

The Revenge of the Mute Wife [Completed]

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Chapter 121

Amidst the work and final corrections, night fell

The grand event hall of the company began to fill with all the guests.

At that moment, reporters were closely watching everyone who arrived, paying attention to everything from their attire to the color of the invitations they presented.

Their reliable sources informed them that guests were divided into three categories: blue invitations for reporters and some celebrities, red invitations for millionaires and politicians, and white invitations for all the company's employees. Additionally, they'd heard that a special black envelope had been sent to an honorary guest, so they were eager to uncover that person's identity.

Thus, reporters began speculating that the special guest might be Elliot's secret girlfriend or George's new partner.

Among all this anticipation, Roger, Isabelle, and Sophia arrived, they stepped out of a rented limousine to give the appearance of being important guests due to their family connections.

Is it just me, or do the reporters seem more anxious tonight? Isabelle commented as she saw some filming them and others broadcasting live the arrival of all the guests.

Wow... how exciting, I feel like I'm on the Hollywood red carpet, Sophia said excitedly, adjusting her hair as the cameras flashed.

Tch... Roger was seething with envy. He had never had an event of this magnitude.

The three headed towards the entrance to enter through the grand door, but....

Good evening. May I see your invitation please? asked the doorman, stopping their progress.

How rude of you. Why are you asking for an invitation? Don't you know who I am? Isabelle asked, frowning.

Ma'am, I'm just an employee and following orders. Without an invitation, you cannot enter.

You Isabelle gritted her teeth as she hated being contradicted in public.

Mom, calm down, Roger sighed and handed his invitation to the doorman.

Instantly, murmurs began, and some seemed to mock the fact that he had a white invitation, making it clear that he was no longer an important family member. "Please use the left door," the doorman instructed after verifying their invitation.

The left door? Sophia said, annoyed.

You are employees of the company and should enter through there.

How humiliating. Isabelle said angrily upon hearing how they were being mocked, realizing that they were now relatives of a mere employee.

Let it go, Mom. We'll have our revenge and... Roger started to say, but then they heard the crowd. becoming excited, and once again, the reporters seemed very enthusiastic.

Wow who is that beautiful woman?

Who is she? I don't recognize her."

Wait, is she pregnant?

Hey, wait... isn't she Roger's ex?

Yes, it's Deborah Anderson.

Impossible, she looks stunning.

"God, who is her stylist? She looks gorgeous.

Hearing that name, the three quickly turned to see her, amazed to find that Deborah didn't look like her usual self. She was wearing a stunning long black designer dress with silver-beaded straps and black strappy heels. Her hair was slightly pinned up in a braid that

resembled a crown adorned with white and blue flowers and leaves that mimicked the design of the bracelet she was wearing.

Next to her was Jayden, looking sharp in his tailored black suit, clearly happy and proud beside his partner.

Roger was astonished, unable to believe that the beautiful woman was Deborah. Instinctively, he glanced to his right at Sophia, who now seemed like just another woman, making him feel like the biggest loser of the night.

That idiot..”” Sophia was also consumed with envy because Deborah looked better. In her mind, this was simply illogical since she had the perfect body while Deborah was a walking whale.”

Good evening, Jayden greeted the doorman when they reached him.

Good evening. May I see your invitation?

Here you go, Jayden said, handing over a black envelope.

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Here you go,” Jayden said, pulling the invitation from his suit pocket.

Upon seeing the color of the Invitation, all the reporters started to scrutinize Deborah closely and took numerous photos, noting how her hairstyle matched the bracelet.

She has an exclusive piece of jewelry, several reporters whispered excitedly.

Please, go through here, the doorman said, opening the main door for them to enter.

Thank you. My love, let’s be careful, Jayden said with a smile, helping Deborah up the steps to the event hall.

Isabelle and Sophia’s jaws tightened as Deborah entered through the main door while they did not, and based on the murmurs, they assumed that the bracelet Deborah was wearing was the anticipated preview that everyone had been eager to see. “That thing must be fake, and she’s just drawing attention with the help of that stupid blond,” Isabelle said Sangrily

Yeah, you're right, dear mother-in-law. No one would give something so valuable to an idiot like her, Sophia assured, entering the hall.

You're wrong about that, Roger said, annoyed. "Remember, it's HIS collection, and he cares a lot about her," he declared, frustrated by his younger brother's relationship with Deborah.

At that comment, they frowned because it was true, but they didn't want to accept that they were losing to Deborah.

On the other hand, Jayden was enjoying the attention they were getting as many reporters approached. them for photos and a quick interview.

Hehe, it looks like Caroline won't have much free time soon, don't you think? he commented after the last reporter left.

