

## The Secret 531

### [Chapter 531 When Will You Be Free?](#)

"A round of applause as we welcome the champion to receive his award on stage!" —Said the host while he looked at Roxana and the others.

Roxana looked at Luciano with the hope that he would get up. However, he sat calmly and showed no intention of getting up. Roxana had no choice but to go on stage and receive the coupons for a hot spring vacation that Jorge gave her. They all gave her envious looks as she walked onto the stage. Roxana couldn't wait to get down from there thinking that people could have seen her kiss. She immediately took the coupons, thanked the host, and turned to walk offstage.

The three children looked at the coupons in her hand with their faces full of excitement. On the other hand, Roxana was distracted. The long wait for the event to end was exhausting, and as soon as it was over, Roxana immediately got up and wanted to go with her children.

"Let's go together, Miss Jerez!" Estela said happily as they left the place.

Roxana was surprised to hear that from Estela and she couldn't react for a moment. Estela had already run towards her. Her face was flushed and she was watching her with eyes full of anticipation.

"Let's go to the hot spring together!"

She had never gone this far with Roxana and she was anticipating it. After all, they had worked hard to win the coupons and it was normal for them to go together. Roxana's heart softened when she observed Estela's expectant eyes. Luciano left and stood next to Estela in silence while he looked at Roxana in an incomprehensible way. Noticing her presence, Roxana hesitated for a moment before rejecting Emilia firmly:

—I'll be busy. You can go with your daddy.

The children were disappointed to hear that. They all expected to have fun together, but it seemed that Roxana did not think so. Luciano's eyes darkened and the atmosphere became tense. Estela looked at Roxana with puppy dog eyes and then at Luciano. She knew that Roxana would continue to avoid them like she did before the play and her eyes turned red as she looked at both adults, who were silent.

Having spent time with Roxana and her children during that time, she felt even more reluctant to part with them. She didn't want Roxana to evade them again. Thinking about it, Estela took the corner of Roxana's clothes and pouted before saying:

—Miss Jerez...

Andrés and Bautista exchanged glances when they observed Estela's sad expression and they felt bad for her.

"Mommy, let's go with Ella!"

Roxana's heart was in conflict. From her He raised her head and looked at Luciano, who was in front of her. Luciano frowned and said in a cold tone:

—Miss Jerez, I can stay if she doesn't want to go with me, but she will have to take care of Ela.

His words left Roxana somewhat stunned. Estela turned around, holding Roxana's clothes with one hand and taking Luciano's clothes with the other before saying:

—Together...

Estela was about to burst into tears. Roxana felt pain in her heart. She was silent for a few seconds and gritted her teeth to later tell Estela:

"Don't cry, Ella. I will go with you.

Roxana reached out a hand and stroked Estela's head as she spoke. However, Estela was still skeptical about it, so Roxana had no choice but to look at Luciano and ask:

"When will you be free, Mr. Fariña?"

### [Chapter 532 The First Prize](#)

When Estela saw Roxana confirming the date with Luciano, she knew that she was agreeing that they all go together and her face lit up with emotion. Although there were still some tears in her eyes, she was smiling brightly. Noticing that her children were so excited, Roxana felt relieved and looked at Luciano with indifference.

"How about next week?" When will you be free, Miss Jerez?

Roxana agreed and no one said anything else. After saying goodbye to Estela, Roxana took Andrés and Bautista home. On the way, they said:

—Mommy.

Roxana still had to get over the incident during the play. Hearing the voices of her children, she took a few seconds before answering:

—What's wrong?

Bautista was about to speak, but felt shy and looked at Andrés. He nodded after looking into his eyes and asked:

"Mommy, don't you want to go on vacation with Mr. Fariña?"

Having witnessed the kiss and noticing Roxana's hesitation, they could get an idea of his thoughts. Roxana didn't know how to respond, so she asked:

—Why do you say that?

