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Roxana smiled as she apologized.

"I'm sorry, but I haven't been in the mood for that lately."

Although she kindly turned him down, the gentleman was a bit disappointed; however, he turned and walked away.

Finally, she had returned to have the peace and tranquility that she so longed for. Just as she was about to compose her emotions, she suddenly heard a familiar voice calling out to her.

-Roxana? It's you?

Hearing that voice, Roxana looked up and saw a very handsome man dressed in a gray tuxedo who looked at her puzzled. As soon as her eyes met, Roxana's eyes lit up.

—Leandro? What a coincidence! She—she uttered with a surprised tone.

Leandro Morales was a senior he had met abroad, and internationally, he was one of the elite of the younger generation. Back then, Leandro had helped Roxana a lot when she had just gone abroad; therefore, they had a good relationship. Later, when she returned to the country, she had been too busy with the affairs related to the research institute, so she never had a chance to contact him.

When Leandro was sure that he had not confused another person with her, he smiled at her and came closer.

-A lot of time has passed.

Roxana smiled and nodded.

-Actually yes. When did you return to the country? Why didn't you contact me?

Leandro evaluated her and said:

—I've been back for fifteen days. I thought about calling you, but I didn't want to bother you. After not seeing you for so long, you seem to have lost weight. Have you been busy with work at Chepa?

Roxana just limited herself to smiling.

"You could say," she replied.

Although she was busy with the research institute, her workload was nothing compared to when she

was abroad. «I am sure that I have lost weight because of those three little ones that I have at home. Even so, I shouldn't tell Leandro about my personal affairs.

"I know you're a workaholic, but you should take care of yourself. Try not to get tired —the worried man told her after looking at her.

Roxana limited herself to nodding in response.

"By the way, why are you here?" Are you already working with Grupo Quevedo despite having recently returned to the country? Leandro asked with a smile.

Hearing that, Roxana was stunned for a moment. When she remembered who the guests at the banquet were, she smiled and shook her head.

"I recently returned to the country, so how could I have done that?" They invited me because by chance I cured the great Mr. Quevedo of his illness. Anyway, I guess it's correct to say that I'm working with the Quevedo family. They are the drug suppliers of our research institute.

Leandro was amazed.

—I have heard about how serious the condition of the great Señor Quevedo was and that many renowned doctors were unable to cure him. When I found out that he had recovered, I wondered who the amazing doctor was. Who would have imagined that it was you?

Roxanne smiled.

"I was just lucky. As it happens, he was in my area of expertise.

Leandro raised an eyebrow.

"Stop being so humble, okay?" I don't know about the others, but I know your skills like the back of my hand. However, now that I know it was you who cured him, I'm still very impressed.

—You flatter me too much, Leandro. Roxanne laughed.

The two talked enthusiastically about Alfredo's illness and each other's areas of expertise.

Nearby, Luciano saw how a man approached Roxana and left a few moments later. As soon as he saw her talk so cheerfully with another man, his gaze darkened and he was so upset that everyone near him could feel her indifferent aura emanating from her.

Of course, Jonatan realized what was happening and the real reason why Luciano was upset.

"Luciano, would you like to go there and see what's going on?" he asked.

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After watching them interact with each other a few times, Jonatan seemed to have realized something. He noticed that Luciano's attitude towards Roxana was very different from what he expected. As soon as he found out about the relationship they had had before, Jonatan thought that Luciano would ignore Roxana; however, the opposite happened. In fact, he was able to verify that the man helped her in everything she could. Instead, he ignored April completely. When Jonatan saw how they interacted, he realized that Luciano cared more for Roxana than for Abril and, therefore, that is what he supposed when he saw the scene before his eyes and Luciano's sudden disgust.

Luciano frowned and ignored Jonatan's question as he showed a somber expression. Jonathan knew the man very well, so he feigned concern.

—Since I've invited Dr. Jerez in person, I don't think it's good for me to leave her alone. I'll go talk to her. Would you like to accompany me? -express.

