

Chapter 352 He Doesn't Take Us Seriously

Melissa took a few steps forward and held open her arms to embrace her children.

She wrapped them in her arms and squeezed. "I'm here. Don't be afraid."

"I'm not afraid. I have my brother to protect me," Lindsey said. "Mommy, don't worry. We are fine."

"Yes." Merrick tapped his mother's face. "I will always protect my sister. We know we shouldn't go with strangers, but he said something had happened to you. I'm sorry, Mommy. We shouldn't have followed him."

Melissa gulped back her tears.

She held the children's hands and nodded to the people hiding in the shadows.

"Don't believe what strange people say in the future. You know, you are the most important people in the world to me. If anything happens to you, I will be very sad."

"We were scared because we thought something had happened to you. Lindsey and I will be sad if you are hurt."

"I'm an adult. I can protect myself," Melissa tried to reason with them but could see Merrick's resistance. He saw himself as her protector, not the other way around. Melissa added, "You are still so young. When you grow up, then you can protect me. Do you understand?"

"We understand, Mommy," Merrick said.

She hoped he did.

She was still shaking with anger at Howell's threat. But she still felt fortunate. She knew it could have been worse. If it were that mysterious



kidnapper that had taken the children away, she would not have found it so easy to negotiate.

It terrified her.

It was nearly nine o'clock when the three of them returned home.

Johnny and Vivienne weren't at the Mayfield family's house, so Melissa took the children to her own home.

When she opened the front door, she saw Everett's parents perched on the edge of the sofa.

"Mr. and Mrs. Mayfield?"

"Thank God," Vivienne said, rushing toward them. She looked exhausted. "The teacher called Johnny and said Lindsey and Merrick had been taken by a stranger. We couldn't reach you, so we rushed here. Are they okay?"

She squatted down and checked the children. She heaved a sigh of relief when she found no injuries. "Melissa, we're so sorry. It's all our fault. We shouldn't have attended the class gathering."

"Don't say that," Melissa said. "You couldn't have known."

Johnny and Vivienne had taken good care of Lindsey and Merrick for such a long time. It was obvious that they really loved them. They didn't want the children to suffer.

"Melissa, it's true. We didn't arrange everything well..." Johnny added, gazing at the children.

Lindsey blinked her big eyes. Finally, she grasped Johnny's and Vivienne's hands. "Don't be sad. We're fine. My grandpa is a bad man."

"Yes, he lied to us," Merrick said. "Otherwise, we wouldn't have gone with him."

"Grandpa?" Vivienne frowned as she started to understand.

Bristling with anger, she raised an eyebrow at Melissa, but while the children were present, she took care with her words. Even so, there was hatred in her voice. "Doesn't he take the Mayfield family seriously?"

"He must have planned it."

Melissa frowned and looked at the two confused kids. She waved to the nanny. "Lindsey, Merrick, go upstairs and take a shower, okay? You have school tomorrow."

"Okay," the two children said.