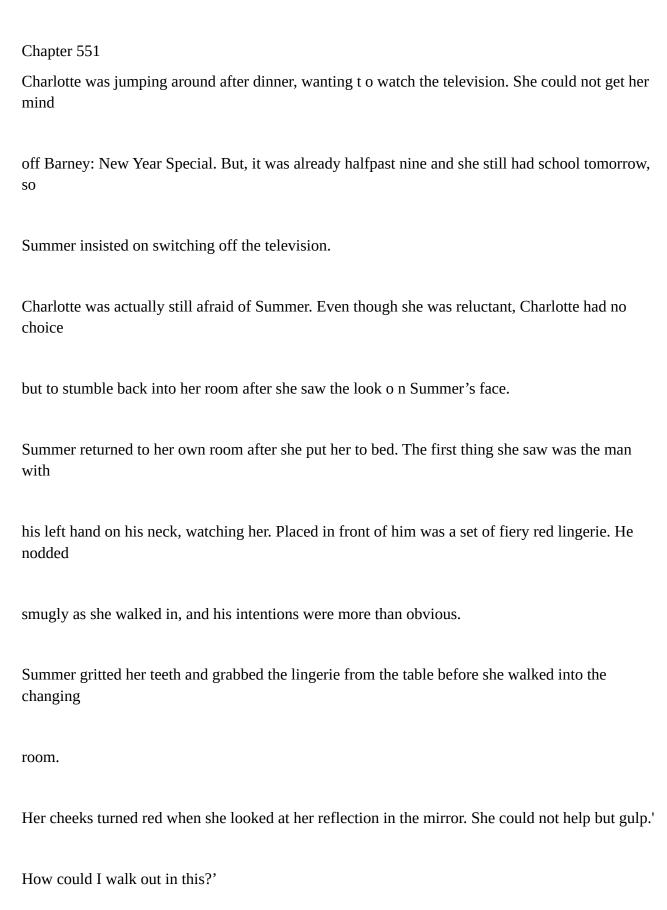
President 551



She could not even bring herself to walk out of the door, let alone wear it out just to tease Mark. After
all, she was never as shameless as he was!
She was taking a little too long in the changing room
when the man's hurried voice was heard through the door.
Summer took a deep breath and walked out.
All of a sudden, Mark's gaze turned dark and deep.
He felt his blood flowing backward as he pushed Summer aside. He then leaped out of bed and darted
toward the bathroom.
It was already autumn, and the night was freezing. Even so, he did not feel the slightest chill when the
cold water poured on his body. Instead, it remained boiling.
She did not do anything that was excessively seductive, but just her initiating it was enough to make
him surrender
As he exhaled, Mark wiped away the water droplets on his face. He supported his body with his
muscular arms on the wall, letting the cold water run down to his toes. He then cursed under his breath
before he finished his shower.

A mischievous grin was still hanging on Summer's lips as she pulled the blanket over her body. She purposely turned to the bathroom and said, "Aren't you done with your shower yet, Mr. Valentine?" "Will you shut up for me..." The man's tone sounded a little harsh. "Is this what people mean when they say the evils we bring on ourselves are the hardest to bear?" She was casually flipping through a magazine. The situation was indeed relaxed on Summer's side, but things were not the same in the bathroom. Mark was battling himself between two extreme ends of the freezing cold and burning flames. Mark told himself that he should avoid doing such things in the future. He had clearly underestimated his endurance, as well as her allure. He could not guarantee that his nose would not bleed if he had stayed a little longer back there. The next morning... Summer woke up earlier than the other two, so she went down to buy breakfast. The same figure walked out of the shop after some time, and the owner of the shop sent him off with

Nobody knew what he had said to the owner during his time in the shop...

smiles all over his face.

Chapter 552

"Yes, I've arranged everything." The man nodded.

considering getting their breakfast regularly from that shop.

"That's good..." Ronald stood up with a deep look on his face, and his emotions were unreadable...

Charlotte ate a lot, and she almost finished all the mashed potatoes by herself. Mark also had a few spoonfuls himself as he found it to be quite palatable.

It was never an easy task to satisfy Mr. Valentine. 'It seems like the breakfast shop has really done a good job with their food. It's not far from our place, and the price is reasonable too.' Summer was

She went back to the same shop the very next morning as Charlotte was already craving their mashed

potatoes badly.

"Two mashed potatoes, one hot chocolate, and two orange juices. I'll have everything to go." She pulled out her wallet as she ordered.

