

Love Me Or Leave Me

#Chapter 191 - Read Love Me Or Leave Me Chapter 191

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In Sanders Hotel, Queenie waited at the door of Hayden's room for a long time until 8:30. It was very late, and no one from the room came out. She was starting to feel hungry and wanted something to eat. Queenie didn't look well at that moment. "How could Hayden still be asleep? Could it be... that he has already gotten up and left the room? she wondered.

Thinking about this possibility made Queenie very anxious. Besides meeting Hayden, she also had the task of attending Eklonna's new product launch event with him while she was in Daprein.

A few years ago, her parents had broken up with her due to her stubbornness. Everyone felt that her parents had no heirs and she wasn't suitable to inherit the Leavey family business. Her uncle's family even seized the opportunity to stir up her grandfather's prejudice against her family, hoping to get him to give all the shares of the company to her uncle and not leave anything for her family since they had no successor. Her grandfather placed great importance on continuing the family live, and when her uncle encouraged her grandfather, the latter wavered.

In the past two years, her grandfather had quietly asked her father to give some management rights of the companies to her uncle. Her uncle openly used these management rights to create opportunities for his daughter, letting her gain experience. with the company's operations. Now everyone in the company knew that her uncle was grooming her cousin Edith Leavey as the future heir of the Leavey family.

Now that Queenie had returned to the Leavey family, her first task was to prove herself as a legitimate heir. But she didn't

company. but have many choices. Her grandfather didn't trust her, and her parents wanted to arrange for her to work in the her grandfather wouldn't agree. The trust between her and her grandfather was minimal.

Moreover, her uncle's family was always inside her grandfather's ear, speaking ill of her. They claimed that if he handed all the family's wealth over to her, it would be ruined.

Among the options available to her, remarrying Hayden was the best one. If she could remarry him, the Hoggard family would be her support and also the backbone of the Leavey family. At that point, her grandfather would surely restore his trust in her and allow her to join the company.

But remarrying Hayden was a real challenge. Even though she and her mother had resolved to make it happen, they knew they had to try various ways to gain Hayden's consent. They understood that given the Hoggard family's position, it would be unrealistic for them to quickly win Hayden's agreement to remarry. Patience and time would be necessary to achieve

this.

The most important thing she needed to do right now was to strengthen her connection with Hayden, like attending the Eklonna product launch event. If she could be seen at the new product launch event with Hayden, everyone would know that a reconciliation was possible. Her grandfather wouldn't be as vigilant or indifferent toward her then.

Queenie initially thought she could easily attend the new product launch event with Hayden as long as she followed him. After all, as a man, Hayden wouldn't want to go physical with a woman. But now... 'Has he really left? If Hayden has truly gone out early in the morning, where could he possibly be?' she wondered.

Anxiety bubbled within her as she stared at Hayden's door for a moment before gritting her teeth and hurrying away.

Although the Leavey family wasn't qualified to receive an invitation to Eklonna's new product launch event, it wouldn't be hard to find out where the event was taking place.

The launch was scheduled for 10 a.m., and it was only past 8 o'clock now. It was still early, so Hayden likely wasn't there yet. As long as she waited at the entrance of the venue of the new product launch event, Hayden would surely come soon.

When she and Hayden got married, they had invited many guests. Plenty of people in their social circle were aware of their previous relationship, and someone like Hayden wouldn't embarrass her in public, as it would damage his reputation.

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This was just how society worked. If a man were openly disrespectful to a woman, he would be judged harshly by others, regardless of the context.

The priority now was her makeup. Since she had to attend Eklonna's new product launch event, she needed to look presentable and not embarrass the Hoggard family. With this thought in mind, Queenie rushed out to find a styling shop. "Miss, help me out! I need the best makeup for Eklomma's new product launch event!" Queenie exclaimed as she barged in.

The boss of Anna Style. Anna, was taken aback. ‘Eklonna’s new product launch event?’ she thought. In Daprein, Eklonna was known to be the most influential name in accessories, something that ordinary people could only aspire to. Many common brands imitated Eklonna’s designs, but imitation was just that—nothing compared to the real thing.

“Hello?” Queenie frowned when Anna seemed lost in thought.

Anna Style’s boss Anna snapped back to reality and quickly agreed, “Yes! Of course!” She was thrilled. “Miss, you... are you attending Eklonna’s new product launch?”

Eklonna was exclusive to royalty. Anna had never imagined she would meet someone qualified to attend such an event in her lifetime—it was exhilarating

Queenie paused for a moment and nodded. “Yes”

Anna was even more excited now. She hurried to prepare the best products in the store to do Queenie’s makeup. “Ms. Leavey, these are the finest items in our shop. I’m lending them to you to create your perfect look. But I do have a small request. Would you mind?” Anna said, her excitement tempered with caution.

Queenie glanced at the clock, realizing time was running out. She urged, “Hurry! The new product launch event will start soon. I won’t waste your time; I’ll definitely pay for everything!”

With that, Anna began to work on Queenie’s makeup as quickly as she could. While applying the makeup, Anna explained, “Miss, today’s makeup is on the house, but I hope you can wear it at Eklonna’s event and send me some pictures from there, okay?”

Eklonna’s new product launch event was a high-profile event, and if someone attended it looking fabulous thanks to her work, Anna would be thrilled to share that accomplishment with her friends in the industry.

Queenie felt a pang of annoyance. She didn’t like the feeling of being taken advantage of, but time was tight. “Okay,” she agreed, though reluctantly.

All she could hope for now was that the makeup artist could finish quickly. She needed to get to the event early; otherwise, she’d risk being late and missing Hayden.

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Upon hearing Queenie’s agreement, Anna was ecstatic. “Really? Okay, Miss, don’t worry! I will make you the most beautiful makeup right now!” she exclaimed, practically glowing with enthusiasm.