After a few seconds, Luciano said that he agreed. The two then excused themselves to the crowd and left.

Meanwhile, Roxana continued in a pleasant conversation with Leandro when she suddenly saw that these two were approaching from behind him. Therefore, her smile faded a bit and she frowned.

"Mr. Morales, when did she return to the country?" Why didn't she tell me that she was back? Jonatan patted Leandro's shoulder nonchalantly.

Leandro turned around and smiled. After exchanging a few compliments with him, Jonatan looked at Luciano before asking Leandro nonchalantly:

"Do you know Dr. Jerez?"

Leandro nodded and smiled.

-Yeah. In fact, I know her quite a bit.

Upon hearing that, Jonatan felt anguished and when he instinctively looked at Luciano, he saw that his expression had become distant. In fact, the atmosphere suddenly turned indifferent. Jonatan was also silent as an awkward moment ensued.

"Jonathan, who is this gentleman?" —Luciano's indifferent voice broke the silence.

The man flinched before pushing Leandro towards Luciano as he himself stepped aside.

"Oh! I forgot to introduce them. This is Leandro Morales, from the Morales family. He is a doctor and most of the time he is abroad. After that, he introduced Luciano to Leandro. This is Luciano Fariña, the

executive director of Grupo Fariña. You must have heard of him, right?

Although it was a very chivalrous gesture, Leandro felt as if the man saw him as an enemy. So, after a moment's hesitation, he reached out to shake Luciano's hand.

"I've heard of you a long time ago, Senor Fariña!" Roxana and you are...

While he was speaking, he unconsciously looked at Roxana and when he was about to complete the sentence, she interrupted him:

—Leandro, I don't know Mr. Fariña that well. You don't have to talk about me with him.

Roxana looked at Luciano with indifference while he nodded disdainfully as a sign of greeting. As soon as she said that, Luciano, without any expression, extended his hand to her.

—Ah, it's you, Mr. Morales. Nice to meet you.

Seeing that, Leandro immediately fell silent. After looking at Roxana and Luciano, he changed the subject.

-I'm sorry. I should not have said that. Anyway, he's a famous young man, Mr. Fariña, so it's an honor to meet him.

Luciano realized the interaction between the two of them and, when he noticed the chemistry between them, he frowned with displeasure. Then he just nodded impassively in response to Leandro. Even if he didn't finish his sentence, I know what he was going to say. Although I don't know him, he knows about my relationship with Roxana. He was about to talk about what happened six years ago. Why would Roxana talk to him about that? What exactly is the relationship between them? With those thoughts running through his mind, he could see that Luciano felt very angry.

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In just an instant, the atmosphere between the four of them became tense, and the crowd fixed their gaze on them.

Roxana frowned uncomfortably, since she didn't want to interact with Luciano more than necessary, so she, instead of her, turned to Jonatan.

"What brings you here, Mr. Quevedo?"

Jonathan smiled after a surprising pause.

"It doesn't seem very polite to me to have invited her and then not pay attention to her, so I thought I'd come and talk."

After his words, they were silent and she gave a significant look towards Luciano, but he was indifferent; it was evident that he had no intention of clarifying the matter. Therefore, Jonatan had no choice but to take the blame, after which Roxana smiled slightly.

-It doesn't matter. In fact, I ran into Leandro here and since we don't see each other much, we have to catch up. Although I appreciate his kindness, it is not necessary for him to entertain me.

Jonathan got nervous at the subtlety with which she was throwing him out and tried to find another excuse to stay and talk when the sound of approaching heels caught her attention.

"There you are, Luciano. April's voice rang out. Your mother has been looking for you; You should go see what she wants.

Jonathan had no choice but to hold back the excuse he had thought of. Luciano frowned, but didn't leave immediately. Meanwhile, the woman who was behind him had already reached his side and was staring at Roxana as she approached. She, the latter, felt nauseated when she saw the couple together.

