Trading My Ex for His Uncle

Chapter 501

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Damon's offer of ten times the market value was too tempting for the shareholders. They didn't know when Prospectus Technology's stock price would ever see such a surge. With this realization, several shareholders quickly decided to sell their shares.

Damon's expression remained unchanged as he instructed Spencer to tally up the shareholders wishing to sell. He immediately had the lawyers draft the transfer agreements. Soon, the shareholders signed the share transfer agreements and received their payments.

Seeing the large sums in their bank accounts, many left with gleaming eyes, clearly thrilled.

The remaining shareholders, witnessing this, began to waver as well.

Damon glanced at the remaining shareholders and said, "If anyone else wants to sell their shares, now is the time. After today, this offer won't be available." Hearing this, a few more shareholders chose to sell their shares.

As he watched them leave, delighted by the bank transfer notifications they received, Spencer couldn't help but shake his head.

What they didn't know was that a new chronic disease drug, secretly developed by Damon's research team, had just completed clinical trials and would be launched soon.

With hundreds of millions of patients in the country, Prospectus Technology's stock price was bound to skyrocket once the drug hit the market.

The excitement they felt now would soon turn to regret when they saw the stock's future gains.

Moreover, the Preston Group and Prospectus Technology were already competitors.

Damon had previously tolerated the Preston Group's actions that harmed Prospectus Technology's interests due to his relationship with Nathaniel. Now that Nathaniel was

opposing him, taking down the Preston Group would only benefit Prospectus Technology. Seeing no more shareholders stepping forward to sell, Damon coldly announced, "Since no one else wants to sell their shares, the meeting is dismissed!" Search The Findnovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

With that, he didn't spare another glance at the shareholders and left the room.

Once Spencer left as well, the tense atmosphere in the conference room eased slightly.

Some shareholders couldn't hold back their complaints.

"Mr. Sumner is being too reckless. Although he founded Prospectus Technology, we

shareholders have contributed significantly as well. Especially you, Mr. Warner. We may not hold many shares, but Mr. Sumner hasn't even informed you about his actions against the Preston Group. How can you tolerate this?!

Everyone knew that Hector's wife was a member of the Preston family. Damon's actions against the Preston Group were essentially a humiliation for Hector

Hector's expression darkened as he replied coldly, "Why didn't you speak up when Mr. Sumner was here?

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If you don't want to stay at Prospectus Technology, feel free to sell your shares. It's better to keep such divisive talk to a minimum."

With that, Hector stood up and departed, leaving a group of stunned shareholders in his wake.

Back in Damon's office...

Damon was about to review some documents when Spencer knocked and entered.

"Mr. Sumner, since Ms. Jayston's disappearance, you haven't had a proper rest. After the new drug launches, you should consider taking some time off," Spencer suggested.

A few days earlier, Damon had been hospitalized for a stomach bleed. The doctor had warned him that if he didn't take better care of himself and rest, his health would deteriorate further.

Moreover, Damon had visibly lost weight over the past month. His suits now looked oversized, and even the designers had privately asked Spencer if Damon was ill.

Damon looked up at Spencer and said firmly, "I'll handle my own schedule. You can go back to work now."

Today's Bonus Offer

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Spencer had intended to persuade Damon further, but upon seeing Damon's icy profile, he realized it was futile. With a sigh, he turned to leave.

Just outside the office, he spotted Richard exiting the elevator. Taken aback, he quickly approached him.

"Mr. Sumner, what brings you here unexpectedly?" he asked.

Richard replied with a neutral expression, "I'm here to see Damon. Take me to him."

Spencer hesitated.

Previously, Richard had confined Damon to his hospital room and prohibited him from seeing anyone. Furthermore, Damon had made it clear he didn't want to see anyone from the Sumners again.

Upon noticing Spencer's reluctance, Richard's expression darkened. "Mr. Hogg, if you're unwilling to take me to him, I'll go on my own."

As Richard began to push past him, Spencer quickly stopped him. "Mr. Richard, Mr. Damon is currently working. I'll inform him of your arrival."

Richard frowned but suppressed his anger. "Very well."

Since he was already there, if Damon refused to see him, he would wait until he did. He had no intention of leaving without seeing Damon. search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

When Damon learned that Richard had come to see him, his expression grew even colder. "Didn't I tell you to say I'm not here if anyone from the Sumners comes by in the future?"

"Mr. Summer... Mr. Richard is your father. If you refuse to see him, it will only fuel rumors among the company staff. The new drug is about to launch, and any negative rumors at this time could impact its introduction," Spencer advised. Damon's face darkened. After a long pause, he coldly replied, "Let him in.".

When Richard entered the office, Damon was already seated on the sofa, waiting.

"What brings you here?" Damon asked coolly.

Richard frowned, displeased with Damon's indifference. "Are you still blaming me for confining you in the hospital?"

Damon chortled and replied, "No. After all, you're my father. Whatever you do, you always have your reasons. It's all 'for my own good."

Richard was enraged as he took a seat opposite Damon, his face grim. "Confining you in the hospital was indeed excessive, but it was because you were emotionally unstable. If I hadn't restrained you, you might not be here now." Seeing Damon and Clark in such turmoil over a woman infuriated Richard. Even so, given the current situation, further discussion seemed pointless.

Just state your purpose for coming. I have many documents to review," Damon said, his tone dismissive.

Richard was exasperated by Damon's attitude, barely restraining himself from reprimanding him.

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After a moment, he said, "Even if you were angry, crashing into Clark was a lesson for him. You two are family, and targeting his company doesn't benefit you. It only makes you the subject of ridicule. You-" Damon interrupted, "If you came here to discuss Clark's company, you'll be disappointed. I have no intention of letting him off the hook."

Unable to contain his frustration, Richard demanded, "What do you intend to do? Are you really going to drive your nephew to ruin over a woman?"-

Damon chuckled, meeting Richard's gaze as he spoke slowly. "Why would I do that? Isn't there still the Sumner Group? Even if that subsidiary goes bankrupt, can't you just give him another one?"

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Richard was seething with anger. "The Sumner Group's subsidiaries aren't freebies to be handed out casually!"

He had planned to leave the company to Damon because neither Clark nor Brandon could lead the Sumner Group effectively-they would only drive it into decline.

"If that's the case, it's none of my concern. If you're unwilling to, you don't have to," Damon replied.

After all, Clark had little real ability. Damon had investigated and discovered that without Nyla transferring her patent to Clark, he would never have become the CEO of the Sumner Group.

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Richard glared at him, gritting his teeth. "Don't you know that I plan to leave the Sumner Group to you?! Clark and Brandon will be your support in the future. Straining your relationship with Clark only harms you!" Damon remained calm, showing no signs of excitement or agitation over Richard's intention to leave the Sumner Group to him.

"I have my own company to manage. I don't have time to deal with the Sumner Group. However, if you were willing to let me acquire it and make it a subsidiary of Prospectus Technology, I wouldn't mind," Damon suggested. "Dream on! I will never let the Sumner Group become a subsidiary of Prospectus Technology!" Richard snapped.

The Sumner Group was his life's work. Turning it into a subsidiary of Prospectus Technology would be like destroying all his hard work.

Damon retorted, "If it's impossible, then don't mention leaving the Sumner Group to me again. I'm not interested and don't have the time."

With that, he walked over to his desk, sat down, and picked up some documents. "I need to work now. Please leave."

Richard didn't move. His sharp eyes remained fixed on Damon. "Are you really going to push Clark to the edge?"

Damon didn't look up. "In business, there are winners and losers. If he's outmatched and has high expectations but low skills, it's only natural for him to lose the company."

Seeing Damon's determination, Richard felt himself sway slightly. He stepped back to steady himself and looked at Damon with disappointment.

"Damon, you'll regret being so ruthless to your own family one day!" he scolded.

Then, he stormed out of the room.

Back at home, Richard threw a fit in his study, but his emotions remained turbulent.

Richard had always believed that Damon and the Sumner Group were a unified entity and had hoped Damon would lead the family business to greater heights.

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It was now clear to him that since the day Damon started his own business, he likely had no intention of returning to the Sumner Group.

What good was a disobedient son?

The more he thought about it, the darker his expression grew, and the knuckles of the hand gripping the cane turned pale.

Hearing the commotion, Marie called out at the study door for a long time without receiving a response. When the noise from inside suddenly stopped, she became worried that something might have happened to Richard. She hurriedly called for a maid to bring the spare k f

Just as she was about to insert the key into the lock, the study door suddenly opened.

Richard emerged with a grim expression and said coldly, "Call Cyrus back for dinner tonight!"

Seeing he was alright, Marie finally breathed a sigh of relief and asked irritably, "What's the matter with you? You've been silent in there for so long that you scared me to death.

Didn't you just warn me this morning not to get involved with Cyrus? Why the sudden change?"

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"Just do as I say and stop asking questions!" Richard barked.

With that cold command, he slammed the study door shut once more.

When Cyrus received Marie's call, he was pleased, knowing that Richard had taken his earlier comments to heart.

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"Okay, I understand. I'll bring over a bottle of Dad's favorite wine tonight," Cyrus said.

After hanging up, Cyrus turned to Clark with excitement.

"Clark, your grandfather is probably already considering my earlier suggestion about hypnotizing Damon. If the plan works out, not only will the Sumner Group be ours but Prospectus Technology will be too!" he exclaimed.

In contrast to Cyrus' enthusiasm, Clark remained calm. "Dad, I'm not interested in any of this."

Ever since he received the news of Nyla's death, Clark had been living in regret and torment for over a

month.

If he hadn't cheated on Jordyn, he and Nyla might have still been happily married. Because of his momentary mistake, everything had unraveled.

He couldn't forgive himself and had gradually lost interest in the company and everything else.

Without Nyla, what was the point of accumulating more wealth? The person he wanted to share that joy with was no longer there.

Seeing Clark's lifeless expression, Cyrus frowned. "You're not interested in the Sumner Group or Prospectus Technology? Then what are you interested in? Don't tell me you're planning to become like your uncle, letting a woman drive you to the brink of ruin?!" Clark looked at Cyrus with a hint of pity. "Dad, you never really understood what love is, did you?" Whether it was Cindy or the other women Cyrus kept outside, he never invested any real emotion. He merely played along, never truly loving anyone and failing to grasp the essence of love.

Cyrus was irritated by Clark's gloomy demeanor.

"What good is knowing about love? As long as I have money, I can get whatever kind of love I want. And what's love really worth anyway? You were willing to go to extremes to marry Nyla, and in the end, you still cheated.

"Don't look at me with those eyes. If you don't want the company, I do. And remember, you're not my only son!" Cyrus retorted.

If Clark continued like this, Cyrus wouldn't waste more time on him.

A trace of mockery crossed Clark's eyes. "Dad, you're not going to outmaneuver Uncle Damon. I suggest you put away your schemes. If the plan fails, he won't care about family ties."

From the moment Damon had dared to run Clark over with his car, Clark had realized that Damon didn't care about family at all.

"You'd be better off figuring out how to trick your grandfather into giving you shares of the Sumner Group," Cyrus shot back.

In the evening, Cyrus walked into the Sumner residence, carrying a bottle of wine.

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+25 BONUS

Richard sat in the living room with a stern expression, showing no reaction to Cyrus' arrival. Clearly, he was in a bad mood.

Cyrus forced a smile, quickly walked to the seat across from Richard, and placed the wine on the table.

"Dad, this is the red wine from your favorite winery," he offered.

Richard gave a brief glance at the bottle and replied with a curt hum.

Then, he closed his eyes to rest, ignoring Cyrus completely.

After sitting in silence for a while, Cyrus couldn't contain himself any longer and tentatively asked, "Dad, is there a particular reason you wanted me to come over for dinner tonight?" Before he could finish his sentence, he suddenly found himself ensnared by Richard's icy gaze. His mind went blank, and he forgot what he had meant to say.

Richard was a seasoned man, and his intense stare made Cyrus sweat nervously.

"Dad... why are you looking at me like that all of a sudden?" he asked.

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Upon seeing Cyrus' guilty expression and his cowardice in making eye contact, Richard's gaze grew

colder.

If Cyrus was afraid to even look him in the eye, it proved he was useless! It also meant that Damon was the best candidate to inherit the Sumner Group. Richard was determined not to let Damon be ruined because of a woman.

"I brought you here tonight to ask about the hypnosis treatment you mentioned this morning. Are there any successful case studies?" Richard inquired. Cyrus' face lit up with excitement. "Yes, yes! I can show you!"

Seeing his barely contained enthusiasm, Richard narrowed his eyes. He stood up and said, "Let's discuss this in the study."

The two spent over an hour in the study.

By the time dinner was ready, Marie had to call several times before they finally emerged.

Cyrus was flushed with delight. He turned to Richard earnestly, saying, "Dad, don't worry. I'll book a flight abroad for tomorrow and bring back a professional. I will make sure Damon is not at any risk. He's my brother, and I want him to be well, too." Richard hummed in response.

After a hurried dinner, Cyrus quickly left.

Marie looked at Richard with concern. "Richard, have you decided to go along with Cyrus' plan?"

Richard looked up. "Didn't you just say this morning that you hoped our son would return? Why are you hesitating now?"

"I'm afraid that... if it doesn't work, our relationship with Damon will definitely worsen... I'm also worried about causing him harm..." Marie confessed.

Richard's expression turned icy. Women were so troublesome-wanting to achieve their goals white avoiding any risks. Things didn't work that way.

2

"I'll handle this myself. You don't need to worry about it," Richard said,

Marie sighed and fell silent. Once Richard made a decision, there was no changing it.

After dinner, Richard summoned the butler to the study and instructed, "Have a few people secretly follow Cyrus. He's clearly planning to use this opportunity against Damon. I can't let him have any chance." The butler, Frank Cobb, lowered his head. "Understood, I'll arrange it immediately."

Within a week, Cyrus returned to the country with the hypnotist he had mentioned. +25 BONUS

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As soon as they landed, he took the hypnotist straight to the Sumner residence. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Dad, this is Dr. Sean Merritt, the hypnotist I told you about. He's very well known internationally," Cyrus introduced.

After Richard greeted Sean, he signaled to Frank.

Soon, a few black-clad bodyguards stepped forward and restrained Cyrus.

Cyrus was taken aback. He quickly looked at Richard and asked, "Dad, what is the meaning of this?"

Richard remained unmoved, his expression cold. "What do you mean, what's the meaning of this? Do you think I don't know about your schemes?"

"Dad, what are you talking about? I don't understand," Cyrus protested.

Richard sneered and had Frank present evidence of Cyrus' plan to use Sean's hypnosis to turn Damon into a fool.

Cyrus, filled with anger, quickly went pale. He couldn't help but question, "If you knew about my plan, why didn't you stop me from the 'start?! Why did you make me go abroad to bring Dr. Merritt back?!" Today's Bonus Offer

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Richard sneered, "Naturally, I have my own plans too."

Cyrus finally realized Richard had used him. Richard had intentionally allowed him to go abroad to find Sean, only to have him bring Sean back and then discard him.

"Dad, you'll regret this someday!" Cyrus snarled.

Richard didn't bother to look at him anymore. He glanced at Frank, who immediately ordered the guards to take Cyrus away.

Soon, Cyrus' furious shouting grew quieter until it completely disappeared.

Sean also tried to leave, but Richard's men held him back. His face paled as he looked at Richard with anger. "Mr. Sumner, what is the meaning of this?"

Richard sat down with a smile. "Dr. Merritt, don't worry. I can offer you double the benefits my son promised you. But the condition is that your hypnosis must be successful. If anything goes wrong-such as the patient turning into an idiot- you might find it very difficult to leave here."

Sean had come for the high treatment fee, so hearing Richard's offer to double the payment eased his

anxiety.

"I agree," he said.

Richard smiled. "You're a smart man, Dr. Merritt."

He raised his hand, and Frank promptly handed a check to Sean.

"This is the deposit. I will pay the remaining amount in full after the procedure," Richard said.

Receiving the check and seeing the amount on it, Sean's last bit of doubt faded.

He smiled and said, "Mr. Sumner, you can rest assured that the procedure will be a success."

Richard nodded. "Good. If there are no issues, we'll schedule the procedure within the next few days. Now, let's discuss the specific details."

An hour later, Richard arranged for Sean to be taken to a hotel, assigning a few people to protect him.

Although they were said to be protecting him, their real job was to prevent him from having any contact with Cyrus.

The next morning, Damon received a call from the Sumner residence saying that Marie was ill and requesting his return as soon as he arrived at the office.

Damon lowered his gaze, his voice cold. "If she's sick, she should see a doctor. I'm not a doctor."

"Mr. Summer..." The maid on the other end of the line sounded helpless as she sighed. "It's obvious that your mother's illness is a matter of the heart. Ever since the argument between you and your father, she has been worried about how to mend your relationship She's b "I'm very busy right now. I'll deal with it when I have time," Damon replied, his tone dismissive. Sear*ch the Findnøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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With that, he hung up.

The maid placed the phone down and nervously glanced at the stern-faced Richard. "Mr. Summer, Mr. Damon refuses to come back..."

Richard shot her a cold look. "I'm not deaf."

Frightened by his icy gaze, the maid quickly lowered her head and fell silent.

After a moment of stillness, Richard summoned Frank into the study and said coldly, "Go get some of Nyla's belongings from Clark."

Clark and Nyla had been married for three years, so there must be some of her things left.

Since they couldn't persuade Damon, they would have to use Nyla to their advantage.

Frank looked up in shock, his expression reflecting hesitation. "Mr. Summer... won't this be a bit too much?

Nyla was already gone, no matter what. Using her belongings to manipulate Damon into coming back... Was that really appropriate?"

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Richard's expression was cold. "What do you know? Just do as I say! It's her honor that she can help the Sumners one last time after her death!"

Seeing Richard's resolute demeanor, Frank chose not to argue further and left the study.

That evening, Damon received another call from the Summer residence. This time, it was Richard himself on the line, not a maid.

"Come back immediately," he ordered.

The commanding tone made Damon's eyes narrow. "I'm busy. If it's not something important, please stop calling me."

"Very well! Fine!" Each of Richard's words dripped with anger. "It seems your mother's illness doesn't matter to you! Let me ask you, are Nyla's belongings important to you?!" Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Damon tightened his grip on the phone. "Her belongings?!"

Hearing the agitation in Damon's voice, Richard felt reassured that his decision was right. That woman would only cost Damon his life if he kept thinking about her!

With that thought, Richard's earlier hesitation transformed into resolve. "Yes, her belongings are here. If you want them, come back for dinner. I have something to discuss with you. If you don't want them, I'll have the service staff burn them." "I'll be there shortly," Damon replied.

After hanging up, he immediately left the office.

On the way to the Summer residence, he couldn't help but wonder why Richard was using Nyla's belongings to coerce him into returning.

The morning's call about Marie being sick and now the threat regarding Nyla's belongings-it couldn't just be about a simple dinner.

He called Spencer and instructed, "Check on what my father has been doing lately."

