

The Secret 541

[Chapter 541 Fireworks](#)

Roxana was not an expert in swimming so she did enough to entertain the children. Afterwards, with the help of the staff, she returned to the surface to take a brief shower. Then, she changed back into her normal clothes before leaving. The children, in the company of Luciano, were already waiting for her outside the dressing room. Once they saw her, they jumped up to her excitedly and exclaimed,

"You looked so good, Mommy!"

Estela fixed her gaze on Roxana, amazed. Roxana caressed her head and said:

—Thank you for the compliments, her love.

"You did look very beautiful," Luciano said with a deep voice next to his ear.

Roxana was surprised, because she almost forgot about him. For a moment, she didn't know how to react. Fortunately, Luciano wasn't expecting an answer from her.

-Take care of children. I have to step back for a moment.

Roxana regained her composure and nodded in response. Obtaining her consent, Luciano turned and left. There was a trace of suspicion in Roxana's eyes as she watched him go and she wondered what she was going to do.

Luciano returned after Roxana had taken the children for a second time around the marine park. By then the sky had darkened and the children were hungry. Remembering that a nearby restaurant was mentioned in the brochure, Roxana proceeded to take them there. As they walked through the doors, a waiter came up to serve them. Noticing that they had arrived together, the waiter assumed they were a family and said:

-Welcome. We have a family suite available, follow me please.

«A family suite... It seems she misunderstood it»

As they were already outside the suite, Roxana thought it would be a bit rude to suddenly try to explain herself not to use it, so she kept silent. The elegant decor of the suite was also in the same style as the rest of the marine park, and the room was furnished with some kid-friendly toys to play with. Once inside, the children ran towards them, leaving the adults behind. After taking a brief look to verify that it was a safe space, Roxana let the children play on her own while she and Luciano ordered the food.

Soon after, their orders came and the children obediently returned to their seats. The waiter didn't leave immediately, instead he enthusiastically gave them some recommendations:

"You sure are on a family vacation, huh?" There will be a fireworks display here tonight, so be sure to check it out if you're interested.

Roxana was about to explain that they weren't a family when the euphoric screams of the children interrupted her.

"Fireworks, mommy!" We have to go see them! Bautista said as he took his sleeve, his eyes shining.

Upon hearing it, Roxana had no choice but to swallow her words.

"Your children are very cute. The fireworks show will be perfect for you and your children! the waiter said, with a smile that was almost emotional.

Estela also implored her father, to which he responded with a slight nod before saying,

"Thank you." We will consider it.

Their behavior was almost tantamount to an admission that they did belong to the same family. Roxana frowned and was about to say something in response, but the friendly waiter had already withdrawn.

- Come on, mommy! Let's go see it! Andres pleaded.

Roxana had only remained silent because the waiter had confused them with a family. When she withdrew, she missed the opportunity to clarify and her silence turned into approval of her children's request.

Chapter 542 Baptist Disappeared

After dinner, they headed straight to the beach to await the start of the fireworks display. The ripples on the surface of the sea were illuminated by moonlight and shone like glitter; a scene of perfect tranquility. Although there were quite a few people on the beach, there was not much noise. Immersed in that environment, the crowd sat around and often chatted quietly.

With one hand holding Estela's and Bautista's with the other, Roxana entered the crowd, while Luciano followed them. Being surrounded by so many bodies, Roxana couldn't help but worry a little about the little ones and she hoped to find a more secluded place where they could stay. As the crowd grew on the beach, Luciano frowned and yelled at the quartet in front of him:

"Come with daddy, Ella.

Luciano did not trust the way Roxana was carrying the children and was afraid that Bautista, who was on the sidelines, would get lost in the crowd. It was evident in Estela's face that she did not want to obey. He held Roxana's hand tightly and refused to let go. With a slightly more serious expression, Luciano reiterated what he had just said:

—There are many people here. Come with daddy and let him take you.

Little Ella shook her head tenaciously because she wanted to stay with Roxana and the boys. Observing the conflict, Roxana felt bad for her and said in a gentle tone:

- I take care of her. Just watch us from behind.

Hearing her words made Estela smile from ear to ear. Luciano's gaze darkened and he was silent for a moment before silently agreeing. Along the way, Luciano kept up with the four in front of him. His eyes were fixed and watchful in the unlikely event that any of the children became separated from the group.

