

# Love Me Or Leave Me

## #Chapter 141 - Read Love Me Or Leave Me Chapter 141

### CHAPTER 141

“Let’s see how things go after Chuck has a look at the video,” Debra reminded

Stacey nodded. “Sure. She looked up at Russel after concurring with Debra and stated, “Can you send me this video?”

“Absolutely!” he replied enthusiastically. His eyes lit up as he quickly took out his phone, looking at Stacey with expectation “We’ll need to swap numbers, then I can send it over to you.”

His eager demeanor slightly amused her, and she responded with a slight smirk, “Okay” ‘No big deal. I’ll just block him if he turns out to be dodgy, she thought.

At that moment, Debra interjected, “I’ll give you my number instead.” She was constantly wary of men who approached her daughter with ulterior motives. After all, Stacey had just gotten out of a pickle with difficulty and couldn’t afford to fall for the trickery of such sleazeballs again.

Russel was momentarily speechless, his smile fading quickly. Meanwhile, Debra took out her phone and added his contact, soon receiving the video he sent over. Russel’s eyes flitted between Debra and Stacey, then he exhaled and remarked somberly, “Trying to woo you seems quite the challenge, Ms. Carter. Stacey couldn’t help but burst into laughter at his

comment.

“Don’t you sweet talk my daughter!” Debra eyed Russel dubiously as she warned him. The Carter family won’t be fooled so easily!’ she mused.

In response, Russel quickly raised his hands in a gesture of surrender. “I promise, 1...” He trailed off, distracted and suddenly captivated by the radiant smile on Stacey’s face. She’s truly beautiful

when she smiles, he thought. Observing Russel stiring at Stacey mid-sentence, Debra deliberately started to cough loudly.

This snapped Russel out of his daze. However, he had lost his train of thought upon turning his attention back to Debra. Sheepishly, he lowered his hands and quickly clarified, “Please rest assured; I have no ulterior motives.”

Debra snorted coldly. She would have believed him before, but not anymore. Debra's guard was up as she contemplated, She might have believed him previously, but not under the current circumstances. Debra was cautious, thinking, My dear daughter deserves only the best, and those with dishonorable intentions can get lost "Erase the video from your phone for now. If I decide it's okay, I'll send it back to you, and then you can show it to your father," she commanded firmly,

"All right. Thank you, Madam!" Russel responded eagerly, promptly deleting the video in front of them. The professional bodyguards made sure to verify that no unauthorized videos of Stacey remained on his device before handing it back.

Meanwhile, Theodore, Taylor Morgan, and Ian were relishing a barbecue in a private room at a restaurant in Marlora. Seated next to Taylor was his current girlfriend, Celeste Wayne.

"Theodore, what's the situation between you and Rebecca?" Ian inquired.

Taylor looked over at Theodore, chiming in, "Are you planning on remarrying her?"

Samuel cut to the chase, saying. "The Carter family has officially welcomed Rebecca back and publicly declared that Stacey, I mean Rebecca, and her child are heirs to their fortune. Now, it seems everyone is vying for her attention."

"My dad urged me to pursue her just two days ago," Taylor added

"What exactly do you mean by that?" Theodore asked, his irritation apparent as he glared at Taylor,

Just checking if you're still interested in remarrying Rebecca. If not, I might step in Taylor said with a laugh. "Don't blame me for seizing an opportunity now that everyone is after the Carter family's wealth, Theodore. If things are truly over between you two, you might as well let your best friend benefit instead of someone else"

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As Taylor finished his sentence, Theodore stood abruptly and struck him hard in the face. Naturally, Taylor, having grown

a toughened street fighter, swiftly retaliated. Their confrontation stunned Celeste, who moved away with a shriek.

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Ian's expression fell as well and he shot to his feet to attempt and break the fight. "That's enough, Taylor, Theodore!"

Unfortunately, his attempt was futile as Theodore's anger had overtaken him. In the heat of the moment, Theodore grabbed a beer bottle and smashed it against Taylor's head. The impact caused Taylor, his face now covered in blood, to loosen his

hold. It was only then that Ian managed to pull them apart. Shaking, he assessed Taylor's bloody condition, his

uneasy gaze shifting back to Theodore.

Theodore's eyes were red with fury as he turned to leave. Ian instinctively followed but paused upon realizing Taylor's severe condition. He turned back, quickly dialed emergency services, and waited anxiously for the ambulance.

Taylor blacked out and collapsed right then. Thankfully, the ambulance arrived promptly and transported him to the hospital. The fight marked the end of Theodore and Taylor's friendship. Thus forth, they would be enemies, their camaraderie bygone. Meanwhile, Ian followed the ambulance to the hospital and stayed until late, ensuring Taylor was stable before leaving.

After leaving the restaurant, Theodore headed to the company only to discover that Gifford, the Edwards Group's vice-president, had requested leave to chase after a romantic interest. Theodore frowned, suspicious of the timing, pondering. "Could Gifford really be stepping away now, when he's been scheming to take over the Edwards Group? And all for a supposed romantic pursuit? To think he'd have a romantic interest in someone!"

Despite his doubts, Theodore saw the advantage in Gifford's absence and approved the leave request without further ado. It would be far more convenient for Theodore to proceed with his plans without Gifford's presence at the company.

Upon getting approval, Gifford revealed with a smirk, "I should mention, you know my crush too. It's Rebecca, your ex-wife."

Theodore's face contorted in shock at the revelation, and he sprang up, glaring at Gifford incredulously. His reaction merely elicited a chortle from Gifford, who held up his leave letter and uttered joyously. "Dad has promised me half of the Edwards Group's shares if I can win Rebecca's affection."

In a fury, Theodore lunged at Gifford, poised to deliver a punch to the latter's face. However, Gifford had long since anticipated his moves and took several steps back. "Calm down, Theodore. Dad's hands and mine are tied. If only you weren't such a good-for-nothing who can't even get the girl

after pursuing her for so long. It's too competitive now that she's back with the Carter family, and they've announced they're granting her inheritance rights. If we don't act fast

to win her back, someone else will, and it'll be our loss. Don't blame me; I'm just trying to do what's best for our family." He then walked away confidently.

Behind him, Theodore, enraged, grabbed a glass from his desk and hurled it at Gifford as he walked away, aiming at the back of his head. Gifford, sensing the impending danger, ducked just in time, and the glass shattered on the floor instead. He glanced down at the glass shards, then looked back into the office at the infuriated Theodore, his mood unshaken as he whistled casually and continued on his merry way out.

## **CHAPTER 142**

At the ancient town, Stacey and the film crew were filming some scenes for The Empress. Striving for quality, the film crew had strict standards, often rehearsing scenes multiple times before the final shoot to ensure perfection. Vicky was particularly serious, to be precise, strict, insisting that every actor was in top form and every detail of all the scenes was flawlessly executed.

Thankfully, the lead actors of the film, Stacey and Malcolm, were seasoned from their previous work on "Lovey Princess." Despite the hardships of the filming process, they found it rewarding, believing all their effort would be worthwhile if the final work turned out excellent and successful

more affluent However, while they were filming diligently, the remote tourist town inexplicably became a hotspot. More and young people flocked to the area for leisure and sightseeing. Russel, one of the first to arrive, had not left. After Debra obtained the staged accident video that Russel had secretly filmed, she had it checked by Charlie. After Charlie verified the video. Debra sent it back to Russel, who then sent the video to his dad to complete his task.