"Understood, Mr. Sumner," Spencer replied.

Within an hour, Damon's car pulled up at the Sumner residence.

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At the same time, Spencer's call came in.

He reported, "Mr. Sumner, there hasn't been much change in Mr. Richard's behavior recently, except that he saw a doctor."

Given the maid's earlier call about Marie's illness, Damon didn't give it much thought. He asked, "Anything else?"

"Nothing else," Spencer replied.

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"Okay, got it." Damon ended the call, got out of the car, and walked into the Sumner residence.

As he stepped into the living room, he sensed something was different from his last visit, though he couldn't pinpoint what had changed.

A well-dressed foreigner was seated there.

Upon hearing Damon's footsteps, he turned around with a smile. "Mr. Sumner, hello. I'm your mother's doctor. You can call me Dr. Merritt.", Damon regarded him with indifference, showing no interest. "Mm."

Sean was unfazed by Damon's aloofness and continued speaking with a smile. "Mr. Sumner, if you have time now, I'd like to discuss your mother's condition with you.'

Damon's intuition told him that something was off about this doctor. He replied coldly, "No need. I have matters to attend to."

With that, he turned and headed toward the study on the first floor.

He was there for Nyla's belongings, not to waste time with a doctor.

Sean's calm voice followed him. "Mr. Sumner, if you want to get what you came for, it's best to speak with me first."

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Damon's steps abruptly halted as he turned to Sean, his eyes flashing icily. "What did you just say?"

A chill ran through Sean under Damon's penetrating gaze, but he maintained his warm smile. "Mr. Sumner, I just want to discuss your mother's condition. Mr. Richard is

currently upstairs with your mother and will be down shortly. I won't keep you long." For some reason, Damon found himself moving closer to Sean. He took a seat across from him and asked, "What do you want to discuss?"

Sean said, "Mr. Sumner, you may not be aware, but your mother has been having trouble sleeping lately and has developed a sleep disorder. For someone her age, this is quite dangerous..."

At first, Damon could follow what Sean was saying, but gradually, he found it harder to concentrate, and his eyelids grew heavier.

Fifteen minutes later, his head drooped, and he slumped onto the sofa, unconscious.

Seeing that Damon had fallen asleep, Sean looked up and said, "Mr. Richard, we can begin the hypnosis procedure now."

Soon, two men in black entered, picked up Damon, and placed him in a wheelchair before quickly wheeling him away. Meanwhile, in the CEO office of Prospectus Technology...

Spencer had discovered that Sean was a renowned hypnotist abroad and felt a sinking suspicion that something was off. Even if Marie was ill, involving a hypnotist seemed excessive.

He quickly dialed Damon's number to share his discovery but received no answer.

Growing increasingly uneasy, he prepared to head to the Sumner residence when several men in black emerged from the elevator and approached him directly.

"Mr. Hogg, Mr. Richard wishes to see you. Please come with us," one of the men said.

Spencer scowled and replied coldly, "I'm Mr. Damon's secretary, not Mr. Richard's."

The fact that these men were bold enough to approach him suggested something was amiss with Damon.

Spencer knew he needed to leave Prospectus Technology quickly to find help for Damon.

"This might not be entirely up to you, Mr. Hogg. After all, Mr. Richard is well aware of your personal background. If you wish to keep your family out of this, it's best that you come with us," the man warned. search the FindNøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Anger flashed in Spencer's eyes as he gritted his teeth. "What exactly does he want? I'm just a secretary. Is it really worth threatening my family?"

The men in black remained expressionless. "You'll understand once you arrive."

An hour later, Spencer arrived at the Sumner residence

Richard greeted him with a smile. "Mr. Hogg, please have a seat. I sincerely apologize for the manner in

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which I brought you here."

Spencer stood a few steps away from Richard, his tone icy. "Mr. Richard, I'm Mr. Damon's secretary. If there's something you need me to convey to him, I'd be happy to assist. However, if you expect me to conspire against him, I'm afraid I cannot comply." Upon noticing the anger in Spencer's eyes, Richard's smile grew more sympathetic. "Mr. Hogg, I assure you, I have no intention of harming Damon. After all, he is my son. I've asked you here because I need your help with something." Spencer remained silent, maintaining his composure as he awaited further explanation.

"Since Nyla's accident, you've been with Damon every day as his secretary. You must have noticed the changes in him.

"None of us wanted what happened to Nyla, but now that it has, we must look forward. I can't bear to see Damon tormenting himself any longer," Richard said.

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There was a flicker in Spencer's eyes, but he remained silent.

Richard paid no mind and continued. "If remembering something is more painful than forgetting it, then it's better not to remember. At least that way, one can live a bit more happily. What do you think, Mr. Hogg?"

Spencer finally understood Richard's plan. "So you brought in that hypnotist to deal with Mr. Damon?"

Richard smiled. "Mr. Hogg, that's a harsh way to put it. I simply want my son to stop suffering." Spencer's eyes narrowed. "Have you ever considered what Mr. Damon thinks about this?"

"He's obsessed with Nyla right now. If I asked him, he'd never agree. But look at how thin he's become. If he keeps tormenting himself like this, his health will fail in a few years. Do you expect me to watch my son die young over a deceased person?" Richard grew emotional as he spoke.

Spencer wasn't interested in arguing-it wouldn't change anything, and he knew he couldn't make Richard

listen.

"What do you want me to do?" he asked. Search the Findnøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"You don't need to do anything specific. Just ensure that after Damon forgets that woman, you don't bring her up in front of him again. Also, make sure that people from Prospectus Technology don't mention her either."

Richard spoke with a detached air, showing no remorse for Nyla. It was as if he were discussing a trivial

matter.

Spencer's gaze was cold. "Do I have a choice?"

Richard smiled. "Mr. Hogg, you're a smart man. You should know what to do. After all, if Damon forgets Nyla, it will benefit everyone."

Spencer clenched his hands at his sides, his eyes filled with anger and frustration. He knew he couldn't change Richard's mind, and there was no chance for him to help Damon. Even his phone had been taken by the men in black on the way there. "Mr. Richard, I finally understand why Mr. Damon decided to cut ties with you," he said.

Richard threw his cup to the floor, shattering it into pieces and filling the room with a tense silence.

He glared at Spencer, his voice laced with menace. "Mr. Hogg, you're just a secretary. Mind your own business. Interfering won't benefit you. If I can make Nyla disappear from Damon's life, I can make you disappear too!"

Spencer's smile was mocking. "I have no doubt about your capabilities. I just hope that when Mr. Damon remembers everything, you won't regret it,"

"You better hope that day never comes, or he won't forgive you either," Richard retorted.

With that chilling statement, he stood up.

"Mr. Hogg, you'll remain here until Damon's hypnosis is complete. But I advise you not to attempt an

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escape. The consequences would be dire," he warned.

After Richard left, two men in black arrived to escort Spencer to a room.

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Three days of house arrest later, Spencer was finally allowed to leave.

As he walked out of the room and down the long hallway to the living room, he saw Damon sitting on the sofa, his back turned to him. Today's Bonus Offer

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"Mr. Damon..." Spencer called out.

The moment Damon turned around, Spencer's steps faltered.

The look in Damon's eyes was completely different from the blank, lifeless gaze he had after Nyla's fall

into the ocean.

Now, his eyes were cold and distant, reminiscent of the ruthless and decisive CEO of Prospectus Technology from before.

It was clear that Richard's hypnosis had worked.

"What's the matter?" Damon asked.

Richard sat across from Damon, his gaze fixed darkly on Spencer. He planned to handle any inappropriate remarks from Spencer privately if necessary. Spencer stood still, his eyes lowered, and remained silent.

Compared to the emotionless Damon he had encountered after Nyla's death, Spencer found this version of Damon to be preferable.

For the living, perhaps forgetting was indeed the better option.

As Spencer remained silent, Damon frowned slightly.

Richard's expression darkened, and he signaled to Frank beside him. If Spencer mentioned Nyla in front of Damon, his men would take him away immediately. Spencer finally looked up at Damon and said calmly, "Mr. Damon, I just wanted to remind you that there's an important meeting this afternoon at 3:00 p.m." "Got it. Wait outside for me. We'll return to the office in ten minutes," Damon replied.

"Understood, Mr. Damon," Spencer answered.

After Spencer left, Damon turned to Richard. "I'll consider taking over the Sumner Group, but Prospectus Technology remains my top priority."

Richard nodded. "Alright. Take your time to think about it."

Damon stood up. "I'll head back then."

As Damon left the Sumner residence and got into the car, he turned to Spencer and asked, "While I was in a coma from the car accident, did anything important happen at the company?"

Just before leaving the residence, a maid informed Spencer that Richard's explanation for Damon's memory loss was a coma resulting from a car accident, and he was instructed to keep quiet about it. Spencer paused for a moment before replying, "The company has been operating normally. Nothing major has happened."

"Alright," Damon replied.

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+25 BONUS

With that terse response, he fell silent, leaning back in his seat and closing his eyes to rest. Search the Find_Nøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Seeing Damon revert to his old self, Spencer felt as though he were witnessing a scene from another lifetime.

Everything seemed the same, but no one would ever mention Nyla in front of Damon again, and he would never remember that he once loved her.

Five years later...

In Hall 1 of the Capitarnia International Conference Center, a woman in a light green suit with wavy hair stood on stage holding a microphone. She was presenting her recent research findings with a smile.

f

The audience was packed, with the front rows filled with prominent figures from both domestic and international pharmaceutical research.

After presenting her findings, the room erupted in enthusiastic applause.

Once Nyla Kinsey left the stage, she checked the time and quickly began packing up.

"Caroline, I need to pick up Buddy soon, so I might miss tonight's celebration banquet. Can you please let Professor Kington know?" Nyla asked.

Caroline looked at her with some resignation. "Tonight's event is mainly to celebrate your breakthrough with the Alzheimer's drug.

"You're the star of the show, and Professor Kington mentioned that an important investor will be attending. You know the drug best. Don't you think you should introduce it to the investor?"

Nyla answered swiftly, "You've been involved in the research too, so you can handle it. And you know I don't like these kinds of events. I'm running out of time. I need to go. Bye!"

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Nyla hurriedly left before Caroline could respond.

As she rushed off, Caroline couldn't help but sigh.

It would take an hour to get from the conference center to the kindergarten, and it was already almost 4: 30p.m.

Nyla pressed the button for the elevator and began rummaging through her bag for her phone and car keys.

When the elevator doors opened with a ding, Nyla walked in with her head down and didn't notice the man in a suit walking out at the same time.

She bumped into him unexpectedly and quickly apologized, "I'm sorry. I didn't see you there."

Since she was looking down, she didn't catch a glimpse of his face, only noticing that he was quite tall- despite wearing high heels, she barely reached his shoulder.

The man didn't respond and simply brushed past her.

Nyla didn't think much of it. She stepped into the elevator, pressed B1, and finally found her keys and phone.

Just as the elevator doors closed, she looked up and saw the man's back. His well-tailored black suit, broad shoulders, and slim waist, combined with his long legs, exuded an air of unapproachability.

Nyla glanced away, concentrating on locating the kindergarten teacher's number. As a result, she didn't notice the man suddenly turn back, frowning in the direction of the elevator.

By the time Nyla reached the kindergarten, it was nearly 6:00 p.m.

Mason Kinsey sat quietly at his desk, practicing his writing.

Although he was just over four years old, his features and demeanor resembled a miniature version of Damon. Sometimes, looking at him left Nyla feeling a bit disoriented.

Upon seeing Nyla, the teacher, Lilith Page, stood up and said, "Ms. Kinsey, you're here."

Nyla entered the classroom and smiled at Lilith. "Ms. Page, I'm sorry to have kept you waiting."

"It's no problem. Buddy is very well-behaved and easy to manage," Lilith replied.

After a brief chat, Nyla noticed Mason neatly packed and standing next to her.

"Buddy, say goodbye to Ms. Page," she prompted.

Mason looked up at Lilith. "Goodbye, Ms. Page."

Despite being almost five years old, Mason already had a mature demeanor, almost like a little adult.

Lilith nodded. "Alright, see you tomorrow, Buddy."

Nyla walked out of the kindergarten hand in hand with Mason. He automatically opened the backseat car

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+25 BONUS

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door, climbed into his booster seat, and fastened his seatbelt, leaving Nyla no chance to help.

Seeing Mason's mature behavior, Nyla felt a pang of guilt.

Over the years, she had been busy with work, often working weekends and rarely spending time with

Mason.

At an age when children were usually quite demanding, Mason never acted like other kids-never asking for anything or being overly clingy.

Nyla had wondered if something might be wrong with him and had taken him to the hospital for checks, but the doctor had assured her he was perfectly normal. It was simply his nature.

Relieved to know he was alright, Nyla had finally relaxed. She also realized that Mason's personality probably came from Damon.

Back at home, just as Nyla finished preparing dinner, she received a call from Caroline.

"Nyla, Professor Kington just told me to make sure you come to the celebration party. The big investor is arriving soon and wants to speak with the project leader. His investment will determine whether we have enough funding to buy reagents and drugs! You need to get he

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Nyla glanced at Mason, who was waiting at the table for dinner, and hesitated.

"Caroline, I really don't have time tonight. The nanny is on leave, and I'm not comfortable leaving Buddy at home alone," she explained.

"Why don't you bring him along? I can look after him for a while. Once you're done with the investor, you can take him back home," Caroline offered.

Hearing Caroline's urgent tone, Nyla realized it would be difficult to avoid tonight's party.

She bit her lip and said softly, "Let me ask Buddy."

After ending the call, Nyla walked over to the dining table and crouched down to face Mason. "Buddy, Mommy needs to go to a celebration party tonight. I'm not comfortable leaving you at home alone. Would you like to come with me? It won't take long." Mason looked at her, thought for a few seconds, then nodded. "Okay."

He jumped off his chair and headed to his bedroom.

Nyla followed him and watched as he grabbed his portable language practice tape from his room. She felt a bit exasperated.

"Mason, you can take one of the comic books Mommy bought you when you go out to play. You don't have to study all the time," Nyla reminded him.

Mason looked unfazed. "I don't like comic books."

"What do you like then? Tell Mommy. I'll get it for you next time," Nyla said.

"I like studying." Mason answered.

Nyla was speechless. -

Sometimes, she felt there was no common ground between her and her son.

At his age, shouldn't he be into toy cars and superheroes? Why did he always seem so much more mature and emotionally stable than she was? Being a mother in this situation felt unfulfilling.

The venue for the celebration party was not far from Nyla's apartment, taking less than half an hour to

reach.

As she got out of the car, she saw Caroline anxiously scanning the entrance.

When Caroline spotted Nyla, she quickly walked over to her. "Nyla, you finally made it! Professor Kington asked me to wait for you here." Nyla nodded. "Has the investor arrived yet?"

"Not yet, but they should be here soon. There are already several interested investors in the room. Why

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+25 BONUS

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don't you go ahead and leave!

with me?" Caroline suggested.

Nyla looked down at Mason. Just as she was about to speak, Mason said, "Mommy, go to work. I'll listen to Aunt Caroline."

"Alright. Caroline, I'll leave Buddy in your care," Nyla replied.

"No trouble at all. Go on in," Caroline replied.

As Nyla entered the banquet hall, it buzzed with activity.

Her professor, Edgar Kington, immediately saw her and waved her over with a smile. "Nyla, come here. Let me introduce you. This is Mr. William Berwick from Excellens. His company is also involved in Alzheimer's drug research. You two should talk." Nyla smiled and nodded. "Hello, Mr. Berwick."

William was a middle-aged gentleman with a pleasant demeanor. He regarded Nyla with admiration. "Ms. Kinsey, you're truly remarkable. Developing an Alzheimer's treatment in less than three years is no small feat. We old-timers need to step up our game!" Nyla, who usually avoided such events and preferred to work quietly behind the scenes, appreciated the compliment.

"Mr. Berwick, you flatter me. I'm still young and have much to learn from you," she said.

Flattery was always welcome, especially from a capable and attractive woman like Nyla. Her words carried even more weight.

After chatting for a while, William's smile broadened, and his gaze at Nyla softened even further. If he could recruit Nyla to his company, they could develop even more lucrative drugs together.

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As they chatted, the door to the venue suddenly swung open, plunging the room into silence..

Someone stood up first, walking excitedly toward the entrance. "Mr. Sumner, I can't believe you're here!" Nyla turned around. The moment she saw the man at the door, her face went pale, and she froze in place. Her first instinct was to run.

Remembering that Mason was still in the hotel, she quickly grabbed her phone from her bag and called Caroline.

Mason looked almost identical to Damon. If Damon saw him, he would immediately realize Mason was his son. If Damon decided to fight for custody, she knew she wouldn't stand a chance.

"Caroline, take Buddy and leave right now!" she urged, her voice trembling.

Caroline's confused voice came through the phone. "What happened?"

"I'll explain later. Just get him out of here!" Nyla pressed.

Hearing the panic in Nyla's voice, Caroline didn't ask any more questions. "Okay. I'll take him out right

away."

After hanging up, Nyla finally let out a breath of relief.

Just as she did, Edgar approached her and said, "Nyla, come with me. I want to introduce you to Mr. Sumner."

Nyla felt herself stiffen again, fighting the overwhelming urge to run.

It had been five years. She had seen Damon on TV, engaged to Erin. Maybe he had long forgotten about her. There was no way he still cared.

With that thought, she managed to calm down a little.

As they walked up to Damon, Edgar exchanged a few pleasantries before introducing her. "Mr. Sumner, this is Nyla Kinsey. She's the lead on the drug we developed. If you have any questions, feel free to ask her."

The moment Damon's cold eyes landed on Nyla, she tensed up, her palms starting to sweat.

Seeing her pale face and the complex emotions in her eyes, Damon raised an eyebrow.

"Ms. Kinsey, you seem nervous around me. If I'm not mistaken, this is our first time meeting, isn't it?" Damon remarked.

Nyla froze. First time meeting? He didn't recognize her? Or... was he pretending not to know her to keep their past a secret?

Whatever the case, Nyla felt relieved: At least he wouldn't pursue her again, which also meant there was less chance of him discovering Mason.

She forced a smile. "Not at all, Mr. Sumner. It's just that you're the CEO of a leading pharmaceutical company. It's a bit nerve-wracking to meet someone of your stature."

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+25 BONUS

Damon nodded. "Glad to hear that."

He began asking her questions about the drug development process. As Nyla answered each question with ease, his cold demeanor started to soften.

Before arriving, Damon had assumed Nyla was just another woman using her looks to climb the ladder. Now, he could see she possessed genuine talent.

However, it was clear that Nyla didn't realize they had crossed paths earlier that afternoon. They had briefly encountered each other at the conference center when the elevator doors opened. She had been looking down and bumped into him. Damon frowned slightly, recalling the strange feeling that had washed over him when she collided with him.

Noticing his expression, Nyla paused mid-sentence. "Mr. Sumner, did I say something wrong?"