[Yes, she'll be very happy. With this free publicity, she'll gain many clients.] Deborah agreed.

Well, her work is worth it because you and James look stunning, he said flirtatiously, then noticed Deborah attentively watching the passing waiters. "Come, let's find some appetizers and something to drink.

[Was I that obvious?] Deborah asked playfully.

I know your schedule, my love. At this time, James will be asking for his sweet appetizer, he said, signaling a waiter to get a glass of juice since everyone else had trays with champagne glasses. "'Right away, sir."

Thanks.

T'll have a drink, Jayden said, showing his glass.

[Not too much. Remember that you're driving]

If I overdo it, I can call a driver to pick us up. How does that sound? he suggested playfully.

[Well, in that case, you have my permission.]

Madam, here you go, the waiter returned with a glass of juice and also left a plate with some sandwiches.

[Thanks.]

God, how terrible, coming to a fancy party just to eat!

Deborah frowned as she saw Sophia approaching with her companions.

Understand Sophia, it's her first time at such an event, so she doesn't know about manners, Isabelle said loudly to draw attention.

Ladies who have nothing better to do, Jayden said angrily.

Show more respect for your elders, Isabelle complained.

Then act like one.

Don't bother my mother. God... what terrible manners the Cooper family teaches their children, Roger said with a mocking smile.

You're right, Roger. We were raised differently because my mother raised a MAN, not a baby waiting for his mommy to solve his life problems.

You... Roger said, clenching his fists tightly.

Roger, stop. We're in public, and this is your brother's event.

Stay out of it.

Poor Deborah, showing that she's never been to one of these events. You should stay calm and quiet during these matters... oh, wait, that last part has always been your strength, Sophia mocked, noticing that Deborah was frowning. "I think the one who should be quiet is someone else unless you want me to have you removed from here," they saw George approaching.

"George darling. Isabelle called to him.

George nothing. If you don't control this woman,"" George said, looking his ex-wife and son in the eyes, I'll have her removed because she's crashing this event. She is not welcome here.""

Dad, stop targeting Sophia, Besides, she has more right to be here than Deborah.

Seriously... the mistress who made you lose your fortune and lied to you about her pregnancy has more right than the one who was your wife and carries my legitimate grandchild? George raised an eyebrow incredulously.

... Roger frowned as he heard this, noticing that everyone was paying attention to their conversation and now pointing at them while murmuring.

Sophia, I'll give you this one. This is Deborah's first major event of this kind, but we all know it's because YOU usurped her place next to her husband, Jayden said. "It's a pity because I can see even Roger would like to be in my place right now." Chapter

What.. Sophia turned to look at Roger, noticing he was avoiding eye contact, indicating that Jayden was telling the truth and that he wished to replace her with Deborah.

"I agree, kid. Deborah is a beautiful diamond, while this woman is laughter among the guests.

a sad zirconia, he said, causing"

George, darling... Isabelle approached her partner, trying to take his hand, but he stepped back.

Sorry, madam, but I can't attend to you right now. I'm busy, George said, turning to look at Deborah and Jayden. "Please, go to your seats. The show is about to start, and I've asked the head waiter to keep an eye on you."

Thank you, sir.

Come on, Sophia. Let's find a seat.

Indeed, my love, because you promised to buy me one of each of those jewelry like you always did, Sophia said, hugging Roger and giving Deborah a mocking look.

Sure, Roger said reluctantly, annoyed to see that Deborah didn't seem to react to these provocations or show jealousy... Had she truly stopped loving him?

Jayden raised an eyebrow, realizing that this pair was truly made for each other and had only approached them to cause trouble, but he wouldn't let them have the last word. "Mr. George," he called before they left. "I would like to request two sets of each piece of jewelry you'll be displaying today."

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Roger looked at Jayden with surprise and fury. Jayden's request for two sets of every piece of jewelry was a clear provocation, given Roger's current lack of wealth.

Of course, kid, why not? George said jovially, "Well, let's take care of those details later. For now, I need to go support my son; he's a bundle of nerves."

[Tell Elliot I'll be watching and supporting him from my seat.] Deborah said.

Certainly, dear. I know that will motivate him a lot, George said before turning to head to the stage.

Let's find our seats, Jayden said, taking his partner's hand.

[Sure] Deborah smiled, and together they walked to their seats, which were in the front row.

Roger and Sophia did the same, and once they were alone, she took the opportunity to chat for a moment.

Roger, darling, you're going to give me all the jewelry being exhibited, right?

If you remember, we're on bad terms, and I only accepted your company because you have something I can use against Jayden. So don't get any wrong ideas, he said without looking at her. haven't forgotten, but you could give me some jewelry as a thank you, don't you think?"