"Looks like you have business to attend to, don't let us keep you busy." —After saying that, she whispered something to Leandro and they both turned to leave.

Standing next to Luciano, Abril constantly reminded him that Sonia was looking for him and that prevented him from persuading Roxana not to leave.

April felt anguish when she noticed that her gaze settled on the woman in the distance. In a panic, she increased the reminder of her in both urgency and tone.

—Señora Fariña seems to be in a hurry. You better go see her.

Already irritated, Luciano turned to give her a very distant look that made her stay silent. The next second, the man walked past her nonchalantly, not even looking at her. After that, her April was stunned for a few seconds before she regained her composure and walked after him through gritted teeth.

Meanwhile, Roxana and Leandro found a quiet corner to sit down and Leandro couldn't help but ask:

"What's going on between you and Mr. Fariña?"

Roxanne smiled.

-Nothing happens. We have met by chance.

However, Leandro looked at her doubtfully.

-Really? I thought they were thinking of getting back together," she said as she remembered the hostility that Luciano had emanated a few seconds before.

Roxana did not expect her to have such a deceptive sense of intuition.

"How come you thought that?!" she exclaimed sarcastically. Weren't you paying attention? Her fiancée was next to her.

Leandro was about to ask another question, but Roxana made it clear that she wouldn't after changing the subject.

"Let's talk about another topic." Where were we? She was referring to the topic of conversation before Jonatan's arrival.

Leandro complied with his wishes and asked nothing more. Then he picked up the medicine conversation from where they left off. As both were leaders in the field, they soon left private matters behind and were engaged in a passionate speech.

At first, Roxana was resigned to spending a boring night at the birthday banquet, but, after all, Leandro's appearance made it worth it. However, she began to get nervous when she noticed that, despite being ten o'clock at night, the banquet did not seem to be ending.

The three children at home, especially Ela, were waiting up for her. The last few nights, little she had only been able to fall asleep with her because she had persuaded her to. At that time, she might have a hard time sleeping if Roxana wasn't with her. At that alarming thought of hers, she hurried to finish the conversation with Leandro and stood up to say goodbye to Alfredo.

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Sonia and Jonatan's parents were with Alfredo. After he found out that they had called him for no apparent reason, Luciano was about to leave when he saw Roxana and Leandro appear in a single file.

"If you don't need anything else, Mr. Quevedo, I'd like to come back, since the children are waiting for me." Roxana said goodbye politely.

Hilda was a bit surprised.

"He's leaving so soon?" We're only halfway through dinner; stay a little longer.

Roxana smiled ruefully.

—Maybe another time, I'm worried about my children at home.

Everyone there knew that she had two children, so they decided to give in at her insistence.

Alfredo called Jonatan to come over.

—I'm worried that Dr. Jerez will return home alone at this time of night; she take her

A moment later, Jonatan turned to study Luciano's expression. As he perceived that he was not upset, he took it as a sign of consent and was about to obey his grandfather when he heard Leandro's voice.

-Do not bother. I have to get home early for a webinar that starts soon, so I can drop her off at her house on the way.

Jonatan felt that the atmosphere became tense after Leandro spoke; so he cleared his throat and was about to say that he was carrying her when someone interrupted him:

"I wouldn't mind taking Miss Jerez home for you, Mr. Morales, since you are so busy with work." As if addressing everyone wasn't enough, Luciano then spoke more slowly to make sure they understood everything he said. Besides, I can also take her to see my daughter.

Everyone was instantly surprised while Sonia and Abril were discouraged; They had arranged everything for Luciano to attend the banquet with Abril in an attempt to spend time romantically. In addition, the appearance in public would be an indication to the guests present that the wedding was imminent. Luciano's declaration of taking Roxana home and the mention of his daughter felt like an offense.

April turned pale. She clenched her fists to hold herself back; she was very close to losing her temper.

"Your daughter of hers?" Leandro was puzzled.

