

Chapter 619 Hold The Tears Back

As Lindsey's words faded, her large eyes were brimming with unshed tears. Melissa enfolded her in a comforting embrace.

A pang of regret hit Melissa. Why had she insisted on bearing everything alone?

She was no longer the solitary figure she once was but someone cherished and adored.

Drawing both of her children close, she stroked their backs in gentle reassurance.

Nestling into Melissa's arms, Lindsey whispered in a trembling voice, "Mommy, will you stay with us tonight? I want to hear the story of Little Red Riding Hood."

Melissa bestowed a kiss on their foreheads, replying warmly, "Alright, I will read your bedtime stories tonight."

She led her children back to their room.

While Lindsey eagerly snuggled into Melissa's lap, Merrick lay at a distance, seemingly withdrawn.

Melissa spun the tale in a soothing lullaby of words, her voice a pathway guiding her children into the realm of dreams.

Truthfully, they had already heard Little Red Riding Hood many times. But it was their mother's comforting presence they craved, not the narrative itself.

Her presence was their sanctuary, her love their shield from the dark.

Perhaps no worldly possessions could hold a candle to a mother's love...

The following dawn, Melissa boarded the bus destined for the disaster-stricken area.

Everett, along with their children, were there to bid her goodbye.

Given the earthquake's aftermath, the rail lines were virtually crippled, leaving road and private transport as the only viable options.

Despite Everett's concerns about the jarring bus journey and his offer for a private helicopter, Melissa declined, deeming it overly conspicuous.

Fighting back their tears, the children gave Melissa an optimistic wave, not wanting their mother to bear any additional worries.

With a warm smile, Melissa mirrored their wave.

As Melissa's bus disappeared into the distance, Lindsey's brimming tears spilled over, soaking Everett's shirt. Merrick's eyes were moist, but he stubbornly held back his tears, striving to maintain his composure.

The sight of his children's masked sadness tugged at Everett's heartstrings. Melissa's departure affected them the most, yet they concealed their sorrow to ease their mother's mind.

With Melissa gone, their brave front crumbled, giving way to an outpouring of raw emotion.

Everett drew Lindsey close, patting her in an attempt to soothe her distress.

"Don't fret. Mommy's just off to aid the disaster victims. She'll return before you know it."

Between sniffles, Lindsey managed to say, "But I heard it's dangerous there. What if something happens to her?"

Sharing his sister's concern, Merrick added, "Plus, the network there isn't reliable. If she can't reach us, how will we know if she's okay?"

They were well aware of the challenging conditions in the disaster area.

Their understanding though simplified, only heightened their worries.



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