

Trapped 581

Chapter 581 G Stood for Give

Casey recalled the doctor's prescription of supplements when he left the hospital.

Casey: [I stopped taking them for a few days.]

Doctor: [You can't stop taking the medicine yet. You must take the supplements regularly, considering your condition]

Casey: [So it's just an allergic reaction?]

Doctor: [Yes, sir.]

Casey felt relieved.

Casey: [Visit Villa Foresta today if you're free. I have a fever.]

Doctor: [Sure. I'll start an intravenous drip at noon.]

Downstairs, Daniella had breakfast in the dining room, feeling uneasy about Casey's sudden change..

'Did he do that because he blamed me for not getting him into MK sooner? she wondered.

She absentmindedly ate her oatmeal until Casey entered the room wearing a black turtleneck sweater.

Daniella smiled. "I'll serve you some oatmeal, Casey."

Casey nodded and sat at the dining table.

Daniella placed the bowl in front of him. "I met your father yesterday, Casey."

Casey looked puzzled. "What do you want with my father?"

Daniella explained her conversation with Draco.

Casey smirked. "So, how do you plan to make me threaten Caroline?"

Daniella didn't answer but showed Casey a photo on her phone. "Look at this. Caroline's two children are biologically related to Evan."

Casey glanced and scoffed. "How did you get this report?"

Daniella smiled and took back the phone. "What don't I know about Caroline?"

"So, you want me to threaten Caroline with this report to make her cooperate with me?" Casey asked.

Daniella nodded. "Yes. It's the only way to ensure her cooperation."

+15 BONUS

Casey knew Caroline would cooperate because he had also threatened her with this information. He

realized Daniella's intelligence could be useful.

Casey looked at her with a soft gaze. "Aren't you jealous of me getting close to Caroline, Ella?"

"I am, but I can endure some discomfort for you."

Casey said, "I'll have to inconvenience you briefly, then."

"It's fine." Daniella replied.

ALTYC.

Caroline was in a meeting with staff members from the design and fashion departments.

She had designed a clothing piece, and the design department staff were astonished when they saw the sketch.

"G? Ms. Shenton, you..." Nora Anderson, the head of the design department, looked at Caroline in amazement.

Caroline smiled. "Is there a problem?"

Nora was shocked. "You're actually G, Ms. Shenton! You're John's apprentice who has never appeared in

public before!"

Caroline said, "Calm down."

"I can't! It's been really tough for us not to know about this, Ms. Shenton!" said Kristen Lee, the deputy head of the design department.

“Yes, with y

your title, we have confidence in competing with John!”

“However, does your mentor know that you’re the owner of TYC? Why did he switch to MK?”

Caroline answered their questions one by one. “I didn’t plan to reveal my Identity at first, but I had no choice because my mentor’s reputation is too prominent. As for her reasons, we can only do our best.”

“Ms. Shenton, I’m curious why you chose the letter G as your alias?”

Caroline looked down with a hint of sadness in her eyes.

+15 BONUS

“Eight. But I believe that amount is trivial to him,” Tyler replied.

Liora’s eyes widened. “Trivial? Why? It’s 700,000,000 dollars! I’ve never seen so much money!”

Tyler shrugged. “The net worth of someone who dominates the entire Etes is beyond our imagination.”

Liora was dumbfounded. “Daddy is so wealthy!”

Evan entered the room just as Liora’s voice faded. He soon noticed Liora’s admiring gaze.

Evan asked, “Are you hungry? I’m getting the waitress.”

Liora shook her head. “No, I’d like to use the restroom, hehe.”

Evan offered, "I take you."

Tyler watched as Liora stuck close to Evan like an attached puppy, shaking his head in frustration. "What a money enthusiast..."

While Evan accompanied Liora to the restroom, Paige spotted them from behind as she was about to enter the restaurant with the clothing factory manager.

'Why is Lia with Evan? Paige wondered, grabbing her phone to take a photo and send it to Caroline.

Paige: [Carol, why is Lia with Evan?]

