

# **Mr. President You Are The Daddy Of My Triplets**

## **Chapter 131-135**

Released on August 9, 2024

131 131- Blind Trust

“So, you acting crazy because you had this nightmare last night? Come on, Marissa,” Sophie handed over the Diet Coke can to her and took the place beside her on the couch.

Kids were still with their daddy, giving the girls enough time to catch up.

“So, you think that I’m crazy?” Marissa asked and squinted one eye as a whizzing sound escaped from the can she was opening.

Flint, reading an old newspaper, folded it and placed it on his lap, “You used to have these nightmares when you left Sangua,” he reminded her in concern and took off his reading glasses too, “and they continued until a couple of weeks back...”

Marissa nodded and took a sip of the fizzy drink.

“This time my gut feeling is so strong, Flint,” she pulled her hair in a fist, “I think Nina and Valerie are up to something. At the moment, my top priority is my kids.”

“That’s why you said no for this date?” Sophie asked her but Flint was the one who responded to

it.

Flint looked puzzled, “Date? Am I missing something?”

“They were supposed to have dinner tonight because it was her birthday and she ruined it,” Sophia explained to him, “Rafael so wanted to take her.

She said throwing a cushion on Marissa’s lap.

“He must be mad about it,” Flint placed his reading glasses back on his nose and got hold of his

newspaper.

Marissa started shaking her head, “Ah! Flash news, Grandpa. He wasn’t mad at all!”

With a frown, Flint took off his glasses again and eyed the girls sitting on the couch.

“Rafael was all cool about it?”

“Yeah. He keeps treating her with so much gentleness...” Sophie had a dreamy look in her eyes, “I’m trying hard not to break the sister code here otherwise I could have stolen him and never returned to anyone.”

This time Marissa was the one who tossed the cushion back at her, “Brat!”

“Are you scared of them, Marissa?” Flint asked her softly. For his age, there weren’t that many wrinkles on his face but the way he sacrificed his privacy and let Marissa in along with her three kids. Marissa was obliged to him.

“For kids? Yes, I am. But do you want to know the best thing about that dream?” she said with a laugh, “I almost chewed her finger.”

She chugged down all her drink from the can and placed it aside on the couch.

When the doorbell rang, Sophie closed her eyes as if she didn’t hear it, “I’m not taking it. I’m asleep. My sleep is too deep...”

131 131–Bland Trust

Marissa gave a playful punch on her shoulder and got up to get the door.

The delivery guy handed over the pizza to Marissa along with the bill.

“Guys! Who ordered pizza?” she placed the boxes on the table.

“Oh. How could I forget pizza? I did,” Sophie face palmed and got to her feet.

“I have paid. You can rest the

your royal ass, back on the sofa, Marissa teased and went to

kitchen to fetch the plates.

Sophia hungrily grabbed a slice and started eating it like a beast, “Oh. I love pizza,”

Her eyes rolled back in her head.

“And in the morning, you drink those herbal teas to get rid of the tire around your midriff,” Marissa mocked her again.

She could never understand why Sophic made her weight an issue when she was smart and was in much better shape than Marissa.

"I'm thinking of joining a gym," Marissa stated nibbling on her pizza, "This weight isn't shedding off after the kids. And then my poor diet choices..." she showed the slice to her friends.

Flint was least interested in pizza.

"Don't worry about poor diet choices, Sophie took out another big slice from the box, "Pizza is the healthiest junk according to a new survey report"

Flint started laughing and hid his face behind the paper.

"I'm serious, Grandpa, Sophie passed them a warning glare, "just look at the amount of cheese, veggies, and chicken. Proteins, dairy, vitamins. Everything is there."

"Yeah. With loads of carbs! You need a doctor, Dr. Sophie.

"No, I don't!" Sophie snapped in 'Ariel style' making them crack up with mirth.

After the banter, Marissa felt much better. Otherwise, Nina and Valerie had almost given her a heart attack last night.

"And the way Rafael calmed me?" she thought to herself.

This time when her phone started buzzing, Marissa rested her head back, "It's in my room and you are bringing it, Sophie."

Sophie groaned in frustration, "Urgh! On it."

She left the room stomping her feet and returned with Marissa's phone..

"Dean is calling you," she said giving the phone to Marissa.

Why will he call me at night when we are already meeting tomorrow morning?