Damon looked at her. Her delicate features and clear, shimmering eyes reminded him of a calm lake, making him want to dive in and see what lay beneath the surface,

Realizing he had been staring at her for too long, he quickly looked away, his expression once again cool. No, Ms. Kinsey. You did very well."

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Nyla didn't dwell on it and continued the conversation.

After talking for a while, Damon weighed his options and decided to invest in Nyla's lab.

By the time the party ended, it was already past 10:00p.m.

Nyla and Edgar stood at the entrance, bidding farewell to Damon and the other investors.

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The secretary Damon had brought along was Luca Fleming. He had been with Prospectus Technology for four years and had been trained by Spencer, so his working style mirrored Spencer's.

On the way back, Luca couldn't help but comment, "Ms. Kinsey is not only beautiful but also very capable. She must have a lot of admirers."

Damon, engrossed in his documents, glanced up at him. "Are you interested in pursuing her?

Luca quickly waved his hands. "Oh, no, not at all! Someone like her would never go for someone like me."

At least he had some self-awareness.

Damon gave no further response and returned his attention to his files.

He didn't disagree with Luca's assessment. Given the income Nyla would make from her recent drug development, she could easily achieve financial freedom. Most men wouldn't be a match for her. Suddenly, Damon's phone rang. Seeing it was Erin, he answered.

"Damon, I was out shopping and couldn't decide between two dresses. I just sent you pictures. Can you help me choose?" Erin asked.

Damon opened the text and looked at the two photos.

One dress was a yellow silk V-neck mermaid gown-elegant and refined.

The other was a red strapless mini-dress-bold and eye-catching.

He set his phone down and returned to his files. "Go with the yellow one. It suits your style better."

"Okay, yellow it is!" Erin chirped.

After hanging up, Erin looked at the yellow and red dresses laid out on her bed. She folded the yellow one and placed it in her suitcase, already excited about visiting Damon in Capitarnia the next day. It had taken her two years to finally become Damon's fiancee after he lost his memory.

However, in the three years since their engagement, Damon had pushed her away every time she tried to deepen their relationship.

Once, she had even stripped down and climbed into his bed, only for him to take his clothes and sleep in the guest room instead.

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Chapter 514

+25 BONUS

People envied her for being Damon's fiancee, but only she knew the truth: the most intimate thing Damon had ever done was put his arm around her waist at social events.

She had complained about this before, but Damon's response had been clear-If she couldn't accept it, they could call off the engagement. After that, she didn't dare bring it up again.

They had been engaged for three years now, and lately, Damon's attitude toward her had improved slightly. If she kept pushing, maybe they could finally get married this year. When Nyla returned home, it was almost 11:00 p.m.

She opened the door and was surprised to see only Caroline sitting on the couch.

"Caroline, where's Buddy?" she asked.

"He just fell asleep a little while ago," Caroline replied.

Nyla nodded and sat down across from Caroline, exhaustion etched on her face. "Thank you so much for tonight."

"It's no trouble. Buddy is easy to look after. But what happened tonight? Why did you suddenly ask me take him home?" Caroline asked.

After a brief silence, Nyla explained what had transpired.

Caroline's expression turned concerned. "Good thing you had me take Buddy home early. Otherwise, he might've run into.... Well, it sounds like Damon doesn't want to get involved again, since he pretended it was your first meeting." "Yes, that's what I'm hoping for. If he decides to invest in the lab, I'll leave all communication with him to you," Nyla said..

"I've got it covered. You just focus on your research. I'll handle everything with the investors," Caroline offered.

Nyla's eyes filled with gratitude. "Thank you, Caroline."

Over the past five years, Caroline had helped her immensely.

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Chapter 515

hapter 515

If it weren't for Caroline, Nyla wouldn't be where she was today.

Five years ago...

After falling into the sea, Nyla miraculously survived when a kind stranger rescued her. At that time, she didn't want to return to Saintornia or have any ties with her past. Thus, she reached out to Caroline, who took her away. It took three months for her to fully regain her emotional stability.

By then, everyone she knew in Saintornia believed she had died. She decided to take her mother's surname, and as for the baby she was carrying, he also miraculously survived.

For the next few months, Nyla stayed in the apartment Caroline rented for her, preparing for her exams while managing her pregnancy.

It wasn't until the following year that she had the opportunity to reapply for graduate school. From that point on, she juggled her studies and raising her child.

These past few years hadn't been easy, but Nyla felt content. If Damon hadn't suddenly reappeared, her life would have continued on its peaceful path.

Caroline shot her a playful glare. "If you keep being so polite, I won't help you next time."

Over the years, Caroline had come to see Nyla as her little sister. She had witnessed every step of Nyla's journey and understood how much she had struggled. "Alright, I won't say it again," Nyla replied with a smile.

Caroline looked at her with concern. "But you can't keep hiding this from Buddy forever. If Damon finds

out..."

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Nyla lowered her gaze, remaining silent for a moment before finally saying, "I'll keep hiding it as long can. Buddy is my everything. I won't let anyone take him away from me." "Whatever happens, you need to be prepared in advance," Caroline advised

Nyla nodded. "I know."

After Caroline left, Nyla sat on the sofa, lost in thought.

The way Damon had looked at her tonight-it really seemed like he didn't recognize her. It was as if he weren't pretending.

Thinking of this, she immediately pulled out her laptop and searched for Damon's name.

After moving to Capitania, she had completely cut ties with anyone or anything related to Saintornia. If Damon truly didn't remember her, maybe there would be something about it online.

In no time, Nyla stumbled upon news from five years ago. Her eyes widened in shock as she read the words 'car accident" and "memory loss".

+25 BONUS

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Damon had actually lost his memory?

When he said they were meeting for the first time tonight, he wasn't lying-he had genuinely forgotten

about her.

Nyla gripped the mouse, an unexpected sense of relief washing over her.

Damon had forgotten about her. Even if he saw Mason, who looked just like him, he wouldn't think Mason was his son. This meant she no longer had to worry about Damon trying to take Mason away from her. Still, she needed to avoid running into Damon, and more importantly, she couldn't let him meet Mason.

As Nyla lost herself in thought, her phone suddenly rang.

The moment she picked up, a gentle voice came through the line. "Nyla, I just finished a meeting and saw the video of your presentation today. It was fantastic!"

Nyla grinned confidently. "Of course. Who do you think I am?"

On the other end, Oliver chuckled and walked to the window. "Do you have time tomorrow? Let's have dinner together in the evening."

"Sure. I don't have any plans for tomorrow night," Nyla replied.

"Bring Buddy along too. I haven't seen him in a while, and I miss him," Oliver added.

After they set a time and place, Nyla hung up, closed her laptop, and got up to get ready for bed.

The next evening, Oliver came to pick up Nyla and Mason. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

When Mason saw him, he smiled. "Hi, Uncle Oliver!"

Oliver scooped him up with a hearty laugh. "Buddy, have you missed me these past few days?"

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Mason nodded. "Yes, I missed you."

Oliver's smile widened, his gaze softening even more. "I missed you too, and I brought you a gift."

As he spoke, he pulled out a set of books from behind him, almost as if performing a magic trick.

"Last time I saw you, you were reading this series at home, so I bought the original edition while I was abroad. Do you like it?" he asked. Mason's face lit up with joy. "Thank you, Uncle Oliver!"

He eagerly took the books and flipped through them, his usually calm expression finally revealing the youthful excitement of a child his age.

Nyla smiled wryly at Oliver. "You didn't have to go through all that trouble. That must have been expensive.

Since moving to Capitarnia five years ago, it hadn't taken long for Oliver to find her.

Over the years, he had helped her immensely-allowing her to focus on her work while keeping Mason's

existence hidden.

Like Caroline, Nyla owed Oliver so much.

It wasn't that she hadn't noticed Oliver's feelings-she knew.

And she couldn't keep accepting his kindness without reflecting on it. Maybe now was the time to consider whether she should give him-and herself-a chance.

Oliver looked at Nyla, his voice soft. "As long as Buddy is happy, it's worth it."

The affection in his eyes made Nyla avert her gaze. She said quietly, "We should go, or we'll be late for the

reservation."

"Okay. Get in the car first. I'll buckle Buddy in," Oliver replied.

Nodding, Nyla opened the car door, only to spot a small teal box on the passenger seat. She couldn't help but look back at Oliver with a smile.

"I get a gift too?" she asked.

Oliver had just finished buckling Mason's seatbelt. He glanced over and replied, "Yes. See if you like it."

Nyla picked up the box and opened it. A deep, radiant green glow immediately caught her eye. It was as if the purest essence of nature had been meticulously crafted into these stunning emerald earrings.

The design was simple yet elegant, with each emerald perfectly cut to showcase its inner brilliance. They resembled morning dew resting on fresh leaves-vibrant, fresh, and full of life.

"So? Do you like them?" Oliver asked.

Yes, they're beautiful, I love them." Nyla took the earrings out and replaced the pearl studs she was wearing. "How do they look?"

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+25 BONUS

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The streetlight beside the car bathed her in a warm glow. Standing there, smiling, she looked serene and graceful, her eyes twinkling like stars. She was so beautiful that it took Oliver's breath away. Even the sparkling emerald earrings paled in comparison to her radiant smile.

All Oliver could hear was the pounding of his own heart, each beat louder than the last, as if it were about to leap out of his chest.

He quickly looked away, worried that his gaze might be too intense, but he couldn't resist stealing another glance at her. "They look perfect on you."

"Then I'll wear them tonight," Nyla said.

It wasn't until they arrived at the restaurant that Oliver's emotions finally settled down.

As they got out of the car, Oliver and Nyla each held one of Mason's hands, walking together like a family

of three. Sear*ch the Findnovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Not far from them, a black Maybach pulled up. The back door opened, and Damon stepped out, followed by Erin.

Erin smiled as she clung to Damon's arm, walking alongside him. "Damon, how long will you be staying in Capitarnia this time? I have plans to meet a friend here. Can I go back to Saintornia with you afterward?" Damon looked straight ahead and hummed indifferently.

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Erin's face lit up with joy. Just as she was about to say something, she noticed that Damon had suddenly. stopped walking.

Puzzled, she looked up and saw him staring ahead. She followed his gaze but saw nothing unusual.

"Damon, what's wrong?" she asked.

"Nothing. Weren't you hungry? Let's go," he replied, his tone calm.

They entered the restaurant, where a server led them to a private room.

In the room next door, Oliver handed the menu to Nylal

"Nyla, why don't you pick what you'd like to eat? Tonight's dinner is on me to celebrate your success in developing the new drug." he said.

"You already got gifts for both me and Buddy. I should treat tonight, especially since I just received a bonus," Nyla replied.

Oliver relented. "Alright."

Nyla ordered a few of the restaurant's signature dishes and handed the menu back to Oliver. "Why don't you choose a few more?"

After the orders were placed, Oliver looked at her and said gently, "You've spent the last few years pouring most of your energy into this new drug. Isn't it time for you to take a break now?" Nyla shook her head. "The lab is already gearing up for a new project. We'll probably start getting busy again next month."

"Oh..." Oliver's expression faltered, disappointment flickering in his eyes.

He had been hoping to ask about her plans regarding her personal life, but he hesitated, not wanting to

seem too eager.

Nyla sensed something was off about him tonight but couldn't quite put her finger on it. "What's up with you? Are you trying to recruit me to your company?" Oliver had taken over the family business four years ago. Under his leadership, the Raynor Group had successfully entered the top ten companies in Capitania. "If you're willing to join, I'll be more than honored," Oliver replied.

Nyla raised an eyebrow playfully. "Well, once I graduate, maybe I'll consider it."

"Deal, Oliver said quickly.

As Nyla met his soft, warm-gaze, she felt her heart skip a beat.

Flustered, she stood up quickly. "I'm going to the restroom."

She left the private room and headed down the hallway. After finishing in the restroom, she was washing her hands when she bumped into Erin. Chapter 517

+25 BONUS

The moment Erin saw Nyla, her eyes widened in shock, filled with terror. "Nyla... You! You're supposed to

be dead!"

She took a step back as if she had seen a ghost.

Nyla had supposedly died after falling into the sea five years ago. How could she possibly be alive?

Nyla didn't care much for Erin, so her expression remained cold. "You've got the wrong person."

"The wrong person?!" Erin glared at her, gritting her teeth. "Even if you turned to ashes, I wouldn't mistake you! You didn't die? Why are you here now?!

"Let me warn you-Damon is my fiance now. If you try to seduce him, you'll be nothing but a homewrecker!

Nyla couldn't be bothered with her and walked past without a word.

Erin

wasn't ready to let it go. She rushed forward and grabbed Nyla's arm. "Nyla, if you don't promise me right now that you'll stay away from Damon, I won't let you leave!" Nyla shook her hand off and smirked icily. "Miss, I have no interest in your fiance. But if you keep harassing me, I'll call the police and report you for it."

With that, she turned and walked away.

Erin stood there, glaring at Nyla's retreating figure. Her nails dug into her palms, the pain forcing her to regain her composure.

She reminded herself that this was five years later, and Damon had completely forgotten about Nyla. There was no reason to panic just because she had seen her. By the time Erin returned to the private room, over ten minutes had passed.

Damon noticed her pale face and narrowed his eyes. "What happened? Are you feeling unwell?

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Erin found herself in a daze as she stared into Damon's calm eyes.

She remembered how he used to look at Nyla-his gaze filled with warmth and tenderness. It was a stark contrast to how he regarded her.

In the three years they had been engaged, Damon had never looked at her like that.

When he glanced her way, his expression remained calm, Indifferent, and distant-as if he were above it

all.

Sometimes, Erin wondered if he had agreed to the engagement merely because he saw her a

match.

a suitable

Pushing aside the chaotic thoughts swirling in her mind, she spoke softly. "It's nothing. I'm probably just tired from the flight."

She sat beside Damon, biting her lip before finally summoning the courage to ask, "Damon, how about we get married this year? Now that you've taken over the Sumner Group and everything is stable, I really want to get married." Damon didn't answer right away. Instead, he asked coldly, "Why the sudden rush to get married?"

He had only gotten engaged to Erin to appease Richard and Marie and stop their constant attempts to set him up with random women.

Marriage? It was something he had never seriously considered.

In truth, he wasn't interested in women at all. Perhaps it was time to think about finding a new fiancee.

Erin froze, disbelief creeping into her voice. "It's been three years since our engagement. Isn't marriage the natural next step? Or... did you never plan to marry me?" SEARCH THE Find_Nøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Her voice wavered at the end of her question.

Damon set down his glass and looked at her with a straight face. "That's right. I never intended to get married. If marriage is what you want, then we're not suited to continue this relationship.

"I can offer you compensation. With your eligibility-

"Enough!" Erin interrupted, her eyes red with emotion, her voice choking. "If you neverplanned to marry me, why did you agree to the engagement in the first place? Don't you understand how I feel about you after all these years?" "Sorry. What kind of compensation would you like?" Damon asked.

*Compensation? I don't want compensation! I want you to marry me!" Erin demanded.

Damon's gaze grew colder as he stood up, towering over her. "You can ask for anything, except marriage."

With that, he turned and walked toward the door.

Before he could leave, Erin's sharp voice rang out from behind him. "Damon, I won't agree to end the

do!" engagement. If you refuse to marry me, then we'll just stay engaged until the day you

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+25 BONUS

She had been with Damon for three years and wasn't going to give up that easily, especially now that she kno

Nyla was still alive.

There was no way she would let Nyla take Damon from her.

Damon paused for a moment, then walked out without looking back.

Once inside the car, Luca couldn't help but ask, "Mr. Sumner, are you really not planning to marry Ms. Hulle?"

In his eyes, Erin was the perfect match for Damon-she came from a good family, had a kind personality, and was beautiful. They looked like a golden couple, the perfect match.

He couldn't understand why, after being engaged for three years, Damon still hadn't considered marrying

her.

Now that Erin had brought it up, Damon seemed to be thinking about

aking off the engagement.

What puzzled Luca even more was that in the past few years, there hadn't been any other women around Damon, not even among his staff-all of his assistants were male. He was starting to wonder if Damon might be interested in men.

Damon shot him a cold look. "If you like her so much, I can arrange an introduction."

Luca was startled and quickly shook his head. "Mr. Sumner, I was wrong."

"Take me to the hotel," Damon ordered, his voice icy.

He then turned to look out the window, his face devoid of any emotion.

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Before Damon got engaged to Erin, he had already realized that he had no physical desire for any woman, Even if a woman stood naked in front of him, it did nothing for him.

He later consulted a doctor, who suggested that it might be a lingering effect of the car accident he had been in. The doctor had even recommended trying adult films, but that didn't work either. Not only was there no physical reaction, but Damon also felt nothing emotionally.

After trying for a while, he accepted his reality and decided marriage wasn't in the cards for him.

He had assumed he would never be interested in women-until that day in the elevator when Nylal bumped into him. Suddenly, he felt electrified by the contact.

At first, he thought it was just a fluke. However, when he saw her again at the celebration party, he felt something strange stir inside him.

He couldn't quite identify what it was, but instinctively, he wanted to resist it. Yet despite his resistance, his eyes were drawn to her.

Damon frowned, pushing away the chaotic thoughts. He rubbed his temples, wondering if he was just too tired. Otherwise, why would he feel a sense of deja vu when he saw Nyla? After Damon left, Erin called her mother. "Mom, I saw Nyla tonight."

There was a brief silence on the other end before Melissa Gaskin's voice came through.

"What nonsense are you talking about? That woman died five years ago. Do you think she's come back from the dead?" she asked.

"I'm serious! I even talked to her! You should ask Dad to investigate and see if she's really alive!" Erin's voice trembled, betraying her panic and instability.

Hearing her daughter's anxious tone, Melissa said seriously, "Alright. Il tell your father to look into it."

The Hulles had thrived over the past few years, largely due to Erin's engagement to Damon. Their business had grown significantly compared to five years ago

If Nyla really wasn't dead, it could potentially disrupt the Hulles' future.

After hanging up, Melissa hurried to her husband's study.

Nyla and her company had just finished dinner and were walking out of the restaurant when she received a call from Caroline.

"Nyla, there's an issue with one of the data sets in the experiment I'm running. I'm on my way home and can't make it to the lab in time. Do you have time to check it for me?" Caroline asked. "Sure. I'll head over right away," Nyla replied.

After learning what happened, Oliver drove Nyla to the ab immediately,

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He suggested on the way, "My place is closer to the lab than yours. It's getting late. How about I take Buddy to my place to sleep? When you're done, call me, and I'll come pick you up." Nyla glanced at Mason, who was starting to doze off in the back seat, and nodded. "Okay."

When they arrived outside the lab, Nyla unbuckled her seatbelt and said, "Oliver, I'm sorry to trouble you with Buddy."

Oliver gave her a warm look. "It's no trouble. Just call me when you're done."

Once Nyla disappeared into the lab, Oliver started the car and drove off.

