

Carly sank into the couch, forcing herself to think clearly. What was her next move?

Grace had vanished, and Adam was undoubtedly aware of it by now. He was likely with Celine right now, and the two of them were probably planning their next move against her.

Carly wasn't about to let this opportunity slip away. She was determined to make Celine disappear for good.

With that thought, Carly quickly grabbed her phone and sent a message to Celine.

In the CEO's office at Alvarez Group, Celine's phone suddenly chimed. She glanced at the screen-it was a message from an unknown number.

"If you want Bella to live, go somewhere secluded and answer my call. Remember, if anyone else finds out, she will be killed on the spot."

Celine's heart skipped a beat. The kidnappers had finally made their move.

She had been preparing for this moment. As long as they acted, there would be traces she could follow.

The phone number was generated through a virtual network, confirming how cautious and calculated the kidnappers were.

Sitting in his office chair, Adam heard the ping of the text message. He looked up at Celine. "Your phone just went off. Who's texting you?"

Celine knew she couldn't let anyone else in on this.

She quickly picked up her phone. "Hailey."

Adam gave a brief nod.

Just then, Leo entered the office, his voice barely above a whisper. "Mr. Alvarez, our men still haven't found any trace of Ms. Bella or Mrs. Alvarez. But no news is good news-the kidnappers haven't made any moves yet. For now, they should be safe."

Adam nodded in agreement, pulling out a map. "Continue searching these areas..."

As Adam and Leo were engrossed in their conversation, Celine quietly stood and left the room.

In a secluded corner, her phone rang.

She answered right away. "Hello? Who are you? Do you have Bella and Mrs. Alvarez? Why did you take them?"

A distorted, mechanical voice came through the phone.

"Yes, Bella and Mrs. Alvarez are with me."

Celine's grip tightened on the phone. "Where's Bella? I need to hear her voice." "Alright."

Bella's soft, innocent voice echoed through the phone a moment later.

"Mommy, it's me."

Celine's heart tightened with relief. "Bella! Are you alright?"

"I'm okay, Mommy. Grandma is with me."

Celine tried her best to comfort her "Don't worry, Bella. I'll be there soon.

stay strong and listen carefully, okay?"

You and Grandma just need to your

"Okay."

Just then, Grace's voice came through. "Celine!"

"Mrs. Alvarez, I—"

Before she could finish, the cold, mechanical voice cut her off. "Time's up. You've said enough."

Celine felt a brief moment of relief—at least for now, Bella and Grace were safe. "Speak! What exactly do you want from me?"

"If you want to save your daughter, you'll do exactly as I say."

"Go on."

"Go to the private winery immediately; there's a party going on there."

It was a twisted request, to say the least.

Celine let out a sharp, mocking laugh. "Fine, I'll go. But you must guarantee Bella and Mrs. Alvarez will remain unharmed."

"Relax. As long as you obey, they'll be safe. But if you don't, they'll pay the price. And remember—no one else can know about this. If you tell anyone, there will be consequences."

With that, the call ended abruptly.

Celine clenched her phone tightly,

her mind swirling with questions

about what lay hidden at the

winery hidden at the private

winery. She had no choice but to go for Bella and Grace's sake.

But this was something Adam could never find out.

She returned to the office and said, "Mr. Alvarez, Hailey needs to speak with me.

I'll be stepping out for a bit."