

Unconscious 931

Chapter: 931

Holden was surprised, He looked at Melon for a moment, thinking the kid called him Dad by mistake. He crouched down in front of the little “girl” and corrected “her”, “You made a mistake, I’m not your father. You can’t call anyone ‘Dad’, you know?”

Melon was obviously saddened by Holden’s words. The little boy pouted in disappointment and lowered his tiny head.

He had seen his father’s photo in the photo album on his mother’s phone. Even though it was only a side profile photo, he could still recognize the face.

He missed his dad a lot. His mommy told him that his dad was a great soldier who was guarding the country’s border and couldn’t come back to see him.

Melon felt a bit down now and he lost all interest in the mask. He returned it to Holden and politely thanked him, “Thank you, Mister.” Holden put the mask back on. He could tell that the child was unhappy. Holden found the little “girl” adorable, so he coaxed “her” to sit on the sofa and offered “her” pastries. He also pushed the untouched tea drink on the table towards Melon and said softly, “Try this, it’s the signature drink here.”

Melon’s mood improved a bit at the sight of the food. He picked up the cup of tea and looked at Holden with a smile, displaying his signature dimples.

Holden’s gaze lingered on the little kid’s dimples for a few seconds. He remembered that his daughter had them too. Even though Adele rarely smiled, she must be as cute as the child in front of him when she did smile.

Just as Melon was about to have a sip of the tea drink, a low growl came from behind him, “You little rascal! You made it hard for me to find you!” Dressed in her witch costume, Sonia appeared behind Melon, brimming with anger. The little boy felt guilty and his whole body stiffened. He immediately put the cup down.

Before Melon could say anything to clarify, Sonia swooped him up.

With the little boy in her arms, Sonia turned to look at Holden and apologized, "I'm sorry, sir. This little boy is too self-willed and likes causing trouble."

It wasn't until he heard Sonia call Melon 'little boy' that Holden realized the child was indeed a boy. The thing was, Melon was dressed as a little girl. Besides, the child was charming and adorable.

Holden nodded but didn't say anything. He just watched Sonia walk away with Melon in her arms. On the way back, Sonia lectured the little boy.

"I told you not to run around with so many people here. If anything happens to you, your Mommy will be heartbroken, and of course your godmother will be heartbroken too. But above all, you should not accept any food from strangers, especially when your Mommy is not around."

The little boy was sensible enough to know he was wrong and he listened to Sonia with a guilty look on his face.

Once back with Ariana, Sonia couldn't help but complain, "Your son is really a little escape professional. He disappeared in the blink of an eye while I was having a dessert. I found him munching on someone else's snacks

Realizing that what he did was wrong, Melon looked at Ariana and tugged at her sleeve, trying to appease her.

"Mommy, I didn't mean to, and I also met a handsome man just now."

Ariana felt both annoyed and amused. She nudged the little boy's nose and said, "You are really good at socializing, But I want you to stay with me from now on, okay? You shouldn't follow strangers just because you think they're handsome."

As Ariana spoke, she picked up her son into her arms and looked around in confusion. People in the venue all wore masks. How could he have seen a handsome guy?

Chapter: 932 “Where did you meet this handsome man?” Ariana asked curiously.

Melon pointed in Holden’s direction with his small hand and said with a sigh, “He looks so much like Dad and he is also handsome. | almost thought he was my dad.”

Ariana was stunned by the little boy’s words and she looked in the direction he was pointing. She was shocked to see that it was the man with whom she had danced earlier.

Ariana’s lips curved gently, a helpless smile forming in response to Melon’s words, which she regarded as mere innocent chatter. She chose not to take them to heart.

Setting aside the remote chance of Theodore’s miraculous resurrection, she held a firm conviction that the man who had just danced with her couldn’t be him,

Ariana’s faith in Theodore’s unwavering loyalty remained unshaken. His reaction to seeing her would have been anything but indifferent if he were alive. This, she believed with every fiber of her being.

