

Love Me Or Leave Me

#Chapter 151 - Read Love Me Or Leave Me Chapter 151

Stacey was speechless. 'Have I really liked eating meat since I was a kid? But Mrs. Hoggard, why would you tell Jeremy something like that?' she thought to herself, squatting down in front of Jeremy with a small duck in her hand. Meeting his gaze, she smiled and asked, "Jeremy, do you like eating meat too?" She thought, 'It can't just be me who likes to eat meat; Jeremy must like to eat as well, right?'

Upon hearing this, Jeremy nodded immediately, and Stacey felt a wave of relief at having a companion who shared her taste. She glanced up at Hayden who stood beside her, then back at Jeremy. 'Jeremy is not shy at all. This is our first meeting, and he is already so attached to me. He is really adorable,' Stacey thought to herself. Unable to resist, she gave Jeremy another hug and kissed his cheek. Jeremy's eyes lit up with joy as he looked at Becky.

"Let's go find Joshua and ask the kitchen staff to prepare more meat for our lunch, okay?" Stacey suggested with a smile. Jeremy nodded enthusiastically in response. Stacey then stood up, gently took Jeremy's hand, and led him downstairs. Hayden watched them with a thoughtful expression. Stacey paused for a moment, then could not help but ask, "Mr... Mr. Hoggard, is there anything specific you would like for lunch? Jeremy and I can let Joshua know."

"Joshua knows my preferences," Hayden replied succinctly.

Stacey nodded, understanding that it made sense; after all, this was Hayden's home, and the butler at Hoggard Villa would undoubtedly be familiar with his likes and dislikes. She said, "In that case, I will take Jeremy downstairs now." Hayden gave a nod of approval. "All right."

Stacey smiled and exchanged a warm glance with Jeremy's bright eyes before they cheerfully headed downstairs. Hayden watched them intently until they disappeared down the stairs. Stacey led Jeremy down to the lower level, instinctively looking for Joshua. However, Jeremy took her directly to the kitchen.

As they entered the kitchen, Stacey was surprised to find not the elderly lady she had expected, but a young woman in her twenties. The woman had delicate features and flawless skin, and her presence radiated a serene charm. Hearing the noise at the door, the young woman turned around.

Stacey's eyes widened as she took in the girl's stunning appearance. This girl is so beautiful!" she thought to herself. The young woman, seeing Stacey and Jeremy, was momentarily surprised but quickly focused on Jeremy, offered a warm smile, and asked, "Jeremy, is there something you need from the kitchen?"

Jeremy opened his little bag again, took out a writing tablet and pen, and drew the same picture as before - meat. Stacey glanced at Jeremy's board and then at the young woman, smiling. "What Jeremy wants to say is that we would like more meat for lunch today," she explained.

"Sure." The girl looked up at Stacey and smiled. Her voice was pleasant, gentle, and warm.

"Thank you," Stacey said earnestly.

The girl's smile was soothing as she shook her head. "It is my job. No need to thank me," she said.

Stacey smiled back, nodded to the girl, and said, "If there is nothing else, we won't take up any more of your time. You can continue working, and I will take Jeremy outside to play."

"All right," the girl replied with a nod. Stacey nodded back and then led Jeremy outside, who followed obediently.

Lynn saw them and quickly approached. Although she had managed many top stars, the scene at Hoggard Villa was a first for her. Even the most popular stars she had managed had endorsements that paled in comparison to those of the Hoggard family. Most importantly, the Hoggard family's attitude toward Becky gave Lynn a surreal feeling, as if she were truly experiencing the presence of a top-tier family.

"Becky, what is your relationship with the Hoggard family?" Lynn could not help but ask quietly.

Stacey thought for a moment before providing a simple explanation. "When my grandma was alive, she and Mrs. Hoggard were very good friends."

Lynn was speechless after hearing this. Becky's explanation was too brief, but it summed up everything. In short, the Carter family had connections. Looking at Stacey, Lynn felt a pang of envy and jealousy even as an agent herself, not to mention how other stars must feel. After leaving the Mitchell and Edwards families, Becky's life had taken a beautiful turn since returning to the Carter family.

"Okay, I got it," Lynn finally responded after holding it in for a long time. Knowing the truth, Lynn was not as anxious as before. On the contrary, she began to look forward to the afternoon's shoot. She thought to herself, 'With the Hoggard family's close relationship with Becky, even if she does not perform perfectly this afternoon, they probably won't blame her. The Hoggard family might even allow Becky a few chances to mess up and permit her to have more takes?'

Lynn knew Becky's capabilities well. Although Becky was not formally trained and lacked professional acting experience, she had a natural talent for the craft. As long as she received the script in advance and had time to practice before the official shoot, she could deliver a flawless performance. The key was ensuring she had some rehearsal time before the actual filming. With this thought in mind, Lynn glanced at the staff of Hoggard Technologies seated around the nearby couch, all frantically typing away on their laptops.

Lynn's first thought was to get the script from the staff to Becky as soon as possible so she would have time to rehearse. However, she quickly dismissed this idea.

Given the circumstances - Hayden's last-minute decision to film at his home and include Jeremy in the script - Lynn realized that the formal and backup plans previously designed by the Hoggard Technologies planning department would likely need major revisions. If they could manage to have the script ready by 3 p.m. as Hayden requested, it would be impressive enough. Getting the script ahead of time was already unrealistic.

Then, Lynn's gaze shifted to Jeremy, who was clinging to Becky. 'Luckily, this kid seems very attached to Becky and really likes her. It should not be too hard for Becky to work with him in the shoot, right?' she thought to herself. Squatting down to meet Jeremy's eye level, she said seriously, "Hi, Jeremy. My name is Lynn, Becky's agent."

After seeing this, Stacey also squatted down, watching Lynn and Jeremy talk. Upon hearing Lynn's words, Jeremy was momentarily stunned but then nodded at her. Lynn smiled and said, "Jeremy, could you help take care of Becky for me during the shoot this afternoon?"

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Lynn glanced at Becky and explained, "Becky is new to the industry. She's not professionally trained in acting and might not perform well without rehearsals. If she doesn't perform well during the afternoon shooting, could you be more understanding and allow her to rehearse a few more times? She'll perform brilliantly if given more time. Please don't be angry if she makes mistakes. Is that okay?"

Jeremy retrieved his writing tablet from his bag and wrote: [Of course!]

Lynn felt her heart melting when she saw Jeremy holding the tablet with his simple reply. 'Little kids are so cute, and he's too adorable for a kid from the Hoggard family!' She tried to caress Jeremy's head as she thought so. This surprised Stacey, who quickly stopped Lynn.

Jeremy also reacted quickly as he tilted his head and dodged Lynn's hand.

"A child's skull is soft and fragile, Lynn. We shan't touch a child's head carelessly," Stacey reminded her.

Lynn was stunned. She wasn't familiar with such knowledge since she wasn't married and had no children. 'Now that Becky reminded me, I could feel the pulse on Lily and Kev's heads when they were very young. They looked so fragile, she thought.

"Oh, I'm so sorry. I didn't think of it just now," she immediately apologized.

They spent time relaxing in the living room. Lunch was ready at noon, and Joshua exited the kitchen to notify the group, telling them to gather for lunch.

The dishes were arranged on a very long table, with two rows of stools on both sides for them to sit on. The Hoggard Technologies employees couldn't resist the temptation, as they began taking

pictures inconspicuously. An impatient female employee immediately posted the photos on Instagram with an annotation: [Hey, would anyone believe me if I say I'm having lunch with my boss at his home?]