Thinking this to herself, she received the call, "Yes, Dean! Hi!

"Hey, Marissa. Can you come tomorrow early morning? I mean before the usual arrival time?"

Marissa mouthed Sophie silently for another Diet Coke can "Wha? le mon

131 131–Blind Trust

"Nothing serious. Tomorrow is off for all the employees. I have asked Delinda too to come early and lock your foodstuff if there is any. Or maybe take it home.

“Tomorrow is off?” she pressed her phone between her shoulder and neck and took hold of the Coke can, Sophie brought for her, “Why off? And why are we supposed to move the edibles away?”

“I don’t know. Our CEO seems to have become paranoid. He wants an immediate fumigation tomorrow. The office needs to be closed for twenty–four hours. We are planning to open the offices late on Tuesday.”

Marissa’s mouth opened in an O shape.

“Fumigation? What’s this about? Mice?” she folded her legs under her and took a chug from the can.

“Nah. I don’t know why he wants to do it. He gave some strange excuse.

“Strange excuse?” she asked Dean but could feel Flint’s and Sophia’s eyes on her.

“Yeah. He thinks our offices have snakes.

What? Snakes?

“O.M.G!”

“Yeah. I know. Please come early and remove those food packages, especially the ones that are not canned.”

“Sure, Dean. See you later.

She placed the phone down and eyed her friends.

“What happened?” Flint inquired.

\*Rafael has ordered the entire MSin building fumigated. The excuse is kind of strange... he thinks that there are snakes in the office.

Flint curved down his lips, “Snakes?”

Sophia covered her mouth with her palm, “Oh,

Flint and Marissa both turned to her, “What?”

my God!

\*Do you even remember what you told him this morning when you said no to the date, Mar?" Marissa still had confusion on her face.

"You, dummy. You said there are snakes in his office. The man trusts you blindly, Marissa. And yet you keep convincing us that he is with you just because of kids."

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132 132–Y–You?

Marissa kept tossing and turning in her bed. Rafael had stayed back in the hotel and the kids. were staying with him.

And here she was! Doing nothing but missing him.

She looked at the space beside her, her hand landed on the mattress, and started stroking the

space.

"You are still that charming man who used to speak to me so gently when I was your sister-in-law," She said in a hushed tone, "I never knew about this side of yours Rafael. There might be sexual tension between us. But I'm not willing to give up on the lust part, taking a long sigh she lay straight, staring at the ceiling.

"I wish... I wish we had met under different circumstances. We might be good friends."

She thought with a pout.

The way he was caring towards her and the way he used to look at her and smile at her and breathe...

His every action had got class.

However, the reality was harsh. He had a wife back home and Marissa didn't want to jeopardize her relationship further.

She was already in a mess.

And the man was trying hard to clean this mess for her.

"I knew you must be awake," she heard Sophia from the doorway but didn't look at her.

I'm missing him," this must be the first time she was confiding in her friend so openly about what she felt for Rafael.

Sophia walked inside and headed to the bed. After settling herself, she covered her body with the quilt almost pulling it from Marissa.

“So, what’s stopping you. Mar?” she asked her friend and placed the pillow on her lap.

“He is married, Sophie!”

“He is married to you,”

“But nobody knows about it.”

“You know about it, Mar. He also believes it now. Don’t you see how he goes above and beyond to make you happy and comfortable around him? Or are you blind?”

“I’m not blind, Sophie. But why would I be his bed partner when he is still with my sister? I went back to him because of kids.”

When Sophie didn’t speak, Marissa gave her a tightlipped smile. “You know, what’s worst? I don’t know if I even deserve the divorce. Because there is nothing that can prove that we married

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itz

132 132–Y–You?

“And now what’s next, Mar?”

“Nothing,” Marissa chuckled sarcastically, “I don’t have anything except my kids, and I need to protect them and do anything for their safety. Someday I need to tell, Rafael that his mom and wife are a threat to the kids. If he believes me, then we are good. If he won’t then I’ll run away once again to some faraway country and will return once they turn eighteen.

“Uh, huh!” Sophie threw her arm over her friend’s shoulders and squeezed her, “Now no need to be Indiana Jones. I think he’ll believe you.”

“You think so?” Marissa propped herself up on her elbow, “Because, what I have learned, Valerie and Nina are the biggest manipulators and can easily turn any situation in their favor.”