With what money? "Huh?"

If you remember, because of you my father disowned me, and now I'm just an employee in the company tch... if I had known this would happen, I swear I wouldn't have asked you to pretend to be my wife and start dating you, he said angrily, letting go of Sophia's hand and walking away.

Idiot. she thought, frowning and crossing her arms. "Now you regret what we had? Ugh.... it's all that Idiot's fault... What makes her so special?"

Despite her anger, she tried to calm down. She'd get her revenge later, but for now, she needed to focus on the real reason she was at the party: annoying Deborah and that bothersome kid.

Everyone took their seats, and after a few minutes, the lights dimmed, illuminating the stage where brown-haired teenager appeared. He wore a slightly formal yet casual outfit-a tailored tuxedo but with a white cotton t-shirt instead of a shirt.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, thank you very much for attending this great event... which is MY first major event, Elliot said, glancing discreetly at his brother. "I hope you enjoy the show as much as I enjoyed and had fun creating each of these pieces," he declared confidently. Immediately, the lights highlighted a guest artist at the far right of the stage.

As soon as the artist and his band began to play, the models started to walk the runway.

All the guests were amazed by every detail of the show, from the models' arrangements to highlight the jewelry they wore, to the images projected on the wall to showcase each piece up close, and the live music by the most popular artist of the moment. The show had the audience talking and murmuring excitedly.

That artist is hard to book.

Oh God... I'm going to ask my husband to buy me one of these pieces.

Definitely, the kid has talent.

I would say he's better than the boring and somewhat common pieces his brother made.

Roger was grinding his teeth with anger. His younger brother's innate talent for designing jewelry was something he had always envied, and this presentation confirmed that he had permanently lost his position as CEO.

Sophia was amazed. It was clear that the three collections differed in the quality of the materials and precious stones, but the design of each piece made you want to buy them... which was something that didn't happen with Roger's collections.

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The models then appeared, showcasing the luxury collection. The theme was spring, and the jewelry was made with precious stones arranged to resemble floral bouquets with their leaves.

Seeing this, Isabelle noticed a bracelet that resembled the one Deborah was wearing, implying that the kid had given Deborah the prototype. However, since prototypes had not been kept for years, Isabelle saw an opportunity to cause trouble by claiming that Deborah's bracelet was fake due to differences from the presented piece.

Oh God... how awful, Deborah came to the gala with a fake bracelet, she said loudly enough for people nearby to hear.

Upon hearing this, several reporters compared their photos of Deborah with those of the model, noting several differences. They were excited because they had found a scandal.

Mom, why did you say that? Roger whispered, frowning.

Because I won't let her steal the show. Besides, it's my revenge because that bracelet should have been sent to me... I still remember when your father used to give me prototypes with love poems and flowers, she said, grimacing. "But everything changed because of that kid."

Roger just grimaced at this and didn't comment, even though he followed his mother's lead on this matter. He really didn't understand why she hated his younger brother so much.

Roger stayed silent and listened as reporters and guests began murmuring about what they had heard regarding Deborah's bracelet.

After the runway show ended, people started applauding, clearly satisfied with what they had seen.

At that moment, the models gathered near a vendor, ready to start taking pre-sale orders from the guests.

As the hosts appeared to thank everyone, reporters immediately rushed to interview them.

Meanwhile, Jayden and Deborah joined the crowd to get a closer look at the pieces.

[Don't you think you overdid it with your order?]

No, because I have two beautiful women in my life that I want to pamper a lot, he said, winking at her.

Deborah just smiled, knowing who he was referring to, and was about to respond when-

'Tch... you're quite the hypocrite," Deborah turned and saw Roger beside her "You abandoned me without hesitation, claiming I had Sophia, but you accept this idiot's mistress."

[Roger, don't talk about things you don't understand.]

Peterson, instead of being a nuisance... why not admit you're jealous because you regret leaving Deborah for Sophia? Jayden said, standing next to Deborah.

He doesn't need to do that because he has me, Sophia said, frowning and holding Roger's arm. Although I'll be happy and delighted to receive the jewelry you're buying me, Jayden," she said in a flirtatious tone, winking at him. Seeing this, Jayden made a disgusted face.

Deborah was annoyed by Sophia's arrogant attitude, but decided she wouldn't stay silent this time and would put her in her place.

[You know... there's something I don't understand, Sophia.]

What's that?"

[If you claim to be the most beautiful of the two, why do you insist on stealing my partners?] She asked with a snide smile. (I mean, your beauty should be enough to get any man, so why lower yourself to take partners from a poor mute like me?)