Caroline received the text as she exited the elevator, her steps freezing as she saw the photo. She recognized Liora in it.

'Weren't the children supposed to stay home because they weren't feeling well?' Caroline wondered. 'Why

is Liora with Evan?

Caroline then remembered something and called Tyler but hung up immediately. She had almost forgotten telling him not to stop Liora from seeing Evan. She wouldn't interfere for now but would address the deception issue seriously.

Caroline: [Noted. Let them meet.]

Paige: [Does Evan know that the children are his?]

Caroline: [No, I've never admitted it.]

Paige: [Why is he treating Lia so kindly then? He carried her to the restroom and back.]

Chapter 583 I'll Pick Them Up

Caroline's heart raced as she read Paige's reply.

She thought, 'Has Evan noticed something? No, I won't let him find out about this! I won't let him take custody of the children!'

With that in mind, she hurried home and waited for Evan to send the kids back.

At 1:00 p.m., Evan returned the children to Bayview Villa due to an afternoon meeting.

As he arrived, another car parked in Caroline's yard. Scott stepped out of the car, and Evan's face turned serious upon seeing him. The driver opened the door for Evan, and he emerged with the two children.

Scott noticed them from the yard and was surprised to see Evan with the kids.

Liora whispered, "Papa Wilson..."

Evan's expression soured upon hearing that. He couldn't bear his children addressing someone else as Papa."

Evan led the children toward Scott, who greeted Evan casually, saying. It's been a while since we last met, Mr. Jordan."

Evan replied coldly, "We're not close, so there's no need for us to meet."

Scott chuckled. "Thank you for bringing them home. Ty, Lia, come inside with me."

Evan quipped, "It's not your place to take them home."

Scott calmly replied, "Mr. Jordan, I doubt Carol is aware you took them out. If you rush them inside, she might not be pleased."

Evan frowned, wondering if Caroline was home. He scanned the yard but didn't see her usual car. He thought, 'Is it in the garage?'

Evan looked away and retorted, "So what if she's back? Do you think you have the right to be with them all

the time?'

Scott calmly replied, "I don't, and neither do you."

Evan asked, "Are you so sure I don't have the right?"

Scott gracefully smiled. "You know better with that paternity test report, don't you?"

—

+15 BONUS

Evan's eyes glistened as he remembered that the paternity test proved the children were not his. He wondered why Caroline had reacted so emotionally when he mentioned them.

He thought. There must be something fishy going on here. I need to investigate this personally."

Suddenly, the villa's door swung open, and Caroline walked out. The children's expressions changed drastically upon seeing her.

"Mommy," Liora said guiltily, and Tyler called out to Caroline tensely.

Caroline approached the children solemnly and said, "Go inside with Papa Wilson."

The children obeyed without speaking.

Caroline then turned to Evan, her expression cold. "Next time, inform me when my children are with you.

I'll pick them up."

Evan asked, "Are you worried that I might harm them?"

Caroline replied, "I won't make assumptions about you."

Evan inquired, "Then why are you so anxious? Do you think I know something?"

Caroline retorted emotionally, "I'm not anxious! I just don't want to be kept in the dark, and you don't have

to spend time with my children!"

Evan's breath caught.

He wondered, "Why does Caroline react so strongly regarding her children? Is she hiding something from me? Or is she keeping the kids away from me on purpose?"

Evan's gaze darkened as he asked, "Do you truly despise me that much?"

Chapter 584 Don't Be So Stern

Caroline felt a sharp pain in her chest. She said firmly, "You can think what you want. I'm going inside. Stay out in the cold as long as you want."

She turned and walked away, her eyes stinging, possibly from the cold. 'He still doesn't want to explain the situation between him and Daniella! I'm the one being too sentimental!"

Evan didn't stop her and got into the car after Caroline shut the door. Shortly after, he called Reuben.

Reuben answered, "Mr. Jordan."

Evan gazed at the villa and instructed, "Find a way to obtain Tyler and Liora's DNA."

Reuben asked, "Are you still sure they are your children?"

Evan replied coldly, "Sure? They are my children."