Andrés and Bautista looked at each other before Andrés answered:

—You have been avoiding Mr. Fariña and you promised to only go for us until the end of the anniversary

celebration. Isn't it because you want to avoid Mr. Fariña? When Ela invited us, you also doubted it.

Roxana looked at the children through the rearview mirror and felt distraught. They couldn't have been more naive when they were watching the play before, but, now, they were very clever. Before she could respond, Bautista added, "

Mommy, your nose will grow if you tell lies!"

Roxana swallowed her words and remained silent for a while before answering ambiguously:

—Don't you want to go with Ela? She wants to go with her daddy, so we'll go together.

The children finally understood when they heard her answer.

«My mom did not respond directly to us. He sure doesn't want to be with my daddy. Most likely, she will continue to evade him in the future. If that happens, Ella won't see mommy again...»

Thinking about it, the boys decided something secretly. They wanted to treat Estela better and let her spend more time with Roxana during the holidays. Roxana had no idea of her plan, but she was relieved that they didn't ask any more questions.

Back at the mansion, Lisa had already made dinner and was waiting for them to come home. She greeted them with a smile and asked:

Back at the mansion, Lisa had already made dinner and was waiting for them to come home. She greeted them with a smile and asked,

"How was the play today?"

Roxana, who had finally left the play behind, got into a bad mood again when Lisa brought up the subject. Andrés and Bautista looked at her cautiously, because she knew that she was affected by the kiss on stage. Noticing that they took so long to respond, Lisa worriedly asked,

"What's wrong?" Didn't go well? Lisa asked with concern.

After that, she noticed the contorted expression on her face. Just when she wanted to comfort them, the boys said with a smile,

"We won first place!

Lisa couldn't help but feel confused hearing them.

«They won first place, but why those expressions? In particular, Roxana looked a bit upset»

The boys were afraid that Roxana would ask questions about the play again, so they immediately pushed her into the living room while saying:

—We're hungry, Mrs. Landa!

Lisa nodded quickly and led them into the dining room.

### [Chapter 533 Ultimately, He Will Say Yes](#)

Meanwhile, it was noticeable that Estela had mixed feelings on the way home with Luciano. She was happy that Roxana could go on vacation with him, however, her attitude gave her the impression that, ultimately, she would continue to avoid them as before. She felt sad thinking about it. Luciano was also thinking about Roxana's attitude after that and her face became serious.

Estela was quite depressed when they got back to the mansion. During dinner, she turned to look at Luciano from time to time, hoping that he would say something. After all, Roxana's intention was to avoid him. There was a trace of resentment in Estela's eyes. When Luciano finally noticed her gaze, she raised her eyebrows and put some food on her plate. The resentment that Estela had in her eyes turned into confusion.

"Ela, why do you want to go to the hot spring with Miss Jerez?" Luciano asked in a deep voice.

Estela pursed her lips and said:

—I want to be with her!

Luciano nodded in response. Then he smiled thinking about Estela's performance in recent days and said:

"Do you want to be closer to her?"

-Yeah! Estela answered aloud without hesitation.

"Then you will sleep with Miss Jerez during the holidays." Do you agree with that? —Luciano said while he looked at her.

Estela nodded enthusiastically. Roxana had a nice and great scent. Besides, he told Estela stories at night. She was her favorite person to sleep with. However, Estela was suspicious when Luciano asked that.

"But can I do it?" Miss Jerez...

"She only agreed to go to the hot spring because she felt sorry for me. It's obvious that she wants to get away from my daddy and she only rehearsed the play because she had no choice. I'm sure she'll keep her distance from us this time... »

Luciano realized her worries and smiled to console her.

"Miss Jerez likes you very much." She won't say no as long as you ask her.

Estela tilted her head in confusion.

«When I invited her, she only accepted because she was about to cry»

Luciano's gaze darkened before continuing to explain:

"It's just that she doesn't like being with me." If it's just you, ultimately, she'll say yes.

"It's just that she doesn't like being with me." If it's just you, ultimately, she'll say yes.

Estela nodded obediently, indicating that she would tell Roxana. Even so, she still had some concerns.