For the next hour, Anna poured all her skill into creating a stunning and elegant look for Queenie. She meticulously applied each layer of makeup, ensuring that Queenie looked radiant. As time slipped away, Anna also carefully selected one of her treasured dresses for Queenie to wear.

Time was running out. The new product launch event was set to start half an hour later, and Queenie could feel her anxiety mounting. Almost in a panic, she rushed out of the store, hopped into a waiting taxi, and instructed the driver to head straight for Eklonna's launch event.

Anna, feeling the pressure of time, wanted nothing more than to take a photo of her masterpiece and post it on Twitter to showcase her work. Sadly, it was too late. Queenie was already in the taxi and disappearing from sight. However, Anna reassured herself that it wouldn't be the end. Surely, after the new product launch event, Queenie would have some time to snap a few photos together.

What mattered most was that her best dress and makeup would soon grace Eklonna's new product launch event! With a rush of excitement flooding her senses, Anna took out her phone and posted on Twitter: [My makeup is about to appear at Eklonna's new product launch event. I am so excited!]

As a lively and cheerful girl, Anna had many friends who were quick to notice her tweet. The comments started flooding in almost immediately, many of them puzzled and amused by her unrestrained enthusiasm.

JAanna? Did you get too excited with your boyfriend last night? How could you have such a beautiful dream?] one friend joked.

[LOL, Anna is so amazing. How dare you have this kind of dream? I didn't even dare to think about it in my sleep!]

Seeing her friends' responses, Anna couldn't help but boast a little more. She quickly typed back. [It's not a dream! I'm telling the truth. Just wait and see! I just did the most beautiful makeup for that lady, using all the best things from my shop! I gave her my best dress!]

The comments kept rolling in, filled with surprise and curiosity. [Really? How is this possible?] one friend asked incredulously.

[Is the best dress you mentioned the one I think it is? Ahhh, I'm looking forward to it! Do you have any photos?] another inquired.

With her confidence soaring, Anna replied: [I don't have any photos yet, but the conference will start soon. That lady just promised me that she would wear my makeup and take some pictures at the venue. As soon as I get them. I'll share!]

[Okay, I'm looking forward to it!]

[Ah, I really want to see the photos. Anna, remember to tell me as soon as you get them. I can't wait!] her friends responded, their excitement palpable as they eagerly anticipated whether the stunning makeup Anna had crafted would really make an appearance at Eklonna's prestigious event.

At the same time, Stacey and Debra had just finished their makeup. With Gwen and Marie safely back at the hotel, they set off for Eklonna's new product launch event, along with their assistants and the two little ones.

This was Stacey's first time attending such a prestigious new product launch event, and the language barrier made her a bit

nervous. Thankfully, Debra was well-acquainted with these kinds of events and reassured Stacey as they navigated through the busy venue, helping to ease her nerves,

When they arrived at the doors of the new product launch event they were pleasantly spoke to them in Zentiscapian. They were stunned and then happy.

The helpers provided by Eklonna enthusiastically guided them to their seats,

ed when the receptionist

Since they had been issued temporary invitations, their position were in the back. However, after seeing the royal members attending this new product launch event, they didn't think it was a problem at all. The official seating for the prominent figures was at the front, leaving Stacey and Debra happily satisfied with their experience.

As Lillian and Kevin excitedly explored their surroundings, their curious eyes darting around the lavish setting, Lillian's gaze landed on a striking boy with blonde hair and blue eyes. She reached out with her small hands, wanting to be held by the boy.

Stacey, spotting Wendell, and recognizing him as the prince of Soltanis, quickly pulled Lillian close and whispered, "Lillian, don't make trouble."

Wendell, noticing the lively little girl, was charmed by her innocence. He reached out to Lillian with a friendly smile, and she beamed back at him. At that moment, she happily jumped into Wendell's arms, leaving Stacey momentarily stunned,

unable to intervene.

A few seconds later, Lillian was in Wendell's arms. Stacey had a tingling feeling. She was afraid that Lillian would accidentally annoy the prince. There was a big gap between their identities, and she was also worried that it would cause trouble for

Hayden. After all, the reason why they could come in was that Hayden helped them get invitations.

“You’re pretty!” Lillian shouted with glee, nestled comfortably in Wendell’s hold.

Wendell chuckled, finding her exuberance endearing. “You’re pretty too!” he exclaimed.

“I’m also pretty!” Kevin chimed in from Debra’s arms, eager to join the banter.

Wendell then noticed Kevin beside them, a baby close in age, and complimented both children, “Yes, you are both beautiful!” His smile radiated warmth, adding to the joyful atmosphere.

Meanwhile, outside the conference venue, Queenie stood anxiously at the entrance, scanning the crowd for Hayden. Time was slipping away, and her nervousness grew. She feared she might miss him entirely and wouldn’t want to enter without stopping him first.

As anxiety began to claw at her, a car pulled up. Hayden got out and immediately spotted Queenie. His expression darkened as he realized the upper-class elite were present; he had no desire to engage in a public dispute with her. The atmosphere felt too formal and dignified for any dram

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Three seconds later, Hayden took out his phone and made a call. When Hugo received the call, he was stunned. But after hearing Hayden’s words, he instantly smiled again and said in Zentiscupian, “Bro, don’t worry. I will handle it!”

A few minutes later, Hugo came out of the hall. He looked at the entrance and saw Queenie. He straightened his clothes and immediately walked towards her.

In the car, Hayden calmly looked outside. When Queenie was led out by Hugo, he got out of the car. After successfully entering the venue, Hayden sent Hugo a message to let him know he had arrived.

Hugo intentionally used Hayden as an excuse, saying he was taking Queenie to find him. When he got a message from Hayden on his phone saying he had entered the venue, Hugo smiled, then quickly made another excuse, saying that he suddenly had something to do and had to go back, so he couldn’t accompany Queenie any longer.

Queenie was anxious. She needed to find Hayden right away. Hugo directed her to a mall near the venue and told her to look for Hayden on her own.

