiving that usual icy glare, he took back his words. "But of course, I can't be as good looking as Mr. Wright." 36

Reaching her condo unit, Samantha reluctantly showed Ethan the way. She said, "You really did not have to come up with me, Mr. Wright. I am so ashamed."

"Miss Davis, it is my will to come here with you and deliver the goods ordered by your son... who happens to look like me. Please... say no more," said Ethan. 4

"Okay," said Samantha before offering her hand, "I can give the laptops to Kyle."

Samantha practically saw how Ethan Wright's face turned red.

She sneered realizing her mistake but before she could say another word, Ethan said, "Since you drank my water. Can I have a glass of water? I am very thirsty?"

'A glass of water? Doesn't he drink only expensive water?' She felt like she was

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trapped! She thought, 'Does this man really want to come inside an insignificant house?'

Still, she understood what she must do, and it granted her to open the door. "Of course, Mr. Wright. Please come right in to my humble home."

As soon as Samantha urged them to take a seat from the living room, Kenzie ran in their direction, calling out to Ethan, "Daddy! Daddy! You are here!"

"Hi, Daddy! You brought me the latest windows?" Kyle asked, also running in his direction.

"I did more than that, buddy," said Ethan. "I bought you and your Mom a laptop each!"

"Woah! Daddy is amazing!" Kyle exclaimed. "We'll share this laptop, Kenzie."

"No!" Kenzie turned to Ethan and asked, "Daddy, I want a barbie house doll! A really big one!"

Ethan turned to John and said, "

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Remember that."

"Yes, sir!" John happily nodded.

Samantha could feel her face flush completely. Even her ears were burning.

While she was so ashamed of how her kids were calling her boss their Daddy, she swore she saw a smirk on the man's face!

Before she could analyze the situation, however, they all heard a crisp sound of shattered glass and it came from Diana Turner.

"Oh... my... God," Samantha's aunt reacted after dropping a glass down on the floor.

"Um, Aunt! This is my boss, Mr. Ethan Wright," announced Samantha. "Aunt, do you mind giving Mr. Wright a glass of water?"

"Daddy is Mommy's boss?" Kenzie asked with her eyes twinkling as usual. "Oh, so that's why we are secret kids, right Kyle?"

"Right! That's what I've been telling, you Kenzie," answered Kyle.

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The entire time, John Garcia was smiling from ear to ear.

From the fact that his boss faked a thirst to get inside Samantha's home to see how the beautiful children of one Samantha Davis call his boss their Daddy.

The best part was, Ethan Wright never objected to the children's assumptions!

John was utterly liking the idea of his boss, falling down on his knees for a woman and he felt it might just be Samantha Davis.

"Aww... What a beautiful family, you are," John remarked happily.

Samantha's mouth parted, but was unable to say a word for everything that was going on. After seconds, she said, "Kids, please make your Daddy comfortable. Let me... take a shower."

She figured they were going to pretend to be a married couple anyway, she might as well use it to her advantage in front of her twins.

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## Chapter 18: The Golden Eagle Hotel

"Wow! this is so cool, Kyle! Can I watch princess videos from here?" Kenzie asked Kyle.

"Sure, Kenzie!" Kyle answered. "Let me help you."

While the kids were already exploring Kyle's new laptop from the opposite side of the couch, Ethan and John sat across them, observing the two.

"Kyle is a smart boy," remarked John. "He likes gadgets, boss... Just like you."

"Hmmm," said Ethan while maintaining to study the two young children.

Since they arrived at the condo unit assigned to Samantha, Ethan's eyes had already roamed the entire living room space.

Apart from two dolls that were in the sitting area, Ethan was generally pleased with how everything was in order. The floor was spot clean for a home with two kids.

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Despite only having relocated to the city for three days, Ethan thought Samantha and her aunt did well for the place.

He never liked lingering in a chaotic space. Thus, Samantha's home warranted an approval from Ethan.

"Here you go, Mr. Wright. A glass of water," Diana Turner said while putting two glasses of the table down at the living room table. ③

After a second of staring at Ethan, Diana turned her attention to Kyle. Then began a series of stares that went back and forth between Ethan and the young boy.

A laugh left John Garcia's lips, and he said, "I know, I'd had the same gaping moment, just looking at the two."

"Ma'am, I'm John Garcia, I am the assistant to Mr. Wright," said John while extending his hand.

"Oh, please forgive Sam's manners. She failed to introduce me. My name is Diana Turner. I am her aunt," said Diana. "May I say... what an honor it is to be graced by

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the CEO of The Wright Diamond Corporation."

"I have a meeting with Miss Davis and thought to give her son a present along with her work laptop," excused Ethan before he remarked, "You and Miss Davis, must have worked hard to keep the place tidy."

"Oh, yes, but Kyle is also a big help." Diana wrinkled her nose and explained, "He doesn't like having so much mess."

Diana laughed before telling, "Kyle - he has this peculiar behavior. He double wipes his plates and utensils, he arranges the throw pillows and he... he has bionic eyes. He can practically see a small spot of stain in the house."

"Oh, it's the same with Mr. Wright," John revealed. "The office is always spot clean and if you notice, so is the hotel."

"How nice... Just like Kyle," Diana said while frowning at the coincidence.

Not only did Ethan Wright look the same as Kyle, but they seemed to also have the

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same compulsion for cleanliness? These were the thoughts that lingered in her head.

Diana was about to turn back to the kitchen, but something in her urged her body to look back at Ethan.

She gradually took the seat in between the kids and the two gentlemen while remaining to stare at the man. She cleared her throat and asked, "Mr. Wright... Kyle's resemblance to you is just... amazing."

Diana took one more last look between the two before she leaned forward and softly said, "Mr. Wright... About six years ago... Did you ever go to The Golden Eagle Hotel and stayed overnight?"

The question took Ethan aback. He repeated, "The Golden Eagle Hotel?"

