

Arissa handed the completed forms to Robert. "Mr. William, please check and see if I missed out anything."

"Sure!" Robert handed it over and had a look. "This column here about their father..."

Gavin tugged Robert's pants at once and said, "Mr. William, my Daddy's status is so special that we cannot simply write his name here!"

His words had broken Arissa's heart. "Kids, shall you all wait outside for me?"

The four kids exchanged looks as they saw that she had something to discuss with Robert.

"All right, Mommy. We shall wait for you outside!" Zachary took the lead to leave the room with Oliver and Jesse following him.

Robert realized that Gavin was glancing at him. He understood what he meant at once and waved back at him, ensuring him to leave the room with no worries.

"Mommy, we are leaving!"

"Okay!" Arissa waited for them to leave before explaining her situation to Robert. "Mr. William, I brought them up on myself. As for their father, I'm really sorry that I have to leave it blank."

Robert nodded and said, "It's fine. I'm just asking!"

"Thank you." Upon seeing Robert was sensible and did not ask any further, Arissa breathed a sigh of relief.

Robert browsed through the other parts of the form. "All right, there is nothing wrong with the rest."

"That's good. Let me express my gratitude in advance for taking care of my four children in school."

"It's nothing. They may start studying tomorrow. We start our lesson at eight o'clock in the morning and dismiss at half-past three in the afternoon."

Arissa nodded. "Shall I pay their fees now?"

"It's up to you." Robert smiled.

"Then, we shall make it today."

"Sure! Let me show you the way."

"Thanks!"

Hence, Arissa followed Robert to the finance department to pay their fees. As she saw the four of them outside, she reminded, "Stay where you are. I will be back soon!"

"Okay, Mommy. Rest assured, we will be waiting for you right here!" replied Zachary.

Robert smiled and praised, "They are all so well-behaved!"

Deep inside, Arissa felt proud of herself. "Although they seldom made me worry about them, they can be naughty sometimes. If they happen to cause any trouble in school, please do not hesitate to give them a scolding."

"It's a good thing kids are active and lively. Don't worry. We will take good care of them here!" Robert preferred energetic kids over quiet ones.

*Gavin seems more lively and talkative today. He seldom expresses his thoughts in school before, giving everyone the impression that he dislikes interacting with others. Maybe he is just too lonely.*

"Say, did Mr. William realize it?" Oliver asked curiously.

Nodding his head, Gavin replied, "Yes, he did. But I've told him not to say anything to Mommy."

"You know, that's quite the coincidence." Zachary was glad at the thought that Jasper was studying in the same school as them. He missed him a lot these days.

"What are you all talking about?" Jesse did not understand a word of them. She tilted her head and wore a confused look.

*Oh, how cute she is!*

"Nothing at all!" Zachary patted her head. "How many sweets do you have?"

"Hehe! Do you want some? I have quite a lot here. Mr. William's candies are so delicious!" Her eyes sparkled with excitement as she mentioned them.

"Let's save it for Mommy!"

"Okay!" Jesse scratched her head confusingly. *Strange, what did I want to ask them just now?*

Her confused look was so amusing that Gavin chuckled.

"Jesse looks nice in her dress!" Zachary and Oliver exchanged looks and snickered to themselves.

Gavin was puzzled at their act. *What are they laughing at?*

"Don't you think so?"

"Yup, I agree with you. We really love it when Jesse wears a dress!"

"Jesse is the prettiest child in the world!" Oliver sent flying kisses to her.

Flattered, Jesse sent back her kisses to him.

Meanwhile at the Graham residence, Jasper was in the living room, sitting cross-legged on the carpet.

All sorts of snacks filled the table.

Jasper was watching animations while he munched on the snacks.

The trashcan at the side was almost full of garbage.

Edwin was worried as he saw Jasper shoving down the snacks non-stop. His appetite was shocking.

*Is Gavin acting strange because of Ms. Adams?*

Jasper had no idea that Edwin was worried. He turned toward Edwin with sparkly eyes. "Mr. Whitley, do you have ice cream?"

Edwin blinked. *He wants ice cream now?*

Edwin was nonplussed. "Gavin, are you still hungry? You should eat slowly. Don't get overly full."

Jasper had started eating ever since he woke up from his nap but refused to eat any of Edwin's cooking.

Jasper was acting all cute in front of Edwin requesting snacks. There was nothing Edwin could do other than ask someone to buy him snacks.

"Yes! I'm still not full yet." Jasper tapped on his belly.

"I can still eat a lot! Mr. Whitley, do you have ice cream?"

Seeing Jasper's cute look, Edwin had no choice. He then went to the refrigerator to get him some ice cream.

Jasper was over the moon.