“That was five years ago, Mar. Back then you were naïve. But not anymore. Remember how you chewed Valerie’s finger in that dream? Did you do any such thing in any of your nightmares before?”

Marissa shook her head, not able to speak anything.

“See? You are a mama bear. And nobody can even bat an eye on your kids. Just remember to take

a dentist appointment, Marissa watched her friend’s face in bewilderment.

“What has the dentist got to do with all this?”

“Silly! Chewing Valerie’s finger won’t be an easy task. Just keep your teeth ready. Make them sharper.

Throwing back her head, Marissa laughed loudly.

Sophie was right. She needed a good dentist indeed.

Holding Ethan’s hand Valerie left the dining room of the hotel. She wanted to sleep early as tomorrow she needed to be at MSin.

This was a five–star hotel. There was a seven–star hotel in Kanderton, but its occupancy was so high that they couldn’t get rooms there.

“Let’s call it a night, Ethan,” Valerie said glancing sideways as they walked, “We have an early.

start at MSin tomorrow.”

Ethan squeezed her hand, “I know, love. Don’t worry. I won’t keep you awake.”

Valerie chuckled softly, shaking her head, “It’s not crowded anymore. Otherwise yesterday I didn’t want to leave my room.”

H

“Must be due to the weekend. Now it’s ending so thankfully we can have more privacy here,” He then turned to her with furrowed brows, “Nervous about tomorrow?”

“Nah!” she fanned back her hair over her shoulder, “Why would I be? When I’ve got you side.

They stopped for a minute because Ethan now wanted to kiss her.

by my

132 132–Y–You?

“Ethan. We are standing in the hotel lobby” she said laughingly but instead of giving her a chance to argue further he started kissing her.

“You are getting bolder day by day,” she rolled her eyes making him chuckle.

He pinched her cheek, “Yeah. I want to be bold when you are around.”

They kept roaming around in an attempt to discover the hotel that didn’t have much to offer.

“Tomorrow will be an exciting day for me!” she exclaimed with a shrug and squeezed her eyes in delight.

She was sure whoever the woman was must not be as beautiful as her. If she had kids, she must be ugly and if she had multiple kids then she must be fat and ugly.

Rafael was a desirable man and might have slipped for that woman temporarily. But now Valerie wanted to remind that woman of her place.

These low-class bimbos think that they could steal a guy and then keep milking him for his property, money, diamond jewelry, and expensive gifts.

Holding her by her waist, Ethan started walking to the elevator.

As the elevator doors slid open, Valerie froze, catching her breath in her throat.

Standing inside the elevator was Nina, wearing a stern expression on her face.

The moment Nina’s eyes landed on Valerie she also went still.

“V...Valerie? Y-you?”

“N...Nina? Y-You?”

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133 133- White Palace In Wife’s Name

Nina’s brows knitted into several lines when she saw a handsome man standing behind Valerie, “What are you doing here?” she then regarded her daughter-in-law from head to toe, “You are all tan. And who is this man with you?” she demanded, and Valeric could detect doubts in her condescending tone.

She raised a brow and her lips curled up unto a smirk, “Why, Nina? Do I have to inform you what I’m doing in the city where my husband lives? By the way, meet Ethan. My... lawyer.”

“Lawyer? What bullshit is this? You are in your husband’s city without your husband, girl. That too with a man who you are calling a lawyer. He might be a lawyer. But you are a Liar. Ha–ha!” Nina then turned to Ethan and smiled at him, “I didn’t know that lawyers nowadays are babysitting rich family daughters–in–law.”

Ethan’s face flushed and Valerie narrowed her eyes while looking at her mother–in–law, “And why are you here? For giving your unsolicited fashion advice to random people? Calling them liars? I would love to have a look at your Miserable’s collection, Nina.”

She didn’t want to back off. She might be in hot waters due to the presence of Ethan. He was found with her but thankfully due to her cleverness, they had booked separate rooms.

Nina wasn’t expecting such rude responses from Valerie. She had been a very sweet and good. daughter–in–law. Her eyes flashed with anger, “At least that’s my collection. I’m a career woman and not like spending any man’s hard–earned money. Just look at you.”

Ethan looked around as he could see both the women were attracting attention. They both were trying to keep their voices low but still, they were failing miserably.

“Rafael is my husband, and I can spend his money the way I please, Nina. We all know how you started your OWN business...” Valerie rolled her eyes.