"Yes, Mr. Wright... It's the hotel right in front of the Fort Eagle Military Camp," said Diana Turner. Her hands acted to cycle together before she asked, "And it has to be somewhere six years ago."

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John Garcia was confused by Diana's questioning, He had nothing but a frown on his face as he tilted his head from left to right. He looked at his boss and saw Ethan gave a poker face. He utterly could not tell what his boss was thinking. 4

"Why - Why does it have to be six years ago, Miss Turner?" Ethan asked while leaning back and taking a deep breath.

Diana looked at the kids before she returned her attention to Ethan. She said, "Well, about six years ago... Ummmm."

She moved further closer to Ethan, making sure the kids were still engrossed with the laptop. Only then did Diana whisper, "About six years ago... Something... significant happened."

"I'm sorry, ma'am, but I did not hear it," said John Garcia, interrupting the exchange between Ethan and Diana. 4

Diana said it so softly and only directing it to Ethan that John barely heard a word!

"It's none of your business, John. Move back!" Directed Ethan Wright.

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John Garcia saw the sudden change in his boss' temperament.

Whatever it was that Samantha's aunt said to Ethan, seemed to have triggered something in him.

John saw how his boss changed his mood from being neutral to being expressionless. But as to what? John had no idea. He could only close his mouth, for his boss was already giving him that "Shut up" glare.

Ethan redirected his attention to Diana and said, "Miss Turner." There was a brief moment of silence coming from Ethan before he resumed his thoughts, "No. I - I don't believe... I have been to that hotel."

A clear dismay became painted on Diana's face. She earnestly hoped that it was Ethan whom Samantha slept with that faithful night, but as it turns out... it wasn't him.

"I'm sorry that I asked. I just could not help but wonder." Dismissing the idea

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with her hand, Diana added, "Of course, you couldn't be."

Just as Diana went back to the kitchen, Samantha came out of her bedroom, wearing a casual, ruffled off-shoulder dress with an A-line cut. It was a simple dress, yet it flaunted her broad and slender shoulders.

Yet despite her obvious elegance, Ethan did not show any appreciation. In fact, he remained quiet upon Samantha's return, seemingly in deep thought.

"Wow! Mommy, you look so beautiful!" Kenzie remarked, seeing her mother in a dress that had been quite rare.

Kenzie then rushed to Ethan and said, "Daddy, look! Mommy is so beautiful!"

"Kenzie, it's okay, sweetheart, don't disturb." Samantha sneered a little before saying, "Let Daddy be."

Ethan wound up clearing his throat at Kenzie's constantly clinging on his arm, urging him to say something. He said while looking at Samantha, "You look."

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There was practically a second of silence before Ethan added, "delightful."

'Delightful.' Samantha ended up pursing her lips at the compliment. She supposed that was a good one, coming from Ethan Wright. "Thank you, Mr. Wright."

"Mommy, Daddy? Are you going out on a date?" Kyle asked while reaching for Samantha's hand.

With eyes widening, Samantha tried to explain, "Oh, no. Sweetie. We are just going to talk. It's an important matter - "

"Next time, Kyle. Today, I just want to speak with your Mommy," said Ethan before looking up to Samantha. "Let's go."

Together with John, they made their way to the lift and down to the ground floor where the first carat conference room was found.

It was there that John was dismissed. He was asked to have dinner alone at any of the three restaurants of the hotel while

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his boss shared a lovely dinner with Samantha Davis.

Entering the conference room, Samantha was surprised. Her lips formed into an "O", seeing a table for two, with a beautiful floral centerpiece and two servers who seemed to be waiting for their arrival.

"Wow," exclaimed Samantha. "It - looks extra special... for a... meeting."

Pulling out one chair, Ethan pointed with his hand and said, "Take a seat, Miss Davis."

"Oh, thank you, Mr. Wright," said Samantha.

Ethan took the seat in front of her and ordered for the servers to give them wine to start. He said to Samantha, "Let's get warmed up, first."

"Free wine?" With a grin, Samantha said, "Sure, why not!"

Ethan asked about the comfortability of her new home and how she was adjusting to the city. Samantha eagerly answered, giving multiple praises for the

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accommodation provided to her.

After which, Ethan asked, referring to the park incident, "So how exactly do you know how to defend yourself back there, Miss Davis?"

"Oh, that!" Samantha exclaimed after sipping on her wine. "I studied self-defense since I was young."

"Here in Braeton?" Ethan probed.

Ethan requested for another wine and as the server was pouring the red liquor, Samantha answered, "Yes. That's right."

"You know... I have been meaning to ask you... The Davises here are associated with the military. In fact, the General is a Davis. Do you know... General Winfield Davis?"

With eyes glowering, Samantha drank on her wine before she answered, "Of course, I know the General! Who doesn't? I'm - I'm not affiliated - with any relevant Davises - I'm hungry? Aren't you? Are we going to have dinner?"

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It was Samantha's way of avoiding the questions pertaining to her father. She said, "After that running, I am... so hungry."

"Sure, I suppose, we can eat." Ethan calmly asked the server to prepare the food before he returned to looking at Samantha. He said, "Food will be ready soon."

He emptied his glass and after putting it down on the table, he took a deep breath and asked, "Miss Davis, about six years ago... Did you ever stay overnight at The Golden Eagle Hotel?"

While Samantha paled, Ethan's eyes tightened at her. He repeated, "Have you?"

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## Chapter 19: The Forsaken Daughter

"Miss Davis, about six years ago... Did you ever stay overnight at The Golden Eagle Hotel?"

The question that Ethan Wright raised just made everything else turned mute. Samantha could not understand why in the world was this question coming out of Ethan Wright's mouth!

'The Golden Eagle Hotel. The Golden Eagle Hotel,' Samantha repeated in her mind. It was the place where it all started. It was the same hotel where she committed the biggest mistake in her life.

After hearing Ethan ask again, she took a deep breath and said, "Why?"

Her voice was barely audible that she had to clear her throat and ask again, "What about... The Golden Eagle Hotel?"

In her mind, she asked, 'Why did it have to be about six years ago?'

