

The Secret 441

[Chapter 441 Behave Yourself](#)

The next morning, while Roxana was still sleeping, someone knocked on her door.

-Mommy! Bautista's little voice could be heard behind the door. "Mommy, wake up!"

Roxana jumped awake thinking something was wrong with the children, so she rushed to the door without hesitation. But when she opened it, she found the innocent little faces of Andrés and Bautista who looked at her with puppy eyes as they whined:

—Mommy, are you going to send us to kindergarten today?

Her little eyes were full of anticipation.

Roxana was already fully awake by then and, after hearing her children's whining, she remembered her disappointed faces from the night before. After thinking about it for a moment, Roxana said:

"You go ahead with breakfast." I'll catch up with you in a moment and after breakfast you can go to kindergarten.

André and Bautista's little eyes radiated emotion and they obediently ran to the stairs. Roxana, for her part, changed her clothes and went down to the dining room. By the time she arrived with them, the two boys were already patiently waiting for her at the table. During breakfast, the boys were more attentive than usual and kept putting food on Roxana's plate.

She already knew why she was so happy and couldn't help but feel a little exasperated, but there was nothing she could do about it. Roxana remembered what Luciano had told her the day before and she knew that she was right. Andrés and Bautista were normal children, but as soon as they showed any disagreement or complaint, Roxana tried to appease them in any way, especially with someone as emotionally unstable as Estela. But she couldn't say so to Luciano since she wouldn't have a good result. Furthermore, she had already managed to resolve the issue with the research institute and had been presented with this amazing opportunity. The last thing she wanted was Sonia getting in her way again.

Roxana's gaze softened when she saw the two children by her side and she informed them casually:

—I'm going to send you to kindergarten today, but I'll let you know that I'm going to deal with it later, so I'm going to ask Miss Landa Or ask Aunt Magalí to pick you up later, is that okay?

Andrés and Bautista looked at her somewhat confused.

"Haven't you already arranged the research institute thing?" What do you need to do now, mommy?

Roxana took a deep breath before patiently explaining to them:

—There is a very important family of doctors that is organizing a medical consultation session in a couple of days. I am going to be part of that consultation and I need to prepare myself. This is a very important opportunity for me, so you guys should be very good, okay?

After hearing the explanation, Andrés and Bautista nodded somewhat forcefully. Although they felt bad for Estela, they knew that Roxana's job was more important. Noticing how understanding her children were, Roxana was able to breathe easy and, after breakfast, she took them to the kindergarten.

By the time they reached the garden gate, it was still very early and there were few people waiting. Roxana looked around her and not seeing Luciano or Estela near her, she was finally able to relax. Then, she left Andrés and Bautista in the hands of Pilar and turned around to leave before running into them somewhere.

However, Andrés and Bautista wanted Roxana to stay a moment longer until Estela arrived. They knew that Roxana would be very busy these days, which would make it very difficult for Estela to see her again, and they did not want her to be sad. Of course, Roxana knew what the boys were up to and, after dedicating a few words of comfort and encouragement to them, she handed them over to Pilar and she hurriedly left the place. While Andrés and Bautista watched Roxana's figure disappear in the distance, they looked downcast because they didn't know how they would deal with a sad Estela.

[Chapter 442 Has Beared Fruit](#)

Once Roxana had left, Andrés and Bautista refused to enter the kindergarten facilities. At this, Pilar already felt a headache coming on. "Oh. It's the first time they've been so reluctant." Then, she leaned in and went towards them to try to persuade them:

—Andrés. Baptist. Why don't you go inside?

In response, Andrés pursed his lips without saying a word while Bautista made eyes at Pilar and said:

"We're waiting for Ela to arrive, Miss Garcia."

Upon hearing this, Pilar remembered the relationship they have with Estela and, after patting them on the head, she agreed to her request.

Not long after, Luciano's car pulled up and stopped at the school entrance. Moments later, Luciano got out of the car with Estela in her arms and she raised her head and looked around her until she met Andrés and Bautista. Noticing her presence, he continued to search for signs of Roxana's presence, but was unsuccessful, after which he just hung his head showing her great disappointment.

Luciano could not help but frown when he noticed that the only ones waiting for Estela's arrival were Andrés and Bautista next to Pilar.

"Mr. Fariña," Pilar greeted politely as she took Estela from her arms.