"Daddy, will Miss Jerez ignore us after vacation at the hot spring?"

Estela kept remembering her feeling when Roxana evaded her and she felt sad thinking about it. Luciano frowned and said:

—That depends on you.

"My daddy said the same thing as before," Estela thought with a pout.

I've been doing my best, but Miss Jerez still wants to avoid us after the play. It's obvious that it depends on my daddy! It's not me who dislikes me"

With that in mind, Estela did not agree with Luciano. Instead, she watched him resentfully. Her feelings were evident on her face. Looking at his expression, Luciano didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He nodded and said,

“Okay, I'll do my best too, okay?”

Until then, Estela nodded with satisfaction.

### [Chapter 534 You Didn't Sleep Well](#)

Early that same weekend, Roxana had just woken up when she heard a knock on the door. She didn't think about it too much and she thought that it was Andrés and Bautista who had come to wake her up. She rubbed her eyes and let them in.

The door opened suddenly and she saw the three of them, Estela and the boys, standing at the entrance. Estela was wearing a pink skirt and a small bag that made her look particularly cute. Roxana was surprised to see her. She thought she was hallucinating because she hadn't slept well. The night before, Roxana had been thinking about the fact that she was going on vacation with Luciano. She had no idea when she fell asleep. Although she was eventually able to sleep, she hadn't gotten enough sleep and she constantly felt like she was in a dream. Her mind was still a bit confused at the time.

"Miss Sherry!" Estela greeted from the door with her shrill voice.

Roxana finally recovered her senses and confirmed that, indeed, Estela was standing in front of her.

—Ela... —Roxana got out of bed, walked towards her and instinctively looked around her. Luciano was nowhere to be found. What are you doing here? Where is your daddy?

"He's waiting downstairs!" —Estela said as she pointed towards the stairs.

Roxana's face flushed a little. They had agreed to go to the hot spring together, but she had just woken up when Luciano was already there. Anyone would be embarrassed about it.

“We heard a knock at the door and saw Ela, so we brought her! Andrés and Bautista explained.

Roxana caressed her head and said:

—Okay. go downstairs Mommy will be ready in a moment.

The children nodded obediently, turned, and headed down the stairs. As she watched them disappear around the corner of the stairs, Roxana hit herself over the head in frustration and quickly got up to wash up.

Lisa had already prepared breakfast and the children were sitting obediently in front of the dining room when Roxana was finally ready and came downstairs. She looked around her for Luciano and saw him leaning against the sofa wearing a casual coat, lost in thought of him. She looked up from her as she heard her coming down the stairs. Roxana panicked when her eyes met. Just when she was about to look away, Luciano said:

—Miss Jerez, didn't you sleep well last night?

—Miss Jerez, didn't you sleep well last night?

Roxana instinctively touched her dark circles upon hearing that. When she was washing up and she noticed something green around her eyes, she put on some makeup to cover it up.

"Didn't I cover them well?"

"It's almost eight," Luciano added in a gentle tone.

His hand that was under his eye froze. Roxana contained her embarrassment and responded regretfully:

—I'm sorry I kept you waiting.

Seeing her behavior, Luciano realized that she hadn't slept well last night and didn't say anything else. It wasn't until after going downstairs, sitting in front of the dining room, and not hearing a word from Luciano that Roxana was able to sigh in relief. The guys started putting food on her plate as soon as she sat down. Realizing that Estela was eating with them, Roxana asked with concern:

—Ela, didn't you eat in the morning?

Estela nodded shyly in response. She had been so excited to see Roxana that she urged Luciano to hurry up as soon as she got out of bed.

[Chapter 535 Can I Sit Here?](#)



"My dad hasn't eaten either," Estela said with her mouth full as she pointed to Luciano on the sofa.

Roxana tensed and was filled with mixed feelings. After considering it, she turned to look at Luciano and said:

—Mr. Fariña, come with us if he hasn't had breakfast. I think the hotel is too far.