"We've run out of orange juice. Would you like to try horchata? It's quite nutritious." The waiter suggested a s his eyes shone lightly.

Summer had never tried horchata before, so she nodded and took her money out. "I'll take two horchatas then."

Summer's first taste of horchata left a very good impression. The combination of sweet and sour perfectly suited her preference during her pregnancy. Charlotte liked the horchata too. Ronald had not contacted Summer over the past few days or shown up in front of her. She heard he was working with the hospital to find a compatible bone marrow. That was definitely good news to Summer. If they could really find a matching bone marrow, things would be even better. At the same time, she clearly realized that Ronald had reached his wits' end when he knelt down in front of her the other day. Ronald was still a popular figure in either Santabaca o r Grudin North. His ego was definitely hurt from kneeling down for her. Why would he ever look for her again? Daisy and Solomon both knew that Summer was pregnant a long time ago. They always asked her to go back home so that they could take good care of her. Daisy would make a lot of tasty dishes as of late, and Solomon would pick Summer up whenever she

was done with work.

She would overeat every day and only go back to Mark's apartment after she had her dinner at home. Although Solomon and Daisy still held grudges against Mark, they did not bring them up since Summer was very close to him and they shared a baby together. Mark and Summer's relationship had reached a stage where it would not be easily affected by their words anymore. Solomon looked at Summer and let out a long sigh. "I was actually on your mother's side back then. Dean was a really decent man. No one knows if your current decision is right or wrong." "You're even becoming biased over him now, sigh! By the way, your mom and I went to the hospital to visit your biological mother." Solomon and Daisy visited the hospital two more times after that day, and they brought some valuable gifts along with them. Samantha had never asked them to return Summer to her, and that alone was enough for them to feel immensely grateful toward her. They had raised Summer since she was a baby, so how could they ever let her go? Chapter 553

Summer had been having horchata every morning for a whole week. In fact, she could even gulp down two horchatas in the morning due to her increased appetite. Mark would have Harry bring her lunch in the afternoon, and Solomon would fetch her back home with his motorcycle to eat whatever Daisy had prepared for dinner. This afternoon was no more different, and Solomon laughed while he said, "I am already your personal chauffeur now, sending you home every day after work." "Don't you want to be my chauffeur, Dad?" Summer wrapped her arms around his waist and leaned on his back as she played daddy's little girl, the same way she had always been doing since she was young "You're still acting like a baby even when you're already an adult now." Solomon sighed softly. "Why would I not want to be my own daughter's chauffeur?" They were talking to each other while Solomon was riding his motorcycle, and he did not notice a pedestrian. He wanted to avoid the pedestrian but he lost control of his motorcycle, and it immediately fell toward the left side.

Solomon hugged Summer tightly and let himself fall to the ground. He protected her in his arms as he could not bear to let her be harmed in any way. Summer got up promptly, and her face was as white a s a sheet. Panicking, she helped him while her face was filled with worry and fright. "Are you hurt, Dad?" Solomon slowly stood up and softly said, "I guess people really do get less capable as they age. But, my bones are still strong enough, so I'm fine." "We should go to the hospital to get it checked." Summer was worried. She thought it was best for him to visit the hospital after falling so hard on the ground while holding her in his arms. "I know better about my own body; I'm not that fragile yet. Don't let your mother know about this when we get back, or else she will never let me send you back from work anymore. Let's keep this a secret between u s two." "It's a fact that you fell down. What is there to hide about?" Solomon was in denial. "I've been riding for so many years. I only fell down because I was distracted talking to you. It had nothing to do with my riding skills at all!"

Summer shrugged. 'How is he still so stubborn at this age? He really is no different from a child.' Daisy immediately noticed the dirt on Solomon's back when they got home, and she frowned. "Where did all this dirt come from?" "I leaned on a dirty wall," Solomon said hastily and furrowed his brows at Summer with a serious look on his face. Summer did not bother to expose him and went to the washroom. Mark came to fetch her back to their apartment around nine o'clock in the evening. Solomon and Daisy's faces were still as unwelcoming as usual. Mark did not acknowledge their expressions at all. He left the gifts he had bought on the table and sat down to wait for her. It was really not easy for one to behave like him... Mark came down with Charlotte in his arms when he saw her and said, "What's wrong?" The pain gradually lessened before it disappeared completely after a while. She straightened up her back and shook her head, but her movement seemed a little weak. "Let's go to the hospital." Mark put Charlotte down to let her walk on her own before he pulled Summer