But Luciano didn't leave immediately and directed his gaze to the boys who were standing in front of him.

«She has been sad since last night, most likely because she has not seen Roxana. She asked me to bring her to school earlier today hoping to be there when she arrived. But when she arrived, she was already gone! She must feel very sad ». And suddenly, sadness invaded him too.

As soon as Andrés and Bautista saw the sadness on Estela's face, they approached her, took her hands, one on each side of her, and explained: —Mami

is very busy with work. She says that she has a very important opportunity that she has to prepare for and that's why she left early.

But all Estela heard was that she was busy with work and she only felt sadder.

—So... Miss Jerez isn't going to come anymore?

«Miss Jerez has already been busy with work before and she stopped coming for them. She has even used work as an excuse not to see me ».

Estela was very sensitive to this issue, despite her young age.

Hearing this, Andrés and Bautista looked at each other feeling somewhat guilty.

"Mommy said just that this morning, but we can't tell her now that she's so sad."

The boys thought about it for a moment before casually changing the subject and said with a smile:

—Mommy won't be able to come these days for us, but she said we'd stay in Chepa for a while!

Estela's eyes lit up for a moment, but she then looked at them suspiciously. Noticing this, Bautista put his hand to her chest and swore to her with certainty:

—It's true! The work that mommy has to do must be done here in Chepa, but I'm not sure how long we'll stay.

Estela then directed her gaze to Andrés, who nodded seriously confirming what her brother had said. After confirming this, a smile blossomed on Estela's face.

«I thought that Miss Jerez would go abroad soon and that I would never see her again and that made me sad. But if what they tell me is true, I will have a chance to see her for as long as she is in the country!" Thinking this made her very excited and her smile grew more and more until her eyes were no

more than two little lines.

Luciano, who was listening to all the children's conversation, raised an eyebrow when he heard Bautista say that Roxana would be busy with work.

"Looks like Jonatan's strategy has paid off!"

[Chapter 443 A Complete Family](#)

Roxana spent the next few days getting ready for her doctor's appointment. Her knowledge of the Dorante family was limited to mere rumors and the forum that Javier had recommended to her, so she felt that it was not enough. This was an extraordinary opportunity and she, if she wanted to make the most of it, she needed to be as prepared as possible.

Because of this, she had already become a regular visitor to the Quevedo residence in recent days. Alfredo felt a lot of admiration for her, so he didn't mind answering all of her and each of the questions that he had about the Dorante family. When he finished talking about the Dorantes, Alfredo asked Roxana to help him sit in her chair and then he ventured to say with a serious tone:

"I've already tried to get you and Jonatan to get to know each other better, but neither seems to be interested in the other." I already know that. But you are a woman with two children. You can't keep doing this alone. Do you have an interest in someone? tell me; maybe she can give you some tips.

The sudden change in the conversation took Roxana by surprise. She didn't know how they had gone from talking about the Dorantes to dealing with her personal life. In response, Roxana shook her head, feeling a little embarrassed, and said:

—Andrés and Bautista are very sensitive children. They do not cause me any kind of concern and I have no problem taking care of them. Also, I would like to make my way in my professional career first before complicating my life with a relationship.

After this, Alfredo gave him a disapproving look.

"It may not bother you, but those children should have a father." At the end of the day, what every child wants is a complete family.

At the mention of Andrés and Bautista, he couldn't help but feel guilty, so he kept silent for a moment and decided not to say anything else. Alfredo, for his part, took his eyes off him and continued without qualms:

—The representative of the Dorante family is a young man who differs from him in all aspects. I think you should consider it.

As soon as the words came out of his mouth, Jonathan's voice was heard from the entrance of the mansion saying:

—Grandpa, what are you saying to Dr. Jerez? She is a brilliant woman. I'm sure she has a long list of people interested in her. Sure she has plans for her life that don't include considering any at the moment.

Jonatan didn't have much to do at the office, so he had come home earlier than usual that day and after finding out from her servants that Roxana was visiting, he decided to go and say hello. It was then that he by mere coincidence heard her grandfather trying to match her just as she passed through the backyard, so he rushed to stop him.

Although Alfredo was not aware of every detail, he had everything very clear.

«Luciano already had his eye on Roxana. If her grandfather, by a stroke of luck, managed to set her up with someone, how could I explain it to Luciano?»