It would seem as though the food arrived on time, assisting in Samantha's burden.

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The servers came in with the starter before Ethan could answer her question.

"Mr. Wright, tomato and mozzarella salad, garnished with basil leaves and black pepper as you like it," said the male server.

"Thank you," Ethan said to the server.

He glanced at Samantha and said, "I hope you don't mind, I ordered the same for you. I like this kind of salad."

All Samantha could say was, "That's well noted."

To her, it was a reminder of the boss' favorite dishes, one she was expected to prepare on his site inspections.

The same plate was presented in front of Samantha, and she immediately diverted the topic. "Wow! Makes me want to eat!" She gave one look at Ethan and said, "Can I? I am just so hungry."

"Of course," Ethan replied.

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Samantha could tell that while she had started to dig in, Ethan was still staring at her. She did not care, however, she just wanted to get that night over and done with.

"And about The Golden Eagle Hotel." She heard Ethan say, and that altogether made her slow down on her chewing.

Only after looking up to him did he explain, "It's because... your aunt asked me the same question. So I thought... It might have something to do with you."

Knowing that the idea came from her aunt, Samantha took a deep breath, utterly relieved. She understood that her aunt was considering Ethan to be her twin's father.

She practically closed her eyes and placed her hand on her chest. After another heavy breath, she finally answered, "I'm sorry that she asked you that question."

With pleading eyes, she added, "Please ignore her."

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Following Samantha's suggestion, there was another moment of silence, but right after they both finished their salads, Ethan asked, "Miss Davis, I have been wondering."

"I saw your profile." Ethan first wiped his mouth with the table napkin and stated, "Since we are going to pretend that we are secretly married, I wanted to get to know you."

With a frown, Ethan added, "But I noticed how you never placed your father's name on your information... Why is that Miss Davis? If you don't mind me asking."

'Great,' Samantha said. Just when she had escaped a recent relevant probing, here came another.

It was as though her bladder aided her that she suddenly felt the need to go to the ladies' room. She said, "Mr. Wright, let me just... get back to you on that... I just needed to go to the restroom."

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"Excuse me," she said before hurriedly leaving Ethan in the conference room, bringing her purse with her.

As she was in the ladies' room, she contemplated whether to tell the truth, but later on, she thought, 'Surely, there is no harm in telling him.'

Thus, after using the restroom, she walked out of there, already decided to be honest about her father.

Just as she was walking down the hall, she saw four familiar figures that made her heart race.

Of course, how could she not know her own father?

It was just a coincidence that Ethan Wright was asking about him and now, there he was. ③

General Winfield Davis was walking in her direction with her stepmother, Catherine Jones Davis, and stepsister, Annie Jones Davis. Worse, her ex-boyfriend, Clayton Brown, was also with them!

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"Shoot, just my luck!" She muttered to herself as she hid behind a huge column.

"Let me just go to the restroom really quick," Samantha heard her stepsister say.

She would never want to encounter Annie in the restroom. Thus, Samantha decided to remain in the column and merely turn to face the wall. She grabbed her mobile and acted to be engaged in a phone call.

Samantha earnestly hoped they would not notice her figure at all.

When her stepsister went past her, she was relieved. She remained to linger in the same place, acting to be busy on her phone.

While she was there, however, she could hear the hotel sales representative talking, "Over here is our two-carat function room, which will be the perfect venue for your engagement party, Mr. Brown."

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She recalled how her grandmother had warned her about Annie and Clayton's engagement.

Samantha suddenly felt a pang in her chest. She silently reflected, 'How nice of my father to be personally involved with Annie's engagement party. To think, he used to dislike Clayton.'

Thinking of this, she could not help it. She suddenly felt teary-eyed with just the idea of her father, caring for a daughter that was not even his own flesh and blood! Whereas, her own father had abandoned her! 2

When she thought she heard them take steps inside the two-carat conference room, she took a peek. When she saw no one, she decided to make the walk.

The entire time, she had her eye on the one-carat conference room. It was just twenty meters away, and she was confident she could make it without being

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seen.

To her dismay, however, the enormous doors to the two-carat conference room swung open, and her father happened to come out.

Samantha wound up standing face to face with the great General Winfield Davis!

Blood easily drained out of her face as she stood frozen in her stance.

She clearly saw the shocked expression on her father's face, but what happened next was far beyond her expectation.

General Winfield Davis merely raised his chin and calmly returned to the conference. She heard her father say, "Let's just stay here for the moment and wait for Annie." 2

It broke Samantha's heart thoroughly.

She expected her father to at least rant or humiliate her, but no! What he did was far worse. He completely ignored her like she was not someone he identified.

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Her entire body trembled and the next thing she knew, tears streamed down her face.

Samantha ran as fast as she could to the one-carat conference room, weeping in tears.

She forcefully pushed open the door with all her might and as soon as she shut the door behind her, she broke down completely.

Samantha found herself down on the floor, crying her heart out and not caring for whoever was around her.

Everything around her blurred out. The next thing she noticed was how Ethan Wright was calling to her and urging her to get up.

"Miss Davis, what happened? Miss Davis?" She heard him, but she did not have the strength to focus on his words. Her entire body turned weak, shaking both in anger and pain.

Samantha just kept sobbing, trying to rid herself of the strain of having seen her

father, the same father who used to cherish her so.

"Samantha!" Ethan yelled while holding her shoulders. "Who?! Who did this to you? Tell me? Tell me!"

Only when she heard Ethan call her name, did she look at him in the eye.

When Ethan acted to step outside the conference room, she reached for his arm and pulled herself up from the carpeted floor.

Samantha wound up crashing in his torso, burying her face into his chest. She said, "Stay - stay with me... please... Please don't go outside... Just stay with me."

To her shock, Ethan swept her off her feet and carried her to the seat. 4

As she continued to whimper, Ethan grabbed his own seat and let her cry into his chest. He did not seem to mind how his custom-made suit was being soaked by her tears.