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At Deborah's comment, many people began to laugh and point at Sophia, whose eye was now twitching from all the mocking she was receiving. It was clear that many had learned sign language due to the trial, so everyone understood the mute woman's accusations without any issues.

She's right.

She must be pathetic, trying to steal someone's boyfriend twice.

God... that means she's washed up as a woman, totally used up, haha.

And she has the nerve to call herself beautiful.

Well, she's clearly just aiming to get men who've been with someone she supposedly considers inferior.

1..." Sophia called out, seeking support, but she realized that the couple was only sticking around for what she could offer and weren't actually going to back her up.

Isabelle simply looked away, unwilling to get involved to save Sophia. She had her own plans to use this event to reconcile with George and forget the divorce so she could return to her rightful home.

Sophia was furious, feeling isolated while all the guests had gathered around to listen to the argument they had unintentionally sparked. It had backfired spectacularly, as now everyone was against her.

Heh, you're right, love. I think someone who claims to be superior is actually inferior because all they aim to do is break up marriages, Jayden remarked. "That just proves she's a coward who doesn't want to stick through tough times in a relationship and only wants the good stuff."

And what's wrong with that? Sophia complained, brushing off the ridicule. "It's not my fault I'm smarter and know how to take the best things in life."

Real life doesn't work that way, George said, arriving with Elliot. They were concerned to see the crowd congregating in one spot instead of admiring and ordering jewelry. "Only a fool believes that life is all about living in ease without effort. That's why lazy and weak people lose everything they have because they don't know how to value it," he declared, staring his son down. "Dad... .." Roger was fuming as he faced another scolding.

That's why I'm furious with myself for not being tougher on you and stopping your mother from overprotecting you, George said, frowning.

Seeing this, Deborah moved closer to pat George's arm to help him calm down.

[Thank you.] She signed with a smile.

George, you're being very harsh on our son and we're in public... please, Isabelle pleaded, worried about public opinion.

Seriously? Elliot asked sarcastically. "And that applies to the lady who has been spreading false rumors during the show." "What rumors?"

*Just now, the reporters asked me a very curious question: why is my dear sister at this event wearing a

poorly made copy of one of the luxury collection bracelets?" Elliot reported.

Son, that's a lie... I didn't... Isabelle stammered.

It's true. She was the one who loudly claimed that Deborah Anderson's bracelet was fake, and I have it on video, one of the reporters said, playing the video.

Now, Isabelle was being pointed at and whispered about by the crowd.

Sophia found it amusing to see karma hitting fast and leaving that old woman in trouble.

Do you hate our son so much? Why would you do this at his first event? George asked, exhausted.

at doesn't seem

"I don't hate him, but he exists to steal everything that rightfully belongs to Roger, and that fair to me."

Isabelle, the company goes to those who deserve it. In Roger's three years of leadership, the company had mediocre performance, and sometimes even made losses because the collections he put out weren't eye-catching enough. To make matters worse, he took pieces from the inventory without paying for them.

What...? Isabelle was astonished and confused, as she was unaware of her son's actions and that the jewelry Sophia wore had been stolen from the company.

I didn't tell Roger because I thought he was taking those pieces to give to Deborah, but with the divorce, I discovered he was giving them all to his mistress, George declared, irritated. "Meanwhile, in the few months Elliot has been in charge, sales have been recovering, and there's better harmony and organization with all the employees."

Roger scowled, realizing that his deception had been exposed and that his father was aware of the minor manipulation of the accounting books.

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And regarding the rumors created by this lady, Elliot began.

Elliot... Isabelle said, raising an eyebrow, though she seemed amused.

Well... my mother, he corrected himself reluctantly. "I can only say that this bracelet is exclusive because it's the first one I made. Initially, I planned to use jade for the leaves, but after examining how much material would be needed and the time required to carve each leaf, we changed it to emeralds. The change in material also affected the final cost of the piece-I didn't want the price to be so high that only a select few could afford it," Elliot continued to explain. "Besides, making such changes to crafting is normal for jewelers. We start with a specific idea but end up making modifications or drastic changes by the time the final piece is revealed."

Many of the businesspeople present nodded, as they had experienced similar situations when creating a new product.

And because I value Deborah a lot, I gave her the first bracelet I made and asked her to wear it at this gala so everyone could get a slight idea of the pieces they would see in the show, Elliot said.

Murmurs echoed throughout the room as the crowd agreed with Elliot. The simple act of Deborah wearing the bracelet was an excellent preview of the new jewelry collection without ruining the surprise. This was in stark contrast to previous events where Sophia would wear every piece being showcased, causing many to leave before the end of the ant

This is ridiculous. Why showcase a bracelet that was just an idea and has nothing to do with the final product? Isabelle complained.