Hearing his voice, Alfredo and Roxana turned around at the same time.

Roxana did not want to bring up the subject, so she felt that Jonatan helped to defuse the situation and she received him with a smile. On the other hand, Alfredo gave his grandson an annoyed look and said:

—You brat! You don't have a girlfriend. What are you doing sticking your nose into Dr. Jerez's affairs?

Jonatan jokingly touched his nose as he stood between them.

“I hear that she has been working diligently these past few days, Dr. Jerez. How is your preparation for the medical consultation going?”

Roxana smiled and answered:

—Thanks to the fact that Mr. Quevedo recommended me to the Dorante family and has spent the last two days answering all my questions, I feel quite confident.

Jonathan raised an eyebrow somewhat disapprovingly and said, "

Her medical skills are exceptional." Even if he didn't have all this at his fingertips, he would do just fine. There is no need to be nervous.

Roxana nodded her head and smiled.

—I hope so, Mr. Quevedo.

It was getting late, so Roxana decided to retire. Jonatan walked her to the door and, before saying goodbye to her, he stressed:

—I didn't listen to my grandfather. If she's really interested in finding a father for her children, I think Luciano is a better candidate.

[Chapter 444 Sad](#)

Roxana was unaware of Jonatan's intentions, so she took his comment as a mere joke and replied:

—Mr. Quevedo, don't say those things. Mr. Fariña is engaged. Also, right now I have no plans to have a romantic relationship with anyone.

"Would he consider it if he wasn't engaged?" Jonathan insisted.

The smile on Roxana's face disappeared little by little. The question startled her and she coldly ended the conversation.

-It's late. I must get home. You should hurry inside too, Mr. Quevedo.

Saying this, he immediately got into his car and, before Jonatan could process what happened, he started the car and left the scene. It wasn't until Roxana's car disappeared from her sight that she was able to come to. Roxana's reaction had seemed very strange to her.

"I asked him if he would consider Luciano and his immediate response was that he is already engaged"...

After leaving the Quevedo residence, Roxana felt a mixture of emotions that was rare in her life. She had been so busy with the affairs of the Dorante family that she had put aside everything related to the Fariña family. So much so that the only moment in which she was involved in the subject was in the brief moments in which Andrés and Bautista mentioned Estela when they got home. Luciano, on the other hand, seemed to have disappeared from his world.

Jonatan was the one who brought up her name and even proposed something she had never considered.

"If he wasn't engaged"...

Roxana thought about it for a moment before letting out a self-deprecating giggle.

«He has been obsessed with April for years. There would be no chance! Besides, my experience with him a few years ago was enough for me to forget about him and I don't intend to stumble over the same stone again».

By the time she got home, Andrés and Bautista were already waiting for her and, seeing her come in, they ran to receive her. However, they didn't seem so enthusiastic before. Since Roxana began to avoid Estela, the boys were discouraged and Roxana couldn't help but think of Estela when she saw her sad faces.

"When will you finish work, mommy?" Bautista asked curiously.

Roxana just patted their heads to comfort them.

"I'm not too sure, but this is something very important to me and I need you to behave yourself." Now that I'm done with work, let's go out and have some fun, okay?

Once the medical consultation was over, the Dorante family would be choosing a collaboration partner, so Roxana wanted everything to go perfectly throughout the process.

Andrés and Bautista didn't seem very interested in going out to have fun, since they barely and almost robotically nodded when they heard their mother's response. At this, Roxana gave a helpless giggle and led them to the table. After dinner, the boys were still in a bad mood and went to her bedroom early. Roxana hesitated for a moment before following them to her room and, seeing her enter, Andrés and Bautista obediently sat on the edge of the bed next to each other. Roxana then sat next to her and asked:

"Are you sad because Ela is sad?"

Andrés and Bautista remained silent and only pressed their lips together. Seeing this, Roxana took her hand to her little head and caressed it a little.

"You have always been very smart boys. What is happening now?"

The little ones tilted their heads in confusion.

—Mommy really likes Ela, but for reasons beyond her understanding, I can't have much contact with her. I hope you can be considerate of me. If they look at her sad in kindergarten, it is her obligation to take care of her on my behalf and try to make her feel happy —Roxana continued— I know she likes me, but she also likes you a lot and, if you treat her well, surely you will feel happy.