"What does her daughter have to do with Roxana?"

Luciano was indifferent to the reaction he had caused.

"My daughter has been staying at Miss Jerez's house for the past two days. Is there a problem with me coming to see her? He didn't lower his voice and all the guests could hear him.

The people who were present began to talk and browse after a brief silence.

April didn't expect Luciano to be so cheeky and she blanched as she listened to what was being said around her. She clenched her jaw and ducked her head to avoid prying eyes.

The elders of the Quevedo family were surprised. They were aware of how important Estela was to Luciano, so they were surprised to learn that Luciano and Roxana were close to the point that he left Estela in his care.

"It seems that Estela has been living with Roxana for a while." Jonathan had also just found out. Surprised as he was, he felt that he must have anticipated it and, on second thought, he decided to keep quiet.

In an instant, the atmosphere turned very strange.

Equally astonished, Roxana bit her lip nervously as she tried to calm herself. While the crowd was surprised that Estela was living with her, Roxana was more concerned that Luciano had announced it so directly. "What is happening?". She thought long and hard about what to say; she intended to ease the tense atmosphere, but before she could, someone grabbed her wrist.

"Wasn't she in a hurry?" Let's go.

She heard Luciano's listless voice before he took her hard. Roxana recovered her senses abruptly and had to change her mind. She only had time to say a hasty goodbye to Alfredo before Luciano dragged her away.

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He took her by the wrist and took Roxana out of the banquet almost by force in front of everyone. The woman tried to break free several times, but the man's grip was strong enough to deter such an attempt and it wasn't until they got outside of her that she lessened her grip. Roxana pulled away from her with a grimace and took several steps back to get away from him.

"Thanks for the kindness of her, but I can drive home." There's no need to bother you to take me, Mr. Fariña. His mother and his fiancée are still inside, so he should go back and join them.

Then, he started to walk towards the mansion gate while avoiding him. At first, he had planned to leave on his own account and he did not imagine that the situation would reach that extreme; he still couldn't believe that Luciano was capable of doing something like that. She was very confused and all she wanted to do was be silent.

While she walked in front of Luciano, he took her again with more force than before.

Roxanne stopped; She suppressed her confused feelings and looked at the man next to her as calmly as possible.

"Do you need anything else, Mr. Fariña?"

Luciano frowned and saw her apathetic look. She felt discomfort thinking about the woman's smile while she was talking with Leandro.

"Like I said, I want to see my daughter. Leaving her alone is in the past. I want my daughter to sleep

early, so please stop wasting time and get in the car.

"I drove here," Roxana insisted. And Catalina is taking care of them at home. She can go, Mr. Fariña.

He turned more serious when she rejected him again while his gaze reflected fury at her reluctance.

"He had a couple of drinks, if I remember correctly. Planning on getting a DUI ticket?"

Roxana frowned instead of answering immediately, and before she could, Luciano grabbed her wrist and led her to the car. Roxana could not let go, nor refute what she said. "She wants to see her daughter, so she's doing everything she can to get me home. She'd look like a rude, indulgent idiot if I turned him down again. Also, she's right; I drank two drinks."

Camilo was holding the car door for them by the time the couple arrived, though Roxana was still somewhat reluctant.

"She wasn't she she was in a hurry to go home?" demanded Luciano. Or was it an excuse because she didn't want to stay at the banquet?

The woman had no choice but to get on without delay.

Luciano followed her closely and sat next to her. Silently, she moved to the window to distance him from him, looking awkward as she did so.

The ride home was completely silent, as neither of us said a word. Camilo did his best to make her presence as little noticeable as possible.

Luciano's eyes darkened when he saw the woman's profile through the reflection of the window. "She smiled when she talked to the man at dinner, but with me, instead, she has that expression." The more he thought about it, the more it bothered him. As he could no longer bear the silence, he cleared his throat.

—Who is Mr. Morales for you? He mentioned that they know each other very well.