Queenie had never been tricked by Hugo before, so she didn't suspect anything. Eager to find Hayden, she hurried towards the mall he mentioned. Seeing her leave, Hugo turned around and ran away.

Stacey was unaware of what happened outside. At this moment, Wendell played with Lillian and Kevin for a while before leaving.

Although Lillian liked the good-looking Wendell, she was not the kind of spoiled child who would never let go. Understanding that Wendell had something to take care of and couldn't be disturbed, Lillian obediently left him alone and followed her mother.

Stacey and Debra both prepared snacks. Lillian and Kevin had a habit of being well-behaved when eating, so to avoid the two kids causing trouble at the party, she and her mother prepared snacks in advance. Now, as long as the kids could munch on a small snack from time to time, they would behave well.

However, it didn't last long. Christopher had sharp eyes and spotted Hayden as soon as he entered! "Dad!" "Daddy is here!" Lillian and Kevin became excited almost immediately. The two little ones jumped out of their mother's and grandmother's arms and raced over to their dad!

Stacey and Debra quickly looked over. As expected, they saw Hayden.

The two kids dashed to him with excitement. They wrapped their arms around his legs, looking up at him with eager faces.

"Daddy!" Lillian and Kevin clung to his legs, raising their heads and gazing at him with delight.

Wendell came to Eklonna's new product launch event this time because he wanted to buy the latest products from Eklonna as a birthday gift for his mother. He also hoped to take advantage of this opportunity to find someone here—Hayden.

He had liked the new robot released by Hoggard Group a while ago and wanted to customize one. However, ordering from Hoggard Group was too slow, and it would take a long time to get the finished product through the—standard process. Wendell couldn't wait. He wanted the latest robot from Hoggard Group as soon as possible. With this idea in mind, Wendell arrived at the new product launch event early today, eager to see Hayden and discuss a potential collaboration.

Unfortunately, when he arrived, Hayden hadn't come yet. Wendell felt a bit regretful, but it didn't dampen his confidence. He knew that Hayden would definitely show up at Eklonna's new product launch event, so he kept his eyes on the doorway.

As soon as Hayden walked in, Wendell spotted him. He almost immediately stood up from his seat and headed toward

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Hayden. However, when he reached the front, he was taken aback by the sight he saw. The adorable twins, who had been pestering him earlier, were clinging to Hayden's legs and calling but "Dad" excitedly.

Wendell was surprised. 'Are these two lovely kids Hayden's?' he thought. The idea thrilled him. If they were indeed Hayden's children and they liked him, he could leverage that rapport to persuade Hayden to prioritize his robot order.

The more he thought about it, the more excited he became, Wendell hurriedly approached and greeted Hayden with a smile. He even spoke in Zentiscapian, saying, "Hello, Hayden, long time no see."

Hearing this. Hayden turned to look at Wendell. Lillian and Kevin also turned their heads toward the voice.

Excited by the sight of the super handsome Wendell, Lillian immediately abandoned her father and dashed toward him.

Wendell's smile widened. He squatted down, caught Lillian in his arms, and kissed her cheek. This little one truly was his lucky star

Hayden was puzzled, thinking, 'Lillian... Is familiar with Wendell

Stacey and Debra, who stood nearby, were also surprised. They hadn't expected to run into Wendell again, especially since he seemed to know Hayden.

Wendell held Lillian in his arms and approached them with a smile. He first nodded to Stacey and Debra, recalling that the two adorable kids were the children of the young woman in front of him. Wendell quickly greeted Stacey and Debra before looking at Hayden and saying cheerfully, "Is this cute little girl your child? She's so adorable!"

Lillian wasn't afraid of strangers at all. She was curious about Wendell's beautiful blonde hair, which was different from hers. She reached out to touch his hair curiously.

Stacey quickly rushed over, took Christopher's hand, and reminded Lillian. "Don't touch his hair. It's impolite."

Wendell didn't mind. He lowered his head and bowed playfully to Lillian, which made her giggle. "It's perfectly fine. Kids should be curious. They're adorable," Wendell explained to Stacey.

Stacey could only reply with a blank look, not quite sure how to respond.

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ut of the car with her friends and hurried toward Queenie. “Ms. Leavey?” Anna asked in Dapreinish in confusion, “The conference has already started. Why are you still at the entrance?”

Queenie was speechless, her face flushed with embarrassment. She had promised to attend Eklonna’s new product launch event, take photos, and send them to Anna. But now, since Hayden hadn’t waited for her at the door, she hadn’t had a chance to follow him into the conference. Queenie had never felt so embarrassed in her life.

After a moment, she replied in a somewhat lame Dapreinish accent, “Something came up. I missed the entrance time,” Then, Queenie turned to leave.

Anna looked puzzled. Shirley and Monica, who accompanied Anna, were also confused.

Anna hurried to catch up with Queenie and asked, “Ms. Leavey, where are you going?”

Shirley looked back at the security guards at the entrance of the Eklonna venue and whispered to Monica, “She can’t go in without an invitation.”

Although Shirley’s voice was deliberately low, Queenie, walking in front of them, still heard it. Queenie froze for a moment before reaching out her hand to stop a taxi by the roadside.

Anna quickly grabbed Queenie’s arm, saying anxiously, “Ms. Leavey, where are you going? I can take you there!

“No, thanks, Queenie replied coldly.

Anna was speechless.

Monica couldn’t help but interject, “Even if you don’t need it, you should at least return Anna’s dress to her, right?” Monica glanced at the dress Queenie was wearing. She knew it was Anna’s favorite

dress and had wanted to borrow it before, but Anna had always been too protective of it. Unexpectedly, she lent it to someone else today.

Queenie’s face darkened at this. She turned to Anna and said sharply. “How much is this dress? I’ll buy it!”

This made Shirley’s expression darken too. She looked at Queenie, clearly upset, and said, “This dress is not for sale. It’s a limited edition. There are only five in the world. Anna was lucky to get it after trying for a long time.”

Queenie didn't respond.