Despite her certainties, she refrained from outright dismissing Melon’s words, instead opting to tenderly stroke his head, her affectionate gesture masking the complexities within her.

Ariana was acutely aware of her young child’s yearning for the father he had hardly known, It must be the reason he had mistakenly identified another man as his dad.

Holding little Melon in her embrace, she tasted the bittersweet tang of guilt. Melon, ever wise beyond his years, nurtured a silent longing for his father, rarely allowing it to surface in Ariana’s presence. Except for that one time — a time when he’d seen a picture of Theodore on her phone and curiosity had compelled him to ask.

Bearing the weight of a truth too cruel for such a tender soul, Ariana chose to shroud it in shadows; lest it unleash pain beyond measure.

While he refrained from voicing it, Ariana could see the ache that swam in Melon's eyes whenever other fathers materialized before them, a poignant yearning that tugged at her heartstrings.

Drawing her son closer, she tamed the bitterness within, assuring him, "As time stretches its arms, you'll get to see Daddy."

Melon's fervent nod bore the imprint of his devotion, his voice a steadfast declaration.

"Daddy is a great hero. I'll wait, Mommy."

The scene caught Sonia's eye. A quick flutter of her hand erased the tear that dared to drip down her cheek, and her voice cut through the moment.

"Oh, look over there, desserts! There has to be something for young Melon." Understanding the unspoken cue, Ariana shrouded her emotions. She led the child toward the desserts.

After finishing up with the interview, Sadie saw the ship's supervisor waving her over. She followed the supervisor to a quiet corner

Chapter: 933

With no one around, the overseer recounted, "In Room 306, as you requested, all has been set. But I was worried the scent could raise suspicion if it were too strong. Hence, I didn't fully close the door. After the occupant goes in and closes the door, the drug shall take effect in half an hour. The key in your grasp will be useful then."

While explaining, the supervisor gave a master key card to Sadie.

Accepting it with a gratified smile, Sadie lauded, "Your diligence in this endeavor is exemplary. I commend your efforts." However, the supervisor's reluctance to leave made Sadie impatient.

"Is there anything more to address?"

The supervisor, his anxiety palpable, confessed, "This master key card is exclusively mine. | implore you to remember to return it later. Failing which, | shall find myself ensnared in an intricate web of explanation."

Understanding his apprehension, Sadie's response bore a hint of exasperation.

"Rest assured, it's merely a key card. Can you truly doubt my intent to return it?" Simultaneously, she removed her mobile phone and sent him substantial money, affirming, "Tonight's affair demands discretion above all else. Are we in accord?"

The supervisor's eyes lit up at the sight of the sum, hastening to assure her of his compliance. With gratitude, he left. Alone, Sadie's excitement was barely restrained. With meticulous orchestration, she had laced Holden's room with an intoxicating fragrance.

When the night unfurled its wings, changes would cascade like a waterfall. She would ascend to the mantle of his true wife, bearing his child, and in so doing, eclipse the very existence of that woman!

Melon's attention was quickly captivated by the delightful array of snacks at the dessert table, while Ariana and Sonia engaged in a casual chat. Noticing Ariana's frequent yawns and pale complexion, Sonia expressed her concern and asked, "Are you okay? Have you been getting enough rest lately?"

Ariana massaged her temples and revealed, "To make time for this ball, | stayed awake for two nights straight to finish the project proposal. | haven't had much sleep in the past couple of days."

"What?!" Sonia's eyes widened in surprise and concern.

"Oh no, this won't do. What if you exhaust yourself and collapse? Quickly, go rest now. I'll look after the little one."

Feeling utterly worn out, Ariana accepted the offer with a nod. She informed Melon about the change in plans and slowly headed to her room.

The relaxation area was on the third floor of the cruise ship. Upon reaching the third floor, Ariana found herself struggling to recall the room number written on Sonia's invitation card.