Despite finishing his mission, Russel stayed behind in the ancient town, laughing off his dad's threats to freeze his bank card by claiming he wanted to spend a few more days there. He seemed to adore children's company very much. With nothing else to do, he spent his days playing with Lillian and Kevin. Initially shy, the children soon warmed up to Russel, eagerly looking forward to playing with him every day.

One day, Stacey returned to the guesthouse for some rest after she finished her scenes. She was surprised to find someone waiting for her. It was Gifford, and he was strikingly handsome. Upon seeing her, he picked up a bouquet from the table and approached her. "Hello, Ms. Carter. It'd be an honor to make your acquaintance. Gifford spoke as he smiled. His deep and magnetic voice was captivating.

Displeased, Debra furrowed her brows as she stepped forward. Becky, have some rest upstairs. You don't need to bother with random people. Stacey nodded at her words and headed upstairs. However, Gifford was unperturbed. Instead, he pulled out his phone and sent a message.

Upstairs, Stacey arrived at the room and sat down. She habitually checked her phone, noticing a new message that read: [Ms. Carter, let me introduce myself. I'm Gifford Edwards. How about we discuss a collaboration]

Stacey paused for a moment, checking her message history. She realized that this number belonged to the same person who had previously sent her photos of Theodore and Jenny together. It was Gifford?' she thought. She moved to delete the contact but hesitated. At the thought of something, she reconsidered and typed back [What do you want?]

Gifford's response was swift: [The Edwards family knows you and your children have the right to inherit the Carter family's fortune. Michael wants to fight for custody.]

Stacey thought, The Edwards family wants custody of my children? Almost immediately, her anger flared, and she replied instantly: [They must be out of their minds!]

Gifford replied: [I think so too. So, how about a collaboration? I have no interest in your children. If you help me, I can ensure the Edwards family will never bother you again.]

Stacey laughed exasperatedly and set down her phone. "What's wrong?" Debra asked, noticing Stacey's expression. After some hesitation, Stacey showed Debra her chat history. Debra's face darkened as she read the messages. She took screenshots of the conversation and sent them to Patrick. After handing the phone back to her Stacey, Debra began messaging Patrick herself.

In Hivalis, Patrick, who was busy at work, received a message from Debra and checked it immediately. As he read it, his face turned grim. Then, he forwarded the message to Adrian, whose

expression remained unchanged as he replied: Don't worry about them. They can't take the kids.] Patrick sent a screenshot of Adrian's reply to Debra to relay the message.

Back in the ancient town, Debra read the screenshot of Adrian's reply sent by Patrick. She snorted and continued to reply: [I know they can't take the children away, but we still have to do something about this. Patrick, will we just stay idly and do nothing to the Edwards family?]

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Patrick hurriedly comforted Debra: [Of course not. Don't worry, it's already been arranged.]

Displeased, Debra replied: [You're too slow.] Patrick responded with a cute cat emoji, trying to appease Debra.

However, Debra replied bluntly: (Go away!]

Not ready to give up Patrick sent Debra a rolling panda gif.

After comforting Debra, Patrick made a video call to Stacey. Stacey was surprised when she saw the video call from her father. She turned to look at Debra before she answered the phone. “Dad,” Stacey greeted happily as soon as she saw Patrick on her phone screen.

Patrick looked at Stacey and smiled happily, “Becky, how have you been these days? Is filming tiring?”

“Not at all” Stacey shook her head.

Meanwhile, Debra noticed the noise and immediately came over. Still irked, she stared at Patrick coldly. Upon seeing Debra, Patrick grew tense. Stacey found the situation funny but tried to mediate, speaking kindly of Patrick until Debra’s mood improved slightly, though she remained somewhat displeased. After a moment, Patrick said, “Debbie, I’ve been preparing Recently, I invested in a project abroad. If all goes well, the land the Edwards family is bidding for will be out of their reach” Instantly, Debra’s eyes lit up with interest as she glanced at Patrick.

“What are you planning, Dad?” Stacey asked, curious.

“Nothing much. Just causing them some trouble overseas,” Patrick replied with a smile.

Upon hearing that, Stacey nodded approvingly. “Okay.”

Debra, however, was not satisfied. This won’t do. It won’t crush them completely. Just thinking about Theodore pestering Becky every day makes me uncomfortable. Has the Edwards family done anything illegal over the years? Investigate them. Find evidence and get them locked up. That would solve everything.” Patrick stayed silent and was visibly hesitant as if he was worried about something.

“Mom, we can’t do that. Theodore is Lily and Kev’s Biological father. If he goes to jail, it will affect their future,” Stacey reminded Debra. Through the phone screen, Patrick looked proudly at Stacey and nodded. Meanwhile, Debra’s expression changed, realizing the implications. Though frustrated, she knew there was little she could do.

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## CHAPTER 143

“Grandpa!” Lillian and Kevin came running over, their little heads peeking into the video call as they called out in their sweet voices. The sight of the two little ones instantly brought a loving smile to Patrick’s face. He entertained them through the screen for a

while before ending the call after chatting with Debra. After the call, Debra still seemed slightly upset. Hence, Stacey comforted her as best as she could.

In the following days, more young people tried to befriend Stacey, and some even attempted to get close to Lillian and Kevin. Fortunately, Debra had already sensed something amiss and instructed the bodyguards and the nannies to stay vigilant, keeping strangers away from the children. Half a month later, the filming at the ancient town was completed. The film crew packed up and prepared to move to the next location,

Time flew by, and two months had gone by as they moved from place to place, experiencing numerous events. Finally, the filming of "The Empress" was wrapped up, and the film crew prepared for the final wrap party. Charlie, who had some free time, flew over to visit and celebrate Stacey's completion of the film. On the last day on set, everyone had a joyful feast.

However, back at the guesthouse, with only their family present, Charlie shared some troubling news with Stacey. It was news about Theodore managing to acquire 80% of the Edwards Group, and Gifford had been formally ousted from the Edwards Group. Even Michael had been expelled from the board of directors. "What?" Stacey was stunned. Debra was equally shocked, unable to believe that Theodore had managed to deal with Michael so thoroughly.

After a moment of silence, Charlie explained, "Theodore sent several underage girls to Michael. Greedy and Justful, Michael initially resisted, but after being tempted a few times, he fell for the trap.

With evidence in hand, Theodore blackmailed Michael into transferring all his shares and resigning from the board of directors to avoid jail time.

Arthis, both Stacey and Debra's faces darkened. Just days ago, they had discussed how both Theodore and Michael were direct relatives of Lillian and Kevin, and if either of them went to prison, it would affect the children's future. "Is Theodore out of his mind? Has he thought about the children's future at all?" Debra was so enraged her chest hurt, cursing through gritted teeth but keeping her voice low to avoid being overheard. Theodore's ruthless pursuit of the Edwards Group's shares without considering the consequences was infuriating. She thought, What if people find out what he did? Did he ever think about the potential fallout for the children? Such a Goundrel doesn't deserve to be the children's father!

"Forget about the Edwards family for now. Let's just head back. We haven't been home in a while." Stacey sighed. The matters of the Edwards family were beyond their control for now.



Debra looked at Stacey, her heart aching with concern, but she nodded in agreement. "All right." They stayed one more night at the guesthouse, then packed up the next day and headed back to Hivalis.

On the flight home, Stacey's mood dually lifted. Her busy work schedule was finally over, and she felt a sense of relief. Additionally, Lillian and Kevin seemed to have grown quite a bit, becoming more adorable with each passing day, which brought immense joy to her heart.