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He caressed her back again and again and said, "Whatever it is... Let it out."

It essentially took Samantha another fifteen minutes to calm herself, just savoring his manly scent.

Samantha thought his essence was really soothing. She honestly thought that Ethan was a scary man, but at that point, everything about him was comforting.

After drinking some water, she looked Ethan in the eye and said, "Mr. Wright, my name."

She took a deep breath and resumed, "My name... is Samantha Turner Davis. I am - I am the only biological daughter of General Winfield Davis... but he - he cares more for his adopted daughter." 10

"My father, he - he has long forsaken me," added Samantha before she found herself crying again.

## Chapter 20: The Mystery Man

"Where is she?" Ethan Wright asked the hotel staff. "Can you go outside and check on her?"

"Sure, Mr. Wright. Give me a moment." The food attendant was about to seek for Samantha Davis when the door to the one-carat conference room swung open with might.

Ethan saw how Samantha abruptly closed the door behind her and dropped on the floor helplessly.

Without warning, Samantha howled without hold, and tears continuously flooded her face.

The first thing that Ethan felt was a stab to his chest. His hands easily trembled in anger before clenching them into fists.

'Who dared to hurt her?!' His mind was thinking ahead.

He immediately rushed to her side and tried to get into the cause of her misery.

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Kneeling down in front of her, he asked, "Miss Davis, what happened? Miss Davis?"

When Samantha did not answer, he grabbed her shoulders and called her name, "Samantha! "Who?! Who did this to you? Tell me? Tell me!"

Ethan could no longer hide the ill intent in his eyes. He was pained seeing such an elegant woman, trembling and staining her face with tears.

He got up and turned to the door, wanting to find out who was out there that might have provoked Samantha's pain, but before he knew it, he felt her slender hands holding him.

As he turned, their eyes locked together, and Samantha crashed into his chest as she got up.

Ethan heard her plead, "Stay - stay with me... please... Please don't go outside... Just stay with me."

He wound up hugging her deeper into his solid chest and as he did; he took heavy breaths while gritting his teeth. It was his

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way of easing his annoyance at whoever hurt Samantha.

He unwittingly lifted Samantha with his strong arms, carrying her in princess style.

After the two of them settled in the seats in front of the table, Ethan took the time to comfort Samantha, the best way he could. 4

It wasn't like him at all. He did not even know how to be affectionate, yet here he was, soothing Samantha Davis in his precious chest.

Moreover, he did not mind how this woman with golden curls was staining his custom-made suit. At that point, all he cared about was consoling Samantha and he did so, not minding the time that had passed.

When Samantha stopped sobbing, merely catching her breath, he offered a glass of water and said, "Drink this."

He studied her small and dainty face, one that he thought was so exquisite, and it

saddened him how they were smeared with ruined make-up.

While Samantha was wiping her face with her fingers, he finally heard her speak, "Mr. Wright, to be - to be honest with you... my name."

Looking into his eyes, she gasped and said, "My name... is Samantha Turner Davis. I am - I am the only biological daughter of General Winfield Davis... but he - he cares more for his adopted daughter... My father, he - he has long forsaken me."

Yet again, he saw how her lips trembled and how she wept helplessly.

It just made Ethan so impassioned that he embraced her tight, once again offering relief.

After another ten minutes or so, Samantha finally calmed down. She remained in the man's chest, just hugging Ethan.

Looking down at her, Ethan inquired, "Are you feeling better now?"

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Samantha nodded and gently pulled away. She answered, "I'm sorry - "

"There is no need to be sorry," responded Ethan while slowly letting go of her.

He waited for a second before asking, "Why would... a father abandon his own daughter? Who does that?"

"Because... because I made a mistake, and it crushed his dreams of making me follow into his footsteps," revealed Samantha while stuttering. "I got pregnant, and I got kicked out of Military School."

"Of course, there is the shame of being the General's daughter getting pregnant before marriage," told Samantha while looking down at her hands.

When she gazed back at him, Samantha said, "Mr. Wright... I am so sorry that you had to listen to me and hear about my sad life." She tried to laugh at her situation before adding, "And I'm sorry I ruined our meeting!"

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She hastily searched for a tissue in her purse and wiped the tears that remained to linger on the corner of her eyes and said, "I don't mean to be rude... but... I - I really need to go."

Samantha let out a dramatic sigh and requested, "Can we - can we have this talk some other time?"

"I - I just want to stay in my room and... and let it all out," reasoned Samantha.

"Can you.. at least tell me why you suddenly broke down?" Ethan probed while trying to hide his dismay.

"I - I saw my father outside earlier... that's why," she answered while covering her mouth. "I just... I - I just want to be with my aunt and my kids, Mr. Wright. I'm sorry. I really am."

Ethan saw how her eyes were acting to water again. Her brows were drawn together as her entire body quivered.

While it disappointed him that he was not the person to fully console her, he understood. They did not know each

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other well, and she was most likely wanted to be with someone who thoroughly understood her.

"I'll make it up to you, Mr. Wright. I promise," Samantha assured with her gentle tone.

Ethan could only nod and say, "Okay... I expect that."

He turned to the server and instructed, "Bring the rest of the food to Miss Davis' condominium."

When Ethan glanced at Samantha, he saw the guilt on her face. He tried to smile, but it was really hard. A twitch in his mouth was the best that he could make out at that time. He said, "It's fine. I can have dinner at my office."

Ethan first instructed the hotel staff to make sure the General had already left the property. Only after getting an assurance from them did he walk out with Samantha, guiding her to the lift.

As soon as Samantha hopped in, Ethan said, "This is as far as I can go. I have

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matters to attend to."

Samantha nodded and repeated her apology. Barely a whisper, she said, "I'm sorry."

Ethan Wright maintained to give a friendly expression, at least the best way that he could, but after the elevator doors shut in front of him, his eyes narrowed and his temperament changed.

John Garcia had caught up with Ethan. He had no idea why the meeting between his boss and Samantha was cut short.