Roxana was paralyzed for a moment by the sudden question before looking at him listlessly.

"I don't think it's any of her business." Her." He looked away nonchalantly before glancing out the window, with a clear intention not to speak again.

The car was silent once more. Luciano emanated a very noticeable chilling aura. Buck wanted to be anywhere but there and even breathed carefully for fear of attracting the attention of the passengers.

Finally, they reached the door of Roxana's house.

Almost excited, Buck slammed on the brakes before staggering out to open the door for the couple sitting in the back. Only when he saw them enter the mansion did he take a deep breath of relief. "For some reason, the atmosphere is never pleasant when Mr. Fariña spends time with Miss Jerez."

-Mommy! You came back!

As soon as Roxana walked to the door, the children greeted her with charming smiles; It was the first time they had seen Roxana's outfit.

"You look beautiful tonight, Mommy," Bautista said sweetly.

Roxana's mood improved when she saw the three children and she beamed at the compliment.

-Thanks love.

Andrés was about to flatter her too when he saw another person come through the door. Although she stopped smiling when she recognized him, she still greeted him politely, if distantly.

"Hello, Mr. Farina.

The sound of his brother's voice drew Bautista's attention to the person behind his mother and he looked expectantly at the man as he dutifully greeted him. Luciano nodded slightly to the children. Despite saying that he was going to see Estela, he only glanced at her before looking back at Roxana. At that point, Andrés and Bautista smelled the alcohol and looked at her mother with concern.

"Have you been drinking, mommy?" Does your head hurt?

Roxana smiled friendly.

-Not at all. I've only had a little to drink.

Despite reassuring them, the children remained worried, so Andrés ran to look for the medicine cabinet to get a hangover pill while Bautista poured him a glass of water and placed it on the coffee table. Estela immediately joined and helped Roxana to sit on the sofa.

With the meticulous care of the three children, Roxana had forgotten about the negativity she had witnessed earlier.

As she watched her mother swallow the hangover pill, Andres hesitated for a moment before turning to look at the man still standing in the doorway.

"Did you drink too?"

Luciano raised his eyebrows a little.

-A bit.

Andrés looked at the pill tablets in his hand and then at the man at the door; she walked towards him hesitantly.

"Would you like to have one?"

Luciano's intense look became a little gentler and he approached to accept the boy's offer.

-Thank you.

Andrés just grimaced without responding and then returned to Roxana's side after putting the pills back in the medicine cabinet. The woman was worried about the boys and patted their heads one by one.

"What have you done tonight?"

Excited to answer her, Bautista took Roxana's hand to help her get up. The woman stood up curiously and followed him onto the rug. In the middle, there was a three-foot fairytale castle made of Lego bricks. Bautista ran with pride.

—We finished assembling the castle!

Andrés and Estela shared the enthusiasm.

Roxana examined it for a moment, with an expression of surprise.

When Estela came under her care, it occurred to her that the little girl might not enjoy the children's toys and that is why she had decided to get them something to play together; she had bought that Lego set a week ago. Despite the fact that the project had a total of twenty thousand pieces, the children had finished it very quickly.

-They are wonderful! she exclaimed, smiling.

The children loved the compliment. Estela ran to the side of the model as fast as she could and pointed a small section to the left side of her with her chubby finger. Then she turned to Roxana with an expectant look.

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Roxana was a bit confused by the girl's behavior.

The children had been interacting with Estela long enough and therefore they knew what she meant by observing her expressions and gestures, but for Roxana it was difficult to achieve. Estela became nervous because of the woman's prolonged confusion. Once again, she pointed to the section and then to herself as she pursed her lips. Roxana was more puzzled.

"Ela wants to tell you that she put that part together, Mommy," Andrés explained.

Finally, Roxana understood everything.

—There are many pieces, Estela! Well done! —She said with admiration while her wrinkles were made from smiling so much.

Estela smiled resplendently at the compliment of the beautiful woman she held in high esteem. When she turned to her father, she had a similar expression.