Upon returning home, they were greeted with several bouquets. Patrick had prepared one for his beloved wife, one for his precious daughter, and even smaller bouquets for his little grandson and granddaughter. "Dad, where's mine!" Charlie asked, wide-eyed with disbelief as he realized he was the only one without flowers.

Patrick glanced at Charlie and said coldly, "I forgot about you." Charlie was flabbergasted by Patrick's response and wondered if he was actually the latter's son. Finally noticing the heavy look

of resentment in Charlie's gaze, Patrick explained, "You didn't tell me you were coming back with them, so I wasn't expecting you." Indeed, since Charlie hadn't informed Patrick of his return, no flowers had been prepared for him.

Charlie froze at his father's words and started to reflect on his actions. He realized he hadn't informed Patrick about his plans to return home with Debra and Stacey. However, he thought of something and complained, "But you've never bought me flowers before whenever I returned home."

Patrick was silent for a moment before saying, "Fine, I'll go out and get you a bouquet now." Debra suddenly laughed. Stacey joined in, her eyes twinkling with amusement. They both looked at Charlie.

"It's not fair! Why do you all get flowers and I don't? I want flowers too," Charlie grumbled.

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"All right, stop fussing. Your dad will buy you a bouquet." Debra said with a smile. When she saw that the hem of Charlie's clothes was wrinkled, she reached out to straighten it.

Stacey entered the house and glanced around. At the thought of Adrian, she couldn't help but ask, "Is Adrian at work? Since it was a weekday, a Tuesday to be exact, she guessed he was bus

Debra was momentarily taken aback before nodding. He should be. However, when evening came and Adrian still hadn't returned, they grew curious. Debra turned to her husband, asking, "Patrick, where's Adrian?"



Patrick seemed to snap out of a daze. He smiled warmly, yet with a hint of mystery. "He's our on a dare"

"A date?" Stacey and Debra exclaimed in unison.

Charlie, who had been watching TV, leaped off the couch, shocked. "Adrian is dating someone? Since when? How come I had no idea?". The rapid-fire questions revealed his inner turmoil.

Debra's hands trembled as she fixed her intense gaze on Patrick, trying to discern if he was joking. She thought. Is he pulling a fast one on us!" Her expression grew serious as she said, "Patrick, don't joke about this. It's not funny."

Patrick glanced at Debra, then at the equally curious faces of Stacey and Charlie. Finally, his eyes met the innocent gazes of little Lillian and Kevin. Even the little ones were staring at him, their curiosity piqued. Patrick's smile widened as he spoke seriously, "I don't know all the details, but this came straight from Adrian. He admitted it himself. However, he said the girl's situation was a bit special and asked us not to disturb her. Otherwise, their relationship might fall apart."

"What's so special about her?" Debra asked, intrigued.

Patrick shook his head. He thought for a while and finally said with a smile, "Well, let's not get to the bottom of this. The kids will handle their own matters." In response, Debra nodded happily in agreement.

## **CHAPTER 144**

After a day of rest at home, Debra decided to visit Macloria. She wanted to bring some gifts to see Bryce, and his girlfriend. Ramona. Stacey thought it was a good idea and wanted to join Debra but the latter stopped her. "You've been working so hard for the past few months. You finally have a few days off. Don't go through the trouble of traveling to Macloria Just relax at home and enjoy life a bit." Patrick also encouraged her to stay in Hivalis, suggesting several local attractions to visit with

the kids.

As Stacey looked at her parents, she couldn't shake the feeling that they didn't want her to go to Maeloria. However, at the thought of the unpleasant events there, she nodded. "Okay" Upon seeing her agree to stay, both Debra and Patrick breathed a sigh of relief.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, when Patrick left for work, Stacey took the kids to the airport to see Debra off. Despite the brief separation, Debra and Stacey felt uneasy and exchanged cuntless reminders until Debra passed through security and boarded the plane. Only then did Stacey return home reluctantly

With Debra gone and Patrick at work, the house felt empty. Stacey decided to entertain the kids by fishing in the pond in their yard. Adrian had mentioned that the fish in the pond were for catching. On holidays, they could enjoy some peaceful fishing there. Since it was their yard, they had planted large shade trees nearby, and under those trees, there was a comfortable lounge chair. She could sit and relax while enjoying the tranquility of fishing

However, it wasn't long before Stacey found it hard to concentrate due to the children's excitement. Lillian and Kevin kept peering into the pond, their constant chatter and movements scaring the fish away, "Shh! We need to stay quiet and still, or we'll scare the fish away." Stacey gently reminded

them, placing a finger to her lips. Upon hearing that, the two children covered their mouths with their tiny hands, their eyes wide with curiosity as they stared into the water.

Life at Carter Villa was peaceful until a week later, when Janet's new drama, "Her Majesty, premiered. The show quickly became a hot topic, trending on social media, short video platforms, and major forums. All of a sudden, everyone was discussing about Janet

The forums quickly gathered comments: [Our celebrity, Janet, is stunning! She looks so cool and confident in her new drama. It's a must-watch!]

[Exactly! "Her Majesty is incredible! I highly recommend it, guys! Go watch it now.

[Ahh. Janet is indeed an award-winning actress. She remains a top actress even after having a child. How does she maintain her figure?]

The sudden surge of discussions almost overnight suggested that there was a professional marketing team behind the scenes pushing the hype. However, regardless of any potential manipulation, the film crew of "The Empress couldn't ignore the news. Malcolm, noticing the buzz, immediately forwarded the news to Stacey, anxiously seeking help. "Becky, have you seen Janet's new drama, 'Her Majesty? Does it seem plagiarized to you? It looks suspiciously similar to The Empress!"

Skeptical, Stacey thought, 'Plagiarized?' She had noticed the news of Janet's new drama but had chosen to ignore it, not caring how well she was doing. However, she thought it was problematic if Janet's new drama was indeed plagiarizing The- Empress Curious, she returned to the living room, turned on the TV, and began watching "Her Majesty." The more she watched, the more familiar it seemed. These were "The Empress plots. After two episodes, Stacey was convinced "Her Majesty had indeed plagiarized "The Empress. All those past events she thought she had let go of came rushing back. Upon seeing the blatant plagiarism, she couldn't help but sneer,

Her anger was fleeting, though, as she quickly calmed down. Despite its initial popularity, "Her Majesty was nowhere near the level of "The Empress From the

costumes and set designs to the actors' performances, "Her Majesty had a cheap, fast-paced feel, while "The Empress" was meticulously crafted in every detail. Most importantly. "The Empress had the original author's backing. Hence, "The Empress" would not lose to "Her Majesty." Just as Stacey had this thoughts, her phone rang Upon seeing Lynn's name flash on her phone screen, she answered. "Becky, have you seen 'Her Majesty?" Lynn asked.

Stacey nodded, "Yes, I just finished watching it. The characters and plot are very similar to The Empress

Lynn said in response, "I've compared them. It's definitely plagiarism, but they copied the original novel of "The Empress,"

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not our script. So, we'll need the novel's author to step forward and take legal action. Ms. Astley and I have discussed it, and we'll contact the author to proceed." Lynn continued to reassure Stacey, "Don't worry about it. This matter will be handled. You don't need to get involved. Just focus on waiting for "The Empress to premiere."

Stacey replied, "Okay, I understand."

Lynn looked at her, hesitated for a moment, and then said, "Becky, would you be interested in taking on a few more projects? Your popularity is quite high right now, and I've received several scripts that could be a good fit for you."

