Limits 521

Chapter 521

Bella tugged at Jack's hand, insisting they go shopping. She was determined to dress him up in the most dashing outfits, and whenever she found something that made him look irresistibly handsome, she didn't hesitate to buy it.

Soon after, Jack's hands were filled with bags of their shopping haul. They took a break on a bench in the mall, preparing to continue their spree later.

Bella gently rested her head on Jack's shoulder when her eyes suddenly caught sight of a shop glowing with soft pink lights.

The store displayed alluring, provocative lingerie that made her cheeks flush just from a glance. Inside, fashionable women browsed the racks, occasionally accompanied by men offering their opinions.

Bella's face turned crimson as she quickly looked away. Jack also noticed the shop, his eyes widening in surprise.

The items on display were undeniably enticing-some sheer and delicate, others daringly designed with minimalist yet bold styles.

Jack couldn't help but imagine Bella wearing those pieces, and the thought made his heart race.

A mischievous glint flashed in Bella's eyes when she noticed his reaction. She tugged at his hand, pulling him toward the store.

Jack was unusually flustered. "Belle, that is..."

"Don't you want to go in and take a look?"

Bella shot him a glance, her eyes filled with a mix of playfulness and tenderness.

Men were visual creatures. Bella was amused and embarrassed. However, if it made Jack happy, she was willing to do anything for him.

Jack stammered, "Well, I mean..."

Bella stood on her tiptoes, leaning close to his ear and whispering, "Stop pretending. I saw you swallowing hard earlier!"

Jack felt even more awkward being caught red-handed.

Bella gently kissed him, her voice soft and sweet. "If it makes you happy, I'm willing to do anything for you."

With that, she pulled him into the pink-lit store. Inside, the shelves were filled with an array of tantalizing toys and seductive outfits that would make anyone's heart race and cheeks burn.

Bella picked up a pair of black fishnet stockings and held them up for Jack to see. The daring design made his eyes widen in surprise.

Seeing his reaction, Bella knew she'd made the right choice and didn't hesitate to add them to their growing pile.

Next, she picked out a few even more provocative pieces, each time glancing at Jack to gauge his response.

Every time his cheeks flushed or his eyes lingered a little too long, Bella added the item to their collection without a second thought.

At the checkout counter, Bella looked at the colorful array of items in her hands, her heart fluttering with anticipation.

What kind of reaction would she get from Jack when she wore these for him?

When no one was looking, she leaned into Jack's chest and whispered, "Do you like what I picked out?"

Jack nodded without hesitation, and Bella giggled shyly.

"What if I wore them for you tonight?"

As soon as the words left her mouth, her face turned crimson, and she looked like she wanted to bury herself in the ground.

It was out of character for Bella to make such a bold suggestion. However, Jack

felt a wave of happiness he'd never experienced before.

He couldn't help but ask, "What's gotten into you today?"

Bella didn't answer. Instead, she gave him a bashful glance before turning and darting away.

By the time they finished shopping, it was already evening.

Chapter 522

Bella said to Jack, "I've already booked a place for dinner. Let's go check it out, okay?"

She drove Jack to a private room in a hotel. The room was decorated with a romantic ambiance, complete with an elegant candelabra on the table. The soft, warm glow of the lights filled the space with an intimate atmosphere.

The mood became even more enchanting when the server dimmed the lights and lit the candles.

Jack couldn't help but ask, "What's the occasion today?"

Bella blinked and said sweetly, "Silly, it's your birthday! Did you forget?"

Jack was stunned. He had completely forgotten about it. Ever since he lived with Jeffrey and Helena, he'd never celebrated his birthday.

It wasn't that they didn't love him—it was just that money was tight, and there was no room for extra expenses like birthday celebrations.

Jeffrey's and Helena's income was modest, and every penny was carefully budgeted for Jack's and Joanne's tuition and daily necessities. So, Jack had never truly celebrated his birthday. At most, he'd have a plate of pasta on that day.

But now that he thought about it, today really was his birthday. What surprised him even more was that Bella had remembered.

Jack's heart swelled with emotion. He could feel the depth of Bella's love for him. She not only remembered his birthday but also knew his favorite foods, his style, and his hobbies.

How could he not cherish someone so perfect?

"Belle, thank you," Jack said sincerely.

He could feel the depth of her affection. Bella loved him wholeheartedly.