Benjamin came back and saw how Jasper was eating snacks non-stop in front of the television.

Jasper was fully immersed in the show while he stared at the television with the volume at high.

Seeing the mess, Benjamin furrowed his brows and asked, "Where is Edwin?"

"Mr. Whitley went to get me ice cream," Jasper replied without realizing it was Benjamin.

He continued staring at the screen and munching on his chips as the show was reaching its climax.

After a while, Jasper felt that something was off and turned his head.

It gave him a shock to realize that Benjamin was staring back at him.

"Daddy, you're back."

"Edwin!" Benjamin shouted with a darkened gaze.

Jasper could see that Benjamin was furious. He looked down and stayed still in fear.

*Am I not allowed to eat here?*

Edwin heard Benjamin's voice and came over immediately. His hands were still holding Jasper's ice cream.

Benjamin saw him and frowned in anger.

"Edwin, are you feeding him all this junk food every day?"

"Mr. Graham, I..."

Cold sweat trickled down his forehead as he lowered his head and admitted, "It's only today. Gavin felt like eating snacks, so I got someone to buy for him."

Benjamin was stunned as he said angrily, "He felt like it, so you let him eat that much?"

The huge amount of plastic packaging was all empty. Not even an adult could finish that much food.

A child would not be able to eat dinner after all the junk food. It was too unhealthy.

Benjamin was enraged.

Jasper saw how Benjamin raised his voice at Edwin and felt bad for him.

Even though he was also afraid of Benjamin, Jasper ran over and stood in front of Edwin as if to protect him.

He lifted his head and fixed his gaze at Benjamin. His voice was shivering, but he stayed courageous and spoke for Edwin.

"Do not be angry with Mr. Whitley. I was the one who wanted to eat. I was hungry and I only wanted snacks. I've never had the chance to eat these snacks. Can't I eat them once?"

*So Benjamin is that strict. Gavin was never allowed to eat snacks. Poor boy.*

Benjamin lifted one of his brows and eyed the boy.

With a cold tone, he said, "You felt like eating snacks, so you ate all those at one go? Do you still want dinner? These snacks are full of preservatives. It's very bad for your health. You don't know because you're young. But, doesn't he know that as an adult?"

Benjamin gave Edwin a cold glare. "Are you still going to give him that ice cream? If he's hungry, make him a proper meal!"

"Understood, Mr. Graham." Edwin lowered his head.

"Go stand in the study!" Benjamin stared at his son.

*Jasper widened his eyes. Forget about Daddy being angry, but I'm being punished now?*

"I didn't do anything wrong! You scolded me just because I ate some snacks. You even scolded Mr. Whitley for it. And now you want to punish me. I hate you!"

Jasper's eyes were red. Even his mother had never scolded him like that.

He gave Benjamin a glare and ran upstairs. It seemed like he felt wronged.

He wanted to go back to his mother.

Edwin looked anxious as he looked toward Benjamin and the two exchanged glances.

"Mr. Graham, please don't be so fierce toward Gavin. He might be acting this way because of Ms. Adams. That was why he wanted to eat..."

Edwin didn't care how Benjamin scolded himself. However, seeing Jasper's expression, he couldn't help but feel bad for him.

Benjamin paused for a second. He then narrowed his eyes and looked upstairs.

"Mr. Graham... should I... go check on Jasper?"

He didn't dare to leave without Benjamin's permission.

Benjamin waved his hand. "You go check on him."

*Gavin's temper has become worse lately.*

The sound of a door slamming echoed from upstairs.

Edwin rushed up with the ice cream still in his hand. Unfortunately, he was locked out by Jasper.

"Gavin, Mr. Graham did raise his voice, but he just wanted the best for you. He didn't scold you on purpose. The snacks were really bad for your health. Gavin, could you please open the door for me?"

"I need some time alone!" Jasper shouted before he covered his face under the blanket.

"I want Mommy! I want Mommy! I do not want Daddy! He's so fierce!"

Edwin heard Jasper's cries from inside the room. He thought of how Danna treated Jasper, but when he was feeling down, she was still the first person he wanted. The thought really pulled on Edwin's heartstrings.

*There's no child who doesn't want their mother, but how can Ms. Adams be so heartless?*

"Gavin, I'll call Ms. Adams and have her come over," Edwin said.

"Who said I wanted her to come! She's a bad person. I never want to see her ever again!" Jasper shouted furiously.

Jasper wanted his Mommy, not that evil woman.

He wanted to change with Gavin and be back in his own home.

As the thought came into Jasper's head, he picked up his phone and called Gavin. No one picked up the call.

Not being able to find Gavin, Jasper felt even worse. He then started crying loudly.

Edwin tried to calm him down, but it made him cry even louder. Feeling helpless, Edwin went to see Benjamin.