"What kind of scripts?" Stacey asked.

"A few different ones. I've reviewed them, and they're all pretty good. I'll send them to you if you're interested," Lynn offered.

Stacey eagerly nodded. "Yes, please."

There's one more thing. I have a friend who really wants you to endorse their product. Would you be interested?" Lynn asked.

"A friend of Lynn?" Stacey wondered. Curious, she asked, "May I know... what kind of product is that?"

"Robots. They want you to film a commercial for their robots," Lynn explained succinctly.

"Huh?" Stacey was shocked, staring at Lynn on the phone screen in surprise.

Lynn laughed. "Don't worry, they're just regular robots, for cleaning the house and cooking. Very standard functions." She was worried Stacey might think of more dubious kinds of robots.

After thinking for a moment, Stacey smiled and agreed, “All right

Lynn breathed a sigh of relief and said earnestly, “Thank you so much for this.” Becky rarely accepted endorsements, and this time, Lynn’s friend had pestered her endlessly. She had approached Becky with a trial mentality, and fortunately, the Jatter was willing to do it for her sake

“You’re welcome, Lynn, Stacey replied with a smile.

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Lynn nodded. “Mm.”

## **CHAPTER 145**

After the call, Lynn sent over the scripts and endorsement detail Stacey immediately retreated to her study, opened her computer, and began reviewing the files. Setting the scripts aside for now, she first examined the robot endorsement information.

The company was called Hoggard Technologies, which ranked first domestically and among the top ten globally. Despite their renown, the company was unfamiliar to many average consumers because their high–end robots were extraordinarily expensive, with pre–orders requiring deposits ranging from millions to billions. Only the world’s wealthy elite could afford such luxury. Most of the consumption information on the internet related to the products of Hoggard Technologies was about royal consumption in various countries around the world.

By the time Stacey finished her research, her hand was numb from holding the mouse. Her mind reeled at the absurdity of it all. She wondered. ‘How could such a prestigious company choose me for their endorsement? They even asked Lynn to ask me a favor. Is this for real?’ Stacey felt a pang of self–doubt in accepting Hoggard Technologies’ offer, despite her growing confidence in accepting most endorsements. She went silent for a long while before she logged into her chat app and messaged Lynn: [Lynn, did you send the wrong endorsement info?]

The response from Lynn was almost immediate. She texted: [No, there’s no mistake.

Stacey asked: [Is it really Hoggard Technologies?]

Lynn replied, “Yes.” She then added, “Are you surprised? I was shocked too. I confirmed with my friend multiple times. The request came from the grandma of Hoggard Technologies current CEO. She specifically asked for you” Stacey was at a loss for words upon hearing the news. “Don’t feel pressured, Lynn reassured her. “I believe they have their reasons to have you endorse their product. We’ll just follow the procedure and shoot the commercial. Everything will be fine.”

Stacey's heart pounded. After a while, she agreed, "Okay"

After the call, Stacey couldn't resist searching the web for more information about Hoggard Technologies. She scoured the internet but couldn't find any photos of the head of Hoggard Technologies. All she found were names of the Hoggard family members from the company profile.

The current CEO of Hoggard Technologies was named Hayden Hoggard. Hayden's father was named Jack Hoggard, while his mother's name was Audrey Wright. The founder of Hoggard Technologies was named Albert Hoggard, and he was Hayden's grandpa. As for Albert's wife, her name was Sharon Wood. Stacey thought, This Mrs. Hoggard must be the person Lynn mentioned. She must be Hoggard Technologies' current CEO's grandma, the person who specifically asked me to endorse Hoggard Technologies' product.

Despite the simplicity of the information, it took Stacey most of the day to gather it all. When Lynn finally sent over the endorsement contract for Hoggard Technologies, Stacey read it carefully and found no issues. She forwarded it to Adrian for review, and his response left her stunned. Soon after, her parents were in the loop as well. Debra called almost immediately, demanding details. Dazed, Stacey explained everything to Debra. From their discussion, she finally understood the connection between their families, and why Hoggard Technologies asked her to endorse their product.

It turned out that the Carter family and the Hoggard family used to be friends. Stacey's grandma, Gemma Walsh, was a good friend of Sharon, the wife of the founder of Hoggard Technologies. When Stacey was born 23 years ago, Sharon's grandson, Hayden, just turned two that year. Sharon often brought Hayden over to play. Besides, she was delighted in holding and playing with baby Stacey. According to Debra, Sharon even joked about Stacey becoming the future granddaughter-in-law of the Hoggard family.

Tragedy struck when Stacey went missing at age three. Despite exhaustive searches, she wasn't found. The Carter family was heartbroken from the incident, and Sharon mourned alongside them. After Stacey's grandma passed away nine years ago, Sharon stopped visiting the family as often. Eventually, the two families drifted apart. There were few interactions among the younger generation of the Hoggard family and the Carter family, as the two had different business philosophies. Consequently, the Carter family did not invite the Hoggard family to Stacey's homecoming celebration.

Little did anyone know that Sharon would specifically request Becky for Hoggard Technologies endorsement. The Carter family was well aware of Stacey's worth. They believed she was good enough to endorse most brands, but Hoggard

Technologies was in a league of its own. Hence, Sharon's request for Becky to shoot the endorsement for Hoggard Technologies' product was clearly an act of favor and support.

“Did Lynn mention when the advertisement shoot will take place? Debra asked, her voice tinged with nervous excitement. “I’ll come back right away so we can prepare some gifts and visit the Hoggard family.”

Stacey hurriedly replied, “I’ll ask.” After saying that, Stacey hung up the phone and called Lynn. The phone was quickly picked up. However, Lynn said she didn’t know the exact shooting date either. She had to wait for the contract to be finalized and then discuss the details slowly. After Stacey found out, she hung up the phone and called Debra back to relay the information.

Debra sighed in relief after she found out Stacey wasn’t going to film for the endorsement right away, and then she hurriedly said. “Becky, wait for me at home. There’s nothing much to do at Bryce’s place anymore, so I’ll return tomorrow.”

“Okay, I will,” Stacey agreed.

Beside Stacey, Patrick reminded Debra through the phone, “Be careful on your way. Don’t be in a hurry, and take care of yourself.” Upon hearing Patrick’s voice. Debra sounded slightly impatient as she assured him she would before hanging up. After the call, Stacey’s heart was still racing. The realization that her family had such a connection with the prestigious Hoggard family was astonishing. Moreover, the thought that Sharon had once held her as a child was surreal. Beside Stacey. Patrick seemed deep in thought as he looked at her. The fact that the Hoggard family had reached out to Becky was as surprising to him as it was to her. However, knowing the Hoggard family’s status, he was confident they wouldn’t mistreat her. A smile tugged at his lips as he pondered this unexpected twist of fate. Perhaps, after more than 20 years of hardship, Becky was finally reaching a turning point where luck and happiness would follow her. “Relax, don’t overthink it. Let things happen naturally,” he advised gently.

“Okay, I will,” Stacey replied, her heart feeling lighter.

That evening, Adrian came home. As for Bryce and Charlie, they called to video chat, their faces lit with concern and curiosity. They wanted to confirm the news and ensure Stacey was handling it well. Stacey laughed and chatted with her brothers for a long time, their warm concern filling Her with a sense of comfort and support. It wasn’t until late into the night that the video call finally ended, leaving her with a sense of excitement and anticipation for what was to come

## **CHAPTER 146**

The next day, Debra rushed back from Macloria. As soon as she arrived home, she kept asking Stacey questions and wanted to see the endorsement contract offered by the Hoggard family



Stacey showed Debra the contract. Adrian had read this contract and its terms and conditions were excellent.