Reuben wondered about Evan's certainty. "Noted, sir. Give me a day."

Evan ordered, "Keep this quiet. Send the DNA abroad for a paternity test as soon as you can."

Reuben cautioned, "It will take some time to get the report."

"Time is not a problem. I must prevent anyone from tampering with the results," Evan said firmly

Reuben nodded, saying. "Understood."

Tyler and Liora sat on the sofa, heads lowered.

Caroline sat across from them and said solemnly, "I want you to explain why you lied to me."

Liora anxiously clutched her outfit and looked at Caroline with caution. "Mommy, it was me who-

Tyler interrupted, "I was the one who took Lia to meet him."

Caroline frowned. "Ty, don't take sides. Let Lia explain herself."

Scott sighed. "Carol, you're scaring the children."

Liora began to sob. "I was wrong, Mommy. I just wanted to see him."

Caroline inquired, "Why?"

Liora didn't dare mention the word 'Daddy' due to Caroline's stern demeanor. "I was worried he would get

+15 BONUS

“Why aren’t you concerned about Uncle Neil? Why him?” Caroline pressed on.

“Because he’s my daddy. He saved me, so I want to care about him. You told us to be grateful, didn’t you?”

Am I wrong for doing this?”

“I appreciate your concern for him, but lying to me is not acceptable!” Caroline sympathized with Liora but couldn’t overlook lying, a matter of principle. She didn’t want her child to become a liar.

Liora cried profusely.

Scott stood up, ready to comfort her, but Caroline stopped him. “You can’t comfort her. I can’t move on from this until she admits her fault.”

“Carol, Lia is still young. Don’t be so strict,” Scott urged.

Caroline said firmly, “No! If not now, when? I can support her decision to meet her father, but she can’t lie

to me.”

Liora sobbed. “Mommy, I was wrong! I won’t lie to you again!”

It was the first time Liora had seen her mother so furious, and it scared her.

“Mommy, Lia has learned her lesson. Please don’t be angry.” Tyler gently patted Liora’s back.

Caroline took two deep breaths. "Tyler, you're the older brother. You shouldn't lie to me like your sister."

"Mommy, Lia kept it from you because she didn't want to make you sad. She knows you don't like her spending time with him. Isn't that a white lie?" Tyler asked.

Chapter 585 My Engagement To Your

+15 BONUS

'So Lia lied because she was scared that I would be upset? Caroline was caught off guard. "Why didn't I

realize that?

"I'm sorry, Lia" Caroline walked toward Liora with regret and knelt down to wipe away her tears. "I was

too harsh, and I didn't consider your feelings. Promise me you won't lie to me again, okay? As long as

you're honest, I won't stop you from seeing him."

Liora embraced Caroline tightly. "It's my fault for lying. Mommy. I won't do it again."

Caroline hugged Liora as she sobbed, lost for words.

After comforting the children for a while, they ran upstairs to play.

Caroline sat absentmindedly on the sofa.

Scott sat down beside her, and she mumbled, "I'm being selfish, aren't I?".

Scott hesitated for a moment before replying. "Maybe you should listen to your children more."

Caroline understood his hint and realized it was time to try to let go.

In the evening, Caroline received a text from Casey, asking her to meet him at a cafe later.

Caroline informed the children and instructed the bodyguard to take her to the cafe.

When she arrived, Casey was already sitting by the window, looking pale and unwell.

Caroline took a seat across from Casey. "Tell me, what do you want from me this time?"

Seeing Caroline's wary expression, Casey pushed a cup of coffee toward her. "Relax and have a drink first."

Caroline didn't move. She couldn't muster the courage to accept a drink from someone else, especially

after what had happened with Daniella

"Just get to the point I don't have time to waste," Caroline said coldly

Casey took a sip of his lemon-infused water. "I want to return to MK

"Why is that my concern? Caroline asked

"Let me explain I need you to cooperate with me on this." Casey said, placing his glass down.

+15 BONUS

Caroline furrowed her brow in confusion. “Why do I need to cooperate for you to return to MK? Just go back if you’re not afraid of Evan.”