Because the bracelet is unique and the inspiration for the rest of the collection, Jayden said.

I disagree. Besides, the person to be given the privilege of showcasing such an important piece of jewelry should have been me, his mother, not some outsider like Deborah. "Isabelle, you no longer belong to this family either because we're divorced."

George...

The truth is, I don't understand your complaint, Elliot began. "You've openly shown your rejection towards me, so why should I give you my love and respect if they're not reciprocated?" "Elliot is right. I've never seen her do anything nice for her second child," said someone in the crowd.

Don't get involved, Roger complained, reaching to grab Deborah's arm

You better show Debbie some respect, Elliot said, moving in to protect Deborah.

What were you trying to do, Roger? Jayden asked angrily. "If you remember, she's no longer yours and she is pregnant. I won't tolerate you trying to hurt them" Tch..."

Honey... Sophia tried to calm Roger's anger.

Enough, George scolded them. "And Roger, let me remind you that you need to behave at the company event because you'll be setting a bad example as an employee otherwise."
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George, how can you treat him so humiliatingly? Isabelle complained.

I'm not humiliating him, I'm just reminding Roger to behave because he's forgotten his current situation. Besides, he's an adult, not a child who can be forgiven for a prank or two.

I know that perfectly well," Roger replied reluctantly.

Well, it doesn't seem that way. Also, here's another reminder: I am now only obligated to focus my attention on Elliot and James. "James?" Isabelle repeated, frowning. "Who is James? Oh, I see, so you had a hidden bastard child with who knows who." "Father, I won't let you bring in a strange child who tries to steal my... I mean, our family inheritance," Roger said. "Pfft... idiot..." Elliot mocked.

You're the idiot, little brother because when you realize it, you'll be replaced and end up in the same situation I'm in now.

I seriously doubt that because I know James won't turn into a brainless narcissistic chauvinistic pig like you," Elliot said. "And if I ever give him my position as CEO of the family, it's because he will have convinced me that he truly wants to dedicate himself to this." "Are

you crazy, kid?" Sophia said. "Why would you give everything to a bastard... ah!" Her words were cut off by a sharp slap to her right cheek.

Don't insult my son, Deborah declared verbally.

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You.... Sophia was holding her reddened cheek tightly, but the pain was nothing compared to the shock of hearing Deborah speak. "Impossible," Isabelle said, astonished.

Deborah... Roger looked at Deborah in disbelief.

Ugh... damn it! Her first words were supposed to be declarations of love for me, Jayden complained.

Sorry, my love, I'll make it up to you later, Deborah said, moving in to kiss him on the lips.

Well, if you put it that way, I won't complain, Jayden said with a flirtatious smile.

Sis, you spoke? Elliot seemed very excited.

But... how? Sophia said. "It's impossible. You're a fucking mute."

"I'm not mute by birth; I lost my voice after an accident

Liar! You've deceived us all,"" Isabella declared, raising her hand to slap Deborah. But her arm was stopped by George."

That's not true. The only liar here is you, George said, letting her go before pushing her back. "In her childhood, Deborah lost her voice after a horrible accident in which her mother lost her life."

And how is it that you spoke only now? Roger asked, frowning.

Because my beloved Jayden supported my special wish to recover my voice so I could speak to our son, Deborah said, holding Jayden's hand.

What... Roger felt a surge of anger rise within him because she was speaking and dedicating loving words to that idiot Jayden, not him.

That's right, Roger, which only highlights how stupid you were because you had a great woman by your side whom you neither valued nor supported. Instead, you rolled around with that one, Deborah said, glaring at Sophia who had moved to hug Roger. "If you had cared about your wife and taken her to the doctor, you would have discovered that she suffered from medical negligence because Frederick Turner bribed the doctor to avoid treating her properly so she could never recover her voice. Then, no one could hear her cries when she was mistreated day and night by her kidnappers-something you also benefited from."

Roger bit his lip hard because it was true. In the first month of their marriage, Deborah asked him if she could have a bit more money to go to the hospital for a second opinion about her voice, but he misinterpreted it, thinking she was going to see a gynecologist to help her get pregnant quickly. He yelled at and hit her, telling her she would never have a baby with him.

You know, dear brother Jayden," Elliot began to say, "I'm pleased to see that you appreciate Debbie, unlike others who took advantage of the divorce to shamelessly flaunt their relationship with someone else while conveniently forgetting their obligations imposed by the judge." Elliot then glanced at his blood -brother.

Brother?

+

But he doesn't... Murmurs began to circulate among the crowd.

Excuse me, Elliot, but why do you call Mr. Cooper your brother? a reporter asked.