Debra read it for a long time. Finally, Lillian and Kevin pestered her to hang out with them. Then, she came back to her senses and bent down to attend to them.

Stacey was much calmer now. She was not as nervous and shocked as yesterday and was in a good mood when she thought back calmly. Her first impression of the Hoggard family was very good, and she felt that Sharon should be a nice person.

When Patrick came home from work in the evening. Debra immediately grabbed him and discussed with him about visiting Hoggard Manor and what gifts to prepare.

Stacey

did not know what to say, so she could only watch her parents discuss it. They discussed it for a long time and finally arranged everything.

Patrick had the contact information of the Hoggard family. After confirming the visit to Hoggard Manor, he tried to call their old number. Fortunately, the call went through. Although it had been many years, their phone number remained unchanged

Both Stacey and Debra watched nervously. Fortunately, the call went smoothly. Patrick held the phone and talked with Sharon's son, Jack, for half an hour without realizing it.

"Okay. Mrs. Hoggard will be home tomorrow, and Jack said we can visit them anytime." Patrick spoke and smiled at Debra and Stacey.

Debra and Stacey breathe a sigh of relief, then laugh.

"

Everything was arranged. The next day, Patrick and Debra flew back to Alagua City with Stacey, Lillian, and Kevin. Hoggard Manor was also in Alagua City, and it only took about 40 minutes to drive from Carter Manor. However, they had already flown for several hours from Hivalis to Alagua City. They were very tired, and most importantly, it was getting late, so their visit to the Hoggard family could only be postponed for another day. They rested in Carter Manor for a day and visited Hoggard Manor the next day.

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Hoggard Manor was even more magnificent than Carter Manor. As soon as the Carter family's car stopped at the gate, the butler of the Hoggard family came and welcomed them with a kind smile. When they walked into the yard, a gray-haired couple came out of the manor with smiles. Even Debra and Patrick were nervous



“Hi, Mr. and Mrs. Hoggard,” Patrick greeted them respectfully first,

Debra also quickly greeted them, “Mr. and Mrs. Hoggard, it has been years since we met. How have you been doing all these years?”

Sharon nodded with a smile, and her eyes kept falling on Stacey, Lillian, and Kevin. The more she looked at them, the more she liked them. She could not help smiling. “We have been doing well all these years. I have been thinking about when Becky will come back.” She answered Debra’s

question, then looked at Stacey and asked happily, “Is this Becky? In the blink of an eye, you have grown up and become a mother!”

“Good day, Mr. and Mrs. Hoggard, Stacey hurriedly greeted them.

“Good day! Good girl!” Sharon responded joyfully.

Jason smiled and said, “Let’s go inside.” Jason led the way, and Patrick, Debra, and Stacey followed him into Hoggard Manor with Lillian and Kevin. It was a large, luxurious, and beautiful Epean–style manor.

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After sitting down in the living room, Stacey told Lillian and Kevin to greet Jason and Sharon. Lillian and Kevin were not shy. They looked at Jason and Sharon curiously with wide eyes and greeted them obediently, “Nice to meet you, Mr. and Mrs. Hoggard!”

“Nice to meet you too!” Jason and Sharon replied cheerfully.

“When were these two children born? They look over a year old, right? So cute!” Sharon smiled and praised.

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Stacey smiled and answered, “They are just over a year old.”

Sharon looked at Stacey again. The more she looked at Stacey, the happier she grew. She could not help but think of her good friend, Genma, and said with a smile, “If Gemma were still alive, she would be happy to see you reunite with the family. In the past, she always told me that she had to find her granddaughter. Unfortunately, she died early. She would have been overjoyed if she could live for a few more years until then.” She spoke with tears in her eyes.

Jason took a tissue and handed it to her, sighing and saying, “Wipe it.”

Sharon naturally took the tissue and wiped off her tears. But after crying, she could not help but smile brightly. "Luckily, got to see it. When Hayden told me that you had been found a while ago, I could not believe it."

After saying that, Sharon turned to Patrick and Debra and reprimanded them angrily. "What's with your Becky is back. Why didn't you tell us about such a big thing? You held a homecoming party for Becky but did not invite us! This is too much. Let me tell you, Patrick. I will complain to your mom in the afterlife and ask her to teach you a lesson!" She pretended to be

angry.

Patrick felt helpless and apologized quickly, "Yes, yes, Mrs. Hoggard, I was wrong. I apologize. I am sorry."

"Hmph!" Sharon snorted coldly and was very annoyed.

Jason glanced at her and said with a smile. "Well, they are all just young people. Don't scare them"

Only then did Sharon laugh. She stood up, walked to Stacey, held her hand, stared at her, and was reluctant to let go. "Becky you have grown up and are getting more and more beautiful now," she said and chuckled. Then, she looked at Debra and Patrick and sighed. I used to say that when

Becky grew up, she would marry Hay and become my granddaughter-in-law. I did not expect such a twist of fate. Alas!"

Debra looked at Stacey and sighed. "It is all my fault. If I had been more careful back then, Becky would not have gotten lost." She felt a little sad whenever this was mentioned.

Hearing this, Sharon also sighed. Bu soon, she smiled cheerfully again. "But it is all over now. I believe both Becky and Hay will be better in the future."

Hearing this, Debra and Patrick felt something was wrong and exchanged glances with each other. The next moment, Patrick looked at Sharon and asked with concern, "Mrs. Hoggard, what happened to Hay?" According to the information he found, Hayden was now the CEO of Hoggard Technologies and was very capable. He should be doing well.

"It is all over. Things will get better and better in the future. Do not bring up the past again, Jason interrupted with a sad

Hearing this, Sharon also fell silent. After a while, they changed the subject and began to talk about something else.

## CHAPTER 147

The Carter family stayed with Jason and Sharon at Hoggard Manor for more than half a day. In the afternoon, they got up, said goodbye, and left.

When they were leaving, Sharon was reluctant to part with them and kept telling them to come over often and spend time together.

Debra and Patrick agreed repeatedly, and everyone got in the car reluctantly. After the car started and drove off, they breathed a sigh of relief.

It wasn't too late when they got home. Lillian and Kevin were eager to go and play in the yard, so the butler took them out.

The next day, they flew back to Hivalis and signed the endorsement contract

After the contract was settled, Hoggard Technologies replied quickly, saying that the shooting time would be determined according to Becky's schedule. She could just let them know when she was free to do it.

The attitude of Hoggard Technologies once again puzzled Lynn. Even the person in charge of Hoggard Technologies suspected Becky had something to do with the Hoggard family or the grandmother of the current CEO of Hoggard Technologies, Otherwise, she couldn't have received such a good treatment.

Lynn thought, "It's such a big company. Even if global superstars come here, they will have to obey the arrangement of Hoggard Technologies. But Hoggard Technologies actually let Becky arrange the time and will do the shooting only when this little star named Becky is free. This treatment is no

different from that for a princess!" After Lynn got the news from Hoggard Technologies, she immediately called Becky and told her about it.