"Well, thank you, Miss Jerez," Luciano responded to her invitation and got up calmly.

Lisa immediately prepared the cutlery for him and placed it on the opposite side from Roxana. After having a simple breakfast, they left the house to the car and began their journey. Roxana was about to get into her car when she heard Luciano say:

—Let's go in my car.

Roxana stopped short and turned to him to answer:

—No need. I will go with the children.

Hearing her, Andrés and Bautista ran towards her. Estela hesitated for a moment before turning to hug Luciano's leg. She wanted to be with Roxana, but she wanted Luciano to be with Roxana even more. In short, Roxana would not get into Luciano's car if she followed him. Luciano discreetly raised his eyebrows when he saw Estela and caressed her head before looking at Roxana to say:

—I think Estela also wants to be with Andrés and Bautista.

Roxana looked at Estela and, just when she was about to invite her to come with them, Luciano added:

—Besides, the place is a popular resort and it's the weekend. There may not be many places to park.

"Miss Jerez..." Estela said with a pitiful look.

Roxana felt her heart melt and she agreed.

"Well, we agreed to go together. You don't have to worry about those details»

Roxana took the children to Luciano's car and wondered if she should take the back with them. After all, she wasn't sure if the passenger seat was exclusive to April. Estela, who was already in the car and noticed Roxana's intentions, looked at Luciano and said to Andrés and Bautista:

"It's very tight here.

As soon as they heard her, the boys moved to both sides of the car. Roxana stopped, because she knew that it would not be pleasant to squeeze with them. The atmosphere turned awkward for a moment. Roxana remained standing outside the car, looking at the passenger seat and then at Luciano, who had no expression on her face.

"Come in, Miss Jerez," Estela insisted innocently.

"Come in, Miss Jerez," Estela insisted innocently.

Roxana forced a smile and nodded before moving to the passenger seat and opening the door.

-I can sit here?

Luciano looked at her and frowned slightly. He seemed to be a bit annoyed as he said in a cold tone,

"Where else are you going to sit?" It's getting late. If we don't leave now, I'm afraid there won't be any more parking.

He knew that Roxana wanted to evade him, but he didn't expect her to resist to such a degree.

"There's only one seat left and she doesn't even want to sit next to me"

Roxana felt upset inside. However, she thought that Luciano was upset because he was wasting a lot of time, so she sat down immediately. As soon as he put on his seat belt, Luciano calmly started the car and headed towards the resort.

[Chapter 536 Only One Left](#)

On the way, the three children were constantly chatting in the back. At first, Roxana held back a bit, but after hearing the children's happy voices, a smile gradually appeared on her face.

Once at the hotel, Roxana got out of the car and took the children out of the car one by one. They linked hands and obediently followed the adults into the hotel. The hotel lobby was magnificently decorated. There was a fish tank in a corner that caught his eye as soon as they arrived.

-It's lovely! Estela said with bright eyes.

Roxana followed her gaze and saw some tropical fish swimming in a colorful and striking fishbowl.

"Let's go take a look!"

Andrés and Bautista wanted to fulfill Estela's wish, so they took her to the fish tank.

Looking at the children running happily, Roxana tilted her head to look at the man next to her. Luciano frowned and said in a deep voice:

"You go with them." I'll go get the rooms.

Roxana doubted it for a moment, but finally nodded her head. Afterwards, she went after the children and Luciano walked towards reception with an expressionless face. Roxana caught up with the children and watched as they aimed at the fish in the bowl. She felt satisfied and couldn't help but take the phone from her and take a photo of them with the tropical fish. In the photo, the three children were smiling brightly and looking very innocent. Roxana looked at the photos on her phone and couldn't help but giggle. Then she walked over and stood behind them in silence.

"Look, mommy!" They are kissing! —Bautista said at the same time that he pointed to a pink fish and looked at Roxana with emotion.

Roxana turned around and saw a pair of fish that seemed to kiss and swim together intimately. It was the first time that Roxana had seen such a fish and she was amazed.

"What kind of fish is this, mommy?"