"Sir, ma'am, would you like some toys for your children?" —Said a toy vendor who approached to offer his merchandise.

"No, thanks," Roxana kindly refused, forcing her to stop.

After that, he tried to guide the children around him, but the insistent salesman prevented them from moving forward. Having both of her hands tied by the children and being surrounded by so many people, Roxana could not free her hands to pay. Therefore, the furious woman could only reject him. The children, who preferred to let her gaze wander, didn't care either. Just when Roxana had reached the point of exasperation, the man behind them had already appeared without her noticing her.

"We're not interested in buying anything," Luciano said to the vendor with an icy tone and a serious face.

He was a head taller than the salesman, and he was undoubtedly astonished. He took a moment to respond awkwardly:

"Sorry to bother you..."

After that, the man turned and disappeared into the crowd. Roxana exhaled in relief. She was about to guide the children forward when she heard Andrés' restless and childish voice:

—Mommy!

Roxana's heart tensed upon hearing it.

"Bautista disappeared, mommy!"

The upset boy took her hand, the insides of his palms dripping with sweat. He remembered holding his younger brother's hand, but, in retrospect, he had no idea exactly when his sister had disappeared. Roxana's heart began to race and she stopped dead when she heard it. Even so, she contained the disturbance that she felt inside her and said to him:

-Take it easy. Can you tell mommy when Bautista got lost?

Andrés was anguished by the reproach he felt towards himself and shook his head nervously.

—I don't know...

The little boy's expression made Roxana go pale.

"I think it happened when she was talking to the man from earlier," Luciano said from behind her.

[Chapter 543 Hold Me](#)

Roxana turned to look at him with a terrible expression on her face.

"I was watching them. Bautista was still here before I spoke to the vendor," Luciano said.

That suggested that perhaps Bautista hadn't gone very far.

"I'll go take a look around," Roxana said with a distraught frown.

-I'm going too! Andrew said right away.

Andrés felt responsible for losing sight of his brother, so he felt compelled to help locate him. Seeing that Andrés and Roxana were so agitated, Estela immediately commented:

—I want to go too!

Roxana did not have time to think about it and she decided to guide the children in the search. They had only taken two steps when Luciano stopped them.

"Take the children and wait outside." I'll search here.

Roxana wanted to reject his proposal.

—Bautista is already lost and there are many people here. I guess you don't want Andrés and Ela to get lost too, right? Lucino said seriously.

Hearing that made Roxana doubt. Suddenly, Luciano offered some comforting words in his deep voice:

—It is very expensive to have vacations in this resort, so you can make sure that nobody here will do anything to your child. We just have to worry about whether he'll be able to take care of himself.

Roxana lowered her gaze to calm down before nodding in response.

"Help me find him, please."

Luciano listened to her before turning to enter the crowd, while Roxana left with the children.

"Does Bautista have his watch on, mommy?" Andres reminded him when they reached a place where there were fewer people.

Roxana looked down to observe the boy who pointed to his watch on his wrist. Those watches that each one had could specify their location via GPS. Roxana was quite annoyed with herself for letting something so important slip through her anguish. Regaining her composure, she immediately took out her phone to track the location of her son. After a series of operations, she saw that the position marker indicated that the clock was inside the hotel and had not moved at all.

"Bautista did not put it on when we went out because, apparently, he was very lazy"

Roxana couldn't help but let her eyes turn red as she watched the red marker on the screen. It was the first time something like this had happened since she had raised Bautista. Despite the fact that Luciano assured her that it was not likely that someone there would try something against her children, Roxana could not contain her own worries.

"Bautista must be very scared being separated from us..."

Realizing that his mother was about to cry, Andrés bowed his head in regret and said, "

Mommy, I'm so sorry." It's my fault for not taking care of Bautista...

Observing Andrés next to her, Roxana contained the anguish she felt inside her and stroked his head comfortingly before saying: —It's not

your fault, eh, mine. . It was me who didn't take care of you.

If she had been more sensible, she would never have allowed her children to come to such a crowded area, but, at that moment, it was too late to regret it. Estela was also very worried about Bautista.

Noticing Roxana and Andrés so sad, the girl blinked and pulled the corner of Roxana's blouse slightly. She turned around and noticed Estela, who looked worried, with open arms from her.