Hayden also exited his study and joined them. He asked everyone to sit down for lunch.

Jeremy grabbed Becky's hand immediately. He rushed to Hayden and sat next to him with her in tow. Hayden then came over and took the host's seat. Following him, Hoggard Technologies employees and Lynn sat down.

Everyone was jubilant because the meal was splendid. They felt so blissful with a full stomach that they almost forgot how stressful their work was. After a brief moment of relaxation, they were quickly reminded of why they were at their boss' home once they left the table. They felt anxious and hurried to catch up with the work.

The planning department had drafted several scripts since one o'clock. They sent the scripts to Hayden, who eliminated one after another until only one was left. However, the only acceptable script needed revision.

The employees were very busy. All were staring at their computers and typing feverishly.

Hayden finally approved the edited script at three o'clock in the afternoon. With that, Hoggard Technologies planning department employees collectively heaved a relieved sigh.

After printing the script in his study, Hayden strode downstairs and passed it to Stacey. "I'll give you half an hour to prepare. Is that okay?" he asked.

The employees of Hoggard Technologies went green with envy when they heard that. "We can't believe our boss asks her "Is that okay?" they thought.

Many of them had worked at Hoggard Technologies for years, and Hayden's orders were always "I'll give you this amount of time. It must be done before time's up!

Upon hearing that, Jeremy took out his writing tablet again and scribbled: [One hour!]

Since Hayden wasn't looking at Jeremy after he finished writing, the boy tugged at his father's shirt for attention. He then showed Hayden the tablet to bargain.

Hayden lowered his gaze and looked at Jeremy.

The Hoggard Technologies employees also stared at the boy. They felt the green-eyed monster striking again. Jeremy is so kind to Becky! He shows her so much love by helping her to negotiate with our boss! They couldn't help but think.

"I'll be ready in half an hour." Stacey said solemnly, "I'll try my best."

Hayden nodded and told her, "Well, let's rehearse for half an hour first. We can extend the rehearsal time to one hour if needed. You don't have to be nervous."

Stacey was pleasantly surprised upon hearing that. Thank you, she said with a smile.

Hayden nodded again and answered calmly, "Sure."

The employees of Hoggard Technologies were speechless. They thought Jeremy had been unusually nice to Becky, but Hayden was also unexpectedly kind to her. They couldn't help but think again, 'Our boss has always been strict with time, yet he allows Becky more leeway if needed. Moreover, he also comforts her so she won't be nervous!

Jeremy needed to work hard alongside Stacey since he had insisted strongly to be included in the script. This meant he would act with Stacey.

When Stacey was preparing her part, Hayden took Jeremy aside and accompanied him as the boy practiced his parts again and again.

Fortunately, the scenes and plots written for Jeremy were relatively simple, and the boy only needed to act naturally. Hayden approved Jeremy's performance after only two rehearsals and told the boy he could participate in the shooting

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Stacey also began her rehearsal after preparing for while. However, as Lynn described, Stacey was less familiar with her parts on the first try. Her expression was rather unnatural.

Nevertheless, Jeremy ran to her and partnered with Stacey without complaints. After rehearsing repeatedly, Stacey finally felt she was in character. The onlookers were relieved.

Hayden's serious face also broke into a smile. "That looks all right," he announced.

While his approval cheered everyone up, their smiles disappeared quickly because the shooting was about to start.

After Stacey felt prepared enough, she tried to find the Hoggard Technologies robot she was supposed to endorse. "Where's the robot?" she wondered. Stacey looked around but didn't see any robot. The only beings here were people she knew. At last, she turned her questioning gaze to Hayden.

At that, the employees of Hoggard Technologies grinned mysteriously.

Even Hayden smiled. He looked to the kitchen and ordered, "Come here, Hannah."

The graceful and pretty girl came out of the kitchen. She went straight to Hayden and asked gently, "Mr. Hoggard. What can I do for you?"

This is the latest, most advanced robot of Hoggard Technologies with the best chip, which can complete most of the work in the kitchen. We designed her physical appearance to be as close as possible to an actual human. There's almost no difference between her and a human. Hayden explained as he looked at Stacey.

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Stacey looked at the beautiful girl in front of her in shock. She reached out, intending to touch the robot, but hesitated just before making contact. 'Can I touch it?' she wondered, gazing at Hayden, and her expression revealed her thoughts.

"You can touch it," Hayden said with a smile.

Stacey's heart raced. She carefully raised her hand to touch Hannah, and upon contact, she instantly exclaimed in her mind, 'It feels almost indistinguishable from a real person!' Subconsciously, Stacey uttered, "It just feels like a real human..."

Lynn was also curious about the girl before them, doubting her entity as a robot. "Mr. Hoggard, can I also touch it?" Lynn asked carefully. After receiving Hayden's permission, Lynn walked toward Hannah with an excited, racing heart. She gently reached out to touch her hand. 'It feels as soft and warm as the human skin. Is she truly a robot instead of a real person?' she wondered in disbelief.

Hayden chuckled and suddenly commanded, "Shadow No. 1, Shadow No. 2, attack me!" Immediately, the two stools beside the dining table suddenly transformed into

robots. One raised its gun and shot at Hayden, while the other charged forward, attempting to attack him up close.

The scene startled both Stacey and Lynn, especially Stacey. Almost instinctively, she tried to pull Hayden away. However, a figure suddenly darted past her, and Hannah instantly reached Hayden's side. She raised her hand and caught the bullet aiming at Hayden with bare hands. Simultaneously, she turned around and fought with the robot who attacked Hayden close. After several fast and ruthless moves, the robot stool that cracked Hayden was soon broken.

"Hannah, stop," Hayden ordered.

Hannah instantly stopped. Her demeanor exuded gentleness, and she slowly withdrew her hands. She returned to Hayden's side and asked with concern, "Mr. Hoggard, are you injured? Do you need me to make an emergency call?"

Hayden replied, "I'm fine. Where is the bullet?" Hannah then opened her hand, revealing her palm. There was a bullet in her once flawless and delicate palm. Unfortunately, her skin was marred by the bullet.

Upon seeing that, Stacey and Lynn widened their eyes in astonishment. At that moment, they both appeared like country bumpkins who hadn't seen much of the world, yet no one mocked them.

At the side of them, the employees of Hoggard Technologies couldn't help but smile mysteriously. They took pride in such a high-tech product of their company, even though they were just employees.

Hayden explained, "The greatest advantage of this robot lies in its ability to mimic humans, with a staggering 95 percent fidelity. However, it also faces a significant drawback – the biomimetic skin that makes it appear human is relatively fragile. If it encounters strong attacks, such as bullets, its biomimetic skin will be pierced and damaged. Then, it needs to be sent back to our company for repair to restore its original condition.

Lynn stared at the bullet in Hannah's hand. After a while, she asked tentatively, "Is this bullet real?"

Hayden nodded. "Yes," he confirmed.

Stacey and Lynn, who had never seen high-tech products, were utterly stunned. They couldn't believe that the attack they had just witnessed was real. They couldn't help but look at the broken robot stools beside them, and then glanced over to the dining table. Recalling that they had just sat

on those stools for lunch earlier, they were so startled to learn from Hayden that those were not real stools but high-tech robots capable of shooting and harming humans.