Given that they had used Sonia's invitation to board the ship, they shared a room, Sonia was with the invitation, but fortunately, Ariana had the room key card.

Taking out the room key card, Ariana peered at it. Unfortunately, the corridor on the third floor was dimly lit, and the room key card had intricate details with minuscule letters.

Chapter: 934

Squinting under the dim lighting, Ariana struggled to distinguish the small numbers on the card's surface. She wasn't certain whether it displayed 306 or 309.

Coincidentally, she was passing by Room 306 at that precise moment. Deciding to try, she gently swiped the card on the door's sensor.

The door emitted a faint sound and glided open.

Ariana was oblivious to the abnormality. She sighed inwardly, impressed by the cruise ship's sophisticated technology that allowed her to access the room without having to push the door.

Ariana's exhaustion was so overwhelming that she lacked the energy to overanalyze the situation. She stepped into the room and instinctively closed the door behind her.

The room's atmosphere exuded exquisite luxury. There was a faint and pleasant fragrance in the air.

The sight of the bed proved too tempting for her already sleepy state. After a quick wipe of her face, she collapsed onto the bed, and slipped into sleep.

Meanwhile, Sadie managed to regain her composure and returned to Holden's side. Feigning concern, she extended a cup of tea to him with a smile. "Try this, it's a new specialty drink | had someone bring for you." Seeing Holden's lack of response, she presented him a dessert.

"This one was specially made by their head chef. | urge you to taste it and share your thoughts about it." Holden continued to ignore her, while she persistently tried to engage him.

Growing irritated by her persistence, Holden abruptly snapped his laptop shut, stood up, and readied himself to take his leave. Sadie also rose from her seat and gazed at him with a concerned expression, "You seem quite fatigued. Have you not been resting well? Why not take a break in the lounge?"

Holden frowned and replied in a cold tone, "It's not necessary. I'm going to find Adele."

As he made his way to leave, Sadie reached out and held his arm.

"I'll go." Softening her expression, she said gently, "Let me handle it. You should rest. You're on the verge of catching a cold, and | fear you might pass it on to our daughter."

Holden had recently taken cold medicine and its effects had made him slightly unwell. After Sadie's reminder, he grew concerned about Adele's well-being. So he nodded in agreement, took his laptop, and headed to the third floor to get some rest.

Chapter: 935

Sadie's gaze followed Holden as he retreated. Triumph bubbled up inside her, mixed with a sizzling anticipation. The drug would take thirty minutes to work its magic, so she didn't feel rushed.

Before anything else, she needed to check on Adele. She wanted assurance that the bodyguards were doing their job, God forbid anything should happen, because Holden would surely pin the blame on her.

With determination, she began scouring the banquet for Adele. But, frustratingly, Adele was nowhere in sight. Neither were the bodyguards.

Impatience began to sear through Sadie. The clock was ticking, and she was eager to be back by Holden's side when the drug set in.

Yet, here she was, stuck playing babysitter, trying to find a little girl to dodge potential blame. Her feet moved with a frantic energy, her mind awirl. She'd deal with Adele's mischief later.

Moving beyond the banquet, Sadie found herself on the ship's deck. And there, to her shock, was Adele, chatting with another child. Still, no sign of the bodyguards.

Blazing with indignation, Sadie stormed over, grabbing Adele's arm in a vice grip. "What do you think you're doing out here? Come on

Melon, the other child, stumbled backward, eyes wide with recognition. It was that fierce woman from earlier. Without a second thought, he darted forward, shielding Adele from Sadie's wrath, "You! Why are you everywhere? Leave her alone!" he spat.

Sadie, already peeved, shot back, "Look who's talking. I'm her mother."

She tried to yank Adele to her side again, but little Melon was quick. However, Sadie's pull was stronger, and Adele was dragged away from his protection.