[Chapter 445 He Prefers Not To Visit Her](#)

Regarding Estela, Roxana couldn't help but feel a bit upset. The smile on her face turned somewhat forced. Estela was unhappy because of her and the only thing she could do with herself was use the boys to console her on her behalf.

Seeing her expression on her mother's face, her eyes darkened and remorse was clear on her face.

"Sorry, mommy.

Roxana frowned, taken aback by such a surprise apology.

Bautista murmured weakly,

"We shouldn't have been mad at you because of Ela." You must be very tired, mommy. Don't worry. We will take care of making her happy from now on.

—You concentrate on your work, mommy. We will take care of Ella! Andrew continued.

Roxana smiled gratefully and said:

—Thank you, my love.

"But it would be better if you visited Ela one day, mommy," Bautista whispered, but out of fear that she would have heard him, she announced smiling, "But she's also fine if you can't visit her." We'll take care of her for you, mommy!

Roxana just smiled and patted him on the head. She then left the children to rest and retired to her room.

Meanwhile, at the Fariña residence, Estela had been sad ever since she came home from kindergarten. Luciano did not understand what was happening.

"She seemed happier after finding out that Roxana wasn't going abroad anytime soon, but for some reason she's down again."

-What's going on? He asked confused.

"Miss Jerez..." Estela admitted grumpily.

"Of course. Only Roxana would have her this agitated. Luciano's gaze darkened a bit.

—Didn't you say that she was no longer going abroad? Why are you still sad?

Estela looked at him annoyed and, pouting, replied:

"Because I haven't seen her!"

Estela hoped that she would have the opportunity to meet Roxana now that she would no longer be leaving the country, but she had not been able to see her for a single moment in these last days. She woke up every day expecting to find her and every day she ended up disappointed. After a couple of days of the same thing, she couldn't help but feel rejected to the point of getting irritated at having to go back to Luciano.

"It's because of daddy that Miss Jerez doesn't want to see me!"

Luciano, for his part, was unaware of the thoughts in her little head, but given the look she gave him, he sensed that it was very similar to the one he received from Andrés and Bautista.

"Since Roxana appeared on the scene, the three children seem to hate me."

Realizing this, her head began to ache, but she patiently tried to reassure the girl.

"You'll be able to see her one of these days." After all, it's not going anywhere.

Estela, however, shot her furious looks, making it clear that she didn't believe him at all. Luciano couldn't help but massage his temples and say:

—I'll see what I can do for you. But for now go to sleep, okay?

Estela narrowed her eyes for a long time while she watched him, skeptical of her words. Then she held out her little pinky to him and said in a sweet voice,

"Promise on the pinky."

Luciano reached out and took her little finger with his before she gave in. He then sent her to her room, but, remembering how much she had cried the last time she slept, she decided to stay by her side until she was fast asleep before getting up and leaving the room. room.

Luciano stayed for a moment at the door and his expression showed a terrible sadness.

«Estela needs Roxana so much and the woman is so cruel that she prefers not to visit her even once. If I knew what Roxana told me this morning, I would surely cry seas ».

[Chapter 446 A Strange Look In His Eyes](#)

The next morning, as soon as she woke up, Roxana saw the message that Leandro had sent her the night before. The message read: "Do you have space tomorrow? And if we eat together? Roxana thought for a moment about her activities during her day and answered: «In the afternoon. Let's eat near the research institute." Leandro agreed from the other side of the line.

As soon as afternoon fell, Roxana received a call from Leandro.

-You finished work? I'm waiting for you at the entrance to the research institute —Leandro said as soon as they answered the call.

At that time, Roxana was discussing details of a new project with Conrado. Seeing her take the call, Conrado stopped the conversation and waited politely. After I heard Leandro say that he had already arrived for her, Roxana returned her gaze to Conrado, who was in front of her, and responded with an apology: —Leandro, you're going to have to wait for me a moment

. I'm finishing something on this side. You can also come and wait for me in here.

Leandro refused with a chuckle and said:

"No, it's fine." I'll wait for you here at the entrance. Take your time.

Roxana only murmured in confirmation and she ended the call before continuing her conversation with Conrado.

Roxana wanted to spend the next few days concentrating on preparing for the Dorante family's medical consultation. The work at the research institute had already stabilized for some time, and the problem with the herbal medicine suppliers had also been resolved. Now all he had to do was delegate the pending issues of the institute to Conrado and, after talking for a while, the replacement was confirmed.