As soon as Nyla stepped into the lab, Leon Colwell hurried over. "Nyla, you're here..."

"Which set of data is the issue?" Nyla asked.

"No. 25," Leon answered.

Nyla took the experimental data and records Leon handed her, scanning them quickly.

Ten minutes later, she frowned and said, "There's nothing wrong with the experiment records. The entire experiment for this set will need to be redone."

Leon's face fell. "The data is due tomorrow morning. Looks like we're pulling an all-nighter."

Nyla patted his shoulder reassuringly. "Don't worry. I'll talk to Professor Kington tomorrow and make sure you all get some rest. I'll stay with you tonight and help,

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Leon's eyes lit up with delight as he quickly said, "Thanks, Nyla!"

Nyla smiled. "Alright, let's get ready for the experiment.

With her help, the experiment went smoothly this time!

By 6:00a.m., Leon let out a huge sigh of relief as he looked at the data on the computer screen.

He turned to share the good news with Nyla, only to find her fast asleep at the table. The words he was about to say died in his throat, and he instinctively quieted his breathing.

They had taken turns resting through the night, but Nyla had stayed awake the entire time, overseeing the experiment. She must have been exhausted.

Ruby Jenner gently draped a lab coat over Nyla, her movements unusually tender for someone typically so energetic and direct.

She whispered to Leon, "Let Nyla sleep for a bit. We'll wake her around seven."

Leon nodded. "Got it."

The two sat down and quietly began analyzing the experiment data. The only sounds in the lab were the soft scratching of pens against paper and Nyla's faint breathing as she slept. "Mr. Sumner, this is our lab. Take a look..." Edgar introduced, opening the door to allow Damon to step

inside first.

The moment Damon entered, his gaze was immediately drawn to the person sleeping at the desk. His expression darkened slightly.

Leon and Ruby quickly stood up. "Professor Kington.

Edgar was surprised to find people in the lab. "What are you doing here?"

Scratching his head awkwardly, Leon explained, "One of our experiment data sets had an issue, so we stayed overnight to redo the experiment. Thanks to Nyla, we were able to finish successfully." Only then did Edgar notice Nyla sleeping at the desk.

Feeling a bit embarrassed, he cleared his throat and said, "Mr. Sumner, Nyla is always very dedicated to her experiments. She must have stayed up all night, which is why she fell asleep in the lab." Damon said softly, "I understand."

At Edgar's signal, Ruby reluctantly got up and gently woke Nyla.

Drowsily, Nyla opened her tired eyes. "Ruby, what's wrong? Is there an issue with the data?"

Ruby shook her head. "No, the data is fine. It's just. Professor Kington brought Mr. Sumner to tour the lab, and everyone's been watching you sleep."

Nyla snapped awake, embarrassment flooding her face as she stood up. Seeing Damon and Edgar by the door made her flush.

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"Good morning, Professor Kington. Good morning, Mr. Sumner," she greeted, her voice steady despite her

discomfort.

If she had known they were coming to tour the lab today, she would have left earlier.

Damon's cold gaze settled on her, a flicker of curiosity passing through his eyes. Why did Nyla always seem so nervous around him? Did she think he was going to bite? Edgar nodded. "You've been working hard all night. You should go home and rest."

Desperate to escape, Nyla quickly replied, "Okay."

She turned and headed for the back door, feeling Damon's eyes on her the entire time, making her skin

crawl.

It wasn't until she stepped outside that the sensation of being watched finally faded.

As soon as she exited the lab building, her gaze was drawn to a familiar car parked nearby.

It was Oliver's car.

Had he... been waiting for her all night?

Nyla hurried over and saw Oliver sleeping in the driver's seat. She knocked lightly on the window.

Oliver opened his eyes and immediately rolled down the window when he saw Nyla.

"Nyla, did everything go okay at the lab?" he asked, concern evident in his voice. Chapter 521

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Nyla nodded. "When did you get here?"

"Not too long ago," Oliver replied.

"You should take a look at those dark circles under your eyes," Nyla remarked.

Oliver paused briefly, then chuckled. "Alright, you got me. After Buddy fell asleep, I was worried you'd forget to call, so I came over."

Nyla frowned, about to speak, but Oliver cut her off, "You've been up all night. You must be exhausted. Get In the car, and I'll take you home to rest." Nyla nodded. "Okay."

She opened the door and got in. Once she buckled her seatbelt, Oliver started the car.

"Why don't you rest at my place? I'm off today, and I can watch Buddy," Oliver suggested.

Nyla hesitated for a moment, then shook her head. "No, I'll pick Buddy up and head home. You finally have a day off-you should relax."

Oliver insisted, "It's fine. Watching Buddy is pretty much relaxing for me anyway. And he's probably still asleep."

Meeting Oliver's gentle gaze, Nyla couldn't bring herself to refuse again.

"Alright," she said.

At the lab window, Damon watched as Nyla got into Oliver's

his eyes narrowing slightly.

When he had arrived at the lab earlier and stepped out of his car, he had felt an icy, hostile gaze directed at him. If his instincts were right, that gaze had come from the car Nyla had just entered. Seeing Damon's distant, unreadable expression, Edgar felt a bit uneasy and asked, "Mr. Sumner, what do you think of our lab?"

Damon turned his attention back to Edgar. "It's not bad. I'll honor my commitment to fund your lab."

Hearing this, Edgar finally relaxed and quickly replied, "Great! If you have time now, we can sign the contract."

Since the lab's funding wasn't a charitable donation, they had to sign agreements outlining terms like giving the company free access to any new drugs the lab developed. "Alright," Damon replied.

After signing the contract, Edgar beamed with delight, knowing that the research funds for the year were secured.

"Mr. Sumner, do you have time for a meal? We could grab something together," he proposed. search the Findnovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"That won't be necessary. I have other matters to attend to," Damon declined.

A little disappointed, Edgar said, "Maybe next time then."

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After leaving the lab, Damon headed straight to Prospectus Technology's branch office in Capitarnia.

Three years ago, Prospectus Technology had begun establishing a presence in Capitarnia, entering the local

market. From initial struggles to its current position, the journey had been tough. Only those close to Damon, like his secretary, knew just how challenging it had been. With the branch now owning its own building, all the hard work seemed worth it.

As Damon gazed out the car window, lost in thought, Luca didn't dare disturb him.

From his years of experience with Damon, Luca had learned that whenever Damon's eyes were half-closed like that, it was a sign that he wasn't in a good mood.

However, nothing that had happened today should have upset him.

On the way home, Oliver couldn't help but mention, "Nyla, I saw Damon today."

Nyla's expression remained unchanged as she pressed her lips together. "Yeah, he's our lab's sponsor. Oliver's grip on the steering wheel tightened slightly. "Did he.. try to bother you?" "No. He has lost his memory. You probably heard about that," Nyla replied.

Oliver blinked in surprise, then nodded. "I did hear, but I didn't think it was true..."

After a brief silence, he glanced at Nyla and asked, "How do you feel about all of thi

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Nyla cut him off. "Buddy is my child. I won't let anyone take him from me."

Her gaze was firm, showing no trace of lingering feelings for Damon.

Seeing her resolve, Oliver finally relaxed.

"Yeah, and if he tries to take Buddy, I'll help you," Oliver said.

"Thanks, Oliver," Nyla replied.

After a moment of silence, Oliver voiced his concern. "But now that Damon is in Capitarnia, it might be hard to keep your secret hidden much longer.

Nyla wasn't surprised. She had already sensed this when she ran into Erin at the restaurant. Despite Damon's memory loss, it wasn't Nyla who needed to worry-it was Erin. After all, Erin was Damon's fiancée now.

Even though he had lost his memory, Erin must fear that one day he might remember and call off their engagement. The more someone had, the more they feared losing it.

I know," Nyla answered.

Seeing how calm she was, Oliver realized she had thought this through and decided not to push the topic further. Regardless of what happened, he could protect her now.

When they arrived at Oliver's villa, he didn't get out of the car immediately. Instead, he turned to look at

Nyla.

"Nyla, I wasn't planning on saying this so soon, but after seeing Damon today, I couldn't shake this feeling of crisis... like if I don't say it now, I might not get another chance," he said, his voice serious, betraying his.

nerves.

"Nyla, would you consider giving me a chance to take care of you and Buddy? I promise I'd treat Buddy as if he were my own."

Seeing the sincerity in Oliver's eyes, Nyla gripped the seatbelt tightly, her knuckles turning white.

She bit her lower lip. She had thought about

whether to give things with Oliver a try but hadn't made up her mind. Entering a new relationship now meant thinking not just about herself, but about Mason as well. answered. "Oliver, can you give me some time to think about it? I really need to consider it carefully," Nyla Oliver had braced himself for rejection, so when Nyla asked for time to think, his eyes lit up with hope. If she needed time, it meant she wasn't completely against the idea of being with him.

"Of course. Take all the time you need-I'm in no rush,' he replied.

"Thank you," Nyla said again.

They both got out of the car and walked toward the villa. Oliver was beaming, his gaze so soft as it followed her that it felt almost tangible.

Once inside, Oliver asked a maid to show Nyla to a guest room so she could rest.

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"Don't

w about Buddy. If he wakes up, I'll keep him entertained. Just get some rest," Oliver assured her.

Oliver had spent a lot of time with Buddy before, so Nyla nodded. "Ok"

"Go rest," Oliver urged.

thank you."

Nyla slept until noon.

After freshening up, she walked into the living room and found Oliver playing chess with Mason. She quickly made her way over to join them.. Hearing her approach, Oliver looked up and smiled. "I asked the kitchen to warm up some chicken soup for you. Have some in a bit."

As he spoke, a maid went into the kitchen and soon returned with the soup.

"Okay," Nyla replied.

As she stood watching them play chess, the maid set up a small table and placed the soup and side dishes on it.

"Ms. Kinsey, please enjoy," the maid said.

"Thank you," Nyla replied as she sat down.

She took a sip of soup and couldn't help but squint in satisfaction. "This is really good."

The taste... It felt oddly familiar, as if she had tasted it somewhere before.

The maid smiled and explained, "Mr. Raynor made it himself. He spent over a week learning from the chef to get it just right."

Oliver shot the maid a glance. "That's enough. You can go now."

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Nyla raised an eyebrow at Oliver. Noticing his ears turning red, she couldn't resist teasing him. "I didn't expect someone as busy as you to have time to learn how to make soup."

Oliver cleared his throat, looking down to hide his nervousness. "Your stomach isn't great, and I remember when we were abroad, you had soup at a restaurant and said it was good. I asked the chef to teach me how to make it, so I could cook it for you whenever you want."

Nyla was stunned. She hadn't realized her casual compliment had stuck with Oliver to the point where he actually learned to cook it himself.

A warm, overwhelming feeling swelled in her chest, and her eyes stung slightly. She had never thought anyone would go to such lengths for her.

"Oliver, thank you," she said softly.

Oliver looked up at her and smiled. "Nyla, you don't need to thank me. I didn't do this without expecting something in return."

Seeing the affection in his eyes, Nyla felt her face grow warm. She quickly looked away, spotting the chessboard in front of them.

She couldn't help but laugh. "You should focus on the game. You're about to lose."

A few minutes later, Oliver did indeed lose to Mason.

"Wow, Buddy, you're amazing! I couldn't even beat you!" Oliver praised.

Mason frowned slightly. "Uncle Oliver, you weren't really trying."

"I was trying my best! You're just getting too good. As a reward for beating me, how about I grant you one wish? Is there something you want?" Oliver asked.

Mason thought for a moment before leaning over and whispering something into Oliver's ear. Whatever it was made Oliver smile as he nodded. "Alright. I'll make it happen."

Seeing their secretive exchange, Nyla raised an eyebrow. "What are you two whispering about?"

Mason shook his head with a mischievous grin. "Not telling you! It's a secret between us men."

Nyla didn't respond but smiled softly.

After finishing the soup, Oliver drove Nyla and Mason home.

On the way, they passed a shopping mall, and Oliver suddenly pulled over. He turned to Nyla and said, Nyla, I'm going to take Buddy inside to buy something. You can wait here in the car." Nyla frowned. "Why can't I know what you're buying?"

"It's a reward for Buddy, and it's a secret from you for now," Oliver replied.

"Fine, but don't take too long," Nyla urged.

"Got it!" Oliver answered.

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He got out of the car, holding Mason's hand as they headed into the mall.

None of them noticed a camera hidden in the corner, shapping several photos of Oliver and Mason as they walked inside.

"Ms. Hulle, our investigation has found that Nyla has a child... Here's a photo of the boy.... Take a look," the person said.

Erin took the photo. As she stared at the boy's face, which bore a striking resemblance to Damon, her grip tightened, and the picture crumpled in her hands./

That bitch Nyla! She had pretended not to care about Damon, acting like she wouldn't compete for him, yet she had secretly borne his child!

If Damon found out about the child, even without his memories, there was a chance he'd be drawn back

to Nyla!

The more Erin thought about it, the darker her expression grew. Her eyes burned with fury as if she were ready to set everything ablaze.

"I can't let Damon find out about this little bastard!" she hissed.

She stood up and walked to the window, her mind racing, trying to figure out what to do. This was Capitarnia, not Saintornia. If she tried to harm Nyla here, there was a higher chance of getting caught- especially with Oliver now by Nyla's side. Was she really supposed to just stand by and let Nyla take Damon away from her again?

No... there had to be a way!

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"Look into Nyla's recent years and find out who she's been in contact with!" Erin ordered.

She couldn't act directly, but targeting the people around Nyla would work just as well. Search The Find_Nøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Yes, Ms. Hulle," the other party replied.

After they left, Erin stared out the window, her gaze filled with hatred.

If Nyla had already died, why come back now? Wouldn't it have been better to just stay dead?

No matter what, she wouldn't let anyone ruin her relationship with Damon this time!

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Because Oliver and Mason had spent extra time at the mall, they didn't reach Nyla's home until close to 5:00 p.m.

Oliver took the opportunity to stay for dinner.

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While Nyla was cooking, he stayed by her side, helping when he could.

As Oliver watched her in an apron, her long hair casually tied back with a hair tie, his heart softened at how calm and serene she looked.

This was the life he wanted-quiet, peaceful days with the woman he loved.

Nyla finished chopping the potatoes and looked up to see Oliver staring at her, lost in thought. She waved her hand in front of his face. "What are you thinking about?"

Oliver snapped back to reality, meeting Nyla's smiling eyes. His cheeks flushed as he awkwardly handed her the garlic in his hands. "N-Nothing. I just finished peeling the garlic..."

Nyla burst into laughter, and Oliver glanced down, realizing he had handed her an entire head of garlic- unpeeled. Embarrassment washed over him.

"Okay, why don't you go play with Buddy? I can handle things here," Nyla said, taking the garlic from his hand.

Her fingers brushed his palm, sending a shiver down his spine. His face reddened even more. "O-Okay... If you need anything, just call me," he stammered.

He turned quickly and headed for the living room, nearly fleeing in his awkwardness.

Nyla couldn't help but smile. She never expected Oliver, almost 30 years old, to be so shy.

After dinner, Nyla casually asked, "What did you and Buddy buy at the mall this afternoon?"

Oliver raised an eyebrow and smiled. "Are you that curious?"

"Not really, just a little," she replied.

"Well then, I'll keep it a secret." He chuckled. "By the way, your stir-fried potatoes tonight were amazing. It's a shame you're not running a restaurant with skills like that."

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Seeing that Oliver was deliberately avoiding the question, Nyla playfully glared at him. "Fine. But if it's so good, you better finish every bite."

"Will do!" he chirped.

After dinner, Oliver helped with the dishes. As he was about to leave, he turned to Nyla. "Nyla, I'm heading out of town tomorrow for a business trip. I hope you'll have an answer for me when I come back." Nyla nodded. "Alright. Safe travels."

Oliver said goodbye to Mason and took the trash out on his way.

After closing the door, Nyla walked back into the living room and saw Mason sitting on the carpet, staring

at her.

"Buddy, what's on your mind?" she asked with a smile, sitting beside him to help clean up the scattered toys.

Mason said softly, "Mom, will you marry Uncle Oliver? Will he become my dad?"

Nyla froze, not expecting such a question, and turned to look at him. "Buddy, why are you asking this all of a sudden?"

Mason lowered his head, looking a little sad. "My old deskmate's mom got a new dad for her. He hit her all the time. She'd come to school with bruises, and then she transferred away... Mom, if you marry Uncle Oliver, will he hit me?" Hearing this, Nyla frowned. She put the toy down, lifted Mason onto the couch, and knelt in front of him, looking directly into his eyes.

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"Buddy, Uncle Oliver is always so kind to you. He would never hurt you, and I would never let anyone harm you either. No matter what, you are the most important person in my life," Nyla reassured.

Mason's once-downcast eyes lit up. "Even more important than Uncle Oliver?"

"Of course. No matter who I'm with, you'll always be my number one," Nyla replied.

Mason hugged her tightly. "I love you the most too, Mom."

Nyla gently patted his back, sensing he had noticed the changes between her and Oliver and felt insecure. As smart as Mason was, he was still almost five years old. Without a father figure growing up, it was natural for him to be more sensitive than other children. Nyla silently vowed to spend more time with him, ensuring he felt secure.

After getting Mason to sleep, Nyla returned to the living room, intending to read for a bit. Just then, her phone rang. It was Edgar. search the FindNøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Nyla, Mr. Sumner's secretary reached out today. They're planning a seminar for their company's R&D team and asked if you could share some of your experience. I've already agreed on your behalf. They' pick you up from the lab at noon this Friday,"

Edgar informed her. Nyla pressed her lips together. Seeing Damon again, she knew it would be hard to avoid future encounters.

Still, she wasn't looking to rekindle anything. Since he didn't remember her, running into him shouldn't be an issue.

"Okay, I understand," she replied.

After hanging up, Nyla picked up her book but was unable to focus. Her biggest fear now was that Damon might one day learn about Mason and try to take him away.

Frustrated, she set the book down and took a deep breath, trying to calm herself.

Mason had been with her all these years. He had no emotional attachment to Damon, so even if Damon tried to claim him, it wouldn't be easy.

Still, the thought gnawed at her. She tossed and turned all night, finally falling asleep just before dawn. Even then, her dreams were haunted by the fear that Damon had discovered Mason's existence and secretly taken him, hiding him somewhere she couldn't find. The nightmare startled her awake.

By Friday noon, Nyla had just finished lunch when she received a call from Luca.

"Hello, Ms. Kinsey. This is Luca Fleming, Mr. Sumner's secretary. Mr. Sumner asked me to pick you up. I'm downstairs now," Luca said.

"Thank you, Mr. Fleming. I'll be down in five minutes," Nyla replied.

"No rush," Luca said.

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After quickly gathering her things, Nyla headed downstairs. From a distance, she could already see the parked black Maybach, its license plate a sequence of Impressive numbers. Luca stood beside the car and opened the door as she approached. "Ms. Kinsey, please."