Bella's eyes sparkled with love as her lashes fluttered. She smiled and said, "There's no need to thank me. All I want is for you to love me. That's enough." Bella didn't know when she'd fallen so deeply for Jack. She still remembered the first time she'd met him, standing outside the boys' dormitory. She'd been arguing with Andres, and, in a fit of frustration, had decided to find herself a boyfriend.

Back then, Jack had been standing there in his plain, unremarkable clothes, looking a little lost, when she'd grabbed him.

At the time, Bella had been determined to make him fall for her, just so she could humiliate him and then dump him.

However, Bella hadn't expected Jack would end up being her true love. Things didn't go as she planned.

Jack didn't fall at her feet like she'd imagined. Instead, she was the one who found herself falling for him, deeper and deeper until she couldn't pull herself out. She'd thrown aside her pride as a girl and pursued him with everything she had.

Looking back now, there were so many things about Jack that had drawn her in. He had a beautiful singing voice, played the guitar effortlessly, was incredibly smart, could dominate in video games, and was even great at basketball.

But what really captivated her was his entrepreneurial spirit. Even though he'd eventually left Genesis Games, his talent and energy had won her over.

Maybe it was what they called a double whammy-falling for someone both mentally and physically.

Bella felt incredibly lucky to have met Jack and thanked the heavens for bringing him into her life.

She didn't know how others saw him, but Jack was like a hidden gem buried in endless sand-full of talent, vitality, and everything she adored.

They enjoyed their romantic candlelit dinner, filled with sweet moments and whispered conversations.

Soon after, a small, exquisitely decorated cake was brought out.

Bella said gently, "Make a wish before you blow out the candles."

Jack shook his head and smiled. "You should make a wish for me. I'd love to hear what you wish for."

Chapter 523

"You're so lazy! Who would actually ask someone else to make a wish for them?" Bella playfully scolded Jack, but she still closed her eyes and softly voiced her most heartfelt wish.

"I hope that in the future, when the flowers bloom and the weather warms, we can walk hand in hand on a romantic beach, with our little one in tow."

Jack felt a wave of emotion ripple through him. Bella opened her eyes and looked at Jack tenderly. She silently conveyed her endless love and hopes for their future.

Before they knew it, it was late at night. By the time they returned to campus, it was already 10:00 pm, and the dormitory was likely locked for the night.

Jack frowned and said worriedly, "It's so late. The dorm might be closed."

Bella bit her lip gently and suggested, "Why don't you go ask the dorm supervisor?"

Jack hurried over to the dorm supervisor. "Is it still possible to get into the dorm?"

She nodded, indicating that it was fine.

Jack ran back to Bella and said, "The dorm supervisor said we can't go in."

"What?"

Bella glared at him. "You liar! I'll ask her myself!"

Jack's heart sank. He knew he was in trouble.

Sure enough, when Bella ran over to the dorm supervisor and asked if they could still enter, she looked at her in confusion. "Of course you can. Why do you keep asking?"

Bella turned back, her face flushed. "She said you definitely can't go in now!"

Jack was stunned, but when he saw the mix of shyness and anticipation on Bella's face, it suddenly clicked.

"So, what do we do now?"

"I don't know."

Bella nervously twisted the hem of her shirt, her voice trembling slightly. It was clear she was both nervous and excited about what might happen next.

Jack's heart leaped with joy, but he kept his composure and led Bella to a high- end hotel near the campus.

He suggested, "I'll check if they have two rooms available."

Bella nodded. Jack quickly walked to the front desk, saying, "One room, please."

The front desk clerk glanced at Bella standing behind Jack and immediately understood the situation. She handed over the key to a single room without hesitation. There was only one bed in the room.

Jack was impressed by the clerk's perceptiveness. He walked back to Bella and said, "They only have one room left, and it's a single bed."

Bella's cheeks flushed pink, and she stomped her foot lightly, pouting. "I don't believe you, you big liar. You're definitely up to something."

Jack quickly shook his head. "I'm serious! We'll just have to make do for the night.

If it's really a problem, I can sleep on the floor."

"Fine," Bella said hesitantly, though her heart was racing.

From the way Jack was acting, she had a vague sense of what might happen

next. She felt both nervous and excited, but she didn't refuse.