“Yeah,” Nina smirked, “at least I don’t need to drag around a puppy for my OWN business. Who else is enjoying Rafael’s money besides you? Is it just one lawyer or the whole bar? Ha–ha!”

Good one! Ethan thought to himself with a subtle smile.

Valerie took a step closer to the older lady, “Better a puppy than a leech. Tell me, Nina. Are you here because of Rafael or that woman? Or is it your old urge to keep an eye on me?”

Ethan looked at the girl standing behind Nina who now had a bored look on her face.

Nina folded her arms on her chest, her jaw clenched, “Ah. Coming from someone who can’t keep her man interested?”

By now Valerie’s smile had turned icy, “Oh. Don’t worry about my man... your man already died due to a heart attack. We don’t know how much tensed he must be from your...”

“Enough!” Nina’s hand raised in the air as she was about to slap Valerie when Ethan was quick to hold her wrist.

“Ma’am. Please,” he then turned to Valerie, “Maybe we should sit somewhere and...”

133 133- White Palace In Wife’s Name

“Stay out of it!” both women snapped at him with a glare.

Nina turned her attention to Valerie, “I guess you are planning to come to MSin tomorrow. Am I right?”

For a minute Valerie felt as if she had gone mute. Why was Nina asking this question? Was she planning to visit MSin too?

“If you are planning any such thing Valerie then let me remind you. I’m his mom and hold a top position in MSin. I hold fifteen percent of the shares,” She announced proudly.

Valerie’s smile was pure venom. She didn’t feel any more respect for her mother-in-law, “Spoiler alert, Nina. Not anymore. Because I wasn’t there to compete with you,” She then noticed a frail girl behind Nina, “Who is she? Are you into girls now? Ha-ha!”

Nina’s face turned beet red with insult, “Are you out of your mind? Do you even know what you are saying? She is my assistant Geena. Better behave yourself.”

A suited man who must be the manager of the hotel approached them with a polite smile, “Ma’am. Can you take your meeting somewhere else? We have got empty conference rooms. Our guests might get disturbed.”

He said while fixing his tie.

“Seriously?” this time Nina had to struggle with that friendly smile, “Do you even know who I am? Nina Sinclair. The leading designer.”

Nina couldn’t believe it when the manager gave her a confused grin, “I’m sorry. I’m not much into fashion. Maybe my wife knows you.... can you please move to a conference room or go back to your rooms...”

Nina’s eyes were blazing with anger, “If you don’t know me then you clearly don’t know this young woman too. She is a nobody and couldn’t make any name for herself.

The poor manager this time turned to Valerie, “Who are you, ma’am?”

Valerie smirked confidently, “Ever heard Rafael Sinclair’s name? President of MSin? I’m his beloved wife.”

His eyes were wide in disbelief, “My, my. Rafael Sinclair? Who doesn’t know him? You should have told me before that you are his wife. Don’t forget to take a voucher for your next visit to our hotel.

Valerie wanted to laugh hard. Why was she never this confident before? Why did she allow Nina to bully her so openly?

Look how she was winning by just using her brains!

She so wanted to pass a secret glance to Ethan because she was sure he must be proud of her.

The manager had gone back and the fire in Nina’s eyes was enough to set the hotel on fire.

“Now no more arguments, Nina. I’m his wife and I deserve the best,” she flipped her hair behind her shoulder in style and rolled her eyes.

133 133- White Palace in Wile’s Name

to buy the most expensive property in Kanderton. Once I’ll buy it, I won’t need my son’s name for the recognition. So, keep enjoying his name and his money,” she walked past her but then stopped, glancing sideways, “And yes. Be prepared on Monday. Let’s see who MSin employees.

listen to.”

With that Nina headed out along with her assistant leaving them behind, staring at her back.

Valerie was pacing around in the room like a wild cat. All she wanted to do was try her claws on

Nina’s face.

All this time, when she thought that she was only worried about that woman who was in Rafael’s life, Nina had increased her worries, tenfold.

“Can you please sit down, honey?” Ethan had followed her into the room and was now observing her while sitting on the edge of the bed.

“How dare she talk to me like that? See, how she was trying to insult me. Thankfully the manager knew me!” she wanted to kill her mother-in-law.

The look on Nina’s face refreshed in her mind when she was shocked to hear that Manager knew

Valeric but never heard of Nina. Ha-ha.