"Hug me, Miss Jerez!"

Roxana felt a pain in her heart. She squatted down and hugged both children as her eyes filled with tears.

"Don't be sad, Miss Jerez. My daddy is going to find Bautista!

Estela did her best to comfort Roxana, who caressed her head and nodded silently, afraid of making a nasal sound if she tried to speak.

[Chapter 544 Keep an Eye On That Kid](#)

Luciano's face became more and more serious, because he couldn't find Bautista after searching alone through the crowd. Although he was sure that no one would try to harm Bautista, he couldn't help but feel worried at this moment.

"Sir..." the seller said again.

Seeing Luciano's face, the vendor suddenly stopped talking. For some reason, he felt that the aura coming from Luciano was immensely intimidating, as if he was going to swallow him whole. Coming to his senses, the vendor cleared his throat and tried to leave as if nothing had happened. However, just as he had turned, a large hand grabbed his shoulder. Of course, the hand belonged to Luciano. The seller's heart fluttered. He turned his head cautiously and said,

"C-can I help you with something, sir?"

Luciano looked at him coldly.

"If it hadn't been for the sudden appearance of this person, Bautista wouldn't have disappeared"

The vendor's skin crawled under Luciano's intense gaze, and he couldn't do anything but wait for him to say something.

"Earlier, when he tried to sell us the toys, did he see where the boy on the other end went?" Luciano questioned with an icy tone.

The vendor began to tremble uncontrollably upon hearing this and replied with a trembling voice, "

N-No, I didn't see where he went.

Luciano's gaze darkened and his voice sounded more severe than before:

—you can get out now. And don't even think about showing up at this resort again.

After saying that, Luciano left without waiting for the vendor to say anything. The man slowly came to his senses. Luciano's words intimidated him, but he didn't take them seriously. After all, Luciano looked just like any other tourist and he wondered who he was to decide if he could show up at the resort or not. With that in mind, the vendor turned to approach the rest of the crowd and sell his toys, but, at that moment, footsteps were heard behind him. The next instant, he felt a large hand on his shoulder.

-Excuse me. Our boss said he's not welcome here," said a male voice next to his ears.

Before the seller could process the twist, it was already being pulled off the beach. When Luciano's subordinates finished dealing with him, they hastily dispersed into the crowd to continue their search for Bautista. A moment ago, they had received instructions from his superior where he informed them that the owner of the resort was dissatisfied with that place. The first problem was the presence of the seller, which disturbed the peace in the resort. Most importantly, Luciano, the owner of the resort, rarely visited the resort, but he lost his son to the overwhelming crowd.

They all rushed to the beach after learning of Bautista's disappearance.

"I heard that the person who was lost is a boy, but I thought that Mr. Fariña had a girl," said one of the employees to his colleague with bewilderment.

—Regardless of the gender, that child must be someone very important to Mr. Fariña, because that's what he said. We should hurry and find the boy! another employee reminded them.

The clerk who had spoken first agreed awkwardly. With the help of almost all the resort staff in a search that lasted almost half an hour, they finally found Bautista in the middle of the beach, where a concert was taking place. Observing Bautista standing to one side of the band, the clerk couldn't help but wonder if Bautista was Luciano's lost son. After all, the boy didn't look nervous, instead he was watching the band's drumming with his eyes sparkling with excitement. So the clerk wondered if a lost child would behave that way. After hesitating for a few seconds, he cautiously took a photo of Bautista and sent it to his superior. Then he got an answer right away that said:

"Keep a good eye on that boy. Mr. Fariña will arrive immediately!"

[Chapter 545 Scared To Death](#)

Meanwhile, Roxana was losing patience after waiting a long time with Andrés and Estela. However, she had no choice but to wait in anguish because she worried about Andrés and Estela every time she remembered Luciano's words. Suddenly, her phone began to vibrate. Roxana frowned and took the call without hesitation:

—We found Bautista. He is watching a band performance. I already told someone to watch it. Come here,” Luciano said with a deep voice.

Roxana felt relieved after hearing that and she immediately expressed her gratitude:

—Thank you. I'll be there right away.

On the other end of the line, Luciano murmured an answer before ending the call and rushing over to where Bautista was.

"Have you found Bautista yet?" —Andrés asked cautiously after observing the expression of his mother, who nodded slightly and showed him a smile.