Nelson paused when he heard Sadie's claim. But seeing Adele's reddened arm and her clear reluctance to go with Sadie, his resolve hardened. Adele clung to him, signaling she didn't want to leave,

With fire in his eyes, Melon lunged, trying to wrench Adele free.

"She doesn't want you! Let her be!"

He tugged fiercely at Sadie's hand, desperate to free Adele.

Sadie, however, was livid. This kid was botching her evening, and she was fast running out of patience. Soon enough, her patience ran out like a dying light.

“Who raised you to be this nosy?” she snapped.

Chapter: 936

“Maybe | should give you the lesson you clearly missed out on!”

Whipping her hand back, she slapped Melon. The crack of the hit cut through the air.

Stunned, Melon crumpled to the deck, trying to process the assault.

Sonia arrived, her arms laden with treats. Seeing Melon’s predicament, her fury went from zero to sixty.

“You think it’s okay to hit my boy?” she roared.

Without missing a beat, Sonia hurled her desserts at Sadie’s face, following up with two hard slaps of her own,

Sadie was not expecting it to go out of hand this quickly. Her eyes still reeled in disbelief as she retorted, “You dare hit me?” “You bet | did!” Sonia shot back, pulling Melon close. Her eyes locked onto Sadie’s, unyielding.

Sadie, unaccustomed to such defiance, Launched herself at Sonia, She was so angry that there was almost steam coming out of her ears.

The two women grappled, neither noticing they were inching closer to the edge. In a heart-stopping moment, both lost their balance and plunged into the water below,

“Godmother!” Melon cried out, a stark terror painted on his face.

“Someone, help!”

Adele, equally horrified, joined in with her own screams. Pandemonium broke out on deck.

On the third floor of the cruise, Holden had just returned to his room. Upon entering, a scent greeted him.

He furrowed his brows, attributing the fragrance to the ship’s incense, set up by the crew. Despite his distaste for it, he refrained from requesting a change right away.

Feeling a bit dizzy after taking his medication, he lacked the energy to probe further. Without even switching on the light, he removed his coat and stretched out on the bed.

But as he lay down, he became aware of a woman by his side. Holden was taken aback and felt an unusual heat.

His immediate instinct was to take his leave. However, when he attempted to move, the woman beside him rolled over and enfolded him.

They were suddenly in very close proximity. A scent distinct from the room’s air wafted through Holden’s nose, leaving him momentarily stunned. It was a recognizable and pleasant fragrance, causing Holden’s heart to skip a beat.

Holden pushed, wanting to move her away to catch a glimpse of her face, only to find the woman responding by wrapping around him even tighter.

Their exposed skin brushed against each other, igniting a rise in body temperature. The woman extended her leg to encircle his waist and graze his skin.

They clung to each other, and Holden felt his temperature rise. The warmth coursed through his body to his lower abdomen, and the firm part of him resisted the pressure of her downward movement.

In that instance, Holden's suspicion about the room's unusual state was confirmed.

He wanted to take his leave, but the woman beside him had pressed herself onto him. Her gentle fingers explored his body, and he felt her warm breath on his neck.

A suppressed moan escaped Holden's lips. The woman's flirtatiousness had effortlessly shattered his strong self-control.

He clutched the woman's arm firmly, attempting to harness his dwindling self-control to rein in the escalating situation.

Though he sensed the woman's slight and delicate form atop him, his efforts to push her away were in vain. In the next instant, her lips drew near to his. Suddenly, Holden's mind became blank. He was finally consumed by desire. The fragments of his restraint crumbled.

Holden seized her arm, rolled over, and pinned her beneath him. He leaned down and pressed a fervent kiss onto her lips. Their breaths mingled, and the woman reciprocated his passion. The moisture exchanged between their tongues painted their lips a deep shade of red. Unsatisfied, they delved into an even more intense kiss,

His hands slid from her neck to her waist, and he soon found a way to take off her clothes.

His warm kiss trailed down her slender neck. The woman's quickened breaths and soft moans delighted him. Gently nipping her skin, Holden yearned to leave his own mark on her.