Thankfully Ethan remained calm, watching her carefully, "Honey. Please" he got up and walked to her holding her by her arms tightly, "Just take a deep breath. Ok? I promise we'll figure this out together."

Valerie shoved his arms away and looked at him, "Figure this out? She is clearly planning to take over MSin. She is no less a witch. Rafael's strings are in her hand. It won't be an easy war, Ethan. And then her plans to buy that expensive property..."

She then stopped for a minute and held her forehead with one hand, "Ethan. Ca...can you look for me? What's the location of the most expensive property in Kanderton?"

Ethan nodded, his expression serious, "I'll look into it right now..."

He took out his phone from his pocket and started scrolling and searching the property site.

"Here it is!" he showed her a picture, "White Palace. It was built by a businessman for his son but unfortunately, the son died in an accident."

Valerie was impressed. The White Palace was a work of art.

"Is there any contact number mentioned?"

"Yes. There is. Let me talk."

He dialed the numbers and waited for the call to be picked up, "Maybe they won't take the call because their working hours must have ended by now..."

He was about to cut the call when someone received it.

"Hey. Hello. My name is Ethan. This property... White palace. I need to know its details."

He stayed quiet and then found Valerie staring at him. He sent her a flying kiss and kept

133 133- White Palace In Wife's Name

listening to this man.

When the call ended, he shook his head.

"They just sold it three days back," Valerie felt disappointment surging through her heart.

“Ask them if we can buy it after paying them slightly more than the market rate.”

Ethan shook his head, “The man who bought it already paid the owner thrice the price as the owner wasn’t interested in selling it. This buyer wants to gift White Palace to his wife.” “Damn!” Valerie made a pout, “he must be into this woman. Tomorrow when I’ll go to MSin, I’ll ask Rafael to buy it for me. He is the only one who can afford to pay this much amount.”

“But the man who bought it will never sell it if it’s for his wife.”

“Oh, come on, Ethan,” she went closer to him and tied her arms around his neck, “Don’t you know everything has a price? If Rafael sets his mind on something, he can make it happen, no matter what the cost is.”

“I know,” he said softly, slowly pushing away her arms, “But the property is NOT in his name. It’s in his wife’s name.”

Valerie scrunched her nose. Who is this man? Husbands usually do give expensive gifts and properties to their partners.

But they never make their wives legal owners.

The man seemed to be madly in love with his wife. She wanted to meet the couple.

Released on August 9, 2024

134 134- Small Punches

You are such a fool, Marissa, Sophie told her while taking the left turn and then hitting the

brakes, “The man thinks his office has snakes and is now ready to fumigation the whole damn place. Who does that?” a

Marissa looked out of the passenger seat window where she could see one or two customers. through the glass door sitting in the café, “Why exactly are we here?”

She asked Sophie when saw her unbuckling the seat belt.

“To dance! Of course, we’ll have coffee along with donuts, Goofball,” she got out of the car and stood outside with a hand on her hip.

Marissa drummed her fingers for a few moments. She didn’t want to try her friend’s patience who was already pissed for declining Rafael’s date due to the nightmare.

“Are you coming out or do I need to drag you out? Marissa sighed and freed herself from the belt. Her friend was acting like a drill sergeant.

They needed to reach the office to move the foodstuff to a safe place. Before that Marissa was supposed to deliver the laptop to Rafael at his hotel.

Kids spent the night with him, and she and Sophie slept late after chatting.

“I don’t want to get late for the office, Marissa slammed the car door and earned a glare from

Sophia whose car was a kiddo to her.

“Sorry,” she mumbled.

“Not accepted,” Sophie snapped, “now buy me a coffee.

Marissa was more worried about Rafael who must be waiting for his laptop and then Dean who must be waiting for her at MSin.

“Don’t worry, Ms. Punctual. You’ll be on time. Just enjoy the coffee!” Sophic signaled a waiter to take their orders.

After telling him to bring donuts and croissants along with coffee, Sophie rested her arms on the coffee table, “I don’t understand one thing, she leaned over being a little secretive and Marissa had to bite back her smile. Sometimes Sophie acted as if she wasn’t a gynecologist but a

teenager.

“Why such secrecy when there is literally no one here, Sophie?”

“Yeah. Whatever. But answer me. Why did Rafael want ME to come along with YOU? It was just a laptop, and you could easily have delivered it.”