Roxana also took the opportunity to remind Conrado about a couple of other things, but the man interrupted her with a giggle and said: I've been working at the research institute for several years now and I've been working with you all this time. Don't worry. Leave it in my hands. They are already waiting for you. Don't delay any longer.

At this, Roxana hesitated for a moment, but she soon nodded her head and gave him a smile.

«It is true that he has been working at the research institute for longer than I have and we have worked together since I joined. Sure, there's nothing to worry about."

"In that case, I'll stop talking nonsense." You should also take a break. Come eat with us! Her," she said as she took her bag and waited for Conrado.

Although the institute had a cafeteria on its premises, very few ate there. Most preferred to go out to eat at the surrounding restaurants and Conrado was no exception. But Conrado wasn't sure about this since he knew he couldn't avoid Leandro if he went with her. After hesitating for a couple of seconds and noticing that Roxana was waiting for him, she rushed to her side and they both headed towards the institute exit.

Once at the entrance of the place, Leandro was already waiting for them as he had indicated to Roxana. He was afraid that she would not be able to find him, so he chose to wait for her outside the car and, seeing her get out of it, he waved for her to come closer to her. In response, Roxana stepped forward in front of Conrado. His gaze darkened for a moment as he watched her walk away from her, but he soon returned to her normal. Then, she inclined her head a little in a courteous greeting to Leandro and in response he returned a warm smile.

It didn't take long for Roxana to arrive next to her, Leandro looked up to observe Conrado more carefully, who by this time had already turned around and moved away from her a little.

-Who is that? Leandro asked curiously.

Roxana responded with a smile:

—It's Conrado Galarza; a colleague from the research institute and an exceptional doctor. We have already worked together abroad, but I don't know if you two already know each other.

Leandro nodded a little and said:

"Get in the car."

"I don't know if it's me or if there was something strange in the look that that man gave Roxana before, but I can't specify what made me uncomfortable."

[Chapter 447 A Mysterious Family](#)

Roxana was completely unaware of what these two men were thinking and, during the drive to the restaurant, she only asked with a smile:

—Why did you suddenly decide to invite me to eat? Didn't you just come back from Solare?

Leandro nodded casually.

"Yes, I got here last night. I took the flight as soon as I said goodbye to Mr. Linares. It was already midnight when I made landfall.

Given the time that she received the message, Roxana deduced that she would have sent it to her as soon as she got off the plane.

I wonder if he has something important to tell me?

"Senor Linares sends his regards and asks if the issue with the research institute has been resolved," Leandro said.

A big smile formed on Roxana's face when she heard that Gerardo still remembers her.

—If it hadn't been for Mr. Linares and you, the medicinal herb merchants would surely have hesitated to sell us the product. But thanks to the great respect they have for Mr. Linares, a few words from him were enough for them to agree willingly.

Leandro nodded his head a little and said:

—I'm glad that everything is settled now. The only thing that worries me is that Mrs. Fariña will make things difficult for you in the future.

After everything that had happened, Leandro had noticed that the woman had behaved unfairly with

certain things. He could imagine why Sonia had her in her sights, and it is that she held a grudge against him for having left without saying a word and for having become so familiar with Luciano. But for Leandro, Roxana was the victim in this situation, in addition to the fact that she was not the one who sought to have contact with that man at this time.

Instead of wasting time being cruel to Roxana, Leandro was of the opinion that Sonia should keep a closer eye on Luciano. And, although he wanted to help Roxana, he was not the head of the Morales family and the Morales were no competition for the Fariñas, so his hands were tied. Fortunately, all these matters had already been resolved.

At the mention of Sonia, Roxana felt great anguish in her chest.

"I don't know what could happen either, but I've already tried everything to get out of her sight." Hopefully one day I can forget that I exist.

«It is something I want, especially at this time when I am presented with an opportunity like this to participate in the Dorante family's medical consultation. Also, I would like to compete for the opportunity to collaborate with them. But if I were to lose such an opportunity because of him, I don't know what I would do."

Leandro could see the concern on his face and he felt guilty for having brought up such a recent situation. After this, there was a great silence in the car.

After a while, Roxana recovered her composure and changed the subject as if nothing had happened.