He suddenly sensed how the temperature within the hotel lobby felt chiller than a second ago. This prompted him to turn to his boss, and it was then that he saw the apparent anger on Ethan's face.

"Instruct the hotel manager that I want all CCTV videos, capturing the time when Miss Davis left the one-carat conference room and returned." Ethan shifted to John with his cold expression and demanded, "I want... the recordings in my email before nine in the evening!"

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"Get my usual takeaway dinner and I'll wait for you in the car. I want to work!" Ethan added before walking past John and calling the driver on his phone.

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Two hours later, Ethan was still in his office, resuming his work. Since his dinner slash meeting with Samantha was practically canceled, he drowned himself to carry out his responsibilities.

He became so engrossed with the paperwork in front of him that he forgot the time.

Ethan only realized how late it was when he received a call from Aiden, his employed hacker.

"Aiden, report!" Ethan immediately ordered as soon as he answered the phone.

"Mr. Wright," answered Aiden on the other line. "I have confirmed, Samantha Davis is the daughter of General Winfield Davis. She went to military school for

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three years but was dismissed due to... getting pregnant."

"Curse you, Aiden!" Ethan yelled. "I already know that! Tell me something I don't know! You are too slow!"

There was a second of silence before Ethan called his name, "Aiden!"

"Ah, boss. Haha! How do you know?" Aiden probed, but when Ethan did not answer, he said, "But this one! I bet you did not find this out, boss!"

"When the general found out his daughter was pregnant, he wreaked havoc all over The Fort Eagle Military Camp! He demanded all soldiers who attended the wedding of one Cadet Sergeant Emilia Plater and Mr. Lance Carter to come forward!" Aiden reported.

"Apparently, base on the intel I have gathered, one of whoever attended the wedding celebration, got Miss Davis pregnant!" 2

"The general made various threats, even violating military protocol by doing so, just to bring out whoever got his daughter pregnant. He also sought the cooperation of The Golden Eagle Hotel, plus of course, the couple who were wed! But they did not find the mystery man."

Ethan heard Aiden sigh and said, "Unfortunately, there were no surveillance videos at the hotel - it was like, it disappeared out of nowhere! And the newly wedded couple swore that everyone was already accounted for. It's too bad they never found the man."

"By the way... Boss... Isn't Lance Carter... your friend?" Aiden asked. 9

"Goodbye, Aiden. Thank you for your report," Ethan answered and immediately dropped the call.

## Chapter 21: The Mystery Woman

Taking a deep breath, Ethan Wright studied carefully the surveillance footage from the First Diamond Hotel.

He saw how Samantha had an encounter with her father, and it did not seem as though they exchanged any words.

Samantha merely froze at the sight of her father, and the great General Winfield Davis simply turned to enter the two-carat conference room again.

His hand clenched into a tight fist before muttering, "He ignored her."

He leaned back in his seat and repeated, "He just... ignored her... like she was nobody in his life."

Ethan was already in his penthouse suite, on top of one of the most luxurious residential buildings in the city. It was there where he lived alone since he turned twenty-eight, no longer under the indulging of his parents.

The second he arrived, he went straight t

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The second he arrived, he went straight to his study and watch repeatedly the videos sent over to him by the hotel manager. He did not know how many times he played it back, just zooming in and out of the videos, but he only stopped after fully determining that it was the general's avoiding that had fully hurt Samantha. ②

With a heavy sigh, he thought back to Aiden's words and mumbled, "Samantha Turner Davis... could you really be the one?"

Ethan got up from his seat and walked towards his book shelf. Behind a row of books was a secret safe.

After putting aside the books, he opened the safe and took out a ziplock bag.

Inside the bag were a conspicuous hundred-dollar bill and a piece of paper containing a note beside it. The note said, "I'm sorry. Please forget about last night."  
"

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Ethan could not help but hiss in dismay, recalling how he got the hundred-dollar bill. He meant to get the answer to that night's event... once and for all.

After locking back the safe, he turned away, carrying the ziplock bag in his hands and putting it inside his office bag.

Just as he was about to rest for the night, he noticed how his phone was vibrating. He checked his mobile and saw a Whatsapp message from Kyle.

"Daddy, why did Mommy cry so much? Did you fight? You should be here with Mommy," said Kyle.

It made Ethan rock his head and think deep. After seconds of contemplating, he answered, "Kyle, I did not hurt your Mommy. She was hurt by someone else... Your Mommy preferred to talk to your aunt than me."

"But why, Daddy? Why can't you be here?" Kyle added.

"Don't Daddies live with their families?" Kyle probed.

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Ethan wound up sitting back down in his chair. He swiveled his seat and took a deep breath. Only then did he answer, "They do... Daddies live with their families. Kyle, I'll talk to you another time. I have to take a rest now and you need to take care of your Mommy." ④

"It's your job to comfort her, okay?"  
Ethan encouraged before finally putting his phone back down.

\*\*\*

It took two days for Samantha to reach out to John Garcia, scheduling another meeting with Ethan Wright. When she did, she prepared a packed lunch for both John and Ethan to enjoy.

She dropped by the Wright Diamond Corporation in the morning, right after sending the kids to school.

Samantha was sent directly into Ethan's office and it was there that she presented her well-prepared and inviting meal, set on a bento lunch box.

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Upon Samantha's presentation, Ethan immediately hummed in delight. Despite it still being ten in the morning, he was already feeling hungry.

"You know what... I only had a toast's coffee for breakfast, do you mind... if I eat while we talk," Ethan asked.

"Of course, Mr. Wright!" Samantha agreed.

At first taste, Ethan recalled his reasons for hiring Samantha. It was more than just the sudden awe she gave him, but really, it was because of the way she cooked her food.

He concluded, regardless of the outcome of their exchange that morning, he must insist that Samantha be the head chef of the First Diamond Hotel.

Ethan had already anticipated denial and repudiation.

For the past two days, he honestly felt conflicted about Samantha, especially after learning she may be the mystery woman years back.