“Maybe because the office car wasn’t available,” Marissa shrugged, “and maybe he might want you to meet a hot guy in that hotel!”

Sophic slapped her hand, “Don’t tell me. I’m literally in my PJs. If that was the case, he should have informed me!

— —IL.

1M 134–Small Punches

wants to talk to you. After all, you two are friends now, She poked her finger on the back of her hand, "Gamer buddies! Huh!"

She teased her friend, but this was Sophie who couldn't be deterred easily.

"Yeah. We are gamer buddies! Jealous? Huh!"

The teasing had to stop when the waiter brought their orders.

Keeping in mind Marissa's punctuality, Sophie kept her eating pace fast.

"Come on. Let's deliver that laptop to your man and then head to the MSin office."

Marissa felt warmth spreading through her heart. Your man?

During the ride, she didn't speak much, and Sophie kept tilting her head to observe her friend. She might have canceled her date with Rafael but for some reason, she had been happy. Sophie knew the cause of this happiness.

he barged in her office and threatened her, she could still smile on the

Five years back the way he bar

memory.

Lately, he had been nothing but a gentleman.

Marissa must be blind not to notice it, but Rafael's eyes used to be glued to her wherever she went. What was she thinking? What was going on inside that mommy brain?

Rafael used to admire everything about her friend.

Still, they both were fools to think they were being together for the sake of kids.

After reaching the hotel's entrance, they were guided to the private parking lot for VIP guests. When she pulled over, a familiar figure approached their car and opened the door to Sophie's

side.

What

are you

you doing here in this parking lot?" she came out with a surprised look on her face and saw him going to Marissa's side to open the door for her.

"Just wanted to welcome you two," Rafael held Marissa's hand and helped her out. However, the smile on Sophia's lips vanished when he slammed the door.

"Rafael!" She screamed. Poor him wasn't expecting that warning glare.

"Sorry," his face broke into a smile as he pulled Marissa into his arms and kissed her.

"Hello! Mr. Rafael Sinclair. Your laptop is here!" Sophie rolled her eyes and then announced with a professional smile. She had to struggle a little to get it out from the back of the car.

These two love birds! Sigh!

"Sophie. Be a sweetheart and take it to the penthouse. It's marked as P on the elevator button."

"Seriously. Am I your delivery guy?" Sophic frowned at him whose eyes were still on Marissa.

"I know. Why don't you give me the car keys and I drop Marissa to the office?" he was asking Sophie, but his eyes were on Marissa's face, "You can enjoy the room service. He offered her,

"Urgh! You two disgust me," She huffed and threw the keys in the air before heading to the

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elevator.

Rafael caught them in mid-air quite expertly.

"Kids... are

S... are they alone?" Marissa asked him while trying to look at her friend. But what to do with her eyes when they wanted to keep staring at his face?

"No. They aren't alone," he held her face in his hands and leaned his forehead against hers, "God. It was just one night and how I missed you."

Marissa held his wrists and closed her eyes.

“We might get late if we keep standing here like this...” she reminded him softly.

“Umm hmm. Being late is not a bad thing, he muttered making her chuckle.

“Says a man who always taught me to be punctual,” the remark made him jerk his face up and Marissa found an odd expression crossing his features.

“Did I say something wrong?” they both were caught off guard when they saw a security guard. passing by.

“He might think we are here to do naughty things,” she giggled and this time his shoulders started shaking with mirth.

“What naughty things? For example?”

“Umm. For example, she made a face like she was thinking hard, “Like blow job?”

The seriousness with which she said it made him throw back his head and laugh hard, “Blow job? Seriously? I won’t mind it at all! Should we start now...” he kept laughing when she showered him with small punches.

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135 135- My number is...

“Urgh. So, they plan to have romance in my car and send me

accompany the kids. Smart move, Rafael”

to deliver this laptop. And t

She was still talking to herself when she stepped out of the elevator and rang the bell of the penthouse entrance.

“Who is this?” she heard a man’s voice inside.

Who was with the kids? Rafael never mentioned anyone here.

Oh my God! I hope the kids are safe.

Should I call Marissa?

No. She would panic.

How about hotel security?

“Who the fuck is this?” the man was annoyed and raised his voice a little. Sophia realized that it had a hint of sleepiness to it. She was still standing there in confusion when the door opened with a click and a man came out wearing a slick waffle robe with disheveled hair.