closer.
Chapter 554
"I'm really okay. It only hurt for a while. I think I just ate something wrong, so it's all good now." She
continued, "Let's go back to the apartment."
Mark arched his brows as he was still a little worried." Are you sure?"
"Of course. Do you want me to jump around and prove it to you?" She blinked and said cheekily.
"Save it. Just let me know if you're feeling unwell, okay?" She was pregnant. Was she trying to scare
him by jumping around?
Summer nodded and grabbed Charlotte's hand before she continued her way down the stairs. The pain
had only lasted for a few seconds before it vanished, so she was not too bothered by it.
She had the same stinging sensation when she woke u p in the morning. But it also went away after a
short while, so she was still not concerned about it.
Charlotte had also woken up, and she wanted to eat mashed potatoes as well as horchata. Plus, she
had scattered her toys all over the floor.
She did not brush her teeth or wash her face after she woke up in the morning. The first thing she did

was run to the living room, put all her new toys on the

floor, and build herself a fortress. Summer did not know what to do with her; she felt resigned and got

ready to go grab breakfast. Charlotte insisted on tagging along, so the two of them went to the shop

together.

Charlotte carried their breakfast in her hands while she waited for Summer to pay. She even rushed

her." Hurry up, Mommy. I'm going to be late."

Mark's brows could not help but twitch when he looked at the horchata in front of the mother and

daughter. They looked very much identical to each other.

The two of them had been having horchata continuously since last Monday, but they were still not sick

of it. 1

She went to work later on. Summer was in charge of the first and second periods in the morning. After

the first class was over, she went back to her office for a cup of water. When she was heading back to

class, however, she felt a pang of the same stinging pain from last night again.

She squatted down on the floor and bit her lip until they turned purple. She knew that there was no way

for her to teach in this condition, so she asked the teacher sitting opposite her to substitute her the	for
class.	
The teacher turned out to be very easygoing. She took Summer's textbooks with her and went	to her
class after she helped Summer back to her seat.	
The pain did not last for too long, only about two to three minutes. But her forehead was alrea	ıdy
covered in a thin layer of sweat within that short period of time.	
She drank another cup of water as she took a rest in her chair. Fortunately, that uncomfortable feeling	
did not return.	
It was already afternoon when she finished her first class. The teacher who took over her class her	s told
to grab some medicine after seeing her pale face.	
Overexerting herself was not going to make anything better.	
Summer shook her head. "I don't want to simply take medication while I'm still pregnant. I'll a	go for
checkup in the hospital in the next two days when I am free. Maybe I ate something wrong"	
It was important to only take prescribed medication during pregnancy to avoid causing any hat the	rm to

baby. There were a lot of medicines that pregnant women should not take.

"Sure," Summer gladly agreed. She thought treating her to a meal was the right thing to do after her

help.

Summer was worried that her stomach would start hurting again, so she did not eat any solid food.

Although she ordered the garlic bread and mushroom soup set, she barely touched the bread and only

ate the soup.

She did not have any class in the evening, and her stomach did not act up either, so she felt really

relieved.

"Dad, did you go to the hospital?" She sat in the backseat and asked worriedly.

Chapter 555

Solomon was still as stubborn as an ox, behaving like a child. "What for? My body is still strong. I can

live for another forty years at least, so I don't need a check-up!"

Summer was at her wit's end with him, but she had already planned something in her mind. She was

going to drag Solomon with her the next time she visited the hospital.

Summer did not spend much time at home. She packed up the roasted vegetables that Daisy had

prepared before she left with Charlotte.

Mark had an important meeting to attend that night, s o he could not make it back to send them to his

apartment. That was why they took a cab back instead.

After Summer put Charlotte to bed, she sat on the couch in the living room and waited for Mark. But, a

burst of sleepiness hit her as she slowly fell asleep on the couch.

The quartz clock that hung in the middle of the living room pointed at one. The apartment door made a

creaking sound, and Mark's tall and burly silhouette appeared before the door.

It looked like he had just returned from entertaining

his clients, as there was a faint smell of alcohol on him. His coat was hanging on his arm, and his collar

was unfolded with a loosened tie around it.

His gaze fell on a body that was curled up like a caterpillar on the sofa after he walked into the living

room. The expression and lines on his face turned soft as if a warm light had shone into his heart. He

quietly walked toward her and bent down to carry her in his arms, bridal style.