Just as Nyla was about to get in, she noticed the man sitting in the backseat.

Damon's tall frame was clad in a sleek black suit. He held a document in his hand, his side profile cold

and distant.

The atmosphere around him was so forbidding that it sent a chill down her spine.

Sensing her hesitation, Luca explained, "Ms. Kinsey, Mr. Sumner just finished a business meeting and needs to head to the branch office, so he offered to pick you up on the way." Nyla nodded. "Okay, thank you.'

She got into the car, sitting as close to the door as possible. Despite her efforts, she still couldn't escape the faint scent of pine coming from Damon. It surrounded her like an invisible net, making her feel suffocated.

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Damon glanced at Nyla, noting how she was practically pressed against the door. His gaze hardened as he asked in a low voice, "Ms. Kinsey, am I that terrifying?" Chapter 526

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Nyla froze for a moment and turned to Damon. "No... Why would you say that, Mr. Sumner?"

Damon's dark eyes, filled with an unreadable emotion, locked onto hers. "If that's not the case, why are you sitting so far away from me, Ms. Kinsey?"

Nyla stiffened and quickly sat up straight, lowering her gaze. "I just didn't want to disturb your work."

As Nyla adjusted her posture, the distance between them shortened considerably.

She placed her hands neatly on her lap, her gaze fixed downward, looking remarkably obedient.

Damon set his document down, recalling how he had seen her smiling while talking to the man in the car that day. Yet whenever she was around him, it seemed like she couldn't get far enough away. Did he really look that scary? The rest of the drive to Prospectus Technology's branch office was spent in silence.

When they finally arrived, Nyla let out a small sigh of relief as she stepped out of the car. She had been tense throughout the ride, completely unlike her usual self. Luca smiled at her. "This way, Ms. Kinsey."

Following him through several turns, Nyla was led into a large conference room, where approximately 80 Prospectus Technology employees were already seated. Having given plenty of lectures before, Nyla felt unfazed standing in front of a crowd. She approached the podium and began sharing her research and the process behind it. The seminar lasted over three hours, concluding with a round of enthusiastic applause. Some attendees even recorded the entire talk to review later.

Before long, the video spread throughout Prospectus Technology's internal network, eventually catching Spencer's attention. Recognizing Nyla, he stared in disbelief. Wasn't she supposed to be dead? How was she suddenly reappearing after five years? And if she was at Prospectus Technology, did that mean she had already seen Damon?! Spencer's mind raced as he immediately called Luca.

Meanwhile, Erin also came across the video.

Using her status as Damon's fiancee, she had built connections within Prospectus Technology, and one of the employees trying to curry favor had sent the video to her. When she saw Nyla, her face twisted with anger. This woman just wouldn't stay dead!

She needed to ensure that Nyla would never appear in front of Damon again.

Just as Nyla was preparing to leave after the seminar, she received a call from the nanny. Mason had

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fallen and cut his head-it might need stitches. They were on their way to the hospital.

Her face turned pale with worry, and she quickly rushed toward the exit.

It was rush hour, and after ten minutes of trying to hail a ride, she still hadn't managed to get one.

Just as panic began to set in, Damon's car pulled up beside her.

The passenger-side window rolled down, and Luca looked over at her. "Ms. Kinsey, where are you headed? We can give you a ride."

In Nyla's anxious state, she didn't have time to think it over. She opened the door and got into the passenger seat, saying, "Mr. Fleming, I need to go to Fyrest Hospital. Thank you."

As she buckled her seatbelt, she suddenly became aware of the presence behind her. Seeing Damon in the back seat made her face go pale, and her hands shook slightly.

Nyla said quickly, "Mr. Fleming, actually, I should probably take a cab. I don't want to inconvenience Mr. Sumner. I know he's very busy."

She hurriedly began to unbuckle her seatbelt, but before she could open the door, Damon's voice came from the back.

"I'm not busy this evening. You seem to be in a hurry-must be family or a friend at the hospital. Luca, take Ms. Kinsey where she needs to go." His tone was calm but carried an undeniable authority. "Understood," Luca replied as he locked the doors and hit the gas, pulling away without hesitation.

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Nyla wanted to decline, but with the car already in motion, any further refusal would seem suspicious.

She reluctantly fastened her seatbelt, feeling tense throughout the 30-minute ride. She had hoped to limit her interaction with Damon, but things seemed to be heading in the opposite direction. When the car finally stopped at the hospital, Nyla felt as though she could breathe again. She quickly stepped out, saying, "Thank you, Mr. Sumner, and thank you, Mr. Fleming."

Luca smiled warmly. "You're welcome, Ms. Kinsey."

Nyla hurried to the emergency area, searching for Mason.

After a short while, she found him sitting on a hospital bed with a bandage on his forehead, still oozing a little blood. She rushed over, worried.

"Buddy, are you okay?" she asked.

Mason pouted but managed not to cry when he saw her. "Mom, I'm fine. I didn't cry today. The nurse said I was really brave." Search the Findnovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"You were very brave, Buddy. Good job!" Nyla praised, feeling a sense of relief wash over her.

Turning to the nanny beside them, she asked, "Pauline, how did Buddy hurt his head?"

Pauline Clyne shook her head, looking guilty. "Ms. Kinsey, I was cooking in the kitchen, and Buddy was playing with his toys in the living room. I didn't see

how it happened. He came up to me, tugging at my clothes, and when I turned around, I saw his face covered in blood-I nearly fainted... I'm so sorry. It's my fault for not watching him properly." Nyla looked at Mason. "Buddy, do you remember how you hurt your head?"

Mason nodded. "I was playing in the living room, and I accidentally stepped on a toy, slipped, and hit the

floor."

"Okay, I see," Nyla replied.

The living room was equipped with security cameras, allowing her to check the footage later to confirm what had happened.

"Pauline, you should go home for today. You've had a scare too. I'll take care of Buddy from here," Nyla said, dismissing her.

"Alright, Ms. Kinsey. I've already prepped most of the dinner ingredients, so you just need to cook them when you get back," Pauline replied.

"Thank you," Nyla said, then carried Mason out of the hospital and hailed a cab to go home.

During the ride, Mason fell asleep, his small face still stained with bits of dried blood. Nyla's heart ached as she looked at him.

Once they arrived home, she gently laid him on the bed, wiped his face clean with a damp cloth, and tucked him in. Then, she headed to the living room to check the security footage. After confirming that Mason had indeed tripped over his toy, she finally relaxed.

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Back in Damon's car, Luca couldn't hold back any longer. "Mr. Sumner, Spencer sent me a message earlier today asking about Ms. Kinsey."

Damon, who had been reading a document, paused with a slight frown. "Why is he asking about her?"

"Ms. Kinsey's seminar at the branch was recorded and shared in the company chat group. Spencer saw it and got curious. He probably thought Ms. Kinsey was beautiful and asked about her casually," Luca explained. Damon closed his file, narrowing his eyes slightly?

Spencer wasn't the type to be interested in women like that. If he was asking, there must be a reason.

Still, Damon wasn't particularly concerned. He didn't interfere in subordinates' personal lives as long as they did their jobs.

Suddenly, his phone buzzed.

As soon as Damon answered, an excited voice blurted out, "Damon! Do you know what I saw today at the hospital? A kid who looks exactly like you when you were little!" Chapter 528

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Damon's expression was icy, his voice devoid of emotion. "You must be mistaken."

"I'm serious! I didn't have time to take a picture because I was in a hurry, but I swear you'd be shocked if you saw this kid. I even wonder if he could be your long-lost son!" the other party exclaimed. "If that's all, I'm hanging up," Damon said.

"Wait, wait, wait... About the amusement park project that Prospectus Technology is bidding on-any chance I can still get in on that?" the other party asked.

"Come to the branch office tomorrow," Damon replied curtly.

Then, he hung up. Just as he was about to set the phone down, another call came in.

He glanced at the screen and saw it was from Erin. His expression darkened, but after a moment of thought, he answered. "What is it?"

"Damon, forget what I said the other day. Since you're not ready for marriage, I won't push you. Besides, my career is taking off right how. We can talk about marriage later, okay?" Erin proposed.

Damon remained silent. In truth, Erin had played the role of fiancee well over the past few years, leaving little room for criticism. If they broke off the engagement, Richard and Marie would only introduce another woman to him, so keeping things as they were seemed easier.

When Erin didn't hear a response, she grew anxious. If Damon was still upset about what she had said and insisted on breaking the engagement, she wouldn't be able to face anyone in Saintornia again. "Damon... Are you still mad at me?" she asked.

"No, let's go with your suggestion. But I can't promise when we'll actually get married," Damon replied. "That's fine. I don't mind. As long as I can stay by your side..." Erin assured him.

Her plan was simple: maintain the engagement and seek an opportunity to ensure they slept together. If she could get pregnant with Damon's child, she was confident he wouldn't turn his back on her or the baby. "Okay," Damon answered.

Relieved to have smoothed things over with him, Erin smiled. "There's a fashion show tomorrow night. A friend of mine was supposed to go but had to leave town. Could you come with me instead?" "Sure," Damon replied.

"Great! I'll come by tomorrow afternoon," Erin chirped.

After hanging up, a cold glint flickered in her eyes.

That night, Mason suddenly spiked a high fever, likely due to his injury. Nyla gave him some fever medicine and stayed by his side all night.

By morning, the medicine had worn off, and his fever returned. She quickly dressed him and rushed him

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to the hospital.

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The results confirmed that the fever was caused by his wound, and the doctor prescribed two IV drips for him. The fever left Mason drowsy, and he soon fell asleep in Nyla's arms. After one drip, his condition improved slightly.

Nyla called Pauline to come and look after him while she prepared to head to the lab. Just as she moved, Mason woke up.

"Mom, can you not go to work today? Stay home with me?" he asked.

His voice was raspy, and he sounded a bit whiny. Yet, there was an undercurrent of vulnerability as well.

Mason rarely asked for anything, let alone fussed like this. On top of that, he was still sick, and Nyla's heart melted instantly. "Okay, I'll take the day off and stay with you," she promised.

After asking Pauline to watch Mason for a moment, Nyla stepped into the stairwell to call Edgar and request time off.

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Since Nyla rarely took leave, Edgar readily agreed, even telling her to take a few extra days off. After all, the Alzheimer's research project had recently wrappe

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Realizing that she hadn't spent much time with Mason over the past few years, Nyla decided to take two weeks off to be with him.

After arranging her leave, she returned to the hospital room, where Pauline quickly stood up. "Ms. Kinsey, Buddy said he wanted some soup. There's no time to cook it now, so I'll grab some from the eateries by the hospital. Do you want anything?" "I'll have the same as Buddy. Have you eaten yet?" Nyla asked.

"I already ate. I'll go get breakfast now," Pauline replied

Nyla sat down next to Mason and felt his forehead. His fever had gone down, and she finally felt a sense of relief. "Buddy, is there anything you want to do or anywhere you'd like to go? Mommy has the next two weeks free, so I can spend time with you." Mason's eyes lit up for a moment but quickly dimmed as he lowered his head. "Mommy, you don't have to take time off just for me. I..."

Nyla gently held his small hand, her voice soft. "Buddy, Mommy works hard so that I can spend time with you. I have the time now, so all you need to do is think about where you want to go. Don't worry about anything else."

"I... I want to go to an amusement park," Mason said, his voice filled with hope. Sear*ch the Findnovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Nyla paused to consider his request. She had never taken Mason to an amusement park before. She had asked him a few times in the past whether he wanted to go, but he always claimed he wasn't interested in something so boring. Now it seemed he hadn't been uninterested-he just didn't want to interrupt her work.

Guilt surged through her at the realization.

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Because Mason had grown up without a father, he had been isolated by the other kids at his first preschool. When Nyla had found out, she had raised a fuss at the kindergarten, and the children and their families had apologized. However, Mason's personality had become more independent since then.

Nyla had assumed things were improving, but now she realized he was much more sensitive than other children his age.

Pushing aside her guilty thoughts, she smiled and gently pinched Mason's cheek. "Alright. Once you're better, we'll go to the amusement park."

For the next few days, Nyla stayed home to take care of Mason. He recovered quickly, and by the third day, he was already hinting at the promised trip to the amusement park.

Nyla couldn't help but laugh. "Okay, we'll go tomorrow.

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The next morning, while Nyla was still asleep, Mason was already up and dressed, having eaten breakfast. When it was almost 8:00 a.m. and Nyla still hadn't woken up, he

couldn't resist knocking on her door to rouse her. After they both got ready, it was nearly 9:00 a.m. by the time they left the house.

Since it wasn't the weekend, the amusement park wasn't too crowded, but there were still a decent number of visitors.

Because Mason's head injury hadn't fully healed, Nyla allowed him to go on only the gentler rides. Even so, she felt exhausted after just a few hours.

Just as they were about to find somewhere to eat, a surprised voice called out behind her, "Ms. Kinsey! What are you doing at the amusement park at this hour?"

Nyla turned around and saw Luca and Damon standing a short distance away. Her heart nearly stopped. Why was Damon there?!

Her first thought was that she couldn't let Damon see Mason's face!

Fortunately, she had packed a few masks in Mason's bag just in case, after some of his classmates had caught colds previously. She quickly opened the bag and pulled out a mask, putting it on Mason. "Buddy, whatever happens, don't take this mask off, okay?" As she secured the mask on Mason's face, Damon and Luca walked up to them.

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Luca caught a glimpse of Mason's profile and felt a strange sense of familiarity. He couldn't quite place where he had seen it before. Before he could look closer, Nyla had already put the mask on Mason. Standing up, Nyla faced Damon, trying to appear calm. "Mr. Sumner, Mr. Fleming, what a coincidence." Damon nodded. "The company has an amusement park project, so we're here to do some research." As he spoke, his eyes drifted to Mason, whom Nyla was holding by the hand. Mason looked up at him, and for a brief moment, their eyes met.

Damon felt an odd, indescribable sensation. He usually didn't care for children, finding them a hassle, but there was something about Mason that stirred none of his usual annoyance.

"This child..." he began to say.

Nyla instinctively pulled Mason behind her but quickly realized how overprotective she was being. She forced a smile to maintain her composure. "He's my son. He's a bit shy... Well, since you're here on business, I won't hold you up. Goodbye." Without giving Damon a chance to respond, she immediately pulled Mason away and left quickly.

It wasn't until their figures disappeared that Luca, unable to contain his surprise, muttered, "I didn't know Ms. Kinsey had a child this big already... I don't remember hearing anything about her getting married."

Damon pulled his gaze back, his expression indifferent. "Let's go."

Even though Damon remained focused on his work that entire afternoon, his mind kept wandering. The strange feeling from his brief moment of eye contact with Mason lingered, and he couldn't shake the memory of those eyes.

He thought he must be overworked, allowing such irrelevant thoughts to distract him. Once the amusement park project in Capitarnia was finalized, he decided he would take a few days off to rest.

On the other side, Nyla had been preoccupied and distracted ever since their encounter with Damon.

Mason noticed her restlessness but remained quiet, though a thoughtful glint shone in his eyes.

Nyla had been contemplating how to prevent Damon from discovering Mason's existence. She even considered sending Mason abroad. In her worry, she didn't notice how unusually quiet Mason had become.

It wasn't until they returned home that Mason broke the silence.

After changing his shoes and heading toward the living room, he suddenly asked, "Mom, that man we saw today... is he my dad?"

Nyla froze, her body going rigid as her face turned pale.

Ever since Mason could remember, he had never seen his father. There wasn't a single photo of his father

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in their home. When he was little and noticed that his friends had dads, he had once asked, in his halting toddler speech, where his own father was.

At the time, Nyla had told him that his dad had gone far away before he was born and that he might never come back.

As Mason grew older and learned to read, he realized that the "far away" place his mom had mentioned was heaven. He had also learned a word for it-dead.

He hadn't felt too sad. After all, he had never known his father or what it felt like to have one. Nyla took great care of him, and to him, that was enough.

Still, when he saw other kids laughing while being carried on their dads' shoulders, he sometimes couldn't help but feel a twinge of envy.

Later, he noticed that when Nyla saw him watching other kids with their fathers, she would get sad, her eyes clouding with an emotion he couldn't quite understand. Although he didn't fully comprehend it, he could sense her sadness. To avoid making Nyla sad, he had stopped looking at other kids with envy.

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Everything changed when he entered kindergarten, and some of the other kids began to exclude him They would call him names, labeling him "a kid without a dad". After a fight with those children, Nyla had had to come to the school. +25 BONUS

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his mother angry. Although the kids and their parents had That was the first time Mason had seen apologized afterward, the incident had left a shadow in his heart. He wished he had a father-someone who could handle these situations instea of leaving it all to Nyla.

Oliver had always been kind to him, and Mason thought he wouldn't mind if Oliver became his father. But deep down, what he truly wanted was his real father.

Seeing that stern-faced man at the amusement park today, Mason had felt a strange connection.

He thought they looked alike.

When Nyla had suddenly made him put on a mask, he had noticed the emotion in her eyes-it had reminded him of the guilty look the kids in kindergarten had after doing something wrong. That's when Mason began to wonder whether he might actually be that stern man's son.

Nyla turned around, her expression tense. "Buddy... why would you ask that? I told you before, your dad went somewhere far away...

"Then why were you so scared when you saw that man today? And why did you make me wear a mask?" Mason pressed.

Nyla felt a flicker of embarrassment. Her son was getting older and harder to deceive.

"Because that man is someone I know from work, and he just got over a cold. I was worried he might pass it to you," she replied.

Mason replied with an "oh," but Nyla couldn't tell if he believed her.

A pang of guilt gnawed at her for lying to Mason, but with Damon's memory loss, there was no guarantee he would acknowledge Mason as his son, even if he learned the truth.

After thinking for a moment, she squatted down in front of Mason. "Buddy, there are a lot of people in the world who look alike. You-"

Before she could finish, Mason nodded. "Mom, I understand. I must have made a mistake."

His response made Nyla's brows knit. Sometimes, she wondered if lying to him was the right choice. She had planned to explain everything when he was older but hadn't expected to run into Damon so soon. As she pondered what to say next, Mason spoke again. "I'm tired, Mom. I want to sleep."

Nyla pressed her lips together and nodded. "Okay, I'll have Pauline make those meatballs you like."

"Mm," Mason hummed in response.

Once Mason's small figure disappeared into his room, Nyla sank onto the couch, contemplating how to handle the situation.

After seeing Damon, Mason was already starting to question things, and it wouldn't be easy to erase those doubts with a few simple words.

She had never expected that a single meeting with Damon would make Mason suspect that he might be his real father. It was strange how powerful blood ties could be.

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While she was lost in thought, her phone suddenly rang

Seeing an unfamiliar number, she hung up immediately but the call came through again a second later. After a moment of hesitation, she answered.

The familiar voice on the other end made Nyla drop the phone in shock. "Ms. Jayston... or should I call you Ms. Kinsey now? This is Spencer Hogg. I'm at the airport and will be in Capitarnia tonight. Let's meet." Nyla's heart sank. She quickly picked up the phone to hang up, panic flooding her eyes.