Because he is. I care for Deborah like an older sister, and since Jayden's her partner, he's my brother now, right? Elliot said, smiling while holding Deborah's hand.

That's right. Elliot is a talented young man and the little brother I never had, Jayden said, ruffling Elliot's

hair,

And what about not fulfilling the judge's obligations?

Miss Anderson, does this mean your ex-husband isn't paying the alimony?

The reporters looked excited and grateful for the scandal, as they could now obtain new information about the matter.

You shouldn't interfere; that's private, Isabelle began, somewhat offended. "And you," she said, glaring at Elliot, "Keep your mouth shut; that's between your brother and the mu- and Deborah."

That's rich, coming from someone who was always the first to create public drama, Jayden commented.

And because of that... Elliot began, standing in front of Roger, "You're fired, Roger Peterson, for causing disturbances at this party."

What...?! Isabelle was alarmed. "You can't-"

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention... While you are gathered here, I wish to make an important announcement: starting today, I will take over the presidency of the family business, Elliot declared, looking intently at his mother and brother. "Ha... in your dreams, kid. You can't have the company because you're underage and don't have the required education."

Contrary to your statement, George began, "your little brother is highly qualified to run the company. Despite his young age, he has completed a degree in business administration and will graduate as a gemologist in two months." "Even so, he="

*Indeed, he can't sign anything as a minor, but it's useful that I'm still alive, isn't it?"

Roger had nothing more to argue.

Wow... congratulations, little one, Jayden said, giving Elliot a few pats on the back.

I'm so proud of you, Deborah said with some difficulty, as her throat felt tired, encourage Elliot..

but she wanted to

Elliot smiled and hugged Deborah. Hearing her speak and congratulate him was the best reward for his long hours of study.

Congratulations, George. Your youngest son is quite a prodigy, one of the guests said and everyone started applauding and congratulating Elliot.

It's good to know you have a son who will honor the Peterson name.

That explains why the pieces in this collection look impeccable. Kid, you have a gift for jewelry.

Thank you. I learned a lot from my grandfather and father.

Isabelle was seething with anger. Her worst fear had become a reality: the second child had taken everything from the first. She had staked her happiness and future on her first son because he resembled her, but it turned out that the most remarkable was the youngest-whom she had rejected-and now she was left looking like a fool who hadn't valued both of her children equally.

Meanwhile, Roger was furious... he had lost everything he was told would be his. Even his father was turning his back on him.

No... he refused to believe that his successful life was ending this way.

His gaze fell on Deborah.

Yes... it is true... it is all her fault. This is all because of her that I've lost everything. My bad luck began. when she dared to complain and run away from home. From then on, everything went downhill...

No... this can't happen! This is all your fault! Roger shouted, lunging at Deborah to hit her with his fist.

If he made her kneel and beg again, everything would return to how it was before.

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Unfortunately, that didn't happen. Just as Roger was about to strike her in front of everyone, another fist moved faster, hitting Roger in the face and making him fall to the ground.

Finally showing everyone what you are," Jayden said, managing to move in before Roger could land his blow. "Are you really going to hit a pregnant woman?"

“The brat inside her is mine, so I can do whatever I want with him

At those words, everyone looked at Roger with horror, disgust, and disapproval.

Security”” Elliot called the guards who were undercover at the party. They appeared and firmly restrained Roger”

Let me go! Roger shouted as he was restrained.

We’ve already called the police, sir.

No... wait, you can’t! Roger tried to struggle but received a slap from Deborah

hope I never see you again,” she said, looking at him with hatred.

Ha...you’re crazy, but guess what... you’re mine because you’re carrying my child.

You’re mistaken, Deborah said, wincing with pain as she continued to put a strain on her throat. But she needed him to hear her words. “You rejected this baby before he even came into my womb, so you have no rights over him.”

James is my son, so don’t ever try anything against my fiancée and child again or I’ll personally make sure you regret it for the rest of your life, Jayden declared, hugging Deborah.

Roger saw her take refuge in Jayden’s arms and felt completely defeated as he was taken away by the guards to be put in a patrol car.

Roger. Isabelle didn’t know what to do at that moment.

And now... Elliot began, looking at his mother and Sophia. “You both get out of here.”

You can’t-”

I can because I don’t see you as a mother, he said, pointing at her before turning to Sophia. “And I hate you, so... guards!”

The security personnel grabbed the two women and forcefully removed them from the venue.

The atmosphere felt a bit awkward for a moment, but Derrick the MC acted quickly, announcing a surprise show with the special guest of the night, who began to play some of his most popular songs.

Thanks to that, the evening returned to its normal course, with everyone enjoying dinner and many taking the opportunity to place orders for the jewelry pieces.