"Let's hurry to find Bautista!" He is alone! He must be scared to death! —Andrés said, who seemed to be more agitated than his mother and pulled his hand as he spoke.

She was anxious to find out about Bautista's condition, but she did not forget the presence of Andrés and Estela as she reminded them:

—You must hold hands tightly. Don't wander and get lost like Bautista.

Andrés and Estela nodded obediently. It was only then that Roxana led them into the crowd. The band's concert venue was easy to find, but it was difficult to get there due to the dense crowd. With a lot of effort, Roxana finally broke through the crowd. Luciano was waiting for them at the outer edge of the audience. Seeing that Roxana arrived with Andrés and Estela, Luciano walked towards them with big steps and then extended his hand to take Estela's. This time, she did not refuse and obediently took her hand.

"Where is Bautista?" —Andrés said while he watched Luciano with anguish.

Luciano gestured for them to look towards where the band was. Roxana and the children saw that Bautista had taken the place of the drummer. He was concentrating on hitting the drums as he kept up the rhythm with a cool expression. The people around were discussing Bautista.

"Where did this child come from?" Isn't that the lost boy that the resort staff is looking for? How can he also play the drums when he is so young?

He is great and very sweet. I wonder whose son it is. His parents are very lucky!

Compliments about Bautista rang in the air. Roxana's feeling of tension gradually eased as she observed Bautista's serious demeanor while she listened to the praise from the crowd. She even felt a trace of joy well up within her.

Perhaps the others didn't know it, but Roxana was aware that Andrés and Bautista had been much more intelligent than their classmates since they were little. They had many hobbies and Roxana had always allowed them to do whatever they wanted, taking them to any type of class that interested them. Bautista began learning to play the drums from the age of three. His music instructor had praised him for having a talent for drumming after a few months on the course. In fact, this was the first time Roxana had seen Bautista collaborating with a band, and she also realized his true abilities.

On stage, all the other band members were also looking at Bautista with a shocked expression. They noticed that Bautista was watching his presentation and that he was looking closely at the drum set. They found it very cute and they were having a casual performance that day, so they invited Bautista on stage to play his drummer. They thought that Bautista just wanted to try playing out of curiosity and they had already mentally prepared themselves to be embarrassed. But unexpectedly, Bautista was able to keep up with him. Although he had some small mistakes, his standards exceeded the expectations of the band members by far. At that moment, the fireworks display began following the rhythm of the drums that Bautista was playing.

[Chapter 546 I Will Carry You](#)

Colorful and dazzling fireworks adorned the sky. Everyone fell silent at the same time and looked up to take in the scenic view of the night sky. At that instant, only the music played by the band echoed on the beach.

In order to be in harmony with the calm environment, the band members changed the song they were playing to a more relaxing piece. Bautista paused for a few seconds before slowly following the rhythm of the band. Roxana took Andrés's hand and looked towards the fireworks that were exploding in the sky. Afterwards, she turned her attention back to Berna playing the drums and a sincere smile appeared on her face. Next to Roxana, Estela took her father's hand and began to jump in her place in an attempt to get a better view of the fireworks display. She was too small and the horde of onlookers clouded her field of vision when she looked up. Luciano turned to see her before crouching slightly. Then he lifted her into her arm and slung her over her shoulder. Estela's eyes sparkled as she appreciated the beauty of the fireworks in the sky. At the same time, Andrés couldn't see well either and a flash of disappointment appeared in his eyes when he saw Estela sitting on Luciano's shoulder.

"If my daddy hadn't abandoned my mommy and us, maybe Bautista and I could sit on his shoulder too"

Roxana noticed his depressed mood and looked around with an expression of anguish on her face.

—Andrés, can't you see the fireworks?

Although Andrés was downcast, he was prudent and shook his head before saying, “

I can see a little. It's fine mom.

Roxana remembered the look of anticipation on Andrés' small face when he heard about the fireworks display that afternoon. Watching his thoughtful and condescending behavior at that moment, she couldn't help but feel pangs of pain and guilt inside her.

"If it weren't for my selfish decision, perhaps Andrés and Bautista would have a happier life now"

Andrés felt Roxana's remorse and took her hand to comfort her:

"We'll come back and appreciate the fireworks next time." I am very happy that we were able to find Bautista this time.