Stacey was no longer as surprised as before. After receiving Lynn's call, she thought about it and decided to hurry and get the endorsement shooting over with

Lynn thought about it and reckoned there was no problem. She contacted her friends and discussed the endorsement matter with them. Then, she took Becky to Strico, where the headquarters of Hoggard Technologies was located

Although Stacey had been mentally prepared to enter such a world-class company for the first time, she was still nervous after entering it. What made her even more nervous was that when she came, Hayden, the CEO of Hoggard Group, came out of his office in person and went downstairs to greet her at the entrance.

The employees of Hoggard Technologies were all stunned. They pretended to be working hard while sneaking glances in the direction of Hayden and Stacey with curious and gossipy gazes

"H-Hello." Stacey looked at Hayden and felt nervous. She hesitated and greeted him cautiously.

Hayden looked at Stacey. His handsome face with sharp features was expressionless and looked serious the whole time. He nodded, hummed, and responded concisely. "Let's go inside first"

Stacey quickly nodded and replied, "Okay"

Hayden nodded, then turned around, and walked toward the elevator. Stacey hurriedly caught up, followed by Lynn and several employees of Hoggard Technologies.

This time, only Lynn accompanied Stacey to come for the endorsement shooting. After all, the other party was the Hoggard family. Patrick and Debra were very reassured, so Debra didn't bring Lillian and Kevin to come with Stacey this time.

Hayden pressed the button for the 33rd floor, which was an exclusive floor for the CEO's office. There was only a huge conference room on the entire floor other than the CEO's office. The elevator door quickly closed, and the elevator began to move upward.

Hayden told the employees of Hoggard Technologies, "You can go back to work first. We will start shooting after she has a

good rest.

The person in charge of the planning department was speechless.

"Okay, Mr. Hoggard," Daniel, the planning department's manager, replied quickly.

The employees of the planning department hurriedly pressed the button for the 15th floor, where the planning department was located. They thought they'd better leave quickly.

The cramped elevator was so quiet that the sound of a pin falling on the floor could be heard. Everyone held their breath and was too nervous to move

The elevator went up floor by floor and finally reached the 15th floor, and the elevator door opened.

"Mr. Hoggard, we will go to work first," Daniel said quickly.

"Okay," Hayden responded in a low voice.

Daniel walked ahead, followed by several employees from the planning department. They hurried out as if they were fleeing.

The elevator door quickly closed again and continued to go up in the small elevator, there were only four people left. They were Hayden, an employee of Hoggard Technologies, Stacey, and Lynn

Somehow, Stacey suddenly remembered that when she had visited Hoggard Manor a few days ago, Sharon had said Hayden was the one who had told them she had returned to the Carter family. "Thank you, Mr. Hoggard." She thought about it and finally thanked Hayden sincerely.

Hayden was stunned when he heard this. He looked at her and asked in confusion, "What did you thank me for?"

Stacey was at a loss for words. She organized the words in her mind and then explained, "I went to Hoggard Manor with my parents a few days ago. We met Mr. Jason Hoggard and Mrs. Hoggard. Mrs. Hoggard said it was you who told her I had returned to the Carter family."

Hayden nodded. "Well, Grandma has always missed you."

Stacey was silent.

Lynn, who was listening to their conversation, was surprised. Her expression remained unchanged, but she was shocked inwardly. So I guessed it right before, didn't I? Becky and the Hoggard family did know each other. Otherwise, how could such a world-class enterprise have chosen us to be their endorser?" she mused.

The topic ended inexplicably, and the elevator fell into silence again. Stacey's heart beat fast, and she became nervous again.

As time went by, they finally reached the 33rd floor, and the elevator door opened.

Hayden lowered his eyes and said to Stacey, "Here we are. Let's go

Stacey quickly nodded and responded, "Okay."

They walked out of the elevator together. After they took a few steps, a little boy appeared before them and looked straight at Stacey with bright eyes. The next moment, he suddenly ran over and hugged Stacey's thigh

Stacey's heart skipped a beat. She looked down at the boy holding her thigh and then subconsciously glanced at Hayden feeling very nervous. 'What's... with this kid? she wondered.

Hayden was silent. A moment later, he looked at the boy and ordered in a solemn tone, Jeremy Hoggard, come here!"

Hayden's son, Jeremy, didn't even look at Hayden and held Becky's thigh tightly.

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Stacey came to her senses. She quickly bent over, hugged Jeremy and asked with a smile, "Is your name Jeremy Hoggard?"

Jeremy stared at her intently and said nothing.

Hayden said in a deep voice, "I'll count to three. If you don't let go of her, our previous agreement will be invalid! Then, he began to count down. "Three, two-

Jeremy let go before Hayden counted to one.

Stacey was inexplicably distressed. She picked up Jeremy, turned to Hayden, and said with a smile, "It's okay. Does Jeremy like me?" She was happy to be liked by Jeremy the first time they

met. Maybe because she had given birth to children, her maternal love was aroused when she saw Jeremy.

## **CHAPTER 148**

As soon as Stacey picked up Jeremy, his small hands wrapped tightly around her neck, as if holding a treasure, and refused to let go. Hayden looked at them and finally said, "Let's go into the office."

The office was just around the corner, and they went in quickly. Stacey subconsciously observed the office. It was large, decorated simply in a minimalist style, and resembled the cold air Hayden gave off.

"If you get tired of carrying him, just put him down. You don't have to hold him all the time. Let him play by himself, Hayden said to Stacey

Stacey smiled and agreed. "Okay." It had to be said that with the appearance of Jeremy, Stacey wasn't so nervous now.

Jeremy had been staring at Stacey since the beginning. His eyes were sparkling. The more he looked at her, the more he liked her. Lynn looked at the child and then Becky. Finally, she smiled and joked, "Is this kid a fan of Becky?"

As soon as these words were spoken, Martin, Samuel, and Jeremy looked at Lynn. Even Stacey subconsciously looked at her. Lynn's scalp tingled, and she suddenly held her breath, not daring to move.

Stacey suddenly figured it out. Well, yeah, Jeremy should be my fan, right? Is that why he likes me so much, even though we just met? There are a lot of fans on the internet, including many children of other celebrities, she thought. She looked at Jeremy and asked with a smile, "Are you my fan?"

Jeremy looked at Stacey and nodded. Then, he seemed to remember something and quickly shook his head vigorously. Stacey was puzzled by his response.

Hayden frowned, but he didn't explain. He said to Stacey. "There's a lounge nearby. You can rest there for a while. If you need anything, just find my assistant, Samuel. You can go shoot the endorsement after you've rested"

Stacey hurriedly agreed, "Okay, thanks."

Hayden nodded and returned to his desk. He started typing on the computer, apparently resuming handling company documents. Stacey and Lynn looked at each other, feeling a little strange.

Samuel hurriedly said, "Ms. Carter, Ms. Fox, this way, please." He took them to the lounge and had them sit on the couch. There, then, he brought out various drinks and snacks to entertain them. After arriving at the lounge, Jeremy came down from Stacey's arms. Although she was no longer carrying him, Jeremy stuck close to Stacey.

Samuel brought a box of Legos and Jeremy play with them. Jeremy glanced at Stacey and then pushed Legos toward her. Stacey was amused and took the initiative to open the box to play with him.

The minutes flew by with something for them to kill the time with. An hour later, Lynn reminded her that she had to shoot the endorsement. Stacey looked at the time and remembered her job. After putting the last Lego parts together, she smiled and said to Jeremy, "Okay, it's done!"

Jeremy looked at her. Stacey hesitated momentarily, then carefully said to him, "Jeremy, I'm going to shoot an endorsement. Can I play with you next time?"