The tiniest slit of her half-awake eyes opened, and the look on her face instantly turned bright and

joyful after she saw his face. Yet, she still could not stop yawning. "You're back. Dinner is in the

kitchen." "Okay, I know. You can sleep now..." His eyes and voice turned gentle, like a ripple that was slowly dispersing over the water. The light that she kept on for him, and the effort she made to wait for him had given him a sense of indescribable belonging; he felt right at home. His fatigue and drowsiness from the dinner party earlier went away almost instantly. "I'll reheat the dinner for you before I go back to sleep ..." She squirmed around in his arms while she spoke because she wanted to break free from him. However, Mark did not keep his arms away from her a s he continued to wrap her in a tight embrace. He cupped her lower jaw with his left hand and pressed her face against his chest. "Just go to sleep now. I'll reheat it myself. Just sleep..." Perhaps, she was really drained, but she did not put u p a fight anymore. She just went on to find the most comfortable spot in his arms, closed her eyes, and started to fall asleep. Just as she was about to fall asleep completely, the man's deep but wispy voice rang in her ears

faintly." From today onward, I won't come home this late anymore..."



Summer was left with no choice but to speak gently." I'll go and wash my face. You can sleep a little
while more. I'll wake you up once breakfast is ready."
He responded softly from his throat as he let her go. She then went to the washroom to freshen up
before she went to make breakfast.
She had woken up late during the past few days, which left her no time to prepare breakfast. Since she
had gotten up early today, she did not have to go down to buy them breakfast, and she planned to
make it on her own. 1
She made Charlotte an omelet and continued to make some pumpkin soup. She also took out Daisy's
roasted vegetables that she had brought home and served
them on a plate.
A wide smile grew on her face when she was done with everything, She then went to the bedroom to
wake Charlotte up. Since Mark slept late last night, she figured that he should get as much sleep as he
could.
Charlotte was always glued to the bed in the morning. She groaned under her breath reluctantly as she

squinted and hugged her own stomach with her small hands, throwing a tantrum. "Mommy, my
stomach aches." 1
"Are you really feeling uncomfortable or do you just want to skip school on purpose?" Summer pinched
her cheeks.
"It's real." Charlotte's voice was so soft that she sounded like a mosquito whining. She buried her face
in her blanket and would not lift it up.
"It's only been a few days since you went to school, and you are already whining about your stomach
and refusing to go to school. That's okay, I'll just give your teacher a call now."
Summer pretended to take out her phone. Charlotte immediately crawled out of bed with a pitiful look
on her face after she heard what Summer had just said.
Children were more afraid of their teachers than their parents when they were young. It was like a
curse.
"Go get dressed and eat your breakfast after you're done. Your new shoes are under the bed."
Charlotte was obviously still half-asleep as she sat there reeling left and right. Meanwhile, her eyes

could not stop themselves from shutting.

Summed pinched Charlotte's nose and went to the washroom. She noticed that her underwear was stained with a bit of blood, and she frowned strangely.

There was no way for her to menstruate while she was pregnant. So, where did the blood come from?

However, there was not much stain. It was just as big a s a thumb, but it was striking red.

She put on her pants and decided to visit the hospital. However, the stinging pain from that day came

back right after she took a few steps forward.

It was more severe than the last two times. She had her hand on the toilet as she squatted down on the

floor and hugged her stomach. She was hoping that it would go away like it did the previous times.

Charlotte ran into the washroom and saw her squatting on the floor as she fluttered her dark eyes."

Mommy, what's happening to you?"

Summer furrowed her brows and took a deep breath, holding everything together. "Go get your daddy

and tell him my stomach is hurting..."

Mark's eyes opened instantly. He threw back the covers and leaped out of bed. He rushed into the

washroom and immediately carried her in his arms before he rushed to the hospital frantically.

Chapter 557

It was around seven in the morning, which was during rush hour, and the road was extremely busy.

Mark's face looked as if it was frozen in a layer of snow when he stepped on the pedal, and his sporty

SUV started to weave in between the cars.

Summer told him to slow down as her face was drenched in cold sweat.

However, it was impossible for Mark to slow down. He even wished he could grow a pair of wings and

fly right to the hospital.

He then remembered that Charlotte was left alone in the apartment. He put on his earpiece and gave

Solomon a call so that he could take care of Charlotte a t the apartment.

He sped the whole way and continuously ran red lights, which was why they made it to the hospital in a

short time. They went to a private hospital nearby, s o the environment was decent, and it was mostly

visited by the rich.

They rushed right into the doctor's office as he was already expecting them. He pressed his hand

against Summer's stomach, and the pain made her draw a cold breath.