His large hands explored her body, causing her to tremble. This kindled his delight. Holding her delicate wrist, he pressed a light bite against her pulse point.

Lifting his head, a fiery fervor filled his eyes due to the heat coursing through him.

Ariana gasped for air as her hand caressed his face. Her nimble fingers entwined in his black hair and she drew him closer to her bosom. She undid his shirt, traced down along the lines of his abdominals, and pulled down his waistband.

Chapter: 937

In this moment, Ariana found herself immersed in a sea of fire, every inch of her skin burning with an intense desire. It seemed as though she would forever be lost in this fiery passion.

Her breaths came in rapid gasps, her heart feeling an insatiable void that couldn't be filled. Uncertain of her surroundings, she weakly opened her eyes and, in a daze, saw what appeared to be Theodore's face. It must be a dream, Ariana thought. Since it was a dream, she pondered, why not be a little bolder?

With that daring notion in mind, she passionately kissed him again, her desire growing as she embraced the man and shed his clothes.

For the first time, Holden lost all control of himself, unsure if it was because of the aphrodisiac fragrance in the room or due to his own desires.

All he knew was that the woman beneath him ignited the deepest longings in his heart. Her delicate, soft fingers explored him intimately, carrying a warm, inviting breath that beckoned him wordlessly. A heavy breath escaped Holden's lips as he drew her nearer into his arms.

Her breath cascaded over him, and her fingertips traced circles on his chest, causing him to tremble slightly. He captured her wandering hand and guided her soft lips, then, with a gentle thrust, he entered her warm, yielding body.

In the moment of their union, he seemed to catch a faint murmur from her lips.

A subtle pang of pain surged through Ariana, eliciting a soft, trembling moan as she clung to the person above her, whispering a name, "Theodore. Holden didn't quite comprehend her words, his thoughts nearly consumed by desire. However, he could confirm that she called another man's name instead of his own.

A possessive urge surged within him, mingling with a hint of annoyance. Lowering his head, he sealed her soft lips firmly with his own, thrusting forward to claim her completely.

Ariana winced, her fingertips digging into Holden's back, leaving behind a trail of marks. She lay beneath him, her slender neck exposed, bearing his ardor and craving. Like a small boat adrift in turbulent waves, she clung to him, following his every rise and fall.

Gentle kisses traced their way across Holden's body, leaving him gasping for breath. He intensified the power of his thrusts, aching to completely possess her, body and soul. He yearned to merge her essence with his own. For Ariana, this was also her first encounter, and Holden's fervent advances were anything but tender. Yet, she matched his motions with her own, softly nipping at his neck and gifting him with tender kisses.

Inexperienced and fueled by the aphrodisiac fragrance's influence, their passion blazed fiercely. Their desires engulfed them, a searing inferno of ecstasy.

Lost in the fervor, Ariana couldn't tally the number of times they shifted and tangled. As she grew accustomed, she harnessed her strength to sit up and straddle him, Delicately nuzzling his lips and neck, she painted countless crimson marks upon his skin. Though his features were hazy to her, her fingertips traced their outlines, while her breathless whispers filled the air, "I missed you so much."

Holden strained to hear her, responding with a gentle force as he reconnected with her, releasing a contented sigh.

The room was filled with the scent of desire, and the two of them surrendered to the passion that engulfed them, consumed by desire throughout the entire night.

Chapter: 938

The next morning, the early sun rays filtered through the heavy curtains, casting a faint glow in the cabin. Outside, the distant roar of the cruise ship engines echoed as they returned to port.

Holden woke up and slowly opened his eyes, frowning at the dull pain pounding in his head. As he became aware of his surroundings, he noticed the warm body of a woman pressed against him under the sheets.

Holden's eyes widened as he gazed at the woman's bare back, marked with the red imprints of passion. The memories suddenly came back to him. He remembered their frantic antics of the previous night, and their tangled bodies.