When they entered the room, they found it luxuriously decorated with good ambiance.

Bella noticed there was only one blanket and asked, "There's only one blanket. How are you going to sleep on the floor?"

Jack flexed his arm muscles confidently. "I don't get cold easily."

"Hmph! You're so shameless."Bella rolled her eyes at him before reluctantly

adding, "Fine. You can sleep on the bed with me. But we have to set some ground rules."

Chapter 524

Jack immediately stood up straight and saluted.

"Whatever you say. I'll agree to it all."

Bella nodded and replied, "First, you're not allowed to touch me. Second, no inappropriate thoughts. Third, when I shower later, no sneaking a peek."

"Yeah, sure. I promise!" Jack nodded repeatedly.

Bella finally seemed satisfied. As it was getting late, she went into the bathroom to shower first.

Hearing the sound of running water from the bathroom, Jack's thoughts began to wander. His mind conjured up images of Bella's perfect figure as she showered.

He wavered, torn between the urge to glance and the weight of his conscience. Eventually, he decided to leave the choice to fate.

He took out a coin, thinking he'd take one look if it landed heads up. If it landed tails up, he'd take two. Should the coin defy probability and land on its edge... Well, that would be fate, and he'd look as long as he wanted!

However, he didn't even check the result after flipping the coin. Instead, he tiptoed toward the bathroom door.

As it turned out, Jack's so-called coin toss was just a ruse he had wedged the coin into the couch cushion. He had planned to look as long as he pleased.

Wait. The bathroom door wasn't closed? Could it be that she had known all along he would peek?

Jack muttered to himself, thinking that Bella was both adorable and considerate.

Lost in his fantasy of a flawless figure before him, he stealthily cracked the door open. Instead, he found her fully dressed, gazing at him with wide eyes and a teasing smile.

It turned out that she hadn't started bathing at all. She had just turned on the water to make it sound like she was. She had been waiting to catch Jack in the act.

Seeing her teasing expression, he hurried to explain, "Sorry, I just needed to use the bathroom."

She pouted and said coquettishly, "No more peeking, or I'll really get mad!"

He nodded hurriedly and closed the door for her.

He sighed inwardly, realizing he had been tricked by this charming woman for the first time.

Soon, the sound of running water came from the bathroom again. But this time, Jack was too embarrassed to peek-getting caught by Bella would be far too awkward.

After what felt like an eternity, she emerged, wrapped in a bathrobe. Suddenly, the entire room was filled with her fresh fragrance. A woman fresh from the bath was indeed the most beautiful sight.

Bella's hair tumbled down her back, her skin radiating a soft, rosy hue. Her body was stunning, the curves barely contained by the bathrobe.

How beautiful! How sexy! How utterly irresistible!

A gentle warmth blossomed in her heart when she caught the fire of desire burning in his eyes.

But on the surface, she shot him a playful glare and said softly, "Big Bun, I told you not to look! Go take your shower now. It's late, and I'm going to bed."

Jack hurried into the bathroom.

The bathroom still held the lingering scent of her body. He couldn't help but inhale deeply, savoring the traces of her.

After showering and getting dressed, he stepped out to find Bella already asleep. Her eyes were closed in peaceful slumber.

A pang of disappointment hit Jack. But when he glanced at the clock and saw it

was already past eleven, he couldn't blame her for falling asleep.

So, he tiptoed onto the bed. The intoxicating fragrance emanating from Bella beside him stirred his thoughts.

He wanted to hold her but was afraid she might reject him.

Though they were already in a relationship, taking that final step required caution. After all, how many relationships had stumbled at this very point?

Chapter 525

Jack was experiencing an intense internal conflict. And right beside him, Bella was going through the exact same thing.

How could she possibly be asleep?

She was only pretending. At this moment, her heart was more nervous than ever but also filled with anticipation. Her mind was flooded with chaotic thoughts. Would Jack take the initiative to hug her? He probably would, wouldn't he? Even the most oblivious person would know what to do at this moment. Though he could be a kind of flirt, he was a man of principle. Since she had explicitly told him not to touch her earlier, perhaps he really would keep his promise.

Suddenly, a tentative voice murmured in her ear. "Can I hug you? Just a hug, nothing more. I promise."

Bella knew it was Jack. She blushed shyly, shot him a glare, and spoke in a coquettish tone. "No! You promised."