Anna suddenly realized the gravity of the situation. She frowned at Queenie. "Don't tell me you really don't have an invitation from Eklonna?"

Queenie's face fell, her frustration evident. "Who says I don't? Eklonna invited my husband and me to the new product launch event, but I was late. My husband has already gone in with the invitation."

Monica smirked, looking Queenie up and down disdainfully. She finally remarked sarcastically, "Your husband? How can you be married to someone like that? Are you hallucinating after eating too many poisonous mushrooms?"

Shirley also mocked, "Yeah. Your husband went in. Just call him and ask him to come out and pick you up. Why are you just standing at the entrance alone?"

Queenie's face turned red. "L... I just had an argument with my husband. He was angry and didn't want to talk to me for a while. But once we reconcile, I can definitely go in!" she said angrily.

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Anna, Shirley, and Monica quickly picked up on the key words in Queenie's statement: "remarry?"

"Oh, so you're divorced? You still call him your husband? I bet he doesn't want to hear from you, Shirley sneered.

Anna's irritation grew. She had been excited all morning, selecting her favorite dress and accessories to make Queenie look perfect. Now, she was hit with the truth—this woman didn't have an invitation from Eklonna at all; she just wanted to shamelessly pester her ex-husband because he had been invited!

Anna, who had always been easy-going, suddenly found herself disliking Queenie more and more. Her face darkened. She grabbed Queenie and started walking to her car.

Seeing Anna's determination. Queenie panicked and struggled. "What do you want? Let go of me!"

Anna replied unhappily, "I'm not doing anything. I just want to take you back to the store and have Those accessories you're wearing are mine too. You don't deserve them!"

you return my dress.

At this, Shirley and Monica couldn't help but smile sarcastically at Queenie.

Queenie shook off Anna's hand and snapped back, "It's just a dress. You can get something similar from a shop nearby!" Upset, Queenie stormed into a nearby shopping mall, randomly picked out a new outfit, and headed to the fitting room. Once inside, she took off all of Anna's items and put on the new clothes.

When she emerged from the fitting room, Queenie tossed the dress back to Anna angrily. "Here you go!"

Anna loved her dress, and seeing it tossed at her made her even angrier.

She caught it, handed it to Monica, and then marched up to Queenie. Without hesitating, she raised her hand and slapped Queenie hard across the face.

Queenie was stunned, her eyes wide in disbelief.

Anna didn't want to explain herself any further. She reached for Queenie's earrings, necklace, and headpiece—all of which were hers.

Queenie had never been treated like this before and immediately tried to fight back. But seeing her friend's movement, Shirley quickly pressed Queenie d

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It was twelve o'clock at noon. The launch of Eklonna's new product came to an end after several hours. Eklonna's staff invited all the guests to dinner in the banquet hall. They left the meeting room together and headed to the banquet hall.

Hayden held Lillian, Stacey held Kevin, and Debra, along with the assistant, followed them. As soon as they reached the door of the conference room, several familiar members of the Epean royal family were waiting for Hayden. When they saw him emerge from inside, they immediately approached him to chat.

Debra hurried over and carefully took Lillian from Hayden's arms so as not to disturb him. As they talked, they walked on until they reached the banquet hall.

Every table had the guest's name on it. Debra and Stacey hurried to find their tables and eventually located their seats in a slightly remote corner.

In the middle of Debra and Stacey's seats, Eklonna's staff had specially arranged two child seats. The names of Lillian and Kevin were placed on the dining table.

Stacey remarked how considerate the Eklonna staff was. But considering the level of the new product launch event, she thought it was only normal; Eklonna had a strong reputation, being a special supplier for all the major royal families of Epean.

Once the family sat down, they couldn't help but glance at Hayden in the hall. He was surrounded by many royals in the center of the crowd.

What is Daddy doing over there?" Lillian asked, looking at her father with a group of unfamiliar uncles and feeling confused.

Stacey glanced at Lillian and explained, "Daddy is working. Let's not disturb him, okay?"

Lillian looked at her mother, still puzzled.

Stacey

then noticed the cakes, drinks, and other food placed at the center of the dining table. Finally, she carefully took a small piece of cake, dividing it into two portions—one for Lillian and one for Kevin. "How about you both have something to eat first?" Stacey suggested, changing the subject.

When Lillian saw the food, she instantly forgot about her father. She replied very seriously, "Yes!"

Kevin was also a foodie; as soon as he had something to eat, he happily agreed, "Okay!"

Debra was curious about the tea on the table, so she carefully took a sip and her eyes lit up. It was delicious!

Stacey looked around and noticed that many guests were already eating quietly, so she picked up a delicate, lovely cake from the center of the table and tasted it. She was amazed by how delicious it was in just one bite.

After a while, the main course was served and everyone began to eat. When everyone was full, it was time for socializing.

If one wanted to buy Eklonna's new products, they had to contact Eklonna's staff and place an order.

Debra naturally seized this opportunity. She told Stacey to keep an eye on the children, then stood up and walked toward Eklonna's staff to place an order for some Eklonna accessories. Only by participating in Eklonna's new product launch event could they purchase these items; otherwise, they were not available for sale.

Stacey waited for about half an hour before Debra finalized her order and came back happily. Some guests had already begun to leave. Stacey looked at the main table and noticed that Hayden was still engaged in conversation with others; he

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must be busy with work

"Just a little longer. Don't worry, Debra comforted her.

Stacey thought for a moment and nodded, "Yes." However, they didn't foresee that Hayden would take several more hours. Fortunately, he finally wrapped up his discussions and came over to them.

Eugene had already left. Hayden picked up Lillian and said, "Let go back to the hotel first."

Stacey picked up Kevin, and they all left together. But upon their return to the hotel, Stacey was surprised to see Queenie again in the hall.

Hayden merely glanced at Queenie before pretending she didn't exist and walked away directly.