Holden froze, and his confusion quickly gave way to anger.

How dare this woman sneak into his bed and take advantage of his faintness to drug him and use his body for her own ends? Her scheming went beyond cheekiness. She even had the nerve to moan the name of another man during their Lovemaking!

Just as Holden's fury was building, the woman next to him subconsciously whispered again, "Theodore!"

She said that name, again! A searing rage consumed Holden's mind. He wanted to shake her violently to wake her up and force her to see clearly the man she had kissed so passionately the previous night.

But just as Holden was about to grab her, the woman rolled over in her sleep and faced him. In the dim light, he could see her face clearly. Holden's body froze and he had an intense feeling of familiarity.

As he remained motionless, Holden became aware of his own pounding heartbeat which was so loud he could clearly hear it. His heart seemed to be pounding against his ribs, and he was filled with excitement, hope, fear.

Holden himself didn't understand what was happening to him. However, something in him urged him to illuminate the woman's face even more,

Just then, the high-pitched buzz of his cell phone broke the heavy silence in the cabin. Holden frowned, and looked both hesitant and disappointed. After a while, he forced himself out of the intoxicating warmth of the bed to grab his clothes from the floor as well as his phone which was ringing insistently.

As soon as he unlocked his phone, his screen was filled with missed call notifications.

Holden replied laconically. His interlocutor must have told him some rather important news, because his expression darkened. After hanging up the phone, he got dressed in no time and headed for the door.

Just as he was about to open the door and walk out, he suddenly stopped and thought of something. After a few seconds, he turned around and scribbled a note, which he left on the bedside table along with his business card before rushing out.

A few hours later, Ariana also woke up. Her whole body was sore and fragments of the night before flickered through her mind. She remembered the heated passion, the stranger's moans..

Confused, she thought it was all a dream and was amazed at how vivid dreams could be.

However, as her eyes adjusted to the dim light, she noticed the rumpled and untidy sheets as well as the clothes strewn on the floor. At that moment, she could no longer ignore the truth.

It wasn't a dream! Ariana sat bolt upright in bed as the reality dawned on her. She had slept with someone last night. A stranger.

Ariana was seized with a wild panic that constricted her chest. She remembered staggering dizzily into this room the previous night and collapsing limply on the cool sheets. She fell asleep almost immediately. But shortly after she had fallen asleep, she felt an intense feverish heat coursing through her veins. She vaguely realized that something was wrong, and it was as if something had been injected into her and her consciousness was fading away. Soon, her body was no longer under her control. She only vaguely remembered desperately holding a man. In her delirium, she even called him by the name of her dear Theodore.

Ariana froze in place because of the shock. Not only what she had believed to be only a dream turned out to have been indeed real, but in addition she did not even know the identity of the man with whom she had slept last night! Ariana was particularly afraid of illnesses. She had to get examined as soon as she disembarked.

Chapter: 939

Ariana moved her aching body gently, but even so, a fierce pain ran through her body, making her wince. Apparently, the stranger had a lot of stamina and cared very little about her own comfort.

As she tried to pull herself together, a sudden memory shook her. Melon and Sonia! She had been missing all night. They must be worried sick.

Ariana frantically reached for her phone and found it lying on the floor among her clothes. The screen was filled with countless missed calls. Her heart pounding anxiously, she dialed back the number that had called her so many times. The moment Melon's tearful voice rang out, Ariana knew something was terribly wrong,

"Mommy, godmother is dying!"

Ariana's question hung in the air, but Melon's tearful state made a coherent explanation impossible. Eventually, he choked out amidst sobs, "Godmother's in the hospital."

Ariana's heart raced with fear, propelling her to dash out for a staff member who could shed light on the previous night's events. Finding one, she asked about it.

"Last night, two ladies fell into the water. Lifeboats came to their rescue, and they were rushed to the hospital. The cruise ship turned back immediately due to the incident, and we're preparing to dock." The staff member shared the tale.