"It's just a hug. I swear I won't do anything else!" he pleaded.

"Well... just one hug, then," she hesitated but finally agreed.

Jack cautiously reached out his arms and gently wrapped them around Bella.

She was still in her bathrobe, but even through the fabric, he could feel the alluring curves of her figure.

His mind began to drift, and his body shifted restlessly.

To his surprise, he realized that beneath the robe, she was wearing irresistibly sexy lingerie. It was the very set they had chosen together at the store earlier.

So, she had prepared to seduce him all along.

Bella turned her head away nervously, pretending to be angry. "Big Bun, didn't you say... you wouldn't move around?"

"Bella... I-I want to go in." Jack's voice trembled slightly, carrying a hint of pleading.

"You... You pervert!" Her cheeks flushed as she glared at him before turning away again.

"I promise I won't move around once I'm in." He hastily promised, figuring he'd deal with the consequences later.

"No! I don't trust you," she refused, but the warmth lingering on her cheeks betrayed her.

"Really? So, you don't trust me after all?" Jack's voice carried a tone of disappointment and urgency.

Seeing his reaction, she suddenly felt a bit guilty. She whispered, "Well... but..."

"Please, I'll just put it in for a little while. I swear I won't move!" he interrupted her, his voice trembling with desperation.

Bella hesitated for a moment but finally relented. "Alright... Fine..."

However, it wasn't long before she frowned. "You... Didn't you say you wouldn't move?"

"I... I just moved a little! I promise I won't move again..."

She let out a gasp as the night grew warmer. His persistent advances and her gradual retreat ignited a slow-burning heat between them. At last, after an intense "battle", both gave in to desire.

Morning arrived with the crisp melody of birdsong drifting through the window.

Bella opened her eyes. She woke to find herself wrapped in Jack's arms, their tangled limbs making her blush.

Recalling the storm of passion from the night before, she felt the faint aches lingering on her delicate body. Each twinge was a silent testament to everything they had experienced.

She quietly got up and tidied herself. Despite the slight discomfort, she went downstairs to get Jack some breakfast.

When she returned with the food, he was still fast asleep.

Not wanting to disturb him, Bella set the breakfast aside and sat by the bed, quietly gazing at Jack.

"He's so handsome!" she thought to herself.

A sweet smile spread across her face.

Chapter 526

Recalling Jack's relentless desire from the night before, Bella felt a rush of shyness and sweet pleasure.

The way he had attempted to take advantage of her was downright naughty.

Her cheeks flushed slightly as she glared at him, but she couldn't help caressing his face.

When Jack opened his eyes, Bella had already prepared breakfast.

A wave of affection washed over him. "You were so tired last night, yet you still went downstairs to buy breakfast?"

"Because you like it!" She smiled gently.

Seeing the satisfaction on his face, a warmth spread through her heart. Suddenly, she longed to make breakfast for him herself-he would love it, wouldn't he?

But then, a hint of sadness crossed her face. She softly said, "Big Bun, if I ever leave you one day, will you forget me?"

Jack was taken aback. "Why are you saying this all of a sudden?"

Bella fell into silence, her mind in turmoil. Music had been a part of her soul since childhood-her lifelong dream. But she was also deeply attached to Jack, even giving him her most precious gift when they parted.

She said softly, "My mom wants me to transfer to The Montclair Conservatory for further studies."

He was shocked. "Why the sudden transfer? Can't you stay?"

Faced with his plea, she hesitated before finally saying, "I... need to discuss this with my mom."

Jack nodded silently.

After saying goodbye to him, Bella returned to her dorm.

Her roommate, Luna, was on the phone with a man. Seeing Bella return, she quickly said, "Honey, I have to go. My roommate's back... Bye!"

Then, she blew a kiss on the phone and hung up. She was basking in the bliss of her new romance.

Luna noticed that Bella seemed a bit down and asked with concern, "Bells, what's wrong? You don't seem too happy."

Bella forced a smile. "It's nothing. I'm just not feeling my best."

Luna probed, "Did you fight with your boyfriend?"

Bella smiled faintly, neither confirming nor denying it.

Seeing this, Luna quickly comforted her, "Oh, Bells, all couples have their little tiffs. I just had one with my boyfriend, and look, we're already back to normal!"

Bella said enviously, "You and your boyfriend get along so well."