Damon might have lost his memory, but Spencer hadn't. He knew about her past with Damon. If he found out about Mason...

Her phone buzzed again.

It was a text from Spencer.

Nyla's hands trembled as she opened it, her face paling.

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Spencer: [Ms. Kinsey, Luca just told me you have a child.]

Nyla stared blankly at the message for several minutes before finally replying.

Nyla: [Location.]

After ensuring Mason was asleep around 9:00 p.m., Nyla asked Pauline to stay with him before getting dressed to go out.

"Ms. Kinsey, where are you going so late?" Pauline asked.

"I have some things to handle at the lab. I'll try to be back before midnight," Nyla replied.

Pauline nodded. "Okay, just bec

By the time Nyla arrived at the agreed-upon location with Spencer, it was close to 10:00 p.m.

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Entering the restaurant, she spotted Spencer waving at her. Her expression hardened as she walked over to sit across from him.

"Mr. Hogg, I'm here. You can tell me what you want now," she said directly.

Spencer was taken aback by the Nyla before him-so different from five years ago.

While her features hadn't changed much, she now radiated confidence and composure. Dressed in a luxury tailored suit and silk blouse, she exuded femininity, accentuated by her long, wavy hair. "Ms. Jay- Ms. Kinsey, you've changed a lot," he remarked.

Leaning back, Nyla looked at him coldly. "I didn't come here to catch up." Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

After a brief silence, Spencer spoke softly. "About your child... Mr. Sumner-"

Nyla cut him off., "You can rest assured, he has nothing to do with Damon. Besides, Damon has lost his memory and has a fiancee now. I have no interest in being a mistress."

Under the table, her hands clenched tightly. She couldn't let Spencer discover the truth about Mason's connection to Damon.

Spencer didn't relax. Instead, he leaned in, his expression probing. "Then the child..."

"Mr. Hogg, just know my child has no connection to Damon. As for who the biological father is, I don't see why I should tell you," Nyla said matter-of-factly.

Upon meeting her impatient gaze, Spencer's eyes flickered with regret. "I apologize, I overstepped."

Nyla brushed it off. "If you came all the way to Capitarnia just for this, I don't think it was necessary to do so in person."

After a few moments of silence, Spencer sighed. "Ms. Kinsey, do you really have no feelings left for Mr. Sumner?"

He fixed his gaze on her, searching for any hint of emotion.

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Nyla let out a soft laugh. "Do I look like someone who still has feelings for him? Besides, I have a boyfriend now."

"Ah... I understand," Spencer replied.

"Mr. Hogg, since we're meeting today, let's clear everything up once and for all. I never intended to be with Damon five years ago, and now that he's lost his memory, it's even less likely.

"I hope you can treat it as if nothing ever happened between us and that we don't know each other, just like everyone else," she said.

Surprise flickered in Spencer's eyes. "Ms. Kinsey, don't you want to know what happened to the people who kidnapped you back then?"

"My friend told me. They got the punishment they deserved," Nyla replied calmly.

Her demeanor made it clear she no longer wanted any connection to the people from Saintornia. After a brief pause, Spencer spoke slowly. "At the time... Mr. Sumner avenged you. Afterward, he became very withdrawn, focusing solely on work, eating, and sleeping. Within three months, he was hospitalized several times.

"Mr. Richard was worried that if he kept going like that, he wouldn't be able to handle it, so-"

"Mr. Hogg," Nyla interrupted. "His matters have nothing to do with me. You don't need to tell me any of this. I think I've made my position clear. I won't approach him again, and I want the past to be treated as

if it never happened. I hope you can keep this confidential. Goodbye."

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After saying that, Nyla stood up and left.

Once her figure disappeared from view, Spencer dialed a number. "Find out which kindergarten Nyla's son attends and get a photo for me."

Although Nyla insisted that the child had nothing to do with Damon, Spencer felt he needed to verify it himself for peace of mind. If the child truly wasn't related to Damon, he wouldn't bother her again.

After leaving the restaurant, Nyla calmed down and immediately called Oliver.

"Oliver, I need a favor," she said.

For the next several days, Nyla focused on spending time with Mason and didn't concern herself with anything else.

On the last day of her break, while practicing writing with Mason, she received a call from Edgar asking her to attend a dinner the following night.

Nyla frowned. "Professor, you promised me before that you wouldn't schedule dinner events for me. I've made it clear I just want to focus on my research."

Sensing her cold tone, Edgar quickly reassured, "Nyla, this dinner is with an investor from the lab. She's a woman and has expressed admiration for your dedication to research, so she wants to meet you. I promise there won't be any pressure to drink." After Edgar's repeated assurances, Nyla finally relented. "But I know most of the female investors in our lab. Who is this one?"

"She's a new investor, and since you've been away for the past half month, you wouldn't know her. You'll find out when you get there tomorrow," Edgar said.

Feeling something was off, Nyla was going to press further when Edgar hurriedly added, "I have to go to a meeting now. I'll send you the time and location shortly, so be sure to arrive on time."

Not long after hanging up, Nyla received a message from Edgar with the details. Remembering how he had always protected his students during dinners, ensuring they didn't drink more than necessary, she decided not to question it further.

The next evening, Nyla followed the server into a private room. Upon seeing the person seated inside, she finally understood why she had been invited.

"Nyla, long time no see," Erin greeted her.

Nyla sat down across from Erin, her expression calm. "Ms. Hulle, you went through all this trouble just to see me?"

Erin raised an eyebrow, a small smile on her lips. "You're not that important to me. I'm only interested in your lab's research, which I find promising. As for you, I'm just checking in."

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Nyla didn't believe a word of it. The disdain in Erin's eyes made it clear-there was no way she would invest in the lab Nyla worked for.

"So, what's your real reason for inviting me here today?" Nyla asked.

"You must know that I'm Damon's fiancee now. I don't want you anywhere near him. Given the Hulles' influence, it would be easy to bring down a small lab like yours.

"If you don't want the others to suffer because of you, I suggest you leave quietly before things get ugly," Erin threatened. S~Earch the Findnøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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"So I should give up my career just to avoid an ugly situation because you don't want me near Damon?" Nyla smiled, but her eyes were icy. "Ms. Hulle, don't you think your ego is a bit inflated?"

Erin's expression darkened. "I didn't expect you to become so sharp-tongued after five years. But have you considered that your sharp tongue might hurt those around you?"

A hint of sarcasm flashed in Nyla's eyes. "Ms. Hulle, has your romantic life made you foolish? This is Capitarnia, not Saintornia. Our lab has numerous research achievements, and any one of them would attract countless investors. Do you really think the Hulles can control Nyla was baffled by Erin's audacity to claim she could easily bring down their lab. Had she even researched who was backing them?

"Hah! What good is talking big? I'm giving you one last chance. If you don't leave voluntarily, whatever happens next won't be something I can control!" Erin warned.

"Idiot!" Nyla muttered.

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She didn't want to waste another second with Erin and turned to leave.

As she opened the door, she almost ran into the tall man who was about to walk in. When he looked down at her, his dark eyes were unfathomable and intimidating.

Nyla instinctively took a step back, her brows furrowing. Was Damon behind Erin's audacity to threaten her?

She had heard that Prospectus Technology had expanded significantly under Damon's leadership in recent years, securing a presence in all major cities. Its status had vastly improved.

Nyla was dressed in a light beige fitted dress that accentuated her slim waist, looking effortlessly elegant. With light makeup and the overhead lights highlighting her delicate features, she appeared flawless.

As Damon noticed the fleeting emotion in her eyes, he quickly explained, "Ms. Kinsey, my fiancee has caused you some trouble. I'm sorry."

Nyla squinted, contemplating the sincerity of his words. search the Find_Nøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

After a moment, a mocking smile crept onto her face. "Mr. Sumner, I'm grateful for Ms. Hulle's investment in our lab, so how could I see it as trouble? It seems she feels insecure, worried that I might seduce you. I wonder if you share her concerns?" Damon hadn't expected Nyla to lay everything out so directly. He lowered his gaze, his presence suddenly imposing, like the calm before a storm.

However, Nyla remained unaffected, simply smiling at him.

Eventually, he shifted his gaze away, his voice growing colder, though not directed at her. "Erin, come over and apologize to Ms. Kinsey."

Erin bit her lip, unsure how Damon had found out about their meeting.

Despite her resentment toward Nyla, under Damon's commanding gaze, she could only reluctantly say,"

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Ms. Kinsey, I'm sorry."

Nyla's smile was gentle. "There's no need for apologies, Ms. Hulle. If I had such a handsome fiance, I'd be just as protective as well. After all, if someone were to steal him away, it would mean sleepless nights for me, too." Erin's face turned ashen. If Damon hadn't been present, she would have lunged at Nyla, eager to tear apart that hypocritical facade.

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Erin forced a smile. "I'm glad you understand, Ms. Kinsey."

Nyla nodded. "I do understand, but I hope you'll think things through in the future and avoid doing something so pointless."

"Of course, I'll keep that in mind!" Erin gritted her teeth in frustration, her gaze sharp and icy as she glared at Nyla.

Nyla smiled and turned to Damon. "Thank you for today, Mr. Sumner. I assume you and Ms. Hulle have more to discuss, so I'll take my leave." "Let's have dinner another day as an apology," Damon replied.

"No need for that. I wouldn't want to be labeled as someone who disrupts other people's relationships," she said, stepping past Damon and leaving. Soon, only Erin and Damon remained in the private room.

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It was the best and most secluded room in the restaurant, isolated from others, allowing them to hear only faint conversations from nearby tables. Damon looked at Erin calmly, showing no signs of anger, but she couldn't even meet his gaze. She knew he was upset. S~Earch the Findnøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

After a long silence, she finally broke it, unable to hold back any longer. "Damon... let me explain..."

Damon chuckled. "What's there to explain? Erin, the reason I kept you by my side was that you were obedient. If you've lost that quality, why should I keep you around?"

Erin panicked, rushing toward him but stopping abruptly several steps away. "Damon... I didn't mean to do it today. I just got confused for a moment."

"Why did you go after her?" he pressed.

She paused, momentarily taken aback.

Seeing her dazed expression, he repeated patiently, "There are plenty of women more attractive than Nyla that Prospectus Technology has invested in or collaborated with. You've never threatened any of them. Why target Nyla?" Damon had no interest in Nyla, but Erin's behavior was unusual. Why did she feel that Nyla was an exception?

Erin opened her mouth, her face turning pale as she struggled to find the words, her palms sweating nervously.

"I... I..." She didn't know how to explain.

The knowledge that Nyla had a child with Damon had sent her into a panic. She feared that Nyla would reveal the truth to him and had forgotten that, at this moment, Nyla was just a stranger to Damon.

Damon's gaze was sharp, as if he could see right through Erin, causing her to tremble slightly.

What could she say to ease his suspicions? Just as she felt she might crack under his intense stare, his

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phone rang.

Damon glanced at the screen before answering.

After listening to something on the other end, he replied coldly, "I'll be there soon."

Hanging up, he turned back to Erin. "If you can't explain yourself, I'll find out the truth myself."

Pale-faced, Erin rushed to clarify. "Damon... I wanted to marry you, but then you suddenly proposed breaking off the engagement. I was scared... I thought you liked someone else. Among the women you've been meeting in Capitarnia, Ms. Kinsey is the most beautiful, so I acted impulsively..."

Today's Bonus Offer

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Damon looked at Erin with a straight face, his eyes narrowing slightly as he assessed the credibility of her

words. S~Earch the Findηovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Erin felt her heart racing, forcing herself to maintain eye contact. Just as she thought she couldn't bear the pressure any longer, she heard Damon's cold voice say, "This is your last warning."

It wasn't until his figure disappeared through the doorway that she sank back into her chair, cold sweat trickling down her back.

Damon headed straight to the branch office after leaving the restaurant.

Spencer was already waiting for him at the office door. "Mr. Sumner, here are the documents that need your signature."

Damon walked into the office, signed the documents, and then looked up at Spencer. "Have Luca take these back. You'll stay here in his place. Things in Capitarnia are different from Saintornia. Some matters are beyond his capabilities." Spencer lowered his gaze, hiding the complexity that flickered in his eyes. "Understood, Mr. Sumner."

Once outside the office, Spencer instructed Luca to hand over his work and take the documents back to

Saintornia.

After the handover, Luca was about to leave when Spencer suddenly called out to him.

"Luca, you've met Ms. Kinsey's child before, right?" he asked.

Luca nodded, a puzzled expression on his face. "Yeah, but why do you ask? You're not actually thinking of pursuing Ms. Kinsey, are you?"

Ever since Spencer saw Nyla's lecture, he had been acting strangely, constantly inquiring about her- something he had never done with any other woman. Even with Damon's fiancee, he sometimes didn't spare her any tact. "Not at all," Spencer replied.

"Why are you so interested in Ms. Kinsey then?" Luca pressed.

"You don't need to know that. Just look at this photo. Is this Ms. Kinsey's child?" Spencer handed his phone to Luca, where the screen displayed a picture of a child about five years old. It had just been sent by his subordinate. Luca glanced at the photo and frowned. "No. I only saw the child's profile before, but something about it felt familiar. The face shape doesn't match this picture at all-it's clearly a different child."

Upon seeing Spencer's expression darken, Luca's confusion deepened. Why was he inquiring about someone else's child out of the blue?

Spencer fell silent, contemplating for a moment before pulling out another photo and showing it to Luca.

The moment Luca saw the second photo, his eyes widened in disbelief and shock. "Spencer, Ms. Kinsey's

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child and Mr. Sumner-"

Before he could finish, Spencer interrupted. "That's enough. Don't ask questions you shouldn't. Just prepare to head back to Saintornia."

Luca wanted to inquire further, but seeing the serious look on Spencer's face, he held back.

Having been Damon's secretary for several years, he understood what was appropriate to say and what wasn't. The resemblance between Nyla's child and Damon was something he had never considered. It was no wonder he had found the child's profile familiar that day-it was because the child looked like

Damon.

However, when Damon met Nyla, they both seemed unaware of each other.

Luca had been by Damon's side for years, and as far as he knew, there had been no interaction between Damon and Nyla.

If it were just a coincidence, Spencer wouldn't have bothered to ask him about it.

Luca felt as though he had stumbled upon something significant, but he knew it was best to pretend he didn't know anything and keep it to himself. If word got out, he would likely lose his job. Chapter 537

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After Luca left, Spencer put down his phone and contemplated his next move. From Luca's reaction, he could confirm that Nyla's child was Damon's.

When he received the photo from his subordinate, he had initially suspected it might be fake. If the child had no connection to Damon, Nyla wouldn't have agreed to meet him after receiving his message that day. That was why he had sought out Luca, who had previously seen the child.

The outcome was clear-the photo was likely a decoy from Nyla, designed to mislead him.

The more she tried to hide, the more it indicated her guilt. She was afraid he would realize how much the child resembled Damon.

Thinking back to how Richard had once threatened him about not mentioning Nyla to Damon, Spencer subconsciously clenched his hands at his sides.

After a moment's hesitation, he dialed his subordinate's number. "The photo you sent is fake. Start following Nyla. We need a clear shot of that child's face."

After hanging up, he frowned and considered what to do next.

Damon watched Spencer through the one-way glass in his office, his expression indifferent. He picked up his phone and made a call.

"Find out what Spencer has been doing on the side lately," he instructed.

The documents Spencer had sent previously weren't significant enough for him to visit in person. Furthermore, ever since arriving in Capitarnia, Spencer had seemed distracted, acting mysteriously and revealing little about his activities.

The voice on the other end sounded surprised, laced with mockery. "Why the sudden interest in Spencer? He's been loyal to you for years. It's unlikely he would betray you."

Damon's gaze darkened as he replied tersely, "You talk too much."

"Fine, I won't say more. I'll call you when I have news," the other party said.

In less than half a day, Damon learned that Spencer was investigating Nyla.

He frowned. It was Nyla again. What could Spencer possibly want with her? They had no connection.

"Keep a close watch. Let me know the moment you find anything," Damon instructed.

Meanwhile, Nyla received a call from Oliver,

"Nyla, Damon's secretary, is privately investigating Buddy. My people found out, and I had them switch Buddy's photo with that of a boy in another class. But we can't keep this hidden for long. We need to get Buddy out of the country quickly," Oliver informed her. Nyla tightened her grip on her phone, panic rising within her. Spencer didn't believe her!

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For the past few years in Capitarnia, Oliver had helped her keep Mason's existence a secret.

However, Mason had lived in Capitarnia for five years there were bound to be traces left behind. If Spencer uncovered the truth, it would mean Damon would find out as well.

Thinking of this, Nyla gritted her teeth. "How's the preparation on your end? Buddy needs to leave the country within three days at the latest."

"Three days is tight, but I can get all the paperwork done. Just remember, once Buddy is out of the country, you might not see him for a year. Are you really okay with that?" Oliver asked.

In Oliver's view, even if the Sumners or Damon discovered Mason's existence now, it wouldn't pose a significant threat. After all, Nyla had raised Mason on her own for years without any help from the Sumners.

Moreover, Damon now had a fiancee and had seemingly forgotten about Nyla, so it was unlikely he would care much about Mason.

As long as they could convince Spencer, they could continue to keep Mason's situation under wraps.

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Nyla fell silent. She didn't want to let Mason go, but it was the best option she

could think of for now. Lately, she had been having dreams in which Damon came to take Mason away, and the first thing she would do every morning was check to make sure he was still by her side. "But... if I don't send Buddy away, I have no other options..." she muttered.

Oliver paused for a moment before saying softly, "Nyla, don't rush. Damon has lost his memory, so he might not come after Buddy. What's most important now is that you stay calm and don't stress yourself too much." Nyla bit her lip and replied quietly, "I understand what you're saying, but I can't help but worry..."

"I'll be back tomorrow. Let's meet and discuss this. There has to be a better solution," Oliver assured her..

"Okay," Nyla replied.

After hanging up, Oliver thought for a moment before calling his secretary. "Contact Spencer Hogg, the secretary of Prospectus Technology's CEO, Damon Sumner. I want to meet with him when I get back to Capitarnia tomorrow." The next evening, the first

thing Oliver did upon his return to Capitarnia was meet Spencer. He got straight to the point once he sat down across from him. "Mr. Hogg, I know what you're investigating, but I hope you'll stop." Spencer frowned, visibly displeased. "Mr. Raynor, you have no authority to give me orders."

If it weren't for Oliver concealing Nyla's whereabouts, Damon might have found her before Richard had him hypnotized, and everything could have been different.

Oliver remained calm, his expression serious. "Mr. Hogg, Mr. Sumner has forgotten Nyla, and her life is peaceful now. Why dig up everything and turn everyone's lives upside down? Sometimes, it's better to let things be." Spencer scoffed. "Mr. Raynor, you don't need to put on a facade. You're saying this because you're afraid Mr. Sumner might take Nyla away."