After saying that, Andrés smiled at his mother, as if he wanted to prove that he really was fine. However, the feeling of guilt intensified in Roxana.

-Come here. I'll carry you," Luciano's deep voice sounded from above.

Andrés subconsciously looked up and met Luciano's eyes, which were full of affection. At that, Andrés hesitated and turned to look at Roxana in search of her opinion. She frowned and hesitated for a few moments before stepping back to make way for Luciano.

Thank you, Mr. Farina.

She had caused her children to not have the affection of a father for many years. Although they had yet to discover her relationship with Luciano, Roxana could no longer deprive them of the opportunity to enjoy paternal love. Andrés's eyes shone when he saw that his mother agreed. Even so, he hesitated a bit when she looked at Luciano. He knew that Roxana didn't like Luciano and he couldn't help feeling that he was betraying her if she allowed Luciano to carry him.

"The fireworks display will end soon if you don't hurry," Luciano reminded her with raised eyebrows after noticing her indecision.

"Let Mr. Fariña carry you so you can see the fireworks," Roxana said with a comforting look.

Hearing her, Andrés finally extended his hand to Luciano. While he held Estela with one hand, who was sitting on one of his shoulders, Luciano leaned to the side slightly and put Andrés on his other shoulder with ease. This was the first time Andrew had sat in such a high place and a look of pleasant surprise appeared on his face as he looked down at the sea of heads covered in black hair. Then, he looked up at the night sky again as the sound of exploding fireworks rang out beside his ears.

[Chapter 547 You Are Very Smart](#)

The bright lights of the fireworks looked exceptionally mesmerizing before when seen in the reflection of the children's eyes. Roxana cautiously positioned herself to one side of Luciano as she gazed up at the night sky. She often looked at Andrés and Estela out of the corner of her eye, afraid that they would fall off Luciano's shoulders. Fortunately, both were kept safe until the end of the show. After that, Andrés felt a little reluctant to get off, because it will be the first time that he sat on his father's shoulder. However, he did not show his emotions and only allowed Luciano to leave him on the floor before thanking him kindly:

—Thank you, Mr. Fariña.

Luciano nodded silently without saying anything. The crowd was still immersed in the romantic atmosphere of the fireworks display. Suddenly, the band on stage fell silent. Roxana had been watching Bautista, so she instantly noticed the changes in the scenery and turned her gaze towards them. She noticed Bautista move from behind the drum kit and then move to center stage as he held a microphone. The guitarist began to pluck the strings of his guitar to help him and draw everyone's attention to the stage. At that moment the vocalist cleared his throat and asked the audience to listen to Bautista.

-Ahem. Everyone please listen to this guy. He wants to ask you a favor.

Hearing that, Roxana and the rest could get an idea of what Bautista was about to say. Roxana felt happy and even teared up a bit when she observed her serious expression on stage.

"Hello everyone, my name is Bautista," said the little boy with his childish voice that echoed through the room as he spoke into the microphone.

Despite being in front of a large crowd, Bautista did not seem nervous or scared.

"I came here to watch the fireworks show with my mommy and brother, but I missed them by accident because there were a lot of people just now. If any of you see someone looking for a child, please tell my mommy I'm here. She is very pretty, so it will be easy to identify her. Bautista regarded him for a moment before continuing. Perhaps there is also a gentleman looking for me. They can also tell you that I am here. He is distinguished because he is very tall and handsome. There are two other children around my age with them.

Bautista's description amused Roxana, and even Luciano showed a small smile as he listened to her speech. Perhaps the four of them were very conspicuous, for soon, people were turning their heads in their direction. Bautista also noticed them, and seeing Roxana, he held the microphone and shouted with emotion:

-Mommy!

The public made way for Roxana and the others, so that they could arrive with Bautista.

-Mommy!

When he saw Roxana, Bautista happily trotted over to them, microphone in hand. She crouched down a bit as she smiled and pulled Bautista into her arms.

“You scared me, Bautista. You are very smart.

Bautista caressed his mother's mother's back and said:

"I'm sorry, mommy." But don't worry about me because I'm very smart. I will not follow bad people.