“This robot stool was developed by our company three years ago. It can disguise itself as a stool and function as a real seat, but its most crucial feature is its ability to transform into a robot when needed, following its owner’s commands and Maunching attacks against enemies.” Danjel finally couldn’t hold back and explained excitedly.

Seeing that Becky was so interested in the robots, Jeremy hurriedly took out his writing tablet and perrand wrote: [I have many robots too!] Afterward, he walked to Stacey and tugged at her hand.

Sensing the movement in her hand, Stacey immediately withdrew her attention. She looked down and saw the writing tablet. held up by Jeremy. Specifically, she saw the words on the writing tablet. But Stacey just stared at Jeremy dazed. Hence, Jeremy took out a remote control in his small bag.

Hayden looked at Jeremy and reminded him. “It’s getting late. Let’s shoot the promotional video first. You can take her to see your robots afterward.”

Jeremy frowned and turned to look at Hayden with dissatisfaction.

Stacey was amused. “That’s right, let’s finish the work first. We can play later,” she persuaded.

When Jeremy heard Becky’s words, he immediately nodded obediently and put the remote control back into his bag.

After that, the employees of Hoggard Technologies brought a billetproof vest for Stacey to put on, while Jeremy also followed Joshua to wear a bulletproof vest. The other staff who participated in the shooting were required to wear bulletproof vests as well. The shooting soon began when everyone had done their safety preparation.

According to the script, Stacey and Jeremy’s roles were a young mother and son. After the cameraman set up the camera in the children’s study on the second floor, Stacey and Jeremy began to act.

The children’s study was bathed in soft light, and a gentle breeze rustled the sheer curtains. A young mother, acted by Stacey, was tutoring her three-year-old child, acted by Jeremy, to read and understand the intricacies of recognizing letters. She stood behind him, her arms enveloping his small frame, while her large hand gently clasped his. She taught him to write stroke by stroke and reminded him with a gentle voice during her guidance. However, the harmonious and heart- warming scene was suddenly interrupted by a series of knocks at the door.

Almost simultaneously, Stacey and Jeremy looked at the half-opened door and found Hannah holding a tray with a bowl of hot mushroom soup at the door. Hannah smiled and said to them. "Madam, Mister, the mushroom soup is ready."

"All right, take it in," Stacey agreed. After receiving the order, Hannah brought in the mushroom soup with a smile and carefully put it on the desk.

Stacey put the children's literacy book aside, then picked up the hot soup, and slowly fed Jeremy the soup spoon by spoon. Jeremy was remarkably well-behaved. He looked at Stacey joyfully with bright eyes, and his gaze was full of love toward a mother. Mouthfully, he slowly finished the small bowl of mushroom soup fed by Stacey.

At that very moment, two robots suddenly appeared at the door. They held guns and fired directly at the harmonious mother and son in the room!

Instantly, Stacey's face turned pale, and she instinctively opened her arms to hold Jeremy tightly, shielding him with her back turned toward the enemies.

Watching the scene, everyone's hearts raced as they sensed impending doom for the mother and son in the room. Suddenly, the "housekeeper" who delivered the mushroom soup, Hannah, standing next to them sprang into action. Her movements seemed simple, yet she caught two bullets barchanded and dashed with lightning speed toward the two robots at the door.

With two crack sounds, the arms of the two robots holding the guns were broken in an instant!

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Stacey held the baby in her arms, not daring to move until a black shadow was cast down in front of her.

"Master, the enemy who attacked you has been eliminated. Please don't be afraid," said Hannah with a smile while looking at the mother and son duo with a gentle gaze.

With the baby in her arms, Stacey carefully looked up at Hanna In the process, the photographer hurried over with a camera in his hands and captured a close-up shot of that scene. Stacey's face was pale, and she looked at Hannah as if she was looking at her savior. "Where are the bullets?" She spoke after a long time, her weak and trembling voice revealing the fear of dying she just experienced.

Hannah opened her hand, revealing two bullets lying in her pal. She said in a sweet voice, "Here."

“Cut!” the director shouted, indicating the conclusion of the filming. The camera’s last shot was fixed on Hannah’s palm, which hid two secrets- first, the bullet had pierced the young housekeeper’s skin, yet she wasn’t bleeding and instead exposed the silver machinery parts inside, implying that she wasn’t a human, but a humanoid robot; second, this humanoid robot could take down two bullets for her owner with her bare hands.

“Becky, how is it? Are you all right?” Lynn hurried over to Stacey feeling worried.

Stacey looked at Lynn and shook her head lightly. “I’m fine.”

Only after seeing that Stacey was really fine could Lynn breathe a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, Hayden and the staff of the planning department were checking the video they had just taken. Stacey thought about it and decided to go over to take a look.

“Okay, I’ll give you a week to produce the final film,” ordered Hayden after checking

Daniel didn’t expect the shoot to progress so smoothly and with such impressive effects. He could already foresee how amazing this promotional video would be upon its release, so he wasn’t worried when he heard Hayden’s order and instead even looked forward to it. “Sure, I promise we’ll finish it within a week!” exclaimed Daniel, thinking that if they received a good impact from the promotional video, the employees of the planning department would surely receive more bonuses for the month. That thought alone left him excited.

By the time work ended, it was already dark outside. The employees of Hoggard Technologies bade goodbye and left one after another. Stacey and Lynn exchanged glances, figuring it was time they left, too. “Mr. Hoggard, if there’s nothing else, Becky and I will make a move, too,” Lynn said.

Hearing that, Jeremy grew anxious. He ran over and grabbed Becky’s hand to stop her from leaving. She was stunned and lowered her eyes to look at Jeremy, to which he quickly pulled out his writing tablet and wrote: [Don’t go]. He looked at her anxiously with imploring eyes.

Hayden looked at Jeremy, then turned to Becky and asked, “Where will you be staying tonight?”

Stacey turned to look at Lynn, as she was usually the one who made arrangements. “I’ve booked a room at a hotel,” responded Lynn.

Hearing this, Hayden glanced at Stacey, then shifted his gaze to Lynn and concisely said, “So, you two plan to stay in Strico tonight and not head back? If that’s the case, why don’t you stay at my house tonight? I’ll have my butler arrange two rooms for you.”

Jeremy nodded vigorously, looking anxious.

That... That's not very appropriate, is it Lynn sounded hesitant "Mr. Hoggard, I know you're very kind to Becky, but her identity's rather special now. There must be many paparazzi out there following her. If we stay here tonight, those paparazzi will surely write about it."

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Hayden fell silent. Jeremy was so anxious that his face turned pale, his gaze switching between Hayden and Becky. After some contemplation, Hayden finally suggested, "How about this Becky, you go to the hotel with Lynn and take Jeremy along so that he can spend the night with you. Take it as helping me take care of him tonight. Will this be okay? I'll pick him up at the hotel tomorrow."

Stacey was surprised to hear that. She didn't expect Hayden to ask her to take care of his son, or rather, she thought it was a little bizarre about how Jeremy was so close and dependent on her. In fact, she had been puzzled since the morning about why Jeremy was so clingy toward her when they had only met for the first time. Though she couldn't quite wrap her head around it, she still agreed, "Sure."

They had only been together for a day, but Stacey couldn't deny that Jeremy was adorable, and she quite liked him. Hearing that, Jeremy's eyes immediately lit up with excitement.

"Thank you," Hayden expressed earnestly,

Stacey smiled and shook her head. "You don't have to be so polite with me.