“Do you really think Evan would allow me back into MK? But with you as leverage, he won’t have a choice,

Casey explained.

Caroline was growing impatient. “Could you please stop speaking in riddles?”

“I have my father tell Evan about our engagement,” Casey said.

Caroline scoffed. “Dream on! I won’t agree to your ridiculous request!” She glared at Casey, her emotions.

running high.

Casey looked at Caroline calmly. “You just have to play along with what I say.”

“Why can’t you handle this on your own? Why drag me into it?” Caroline was furious.

Casey said. “If I do it alone, Evan will question you later. How will you respond? Claim ignorance? Instead,

I need you to confirm it’s true. We’ll make Evan choose between the company and me or the company and you, Caroline. It’s a win–win for you, isn’t it?”

‘Win–win for me? How dare he suggest that?! she roared inwardly.

Caroline couldn’t fathom hurting Evan this way, even in the midst of their quarrel.

"I won't do it!" Caroline declared.

Casey leaned back on the sofa and said calmly, "Seems like you're not afraid of me revealing this matter."

Chapter 586 Something Important to Tell

Caroline clenched her fists tightly.

"Casey, you're shameless and despicable!" Caroline scolded.

Casey replied, "If enduring your brief scolding gets me what I want, it's not a big deal."

Caroline wanted to continue scolding, but Casey interrupted, "Think it through. If my father learns the truth, can you keep your children with you?"

Caroline questioned, "How do you know about my children's relationship with Evan?"

Casey replied, "I can find out if I want to."

Caroline muttered curses against Casey repeatedly under her breath.

"I won't let you suffer any losses. Look at this," Casey said as he handed her a folder.

Caroline angrily took the folder, but fear flashed across her eyes when she saw its contents.

Noticing

Caroline's change in expression, Casey said, "Think it over. I'll wait for your reply."

Casey got up and left.

After he left, Caroline grabbed her phone and turned off the recording function.

On the way home, Caroline replayed her conversation with Casey in her mind repeatedly.

She couldn't hand the voice recording to Evan yet. Doing so would mean admitting that Tyler and Liora were his children, revealing the truth to Draco. She felt trapped.

'What should I do? she wondered.

She took the folder Casey had given him.

After pondering for a long time, she sent Casey a text message.

Caroline: [I'll do it, but this is the last time.]

Casey replied soon after.

Casey: [It's not up to me to decide if this is the last time.)

Caroline [What do you mean?]

Casey: [Who knows?]

+15 BONUS

Caroline angrily threw the phone into her bag. I knew collaborating with him was a mistake from the start!"

The next day, Evan received a call from Draco, instructing him to return to Jordan Residence immediately.

Evan rushed over and arrived at the same time as Casey.

Evan's expression turned cold and ruthless when he saw him.

Casey got out of the car and greeted Evan at the door. "Is that my youngest brother?"

Evan approached Casey. "Who gave you the right to call me that?"

Casey said nonchalantly, "What a shame that this is the truth."

Evan suppressed the urge to confront Casey and entered the house.

They entered the living room one after another.

Draco was making coffee. He glanced at them before saying, "Come and sit here."

Evan and Casey sat down.

Draco did something unusual and served coffee to Evan before pouring another cup for Casey. "I have something important to discuss with you today."

Evan didn't touch his coffee and stared at Draco, sensing that something ominous was about to be revealed.

Draco told Evan, "I agree with Casey's idea for Caroline to become engaged to him."

Evan's pupils constricted instantly. His demeanor turned dark and unyielding.

"You're allowing Casey to get engaged to Caroline?" Evan said icily,

Draco scoffed. "What's with your tone? Isn't it a good thing that your elder brother is getting married?"

Evan was furious. "He can marry anyone but Caroline!"

"This is not for you to decide or interfere with! I'm just informing you" Draco replied.

"I won't allow it! What devious plan are you hatching now?" Evan clenched his teeth, glaring at Casey.