Roxana introduced them to the fish and said:

—If you like them, we can have some at home, but you have to take care of them.

The boys nodded fervently. After watching the fish for a while, they reluctantly turned around. When Roxana took them to reception, they kept turning towards the fish tank as they walked. Seeing that Luciano was still in front of the reception and was frowning, as if there was a problem, Roxana quickened her pace until she reached him and asked:

Haven't you reserved the rooms?

Luciano nodded slightly and gestured for him to look at the staff at the reception.

-Hello. Due to the high season, there is only one presidential suite available in the hotel. Would you like to take it? —A woman from the staff asked while she looked at Roxana with respect.

Roxana was stunned and couldn't help but turn to see Luciano.

"How can there be such a coincidence?"

However, Luciano's serious expression made it difficult for him to think that he had anything to do with it. She had no choice but to believe that it was a coincidence.

-Very sorry. If they had arrived ten minutes earlier, we would have had two presidential suites available. Now, we only have one," the woman said ruefully.

Roxana had a sudden feeling of guilt when listening to her. She felt that it was because of her that they couldn't get another room.

#### [Chapter 537 My Daddy Will Sleep Downstairs](#)

"Let's take it," said Luciano.

Of course, he was asking for Roxana's opinion. She looked at him with doubtful eyes. After all, the reason they couldn't get another room was because of her. However, the fact of being in the same room with Luciano was something unacceptable for Roxana.

"Could we come back next week?" Roxana asked hesitantly.

—Coupons are for a limited time. If they are not used this week, they will be invalid.

Roxana's eyes trembled and she looked worried. Just when she felt lost, Estela cautiously tugged at the hem of her clothing and said:

—Señorita Jerez...

Estela looked at her from below with expectant eyes and Roxana's heart softened. On the other hand, although Andrés and Bautista wanted to play with Estela, they knew that Roxana might not be comfortable staying in the same room as Luciano. Therefore, they stood silently and waited for him to make a decision. Luciano noticed his indecision and frowned before saying:

—I asked and they said that the presidential suite is a duplex; it has rooms at the top and bottom. If you're not comfortable, we can just stay in separate rooms.

As he finished speaking, Luciano looked at Estela, who understood immediately and nodded vigorously.

"We'll sleep upstairs and my daddy downstairs!"

"Our presidential suite is well soundproofed. They will not disturb the other rooms. It's like having separate rooms. Your vouchers also include lodging expenses, so you can stay in our presidential suite for free. I recommend that you take it.

After listening to them, Roxana could only press her lips together and agree. Andrés and Bautista did not know what she was feeling at that moment and exchanged glances with mixed feelings. Meanwhile, Estela was full of emotion and she looked at Luciano with bright eyes. Luciano stroked her head and asked the staff to search them.

As they were entering the elevator, the staff woman at the front desk breathed a sigh of relief and wiped her cold sweat with her hand. Since her first day at work, she had been told that the hotel belonged to Grupo Fariña. Therefore, she recognized Luciano as the owner of the hotel from the moment she saw him. Although there were still rooms available in the hotel, Luciano told her to tell Roxana that only the presidential suite was left and she could only obey. It was evident that Luciano wanted to convince Roxana to stay with him and she had no choice but to help him persuade her. Fortunately, he did not make any mistakes and Roxana decided to stay at the end.

Luciano took Roxana and the children to his room. The presidential suite was on the top floor. The entrance was directly in front of the elevator, which made it extremely luxurious. Although the children were young, they had seen too much. Still, they were impressed as soon as they opened the door to the presidential suite. The decor was great; there was a floor to ceiling window and they could see the view of the mountains in the distance. Roxana stood behind the children and watched their backs and the impressive landscape. The sight was such a comforting scene that it gave her an inexplicable sense of tranquility.