Queenie rushed over anxiously. She stood in front of Hayden with her hands on her hips, first looking at Stacey and then at Hayden. Before she could speak, her eyes became red with emotion.

"What's the matter?" Hayden asked impatiently.

Feeling the coldness in his tone, Queenie trembled slightly. Gathering her courage, she asked, "Hayden, did you ask Hugo to distract me on purpose this morning?!" Initially, Queenie hadn't realized she was being set up. However, after being

ver that humiliated by Anna and others, she returned to the hotel and replayed the events of the morning in her mind. The fact Hugo suddenly appeared, looking for her and leading her to Hayden just didn't feel right. It felt clearly like a trap. She realized Hayden must have seen that she was waiting for him at the door and intentionally sent Hugo to draw her away.

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"Or what? Do you want me to walk up and embarrass you in front of all the Epean royal guests?" Hayden replied coldly. "If

don't care about the reputation of the Leavey family, I can help you next time. He continued, "Besides, I'll be giving some respect to the Leavey family now, but not because I like you or care about you. I just want to show my respect for Jeremy's legacy. I don't want anyone to mention Jeremy in the future and associate his name with a mother like you. It will just make Jeremy feel embarrassed""

Queenie's face went pale. She looked at Hayden in disbelief, unable to comprehend how he could say such hurtful things. The painful reality hit her even harder when she glanced at Stacey and then back at Hayden. The humiliation only deepened as she realized her standing in his life

"So you took another woman to the new product launch event without worrying about embarrassing Jeremy?" Queenie couldn't help but ask.

Hayden sneered, "I've divorced you. Why shouldn't I start anew with someone else?"

Queenie wanted to shake her head in denial. It shouldn't be like this... Many arguments formed in her mind, but the words. wouldn't come out. Shock and sorrow flooded her heart.

Not wanting to engage further, Hayden held Lillian in his arms and walked toward the exit. Stacey, carrying Kevin, hurried to keep up with him. As Debra passed Queenie, she couldn't help but glance at the woman for a moment before continuing on her way.

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Everyone entered the elevator together. As the doors closed, Lillian's curiosity bubbled over. "Dad, who was that aunt just

Hayden took a moment to think before responding, "She's just. stranger."

Lillian furrowed her brow in confusion. "What is a stranger?"

"It means I just don't know her," Hayden added..

Still perplexed, Lillian asked. "What are you talking about?"

Stacey couldn't help but chuckle to herself. She thought, "Children can be so incredibly frustrating at times."

Hayden patiently explained, "A stranger is someone you don't know. Just like you don't know who she is, Mommy and Daddy don't know her either."

Lillian's eyes widened as if a light bulb had gone off in her head. She nodded earnestly, "I get it!"

After holding Kevin for a while, Stacey's arms began to ache. She bent down and gently placed him on the ground.

Hayden thought for a moment and then put Lillian down as well. "Will you be staying in Nostralis for a few more days?" he asked.

Stacey considered briefly before nodding. "Yes, we plan to take Lillian and Kevin to the amusement park tomorrow."

Recalling the fun amusement park he had recommended, Hayden smiled. "Enjoy yourselves. The day after tomorrow, I'll take you to meet Mr. Fraley."

Stacey nodded and said, "Okay"

After escorting them back to their room, Hayden prepared to leave. Stacey wanted to invite him in, but he politely declined. "I need to follow up on some business matters discussed at the new product launch event. I don't want to forget anything important," he explained.

As Hayden walked away, Stacey closed the door behind her, her mind racing with thoughts about Eugene. She hurried back to her computer, eager to research more about him.

As Stacey delved into her research about Mr. Fraley, major domestic platforms suddenly erupted with trending topics surrounding Janet, the once-renowned actress. The headlines were shocking and relentless, painting a scandalous picture.

"Janet is not the daughter of the Mitchell family at all!" "Janet and Becky are sisters!" "Becky divorced because her sister seduced the rich brother-in-law!" "Becky was abused by the Mitchell family! These hashtags were on the top list. Stacey, busy with

her own career concerns, initially paid no attention to these until she received frantic calls from Lynn and Charlie, urging her not to care about the latest updates online.

Concerned, Stacey opened the social platform and was immediately bombarded with articles and videos dissecting Janet's life like a subject of a public trial. Her heart raced with disbelief. What do they mean Janet isn't the daughter of the Mitchell family?' she wondered.

Stacey clicked on the news and found a long essay filled with photos and reports. In the end, the story revealed that over 20 years ago, a test-tube baby created by Gary and his wife didn't work. The doctor mistakenly identified the artificially created baby of another couple, Fraser and Goldie Levine, as Gary and Karen's and implanted it into Karen's body.

Nobody would have discovered this secret. However, after Fraser and Goldie had failed" with their test-tube baby for the first time, they tried again and eventually succeeded in having a on named Derek.

A year ago, Derek was diagnosed with advanced renal failure and urgently needed a kidney transplant. Fraser and Goldie were desperate to find a suitable kidney. Suddenly, they remembered a joke their relatives often made about how the celebrity Janet looked like them, almost as if they were family.

In their desperation, Fraser and Goldie wondered if Janet's kidney could match their son's. They even considered if the resemblance meant they were related.

After discovering this possibility, the couple began to inquire about Janet and attempted to get close to her. They disguised themselves as hotel cleaners to sneak in when Janet checked out collecting her toothbrush and hair for a paternity test.

Many might think Fraser and Goldie's actions were crazy and a violation of privacy. However, the paternity test results showed they were indeed related: Janet was their daughter.

Initially shocked, Fraser and Goldie investigated further and learned that more than 20 years ago, they had gone to the same hospital as Gary and his wife for test-tube babies. They had saved a lot of money to go to the best hospital, but it had ended in disappointment when their attempt failed.

With this new discovery, they realized that the embryo they had successfully cultivated was mistakenly implanted into someone else. This revelation led to intense conflict between Fraser, Goldie, and the Mitchell family. After much arguing, the Mitchell family conducted a paternity test that confirmed Janet's true identity.