Chapter 587 There's No Particular Reason

Casey let out a soft chuckle. "Relax, Evan. This isn't about having fun. I simply want to marry and raise a child."

Evan retorted angrily, "Do you really think I'll allow you to do that?"

Casey remained calm as he met Evan's gaze. "Your disagreement

can marry if she agrees."

Evan was skeptical. "She'll never agree, I'm sure of it!"

Casey suggested, "Why don't you ask her yourself?"

won't change anything. Caroline and I

Evan stood up, his tone threatening. "If you try any tricks, you'll regret it!"

Draco interjected furiously. "How dare you treat your older brother this way? Where are your manners?"

Evan sneered at Draco. "Manners? You don't deserve any from me."

He turned and left promptly.

Once Evan was gone, Casey asked, "What's our next move, Father?"

Draco's anger subsided as he leisurely sipped his coffee. "Let him come to me. You don't need to

Interfere. And come back home soon."

Casey understood Draco's intent and nodded in agreement.

Outside Jordan Residence.

Evan entered the car, radiating coldness.

Reuben glanced at Evan and noticed his gloomy expression. "W—Where to, Mr. Jordan?"

Evan replied tersely, "TYC."

Reuben was baffled and wondered, To see Ms. Shenton? What set off Mr. Jordan's anger like this?'

At 10:00a.m., Caroline took a break in her office after a meeting. She hadn't slept well due to Casey's words from the previous night, and her day was filled with overwhelming tasks, causing her temples to

throb.

+15 BONUS

She walked to the sofa, planning to lie down, when her office phone rang unexpectedly.

Caroline reluctantly answered, hearing the receptionist's anxious voice. "Ms. Shenton, Mr. Jordan wishes

to see you, and I couldn't stop him from entering the elevator."

Caroline was momentarily taken aback. "Mr. Jordan? Evan Jordan?"

Her office door swung open before she could react further, revealing Evan's stern face.

Caroline hung up and frowned. "It's impolite to intrude without permission, you know?"

Evan slammed the door and advanced toward her, his anger visibly intense in his eyes.

"Caroline, what's going on between you and Casey?" he demanded harshly.

Caroline sensed his anger and frowned deeply. 'Has Casey revealed everything to Evan already?'

She thought of the voice recording and felt powerless, knowing Casey was blackmailing her.

With a forced composure, Caroline asked, "What did he tell you?"

Evan was taken aback. "Are you two getting engaged?"

Caroline lowered her gaze, unable to meet Evan's eyes. "Yes,"

Evan was shocked. He grasped Caroline's shoulder, his grip tightening. "What are you saying?"

"You heard correctly," Caroline replied, her voice tinged with guilt.

Evan couldn't comprehend it. He snarled, "Why?"

Caroline winced from the pain as Evan pulled at her still-healing clavicle. "There's no specific reason."

"He's Casey! I warned you repeatedly to stay away from him! Why would you suddenly get engaged to him?" Evan demanded.

Caroline met his gaze, enduring the pain. "If you can be with Daniella, why can't I be with someone else? What gives you the right to be so selfish?"

Chapter 588 You May Leave

+15 BONUS

"Are you getting engaged to him just because of my thing with Daniella?" Evan asked, his disappointment

evident. "Is this your way of getting back at me? And you haven't even heard my side of the story!"

Caroline sneered. "Explanation? Where were you when I needed to hear it? Why should I be led around by

you?"

"Daniella and I-

"Right, Daniella isn't a good person, just like Casey to you, right? If you can be with someone like him, why

can't I?"

"Let me finish! Daniella and I are associating because of Axel!" Evan shouted in frustration.

Caroline looked stunned, her expression turning anxious. "Axel? What happened to him?"

Evan gritted his teeth. "Axel was diagnosed with leukemia, and Daniella found the bone marrow that saved his life. I agreed to let her stay and take care of him until he recovers."

"L-Leukemia?!"

Caroline's knees weakened, and Evan hastily caught her, pain in his eyes. He knew Caroline might struggle to accept this but had no choice but to tell her now. Otherwise, Caroline might get engaged to

Casey.