"It's not gastroenteritis or intestinal fever. It has something to do with her uterus. Please give us a

moment, Mr. Valentine. We need to give the patient a detailed examination.

Mark's eyes fell on her expressions. He squinted as if h e was going to say something harsh. However,

he did not speak in the end and walked out of the doctor's office with his thin lips tightened into a straight line.

He sat on the bench outside the office and furrowed his brows, creating a few fine lines between them.

Everyone who walked past him would stare and glue their eyes on him, whether it be the patients,

doctors, o r the patients' families.

He had left so urgently that he did not even have the time to change his clothes or think about any other things. So, he was still in his bathrobe and slippers.

The head of the hospital heard about his arrival and rushed to the hospital. When he laid eyes on Mark,

he was stunned as he had never seen President

Valentine...in this condition...

The President Valentine he used to see was always so high-spirited and vigorous. He had an

indescribable elegance, grace, and class that emanated from all over his body.

Now, however, he was only wearing his slippers and bathrobe. His chest was exposed and moving up

and down, as he was breathing rapidly.

Yet, none of this made him look any less attractive since a bunch of young ladies and nurses would

intentionally walk by him and turn back to look at him.

The head of the hospital walked up to him and respectfully said, "Mr. Valentine, the office is just right in

front, let's go over there."

"It's okay," he uttered those two words coldly. His voice was filled with a glacial chill, like winter weather

that froze water into ice.

She was still in the Emergency Room, and there was no way that he would go to the office without

knowing about her condition first. At that moment, he could not even make himself sit still.

'It must be somebody who is very special to him for him to react this way.' The head of the hospital

coughed lightly. "Do you want to get changed, President Valentine?"

Nevertheless, he still did not leave. It would not be too late for him to change after he found out what

was happening to her.

Whether it was his image or pride, all of those were worthless in comparison to her.



anything."
If they had it for one more meal or found out about it a little later, Summer would have already
experienced a miscarriage.
Sesame seeds were on the top of the list when it came to food that pregnant women should avoid.
Together with cinnamon, they would have a stronger adverse
effect on pregnancy. Plus, Summer had been eating a large amount of them, so she would naturally
face such consequences.
Mark nodded and went into the ward to check on Summer before he went to the hospital head's office
to change his clothes.
Summer woke up and instinctively placed her hand o n her abdomen. Before she blacked out, she
could hear the doctor mentioning a miscarriage.
Mark held her hand in his because he knew what she was thinking about. "Don't worry, the baby is still
here. We arrived just in time."
"It's all my fault" Summer coughed weakly, and her heart was filled with guilt. "This only happened
because of my gluttony."

The doctor said that sesame seeds were the ultimate enemy of pregnant women. But Summer had eaten a lot of it because of her greed, risking the life of her baby.

"It's not your fault, so don't put all the blame on yourself. This was just an accident. None of us knew

about the effects of the sesame seeds and cinnamon. Don't think too much about it and get some

sleep..." His voice was as gentle as the breeze. "The most important thing is that the baby's still here,

right?"

Summer nodded lightly, and her expressions were intense. 'As long as the baby's still here...'

Her body was still weak, so she fell asleep after a short while of talking.

Ronald and Daisy had also rushed to the hospital with Charlotte. They were both relieved after listening

to what the doctor said. 1

They were almost scared to death when they heard about the news. 'Fortunately, she is okay and unharmed. The baby is safe too.'

Needless to say, the news reached Ronald. He was having his tea when he asked, "What about the

baby?"

The sole reason behind everything he did was the baby. Nothing else mattered to him.

"Still alive," said the man in the suit. His words made Ronald throw his cup of tea to the side. "What have you even been doing?" "Frankly, the dosage was quite high. But they found out just in time, so there wasn't a full effect." Chapter 559 Ronald also had the shop owner put an additive into the horchata to make people addicted to the food. It was merely a special ingredient. Besides, the addiction one got would not be as serious as drug addiction. The customers would just constantly be reminded of the horchata's taste and crave for it. As long as Summer continuously consumed the horchata, Ronald could guarantee that she would have a miscarriage. Furthermore, when the investigations start, Ronald would never be the one to blame. Putting additives into the food was something that many restaurants did, especially hotpot restaurants where they had these special spices. The failure of this plan had completely overthrown his effort. Since such a good plan had been ruined in the suited man's hands, it made Ronald furious, and he desperately wanted to throw him out of the room.

It was apparent that there was no possibility of reusing the same method after its failure. Ronald's face

remained gloomy as he sat there.