When the truth came to light, Gary and his wife were humiliated and became the subject of jokes among the wealthy community. The jokes often involved Rebecca, the adopted daughter of the Mitchell family.

Rebecca, also known as Becky, was a rising star in showbiz, and also Stacey, the daughter lost for over 20 years who had recently been found by the Carter family. After meeting the Carter family, she had changed her name from Rebecca to Stacey.

So why did Becky change her name? Was she ungrateful to the family that adopted her? The bloggers began to dig into the story of the Mitchell family.

The well-known blogger shared serialized essays, and Stacey opened the next short piece. In this essay, the blogger detailed how the Mitchell family adopted her and later bullied and mistreated her after having their biological daughter.

The former nanny of the Mitchell family testified that they often beat and scolded young Becky, sometimes withholding food and even depriving her of a warm blanket during winter, making her shiver and fall ill repeatedly.

CHAPTER 198

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When Becky was seven years old, she was tricked by Janet and left alone in the wilderness. The young Becky ran along the road for a long time until she was found by kind villagers who took her to the police station before she could go home.

In school, Janet spread rumors about Becky to isolate her from her classmates.

Becky's SAT score was excellent. However, the Mitchell family changed her plans, forbidding her from applying to a prestigious university, and forcing her to attend a subpar college in a remote area.

The most absurd event occurred during Becky's junior year when Theodore became a vegetable due to a car accident. The Mitchell family, anxious to find a girl for Theodore, pressured Becky to marry him to gain the high-value gifts and project benefits from the Edwards family.

Three years later, after being in a vegetative state, Theodore woke up, and Janet fell in love with him at first sight. Janet knew Theodore was her brother-in-law, but she shamelessly pursued him and naturally asked Becky for a divorce so that she could be with him.

Stacey glanced at the news and quickly read through it. The painful memories buried deep in her heart seemed to have little effect on her now..

But her indifference didn't mean the majority of netizens felt the same way. These events were exposed by vigilant internet users after Janet's downfall. They were brought to light, scrutinized by everyone, and dealt with by the hand of justice.

All the netizens were furious. The whole country's netizens expressed concern for her, and many people privately reached out to comfort her.

Stacey's messages were filled with concern and love from her fans and netizens. She read them for a long time until Hayden texted her, saying he had something to do that night and couldn't have dinner with them. He advised them to eat without waiting for him.

Realizing it was already dinnertime, Stacey quickly turned off her computer, stood up, and walked out. She then called her mom for dinner.

Lillian and Kevin were thrilled when they heard it was time to eat. The whole family gathered and headed out together, but as soon as they opened the door, they encountered a woman standing outside—Queenie.

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Stacey was taken aback, and the smile on her face vanished.

Queenie looked at Stacey and said seriously, "Ms. Carter, can we have a moment alone?"

Debra hurriedly stepped forward and said, "Are we familiar with you? What is there to talk about?" Then, Debra urged Stacey, "Becky, let's go. Lillian and Kevin are hungry. If you don't eat now, the babies will cry,"

"I drank milk already!" Kevin quickly shouted, feeling that his grandma was mistaken. Just a little while ago, the maid had prepared milk powder for the children, so they weren't very hungry.

Debra looked helpless and pinched Kevin's cheek playfully. "So, Kevin doesn't want to eat delicious food later?"

"I want to eat it!" Kevin responded anxiously.

"I want to eat it too!" Lillian chimed in eagerly.

Debra snorted lightly and urged, "Since you want to eat, let's go quickly. Don't waste time here with irrelevant people."

"You... You know who I am right? I'm Hayden's ex-wife. My name is Queenie. I have a child with Hayden," Queenie interrupted coldly.

Debra sneered, "So, Ms. Leavey, you stopped us to say something?"

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Seeing their arrogant demeanor, Queenie felt anger rise within her and scolded, "Is it so great to be a mistress? Your husband has a mistress, and you're here pretending to be superior..."

Debra slapped Queenie across the face. "Who is seducing someone else's husband here? Please understand that Becky and her ex-husband are divorced, and you and Hayden have been divorced for three years! How do you think she can be the 'mistress' you mentioned? On the contrary, when you were still married, you wanted to elope with your sweetheart. In fact, you even considered having an abortion after seven months of pregnancy! What? Now you can't stay with your so-called true love? That man abandoned you and you're expecting your ex-husband to accept you again? What kind of man do you think Hayden is? You really think he'll take in all kinds of rubbish

Queenie was shocked; she couldn't believe it. She looked up at Debra, her anger boiling over. 'How dare they hit me? They've crossed the line! Queenie thought and felt that as the original wife, she was in the right. Unable to contain herself, she rushed at Debra, attempting to pull her hair and hit her. But she underestimated Debra.

Instead of backing down, Debra reached out and pulled Queenie aside. Queenie stumbled, nearly losing her balance. Fortunately, it was just a little close; after all, Queenie didn't have any deep grievances with the Carter family, as she had already slapped her back for insulting Becky. Debra felt there was no need to be too harsh on this woman now. After all, Queenie was also Jeremy's mother, and even for little Jeremy's sake, she felt some respect for Queenie.

"Don't mess with us; I'm good at combat skills, Debra warned coldly, her alertness evident.

Queenie blinked in shock, thinking. 'How could this woman possibly know combat skills? She turned to look at Stacey, bewildered.

Debra remained on guard and stated, "Queenie, you'd better not try to take advantage of my daughter. After Becky divorced, I arranged boxing classes for her. Although she may not be as good as me right now, she's definitely better than you."

Queenie's face changed dramatically, her expression extremely ugly.

Debra was done talking. Becky was soft-hearted, and she feared that if Becky spoke any longer with Queenie, she might hesitate to accept Hayden's kindness.

"Becky, let's go," Stacey said directly, glancing at her daughter.

Stacey nodded and followed her mother.

The maid had a hold of Lillian and Kevin. At that moment, both children couldn't help but gaze curiously at the strange woman in front of them.