"Have dinner at home. I'll take you guys to the hotel after dinner Hayden added.

Stacey replied, "Okay."

Hanna was still cooking in the kitchen. Stacey checked her phone, and seeing that there was still time, she took Jeremy to the couch and turned on the TV after getting Hayden's consent. Then, she looked for the kids channel, tuned in on a cartoon, and watched it with Jeremy. However, they had barely watched for a few minutes when her phone rang. It was a video call from Debra. As soon as Stacey saw the caller ID, she answered the phone.

"Mama!" Kevin's face appeared on the screen as soon as the video call was connected, and his baby voice rang out in excitement.

"Mhm, I'm here," said Stacey with a smile, looking at Kevin on the phone screen. "Did you call me, Kev? Where's Granny?" Jeremy leaned over, with his eyes widened slightly. He stared curiously at the baby boy on the video call, wondering if that

was Stacey's son.

Kevin

aw Jeremy, too. He blinked and shouted in a baby voice, "Bubba"

Kevin was over a year old, and he was at the age of learning to talk. Whenever Debra took him out for a walk, she would also introduce him to various words, for instance, telling him to greet boys older than him as "brother. As such, he now had a habit of calling older boys "Bubba."

Hearing Kevin call him, Jeremy was delighted. He hurriedly pulled out his writing tablet, scribbled something, and eagerly held it up to show it to Kevin through the video call. However, Kevin was no longer on the phone screen, instead, he was replaced by Debra. She had taken the phone back from Kevin and upon seeing the young boy with Stacey, she curiously asked, "Becky, who is this child?"

At that, Stacey glanced at Jeremy and smiled, introducing, "Mom, his name is Jeremy, Mr. Hoggard's son."

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The grandson of the Hoggard family? wondered Debra, looking briefly stunned. The next moment, her eyes lit up, and she raised her hand as she looked at Jeremy on the screen and cheerfully waved to him. "Hello, you're Jeremy? I'm Becky's mother, Debra. Nice to meet you!"

Jeremy's pupils dilated slightly. Then, he quickly picked up his writing tablet, wrote down his name, and lifted it to show it to Debra. After showing her his name, he turned the tablet around, erased the words, and continued writing something. It was a pity he didn't know many words now. He had a lot in his mind that he wanted to tell Debra, but he didn't know how to pen those words. His brows became tightly scrunched up, and he was hesitant but eventually drew a bunch of pictures on the tablet and showed them to Debra.

Debra looked at the tablet Jeremy was holding and was visibly surprised. "Wow, Jeremy, you already know how to draw? They're all nicely drawn! You're amazing!"

Jeremy said nothing

Just like that, Debra and Jeremy chatted over the phone. Before they realized it, Hannah had finished preparing dinner. The group gathered at the dining table, but when Lynn saw the stool next to the table, she became a little hesitant to take a seat.

Hayden smiled, saying, “Don’t worry. The robot still is just an ordinary stool before transformation and nothing special.” Lynn was speechless, mulling, “Would you believe me if I say I’m afraid that the robot will lose control and shoot me in the butt?”

Hayden took the lead to sit down and said with a smile, “Currently, among 197 countries around the world, there are at least 100 countries whose royal families or presidents use this robot stool our company manufactured.”

Lynn was stunned when she heard that, but on further thought, she figured, Yeah, I’m nowhere important compared to the royal families and presidents in the world. If they’re not afraid, what’s there for me to be afraid of? Besides, if the safety standards of Hoggard Group’s products aren’t guaranteed, those royal families and presidents wouldn’t have bought them. either, right? Be it the royal families or presidents, they’re all big shots whose lives concerned their country. They’re bound to buy items with high-quality standards. The safety standards of Hoggard Group’s products must be top-notch for those people to accept them”

“Haha, I’m just a little hesitant because it feels like this stool is worth so much more than me Lynn chuckled, trying to ease the embarrassment.

Stacey chimed in, laughing. “Yeah, didn’t think much of it during lunch, but now that I know how impressive of a robot it is, I feel a little nervous, too. Why would such a high-tech robot be used as a stool?”

Hayden looked at Stacey and explained with a smile, “No matter how high-tech something is, its purpose is to serve people. Its important value is to play a role in our daily lives.”

Lynn laughed. “You’re right!”

After everyone sat down, they began to eat. Looking at the dishes on the table, Jeremy immediately used his small spoon to scoop a big piece of delicious meat and put it on Stacey’s plate. Hayden, sitting in the main seat, was rendered speechless when he saw that, musing. This brat has never offered me any food before!”

Following some deliberation, he also picked up some meat with the serving fork and put it on Stacey’s plate. “Eat up.”

Stacey was wholly baffled.

with his small spoon in his grip. Jeremy stared at Hayden in shock, wondering if his father did that to snatch Becky from him. A sense of crisis crept up within Jeremy as those thoughts flooded his mind. He hastily stretched out his hand and scooped the meat on the plate with his spoon. Then, he turned with much effort and put the meat on Stacey’s plate.

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Hayden reminded, "You should use the serving fork when you're serving others food. It's unhygienic and impolite to use

your own spoon.

There were only serving forks on the dining table, and Jeremy hadn't learned how to use forks. 'Daddy is back—stabbing me! he fumed inwardly.

Stacey's small plate was piled up with food. Seeing that Jeremy was still intending to offer her more meat, she hastily said, "Jeremy, that's enough. There's too much food on my plate already. As she spoke, she also grabbed the serving fork and served Jeremy a few pieces of meat. "You should eat more, Jeremy. You need enough nutrition to grow up."

Sitting aside, Lynn quietly scooped herself some food, which she thought was really delicious. As for the interaction between Becky and the father and son duo, she tried to convince herself that she was oblivious to it so that she wouldn't be envious.

After dinner, it was time to leave Hoggard Villa for the hotel. Jeremy had been following Stacey closely after he was done eating, unwilling to leave her side for fear that she might disappear. Stacey was so amused by him that she couldn't help squeezing his cheeks. "I'll take Jeremy to the hotel, then."

"I'll send you guys there," offered Hayden.

Stacey answered with a smile, "Okay, thank you."

Though Hayden said he'd send them, he actually had a driver to drive the car. That said, they still headed to the hotel together in the same car. Outside, they spotted a few paparazzi squatting near the entrance. Nonetheless, that was no longer much of a problem.

Before long, they arrived at the hotel, and the hotel owner came down to greet them in person. When Stacey saw that, her mind went blank momentarily, but she quickly caught up and figured it was normal for a boss to personally welcome someone like Hayden, Stacey, however, soon found such a situation a little too much for her. With just a single word from Hayden, the boss of the hotel upgraded their superior suite to a VIP presidential suite, one that not anybody could book but only those who had connections could. The hotel owner even personally escorted them to their room after they settled the necessary procedures. Only after the hotel owner and Hayden left could Stacey quietly exhale in relief, thinking, 'Mr. Hoggard is being too nice.

Nevertheless, when she looked down at Jeremy, who had been clinging to her, she could understand why Hayden would take so much care of them. He must be worried

that his son will feel uncomfortable staying at the hotel, that's why he especially made all these arrangements, huh? Mr. Hoggard's a really good father, she considered.

Thinking about that, Stacey was reminded of Lillian and Kevin, as well as their father. Unknowingly, the smile on her face disappeared, and she suddenly felt a pang of gloom envelop her. If possible, she hoped that Lillian and Kevin could also have a complete family and a good ther. It's a pity there are different types of fathers... Some deserve that title, while others... He doesn't deserve to be one!' she seethed inwardly.