All this while, Samantha's condition had only worsened. If she did not receive a bone marrow

Leukemia was not like any other illness. There was no time for her to relax. Samantha had already

started her chemotherapy, and her hair had been falling every single day.

transplant soon, the consequences would only be frightening.

Though Samantha did not say anything about it, Ronald could see that she found it unbearable. He

took a glance at the time and headed to the hospital.

As expected, Samantha was experiencing a lot of hair loss. The hair she had now was only half of what

she had last time. But there was no doubt that her eternal beauty remained...

Samantha looked at her reflection in the mirror as she laughed faintly. "How ugly!"

She had been beautiful her whole life, and she had been maintaining that beauty. Who would have

known that she would end up in such a situation when she got older...?

The thing that was the most intolerable for her was becoming ugly!

"You're not ugly, you're still as beautiful as before." Ronald's words were comforting, and his tone was

ever so gentle. He did not want her to think too much about her current situation, or be too self-
conscious about her appearance.
"You don't have to comfort me. How can I still be called beautiful in this state? It would already be an
overstatement if I'm not described as frightening."
Judging from her reflection in the mirror, Samantha could tell that she had lost weight from her face.
Everything that was not on her face before was now surfacing on her skin-her wrinkles and dark under
eyes. They were all the things that she hated the most!
"It's just how you think, Samantha. You're still the same in my eyes, just like how I first met you."
From that day onward, he had been casually taking notes on Samantha's updates, and it was all out of
his control.
Actually, the time they had spent being together was merely a little more than half a year. It was not a
long period of time at all.
However, everything about her was beautiful and wonderful to him. No one else was able to make him
feel that way.

He loved her, and he wanted her. So, he would definitely put in his utmost effort and do his best to make her recover. "I have actually never asked you this question before. Why do you treat me so well?" Samantha could not figure it out. Chapter 560 "You don't need a reason to love somebody..." That was all Ronald had to say. Samantha stopped asking. She never gave him any extra attention before she was diagnosed with leukemia. She had thought that he was just like any other man, who was only after her looks and just wanted to sleep with her. However, she completely changed her impression of him after this incident. He was actually the best one she had ever met among all the men! Elsewhere, in the hospital... Summer was still recuperating. She intentionally asked Solomon to buy her a few pregnancy books. She only understood the importance and circumstances of her diet after this incident. She knew that she had to study thoroughly and understand everything about pregnancy. Her preferences did not change a lot when she was pregnant with Charlotte, which explained why she

did not crave any particular food. Her diet at that time remained the same as her usual diet. She did not have to do much while she was pregnant with Charlotte. Not only did her tastes not change, but she did not even experience any morning sickness. Her life was basically the same as an average joe, which was why she was so careless this time. Mark also got Harry to buy him some pregnancy books, and the books were all very thick. He pushed his work documents aside and flipped the pages with his slender fingers. He took another glance at the time before he headed to the hospital. Solomon had already sent Charlotte to the hospital. She started to complain about her stomach aching while she was playing with her building blocks. Mark held her tiny body in his arms before he placed her on his lap. "Tell Daddy what you want to eat..." Charlotte tilted her head and immediately spoke without thinking. "Horchata." Mark pushed her baby hair away from her forehead with his brows knitted tightly. "Why are you so obsessed with that?"

Charlotte pouted her little mouth and smacked her lips with her tiny pink tongue. "I don't know, Daddy. I

just want to have it, and I miss the taste."

It was just horchata, but Charlotte could still consume it without getting tired of it after more than a week. Mark raised his knitted brows and told Harry to get the horchata from the breakfast shop that was located under his apartment.

Summer could not consume horchata because she was pregnant, but Charlotte was still young.

Besides, she had no other side effects after eating the horchata for an extended amount of time.

It did not take long for Harry to bring the horchata back to them. Charlotte did not need to be fed. She

just took a spoon and gulped down the horchata.

The horchata was in a big portion, and Charlotte had already finished half of it. But suddenly, something seemed off.

Mark had also noticed her odd behavior at the same time. He kept his patience as he gently patted

Charlotte's back. "Tell Daddy, what's wrong?"

Charlotte looked like she was having a hard time speaking. She only managed to mutter a few words

after a long period of time. "Daddy, I want to vomit."

Mark felt worried and sad for	Charlotte when he	heard her vomit.	He asked Harry	to send a doctor
to				

him, and they started their examination right away.

Mark listened with narrowed eyes. He took some time to think deeply before he asked, "Do people get

addicted to horchatas?"