When Bautista realized he had just gotten lost, he immediately ran to the band and followed the sound of the music because he thought he would be safe there. He had planned to take the microphone from them to find Roxana. Fortunately, the members were kind and friendly. After learning about Bautista's situation, they enthusiastically agreed to his request. Bautista turned around and expressed his gratitude to them:

—Thank you all.

-It's no big deal. We're glad you're reunited with your family,” they replied with a smile. Then, they turned to Roxana to give her a friendly reminder. His son has a gift for music. If he can afford it, we suggest that he put him in a music academy so that he can receive the proper education.

Roxana smiled in agreement.

[Chapter 548 What Would Be of Roxana?](#)

"I'm sorry, Bautista," Andrés apologized to his brother when the crowd diverted their attention from them. It was my fault for not holding your hand tight enough that you got lost in the crowd.

Bautista looked at his brother and said casually:

—It wasn't your fault, Andrés. There are too many people here. Also, I didn't get lost and it was fun playing the drums!

Andres frowned for several seconds before slowly nodding.

"I'll hold your hand tight next time," Andrés promised. And I will never allow something like this to happen again.

Bautista nodded several times as he squeezed his brother's hand. Estela joined in the fun and said:

—Me too! I'll take both of your hands!

The little girl held Bautista's hand as she spoke. Roxana was moved to see the three children walking hand in hand with similar serious expressions and smiled gratefully.

"Come on, Bautista," she said in a gentle tone. Thank Mr. Farina.

Bautista seemed surprised by her words.

"Senor Fariña was the one who found you," Roxana said.

The boy looked up at the man in front of him. Luciano was standing with his back to the moonlight, so Bautista couldn't see his expression at that moment. Even so, he obeyed her mother by expressing her gratitude:

Thank you, Mr. Farina.

Luciano nodded evasively and replied:

—No problem. You were smart to wait here.

The boy was surprised to receive his father's compliment and shyly touched his nose. The crowd on the beach dwindled after the fireworks display. Despite Roxana's reservations, she took the children for a walk on the beach, taking into account that they might still be afraid. The weather was pleasant and the water calm. As they wanted to enter the water, Roxana mostly held her hands and allowed them to run towards the shore while she waited to one side. Luciano stood next to her without saying anything. After observing the children for a long time and making sure that there was no danger, Roxana turned to him and said:

—We were able to find Bernardo Bautista thanks to you, Mr. Fariña. Thank you.

Luciano looked at her with his unreadable eyes and chuckled before saying:

—You don't need to thank me. Bautista is a smart kid.

Luciano was surprised to hear Bautista's words, since he was not expected to be so smart.

«He would have found us if we hadn't done it first»

Roxana smiled slightly and said:

—I don't know how much longer she would have continued worrying if he hadn't found it.

Luciano's eyes dimmed as a pang of annoyance pierced his heart.

«Sometimes, two children are more than this woman can take care of alone»

Luciano did not dare to imagine what would have happened to Roxana if he had not been there that night.

«Would he have led Andrés towards the crowd? What would he have done if he lost it too? »

Luciano's hatred towards the children's biological father grew at the thought of it. Roxana didn't know what he was thinking and she didn't bother to continue the conversation when he didn't respond. Instead, she looked away from her to the children who were playing. The moonlight illuminated the surface of the ocean and the silhouettes of the children in a silvery light. From afar, they looked like little fairies that had fallen into the world.

[Chapter 549 Abandoned The Girl](#)

—Andrés... —Bautista looked cautiously at Estela, who was sitting next to him. Was it really Mr. Fariña who found me?

Andrés nodded and said:

—My mommy panicked. She was going to take me and Estela to look for her when Mr. Fariña stopped her and went looking for you on her behalf.

With mixed emotions, Bautista looked at Luciano, who was not far from them.

"Fortunately, Mr. Fariña found you in time." Otherwise, my mommy would have cried.

Andrés felt guilt in his heart when he thought about how nervous Roxana must have been. For that, the boy had his father to thank even though he didn't like him. Bautista was full of regret when he found out that Roxana was about to cry.

"Didn't I thank Mr. Fariña enough before?"

Since she was unaware of the situation, he had only thanked her because her mother told him to. Now that she remembered it, she felt a bit guilty. He didn't like her father, but she thought she should thank him well for doing his mother such a big favor. Andrés smiled at his brother, who continued to look downcast.

"My mommy will thank her for you," Andrés said as he looked at both adults. Also, surely Mr. Fariña wants my mom to thank him.