"The four of them get along well." Luciano knew what it meant when he suddenly saw her daughter's anxious expression, though he couldn't think of any flattery and just nodded approvingly.

"Well done, Ella.

Estela smiled so much that her dimples showed even more. Luciano's eyes darkened a little when he saw the happiness of his daughter; he could feel a mix of overwhelming emotions. «It is evident that Ela is happier with Roxana. I have never seen her smile like this.»

Despite spending the whole night putting together a Lego palace, Bautista was not satisfied and shyly took his mother's hand.

"The castle is very simple, mommy. Could you get us something harder?"

Roxana looked at Estela hesitantly. She was about to suggest that the children take Estela in when Bautista added, "

She's very good with Legos, so soon she'll be as good as Andrés and me."

Roxana looked at Andrés incredulously, who nodded firmly to confirm it. Meanwhile, Estela confidently patted her chest, with an expectant expression; Roxana didn't need to be told anything else to convince her.

"Well, I'll buy them a new set tomorrow."

Enthusiasm was reflected on the children's faces. Andrés and Bautista delved into the details and extensive specifications of the model they wanted.

Standing in the doorway, Luciano watched the four enjoy each other and was silent for a moment. It was

close to midnight when he spoke again and, after suggesting that the children go to sleep, Luciano said goodbye.

Roxana was too happy to see him go and she only pretended in Estela's presence. After the man left, he took Estela to the door to say goodbye to her.

Luciano was furious on the way home, and when he got there, he frowned when he saw the person sitting on the sofa.

"So you still remember that you have a house, huh?" Sonia scolded him uneasily.

As she wanted to take advantage of the opportunity for Luciano to accept her marriage to Abril, Sonia was shocked to see that her son offered to take Roxana home in front of everyone's eyes; since the intimacy that both had also irritated her. Although she couldn't hide her discomfort at her son's abrupt departure, she managed to restrain herself until the banquet was over and rushed to the venue immediately. At first, she thought that Luciano would be back an hour ago, and she didn't imagine that she would have to wait another hour to see him. «What did they do in Roxana's house for more than an hour?». Thinking about it, she got angry.

Luciano had a similar expression of distaste for his mother's behavior that night.

"What do you need at this time of night, mother?" she asked unfriendly.

Sonia frowned even more.

"Can't your mother come in her free time?" Do you know that you embarrassed April when you left? It was unacceptable behaviour!

«Again with April». Luciano's distant attitude turned hostile at this point.

-I have already told you. Stay out of my business; I can take charge. If you don't need anything else, you can leave. Without another word, he headed up the stairs.

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Abril had returned to the Pedrosa residence with her parents; the three of them kept a grim expression all the way back. After entering the house, the young woman took off her heels. Gina wanted to comfort her, but before she could, her daughter had already gone upstairs with a sullen expression and a deafening door slammed. "She seems like she's very upset."

Upstairs, Abril clenched her fists after slamming the door; She trembled with anger as the voices of the dinner crowd rang in her ears:

"You'd think her marriage to Mr. Fariña would finally happen given how arrogant she is, but who knows?" ...?».

"Didn't the Pedrosa family depend on the Fariña family to get to where they are today? Just look at Mr. Fariña; I am sure that the Pedrosa will have difficulties in the future.

"Unfortunately, it was all in vain after waiting for so long. Ha! What a joke!"

When Luciano took Roxana and left in front of everyone, those guests began to treat Abril differently, since, at first, they treated her kindly; however, she was later treated with scorn and ridicule. They didn't care about her feelings and even talked about her while she was present. In a matter of minutes, she had gone from being the future Mrs. Fariña, whom everyone in Homeros envied, to the laughingstock of the crowd.