Oliver raised an eyebrow, confidence resonating in his voice. "I've been by Nyla's side for five years. I've supported her through her toughest times, and I believe I'm far more important to her than Mr. Sumner is right now.

"Still, I won't leverage that support for my own gain. I just want her to be happy. Your actions are already causing her distress, and I won't allow anyone to hurt her."

Spencer remained silent, though the hostility in his expression had lessened.

"Mr. Sumner hasn't been happy these past few years," he said.

Even if Damon had forgotten Nyla and was now engaged to Erin, Spencer knew that Damon had never truly let anyone else into his heart. Perhaps, even after forgetting all about Nyla, he would still be captivated by her. Chapter 538

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"Mr. Sumner's happiness has nothing to do with Nyla. Surely, you wouldn't sacrifice someone else's happiness just to keep Mr. Sumner happy?

"Besides, Nyla doesn't want anything to do with him. If you insist on pursuing this, I will have to take matters into my own hands to stop you," Oliver warned

"Are you threatening me?" Spencer questioned.

"Just a reminder. But I hope you understand: Nyla is my bottom line, and this isn't Saintornia," Oliver replied.

With that, he stood up and left.

Spencer sat in the restaurant for a long time before finally getting up to leave.

Back at the hotel, he picked up his phone and called his subordinate. "Cancel the investigation into Nyla. There's no need to look into her anymore."

On the way to Nyla's house, Oliver received word that Spencer's people looking into Mason had already left, and a smile slowly crept onto his face.

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It seemed that Spencer had taken his words to heart. Oliver liked smart people. While he wasn't afraid of confronting Prospectus Technology, it would be best to resolve this matter quietly. By the time Oliver arrived at Nyla's house, it was already past 7:00 p.m.

When the doorbell rang, Nyla was helping Mason practice his writing. Upon opening the door to find Oliver, her eyes lit up with surprise. "You're back!" "Yeah, I brought a gift for Buddy," Oliver replied.

Nyla accepted the gift, a smile spreading across her face. "He was just saying a few days ago that he wanted this toy. I can't believe you got it for him today.

"This shows that Buddy and I are in sync," Oliver said, his warm gaze on Nýfa enough to melt ice.

Feeling a bit flustered under his gaze, Nyla looked away awkwardly. "Have you eaten vet?"

Oliver shook his head. "Not yet."

"Then sit down and play with Buddy for a bit. I don't have much food left, but I can make you some egg and cheese toast." Oliver nodded. "Sounds good."

After handing the gift to Mason, Nyla went into the kitchen.

Mason hugged the toy, which was nearly as tall as he was, his little face flushed with excitement. "Thank you, Uncle Oliver!"

Oliver patted his head. "You're welcome! By the way, your mom still doesn't know about the tablet I got you last time, does she?"

Mason shook his head, a guilty look flashing in his eyes. "No, I haven't told Mom yet."

After seeing that man the other day, he had overheard the man's name while Nyla had been on the phone with Caroline.

Curiosity had led him to sneak a look online with the tablet. After comparing photos, he was convinced they looked almost identical and suspected that Damon was his biological father. Mason was planning to meet Damon soon, but he still preferred Oliver.

"Just make sure you don't fall behind in your studies because of the tablet, or your mom will be really mad. We might both end up at her mercy!" Oliver reminded him.

"Okay, I get it," Mason replied.

When Nyla brought the toast out from the kitchen, she found Mason and Oliver huddled together, whispering about something.

She couldn't help but smile and gently called out, "Oliver, food is ready."

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"Coming!" Oliver responded. He washed his hands and sat down at the table with a smile. "It smells so good. It must taste amazing!"

"Dig in!" Nyla replied, sitting across from him and pushing her homemade pickled sauerkraut toward him.

Even though Oliver was clearly hungry, he ate with elegant grace.

About ten minutes later, after finishing his last bite, he swallowed with a longing look. "Delicious!"

"I'm glad you liked it, but don't overdo it at dinner," Nyla advised.

As she stood up to clear the dishes, Oliver was already one step ahead, picking up his plate and heading toward the kitchen.

"I'll handle it. You did all the cooking, so it's only fair I help out," he insisted. S~EaRch the Findηøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Knowing his stubbornness, Nyla didn't argue. Instead, she wiped the table with a cloth.

Once Oliver had washed the dishes, he walked out of the kitchen to find that Nyla had already prepared tea for him.

His gaze softened as he sat down across from her.

"This is the limited-edition coffee Caroline brought from home. Let me know how it is," Nyla offered.

Oliver lifted his cup, taking a gentle sip before smiling. Very fragrant."

Looking through the rising steam, he fixed his eyes on Nyla. "Nyla, about what I mentioned before I left-have you thought it over?"

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Nyla froze for a moment, her face flushing instantly. She had been so worried about Mason lately that she hadn't had time to consider her feelings for Oliver.

In truth, she didn't need to think too hard-she had already decided to give things a try with him.

"Oliver, I've made up my mind. I want to give us a chance, but I've always thought of you as just a good friend, so I can't promise I'll definitely fall in love with you," she said.

Oliver had treated her exceptionally well over the years, doing so much for her. She felt that no one else would care for her like he did, and she didn't want to deceive him. She appreciated everything he had done, but gratitude alone wouldn't be enough for a lifetime together.

At her words, disappointment flashed in Oliver's eyes, but he understood that feelings couldn't be forced.

"Alright, let's give it some time. How about three months? If after that you still can't love me, we'll just remain friends," he said.

Nyla felt a pang of guilt. "I'm sorry."

Oliver looked at her softly. "Nyla, don't apologize. You haven't done anything wrong, and I'm already happy that you're willing to give me a chance."

He liked her and wanted to take care of her. Of course, he hoped she would grow to love him in return, but he wouldn't push it if she couldn't. Above all, he wanted her to be happy.

Meeting ver's tender gaze, Nyla felt a rush of emotion. "Okay."

Even though she didn't love Oliver yet, she would try her best.

"So, am I your boyfriend now?" Oliver asked.

Nyla smiled and nodded. "Of course, but there's still a three-month probation."

Oliver raised an eyebrow. "I'll work hard to make it official before then."

"Good luck with that!" Nyla teased.

"By the way, there's one more thing I wanted to tell you. My people found out that Spencer is still investigating Buddy. I talked to him

before coming here, so he shouldn't continue the investigation anymore, but... he has likely figured out that Buddy is Damon's child," Oliver informed her.

Nyla frowned, not entirely surprised. "I'm still worried. After all, he is Damon's secretary. What if..."

Oliver took her cold hand gently. "Don't worry. Even if Damon finds out Buddy is his son, I won't let him take Buddy away from you.

"And he currently has lost his memory and has a fiancee. He doesn't have any feelings for either of you. Even if he knows, he might not try to take Buddy.

"Ultimately, it all comes down to Buddy's wishes anyway."

His analysis helped Nyla calm down, making her realize she had been unnecessarily anxious these past few days. Nothing had even happened yet, and she had been on edge.

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She nodded. "Okay, I understand now. Thank you, Oliver."

"I really don't want to hear you say 'I'm sorry' or 'thank you' again. You haven't done anything wrong, and solving problems for my girlfriend is what I'm supposed to do as your boyfriend," Oliver declared. Nyla couldn't help but laugh at him. "You're getting into character pretty quickly."

"Of course! Now that I can call myself your boyfriend, I want to shout it from the rooftops," Oliver confessed.

His expression was serious, his eyes full of tenderness and affection, yet none of that put any pressure on Nyla. It was like a gentle breeze that stirred her hair and touched her heartstrings. Suddenly, her heartbeat quickened.

Instinctively, she pulled her hand back and looked away. "It's getting late. You just got back from a

business trip, so you must be tired. You should he

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Oliver noticed the way Nyla's ears reddened, sensing her shyness but choosing not to comment on it. He nodded. "Alright. I have a full day of meetings tomorrow. Let's plan for dinner the day after." "That depends on whether I have to stay late for experiments," Nyla replied.

"Okay, I know you're busy. I'll check in with you again the day after," Oliver said easily.

As Nyla walked him to the door, Oliver hesitated before asking, "You don't have to see me out, but... can I give you a hug?"

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Before he even finished, she stepped forward and wrapped her arms around him.

Oliver froze, his eyes wide in disbelief. He had prepared himself for rejection, so her response caught him completely off guard.

After a moment of shock, joy surged through him. He gently returned the embrace, treating her like something fragile and precious.

"Nyla, I'm really happy you're willing to respond to me," he said, his voice unsteady.

Feeling the depth of his emotions, Nyla loosened her hold and replied sincerely, "Oliver, I'm willing to try

to get closer to you, so you don't need to be so careful or worry about upsetting me."

"Got it," he said softly.

"Alright, y should head back now," she urged.

Reluctantly, Oliver headed downstairs to his car, already toying with the idea of buying the unit across from Nyla's. That way, he could see her and Mason every day.

After watching his car drive away, Nyla felt her heart racing. The sensation of hugging Oliver lingered, her thoughts spinning with the unfamiliar excitement.

In the CEO office of the Prospectus Technology branch, Damon worked late into the night.

The company had expanded rapidly in recent years, but many underlying issues still required attention. Now that the internal situation had stabilized, he could finally focus on addressing them one by one. Suddenly, his phone buzzed on the desk, pulling him out of his thoughts. He glanced at the screen, recognized the caller, and set his pen down before answering.

"Damon, guess what my people saw today?" the party on the other end of the line asked.

"Get to the point. I'm busy," Damon replied, his tone indifferent, betraying no emotion.

"Tsk, I knew you'd say that. Anyway, I won't keep you in suspense. This evening, Spencer met with Oliver Raynor, the CEO of the Raynor Group," the other party reported.

Damon frowned. "Are you sure?"

Prospectus Technology had no significant dealings with the Raynor Group, so why would Spencer meet with its CEO?

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When Prospectus Technology first entered the Capitarnia market, Damon had considered collaborating with the Raynor Group. However, the Raynor Group had not

only refused but also poached several of Prospectus Technology's projects. Although Prospectus Technology eventually established itself in the city, it had come at a considerable cost, sowing hidden risks along the way.

In essence, the relationship between Prospectus Technology and the Raynor Group was more adversarial than cooperative. Spencer, as Damon's secretary, had no reason to meet with Oliver privately.

"Absolutely sure. My people even took photos. I'll send them to you shortly. Damon, a lot of people have their eyes on Prospectus Technology's amusement park project in Capitarnia, and the Raynor Group is one of them. As your friend, I advise you to stay alert. You don't want to be blindsided by betrayal from someone close to you," the other party warned.

Damon's gaze darkened, his voice cold. "Understood."

He hung up, his frown deepening as he considered Spencer's recent unusual behavior. Today's Bonus Offer

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What was Spencer up to with his investigation into Nyla and his private meeting with Oliver? The thought of the Raynor Group trying to snatch the amusement park project made Damon's expression harden.

Was Spencer betraying him? No, that didn't make sense.

Over the years, many had tried to pry Prospectus Technology's secrets from Spencer, but none had succeeded.

There was no way Spencer would betray him.

Besides, Spencer had been looking into Nyla before this. There had to be some other reason.

After a moment of contemplation, Damon called Luca.

"Mr. Sumner, how may I assist?" Luca's voice was tense.

Damon's late-night calls usually meant something was wrong. It had happened enough times that Luca had grown anxious whenever Damon called him after hours.

"You're close with Spencer. Have you noticed anything off about him lately?" Damon asked.

Luca hesitated, recalling Spencer's earlier inquiry about a photo. Should he tell Damon? He suspected that Nyla's child might be Damon's, given Spencer's reaction. But it seemed unlikely, considering how Damon and Nyla behaved around each other. While he was still debating, Damon's patience wore thin. "Speak."

Luca bit his lip, deciding to hold back his suspicions. "I haven't noticed anything strange about Spencer."

"What did he say to you before you left for Saintornia?" Damon pressed.

"Uh... nothing much. He just briefed me on some work stuff," Luca answered.

"There are cameras outside the CEO's office. Are you sure you want me to pull the footage to get the truth?" Damon's voice was icy, sending a shiver down Luca's spine.

Luca knew better than to cross Damon.

With a resigned sigh, Luca confessed, "Spencer asked me if a child in a photo was Ms. Kinsey's."

Damon's eyes widened in surprise. "What does he want to know about Nyla's child?"

Luca fell silent, unsure whether to share his hunch.

"Luca, you've been with me for years. You should know my patience is limited," Damon warned.

Taking a deep breath, Luca replied, "Mr. Sumner, at the amusement park that day, I saw the child's profile before he put on the mask... He looks almost exactly like you."

Silence fell on the other end of the line, and Luca's heart raced. He wasn't afraid of Damon's anger, but the sudden quiet was unsettling-usually a bad sign.

After a tense few seconds, just as Luca was about to ask if everything was okay, the call abruptly ended. Listening to the busy signal, Luca didn't dare call back. He quickly turned off his phone, reasoning that if +25 BONUS

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Damon couldn't reach him, he could claim his battery had died.

After hanging up, Damon immediately redialed the earlier number. "Get a photo of Nyla's child, and do it quickly."

He set down his phone and walked over to the window The reflection in the glass showed his cold, inscrutable face.

The next morning, Nyla hurried to the lab after dropping Mason off at school. She was in such a rush that she didn't notice Mason emerge from the school just after she left.

Mason flagged down a taxi and got in. Once inside, he gave the driver the address for the Prospectus

Technology branch and pulled out his phone to navigate, cranking the volume up to the max.

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The taxi driver chuckled at the sound of the navigation voice coming from the back seat. The kid looked small, but he certainly seemed cautious.

Mason's school wasn't far from the Prospectus Technology branch, and they arrived in less than half an hour. After paying the fare and stepping out, Mason looked up at the towering skyscraper, at least dozens of stories high, excitement gleaming in his eyes. He walked into the building but was stopped at the front desk.

"Excuse me, young man, who are you looking for-" the receptionist began, but her eyes widened in shock as she realized she was looking at a miniature version of Damon. She could hardly believe it.

Was this Damon's child? But Damon wasn't married, right? Could this boy be a love child?

At that moment, she felt like she had stumbled upon a huge secret.

Seeing the receptionist staring at him in silence, Mason frowned and said, "I'm here to see your boss. His

name is Damon Sumner."

The receptionist was momentarily speechless. This boy's manner of speaking was so similar to Damon's- almost identical.

After a few seconds of stunned silence, she regained her composure. "P-Please wait a moment. I'll check.

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She picked up the phone and called the CEO's office. "Mr. Hogg, there's a child downstairs asking for Mr. Sumner. He looks just like him..."

"I'll be right down," Spencer replied.

After hanging up, Spencer glanced toward the conference room before heading downstairs.

As soon as he stepped out of the elevator, he spotted the small figure at the front desk and quickened his pace.

When he got a closer look at Mason's face, he couldn't help but gasp. He was certainthis was Damon's child.

The receptionist began, "Mr. Hogg-"

Spencer turned to her with a cold expression. "If you don't want to lose your job, keep quiet about the fact that he was here today."

After that, he turned to Mason and said gently, "I'm Mr. Sumner's secretary. He's busy right now and can't see you. Where do you go to school? Do you want me to take you back or contact your mom?"

Upon hearing Spencer mention contacting his mom, Mason's expression changed, and he quickly shook his head. "No, don't contact my mom. I came here secretly."

"In that case, I'll take you back to school. If the teachers notice you're missing, they'll contact your mom too," Spencer offered.

"But... I still haven't seen who I want to meet," Mason protested.

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He needed to confirm if Damon was truly his biological father. If not, he wouldn't waste any more time.

Looking into Mason's serious eyes, Spencer replied, "Little fella, since your mom doesn't know you're here, she probably wouldn't agree to this. Let me take you back to school, okay? If your mom finds out you snuck away, she'll definitely be upset." The thought of Nyla being angry made Mason shrink back a little. If she knew he had come to find a possible father without telling her, it would break her heart.

Seeing Mason wavering, Spencer continued. "Our boss is really busy today and won't have any time to see you, even if you wait all day. If you want to meet him, you need to make an appointment."

"Then if I make an appointment, can I see him?" Mason asked.

Spencer shook his head and led Mason to a spot out of the camera's view. There was no way he could let the cameras capture Mason's face.

"No. Even if you make an appointment, you'll still have to wait. There are a lot of people who want to see our boss, and it might take a month before you get an appointment," Spencer coaxed. Mason pouted, clearly disappointed. He hadn't realized it would take that long.

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"Where did you come from? Let me take you back," Spencer said.

Just as Mason was about to answer, the rapid click of high heels echoed down the hallway.

Spencer and Mason turned to see Nyla striding toward them, her face set in a scowl.

Before Mason could hide, Nyla called out, "Buddy, come here!"

Her anger was barely contained as she fixed her stern gaze on Mason.

That morning, as soon as she arrived at the lab, she had received a call from Mason's kindergarten teacher, saying he was missing. Panic had nearly overwhelmed her. Frantic, she had reached out to Oliver, and together, they had quickly tracked Mason's

whereabouts. She had never imagined Mason would be bold enough to come directly to Prospectus Technology to find Damon. He had somehow convinced himself that Damon was his biological father. Otherwise, he wouldn't have shown up here.

Nyla hurried to Mason's side, pulling him protectively behind her while glancing at Spencer warily. "Mr. Hogg, I apologize for any trouble Buddy may have caused. If he comes by again, please contact me right away."

"Buddy?" Spencer asked, his expression conflicted.

After his meeting with Oliver the previous day, he hadn't planned on bothering Nyla or Mason again. But seeing Mason now stirred something within

him. The boy bore such a striking resemblance to Damon. He had a strong feeling that if Damon learned of Mason's existence, he would undoubtedly fight for custody

Nyla frowned but pressed on, "Yes, Mr. Hogg. I hope you won't tell Damon about Buddy being here today."

Although Damon might not actually try to take Mason from her, she preferred not to take any chances.

Spencer opened his mouth to reply but instead let out a rueful chuckle. "It might be... difficult to keep this quiet..."

Before Nyla could respond, she felt a sharp, penetrating gaze on her. Instinctively, she turned around and froze. Damon was walking toward them, his eyes fixed on Mason.

Sensing the shift in the air, Mason looked up at Damon. Their eyes met, and for a moment, both seemed

stunned.

Suddenly, Damon's phone rang. He answered, and an excited voice filled the line. "Damon, remember I told you about that kid who looks just like you? You asked me to check on Nyla's child, and I got a photo. Guess what-" Before the caller could finish, Damon interrupted, his expression unchanged, "I already know."

"You know wh-" Damon hung up before the caller could finish. S~earch the Findnovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

He slipped his phone into his pocket and turned to Nyla, who stood frozen. "Care to explain?"

Nyla had thought she would panic when Damon found out about Mason, but instead, she felt surprisingly calm.

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She smiled at him. "Mr. Sumner, I don't think I owe you an explanation."