Finally, the family entered the elevator. As the doors closed, Lillian suddenly exclaimed, "Mom, I remembered that aunt looks like Jeremy!"

Stacey didn't say anything.

Debra remained silent, quietly observing her daughter's expression. Though Becky didn't say anything, Debra could feel that Queenie's presence had stirred something within Becky, causing her heart to once again close off to Hayden, just when it finally seemed like it was starting to open up.

CHAPTER 199

They left the hotel together and found a nice restaurant for dinner.

During the meal, Debra quietly watched her daughter. Sure enough, she noticed that Stacey was much quieter than usual. Debra felt helpless. But they couldn't rush this kind of thing; they might as well make the best of it. Thinking this, Debra filled Stacey's plate with a lot of food and urged her, 'Eat more. heard this kind of food is very nutritious and good for your

skin.

Stacey replied, "Huh?"

"Me too!" Kevin chimed in eagerly, grabbing a small spoon and trying to scoop up the food that his grandmother had just served.

Lillian got anxious seeing her little brother do that and raised her spoon to join in as well.

Stacey quickly intervened, guiding the two children away to prevent them from knocking over the table. Debra didn't help. she just watched her daughter manage the kids. Sometimes, when she was busy, it was easier not to think about too much, and she would feel better.

After dinner, Debra took Stacey shopping. The experience was enjoyable. Debra pushed Stacey into the fitting room to try on various outfits. Although Stacey liked shopping, she wasn't as enthusiastic as her mom.

After an evening of fun, when they finally decided to head back, the entire family was clearly in a good mood but also very tired. They made a beeline for their rooms to shower and sleep.

The

the next day, the family planned to take the children to the amusement park.

Hayden was busy with work and had to negotiate several partnerships, so he couldn't join them. Instead, Stacey and Debra took the kids to the park.

When they arrived, the car stopped at the entrance to the amusement park. Many children surrounded them, and Lillian and Kevin's eyes lit up with excitement at their surroundings.

Stacey first took the children to buy balloons. The moment Lillian got a balloon, her happiness seemed to double! Suddenly, Lillian noticed a girl with white hair nearby. Mesmerized, she stared at her curiously. When Stacey realized this, she quickly squatted down and covered Lillian's eyes. "Lillian, you can't stare at her like this. It's rude, okay?"

"Mom, that girl is so beautiful. She looks just like an angel!" Lillian exclaimed, not really paying attention to her mother's warning, taken aback by the girl's beauty.

Stacey smiled. To many, albinism might be seen as a condition, but she found it beautiful. Whenever she encountered someone with albinism, she couldn't help but be captivated by their unique charm— the way Lillian described it: an angel from heaven wandering into the world.

However, many albinos can be sensitive and may feel uncomfortable being stared at.

Well, yes

again.

she is pretty. But Lillian, you can't stare at others like that; it is considered rude, okay?" Stacey reminded her

"Why?" Kevin asked, not quite understanding.

"She looks good, just like the girl in cartoons!" Kevin added excitedly.

WAN.

Stacey thought for a moment and said, "Maybe she doesn't like being stared at?"

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"I'm okay with it." A child's clear voice suddenly piped up nearby. Stacey was stunned and turned to find the little albino girl, who had just been stared at by Lillian, had approached them and said this seriously.

Stacey quickly looked up at the girl. She was adorable, with skin and hair as white as snow due to albinism. Her features were delicate and beautiful, almost angelic.

The little girl turned to Lillian and smiled, then stretched out her hand and said earnestly, "Hello, my name is Loretta Hoggard."

"Loretta Hoggard?" Stacey was surprised. "Are you Zentiscape too?" she asked out of curiosity.

At that moment, a stunning woman rushed over. She grabbed Loretta's hand and scolded her gently, "Loretta! You're running around again!"

"Marissa?" Debra exclaimed, recognizing the woman.

Hearing her name, Marissa looked up and smiled at Debra. "Debra, you're here! Hayden told me I'd be accompanying you to the amusement park today. I own this amusement park, so you can enjoy it for free!" Marissa turned to Stacey and added, with a smile, "Are you Becky? Nice to meet you. I'm Hayden's cousin, Marissa!"

Stacey quickly reached out to shake hands with Marissa. "Hello.

Marissa kept looking at Stacey and, after a moment, smiled and said, "Becky, we met when we were kids. We were great friends back then. You loved playing with me the most. Do you remember?"

Stacey was speechless. She truly didn't remember any events that took place before she was three years old.

"Becky was too young to remember, Debra said with a smile. She felt a pang of discomfort at the memory. If only Becky had been older when she got lost, she might have remembered her family and home and could have found her way back. Unfortunately, she was too little to recall anything back then.

"I'm sorry, I... I don't remember much about my childhood, Stacey admitted, feeling a bit embarrassed. However, hearing that they had been friends made her less anxious.

"Why are you in Daprein? You still live here... Stacey remarked, admiring the amusement park. "It's amazing that you opened such a big park!"

Loretta quickly interjected, “Hmph! I only opened this amusement park. There’s nothing else!”

Marissa was momentarily speechless. She looked down at her daughter and said, somewhat frustrated, “Loretta, if you don’t let me off the hook for one day, that would just be too much trouble for you, right?”

Loretta scoffed playfully. “Hit me! I’ll tell Dad if you hit me!”

Marissa sighed, exasperated.

Loretta then turned her attention to Lillian and Kevin and beamed, “You’re Lillian and you’re Kevin, right? My uncle showed me your photos. You look so cute, and I like you!” With that, she reached out to hold the hands of Lillian and Kevin.

Taken by surprise, Lillian—who had initially admired the beautiful girl—quickly reached out her little hand and eagerly grabbed Loretta’s.

“Angel, you are so beautiful!” Lillian said sincerely, holding Loretta’s hand.