Caroline grabbed Evan's arm as she regained her composure, asking anxiously, "How is Axel now? Is he

okay?"

"He's in protective isolation, but he'll be allowed to leave before the Mardi Gras parades," Evan replied.

Caroline's eyes welled up with tears. "Why didn't you tell me sooner?"

Evan tightly pursed his lips. "You were already under a lot of pressure, and I didn't want to add to it."

"What gives you the right to decide that?! That's my son we're talking about!" Caroline's tone grew more

ferocious.

"I'm sorry. I planned to tell you after Axel fully recovered," Evan said quiltily.

"All you ever do is plan! Why is it always about what you want? Have you ever asked me? Have you respected me? Axel is my son, and I'm not there when he needs me the most. Yet, you allowed someone who hurt him to stay and take care of him! Evan, you're heartless! Why do you always make decisions for

me?"

+15 BONUS

Evan weakly withdrew his arms. "I was wrong, but I have no relationship with Daniella."

Caroline scoffed. "No relationship? Are you still trying to make excuses? If Daniella can find a matching bone marrow, why can't you?"

"I couldn't find a suitable match in time," Evan admitted, his gaze dimming as he clenched his fists. That's why I had to turn to Daniella."

Caroline was filled with disbelief. You have a powerful family business and couldn't find a suitable donor?

Evan didn't know how to explain, so he changed the subject. I can ask Daniella to leave, but can you stop

interacting with Casey?"

Caroline countered, "You get to do what you want, so why can't I?"

Evan's expression turned cold. "Must you be like this?"

Caroline walked past Evan and grabbed her bag. I'm going to see Axel. You can leave."

Evan called after her, "You won't be able to see him! He'll be in protective isolation for a month!

Caroline left the office determined, stating before she went, 'I'm going to check on his condition with the

doctor.

She couldn't stay any longer—she was afraid she might reveal Casey's threat if she did.

She didn't want to continue arguing with Evan over Casey. It would be meaningless since the engagement

was fake.

In frustration, Evan pounded his fist on Caroline's desk.

Chapter 589 Forced Against Her Will

Evan would never allow Caroline to be with Casey! Never!

+15 BONUS

Caroline was getting ready to leave at noon after asking the doctor about Axel's condition. As soon as

she walked out of the doctor's office, she ran into Daniella.

Daniella was surprised and glanced at the doctor's office. "What are you doing here?"

Caroline stared at Daniella coldly. "Why is that any of your business?"

Daniella's expression changed. "You know about Axel, huh?"

"Why does that concern you? You don't have a say in my son's matters!" Caroline couldn't help but shout

at Daniella.

Daniella chuckled. "That's quite ungrateful of you, Caroline. Your son might not be alive today if it weren't

for me. Maybe you'd be visiting his grave with flowers now."

Caroline slapped Daniella firmly across the face and said sternly, "Shut up!"

Daniella covered her face and glared at Caroline angrily. "How dare you hit me again! Do you think I won't

fight back?"

Daniella raised her arm, preparing to pull Caroline's hair.

Caroline swiftly grabbed Daniella's arm. "Go ahead, try to fight back!"

Daniella struggled to free her arm, surprised by Caroline's strength despite her injuries. "Let go of me!"

Daniella screamed.

Caroline got closer and threatened, "If you ever show up at the hospital again, I'll confront you every time I

see you! Remember my words!"

"Evan doesn't treat me like this. Who are you to treat me like this, you... You know what!" muttered

Daniella.

Caroline replied, "Maybe you should ask Evan if he'll still let you look after Axel!"

Caroline pushed Daniella to the ground and walked away. She was not worried that Daniella would do something to Axel. After all, Evan's numerous bodyguards strictly guarded the protective isolation room.

Evan was as protective as she was.

15 BONUS

In the afternoon, Evan visited Jordan Residence once more. He confronted Draco and asked angrily. "What do I need to do to cancel Caroline and Casey's engagement?"

Draco sneered. "So, you still care about her, huh?"

Evan retorted, "That's my business!"