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However, after seeing her now, all his apprehensions seemed to have disappeared. He just did not see her as the kind of woman he thought she was... six years back. ②

"Are you feeling better?" Ethan asked before putting in his mouth the last portion of his Greek salad.

He heard Samantha say, "Yes, thank you. I came here to apologize."

"No need to be sorry. I suppose this... This is your way of making up for the time," Ethan assumed. He put down his packed lunch aside, planning to eat the rest later. He at least had a decent amount of vegetables in his stomach.

"About the dinner with the Songs - " Samantha tried to initiate, but Ethan had other plans.

"Miss Davis, I want to talk to you about something else," said Ethan while fixing his coat and moving closer to his table. "Something really... really important."

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"What is it, Mr. Wright?" Samantha asked.

Ethan leaned close to Samantha's view and studied her striking blue eyes. He took a deep breath and said, "Miss Davis, if anything, I do not like people who dismiss the facts. So in what we are about to cover... I'd really want you... to be fully honest with me."

Bemused, Samantha's brows furrowed. She raised her shoulders and said, "Of course... if it is true and something I can confirm on... Maybe I know what this is all about?"

Pulling out his table drawer, Ethan reached for the same ziplock bag that had been there for two days. He held it and said without looking at Samantha, "About six years ago... I attended my college friend's wedding, fronting the Fort Eagle Military Camp."

He leaned back in his seat and sighed repeatedly while keeping the ziplock contained in his hand. Only after resting his back did he resume to narrate, "My

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his back did he resume to narrate, "My friend... he was a prankster... While he was getting high on booze, he spiked my drink in an effort of getting me introduced to a woman - I was never really interested in women."

"A - a wedding?" Samantha asked while stuttering.

Ethan noticed the color of her face paled, and how she was having difficulty in forming her words. He heard her probe further, "Which - I mean whose wedding? And this was... about six years ago?"

"My friend is Lance Carter, he is a financial expert, now working for the military. His wife... is Cadet Sergeant Emilia Plater... now no longer a cadet, but I believe she is a captain," Ethan casually answered.

While maintaining to study Samantha, he asked, "Do you... know them, Miss Davis?"

For a second, Samantha's jaws just dropped, but soon enough, she found the

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right words to say, "Um... I knew Emilia Plater. Back in the academy... when I was training, she was one of those who trained me."

"Hmmm," Ethan answered. "So... we must have met at the wedding. We just did not know each other back then."

Ethan saw how Samantha forced a smile and said while her voice was breaking, "Ye - yes. May - maybe."

"Anyway, as I was saying, Miss Davis... My friend spiked my drink... I easily became dizzy and required a place to rest. Lance, he - he gave me a room." He sneered and explained, "He just handed me a hotel key from one of his no show guests." ①

Long story short... While I was resting and out of it, a woman crept into my room in the middle of my sleep and gave me an experience of the night." Ethan tightened his eyes on Samantha before including, "I woke up in the morning by myself." ②

Seeing how Samantha's eyes were getting restless, shifting from one corner to

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another while keeping her head gazed down, he placed on the table the ziplock bag and said, "Then I saw a note on the bedside table, telling me to forget about what happened the night before and leaving me... a hundred-dollar bill."

Ethan shook his head and hissed. He said, "The nerve of that woman! Don't you think?"

"Ethan Wright got paid off with a hundred dollars over a night of service." Ethan once again leaned forward to Samantha and said, "What am I? A Gigolo?!" 10

"Ha - ha!" Samantha was already up, putting her bag across her torso. She said, "Mr. Wright... Haha! I'm... I'm sure it wasn't like that at all... maybe it was just a... misunderstand - I better go. Mr. Wright." 8

Without warning, Samantha turned hastily and got out the door.

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## Chapter 22: The Eventful Night I

FLASHBACK: NEARLY SIX YEARS AGO.

From the grand ballroom of the Golden Eagle Hotel, the wedding party of Cadet Sergeant Emilia Plater and Mr. Lance Carter had extended for another two hours.

The husband of Emilia Plater, having a wealthy family background, was not holding back on indulging all the guests with wine and other spirits!

To the newlyweds, the party has just begun!

Disco lights were switched on while the servers of the hotel freely offered various drinks.

On one round table, Samantha was finishing her bluish cocktail, already feeling drowsy and hot all over. Yet after she gulped down the entire glass, her stepsister, Annie, gave her another. "Here you go, Sam... Drink some more! This is finally your moment. You need to have the courage so you can finally be one

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with Clayton. Poor guy has been wanting to have you for years - I mean entirely!"

While Samantha was staring at the new glass of drink, Annie took the chance to admire Clayton Brown.

He was sitting at a distant table together with his friends, engrossed in their peculiar and manly conversations. Annie sighed adoringly at the man and said, "Tsk. Tsk. Tsk... You should really have given yourself long before, Sam... Otherwise... Someone else will steal such a fine man from you."

"Hmmm... I don't think I can take more of this," said Samantha while trying to push away the drink. "You - you have given me so many... You know I rarely drink."

Gasping for air and fanning her face with her hands, Samantha revealed, "I - I feel so hot, I don't know why! I want to take a bath."

Samantha had the urge to get washed or pull down the sleeves of her dress. She

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could not understand what she was feeling, including the strange excitement in between her thighs. ②

"Drink another," insisted her stepsister. "Trust me, you'll have all the courage you need to finally sleep with Clayton."

Clayton Brown had been putting pressure on Samantha about making love and Annie knew this. He was her boyfriend of two years and they had already verbally agreed to get married. Only her father stood in the way.

Despite being a couple for two years, Samantha's father still did not fully approve of Clayton.

Her boyfriend, a senior cadet, told that if they were finally one, her father would no longer object to them being together.

Doubting everything she was feeling, Samantha suggested, "Maybe, I should go home - "

"No!" Annie immediately stopped Samantha. She put the glass back in front of her and said, "Look, finish that.

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Clayton and his friends are almost done with their drinking session. Soon, he'll be free and invite you to his hotel room."

