Shantelle looked away but was already feeling uncomfortable, her ears feeling warm. She and Evan had

Evan, on the other hand, was over the moon. It was just a hand, but it was enough to send happy tingles,

"Woah, nice!" Lucas was amazed at the living room chandelier that he stopped guarding his parents'

Shantelle's hand. He pulled her hand up to his face, saying, "Your hands are cold." He blew air into her

He swore he saw Shantelle jolt a little, then she stiffened and gasped. He wasn't sure if he was affecting

Shantelle hesitated. She glanced to where her parents were, and seeing them studying the pieces of

He breathed out into her palm, warming her skin. When he let go, he asked, "Does that feel better?"

"I know these aren't the same pieces of furniture, Evan, but it sure feels like it,

"Ah, this was my bedroom," Shantelle recalled when she peeked through the said

walked up the window and felt the curtains, saying, "The fabric is... also the same."

What caught William's attention was how his study had his portrait on the wall, the

for over an hour with William and Eleanor, especially reminiscing about the old days.

Throughout their meal, the Scotts told Lucas tales about the house. They didn't

"I have a special spot here, Lucas. I'll show you later if it's still there," Shantelle said.

"Wow, mommy! I love it here already! So when are we moving?" Lucas said outright.

teachers that will miss you. Plus, there are about two months left for this school year.

William suggested, "For now, we can come here for vacation, maybe every school break,

sometimes on weekends. Warlington will still be our home. This home can be our

"For now," William responded. "For now. Let's see how it goes."

no Lucas. Seeing them on vacations was still a reward, and he wanted

was something in how she smiled that made it different.

With a smile, he replied, "Of course! Of course!" He exhaled deeply and claimed,

Turning to Evan, William asked, "Is that okay, Evan?"

It wasn't just the thought of running around a garden maze, but of reliving the memories of his

understand it then, but it sparked Lucas' interest about living in Rose Hills.

us, and it would take longer for us to find her," Eleanor revealed.

"Yes, I remember I had that especially made for Shanty," William added.

picture of him in his doctor's uniform, his arms crossed against his chest and his chin proudly raised.

stare at his photo much longer, he revealed, "Father had that same photo of you, and that was what I

Soon, the sweet scent of bacon, sausages, and toast filled the air, making everyone's stomach growl.

"When your mommy was little, she used to run around the entire house. Sometimes, she would hide from

"The evergreen maze?" Evan sought. "Yes, it's still there in the backyard. I just had it trimmed. Lucas

William then looked at Evan. After studying his hopeful eyes, William replied to Lucas, Lucas, boy. Your

hold his breath. Hope filled his heart, and he was this close to screaming his joy. However, it wasn't quite

"Yes, school breaks, holidays, and some weekends," William proposed. "We can't just leave our work,

was absolutely nothing to complain about. He had gone by with many years of nothing - no Shantelle and

He turned to Shantelle and smiled. She smiled back. Sure, it wasn't Shantelle's heart just yet, but there

There was a gentleness in the way her eyes gleamed. Moreover, she did not look away. She maintained

her gaze on him until he leaned over and hugged her. Shantelle hugged back, sending tiny jolts of happy

The way Shantelle accepted his embrace felt warm and welcoming. Could Shantelle open up to him,

breakfast concluded, Evan suggested, "My parents are waiting. They have been longing to see you,

After going around the rooms from the upper levels, Evan followed William into the study. Seeing his uncle

Eleanor remarked, her smile reaching her ears, utterly pleased by what she had seen so

"Thank you." Shantelle nodded without saying anything and pulled her hand away. She turned to Lucas,

From the living room to the bedrooms on the second and third floor, the Scotts saw how it was kept the

way Evan remembered it. The beds, the cabinets, how they were strategically placed, all the details were

Immediately, Shantelle tried to pull out her hand, saying, "He's not watching anymore."

walked into the doorway, holding hands. Thanks to Lucas, constantly staring at their hands. It gave her

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not want to entertain.

hand.

mixed emotions, the kind that Shantelle did

his. He noticed how her palm was cold, and

"Oh," Evan regretfully said. Still, he held

hand, covering it with his palms, saying, "Much better."

her in a good way, but he still tried. "Give me your other hand."

he was happy to keep it warm.

furniture up ahead; she gave

the weather.

Lucas."

far.

memories.

room.

saying, "Be careful,

Evan her other hand. Her hands were indeed

cold, but she wasn't sure if it was because of

Then she left Evan to follow after them.

nearly perfect, bringing back happy

"And it looks the same!" Eleanor said. She

same one that used to be there. It was a

used. I had it blown up and framed."

"I could not find the same frame, but the

The tour around the old Scotts estate lasted

"Let's all have breakfast. The maids had

already set the dining area," Evan called. '

"We are all hungry," Shantelle said back.

I'm famished."

would love it."

front and back lawn.

You can't miss school."

what he expected.

vacation home."

grandparents and mother. Plus, the

mansion was twice bigger than their home

back in Warlington. Moreover, it had a vast

"Um." Shantelle's eyes rounded at Lucas'

probing. She turned to her father for help.

school too. You have classmates and

The way William said it to Lucas made Evan

"Oh," Lucas did not hide his dismay. He

Evan swallowed air down his throat. There

pouted, "Only on vacation?"

"Vacation?" Evan asked.

Evan. You have to

understand that."

to cherish it.

It's a good start."

electricity throughout his body.

eventually? He certainly hoped.

But more than the yearning of his heart,

Evan knew his parents also had their wishes.

Erick and Clara wanted to rekindle the bond

with the Scotts, their old-time friends. When

"Grandma Clara and Grandpa Erick? I miss

William and Eleanor looked at each other,

them too. It has been... so long."

nodding. William said, "We – we want to see

Heartbeats later, William and Eleanor stood

in front of the Thompson's mansion. Erick

and Clara were already outside the door,

"Erick," William said back. "I'm glad it was

On the other hand, Clara and Eleanor smiled

at each other, and the next thing they knew, they were in each other's arms, crying.

It did not take long for Erick and William to offer each other a manly hug, both

It was a moment of rekindling, a chance to mend the relationship that was once

"It's been too long, my friend," Erick said. "I thought I would die without seeing you

William continued to tap on Erick's back. He answered, "I guess fate had other plans."

Shanty who operated on your heart."

repeatedly lightly tapping their backs.

their eyes full of yearning.

"William," Erick called.

forgotten.

again."

Uncle, Aunt. Shall we go see them?"

them!" Lucas exclaimed.

His heart craved it so much.

mommy and grandpa still have work in Warlington. You still have

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"Me too!" Lucas claimed.

size and the copper-like color are the same, "Evan explained."

They just realized how it was already past nine in the morning.

reaching his heart. He relished the feel of her soft hands against

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