By the end of the grand event, it was a success for the company because they received many orders for all the pieces exhibited.

Of course, everything that happened that night became the main topic of news the following day.

Isabelle wished the ground would swallow her up because all those nosy reporters were mocking her. And worst of all, she was alone again because Sophia had abandoned her when they were removed from the place and Roger was still arrested. "It's all her fault... we shouldn't have trusted her," Isabelle said angrily, as her plan was to go to the party to reconcile with her husband and gradually make him forget the stupid idea of giving everything to Elliot. But nothing worked because they foolishly decided to follow Sophia's plan. "And now... what do I do?"

She felt cornered, as she had never imagined in her worst nightmares she would be divorcing her husband at this age. And, worst of all, she didn't have money to bail her son out of jail.

Just then, her phone buzzed. It was a message from George, saying: See you at our café in an hour.

Isabelle was excited. The message gave her hope that things might change for the better.

She tried to make herself look beautiful and charming to him before heading to the meeting.

Upon arrival, she saw that the place was closed, but someone was waiting at the entrance.

Good morning. Miss Isabelle. Please come in, they're expecting you, said the person as he opened the door for her.

Thank you, she said, happy to see that he had reserved the entire place for them.

Upon entering, she saw George at the center table, a waiter serving him a cup of coffee. As she approached the table, their eyes met, causing her to smile, but...

Francis, coffee for the lady, George said without looking at her. The waiter obeyed the order, placing a cup in front of the empty seat. "Sit down, Isabelle," said George, almost as an instruction.

She felt a lump in her throat when he didn't get up to pull the chair out for her. Isabelle sat in silence, facing him. "Thank you," she said to the waiter, who left to give them privacy. "Um... it was a nice gesture to rent out the whole place."

I did it so we could talk privately, he said, taking a sip of his drink. "Tell me, why haven't you signed the divorce papers?"

Chapter 129

Chapter 129

Because I refuse to accept this absurd idea. Remember our promise to stay together until death do us part?

remember each of our marital vows very clearly," he said, looking into her eyes.

"Then, why don't we forget all this nonsense and-

Isabelle, answer me honestly-what happened when Roger was kidnapped in our house?"

What? She didn't understand why he was asking that question.

"The house's security cameras were disabled, and I remember I had gone out to run some errands that

morning."

"Um well, I. I don't really remember the details and-

Those men entered the house with the key you provided them to kidnap Elliot, but your plan failed because Elliot went to work with me that day, and only Roger and Deborah were playing in the garden when they came in.""

She tightened her grip on the handle of her cup as she stared at the dark liquid. It was true-her plan had failed because Elliot had left the house without her noticing. Isabelle looked up in fear, "How...?"

It took me a while to uncover the truth, but a few months ago, I discovered your whole deception, how you hired those thugs to fake-kidnap your son, who would be left in a distant

orphanage while they pretended he had died, so Roger wouldn't have any competition. "G-George, wait..."

Your lies are useless now, he said, pulling out a folder from his briefcase and tossing it onto the table with all the evidence. "Just tell me why do you hate our second child?"

Because I told you I didn't want another child, but you forced me into it!

I told you to keep him because I was concerned about your health. When we found out about Elliot, you were already pregnant with him for five months...even the doctor said it would be risky to abort. Remember? "Of course, I remember."

I admit that for a moment, I hoped for the pregnancy, thinking we would have a girl. But the baby turned out to be a boy, and I didn't want him because he would become my son's rival. You know very well how horrible it was to see my siblings fighting each other for the leadership of my family.

But they were our children and this is our family, not your siblings or your family! George shouted, pounding the table with his fists as he lost his patience. "Isabelle, I told you that if Roger proved himself to be the best, he would get the company, and if not, I would create one for him based on his own interests."

But both of them liked the company!

And that's why I went abroad to acquire more mines.

What....

My plan was that when Elliot came of age, we would announce an international branch of the Peterson jewelry company, he said, shedding a few tears from the anger he felt at that moment.

She looked at her husband in amazement, as she never thought that would be his plan.

Isabelle, both our sons always had a place in my heart. How could you let your selfishness get in the way of doing the same for them? George gripped the tablecloth tightly. "Do you know how much pain and humiliation I felt when I heard my son call a stranger 'brother yesterday? That everyone found out that Jayden Cooper has been more of a brother to Elliot than his own blood brother?"

7-”

“My children hate each other because their mother taught them to. The future I had dreamed of, where

my

children could live in harmony, supporting each other. That future will never be a reality because they fight like cats and dogs. “George...””

You ruined our perfect family with your prejudices!

“I’m sorry, George... no.. it wasn’t my intention, it’s just

You don’t need to apologize to me, Isabelle. I forgave you a long time ago.””