#### [Chapter 538 Ruining The Mood](#)

Luciano knew that Roxana was restless with his presence, so he went to the sofa and began to read his emails in silence after entering the room. Roxana was playing with the children when a couple of knocks on the door caught her attention. She got up to answer the door. Opening it, she saw two waiters pushing a wheelbarrow. To one side of them, there was a man who seemed to be her manager and he was watching her respectfully. Roxana was confused by the crowd outside the door, since they had not asked for any service. Out of instinct, Roxana turned to look at the man who was sitting on the sofa in

silence.

-Good afternoon. I am the hotel manager and this is the lunch included in your coupons. Enjoy your meal," the manager said with a polite smile.

At that moment, Roxana understood and immediately thanked the manager before stepping aside to allow the servers to wheel the wheelbarrow into the room. After that, Roxana called the children to eat. However, Luciano was still sitting on the sofa, reading his email with an indifferent expression. After thinking about it for a moment, Roxana approached him and said:

—Mr. Fariña, come eat with us.

Luciano raised his head at his invitation before getting up and sitting next to Estela in the dining room. With Estela in their midst, Roxana no longer felt so uncomfortable. However, remembering that the children were coming with them, she did not want to be a killjoy and suppressed the restlessness within herself to focus on the children.

"Eat, Miss Jerez," Estela said before clumsily skewering some food onto Luciano and Roxana's plates with a bright smile.

"Thank you, Ella. But you don't have to take care of me. You should eat more —said Roxana, who couldn't help but giggle when she saw her enthusiasm.

Estela's body had always been weak and Roxana worried her. She nodded obediently and gave Roxana a wide smile before saying,

"I'll eat a lot!" You too, Miss Jerez!

Roxana ruffled Estela's hair with a smile. Andrés and Bautista also gave food to Roxana and Estela.

"You can only grow more if you eat more," they advised Estela.

Estela nodded obediently in response. The atmosphere between the four of them was harmonious. On the other hand, Luciano seemed like a stranger at the table. Noticing his silence, Roxana hesitated for a moment before putting some food on her plate.

"Thank you for bringing us here this morning, Mr. Fariña."

They had arrived together and Roxana didn't want to ruin the atmosphere. A glint appeared in Luciano's eyes and he smiled at Roxana before saying:

—It's nothing. I should thank you for agreeing to share the room with us, Miss Jerez. Otherwise, Ela would have been disappointed.

Estela nodded when she heard him. Roxana showed a small smile in response to Luciano's words. Andrés and Bautista looked at her and then at Luciano, confused.

"Our mommy doesn't like our daddy, does she? So why did she serve him food? Are we wrong to think that my mommy hates my daddy?"

They exchanged glances and after hesitating for a moment, they served food to Roxana and Luciano. After that, they glanced at Luciano warily. Luciano raised an eyebrow in surprise and said:

—Thank you.

### [Chapter 539 Marine Park](#)

After lunch, the children made a fuss to go out and play. Roxana knew that staying in the hotel room was boring for them, so she agreed to take them out. The resort where they were staying in famous in Horneros. Roxana did not forget to take a travel brochure when going through the reception. The boys were fighting to take a look at it and Roxana handed them the brochure to let them decide the destination.

—Let's visit the marine park.

The boys were still pondering their options when Luciano's deep voice sounded behind them. They and Roxana were stunned by his sudden suggestion. It was the first time Luciano had spoken since morning and it was to give them a suggestion on where they could go. Roxana recovered her senses and looked at him with confusion. Meeting her gaze, Luciano said casually, “

I've been here before. The marine park is a good place for children to visit. Don't you like to see fish?

Roxana was stunned again.

"So, she noticed that the children were admiring the fish in the tank when she went to the front desk to reserve the room this morning?"

Luciano looked down at the children in silence, waiting for them to decide. The children reviewed the brochure and looked at the page with the information about the marine park. After a brief discussion, the children made a decision:

—Let's visit the marine park!