Luna waved her hand dismissively. "Actually, we have our fair share of problems too. It's not always perfect, you know? By the way, Bells, are you free next week?"

Bella blinked and replied, "I'm not sure yet. Why?"

Luna brushed her hair lightly and said softly, "Well, my boyfriend's starting a business in Federia. He's planning to come back home to see me soon. He's thinking of treating everyone to a meal at a hotel. You should come if you're free!"

Afraid that Bella might not realize just how upscale the hotel was, she added, "It's one of the most luxurious in Alnewgo. You know, the kind where presidents and economic summits are held. A single meal there can cost thousands, even tens of thousands!

"After dinner, my boyfriend's taking us for a ride in his multi-million-dollar luxury car. Do you have any idea how comfortable it is to ride in a car worth that much? I love it. It's so much better than a 400-thousand-dollar car!"

Her words carried an unintentional air of superiority.

Clearly, inviting Bella to dinner was just an excuse to show off.

Chapter 527

Faced with Luna's bragging, Bella just smiled politely. "I've never ridden in a multi- million dollar luxury car."

Her mind was actually preoccupied with thoughts about Jack. She barely listened to Luna's boasting.

Luna enthusiastically invited her, "You've got to try it. It's something only a real tycoon with billions in assets can afford."

She then went on and on about how her boyfriend was a genuine wealthy aristocrat, not some pretentious nouveau riche.

But Bella wasn't paying attention. She picked up her phone and called her mother.

The call connected, and Clarice's steady voice came through. "Sweetie, what made you call me all of a sudden?"

Bella replied, "Just felt like it!"

Then, hesitating, she added, "Mom, there's something I want to talk to you about." Clarice gently responded, "Go ahead."

Bella cautiously voiced her thoughts. "Mom, I was wondering... Can I not go to Montclair Conservatory?"

On the other end of the line, Clarice fell silent for a long moment. Then she spoke, her tone measured. "Did you tell your boyfriend about this?"

Bella didn't want to lie to her mother. "Yes."

Clarice said firmly, "Bella, this is the future you've always dreamed of. It's been your dream since you were a child. If he truly loves you, he should support you in chasing it, not hold you back for his own selfish reasons!"

"But Mom..."

Bella tried to explain, but Clarice cut her off, unwavering, "No buts! Life is long, and some people are just passing through. I don't want you to walk the same path I did. No matter what, you have to go to The Montclair Conservatory. Otherwise, I won't hesitate to take drastic action."

After Clarice hung up, Bella was left staring at her phone in a daze.

When Jack returned to the dorm, he saw Samuel completely immersed in his studies. He was so focused that he seemed unaware of everything else around him.

Ever since Jack had shared his plans with him, Samuel's ambition had been quietly ignited. Fueled by his dreams, his desire for success grew stronger each day. To achieve his goals, he knew he had to put in more effort than most.

Seeing Jack return, he asked curiously, "Where did you go yesterday? Someone left a gift for you!"

"A gift for me? Who sent it?" Jack asked, puzzled.

Samuel retrieved a beautifully wrapped heart-shaped box from a locked drawer. Though unsigned, the box's exquisite craftsmanship revealed the giver's thoughtfulness. It emitted a faint, intoxicating fragrance.

Jack carefully lifted the lid of the box, revealing an elegant watch nestled inside. He didn't know its exact value, but one glance was enough to tell it was expensive.

Resting beside it was a note, written in delicate handwriting. It read, "Jack, happy birthday! I've had a crush on you for so long, but I'm too afraid to say it. So, I'm giving you this gift, hoping that one day when you see it, you'll remember me-the one who liked you but let the chance slip away."

At the end of the note was a shy, adorable doodle of a face.

Chapter 528

Jack was filled with confusion, unsure of who had sent him the watch.

The handwriting suggested it belonged to a woman who could make his heart flutter. Something about it felt familiar, yet he couldn't recall exactly who it was.

Beside him, Samuel stared at the watch with wide eyes. He couldn't help but exclaim, "Jack, who's the lovely lady that gave you this?"

Jack shook his head, indicating he had no idea. He was certain it wasn't from Bella, as she had just celebrated his birthday with him the day before.

Could it be Wendy? But that seemed unlikely. She didn't know his birthday, and she was always direct in expressing her feelings. So, who could it be?