What... really?

I forgave you for betraying me in such a vile and shameless way, George said, beginning to cry. “You know I would have preferred a thousand times if this divorce were because you had found a lover... but this divorce comes too late, causing too much damage to our children.... I’ll also carry this guilt because I entrusted their education to you.”

George... Isabelle stood up quickly to embrace him. “Darling please... forgive me. If you want, I’ll apologize to Elliot... we can start over, okay?”

No, George said, pulling away from her and standing up. “Isabelle, I love you, but I can’t forgive you for ruining our family, for rejecting our second child, and for making Roger turn into a useless man who dares to hit women.” “That’s not-”

Tell me then, where has your beloved son ended up because of your advice and upbringing, huh? George covered his eyes with his right hand.. “George... no...

This meeting is just a formality to inform you that I’ve already forced the divorce. Tomorrow, a lawyer will come to give you a card where I’ll deposit a pension for you... what you do or don’t do no longer matters to me. Goodbye, my love, George said, walking away from her, he left without looking back despite Isabelle’s cries.

Chapter 130

Chapter 130

Debbie! I love you so much, Caroline said, hugging Deborah. "Thanks to you, my schedule is now full for these first few months."

It was a pleasure to help: you deserve it.

Thanks, but I'm still very angry with you, you terrible friend, Caroline pouted.

Deborah looked at her in confusion.

"Come o

on, don't play dumb. Why didn't you tell me you could talk already?"

Oh, that... It was supposed to be a surprise because I was practicing and planned to surprise you all at a special dinner, Deborah explained, embarrassed. "But hearing someone call my son a bastard made me lose my composure."

Well, since you put it that way, I forgive you, Caroline said, letting out a sigh. "That woman is incredible... she was the mistress, faked a pregnancy, and still thinks she has the right to call someone else's child a bastard... god, you really have to be. ugh... well, let's forget that. So, let me hear your voice again," Caroline said, looking at her with amusement.

Caroline is my best friend."

"Ahh! Your voice is lovely, though it still sounds a bit strange.

I've just started talking: don't expect miracles yet.'" Deborah said, blushing a little at the criticism."

Right, sorry. But hey, with some practice, you could start singing soon.

Hm... I know I'll reach my goal of speaking well by the time James is born.

Of course, my friend. Well, how about we celebrate our successes with a delicious yogurt ice cream? Caroline suggested, pointing to the shop nearby.

Deborah nodded, and together they went for dessert while continuing their chat.

As they walked away, Nicholas watched them from the window of Jayden's house.

Seeing their smiles, he also smiled, noticing how special their friendship was.

My niece is the best, he commented as he turned to sit back on the couch next to Jayden.

Their friendship is something to envy because it's very rare to find friends who are so loyal, kind, and sincere, Jayden said, smiling and looking up at the girls as they crossed the street, holding hands.

I knew I could trust her to be Deborah's friend to support her in silence.

Now that I think about it, technically, they're cousins, Jayden said with amusement, as it meant Caroline was his distant relative-in-law.

By the way, has she contacted you yet? Nicholas asked, becoming serious.

Not yet, Jayden said, letting out a sigh. "Remember, she said it would take a week."

I know, and the deadline is almost up.

Don't worry, Nicholas. Her reputation precedes her, and she always meets her deadlines, whether the tasks are good or bad.

Ah... yes... you're right, but I'm already frustrated because Christian and the detective have continued insisting on that topic, and that miserable person has refused to give us any information.

Yes, and god... what a family. They all have criminal records, Jayden said, making a face. "That family is

rotten."

Indeed... the son is a rapist and extortionist, with multiple investigation files here and in the neighboring city... I doubt he'll be out anytime soon, Nicholas said. "The girl is a thief; when we completed the Inventory of the house, we discovered many stolen jewelry pieces and cloned credit cards in her room, which, when compared with the bank records, were reported as stolen cards."

And the main couple has many counts of fraud on their record, confirmed by their accomplices who sold them out to reduce their own sentences... Jayden said. "Ah... I'm honestly glad Deborah isn't part of that family in any way."

By the way, how's work going? I heard from my daughter that you were busy after George's party.

Good. The thing is, the start of every construction project is always the busiest. Everything is complicated because we have to keep track of permits and ensure that all the material orders arrive on time and in good condition to finish within the agreed deadline. "I see."

But you know, Deborah surprised me. She has a great ability to adapt to things. And when I was snooping. on her laptop one afternoon, I saw that she had researched materials, their quality, and even designed pages to advise me when I get exasperated or frustrated with a problem, Jayden said, blushing a little. It's a very sweet gesture on her part."