Even now, according to the news she vaguely heard, Theodore and Jenny were still very close. 'How can Theodore pester me while continuing to be "good friends" with Jenny? He obviously

knows how Jenny feels toward him, so why does he refuse to cut her off while asking for a remarriage?' she brooded, unable to accept how he was becoming more and more like Michael.

She didn't really mind before, but now that she had Lilian and Kevin, she became more determined to stay away from Theodore, fearing that the kids would be influenced by his bad habits. After all, the environment had a great influence on one, especially one's parents, since they would be their children life mentors. She didn't want her kids to live with a father like Theodore, as she believed it would severely affect their personal values. The mere thought of how Kevin might be influenced by Theodore if they were to live together and become a man like the latter 20 years later simply haunted Stacey badly, leaving her feeling almost suffocated.

CHAPTER 156

Stacey and Jeremy stayed at the hotel for one night. The following day, Hayden arrived before dawn. Stacey and Lynn, who got up early, opened the door and let Hayden in to check on Jeremy, who was still sleeping, before leaving with the suitcases. Stacey had an intuition if Jeremy woke up and saw her go, he would be very upset.

As they left early in the morning, it was still early when they returned to Hivalis. Lynn had something to do at Aotori shooting base, so she went to catch the next flight and flew over immediately.

Debra picked Stacey up with Lillian and Kevin. When Stacey exited the airport, she saw her dear family. When Lillian and Kevin saw her, their eyes lit up immediately, and they shouted excitedly at the same time, "Mommy!" Stacey's mood was lifted in an instant. She pulled her suitcase and walked toward them while the children ran toward her, dragging Debra along.

As the children had grown up, they were stronger and could run fast. Debra almost couldn't keep up with them. Fortunately, there was a leash, which kept the two children from escaping het grip. The nanny was also running at the side, watching carefully for

pedestrians and vehicles around them to prevent the children from being hit or bumping into others.

The two children soon reunited with Stacey. One on each side, they wrapped their soft arms around her thigh and looked up at her, cheering excitedly. Stacey was overwhelmed with happiness when the children kept calling her. She squatted down and kissed them one by one. "Lily, Kev, I'm back." Stacey held the children and spoke happily.

With sparkling eyes, Lillian immediately stretched out her small short hands, held Stacey's head, and pecked her cheek. Then, she said in a childish voice, 'I love you, Mommy.'

Kevin got anxious and hurriedly stretched out his hand to hug Stacey's head and kissed her as Lillian did. Only then did he feel relieved. "Love you, Mommy"

'Oh, my. How can my babies be so cute? Stacey exclaimed inwardly. Holding one of them in one hand, she wanted to carry both of them up at once, but unfortunately, she didn't have the strength to. It was doable to carry one of them, but she was afraid that they would fall if she held them at the same time.

Debra came over and reached out to carry the cheeky Lillian. Then, Stacey picked Kevin up,

"I want Mommy to hold me! Lillian, who was in Debra's arms, yearned for Stacey. She stretched out her little hands and tilted her waist toward the latter. Debra hurriedly hugged Lillian tightly and comforted her, "Your mommy is very tired now She'll hold you when we get home, okay?"

Pouting, Lillian was about to break to tears. Stacey's expression changed as she hurriedly kissed Lillian and said with a smile, "Lily, I'll reward you with one more kiss, okay?" The tears welling up in Lillian's eyes suddenly stopped. "Let's go. car is waiting outside. After we get into the car, you can hug both of them," Debra said with a smile before Stacey nodded and replied, "Sure."

Then, they walked out quickly with the children in their arms. They arrived at the Carter family's car. The driver had opened the door for them, so they carefully got in with the children in their arms.

The

When they got into the car, Stacey put Kevin on her right and reached out to carry Lillian. She pinched her little face and smiled. "You crybaby. Can't you wait for just a while? Do you have to cry?"

"I'm not a crybaby!" Lillian immediately retorted loudly.

Hearing this, Kevin looked at her and said solemnly in his adorable voice, "You almost cried just now!"

"No!" Lillian stared at Kevin and shouted.

"You sure did!" Kevin added, unwilling to back down.

"I didn't!" Lillian got angry.

GNO

Chuckling, Stacey held the two children in each arm and said, "That's enough. No, Lily didn't cry. Her eyes were just wet, right?"

"Yes," Lillian agreed earnestly, raised her hand, wiped her eyes, and added, "I don't know what happened just now. Some water seemed to get into my eyes."

Hearing this, Stacey almost burst into laughter. She forced herself to hold back and comforted her, "Yes. Lily's eye wet by accident. She didn't cry."

Kevin was confused. "Why were Lily's eyes wet?"

Children always had countless questions. Stacey patiently answered their questions, coaxing them.

just got

At Strico, when Jeremy woke up, he was still in a slight daze but soon remembered Stacey. He hurriedly turned around and looked at the seat next to him. Last night, he slept with Stacey, who told him a bedtime story. However, when he turned around, he didn't see her. He was all alone in

the room. Thinking of something, he suddenly panicked, hurriedly lifted the quilt, sat up, and climbed down the bed. Before he put on his shoes, he ran out anxiously.

In the living room, Hayden, who was working on some documents on the computer, heard the noise and looked up.

Jeremy also saw him. "Why is Daddy here?" he wondered and had a bad feeling.

Hayden seemed to know what Jeremy was thinking and said right away, "Stacey went back." The latter immediately ran toward the door, raised his hand to open it, and rushed out. Hayden came to his senses, hurriedly set down the computer, and chased after Jeremy. Hayden often worked out, so he caught up to him swiftly. In the corridor, he grabbed the latter and asked. "Where are you going?" Jeremy didn't speak or explain. He kicked his legs hard and tugged at Hayden's clothes with his little hands. He

wanted to push him away as he wanted to see Stacey. Jeremy struggled with all his strength. His eyes reddened like a hopeless small beast.

Hayden forcibly brought Jeremy back to the presidential suite. As soon as he let go of Jeremy, he uttered in a cold voice, "Jeremy, she's not your mother!" The latter raised his head and looked at Hayden fiercely, like a little wolf. Hayden smiled and added, "But if we work together, she can become your mother in the future. It's possible." Jeremy was stunned, opened his eyes wide, and looked at Hayden in shock, confused at the same time.

Hayden knew he had manipulated Jeremy, so he calmly returned to the couch and turned on the computer. Jeremy chased after him. Thinking of something, he hurried back to his room, took out his writing tablet and pen, and wrote: [What do you mean?] After writing the four words, he hurriedly tugged at Hayden's hand so the latter could read what was written on his writing tablet.

CHAPTER 157

Hayden turned his head to look at Jeremy's writing tablet, turned the computer around, and pointed the screen at him. It was a webpage full of text. "Can you read all this?" he asked.

Jeremy's face darkened when he heard Hayden. He stared at the latter fiercely. He was only three years old and understood some words, but not much. He could tell Hayden deliberately rocked him for being illiterate.

Hayden said calmly. This is the civil code. According to the current marriage regulations of our country, Stacey has divorced her ex-husband, and I also divorced your mother, so technically speaking, we are single now. If I can win Stacey over and marry her, she'll be your mother in the future. You can call her mommy then.

