## **Chapter 26** " On the day Mr. Yeats came to pick me up , Marian locked me in the woodshed ... " Yvonne

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uently , her

whispered , her small hands clutching tightly onto Kelvin's sleeve . She was so nervous that even her voice trembled.

The room fell silent . Maybe it was because they were shocked by the thoughts of a three year - old , but for a long moment . no one said anything-

Yvonne's tiny voice carried a sob , and her eyes , so clear and pure , seemed to show

" Daddy , I'm telling the truth ...

everything inside her .

ed her hair . " I believe you ." Kelvin lifted a hand and gently ruf

As soon as those three words left his mouth , Jan spoke up as well , shaking his head in

disbelief . He remarked , " She's really only three ? "

Ian had already been surprised the rst time he met Yvonne . She spoke thoughts were clear, and she was unbelievably likable .

But now, hearing about what Marian had done, Ian was even more stunned. He thought,

'Are kids evolving in secret these days? A three - year - old already scheming, locking

another child in a woodshed just to get closer to the Yates family? " If she's already this ruthless at her age , what will she be like when she grows up ? "  $\!\!\!$ 

Jeremy shivered , rubbing his arms to chase away the goosebumps . He said , " I knew

something was off about that girl . She kept sneaking glances at Yvonne , glaring at her ."

Jeremy thought , ' Looks like my gut feeling has been right - Marian really isn't a good person . Yvonne has been through so much , yet people still keep trying to bully her

" With a kid like that in the Yates family , I doubt they'll ever have a peaceful day again ." Jeremy sighed . Since Oliver sat right behind him in class , Jeremy gured he'd give him a little heads - up

tomorrow. At the Yates ' house , Marian knew the family was upset with her . She also knew she'd

gone too far back at the Adler family .

So , Marian had to

left , Marian's e

moment .

darke

Marian walked up to Nina slowly , snif

Yvonne had bullied her at the orphanage

had always thought Yvonne was

Chapter 26

Marian snif

her ," Nina added .

living room .

Nina hesitated for a second , her steps slowing . Hearing the sobs , she couldn't help but turn around .

As soon as she stepped through the door , Marian started crying . " Mom , Dad , I'm sorry ."

nd a way to win them back . The best way ? Play the victim .

Marian's eyes were red and swollen from crying , her small face blotchy from being wiped too hard . She looked pitiful .

When Nina saw this, some of her anger faded. Though she wasn't as warm toward Marian as usual , she said , " Come inside rst . "

Meanwhile, Oliver walked straight upstairs without a word, clearly uninterested. After he

With that in mind.

The more Nina listened , the more shocked she became . She could hardly believe it . She

ing as she started her story, telling her how

ickered in Marian's eyes. She answered, "I

ve days , their scent

lling the entire

But that wasn't the priority right now - winning back Nina was . The others could wait .

Now , hearing Marian's version of the story . Nina understood why she had been so resistant to seeing Dani .

Looking at Marian's tear - streaked face, Nina sighed, all of her resentment vanishing,

" If you were being bullied at the orphanage , you should have told me sooner , Nina said ,

her voice soft as she pulled Marian into a hug, stroking her hair.

" Well , you're our daughter now , and of course , I'll believe you . "  $\,$ 

she had loved so much , had actually been from Yvonne .

The roses had stayed fresh in their home for four or

Hidden from view , a glimmer of satisfaction

quiet and well - behaved , but in the orphanage , she had been a little tyrant ?

didn't dare to , because you were thinking of adopting Yvonne back then  $\dots$  " When Nina heard that , her heart ached . She patted Marian's back gently .

ed , her eyes still teary as she looked up . " Thank you , Mommy . "

" Since Yvonne bullied you before , there's no need for you to go to the same preschool as

Neither of them noticed Oliver standing at the top of the stairs, watching them in silence. He looked at his mother, who was full of love and concern for Marian, and felt something complicated stir inside  $\mathop{\hbox{\rm him}}\nolimits$  .

Nina had no idea - the roses Oliver had brought home from school a few days ago , the ones

Yvonne had given them to Jeremy , but the class had swarmed him , grabbing at the

owers until only one remained , and Oliver had been the one to take it .

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aw - she trusted too easily . To her , the world was full of kind people

Nina had adored them , even asking the staff to bring out her favorite vase to display them .

. Her brothers were overprotective of her , Robert practically worshipped her , and she had

Maybe that was why , when faced with a three - year - old , Nina had lost the ability to tell

Nina had instantly taken her side when Marian claimed Dani had threatened her .

learned one thing - Marian acted completely different when she was home alone .

the idea down immediately , saying it would make the maids uncomfortable .

That was the moment Oliver truly understood what it meant to be 'Innocent .

But Oliver had asked around . He hadn't gotten much useful information , but he had

Because of that , Oliver had even suggested installing security cameras , but Nina had shot

The next day , Oliver heard a completely different version of the story from Jeremy .

Oliver slumped over his desk , feeling con icted . He had already suspected that the truth

Jeremy noticed his expression and said, "Believe what you want, but I'm standing by my

wasn't what Marian had claimed, but actually hearing it was something else entirely.

Lowering his gaze, Oliver returned to his room silently.

Nina had one major

the truth from lies .

been spoiled like a child her whole life .

Whatever Marian said , she believed .

According to him, Marian was the real bully.

sister.

Oliver nodded . " Fine "

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The dog had been on her you is far and wary

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The dog dewly extend der by then there way t

If you don't believe me , we can go to the orphanage after school and ask around . " el " Fine "

with the end in the dog wd seemed to have Day there burky We're not lose to say t