He didn't answer, and Stacey hesitated for a while. Finally, she stood up and walked over to Hayden sitting at the desk in the work area outside. Behind the desk, Hayden also heard the noise and looked up at her. Stacey was nervous but still said, "Mr. Hoggard, I've rested well. Can I shoot the endorsement now?"

Hayden nodded and said, "Okay." The next moment, he shut down the computer and stood up.



Stacey looked at him in confusion. Even Lynn was shocked and thought, “What does he mean by this? Is he going to watch Becky shoot the endorsement himself?”

When a typical small company hired a celebrity to endorse its products, it wasn’t unusual for the boss to accompany the

celebrity during the endorsement shoot. However, this was Hoggard Technologies, a top-notch company. Surely, a simple endorsement could be handled by the planning department. Regardless, Hayden closed his laptop, put away the documents, and walked out from behind the desk. Jeremy’s face had a blank expression as he followed them. They all went downstairs.

On the 15th floor, Daniel from the planning department received a notification from Samuel, and his whole face froze. He then quickly informed the entire department, asking everyone to stop working immediately so they could wait at the elevator to greet the CEO and Jeremy.

Everyone wondered why they needed to turn this into a production over an endorsement shoot. The hundreds of employees in the planning department were stunned. Everyone reacted and hurriedly cleaned up their desks. They quickly put away their snacks into the drawers and tidied up their messy desks.

Everyone moved quickly. In less than a minute, the planning department’s office was spotless. Everyone left their workstations, followed Daniel out, and waited in two lines outside the elevator on the 15th floor.

It was only a few minutes, but it felt like a century before the elevator stopped at the floor, and the door slowly opened. Everyone held their breaths and looked at the people in the elevator nervously.

Jayden walked out of the elevator with his long legs, followed by Stacey. Jeremy trailed closely behind her. Finally, Samuel and Lynn emerged.

Daniel breathed nervously and hurriedly said, “Mr. Hoggard, the studio is ready. Shall we start the shoot immediately?”

Hayden nodded and said, “Yes.” So, everyone marched off to the studio with Hayden leading the way. “Where’s the script?” Hayden held out his hand toward Daniel

Daniel’s expression changed, and he hurriedly urged the secretary next to him. The secretary quickly handed him the script. and Daniel hastily gave it to Hayden.

Hayden looked at the script expressionlessly. After a while, he closed it and said unhappily, “It’s too fake!”

Daniel was alarmed, his hands trembling. In a panic, he thought What should I do? Somebody save me! Ah! He had assumed Hayden invited some small-time celebrity, so he didn't take it too seriously and wrote a simple script. He figured it would be enough, but...

Jeremy lowered his head, opened his little backpack, and pulled out a writing tablet. Then, he started writing on it. Stacey was curious. She looked down at Jeremy's writing and saw the words: [Go home for the shoot!]

Her mind suddenly went back. Horge? Whose home?' she wondered, but she soon realized something else. She looked at Jeremy, shocked. He can read and we?

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## CHAPTER 149

Hayden stared at Jeremy. After a while, he looked at Stacey and asked, "Is that okay?"

Stacey was dumbfounded and shocked. "Is this my decision?"

The other staff of Hoggard Technologies also thought the same thing. They were all surprised when they saw Jeremy write but didn't expect what Hayden said next to be even more surprising. He's asking for someone else's opinion before making a decision?' they thought. "This small-time celebrity. Just who is she?"

Jeremy looked at Stacey eagerly. She thought for a while and nodded. "Fine by me. I can go anywhere!"

Hayden nodded, then looked at the Hoggard Technologies employers. "Pack up your things and go to my house for the shoot," he said.

The employees were shocked and speechless. 'We're filming at Mr. Hoggard's home? Seriously? Did we hear it right?' they thought

Hayden didn't care about what they thought. After he made up his mind, he turned around and walked outside. Jeremy hurried over, took Stacey's hand, and walked with her.

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Stacey was as shocked as the Hoggard Technologies employees. She had imagined "filming at home" meant finding a place similar to a home and doing the shoot with a family environment theme. She didn't expect Hayden straight-up meant doing the shoot at his home. 'Is that even convenient for him?' she thought. Just as she was thinking in shock, her hand was held by a smaller

one. Stacey looked down and met Jeremy's joyful eyes. She suddenly smiled, squatted down, picked up Jeremy, and then followed Hayden out.

Hayden, who was walking in front, seemed to notice something. He stopped and turned to look at them. Hayden glanced at Jeremy, then frowned and said, "He's pretty heavy. Let him walk by himself."

When he heard this, Jeremy hurriedly hugged Stacey's neck and glared at his father discontentedly, as if to say, "I don't want to come down! Bad Dad!"

Stacey was in a good mood when she noticed that Jeremy was sticking to her. She looked at Hayden and said, "It's fine. I'll just hold him for a while and put him down when I can't keep it up." In response, Jeremy nodded repeatedly and buried his head in Stacey's shoulder to show that he wanted her to hug him.

Howard looked at his son who was throwing a tantrum and stayed quiet. Then, he urged, "Let's go."

Since Stacey wanted to hold Jeremy, they should walk faster and leave sooner. Once they got downstairs, they could sit in the car, and Stacey wouldn't have to carry this big solid weight the whole time. A three-year-old boy wasn't quite small anymore. When they reached the elevator door, Stacey couldn't keep carrying Jeremy but hesitated to put the child in her arms down.

"Let me carry him." Right then, Hayden appeared in front of her. Stacey was stunned for a moment, then hurriedly gave the child to him. Hayden stretched out his hand, and his strong arms easily picked up Jeremy.

Jeremy was transferred to his father's arms. He looked at Stacey reluctantly, but he seemed to understand that she had no strength left and couldn't keep carrying him, so he didn't say anything. He looked at his father expressionlessly and kicked his legs, indicating to Hayden that he wanted to be put down.

Howard looked down at his son making a fuss in his arms. Jeremy also looked at his father with a cold, emotionless gaze. After a while, Hayden bent down and carefully put his son on the ground.

At that moment, the elevator door opened. Hayden was the first one to go in. Jeremy immediately turned to Stacey and took her hand. When she looked at how cute he was, Stacey's heart softened. She felt almost touched by this boy. Mr. Hoggard is always so cold and serious. How does he have such a cute and cool son? Stacey pondered as she followed Jeremy into the elevator.

Lynn and the other employees of Hoggard Technologies also followed. Except for Lynn, the other employees did not dare to peek at Jeremy sticking so closely to the small-time celebrity. They all seemed serious on the surface, but they secretly stole glances at the

small and big hands holding onto one another. Why is Jeremy so attached to her! Did Mr. and Mrs. Hoggard ask this small-time celebrity named Becky to endorse Hoggard Technologies' robots because Jeremy likes her? Is

he a fan of hers?

Once the employees thought of these questions, it sounded likely. The more they thought about them, the more they felt that it was the truth. They were surprised that Jeremy liked this small-time celebrity, Becky!

Although Jeremy was just a child, he stayed with his father in their company every day. He resembled his father, expressionless and always serious. At first, everyone complained about it in private. Later, as time went by, they gradually got used to it and didn't find it strange anymore.

Everyone had accepted that Jeremy was like a replica of his father, and now he was suddenly a fan of some minor celebrity. It was shocking to them. They secretly thought about it, communicated with each other silently with their eyes, and then quickly accepted this situation. After all, Jeremy had only turned three years old this year, and he was still a child. It was normal for him to like messy things.