Jeremy's eyes lit up as he was excited. He took the writing tablet and wrote: [Then you must] After only three words, he stopped and thought about how to spell the next word. Hayden didn't urge him and just watched from the side. Jeremy racked his brains and finally wrote: [Then you must marry her fast!] After finishing writing, he hurriedly held the tablet in front of Hayden and showed it to him anxiously,

Hayden stared at the words on Jeremy's writing tablet and looked up at the flustered Jeremy. "Do you think I can just marry her if I want to? If I want to marry her, first of all, she must like me and be willing to marry me.

Jeremy was speechless. "You have to help me win her over. When I manage to, and she likes me, I can propose to her and marry her. Hayden continued. Jeremy hurriedly picked up the writing tablet and wrote: [How can I help you?] Seeing this, Hayden thought about it. After a while, he shook his head and said. "I haven't made up a plan yet. After I do, tell you what to do. You just need to follow

my instructions. Jeremy stared at Hayden and pondered for a long time. Finally, he took the tabler and wrote: [Okay] Hayden smiled while Jeremy looked at him solemnly.

At this moment, Stacey didn't know about Hayden and Jeremy's deal. In Hivalis, she was heading home with Lillian and Kevin but when she arrived at the residential area entrance, she unexpectedly saw a man who she hadn't met for a long time – Theodore.

Stacey almost subconsciously reached out to cover Lillian's and Kevin's eyes. Perhaps she was selfish and didn't want them to

see Theodore.

Debra also saw Theodore. Her face darkened as she muttered unhappily, "Leave him alone. Our residential area is gated. He doesn't live here, so the guard won't let him in." After saying that, Debra was still worried. She took out her phone and called the management office of the residential area, asking them not to let Theodore in.

All the people who could live in the neighborhood were wealthy tycoons. The manager was very nervous when he received the call, so he immediately came out to check. After confirming Theodore's identity, he quickly notified the guards to tighten the security and never let Theodore in.

The Carter family's car in Hivalis was different from that in Marloria. Theodore didn't notice the car that just entered belonged to the Carter family. He was still standing at the gate, frowning slightly and feeling a little annoyed.

In the residential area, a black luxury car entered the Carter family's mansion and stopped at the garden near the gate. Patrick was fishing at the side. When he saw them coming back, his eyes lit up. He immediately put down the rod and skipped over happily.

The door opened, and Stacey and Debra respectively got out of the car with a child, Patrick came over happily and took Lillian away from Stacey's arms. However, he kept looking at her and asked, "How was your work? Did you have any problem?"

Stacey thought of her time at Hoggard Villa these days and shook her head with a smile. "Nothing. Everything is fine. Mr. Hoggard, I mean, Hayden took good care of me."

"That's good." Patrick smiled and nodded repeatedly. "The Hoggard family has always been kind. If you go over to their place, we won't worry much."

Everyone entered the house together. Stacey thought of Theodore at the gate just now, took out her phone, and saw a

—

message from an unknown-number: [Rebecca, I've settled the matter with the Edwards family. I'm at your place. Can you come out and talk?]

The message was sent an hour ago. When she got off the plane, her phone was turned off, and she didn't look at it. Then, she was occupied with the two cute children and didn't have time to turn on her phone, so she didn't see the message until she turned it on.

However, nothing would change even if Stacey had seen it. Her face was void of expression as she blocked and deleted the number right away.

Theodore waited for a long time outside the residential area, but Stacey didn't appear. He wanted to go in but was stopped

to send by the guard, who didn't accept bribes. After waiting for a long time, he took out a new SIM card and continued messages to her with the new number: [Rebecca, can I see the children? It's been a long time. Lately, I've been missing them.]

In the mansion, Stacey received a message again. She glanced at it, deleted it, and blocked the number.

If possible, she didn't want the children to have any contact with Theodore. In other words, Theodore and the Edwards family were problematic. If the children mingled with them too much, their mindset might be influenced. She couldn't accept it if, when they grew up, they would have the same mindset as the Edwards family.

Not wanting to be constantly disturbed by Theodore using an unknown number, Stacey wanted to turn off her phone, but at that moment, a message from a new contact popped up on her WhatsApp. Stunned, she opened her WhatsApp and saw that the person's name who added her contact was Hayden.

She was a little surprised because she didn't expect Hayden to message her. Stacey thought about it and added his contact. With that, they both started a chat. After hesitating for a moment, she carefully sent a message: [Mr. Hoggard?]

A message from Hayden quickly popped up in her WhatsApp chat box. [Yes, it's me.] She was rendered speechless.

He asked: [Are you home?]

Stacey hurriedly replied: [Yes. I'm home now. Thank you for taking care of me yesterday.]

Hayden wrote: [You don't have to be so polite with me. I'm glad you got home safely. I won't disturb you. Have a good rest We'll talk next time.]

Stacey was stunned and wondered, 'Did Hayden add my contact on purpose to check on me?' Just as she was pondering, a video call request suddenly popped up on her phone. It was from Hayden. Her mind went blank for a moment. She came to her senses and quickly answered the call. Jeremy's face instantly appeared.

Stacey suddenly realized and thought, Jeremy probably misses me. That's why Hayden added me!" After all, children were sometimes very difficult to deal with. Even their parents might not be able to control them when they were at a certain age. Thinking of this, she suddenly recalled when Hayden was so angry and helpless because of Jeremy. Suddenly, she couldn't help but laugh.

CHAPTER 158

"Jeremy, Stacey called out happily as she looked at Jeremy on the video call.

Jeremy hurriedly took his writing tablet and wrote: [I miss you so much!]

As expected. Stacey gazed at the writing tablet with a soft expression as she mused, Jeremy is so cute. With a smile, she responded, "I miss you, too."

The next moment, Hayden took back the phone. Jeremy's little body disappeared from the screen, and Hayden appeared, stating in a deep voice, "I'm sorry. Jeremy seems to like you a lot. I wonder if it caused you any trouble."

Stacey quickly shook her head and explained, "Of course not. Jeremy is cute. He's a well-behaved, thoughtful child. I really like him too."

Meanwhile, in Hoggard Villa, Hayden forced Jeremy out of the camera, but he stood next to Hayden and could still hear their video call. When Hayden made negative remarks about him to Becky, his countenance grew unhappy. He glared at Hayden as he thought, 'How could Daddy say that to Becky?' However, his expression soon brightened, and he turned delighted when he heard her compliment and liked him. Her remarks made him forget his anger from a while ago.

"Really?" Hayden asked with a smile. He saw Becky's liking and acceptance of Jeremy as a positive development for him. "I've heard that you have two kids too. Can I meet them next time if there is a chance?" Hayden asked again.

Stacey mused, "My kids?" Her mood improved as she thought of Lillian and Kevin. She grinned and said with a nod, "Sure."

Meanwhile, Lillian dashed over and leaped into Stacey's arms like a small cannonball, shouting joyously, "Mom!" Stacey, noticing her, hurriedly hugged her to prevent her from falling

On the other side, Jeremy also heard Lillian's voice and wondered if it was hers. He couldn't take it any longer, so he leaned closer to the camera and looked at her through the video call with Hayden.

Lillian wasn't afraid because Stacey was holding her. She stretched out her head, wanting to peek at Stacey's phone, and even reached for it with her short hands. She detected Stacey was on a video call and wanted to know who she was talking to at the moment. The children's curiosity was never-ending, and she eventually snatched the phone, leaving Stacey feeling helpless.