Both boys looked at their parents, lost in thought. On the other hand, Estela was busy having fun. Roxana didn't know what the children were thinking. Noticing that she was getting late, she said to them,

"Have you finished playing yet?" It's getting late and we should head back. We'll be back tomorrow!

The children ran towards them, while Bautista ran straight towards Roxana, who noticed that her expression was unusual.

-what's going on? Roxana asked as she leaned towards him to put him in her arms.

"I'm sorry, Mommy," the boy answered sadly. Next time, I'll remember to stay by your side and not wander around.

Roxana felt confused.

"They were fine when they were playing before. Why is she saying this all of a sudden?"

Roxana caressed the little boy's head affectionately when she noticed his sad expression.

"I know," he said in a soft tone. Thanks love. I will also try harder to protect you.

"I'll protect Bautista, too!" Andres said.

Meanwhile, Estela, who was alone, looked a little downcast as she looked at the boys in Roxana's arms. This did not go unnoticed by Luciano. She looked at his daughter, who was pitifully to one side, and a strange feeling grew inside him. Although he understood that Roxana was consoling the boys because he had worried about the events before, he wondered how Roxana would feel if she knew that Estela was her daughter and that she had neglected her on more than one occasion. Luciano frowned at the irony of that thought and held out his hand to Estela, who held it while she watched the two boys enviously.

"It's getting late," Luciano said quietly. We should go back.

Her words made Roxana wake up and she released the boys slowly, she got up and led them to follow Luciano.

[Chapter 550 Sleeping Beauty](#)

Roxana was about to go upstairs with the two children when she returned to the hotel when she felt a pair of resentful eyes on her back. She frowned and looked behind her, where she found Estela dragging her feet three steps from her. The girl stopped short as she realized that her prey had turned and her small face lit up with anticipation. In the distance, Luciano pretended not to have seen them while he busied himself with a glass of water from the bar. Roxana walked towards Estela and asked her:

"Do you want to sleep with me, Ela?"

The girl nodded before cautiously asking,

"Is she alright?"

Roxana's heart softened at how tentative she was.

"Go ask your daddy," he said softly as he looked at the man nearby. If he says yes, I'll take you with me.

The girl's eyes lit up. She walked towards Luciano on her chubby legs, but he ignored her approach. She knew her father would agree, so she fearlessly tugged at the hem of her shirt to ask,

"Can I sleep with Miss Jerez, daddy?"

It was not until then that Luciano looked down to look at his daughter before looking at Roxana, who was near them.

"Okay," he replied with the gentleman slightly frowned. But don't go causing trouble.

Estela nodded obediently before running back to Roxana with a wide smile.

"My daddy said yes!"

Roxana smiled back as she stroked the girl's head before saying to Luciano, "

Then I'll take Ela upstairs."

The man nodded casually and replied,

"If she starts to cause too much trouble, you can send her back to me at any time, Miss Jerez."

This took Roxana by surprise and she wondered why Luciano was suddenly so distant. When he regained

his composure, he said:

"Don't worry, Mr. Fariña. She will be in good hands.

Luciano didn't say anything else. Instead, he turned to open a bottle of wine and pour himself a drink. Roxana looked at the man's back with confusion and said:

—We'll go up, then. Good evening, Mr. Fariña.

Luciano murmured in response and Roxana said nothing more as she went upstairs with the children. After a whole day of fun and running on the beach for hours, the children were so sweaty that Roxana had to bathe them all. During her bath, Estela suddenly asked:

—Miss Jerez, will you continue to pick up the children in the future?

Roxana's hands froze. At that moment, she could almost guess what the girl's intentions were and she was speechless. After a long silence, she answered evasively:

—I will if the work allows it.

Estela pursed her lips and gave Roxana an intense look, as if she could see through her deception. The corners of her eyes fell sadly and Roxana felt a pain in her heart at her disappointed expression, but she was determined to stick to her word. Fortunately, Estela didn't give anything else during the rest of her bath and Roxana sighed with relief.

Once Roxana was tucking in the children after bathing them, Estela said:

—I want to listen to a story, Miss Jerez.

Roxana agreed without hesitation, because she felt guilty.

"Okay, I'll tell you one.

"I want to hear the story of 'Sleeping Beauty.'