"Just be a little more patient!"  
Encouraged Annie.

Samantha wound up getting persuaded, drinking more the colored cocktail.

It was when Samantha needed to go to the restroom that Annie saw the chance to act on her newfound scheme.

She aided Samantha in the restroom and once they were there, Samantha went straight to splashing her face with water, hoping to get cooled down. ①

Annie stepped outside, saying she would return immediately, "Sam, I'll need to check on something, okay. I'll be right back."

"Okay," responded Samantha.

The entire time that Samantha was in the restroom, alone, she repeatedly washed her face and arms. She did not realize how long she just stayed there until Annie returned.

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"Sam! I spoke to Clayton! He did not want the others to know that you guys were planning it today, so he let me pass this to you," Annie said before giving Samantha the hotel keycard. "He is in room 901. Go get him!"

Samantha found herself staring blankly at the card. But not a moment too soon, she bit her lip and said, "I - I feel so strange... Maybe I do really want him -"

"Of course!" Encouraged Annie. "You love him!"

"But - I just feel really strange."

Samantha let out a soft moan and said, "I feel so hot, Annie."

"That's you... craving for Clayton," Annie advised. "So don't wait any longer. Go and get him! Let me help you go to his hotel room."

Feeling utterly tipsy, Samantha had to be aided by her stepsister, just to reach the ninth floor of the hotel.

When they finally arrived at room number 901. Annie helped her open the

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door before encouraging Samantha to get inside. She stated, "And don't worry about Dad. I got you covered." (5)

"Annie, I'm really feeling hot," complained Samantha before pressing her thighs together.

"It's your desires, Sam. You desire to be with Clayton!" Annie shoved her inside and added, "Go and... enjoy the night."

As soon as Samantha was no longer blocking the passage, Annie immediately closed the door, leaving her stepsister in a hotel room with another man that was not Clayton Brown. (6)

Seeing the door closed in front of her, Annie grinned mischievously and said, "What a loser you are, Sam. From now on... everything will change... you'll see."

Annie Jones Davis' newfound plan had worked! She had always wanted to ruin Samantha, but that day, fate was on her side when she stumbled upon a keycard that was said to belong to another man.

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She had successfully lured Samantha into another room and hopefully, whoever was in the room would take advantage of Samantha's drunken self, whom she had given two doses of aphrodisiac.

Annie chuckled in delight as she muttered, "She did not even notice she got drugged! What a foolish sister of mine!"

Her eyes glistened in thrill as she slowly made her walk back to the lifts and went two floors down.

It did not take long for her to find room number 732, and she knocked on the door excitedly.

Clayton Brown opened the door and asked, "Annie? Where - where is Sam?"

Annie looked down and acted to feel sorry for him. She answered, "Clayton... she said... she said that she is sorry, but she couldn't do it with you. I'm sorry... I tried to convince her... I really did."

After seeing how Clayton was dismayed, Annie moved closer to him and offered, "

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Take me... Take me instead."

Annie wrapped her arms around Clayton's neck and swore, "No one will know."

She traced her solid chest with her fingers and said, "It will be our little secret. Besides, you can't let this hotel room go to waste now, do you? I'm hot and ready for you, Clayton... You know I have been."

It took seconds for Clayton to decide. He first looked around and after seeing no one, he pulled Annie right inside his hotel room and shut it close.

\*\*\*

Meanwhile, back at the ballroom, the groom, Lance Carter, was looking around under the table and tracing his steps.

He was barely walking in a straight line, but he had to look for the duplicate keycard of Ethan Wright.

"Where the fuck is that keycard!" Lance yelled, kicking off some of the seats.

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"Darling, you are drunk! Let's go to our room!" Called Lance's wife.

"But, I - I need to wake up Ethan in the morning, fuck! He needs to get home before his mother would wake up.

Damn... He is going to kill me!" Lance scolded himself. "I don't even know what room I gave him!"

"I don't think... you are in the capacity to wake him up in the morning!" Berated Emilia Plater. "You are in far worse condition!"

"Where did you put it, anyway?" Emilia asked.

"I was just... holding it and I bumped into a girl, and I dropped it! She helped me to look for it after I told her it was my ugly uncle's room!" Sadly, Lance slid on the floor after that, having no sense of balance. ☹️

He and his relatives took him to his room and Lance Carter dozed off, forgetting about Ethan Wright.

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## Chapter 23: The Eventful Night II

FLASHBACK CONTINUATION: NEARLY SIX YEARS AGO.

After entering the room, Samantha nearly fell on the floor while trying to balance herself. She was leaning against the wall with her hand, guiding her way inside the room.

She had to acknowledge how badly drunk and intoxicated she was, all thanks to her stepsister, Annie.

Aside from getting tipsy, she still could not get over the strange burning sensation on her body. She was still feeling excited and... hot all over.

Her eyes narrowed at the dark room, barely able to see clearly. Only the lights to the bathroom were turned on.

"Clayton? It's me," she called with her voice trailing off.

With hooded eyes, she carelessly made her way to the bed.

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Feeling the heat of her body, she just took off her clothes and while muttering, "I feel so hot... Aaaah... So hot... Clay. Clay?"

Even if her supposed boyfriend was unresponsive, lying on the bed face down, that did not stop Samantha from fully getting naked and climbing onto the bed. "Clay, I'm here."

Samantha was already feeling her vision going round in circles. That was how badly stoned she was.

Getting under the sheets, she pressed her body against the man and embraced his back. She meant to seek comfort from all the unrecognizable sensation she was having.

Again and again, she kept calling her boyfriend's name, "Clay? Clay, I'm here... I'm finally here."

Despite not being able to see distinctly, Samantha began to kiss the man's neck and back, urging him to face her and kiss her back. "Take me, Clay... Take me."

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Her very own actions further ignited the wildfires in her body, especially since she unknowingly took in an aphrodisiac. She found herself rubbing her torso against the man... until finally; he turned around.