After getting the phone, Lillian held it up happily and glanced at the two individuals on the video call. However, she was taken aback to see unfamiliar faces on it. "Who are you?" Lillian inquired, confused.

When Jeremy heard Lillian's voice, he responded quickly and proceeded to write his name on the writing tablet, wanting to give her his name.

Looking at the little face in the video that resembled Becky, Hayden was likewise in a pleasant mood and introduced himself. "Hi Hayden, your mom's friend."

"What is a friend?" Lillian asked doubtfully.

Howard was at a loss for words.

Stacey hurriedly took back her phone, looked at Hayden in the video call, and explained, "Lily can be a little naughty at times. Please forgive her."

"Same as Jeremy," Hayden stated calmly, selling Jeremy out.

Jeremy had already finished writing his name. He was ready to show Lillian his writing tablet when he heard Hayden badmouthing him to Becky again, which disturbed him. He scolded inwardly, "I'm not a naughty boy! I'm not! Bad Daddy!" He hurriedly erased his name from the writing tablet and wrote other words: "I'm a good boy!" When he was done, he pushed Hayden away, held up the writing tablet, and anxiously displayed it to Becky.

GNG

She saw the words on Jeremy's writing tablet. She nodded with a smile and said, "Yes, you're a good boy. Not naughty at

Stacey all."

Upon hearing that, Jeremy nodded vigorously. He took the writing tablet and resumed writing, looking serious and frowning.

Stacey waited patiently until Jeremy completed writing before lifting it again, and it wrote: [Daddy is talking nonsense!] The words made her smile again. She couldn't help but think Jeremy was so adorable.

After a lengthy and enjoyable talk, Hayden finally took the phone back. He looked at Becky in the video call and said with a smile, "You just got home, right? Jeremy and I should stop disturbing you now. Have a good rest."

"Okay. Take care of yourselves, too," Stacey responded. After saying that, her mind went blank again. She thought something was wrong with her words. However, this was only a fleeting thought. She instantly dismissed the bizarre delusion in her heart.

The video call was ultimately ended, and both sides were made quiet.

Meanwhile, Patrick and Debra both turned to gaze at Stacey. Debra smiled, asking, "Did that kid from the Hoggard family call just now?"

Stacey nodded, replying, "Yes."

Patrick glanced at Debra, then Stacey, and smiled, stating, "Hay is quite good. He cares about you."

Stacey reflected for a while and concluded that the Hoggard family was fairly good. Whether she went to Hoggard Manor to visit Jason and Sharon or to Strico to meet Hayden and Jeremy, she could tell they were all friendly. Perhaps it was because of their family values that people felt comfortable with them. "Hmm," she said, nodding.

Then, Debra smiled and reminded Stacey, "You returned from Strico early this morning. Are you tired now? Why don't you go back to your room and sleep for a while? As women, we should get adequate sleep so that we can preserve our beauty

forever."

Stacey replied, "Okay." She was indeed a little exhausted. She had a good time with Jeremy the previous night, but putting him to bed was tiring, which caused her to fall asleep very late at night. Moreover, she had to wake up early the next morning to catch a flight back to Hivalis.

Stacey then headed upstairs. Kevin remained mute and attempted to follow her up but was carried down by Debra.

Debra softened her voice and smile at Kevin, saying, "Let your mommy rest. She has worked for a long time and is very tired."

Blinking his eyes, Kevin looked at Debra in confusion.

“Why will she get very tired after working for so long?” Lillian asked. Although her pronunciation was considerably clearer, sometimes her words were sporadic, and she still spoke with a babyish accent

Debra didn't know how to explain.

Patrick sat on the couch. Upon hearing the noise, he smiled and replied, “Because work needs energy, and using too much energy is exhausting”

Then, Mommy should stop working.” Kevin said. As a child, he didn't think much and simply didn't want Stacey to be exhausted and suffer.

CHAPTER 159

Debra and Patrick mused, “What a good boy. They looked at Lillian and Kevin and couldn't help but adore them more. They were pleased to have Lillian and Kevin in the family.

Debra lowered her head and kissed Kevin. She nodded and stated. “We listen to you. We won't let her work anymore.”

Meanwhile, despite many attempts, Theodore was unable to get into the residential area. Rebecca didn't reply to him either. He could certainly guess she didn't want to see him, let alone let her children see him. His face darkened. He stood at the entryway for a long time before turning around to leave.

When Theodore returned to the hotel, he was surprised to meet Jenny, When he noticed her, his eyes softened significantly. and Rebecca's hatred in his heart vanished almost instantaneously. He knew that Jenny understood him and would come to soothe him for more than a year, no matter what happened

Every time he finished arguing with Rebecca, Jenny would appear to comfort and enlighten him, gradually alleviating his depression. Furthermore, regarding the collaboration between the Edwards and Smith families, he declined to marry Jenny and instead opted to marry Rebecca. Despite her sadness, she eventually chose to understand him. She remained cool and willing to assist him, even if it was only a friendship. She maintained collaboration between the two families to assist the Edwards family.

Theodore mused, Jenny is indeed a nice lady' However, Rebecca's face flashed through his mind again, and he frowned again instinctively. He couldn't believe Rebecca had turned so arrogant since rejoining the Carter family. Not only did she ignore him, but she also repeatedly asked the

Carter family to suppress the Edwards family. Then, he realized Rebecca and Jenny weren't comparable at all.

Thinking about it, Theodore remembered Rebecca's tenderness and care for him when he was still in a vegetative state. He attempted to quell the irritation in his heart and mused, 'It's all right. I'll try my best to accommodate Rebecca's temporary waywardness. After some time, she will calm down and become more rational

Three days later, Stacey received a piece of positive news from the production team. The timeline for "The Empress" had been set, and it would be officially released in one month. Before "The Empress" was officially broadcast, they could also participate in the variety show for some publicity. The director, Vicky, messaged Lynn, asking Becky if she wanted to go to the variety show with Malcolm for only one episode as a special guest

Lynn received the message and promptly forwarded it to Stacey, allowing her to decide for herself.

However, Stacey didn't expect Charlie to send her a message excitedly before she decided whether to participate in the variety show and promote "The Empress" as he wrote: [Becky, did you receive the invitation letter from "Happy Little Mango" to be a special guest?]

Looking at Charlie's reply, Stacey replied directly: [Yes. What's wrong?]

Charlie wrote: [Hurry and accept it. I happen to have a drama that is set to be released soon. My production team is also planning to be in "Happy Little Mangoes" on the same episode as you. We'll go together, then!]

Stacey was shocked after reading the message. She asked in text: Charles, are you sure?]

Charlie responded: [Of course. Let me tell you something. I've been on "Little Happy Mangoes" several times, and I'm familiar with their hosts. Don't worry. I'll ask them to take care of you while

you're on the show. And we can interact with each other during the show. I haven't seen you for a long time. Ah! I miss you.]

Stacey replied: [Okay. Lynn just messaged me. Then, I'll ask her to arrange it.]

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Charlie then sent her a hugging sticker and texted: [Love you.]

Stacey couldn't help but think Charlie was mischievous, like a vibrant boy. She smiled and replied with another Love Brother sticker. The following second, a new message popped up in the family group chat, contrary to her expectations. She subconsciously

clicked on the family group chat, where Charlie had proudly shared screenshots of his messages with her in the group.

Charlie commented: [Hahaha! Stacey said she loved me and sent me a Love Brother sticker. You guys don't have it. Hehe.]