She felt disgusted as she thought of her initial reason for coming to the dinner; she wanted to make Roxana recognize her social position; however, she did not imagine that Luciano would embarrass her in front of so many people. «I am sure that after tonight, the high society of Homeros will spread rumors about how the engagement between Luciano and me failed. My efforts became useless because of that woman." With that thought in mind, her expression turned extremely ruthless and she swept the table in anger, throwing everything onto the floor. It's all that bitch's fault! If it hadn't been for her, the situation wouldn't have reached this point. I won't let him get away with it so easily."

Meanwhile, downstairs, Gina and Santiago could clearly hear the commotion coming from Abril's room.

-It's too much! —Gina couldn't help but complain—: What did Luciano mean by that? She left April while many people watched. What will others think of us?

Santiago's face reddened with anger.

"Obviously he doesn't care about us at all."

While the couple was furious and the scandal in the room continued, Roxana did not know anything about the incident between the two families. Since she had drunk a little alcohol at dinner, along with her interaction with Luciano on the way back, she felt exhausted, so after playing with the kids a bit, she went to bed. early.

Early in the morning, Estela's movements made Roxana wake up with a start. Sleepily, she got up to pick it up and sat for a while before feeling more awake.

When she went downstairs, after helping Estela clean herself up, Catalina had already finished preparing breakfast. Andrés and Bautista were already sitting downstairs as well, and when they saw her mother coming down holding Estela's hand, the two children looked at her fixedly.

"Mommy, does your head hurt?" they asked seriously.

Roxana sat down with Estela next to the two children and shook her head, smiling.

"Thanks to the pill they gave me last night, my head doesn't hurt at all."

Andrés and Bautista sighed with relief. The woman had breakfast with the three children and, at that moment, she rang the doorbell. She got up to open the door and frowned as she saw the person standing outside it.

-It's too early. Something happens?

Luciano's tall, slender figure stood by the door and she leaned in slightly to reveal a line of bodyguards behind him. Each of them carried a large box.

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Seeing the bodyguards taking the boxes forcefully without any expression, Roxana felt quite taken aback.

"These are..."

"Legos," Luciano answered. I heard the kids said they wanted to play yesterday, so in the middle of the night I asked my assistant to buy some for them. There are also some challenging puzzles inside; I think you will like them.

Roxana was puzzled and looked back at the grim-looking, muscular bodyguards. Somehow, she thought that the vibe they emanated didn't match what they carried in their hands.

"Let them drop the boxes." —Luciano indicated the men to enter the house.

The woman hesitated for a few seconds and stepped aside to let the boxes go. At the same time, the children immediately ran outside when they heard sounds from the dining room. Andrés and Bautista's eyes lit up as they stood next to the boxes and looked at them carefully. For her part, Estela circled around Luciano before returning to her brothers and following what they were doing.

Amazed by what was before him, Bautista insisted on his mother to open the boxes for them. He never imagined that there would be Legos at his house that morning when they had ordered them the night before. In addition, there were also limited edition puzzles that he wanted, but he did not dare ask Roxana to buy them because they were very expensive; to his surprise, they were also inside those boxes. Not even Andrés could contain his emotion.

"Are they for us?" Bautista looked at the man at the door, his eyes shining with joy.

Luciano nodded silently. As soon as the boy received confirmation from him, he cheered in a sweet voice and broke into a big smile.

"Thank you, Mr. Farina!"

Andrés, on the other hand, was a little more reserved, for which he smiled and thanked the man.

"I'm happy to know that you love them," Luciano said with a nod.

Her interaction made Roxana frown and, at the same time, she began to worry. Luciano thought that she didn't like that he gave the children gifts without informing her beforehand, so he said casually:

—Estela also loves these toys, so the three of them can play together.

In other words, he insinuated that these gifts were for his daughter, and Andrés and Bautista basked in his glory. Upon hearing it, Roxana had no choice but to allow the toys to be left behind.

After completing his mission, the man didn't stay any longer and hurried back to the office. Roxana hurried to put the boxes away and headed for the research institute after leaving the children in Pilar's care at school.

Roxana's phone rang as soon as she entered her office, and when she saw the caller ID on the screen, her eyes lit up and she answered immediately with a smile.