Roxana accepted and they took the children to the marine park. The resort was on one side of the beach, so the park was huge, as was its collection of fish. The children had an affinity for the colorful. They were so in awe of the fish in the viewing area that they couldn't even turn away. Estela's eyes sparkled as she watched the beluga whales swimming in the water through the glass and she touched it hoping to feel the graceful creature. As if the whales could sense her intent, they swam to her side at the sight of her fingers. Suddenly, there were three whales swimming in front of her. Estela's eyes lit up

and she couldn't help but stick her face against the glass. The next moment, a whale kissed him on the cheek through the glass. Roxana noticed and took out her phone to take a photo of Estela with a smile. Luciano's heart softened watching his expressions.

Bautista was fascinated with Estela's interaction with the whale. When he finally looked away from her and turned to the aquarium in front of him, he saw a shark swimming towards him with its jaws open. Bautista screamed in fear, turned and fled to hide behind Luciano, who was the person closest to him, and caught his fingers in his clothes. Luciano's heart lurched upon hearing his cry. When he turned to look, he saw Bautista running towards him in fear. The scene amused him, but he didn't say anything and let Bautista continue using him as a shield. Once Bautista calmed down, it took him a while to realize that he had hidden behind Luciano and he thought he heard him laugh. His cheeks flushed red and he dropped his clothes instantly before pulling away from Luciano, acting as if nothing had happened.

#### [Chapter 540 The Mermaid Experience](#)

To one side, Roxana had also heard Bautista's screams, but it was too late when she turned around. The boy had already sought refuge behind Luciano. The smile on the man's face while they were together caused Roxana mixed feelings. Although she had done a lot for her children, some forms of security were something only a parent could provide.

Bautista had no idea of Roxana's feelings and pulled her clothes with emotion from her, because he wanted her to admire the fish along with him. Suddenly, a mermaid dove down from above and waved at them through the glass.

"Is this real, mommy?" the children asked, their eyes wide.

Roxana was amused by her innocence and she caressed her head before saying:

—Of course not, but she does look very pretty.

—Can you also dress as a mermaid, mommy? Bautista said, looking at her with anticipation.

That took Roxana by surprise, so she explained with a smile:

—Well, I could do it, but I think it would be a paid program.

When the children heard her say that she could, they looked at her with her wide eyes, as if they wanted to convince her to get into the water. Looking at them, Roxana hit herself for having said that. If she was alone with them, she wouldn't mind going in; the problem was that Luciano was there. Although Luciano hadn't said much along the way, she couldn't ignore her presence and the notion of having to dress up as a mermaid in front of him made her conflicted.

"Miss Jerez..." Estela said, tugging at her sleeve with an expectant look on her face.



Taking into account how good the mermaid they had just seen looked despite not being as pretty as Roxana, she was convinced that Roxana would look even more beautiful in the same outfit.

Roxana's conflict was evident in her face. Andrés and Bautista had no idea of her indecision and they also looked at her with expectant eyes. Just when Roxana was having second thoughts, a staff member approached them to say, “

We have an event that offers our visitors the experience of dressing up in our mermaid costumes at no cost. Would you like to participate? I think she would look amazing in it!

The children's eyes lit up upon hearing that. Roxana felt her eyes on her and it was difficult for her to refuse. Luciano approached and said:

—Go. I will watch them.

Luciano spoke as if she had already agreed to do it. When the staff member noticed that Roxana didn't respond to Luciano's words after a while, he took her silence as her consent and led her to the dressing room. Now that she had made the first move, Roxana decided to cooperate with the staff member, despite continuing to hesitate. She changed and, with the help of the staff, she slowly waded into the water.

The children sat calmly to one side of Luciano, their heads held high to survey the space above them. It didn't take long for Roxana to appear wearing a silvery blue fishtail. There was a shimmering glow of light reflecting off her body as she swam towards them, looking like she really was a mysterious mermaid that came up from the bottom of the sea. The appearance of her made the children run towards the glass with excitement. There, Roxana was with a smile while she greeted them. Luciano stood behind the children and watched the woman swimming in front of him with an indecipherable look.

Around them, the tourists were amazed to see such a beautiful mermaid, thinking that Roxana was part of the staff that worked there.