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Kevin nodded in agreement and added. “Yeah, you look good!” Kevin spoke, he reached out his little hand, curious, wanting to touch the hair of this pretty girl with white hair. She really was beautiful.

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CHAPTER 200

Loretta took the initiative to grab a handful of her hair and placed it gently in Kevin’s hand. “You can watch!” she said happily. Although she didn’t appreciate the way some people looked at her, she felt a connection with Lillian and Kevin.

Surprised by the softness and uniqueness of Loretta’s hair, Kevin examined it closely, his eyes wide with curiosity.

“Shall we go play together? I’m familiar with this place. Let me take you there!” Loretta exclaimed enthusiastically, and before long, she led Lillian and Kevin deeper into the amusement park.

Gwen and Marie hurriedly followed behind. Having had previous experiences with lost children, the Carter family was vigilant, ensuring their kids were always within sight.

Wherever the children went, there were adults close by, even maternity matrons. They needed to keep a close watch.

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“Becky, Marissa, keep talking. I’ll take care of the baby,” Debra said to Stacey and Marissa.

Stacey felt a sense of relief. With Marissa around, she wouldn’t be left alone. But worry creased her brow as she watched the kids leave her sight.

It turned out that even in her own amusement park, Marissa felt the need to keep an eye on her children, leading her to quickly follow along.

“You were adorable when you were a child. Lillian is kind of like you,” Marissa said with a smile, her eyes sparkling with nostalgia.

Stacey looked at Marissa and couldn’t help asking, “So, why did you decide to run an amusement park here?” Her curiosity piqued, she added, “Your husband—he’s from this side, right?”

Marissa nodded. “Yeah, Joey and I met because of Hayden. He was so kind to me that I eventually married him.”

Stacey admired the light in Marissa’s eyes as she spoke. “You must be really happy in your marriage, right?”

Marissa chuckled, “How do you know?”

“Your eyes tell me everything,” Stacey replied, giving her an encouraging smile.

Marissa’s expression softened. “Well, yes, Joey and I have been married for many years, and our love has only grown stronger. He’s always been wonderful to me. She paused for a moment and continued, “You know, I think my greatest luck was meeting Joey. I found someone who truly loves me. So... even when I discovered he had albinism, I still married him without a second thought.”

Stacey looked at Marissa with new admiration.

Marissa smiled, her expression earnest. “Albinism isn’t an illness It’s just a lack of melanin. It’s frustrating to see them discriminated against simply because they look different from others. Honestly, those who label my husband and daughter as having a disease are the ones who truly have issues. Do they have any real shortcomings besides their beautiful white hair and fair skin?” Marissa asked confidently. “No!”

Marissa beamed with confidence, expressing her admiration for her family. “Becky, you know what? I just adore my and daughter! They have snow–white hair and fair skin like angels. What’s wrong with that?”

Stacey smiled, fully agreeing. “Yes, it’s really beautiful.”

husband

Marissa paused, turning to Stacey with an amused glint in her eye. “Becky, I believe what you say is beautiful comes from your heart. You genuinely like it

Stacey felt a blush creeping to her cheeks. “Am I really that obvious?”

Marissa laughed. “Quite!” Stacey found herself quite helpless about it.

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“Come on, let’s go play together! Amusement parks aren’t just for kids; we’re big kids too!” Marissa said with a bright smile.

Stacey was taken aback.

Marissa then took her hand and led her forward. As they approached, Marissa playfully shouted to her daughter, “Loretta! Becky and I are going to ride the merry–go–round!”

Loretta’s attention was immediately caught, and she rushed over alongside Kevin, eager to join her mother and her new

friend.

Kevin quickly followed his sister. Young and still very attached to the adults, he wanted to play alongside his mother as well.

Loretta found herself being dragged away by the little ones. While she was tired of the amusement park, she thought it would be more fun to play with them than alone. Ultimately, she conceded and let herself be led in front of the merry–go– round.

At the entrance, Marissa shot her daughter a playful, challenging look. Loretta’s expression shifted from annoyance to fury. “What’s wrong with wanting to play on the merry–go–round? I bet I’m better than you at this!” she retorted

Marissa laughed, “Of course not! I’m the most beautiful one here. You got your looks from me, Loretta! You inherited my genes!

Loretta could only huff, exasperated, I’m angry, but how do I even argue with you?”

Meanwhile, Lillian and Kevin, still too young to venture off alone, stuck close to the adults. Debra and Stacey both held a child in each arm, getting settled as everyone found their spots.

Marissa turned to Loretta with a grin. "Do you want me to go with you?"

"No way!" Loretta declared, anger still lingering in her voice, before hopping onto the merry-go-round.

Stacey watched, a bit concerned. "Will she fall playing by herself she wondered aloud.

Loretta reassured her with a smile. "It's okay! I have a seat belt."

After a moment's reflection, Stacey chose to let it go. However, watching Loretta and Marissa bicker so playfully made Stacey ponder about her own children. 'Will Lillian and Kevin grow up teasing and challenging me like that?' She pushed the thought away, reasoning that she had a different personality than Marissa. Even if Lillian had her moments of stubbornness, she wouldn't purposely provoke her like that.

Meanwhile, Debra had arranged for a professional photographer to capture their memories.

With Stacey holding Kevin and Debra with Lillian, they posed happily for photos. The merry-go-round spun in the background as the photographer clicked away, freezing their joy in time.

After the merry-go-round, they explored many other attractions together.

Given Lillian and Kevin's tender age, they were not suitable for some rides with too many participants. Marissa generously cleared the area for the kids, allowing them to have some solo playtime.

Later, they gathered for lunch at one of the park's restaurants.

Loretta enthusiastically shared her knowledge of the delicacies available, eagerly introducing Lillian and Kevin to all the

treats.

Both children were undeniably food lovers. When they heard about the menu from Loretta, their eyes lit up with

excitement.

Stacey, keen to let them sample the delights, ordered a variety of dishes, careful to limit how much they ate at once. She was cautious about how their little sto