Samantha continued to throw herself at him, immediately and carelessly kissing at the man's face until finding his lips.

Eventually, the man responded with the same intensity as she did, and for the rest of the night; the man took over the activities in that room.

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Ethan Wright also had too much to drink during the party. He did not know what his friend mixed in his booze, but his recognition was not at its best.

Earlier that evening, he complained about noticing how he was feeling boosted, yet he swore his vision was debatable.

His friend, Lance Carter, started introducing him to some women, but they were never to his liking. Ethan was

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never a ladies' man, nor did he see any benefits to it.

It was only when Ethan berated Lance about attempting to get him involved in a woman, did his friend admitted to spiking his drink.

Lance Carter just laughed at what he did, telling Ethan that he needed to unwind and get laid.

It was because Ethan disliked the condition that he was in that he opted not to return home. His friend, Lance Carter, gave him a key card to a room from one of his 'no show' guests.

Lance kept the other key, promising to wake Ethan in the morning.

The moment he entered the room, Ethan took a cold shower, hoping to dismiss the heat on his body.

Whatever it was that he took in, it was causing him to get all excited, especially his manhood.

He came out of the shower, with just a towel around his waist and crawled into

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the bed to sleep.

In the middle of his rest, he noticed softness on his back. It was rubbing against his bare back, stirring him completely and seemingly re-activating whatever he ingested.

The second he felt kisses on his neck and hearing a woman's voice, he suddenly felt chills down his spine. All the more, when he turned around, the same woman with a soft and slender body kissed him carelessly.

It could not be helped. The flames to his desire burned, and he kissed back with the same passion, immediately indulging.

Gone was his logic.

Back then, he thought, apart from whatever was making his body so aroused, the woman was strangely... desirable.

They wound up having sex more than once that evening with Ethan taking the lead.

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The next morning.

When Samantha's eyes fluttered open, she felt her head was about to explode. She woke up with a terrible headache, instantly shutting her eyes back.

"Oh, God! What happened?" She softly asked herself as she took heavy breaths, rolling to the other side of the bed.

To her shock, she noticed a man's figure next to her. Her eyes widened, trying to remember what happened last night.

'I was drunk... I was drunk... Right, Annie led me to Clayton's roo - but wait! Oh, my God! This isn't Clayton!' Her insides were screaming, understanding how this man, who was facing down the pillow, had dark black hair whereas Clayton had dark blond hair.

Moreover, the man next to her seemed more lean and tall than her boyfriend, Clayton.

'What have I done? What have I done!' She repeatedly asked herself in silence.

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While still under the blanket, the horror in her face could not be denied as she clutched against her legs. When she realized she was completely naked, more images flashed through her head of how she was being intimate with this unknown man.

The awareness hit her; Samantha just gave up her first to a man she never knew!

A tear fell down her cheek as she got off the bed, her hands trembled in anger. She was definitely angry with herself for being negligent.

All she wanted was to prove how much she loved Clayton, but in the end, she gave up herself to another man.

She frantically got dressed in a panic before she thought of leaving the man a note... and a hundred-dollar bill.

Samantha only took a moment to freshen up before finally exiting the hotel room, leaving the man alone, not even finding out his name.

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An hour passed.

Like Samantha, Ethan also woke up with a pain in his head. He groaned as he rolled to lie on his back.

As he massaged his temples, he realized something; he was with a woman last night and they shared a night of intimacy. His eyes opened abruptly, noticing how he was clearly alone.

However, recalling the last night's events, he was certain that he was with a woman.

It was seconds later that he noticed a note on the bedside table, along with a hundred-dollar bill.

The note suggested for Ethan to forget about what happened.

"Fuck. Who does she think she is?!" He could not help but curse! He was given a tip for pleasing a woman?

Ethan tried his best to imagine the woman's face, but he could not make out an image. All he could remember was the

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fact that she tasted like a margarita and how her skin was so soft.

Furious, Ethan got changed and walked out of the hotel room, going straight to the hotel lobby. He introduced himself as the sole heir to the Wright Diamond Corporation and paid off the hotel manager to delete all the surveillance pointing out to his room. 3

He made sure to leave a threat to the hotel manager if any of the videos were leaked. Only after getting a commitment did Ethan leave The Golden Eagle Hotel and drove off to his home.

Ethan did not care about the woman he slept with. The fact that she was able to easily ignore, having been intimate with him, only meant she was used to climbing into a man's bed!

He felt utterly disgusted, having given his first to a woman of such kind. 4

As he was driving the car, perfectly enraged, he muttered, "No one will ever

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20°C Haze



12:12 PM  
11/19/2021



# Chapter 21: The Mystery Woman

Taking a deep breath, Ethan Wright

The image shows a Windows 10 Start menu with a dark theme. The Start menu is divided into three sections: 'Recently added', 'Life at a glance', and 'Play and explore'. The 'Recently added' section lists applications like TranslucentTB, FreeOCR, and JDownloader 2. The 'Life at a glance' section features tiles for Microsoft Edge, Mail, Photos, OneNote, Weather, Microsoft Word 2010, and Microsoft Excel 2010. The 'Play and explore' section includes tiles for Xbox, Groove Music, Movies & TV, Money, News, Microsoft Store, Solitaire, and Office. The taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, a search bar, and several pinned application icons. The system tray on the right displays the date and time as 12:12 PM on 11/19/2021, along with weather information (20°C Haze) and system icons for volume and network.

Recently added

- TranslucentTB
- FreeOCR
- JDownloader 2

Expand

- &
- µTorrent
- #
- 3D Viewer
- A
- Alarms & Clock
- B
- Bloodshed Dev-C++
- C
- Calculator
- Calendar
- Camera
- Cortana

Life at a glance

- Microsoft Edge
- Mail
- Photos
- OneNote...
- Weather
- Microsoft Word 2010
- Microsoft Excel 2010

Play and explore

- Xbox Con...
- Groove Music
- Movies & TV
- Money
- News
- Microsoft Store
- Solitaire
- Office

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