Besides, Jeremy being like this was more appealing. This was what children should be like. The way he seemed before was abnormal, right!

The elevator descended to the basement floor. No one spoke in the narrow elevator, except for Hayden and Jeremy. The others didn't dare to. Everyone held their breaths and waited until the elevator reached the underground parking lot.

None of Hoggard Technologies employees were poor, so they went to find their cars once they reached the parking lot. Stacey and Lynn didn't have a car, so they could only follow Hayden. There was also Samuel, who was Hayden's round-the-clock assistant. He would follow Hayden wherever he went, and it was the same at this moment. They went to Hayden's luxury car together.

Samuel reached out to open the door and let Hayden, Jeremy, Stacey, and Lynn into the back seat. Then, he went around to the passenger seat and opened the door. After everyone was seated, the driver started the car and drove outside.

Meanwhile, the planning department's staff also received an urgent notice from their manager: [Everyone, now! Immediately, right this instance, hurry and come up with a shooting plan it must be ready before everyone arrives at the boss' house!]

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## CHAPTER 150

Hayden's house was just a short drive from the company, leading to a grandiose Epean palace— styled mansion that stood tall and magnificent. The mansion was complemented by a broad, verdant lawn that stretched out, offering a sense of spacious tranquility.

As everyone parked their cars and approached the mansion, they treaded carefully on the stone steps, their strides naturally becoming more measured.

The happiest among them was Jeremy, clinging to Becky's hand as he eagerly anticipated entering the mansion.

The butler, Joshua Oswald, emerged promptly from the mansion. He approached them, bowed deeply, and offered a respectful greeting, "Welcome back, Mr. Hoggard, Jeremy."

Hayden hummed a brief acknowledgment and quickly instructed, "We're shooting an endorsement video at the mansion. Coordinate with the team and handle all the necessary arrangements."

At first, Joshua instinctively nodded, ready to agree. Suddenly, something dawned on him, causing his words to catch in his throat. His eyes widened in shock as he looked up at Hayden, but the moment passed quickly. Regaining his composure. Joshua nodded firmly. "Understood. I will do my best to cooperate."

Hayden turned to the Hoggard Technologies staff trailing behind him and commanded coolly, "Follow Mr. Oswald inside. I expect a finalized shooting plan by 3 p. We begin filming after that."

Stacey pulled out her phone and saw the time was 11:30 am, which meant the group had three and a half hours to the plan

work out

Daniel from the planning department exhaled deeply, relieved. He thought, "Thank goodness we have three hours. There's still time to tweak the shooting plans

Jeremy glanced at Hayden, then at Daniel, and pulled out his writing tablet once more. His fingers flew across the screen as he scribbled a few words. Approaching Daniel, he held up the tablet, displaying his message: [I want to join. Let's shoot together.]

led by Jeremy's note, Daniel stood frozen, unsure whether to give his consent. And so, he nervously looked over at

Hayden.

Hayden's brows furrowed as he fixed his gaze on Jeremy. He wondered, "What is that brat up to again?"

Standing off to the side, Joshua swiftly read Jeremy's writing boafil. He then hurriedly conveyed the message to Hayden, "Mr. Hoggard, Jeremy wants to participate in the filming"

Stacey stood frozen in surprise as she stared at Jeremy, who, in turn, looked back at Hayden eagerly.

"You can't act," Hayden remarked with a disapproving scowl.

Angered by the remark, Jeremy wrote hastily on the tablet. Then, he raised the tablet, challenging It can!]

Hayden locked eyes with Jeremy, who held his gaze firmly. After a moment, Hayden turned to the staff and instructed. "Let him join."

Everyone was speechless.

"Okay, Mr. Hoggard. We'll arrange it right away, Daniel agreed hurriedly.

As Stacey observed Jeremy, she couldn't help but find him more adorable with each passing moment. She waved at him, and seeing her friendly gesture, Jeremy's face lit up. He hurried over her, writing tablet in hand.

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Stacey crouched down and unable to resist, planted a kiss on Jeremy's cheek, smiling warmly as she said, "How can you be

so cute?"

Jeremy's whole body went rigid, particularly the spot on his cheek where it was kissed. 'Aunt Becky actually kissed me! he thought to himself.

The sight didn't faze Joshua. Instead, his curiosity about her grew, and he couldn't help but cast a few more covert glances toward her.

Hayden's gaze lingered on the scene, his dark eyes betraying a spark of surprise. So, Becky has taken quite a shine to Jeremy, huh?' he mused.

The kiss from Stacey left Jeremy in a trance, and he clung to her with renewed fervor, his fingers curling around her large hands as he guided her into the mansion. Hayden, with a casual case, turned and followed suit into the mansion.

Stacey followed Jeremy into the living room and was immediately captivated by its lavish, palace– inspired design. Absolutely breathtaking! she silently admired.

The employees of Hoggard Technologies, trailing behind Joshua entered the opulent hall with bated breath. Overwhelmed by its grandeur, they thought in astonished whispers, Wow, we're actually in Mr. Hoggard's home! To see such beauty in person... It's like stepping into royalty! Hahaha!

Jeremy led Stacey to the second floor, opening the bedroom door, and stepping inside. Moments later, he emerged holding a wooden duck, which he presented to Stacey. She examined the duck with curiosity, thinking. The little duck looks quite aged and worn. Why would Jeremy play with it?"

Hayden strolled over and said, "This is actually your favorite childhood toy. Stacey's eyes widened in shock as she looked from Hayden to the wooden duck in Jeremy's hands. "It even has the teeth marks from when you used to chew on it," Hayden continued.

Feeling a pang of discomfort, Stacey took the duck with a complex mix of emotions. As she inspected it, she saw the countless bite marks that marred its surface. "Is this for real? Why on earth would my childhood toys end up in your house? Stacey asked as she struggled to process the situation.

Hayden explained, "You used to come over to my place when you were little. Remember?" Stacey was stunned into silence Hayden added, "Grandpa made this duck for me, but you always fought with me over it whenever you came over. You even chewed on it so much that you broke it."

Her hand quivering, Stacey shot back without hesitation, "I didn't" She insisted to herself, Absolutely not! There's no way I'd ever do something like that!

Hayden cast a fleeting look at the duck and said, "Whether you believe it or not is entirely up to you," Stacey was left stunned, unable to respond.

"Is there anything special you'd like for lunch? Just let Joshua know, and he'll arrange for the kitchen staff to prepare it," Hayden offered next.

Still reeling from the revelation, Stacey shook her head slowly and said. "I... I'll just go with whatever

While Hayden's eyes remained fixed on her, Jeremy pulled out his writing tablet and scribbled: (Meat]

Hayden looked at the tablet, and Stacey noticed it as well Jeremy, though young and still mastering his vocabulary, had a firm grasp of the alphabet. His spelling was clear



enough for anyone to read, especially since Stacey was a meat enthusiast and understood immediately.

What's causing this odd, unsettling awkwardness in my gut? Why do I feel ashamed? she pondered.

"That's what Grandma shared with him. Whenever he visited our hometown, she would always recount stories from your childhood," Hayden explained.

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Hayden kept silent about his ex-wife who had tricked him into marriage and then cloped with someone else. Since then, Melissa had often lamented that if Becky hadn't disappeared, she might have married Hayden. This would have prevented him from being betrayed or losing his wife so young and spared Jeremy the pain of growing up without a mother.

As a result, ever since childhood, Jeremy had always thought of Becky as a figure who might return to become the mother The had always wished for, one who would remain with them and never walk away.