-Oh yeah. Leandro, is something wrong or why did you invite me to lunch today?

«The last time he invited me to dinner was in Bellavista to accompany him to the medical conference at that time. I wonder what he wants now."

Hearing my question, Leandro went straight to the point and said, "

You've spent most of your professional life abroad, so I don't know how much you know about the Dorante family." They are a highly regarded family and are considered to be leading the way in the field of traditional medicine. However, they have long been withdrawn from the public eye and have rarely made an appearance. In general, they are a very mysterious family.

"Hmm... The Dorante family once more. This is the second time someone has spoken to me about them in recent days."

Roxana was feeling a bit lost.

—I've already heard about them and the reality is that I've always had a great interest in the Dorantes' ancient medicine books. While working abroad, I always longed for the opportunity to visit them, but

the opportunity never presented itself. What I do know is that they will be giving a medical consultation session soon.

Leandro raised an eyebrow and looked at her out of the corner of his eye, somewhat surprised.

"I wonder where he got that information from."

"That's exactly what I want to talk to you about."

[Chapter 448 You Won't Let Anyone Down](#)

Leandro and Roxana talked until they got to the restaurant. Once Leandro parked the car and the two entered the restaurant, they sat at a table near the window. Leandro had already made the reservation well in advance, so the food was not long in coming.

While they ate, they continued talking about the Dorante family's medical practice.

—All information related to the Dorantes' medical consultation tends to be handled in very closed groups. How did you find out about this? Leandro couldn't resist asking.

Roxana, for her part, had no reason to hide anything, so she said:

At first, the truth is that I had no idea. In fact, I was already planning to go abroad. However, on my visit to the Quevedo residence two days ago to thank them for all the support, Mr. Quevedo mentioned it to me out of the blue. And that's how I decided to extend my stay in Chepa.

Leandro frowned and said:

"Go abroad?"

Roxana chuckled lightly and answered:

—Well, as you can see, the research institute is being targeted by the Fariña Group because of me. So, instead of staying in Chepa and ending up causing further damage to the institute, I thought it would be better to go abroad. I don't want problems with the Fariña family and I don't want to hide either.

Leandro couldn't help but let out a sigh while thinking about how unfair this was for Roxana.

She continued with a casual smile:

—But now that I'm aware of the Dorante family's medical office, there's nothing that can stop me from staying, not even Mrs. Fariña.

Given this, Leandro couldn't help but look at her annoyed by the situation, but, seeing how excited she

was about the consultation, he decided not to mention Sonia again and thus avoid ruining her good mood. Instead, he said gently, "

And that's exactly why I decided it would be a good thing for us to meet today." The Dorantes' medical consultations are often conducted in collaboration with other physicians in the area. Would you be interested in something like this? If you say yes, I can contact Mr. Linares right now. I have no doubt that with his recommendation you will have a guaranteed space. I have a space reserved for the Morales family, so we could go together.

Roxana's eyes shone with emotion.

—So, will you also be present, Leandro?

She had been a little worried about feeling out of place, but with Leandro by her side this would no longer be a problem.

Immediately, Leandro raised an eyebrow and exclaimed:

—"Also"? Do you have your place confirmed?

Roxana nodded while she outlined a big smile.

—After Mr. Quevedo told me about the Dorantes' consultation, he said that he would personally recommend me to the Dorante family. I've been preparing for a couple of days and hoping I don't do something stupid and end up embarrassing him and my mentor.

"With your medical skills, I highly doubt you'd embarrass anyone." Of course, as long as everything goes well —Leandro said while Roxana smiled shyly and continued: —Besides, with Mr. Quevedo's recommendation we no longer need to bother Mr. Linares, although I must tell you that he was also ready to grant you the place.

Leandro's comment had perplexed Roxana.

Then, Leandro continued:

—Senor Linares hasn't accepted apprentices for a long time. He admires your work and you very much since he first met you and, after finding out about the Dorante family's medical practice, you were the first on his list and he asked me to come and ask about your plans. In case you wanted to introduce yourself, he would personally recommend you to the Dorante family," Leandro explained with a smile.

Roxana felt flattered by his words and did not hesitate to respond immediately:

—I appreciate it very much. I'll have to thank you in person the next time we meet. Let him know that I will do my best during the medical visit and that I will not let him down. Leandro, in response, smiled

and nodded.