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Damon's face darkened, his voice cold. "Ms. Kinsey, why does this child look so much like me? Don't tell me it's just a coincidence."

The moment Damon saw Mason, he had a strong premonition-this child must be his. But how? He had no connection to Nyla. How could she have had his child?

Unfazed, Nyla nodded. "It's just a coincidence, Mr. Sumner. We didn't know each other before. You can't seriously think this child is yours, can you?"

Damon's gaze remained locked on hers, his voice measured. "A paternity test will confirm whether there's a connection."

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Nyla's heart sank at Damon's words. She absolutely could not let him conduct a paternity test. If he did, everything would fall apart.

She met Damon's gaze. "Mr. Sumner, if I remember correctly, you have a fiancee. If you want a child, she can give you one. Isn't it a bit absurd to demand a paternity test for someone else's child?" "Your strong reaction makes me wonder if you're feeling guilty, Ms. Kinsey," Damon shot back.

"I'm just pointing out that you're causing trouble where none exists. We've never met before, and we have no connection, isn't that right?" Nyla retorted. Damon's eyes turned cold. Before coming to Capitarnia, he had truly had no interactions with Nyla. That was precisely why he insisted on a paternity test. As he remained silent, simply glaring at her, Nyla pressed on, "Since you have nothing more to say, we'll be leaving."

Just as she was about to take Mason away, Damon's cold voice cut through the air. "You're not leaving Prospectus Technology without my permission today."

Nyla's hands clenched at her sides, her glare unwavering. "Mr. Sumner, restricting someone's freedom is illegal."

Damon's icy gaze remained fixed on her. "Ms. Kinsey, I don't want to use force, so I suggest you cooperate. If the paternity test shows no relation between the child and me, I'll personally apologize." But if there was a connection, he wouldn't let it go.

Just as his words settled, a frosty voice interrupted, "Mr. Sumner, if you dare to lay a finger on my girlfriend, you'll regret it. Prospectus Technology won't get off easy." Startled, Nyla turned to see Oliver. "Oliver... what are you doing here?"

He had mentioned coming once they found Mason, but she had discouraged him. He had promised he wouldn't, and yet, there he was.

Oliver moved closer, wrapping his arm around her. "If I hadn't shown up, I wouldn't have realized that the great CEO of Prospectus Technology resorts to bullying women."

The last part was directed at Damon. Their eyes met, sparking an intense standoff brimming with tension. Damon narrowed his eyes dangerously. "Mr. Raynor, this doesn't seem to concern you."

"How can it not? Nyla is my girlfriend-her matters are my matters. Speaking of you, Mr. Sumner, casually wanting to acknowledge a child you just met-could it be that you have some issue preventing you from having your own?

"If that's the case, I can recommend some good clinics for treatment." Oliver's tone was mocking as he glanced pointedly, feigning sympathy at Damon's private parts.

Damon's face darkened. "Oliver, are you asking for trouble?"

Oliver smiled, unfazed. "Mr. Sumner, have you forgotten? This is Capitarnia, not Saintornia."

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The Raynors had been entrenched in Capitarnia for over a century. Oliver had no fear of confronting

Damon.

They stood off against each other, neither willing to back down. The atmosphere grew increasingly tense, ready to erupt. search the FindNøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

At that moment, Spencer stepped forward and quietly advised, "Mr. Sumner, the amusement park project is still in progress. Confronting the Raynors now wouldn't be wise." Damon shot him a cold glance. "Shut up!"

All he wanted was to find out if Mason was his child. As for the amusement park project, if Oliver dared to try and snatch it away, Damon would make sure he left empty-handed! Today's Bonus Offer

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Spencer fell silent after Damon's reprimand, not daring to utter another word.

In the tense standoff, Mason tugged at Nyla's shirt and spoke timidly. "Mom, I'm scared."

Nyla's heart ached as she pulled Mason closer, her glare cold and unwavering at Damon, "Mr. Sumner, you've frightened my son'

Seeing Mason's terrified expression caused Damon's heart to flinch slightly, but his face remained stern.

Oliver, exuding an oppressive aura, interjected, "Mr. Sumner, if you don't give us a satisfactory explanation today, this won't end here."

Damon's expression darkened. He di arguing in front of the child.

ed Oliver's warning, but with Mason present, he refrained from

After a moment of silence, he finally spoke. "The paternity test can wait for now, but Nyla, I will get to the bottom of this. If he is my child, I will never allow him to stay with a woman like you!" Nyla froze momentarily, fury rising within her.

A woman like her? What did he know about her? She had given birth to Mason alone and raised him without any help. What right did he have to pass judgment?!

Her glare burned into Damon as her voice trembled with anger. "Mr. Sumner, you're used to looking down on others, so you think you can judge their lives. But how much do you actually know about me?"

Oliver stepped protectively in front of Nyla and Mason, his gaze fixed on Damon. "Damon, don't overstep. You have no idea what Nyla has been through all these years."

Damon's expression remained indifferent. "Her struggles are irrelevant to me. All I care about now is whether that child is mine."

Nyla, regaining her composure, met Damon's gaze with icy resolve. "Mr. Sumner, my life is none of your concern. Stay away from my child, or I can't guarantee what will happen."

Mason tightened his grip on Nyla's leg, his eyes filled with disdain as he looked at Damon. "You're a bad guy! I hate you! Stay away from me and my mom!"

His small face burned with anger. This man was horrible. Even if he was his father, Mason would never accept him.

Damon was momentarily taken aback by Mason's fierce expression. The child looked so much like him, even in his anger. How could he not be his son? It wasn't just the resemblance-his mannerisms were identical too. "You're a bad guy! I hate you!" Mason shouted, glaring at him.

Oliver turned to Damon. "Damon, this ends here. Don't come after Nyla and Buddy again."

Damon's eyes darkened. "That's not your decision. I won't pursue this today for the child's sake, but I have countless ways to find out if he's mine!"

With that, he turned and strode away.

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As Nyla watched him leave, she felt a surge of anger. She couldn't believe she had ever fallen for a man with such a terrible personality.

Oliver wrapped his arms around her, speaking softly. "Nyla, don't worry. I won't let him do anything to you or Buddy. Trust me."

Nyla nodded. "Mm. Oliver... thank you...

"You said you wouldn't keep thanking me. Have you forgotten already?" Oliver teased gently.

She bit her lip. "Mm... Got it."

"Let's head back for now," Oliver suggested

Mason was still shaken. He hadn't expec

ayla to come so quickly, nor had he imagined that the man

he thought was his father would be so cruel as to bully Nyla.

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Seeing Mason's pale face, Nyla lost her will to scold him. After all, the root of the issue was her decision to hide Damon from Mason, which led him to seek out Damon for confirmation. "Let's go," she said, taking Mason's hand and turning to leave with Oliver.

Back on the top floor, Damon stared icily at Spencer. "So you've been investigating Nyla and her child these past few days because you suspect Buddy might be mine?" Spencer bit his lip, realizing he could no longer hide the truth. He nodded slowly. "Yes..."

"Just because he looks like me, you think he's my child? You've been with me for yearsyou know better than anyone who I've been involved with," Damon demanded. His piercing gaze held Spencer in place, giving him no chance to escape. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Damon had indeed connected the dots regarding Spencer's investigation, suspecting that Mason might be his son. Yet, he was sure he didn't know Nyla-she had never been part of his life. Suddenly, a thought struck Damon. He remembered the months of amnesia following his car accident. Ric 1 had said it was a result of the crash, but could there have been more to it?

The realization deepened his frown, and he asked, "Was my amnesia really just because of the accident?"

Under Damon's icy stare, a wave of guilt washed over Spencer, and he instinctively looked away. "Yes."

Damon let out a cold laugh. "You know my temperament, Spencer. If I find out you've lied to me, don't expect to stay at Prospectus Technology."

A torrent of thoughts rushed through Spencer's mind. He recalled Richard threatening him with his parents, Oliver advising him to avoid disturbing everyone's lives, and Damon's despair before the amnesia Ultimately, he remembered Oliver's words. Spencer knew he shouldn't disrupt anyone's peace, especially not Nyla's.

After a moment of silence, he looked up at Damon, determination in his eyes. "Mr. Sumner, your amnesia is indeed due to the accident. You've never met Ms. Kinsey before, and that child is just a lookalike. He can't possibly be yours." "Whether he's my child is for me to determine, not you, Damon retorted.

"Mr. Sumner-" Spencer attempted to speak.

"Enough! Get out!" Damon snapped.

Spencer fell silent for a moment, then turned to leave.

It was clear his time at Prospectus Technology was coming to an end. The moment he had agreed to deceive Damon for Richard, he had known this day would arrive.

Once Spencer left, Damon made a call.

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"I want a paternity test for Nyla's child. Find a way to get a hair sample from him," he said.

Joshua Liddell's voice came through, laced with complaints. "Damon, don't push it! You hang up on me, then call when you need something? What am I, your pet-here to summon and dismiss as you please?"

"Your company can join the amusement park project, but only if you handle this for me," Damon offered, baiting him.

As soon as the words left his mouth, Joshua's tone shifted from irritated to eager. The excitement in his voice was palpable, and Damon could practically hear him patting his chest over the phone. "Don't worry! I'll have it done within three days!" Joshua promised.

Damon hung up and tossed his phone onto the desk, his eyes narrowing slowly.

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Chapter 549548

Oliver dropbeoped Nyta and Mason off at home.

Noticing Nyitrai face and the lingering fear in her eyes, he spoke softly. "Nyla, don't think tod about it. You tmt got sted today. Just rest, and we can talk about everything tomorrow.com Nyla forced a stolen Yeah, I'm sorry for taking up so much of your time today. You should get bar

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She had initially told Old Oliver not to come because she remembered he had meetings, but the day t stretched much longer trentisan she had expected.

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"I know, but I don't want to be be a burden. Being together should mean supporting each other, not j helping me all the time htela stadsaid.

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Mason couldn't meet her gaze and ming his hes head in silence.

Nyla didn't press him. "Think about it, and dete me know when you're ready to talk."

With that, she headed to the kitchen to prepareparedunch. She hadn't had breakfast after learning Ma missing that morning, and now that she was feelfeelong caimer, hunger hit her.

Mason watched her, his small hands clenched tehtigns, fais face tense, mirroring Damon's expressio When Nyla came out with a simple dish of omeleteset, site coticed Mason still standing there. She si "Buddy, let's eat first," she said.sid

Hesitating, Mason walked to the table, climbed onto atchachair, and finally mustered the courage to Nyla.

"Mom, I'm sorry... I shouldn't have skipped class. I thought tratthat man was my dad... so I wanted to "he confessed.

Upon seeing Mason's nervous expression and the way his handsnds fidgeted with his shirt, Nyla's ga softened. She asked gently, "Buddy, what do you think now?ow?"

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Oliver dropped Nyla and Mason off at home.

Noticing Nyla's pale face and the lingering fear in her eyes, he spoke softly. "Nyla, don't think too much about it. You got scared today. Just rest, and we can talk about everything tomorrow."

N Wern

ced a smile. "Yeah, I'm sorry for taking up so much of your time today. You should get back to

She had initially told Oliver not to come because she remembered he had meetings, but the day had stretched much longer than she had expected.

Seeing the fleeting guilt in her eyes, Oliver replied firmly, "Nyla, you and Buddy are important to me. It's not an inconvenience."

"I know, but I don't want to be a burden. Being together should mean supporting each other, not just you helping me all the time," Nyla said.

Oliver felt a mix of frustration and sympathy. He thought Nyla was struggling to accept his support because she hadn't fully accepted him. After the scare she had had today, he didn't want to pressure further. "We'll talk about this later. You need to rest, and I should head back," he said gently.

her

Once Oliver left, Mason cautiously approached Nyla. "Mom... I'm sorry. I shouldn't have skipped class..." Nyla hadn't expected him to sidestep the real issue. She frowned. "Buddy, do you really think skipping class is the only mistake you made today?" Mason couldn't meet her gaze and hung his head in silence.

Nyla didn't press him. "Think about it, and let me know when you're ready to talk."

With that, she headed to the kitchen to prepare lunch. She hadn't had breakfast after learning Mason was missing that morning, and now that she was feeling calmer, hunger hit her.

Mason watched her, his small hands clenched tight, his face tense, mirroring Damon's expression.

When Nyla came out with a simple dish of omelet, she noticed Mason still standing there. She sighed. "Buddy, let's eat first," she said.

Hesitating, Mason walked to the table, climbed onto a chair, and finally mustered the courage to look at Nyla

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Upon seeing Mason's nervous expression and the way his hands fidgeted with his shirt, Nyla's gaze softened. She asked gently, "Buddy, what do you think now?" Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

In the past, whenever Mason had asked about his father, Nyla had lied, telling him that his father had passed away. She had tried to avoid the topic ever since, and Mason had never brought it up again. But after today, she realized she could no longer hide the truth about Damon being Mason's father. Rather

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than wait for Damon to confront them with the facts, she decided it was better to ask Mason how he felt

Mason shook his head. "I don't want him to be my dad. He's mean to you, and I hate him!"

What Mason truly wanted was a father like Oliver-kind and gentle, not the fierce man from earlier.

Just thinking about how that man had treated Nyla made his young face twist with anger. If he hadn't been afraid of the man lashing out, he would have charged at him, ready to bite his leg.

After a moment of hesitation, Nyla decided it was time to tell Mason the truth. "Buddy, he is your dad but he has forgotten about me, so you might have to choose between us."

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Mason dropped the cutlery he was holding, staring blankly at Nyla. +25 BONUS

"Buddy, when I told you that your dad passed away, it was because he and I separated. But he never wanted to abandon you-he didn't even know you existed. Now that you know the truth, you can choose to stay with me or go to him," Nyla explained.

As Mason began to understand, Nyla gave him the choice. After all, for a child who had never experienced a father's love, it was natural for him to want a dad.

Ever since Mason started kindergarten, she had realized she couldn't replace that role, which was why she had considered trying with Oliver-she wanted to give Mason a complete family.

Nyla expected Mason to think it over, but instead, his lips trembled, and he burst into tears.

"Mom, do you not want me anymore?" he cried.

Taken aback, Nyla found it somewhat amusing. She quickly got up, wiped his tears, and squatted beside him, gently saying, "How could you think that? Mommy loves you the most."

Through his sobs, Mason choked out, "I don't want that dad... I-I don't want to go with him. I want to stay with... you, Mom."

Nyla wiped his tears again and nodded. "Okay, no more crying. Mommy will never not want you."

After Nyla comforted him for a while, his emotions settled, though he was clearly clingier than before. Even when she went to the kitchen to wash the dishes, he dragged a little stool over to sit by the door, watching her as if afraid she might leave. Feeling a bit helpless, Nyla guessed her earlier question had made him feel insecure. She figured that in a few days, he would stop following her around like a little shadow once he realized she wasn't going anywhere.

That night, after putting Mason to bed, Nyla got up and was heading to the living room when her phone suddenly rang.

Seeing an unfamiliar number, she lowered her eyes, sensing it might be Damon calling. After hesitating for a moment, she decided to answer.

As expected, a cold voice came through the line. "Ms. Kinsey, I'm downstairs at your place. Let's meet."

Nyla walked to the window, pulled back a corner of the curtain, and spotted a black Maybach parked. below. S~Earch the FindNøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Mr. Sumner, it's quite late-"

Before she could finish, he interrupted, "Ms. Kinsey, my patience is limited. You can either come down, or I'll come up in five minutes. It's your choice." The call disconnected before Nyla could respond.

cull knowing that Damon might wake Mason

if he came upstairs,

+25 BONUS

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When she reached the car, the driver's side window rolled down.

'Get in," Damon ordered.

Nyla stood her ground, her gaze cold. "Mr. Sumner, if you have something to say, you can say it here. I don't think I need to get in the car."

A glint of coldness flickered in Damon's eyes, but he didn't insist. Instead, he opened the car door and walked toward her.

Startled, Nyla instinctively stepped back, increasing the distance between them.

Damon stopped a few steps away, his gaze icy.

"I'm fairly certain Buddy is my child. How did you manage to conceive my child back then?" he demanded. Chapter 550

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Meeting Damon's accusing gaze, Nyla felt a strange sense of amusement. He had been the one to force himself on her back then, and now, with his memory gone, he had taken on the role of the victim? "Mr. Sumner, you claim Buddy is your child. What evidence do you have?" she asked. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Damon's demeanor turned icy. "The fact that he looks almost exactly like me is proof enough."

Nyla smiled. "But a judge won't rule you as Buddy's father based solely on that."

Her sarcastic smile darkened Damon's expression. He grabbed her hand, his eyes cold. "Nyla, do I need to show you the paternity test results before you'll admit it?"

Nyla pulled her hand away. "Mr. Sumner, if you had a paternity test, you wouldn't be here talking to me.. You'd be at the courthouse filing a lawsuit, wouldn't you?"

Damon fell silent for a few moments, his voice tight with anger. "Don't worry, you'll soon receive a subpoena. I won't let my child stay with a manipulative woman like you!"

Nyla's hands clenched at her sides, anger surging within her, nearly pushing her to the edge. But she

should quickly regained her composure. "Mr. Sumner, instead of calling me manipulative, maybe you consider whether you're being paranoid."

Just as Damon was about to retort, a flicker of a memory crossed his mind.

The moment he tried to grasp it, it slipped away. It felt eerily familiar as if he had experienced it before. Yet, his memory had always been sharp-he had never argued with any woman before.

His thoughts drifted to the car accident and the resulting amnesia. That incident couldn't have been as straightforward as it seemed. He needed to investigate it more thoroughly.

Noticing his sudden silence, Nyla pressed her lips together. "If that's all, Mr. Sumner, you can leave now." Damon glanced

at her under the dim streetlight. A few steps away, Nyla stood in a floral maxi dress, a light gray trench coat draped over her slim frame, her long hair casually swept into a bun. Her delicate, unmade-up face was still strikingly captivating.

He thought he was beautiful. But as the thought crossed his mind, he frowned. He had seen women more beautiful than Nyla-so why was he subconsciously drawn to her?

The next second, he recalled that she had secretly given birth to his child without his knowledge, and disgust flickered in his eyes. A woman like that, no matter how attractive she was, couldn't conceal the ugliness within.

He threatened, "If you give me Buddy now, I won't pursue the years of deceit. Otherwise-"

Before he could finish, Nyla slapped him hard across the face.

Suddenly, the air around them grew still.

Nyla lowered her trembling hand, meeting Damon's cold gaze. "Regardless of whethe: Buddy is related to you, you have no right to say those things. Damon's expression darkened dangerously as he yanked Nyla closer. "You should be grateful I don't hit

+25 BONUS

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women!"

Nyla looked up at him, her eyes betraying no fear. "Let go of me!"

She struggled to free herself, but Damon's grip on her wrist was like a vise-unyielding. In the struggle, she lurched forward, landing directly in his arms. The familiar scent of pine enveloped her, and she froze, momentarily at a loss for how to react.