"Are they alright? Did they get injured during the incident?" Momentarily, Ariana was out of control. "We're uncertain about their condition, but they're at a close hospital," the staff member replied before Leaving.

True to the staff member's account, the cruise ship soon docked. Ariana disembarked hastily, hailed a taxi, and raced to the hospital.

Reaching the ward's entrance, she saw Melon sitting sadly on a chair in the corridor, Instantly, her eyes welled up, and she hurried over to hug him.

"What happened, my dear? Tell me, what happened?"

Melon's eyes were also brimming with tears as he spoke.

"I messed up, godmother.. godmother, she..

Tears choked him, and Ariana's heart sank, dreading the worst.

Unsteady on her feet, she held little Melon's hand and hurried into the hospital room. There, she saw Sonia peacefully asleep on the bed, her complexion pale.

Seeing this, a fear crept in that Sonia could slip away from her life like Theodore.

Ariana's mind went blank, a profound sense of loss washing over her as she stared at Sonia's face. Tears cascaded unabated.

Chapter: 940

With trembling legs, Ariana moved forward, dropping to her knees beside Sonia's bed, weeping and quivering as she told her, "Sonia, Sonia, awaken, don't do this to me, please."

"Boohoo! Godmother." Melon's tears flowed in unison.

The mother and son shed tears, making the hospital room steep in sorrow. At last, Sonia groggily woke up and said, hoarse, "Stop it already! Your incessant weeping could wash my mind away!"

Seeing her awake, Ariana sniffled and wiped her tears, gripping Sonia's hand with joy as she asked her, "How are you feeling? Any discomfort?" "I'm fine, Just gulped down some seawater by mistake." Sonia coughed, sitting up.

"That's a sigh of relief for me." Ariana patted her chest, the tension easing, Regaining composure, she puzzled, "But how did you end up in the water?"

"It's quite a tale." Sonia's tone held traces of irritation. Through clenched teeth, she continued, "Melon saw Holden's daughter alone on the deck. He went over to keep her company. They began playing, and

seeing their happiness, | stepped away to get snacks and drinks. But in a flash, when | returned, that vile wretch, Sadie Pierre, dared to lay hands on our precious Melon! Could | let that pass? | confronted her, and things escalated into a scuffle. The result? Sadie couldn't match me and lost her balance, dragging me into the sea. Unbelievable!"

Peeling an orange, she recounted the incident with a simmering anger.

"No wonder there were industry whispers about Sadie's difficult nature. | used to wonder, how terrible could she be? A newcomer of less than a year. Today, | got firsthand experience."

"She touched my child?" Ariana's repulsion was evident, her brows furrowing as she embraced her son protectively.

Melon nodded, clarifying, "That nasty woman slapped me, and godmother got furious and confronted her. She was defending me. It's my fault

"My dear, it was her provocation, You're blameless. Godmother is okay, and we can't blame you," Sonia reassured, offering an orange slice to Melon, gently patting his head, then sweeping him into her arms.

Hearing of Melon's mistreatment, Ariana's anger flared.

"Sadie truly Lives up to her reputation as an engaged fiancée. My intuition about Holden wasn't misplaced."

Keenly perceptive, Sonia noted Ariana's reaction and offered comfort.

"Don't let their antics perturb you. This time, they're the ones left reeling."

Defeated, Ariana could only stare at her. If anything more serious had occurred, she could have taken extreme measures to get back at Sadie.

She knew Sonia had always been the boss at school, and she had never hesitated to be resilient. No one, not even the upperclassmen, dared to challenge her.

Now, Sonia was taunting Melon in jest and acting normally. Sadie had it rougher, she was sure. She got served!

Ariana's heart still held some unresolved frustration. But then, a suspicious look crossed Sonia's face as she stared at her. With a bewildered expression, she leaned out and stroked Ariana's neck, saying, "Why is your neck covered with red marks?"