"Mr. Graham, Gavin is crying in his room. He won't open the door no matter what I do."

Benjamin looked up. Jasper's cries could be heard even from below.

*I never knew Gavin is such a crybaby.*

Edwin observed his expressions and decided to tell him. "Mr. Graham, Gavin was asking for his mother, but he didn't want to see Ms. Adams."

The craving for motherly love, but tying in with a feeling of fear. It was terribly sad.

Benjamin's eyes flickered. He took the ice cream from Edwin's hand.

"You can get back to your work. Don't let him eat that many snacks next time."

"Understood."

Edwin felt relieved as he saw Benjamin heading upstairs.

*It's best for Mr. Graham to go talk to Gavin.*

Benjamin went in front of Jasper's room.

He heard Jasper's sobs and complaints. "So fierce! I don't like him! I want to run away from here. I don't want to stay at this stupid place. I want to go find Mommy."

Benjamin furrowed his brow and said, "Gavin, open the door."

Suddenly, the room became quiet.

There was not even a tiny bit of crying heard.

Jasper looked at the door in horror, thinking if Benjamin had heard everything he said.

He quickly hid under the blanket and acted like he was asleep.

Benjamin waited for a while. Seeing that his son didn't open the door, he knocked on the door.

"I know you're in there. Open the door. Let us have a chat."

Jasper replied, "I have nothing to talk to you. You're so fierce. I don't want to see you now."

Benjamin sighed. "Do you still feel like eating ice cream?"

The ice cream was slowly melting in his hand.

Jasper blinked his eyes and groaned. He then pulled his blanket to cover his whole head.

Seeing that being soft was not working, Benjamin did it the hard way. "I said open the door!"

But Jasper didn't give any reaction.

As he didn't hear anything from Jasper, Benjamin was confused. He was worried that his son might have passed out from crying too hard. He squeezed on the doorknob.

With a crisp crack, the lock instantly dropped.

At that, Jasper was utterly stunned, hiding under the blanket.

He could not help but wonder what made that sound.

The next second, he heard the door opening, followed by footsteps approaching.

Jasper twitched his lips. *Did Benjamin break the door?*

Looking at Jasper, who was under the blanket, Benjamin went to sit beside his bed.

As he pulled the blanket away, he saw Jasper freezing upon seeing him. Benjamin almost lost himself seeing his cute expression.

Jasper became aware of Benjamin's gaze and quickly pulled up the blanket.

He turned over and scoffed aloud.

Seeing that, Benjamin raised his eyebrows and gently patted the blanket.

"You don't feel like eating ice cream anymore?" asked Benjamin.

Upon listening to that, Jasper did not utter a single word.

As Benjamin looked at Jasper, he felt bad out of a sudden.

"Do you miss your mommy?" he asked gently.

Still, Jasper stayed silent.

"All right, I will bring her here right now."

"No! I don't want to see her!" Jasper covered himself with the blanket and shouted at Benjamin as soon as he heard the latter mentioning Danna.

"Why?" asked Benjamin confusedly.

He was puzzled as Gavin had never thrown a tantrum like this, even when he disliked Danna previously.

*Is it really like what Edwin said? Was this kid triggered?*

Jasper rolled his eyes at Benjamin, who clearly did not get his clue. He then wrapped himself with the blanket again out of annoyance.

"Are you trying to get her here to punish me?"

*What a vicious woman! She has already punished Gavin many times before this.*

"Don't worry. She won't dare to do that now. I'm here to protect you," Benjamin said grimly. "Come out of the blanket! I will never ask her to come if you don't want to see her. If you ever want to see her, you can always ask Edwin to phone her anytime!"

Hearing that, Jasper let out a light snort. Clearly, he was satisfied with such an ending.

However, he was still hiding under the blanket.

"Don't eat too much junk food!" urged Benjamin while setting the ice cream down.

He knew the boy did not want to get out of his bed.

"Tell Edwin to cook something for you if you feel hungry. Don't eat so many snacks. It's not good for your health!" stated Benjamin.

He then rubbed Jasper's head gently.

After waiting for a little while, he decided to leave the room since Jasper was still mad at him.

*Let's wait for him to cool off.*

As Jasper heard the door close, he removed the blanket and took a peek at the door.

Abruptly, his eyes shone when he saw the ice cream on the bedside table.

He immediately got up and grabbed the ice cream. Sitting up on the bed, he began to enjoy his ice cream.

"Don't think that I will forgive you for being mean! I'll be leaving this house once I'm done eating!" he growled.

Upon listening to that, Benjamin, who was still standing at the door, let out a chuckle.

After walking downstairs, he asked the butler to guard the door and not let Jasper leave the room.