Stacey was speechless and embarrassed at the same time. Following that, Adrian, Bryce, Patrick, and Debra all texted her personally. The whole family had a private chat with her.

Adrian texted: [Becky, I love you too.]

Bryce messaged Stacey, writing: [I love you very much, too. Could you also send me the same sticker that you sent to Charlie?]

Patrick wrote: [Becky, can I get a Love Dad sticker?]

Debra texted: [Becky, have you seen the message in the group? Ignore them, a bunch of psychos. By the way, do you have a Love Mom sticker? Why don't you send me one too?]

Browsing through those messages from her family, Stacey was a little nonplussed. She hurriedly searched her sticker

She spent collection but failed to find one with high resolution. So, she launched Photoshop and began creating it directly an hour making stickers for everyone in the family, including Lillian and Kevin, from a series of pictures. She then opened the family group chat and sent all seven stickers to it.

Everyone was waiting for her response. Unexpectedly, after a long wait, many stickers appeared in the group chat one at a time. Adrian, Bryce, Patrick, Debra, and even Charlie who had just received a sticker, all clicked on and downloaded their own stickers, saving them right away.

A few seconds later, Adrian's profile picture changed from a serious personal ID photo to a sticker that Stacey had just

created for him.

Everyone in the group chat was astonished by Adrian's actions.

Charlie sent three exclamation marks in a row and hurriedly went to change his profile photo. However, as he finished changing it, he noticed that the profile pictures of the whole family had changed. Everyone's profile images used to be various and had unique characteristics. Now they were all the same type of stickers made by Stacey, which made him at a loss for words.

Patrick texted: [Speaking of which, should we change the name of our group chat? Our family has grown to eight members, despite the fact that Lily and Kev are still too young to use mobile phones

or register accounts to join the group chat. How about changing the name of this group to Family of Eight?]

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CHAPTER 160

In the group chat, Adrian replied: [Agree.]

Bryce tagged Debra and asked: [Mom, can you change it now?]

Noticing them tagging her, Debra hurriedly modified the name of the group chat. After confirming that the group name had changed, she returned to the group chat in a better mood and started sending messages as she wrote: [I'll create an account for Lily and Key respectively later. Before they grow up, these accounts will be used to record their progress until they reach adulthood.]

Patrick replied: [Agree.]

Stacey added, texting: [Thank you, Mom.]

Adrian and Bryce also responded respectively: [Agree.]

Charlie replied: [Long live. Mom. Agree too]

Stacey observed everyone having fun conversing in the group chat before finally quieting down. Even though everyone had quieted down, reading the chat messages in the group made her feel warm and happy. However, her good mood and smile faded when she took Lillian and Kevin to the playground in the residential area in the afternoon and noticed Jenny, who was being led by another owner.

Jenny walked toward them and bent down to tease Kevin.

Stacey, noticing her, quickly pulled Kevin behind her.

"Don't worry, I mean no harm to them," Jenny remarked.

Stacey, on high alert, questioned, "What do you want?"

Jenny looked at Stacey and inquired seriously, "Can we talk? Just us two."

Stacey stared at Jenny coldly and stated expressionlessly, "I don't think we have anything to talk about."

Jenny was silent for a time before speaking seriously, "I want to talk to you about Theodore."

Stacey remained mute, glancing at Jenny. She mused. I've never seen such a shameless person before. She then responded. unhappily, "He and I got divorced. It has nothing to do with me whatsoever that happens between you and him."

Jenny smiled and nodded, saying, "Hmm. I know. But I want to thank you, Ms. Carter. Thank you for divorcing him and giving him up."

When Stacey heard that, she frowned and felt annoyed.

Jenny continued, "Ms. Carter, if possible, I hope you and Theodore maintain your current relationship. You should never get back together, yet... If you really want to, I won't give him up either. By then, let's see who can win his heart. But I think... I might have a shot, too." Her eyes became brighter as she spoke, conveying confidence and hope for the future. She mused, "In fact, Theodore is also nice to me. Even compared to Rebecca Oh no, it's Stacey. I believe Theodore treats me far better than she does, but he hasn't noticed it yet."

Stacey couldn't understand, so she asked, "What do you like about Theodore?" She wondered, "Does that kind of man deserve to be loved?"

Jenny was ecstatic when she heard it. That was because she could tell from Stacey's current attitude that she no longer had feelings for Theodore, which indicated that she would most likely not marry him again. She lost a love rival, and Theodore might become her husband in the future.

She looked at Stacey and replied happily, "I know you don't like Theodore anymore. But that's because there was a

misunderstanding between you two, and something awful happened before. But he and I had no

misunderstandings from the beginning, and my family background matched his. Um... According to Zentscape, this is what you call a well-match."

Staring at Stacey, Jenny added, "You know what? When I first saw him, I fell in love with him. He's so handsome that he's the prince charming in my heart. Besides, he's such a gentleman. He took me to Zentscape to enjoy the landscape and eat wonderful food. He can be described as considerate and gentle. I'm totally in love with him. I love him very much and would never want to let him go."

Expressionless, Stacey stated, "Wish you success. Good luck."

Jenny, nodding joyfully, replied, "Thank you. I'll try my best, but I also hope you can look after yourself and your two kids. Although they're adorable, I might not enjoy other people's children very much. If I marry Theodore in the future, I might... Hmm... I might not be able to tolerate seeing his children from another woman in front of me every day. Can you understand me?"

"Don't worry. The kids are mine, and I'll never give them to Theodore, Stacey reassured coldly.

"Thank you," Jenny expressed her gratitude happily.

After that, Stacey turned around and took Lillian and Kevin home directly. Her terrible mood persisted until that evening when a WhatsApp video call came in, and the caller ID was Hayden.

She picked up the phone, slightly taken aback. After she answered the video call, Jeremy's adorable face came on it. She instantly got cheerful, smiled, and greeted him, "Good evening, Jeremy."

Jeremy immediately grabbed the writing tablet and wrote: [Becky, I miss you so much.] He had studied hard over the last few days and learned a few more words, particularly the name "Becky" and those he had previously been unable to spell in front of her.

"I miss you, too," Stacey replied with a smile.

Jeremy's eyes brightened up as he heard that, and he quickly wrote again: [Can I go to you to play with you?]

Stacey was confused and stunned to react to his question. After she regained her composure, she laughed and replied, "Of course, you can. But does your daddy know about it? If you want to go out, you have to first seek his permission. You can't leave until he approves."

When Jeremy heard that, his eyes lit up. He instantly turned to look at Hayden, who was watching the news not far away. Then, he quickly picked up the writing tablet and wrote: [He allows me to go.]

"Pfft." Stacey couldn't contain herself and erupted into laughter. She could tell Jeremy had made his own decision without asking Hayden for permission. She thought that Jeremy's behavior aligned with his character. "All right, but you'll have to wait until I have time. I may go out to shoot a variety show these days and will come back home after a bit. When I'm free, I'll contact your daddy and fetch you up from Strico in person, okay?" she then explained with a smile.

Jeremy was perplexed when he heard her words. He couldn't understand it well, wondering. She has to go out for work, so

huh?' she can't pick me and Daddy up to play at her place,

Even Hayden, who pretended to watch the news on the couch but was actually listening to their video call, was stunned. He turned around, looked in Jeremy's direction, and asked, "Are you going to shoot a variety show in a few days?"