Jack was convinced it had to be someone he knew well and who knew him well.

After much thought, he still couldn't figure it out and decided to set the matter aside for the time being.

The next afternoon, Jack dealt with some issues related to Haven. Then, he had a video call with Claude to discuss the current state of Genesis Games.

Claude brought both good and bad news. The bad news was that the recently raised funds had already been depleted. The good news was that if Jack was willing, Claude could use his connections at Osmo to help.

With his support, Genesis Games had a real chance of getting listed on Masdaq. That would solve the funding issue and boost Jack's net worth.

For any company, going public was a major milestone, and Jack was no exception. If Genesis Games could get listed on Masdaq, it would be an unforgettable achievement for him.

He had considered a domestic listing. But with Genesis Games focused on overseas markets, the local stock market felt too uncertain. Without the right connections, he ultimately abandoned the idea.

He dedicated time to understanding the listing process and used his financial expertise to prepare. Masdaq had strict listing requirements. Companies needed a three-year profit record and had to meet market value thresholds. Yet, Claude always found a way to navigate these challenges.

That evening, Bella came over to have dinner with Jack, but the watch left on the table caught her attention. Seeing the watch and the attached note, Bella was instantly consumed by jealousy.

She got into a heated argument with Jack, even demanding to know where the watch came from. Before he could explain, she stormed off in anger.

This was their first real fight since they started dating, leaving him feeling at a loss.

Jack kept trying to explain himself to Bella over the phone, but he never got a response.

Late into the night, she finally sent a text. "Big Bun, I'm sorry for losing my temper and giving you the cold shoulder today. But I really care about you, and I'm scared of losing you.

"My mom said that if I don't go to Montclair Conservatory, she'll do everything she can to break us up. She also said she'd only approve of us if you become the CEO of a company worth billions.

"I know you're incredibly talented and hardworking. You've already achieved so much, but why can't you reach the level my mom expects? Why can't I find the courage to break free from the constraints she's placed on me since I was young?"

Her words were filled with frustration, but also a deep sense of uncertainty about the future.

Jack knew Bella was facing a major life decision. She had to choose between love and the future ahead of her.

Although he wanted to promise her a bright future, his message was met with silence. He tried calling again, but no one answered.

Jack realized Bella might not want to talk to him and reluctantly hung up.

However, this only strengthened his resolve to push for Genesis Games to go public on Masdaq. It was already a massive company with a global user base. Yet, it was still in the investment phase.

Jack needed Genesis Games to go public and reach a valuation of billions. Perhaps only then could he stand tall in front of Clarice and earn her respect.

The next morning, he called Claude to discuss taking Genesis Games public on Masdaq and the steps involved. He told Claude to start the listing process and make it the company's top priority for the year.

Chapter 529

In the afternoon, the dorm was empty. Jack was about to call Bella when an unexpected visitor appeared-Emily.

He remembered the last time he saw Emily, which was ages ago. He had explicitly warned her not to bother him again.

He never expected her to show up again. Compared to before, she had visibly lost a lot of weight.

Since Jack's warning, Emily hadn't dared to disturb him, no matter how much she missed her son. She was terrified of setting him off and losing him completely. That fear had pushed her to the brink of a breakdown.

Two months had passed. Gaunt and frail, she could no longer withstand the torment. She had to see Jack, no matter the consequences. Today held a special significance, but more than that, she owed her son an apology—a long-overdue one, as a mother.

"What are you doing here? Did you forget my warning?" He sneered, his lips curling into a cold smile as he saw the haggard Emily.

Tears instantly welled up in her eyes. "Nic... Jack, can I talk to you for a moment?"

He looked at her with mockery, curious about what she had to say.

She said gently, "Jack, sweetheart, I just wanted to ask... Have you paid your tuition yet? Do you need me to take care of it for you? And how are you doing with your living expenses?

"If you need anything, just give me your bank number, and I'll transfer some money to you. I also have a few cards here with money on them. Use them however you want. If you're ever in trouble, I'll always be here to help."

"Is that all you came to say? Just nonsense?" His eyes turned icy as he pushed away the bank cards Emily offered.

She quickly shook her head. "No! There's so much more I want to tell you... Oh, right! You used to love Transformers when you were little, so I bought a limited edition one from Osmo. Would you... like to see it?"