He needed to make sure that Jasper would not leave the house by all means.

As Jasper was eating the ice cream, he felt delighted.

Since he had received no news on his phone yet, he decided to make a call again.

Not only did he call Zachary, but he also called Gavin, Oliver, and Jesse.

However, no one answered.

He furrowed in response.

*Why aren't any of them picking up my call?*

Meanwhile, Arissa followed Robert to the finance department and paid the enrolment fees for the kids.

She could feel her heart aching for a little since a few hundred thousand was a pretty considerable amount, and the fees needed to be paid in full at the beginning of the school year.

The fees included everything. Thus, she did not have to pay for anything else anymore.

"Let's have a look at the classrooms!" said Robert while grinning as he walked out of the finance department.

"Sure!" Arissa nodded with a polite smile.

At that, all her children ran to her and asked, "Mommy, are you done?"



Chapter 44

"Mr. William said he wants to take us to the classrooms. Let's go!"

With that, she and her kids followed Robert to have a look at the classrooms.

It seemed like Robert got along pretty well with the kids. Not only did they go to the classrooms, but they also went to the function rooms and the dorms.

Just the tour alone took about an hour.

"Ms. York, would you like the kids to be placed in separate classes based on their interest or to put them all together? Not only do we help the kids to develop their interests, but we also give them the chance to work on what they are lacking. So, don't worry!" explained Robert, trying to ease Arissa's mind.

"Then, I think it's better for them all to be placed in one class. Their interests are pretty much the same!"

Arissa was worried about leaving Jesse alone without her brothers.

It occurred to her that Jesse would probably not get used to being alone in a class.

"Sure, I'll let the teachers know that!"

After discussing the rest with Robert, Arissa bid him farewell and left.

"Then, we'll leave now. See you, Mr. William! Come on, sweethearts, say goodbye to Mr. William!"

"Goodbye, Mr. William!"

Four of them waved goodbye to Robert.

"Goodbye, kids. I really like them!" praised Robert while smiling at Arissa.

Upon listening to that, Arissa nodded with a wide smile on her face. She then left the school together with the kids.

"Kids, how do you like your new school?" asked Arissa.

Jesse beamed. "It's great! There are a lot of flowers!"

Hearing that, Arissa smiled and looked at the others.

Zachary, Oliver, and Gavin let out a smile. "Same here!"

Arissa checked the time. She thought it was still early since it was only five. So, she decided to go to Yaleview.

"Okay, my sweethearts, I'm going to send you guys back to the neighborhood entrance. You guys go home first. Mommy has something to do," said Arissa to her kids.

"What happened, Mommy? Can't you do it tomorrow? It's getting late," asked Zachary as he turned to look at Arissa.

"My boss wants me to set up the surveillance camera system at his house," said Arissa.

With that, Oliver chimed in, "Mommy, I think your boss is making you work overtime!"

"Yes! Mommy, why don't you go tomorrow? It's already late now," Gavin suggested.

Gavin had a feeling that there were other intentions behind Benjamin's invite.

After what Zachary did to the surveillance cameras the day before, he thought that Benjamin might be suspecting Arissa, hence asking her to come over to his house.

*Mommy is going to see Jasper if she went there!*

"Mommy, can you go tomorrow?" asked Jesse while raising her head to look at Arissa.

Arissa looked at them and smiled. "But I need to go today. I need to keep my promise, but I'll be back in no time. There's some bread if you guys are hungry. I'll cook for you guys after I'm back, okay?"

In fact, she did not want to delay any longer but to find out what was going on there.

After sending the kids to the neighborhood entrance and seeing them go into the house, Arissa took a taxi to Yaleview.

The driver took a meaningful glance at the rearview mirror after he heard that Arissa wanted to head to the Graham residence.

Meanwhile, the kids obediently went back home.

As soon as they reached home, Oliver pulled out his phone and saw that Jasper had called moments ago.

"Jasper called me!" he shouted.

At that, Zachary and Gavin looked at him.

Jesse asked puzzledly, "Isn't Jasper here with us? Why did he call you?"

Oliver looked at her confused look and patted her head gently. "I was just joking. Go watch TV!"

Despite feeling that something was up, Jesse did not think too much and went to the couch to watch TV.

At this moment, Gavin and Zachary also noticed that Jasper had just called them.

"Is he in trouble?" Oliver asked.

It was then that Jesse realized Jasper called her too. She swiveled around and leaned against the couch.

"Jasper, why did you call me too?" she asked.

All the other three looked at each other in blank dismay.

Gavin explained hurriedly, "I must have accidentally pressed the call button."

Jesse did not suspect anything but turned around to continue watching the cartoon on TV.

The other three exchanged looks with each other and walked toward the room.