-You are busy? Are you busy? Javier asked on the other end of the phone.

She shook her head.

"No, I just got to work. Something wrong? It's been quite a while since she called me.

Since his return to the country, the two had barely kept in touch. Most of the time it was Roxana who called him to inform him of her progress at the research institute. Also, since Javier was usually busy with the investigation, her responses were usually brief. This was the first time he had called her.

"Actually, I need your help with something. He went straight to the point. There is a project that I need you to follow up on in its research and development. I'll forward the details to you in a moment for you to take a look at.

Upon hearing that it was about work, Roxana agreed immediately. The two chatted a bit about the project before she worriedly tried to find out about the man's return.

"When will he return?" Let me go pick it up.

Javier looked at his agenda and replied:

—Maybe not so soon. I will let you know in advance.

She nodded with a short answer.

Chapter 170

Since Alfredo's treatment had finished, all that was required was to prescribe medication regularly and remind him to take his pills on time. Therefore, it was not necessary for Roxana to go to the Quevedo residence so often. Since she had a lot of time, she spent most of the day at the research institute, she was either directing various tasks or heading to the research center to join the other researchers.

Since Conrado had been working as her assistant abroad, he continued to help her; It went without saying that the two of them understood each other very well. On this particular day, both of them left the research facility earlier than usual, having finally made a breakthrough in their research.

"Since we've been very busy these past few days, why don't we eat together to celebrate?" suggested Conrad.

"Let's leave it for another day." I still have to go look for my children —Roxana apologized after looking at the time.

It didn't seem appropriate for him to insist, since she had given that reason, therefore, they both left the institute and went their separate ways. After getting in the car, Roxana's phone rang again, this time it was a call from Leandro.

"What's going on, Leandro?"

The man's friendly voice was heard on the other end of the phone.

"Are you free later?" We didn't have time to meet after I got back. I was wondering if I might have the honor of inviting you to lunch, Dr. Jerez. —Just when Roxana was about to mention the same excuse that she had given to Conrado, the man interrupted her—: I made a reservation at a restaurant and I'm just waiting for you to come.

Hearing it, she couldn't say anything. It was true that she was in a hurry to go look for the children, but, since Leandro was so determined about her invitation, she thought it would be inappropriate if she refused. Besides, he had given her quite a bit of help when she was abroad. Whatever the reasons, it didn't seem appropriate for her to leave him alone.

-OK. Where are you? I'll go right now. In the end, she accepted the invitation.

Leandro gave her the name and location of the restaurant, almost as if he had known her answer beforehand, and Roxana immediately agreed. After hanging up, she called Catalina and asked her to help her pick up the children from kindergarten. Then, she changed her destination and went to the address that Leandro had sent her. When she arrived, the man had already waited for her for quite some time; seeing her, he greeted her and motioned for her to come closer to her. She hurried over and sat down across from him.

"I'm sorry I kept you waiting," she said apologetically.

Leandro smiled.

-No problem. Did I interrupt you while you were at work earlier?

When they were abroad, Roxana often forgot the time because of work, and sometimes even stayed up all night to work. The woman laughed as she shook her head.

—No, just today I finished work early. Saying that, she called the waiter and turned to Leandro. Let me buy you dinner since I'm late. Besides, I got back to the country before you did, so we'll pretend it's a welcome party.

The man agreed.

"Okay, then, I'll do it."

After ordering the food, the two began to talk about work and gradually dove into the conversation. At that moment, the restaurant manager walked in while leading a group of people behind him. Surrounded by men, Luciano had to tilt his head from time to time to hear them speak. When he turned around, he saw a familiar figure sitting at the table by the window and his expression immediately turned somber as he took a second look at the two people chatting happily.

"Mr. Farina?" someone in the group called to him, puzzled, after noticing that he had suddenly stopped.

Luciano frowned as he looked away and followed the crowd toward the private room.