Draco narrowed his eyes. "I don't like her either. There's a way to call off the engagement."

Evan grew impatient, unable to bear the thought of Casey marrying Caroline. "Tell me your conditions!"

Draco stared at Evan and said, "Is this how you negotiate with me? Get down on your knees!"

Evan reluctantly knelt before Draco, suppressing his frustration.

Draco laughed. "I didn't expect you to still be so deeply in love!"

Evan seethed. "Just state your conditions!"

Draco demanded, "I want you to formally invite Casey to join MK."

Draco emphasized the word 'invitation'.

Evan clenched his fists, and his eyes filled with hatred.

In the evening, while picking up the children, Caroline saw MK's announcement: Casey would join MK as

the Vice President.

Caroline's heart ached, knowing the sacrifices Evan was making for her, Draco wouldn't make things easy for Evan.

She took a deep breath, feeling a heavy weight on her chest. She wondered if Evan could avoid keeping

someone who hurt his mother in the company if she wasn't under threat.

Chapter 590 Will You Come and See Mommy?

+15 BONUS

Caroline wondered, 'How painful must it be to encounter one's enemy every day?

Caroline rolled down the car window, feeling the biting cold wind, but it did little to ease her agitation.

"Ms. Shenton, you haven't fully recovered from your injuries. You might catch a cold," the bodyguard cautioned.

Caroline shook her head. "It's okay. Just drive carefully."

She needed to calm herself to figure out how to tell Evan about the threats she had received. At the same time, she wanted to alleviate her guilt toward him because she knew she was the cause of this situation. However, she couldn't implicate the children,

Caroline picked up the kids from school and carefully considered when to break the news about Axel's

condition.

Tyler and Lora were taken aback.

After a moment, Tyler finally recovered from his shock. "He had a few nosebleeds before, so it turns out he really is sick..."

Liora nodded. "Yes... He bled a lot..."

Anxiously, Caroline asked, "When did you first notice this?"

Tyler thought for a moment. "Not long after we started kindergarten. Lia and I saw it happen a few times."

Caroline's heart ached. "Why didn't you tell me?"

She wondered if she had neglected her children.

"Mommy, is Axel's weight loss related to his sickness, too?" Liora asked.

Caroline's thoughts drifted. She had assumed Axel's weight loss was due to adjusting to Villa Rosa, but now she felt foolish. She couldn't blame Evan for not telling her about her child's condition when she hadn't noticed it herself.

Caroline felt overwhelming guilt and couldn't find the words to speak. After returning to Bayview Villa, she locked herself in her room and had no appetite for dinner.

Tyler and Liora were concerned but didn't want to disturb her.

After dinner, Liora went to her room and pulled out the phone Evan had provided to send a message.

+15 DONUS

Liora: [Mommy didn't have dinner, probably because of Axel.]

Evan was on his way to the hospital. Liora's message melted his heart, erasing the day's humiliation.

However, he frowned after reading it and quickly responded.

Evan: [How is your mom's mood?]

Liora: Not so good. We're very sad about Axel's sickness, too. When will Axel be out of the hospital? Will he recover fully?]

Evan: [Yes, he will. I'll take him to spend Mardi Gras with you. Can you check on your mom now?]

Liora: I won't be a spy! I will keep Mommy's matters confidential

Evan smiled.

Evan: [You're not being a spy, Lia. You're doing it because you care about your mom.]

Liora thought for a moment.

Liora: Will you come and see Mommy if she really isn't feeling well?]

Evan's gaze dimmed, thinking. Will she want to see me? She might be in a worse mood after seeing me,

right?

Evan: [I won't come if she's fine.]

Liora misunderstood Evan's intention and assumed he would come if her mother was unwell. She wanted

to see him, so she decided to check on Caroline, worried about her health,

Liora put her phone away and quietly walked to Caroline's room. She gently pushed the door open and

peeked inside, her heart racing.

"Lia?" Caroline's voice suddenly broke the darkness.

Startled, Liora hastily opened the door and said, "Mom... Mommy, I'm here to check on you."