Jack's expression darkened further. "Seriously? Look at my age. Is that really all your brain can come up with?"

Her face flushed with embarrassment.

Yes, indeed. Time had flown by. The boy who had once loved playing with toys had grown up. His interests and hobbies had inevitably changed with time. However, Emily's memories had remained frozen in Jack's childhood. She had mistakenly believed that he still cherished the same childhood trinkets. But the harsh reality forced her to face the truth-time had passed, and things were no longer the same.

Now, she knew nothing of his world. When she met his sharp, penetrating gaze, she felt an unprecedented confusion and awkwardness.

She was at a loss, not knowing what to say to continue the conversation with Jack. All she wanted was to talk to her son, but she wasn't sure if she still had the right to.

His patience had worn thin. "If you have nothing else to say, please leave," he said coldly, his annoyance unmistakable.

The words hit hard, and the tears she had barely held back spilled over again.

"Please, my child, I'm begging you. Don't do this to me." She sobbed uncontrollably.

"Do you have any idea how much your dad and I have been through to find you? We searched every corner of Perthter City, even the entire state, but found nothing.

"There was a time we thought you were gone. Can you even imagine that kind of despair? And now that we've finally found you, you treat us so coldly. It breaks my heart..."

She broke down in tears, her cries filled with endless sorrow and despair.

At last, something stirred in Jack's heart.

Chapter 530

Jack could feel Emily's genuine emotion pouring out.

A mother's love was as steadfast as a mountain. To any mother, her child was life's most precious gift.

She looked at Jack with hope, but unfortunately, he remained unmoved.

Tears streamed down her face as she walked up to him. "Jack, please... just tell me what I can do to make things right. How can I ease the resentment in your heart?"

He stayed silent.

Emily finally couldn't hold back anymore. "Do I really have to kneel and beg for your forgiveness? If that's what it takes for you to forgive me, then I'll kneel right here, right now, and repent for my past mistakes."

Jack had assumed she was only saying the words, nothing more. Someone of her pride and stature would never truly lower herself like this.

But with a thud, she dropped to her knees.

"Jack, I'm on my knees. Please, I'm begging you forgive your father and me for the mistakes we made in the past. If you can find it in your heart to let go of your anger, to forgive us, I'll do anything-anything you ask."

Her voice was firm and unwavering. She would do whatever it took to win her son back.

Jack stared at her in shock. He never expected Emily to kneel without hesitation. For a moment, he was at a loss. This was nothing like what he had expected. He reached out to help her up but hesitated-doing so felt like a betrayal of his own principles. And yet, he felt like he should at least spare Emily some dignity, even if, to him, she was nothing more than a stranger.

"Get up! I..."

Her eyes immediately flickered with a glimmer of hope. "Does that mean you've forgiven me?"

"I didn't say that," Jack replied stiffly. "I just told you to get up."

Despite his cold words, Emily sensed a possible breakthrough. Suppressing her joy, she said, "Jack, I'm not asking for your forgiveness right away. I just hope you can give us a chance."

"Are you done yet? I'm busy. I don't have time for this bullshit," he replied impatiently before walking out the door, leaving her standing alone.

In the evening, Bella's roommate, Luna, returned to the dorm, looking excited. She announced that her boyfriend was coming from Osmo to visit.

Then, she invited her roommates to dinner at the most upscale hotel in Alnewgo. Luna generously added that anyone with a partner was welcome to bring them along. Her new boyfriend was wealthy and didn't mind the expense.

Both Gigi and Remy had moved on with new boyfriends.

Gigi's boyfriend, Josiah Dunn, was a senior at Alnewgo University's School of Computer Science. He was highly knowledgeable in his field. In his junior year, he had served as vice president of the student council.

Remy's boyfriend, Edison Manning, was a senior at the School of Music. He had already released several albums online. A few of his songs had even climbed to the top of the online music charts.

Luna's boyfriend hosted the dinner at the Majestic Hotel. Naturally, all the roommates brought their boyfriends.

After all, this was a rare chance to network with a successful billionaire. It could only benefit their prospects.

So, Bella called Jack.

When Jack arrived at the dorm, he spotted a sleek Rolls-Royce parked nearby. It

turned heads, drawing the attention of many passing students.

Luna's boyfriend, Kyle Newman, was tall, handsome, and looked very accomplished.