After lunch, Leandro drove Roxana back to the research institute.

— In these days it will be deciding where the medical consultation will take place. As soon as I get that information, I'll pick you up so we can go together,” he suggested as Roxana got out of the car, to which she nodded and gave him a smile.

[Chapter 449 Don't Forget To Go Through Them](#)

"Don't take it too personally. There is no doubt that you are brilliant. It's just that the places provided by the Dorante family are very few. If it were not so, we would go together.

Conrad limited himself to a forced smile and said:

—It's okay. We both work at the research institute, so it doesn't matter much which of us may be present.

Saying this, Conrado left quickly without even waiting for Roxana's response and went to her office. Roxana did not understand the reason for her abrupt withdrawal, but she did not give it much importance either and, taking her bag, she also went to her office.

Hours later, when they met in the experimentation area, Conrado was noticeably quieter than usual and seemed to have trouble concentrating while conducting some experiments. After noticing this, Roxana chose not to bother him and just took over his tasks in silence.

It wasn't until they left work that Conrado finally composed himself and, remembering his attitude from a few moments before, he apologized to Roxana: —I apologize

for my behavior this afternoon. Give me one night and I'll be back to normal.

Roxana was smiling and understanding.

[Chapter 450 Mixed Feelings](#)

After ending the call, Roxana was still wondering if she should go to kindergarten and ended up driving in that direction.

School ended at five in the afternoon and the teachers escorted the children out of their classrooms in an orderly manner while they waited for their parents to pick them up.

Andrés and Bautista were accompanying Estela to the end of the line and, noticing that her gaze was directed towards the crowd outside, they looked at each other with concern.

"Look, Ella! I am a bird! —Bautista said, trying to get his attention while he arranged his fingers in the shape of a bird and showed it to Estela. But she barely turned to look at him before returning her gaze to the people. She seemed to be looking for someone in the crowd. Maybe it was just her imagination, but she could feel that Roxana was seeing her from afar. However, she couldn't find it.

Despite being completely ignored by Estela, they did not give up and continued to try to cheer her up.

After a while, Luciano came to pick her up and the girl continued looking for Roxana in the crowd. Noticing this, Luciano frowned. He knew who he was looking to find her, but it was the first time he had noticed her so persistent.

"Miss Jerez..." Estela pronounced as she took Luciano's hand and followed him to the car without taking her eyes off the crowd.

Hearing this, Luciano stopped for a moment and crouched down at the girl's height to see her face and say:

"Ela, Miss Jerez isn't here."

Estela pouted and shook her head while she kept a serious expression.

-She's here!

He could feel her close to her, watching her.

Luciano frowned somewhat intrigued and scanned everything around him, but there was no sign of Roxana anywhere.

"I already looked for her too." Miss Jerez didn't come for the boys. Let's go home — Luciano explained patiently.

But Estela refused to get in the car.

Luciano didn't know what else to do with her to convince her of her, so he just held her hand and waited next to her by the car.

While this was happening, Roxana was standing in a corner, her heart pounding. Andrés and Bautista had not stopped talking about Estela and she couldn't help but worry about her, so now she decided to come see her from the shadows.

Somehow, Estela noticed her presence and while they looked for each other in the crowd, her eyes almost met a couple of times. Fortunately, Roxana was very cunning and she managed to prevent the girl from seeing her. In fact, Luciano was about to discover it just a moment ago.

So, Lisa arrived just in time to pick up Andrés and Bautista.

"Miss Lisa is already here!"

Luciano seemed sad to see Lisa and looked at Estela, who was still at his side. Estela only pursed her lips expressing her annoyance and she looked at the crowd once more before getting into the car as slowly as she could.

Once Luciano's car pulled out of the place, Roxana was finally able to breathe easy. Lisa, for her part, walked the kids across the street to hail a cab. But as soon as they turned the corner, Roxana stopped the car next to her.

-Mommy! The children yelled as they jumped with excitement.

Then Roxana smiled and got out of the car to help the boys get in. However, the boys' mood changed abruptly as they looked in the direction where Luciano's car had passed.

"Mommy finally came for us, but Ela couldn't see her."

After observing her behavior, Roxana could already sense what was going on in her little head. After all, she saw how much they tried to cheer Estela up and she couldn't help but experience mixed feelings in her heart.