He was looking at her through half-closed eyes and Sophia thought she was familiar with the

face.

“Umm. I think I have knocked on the wrong door,” she showed him the laptop, “I needed to deliver it to Rafael Sinclair. No problem. I’ll ask the reception desk.”

She had turned on her heels when he quickly stopped her, “Hey. Did you say, Rafael Sinclair?” He rubbed his eyes with his fists and tried to open her eyes wide.

He even slapped his face a few times.

When he looked at her again his eyes turn into thin slits, “Y...you? Doctor Sophia?”

Sophia frowned, “Oh my God! Joseph?”

It dawned on her, what Rafael tried to do here. She wanted to strangle his neck.

For God’s sake. She was in PJs and didn’t even apply makeup.

“Please come he stepped aside and opened the door wider.

She was hesitant at first but now there was warmth in his eyes.

She entered the penthouse and couldn’t help but admire everything about this place. The décor was modern but sleek.

“If you haven’t arrived here yet, Marissa then you are missing so much, She thought to herself. Walking slowly, she went to the glass walls where the curtains were drawn back, offering the panoramic city view of Kanderton.

“It’s breathtaking, she glanced around and then turned to him, “You have great taste.”

He shook his head and stood right close to her. The credit goes to Rafael. I have got my house

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135 135- My number is...

here it's on twenty-ninth street. I hope you'll like it.

Was it a subtle invitation she detected in his tone?

He was now scratching the back of his neck awkwardly. She also felt a little clumsy standing like

this.

"Umm. I think... I should meet the kids and say hi. Where are they?" she looked around for the mini army who could wreck the place in minutes.

He chuckled softly, "They are sleeping. Slept late due to the movie night."

Sophia nodded with a nervous grin, "Right... umm. Then I think... I should go..."

"How did you get here?"

She pointed her thumb to the door, "By elevator,"

He tried to suppress the grin and rolled his lips between his teeth, "I'm talking about the hotel. How did you get here? Do you have a car?"

"Yeah. Rafael took it to drop Marissa to the office. Why?"

He shrugged and Sophia's eyes stuck on the low neckline of his robe that was widening with his every movement. It made her heart race as she tried to focus on the conversation.

He was saying something, and Sophia was staring at his mouth like a fool, "Wh...what... what did you say?"

He paused and regarded her face for a minute making her more nervous, "I'm saying..." he said softly, "How will you go back without your car? Why don't you wait for Rafael?"

"Yeah!" she nodded wildly and brushed her fingers through her hair, "you are so right." She wanted to ignore the warm sensation in her chest, but it was becoming too much.

"Would you like some breakfast? Or anything else you want from room service?" he offered her

with a smile.

"Nah! No need," she held up her hand, "I just had coffee."

"Are you sure? They make great omelet here,"

“N–No. Tha How to tell him that she gulped down those croissants and donuts before coming here? Urgh.

My tummy isn’t flat. Why?

Being a gynecologist how I used to guide everyone to stay on their diet and how I used to refer

them to a nutritionist.

This time she swore she would visit one herself. Her body needed a diet plan.

She was so engrossed in her thoughts that she realized that he was staring at her.

“Do you dye your hair?” the unexpected question was out of his mouth before he could stop himself. It caught her off guard.

“What?”

135 135- My number is....

“Y–Your hair color. It’s unique,”

“It’s unique because it’s dyed,” this time there was amusement in her voice. The corners of his mouth also curled up.

“I’m sorry for being a bad host. Please take a seat and excuse me for a minute. I need to go and change.”

“Why? You look fine!” she at last took a seat near the glass wall and folded her legs under her. There was so much ease in this action that he paused for a minute.

“Fine?” he looked down to examine his attire and she pinched the soft cloth of her cotton PJs, “You are looking better than me. At least you are not delivering the laptop like this.”

They both cracked up together.

Sophia felt the initial awkwardness melting away as he walked over and took another chair across from her.

He was handsome and thankfully had a good sense of humor.

“So, Dr. Sophia. Tell me who you are. And yes,” he got to his feet and went inside. When he returned, he had his phone in his hand, “this time I don’t want you to leave without giving your contact details. Now please...”

He waited for her to say the numbers.

Sophia grinned and sent a silent thanks to Rafael, "Sure. My number is..."