

N Destiny 81

Chapter 81

It was around 10.00AM when Hayley was browsing through the Louis Vuitton store at the premium mall. Just as she was glancing at the bags on display, her phone rang. She answered the call brusquely, "Hey, Mom."

"Hayley, you don't happen to have some money to spare, do you? Your brother needs to fork out payment for school, so we were wondering if you could help tide us over for a bit."

"Where would I get the money, Mom? I don't even have enough to keep myself afloat at the moment, so no, I can't help you guys out," Hayley replied, swiftly turning her mother down.

The next moment, her mother's shrill voice filled the other line. "Just what the hell have you been up to these days? You're probably just lazing around, aren't you? I raised you only to have you become so worthless that you can't even fork out 2,000 to help us out! Consider yourself my greatest failure!"

Hayley was indifferent as she took her mother's harsh words in stride. When the older woman had dealt every single insult she could come up with in the short span of time, she hung up. It was only then that Hayley turned to look at the retail assistant, and in a tone that sounded as if she needed an emotional outlet, she snapped and said, "Ring up every bag on this shelf right now."

The assistant stared at her in bewilderment. She had heard everything Hayley said on the phone earlier, so she could hardly believe that the girl had money to pay for these bags.

Alas, with a deft swipe of her unlimited black card, Hayley paid for the bags and left the store in a huff.

That afternoon, May was sitting on the edge of her chair across from Hayley as she glanced around the high-end restaurant. "This is the first time I've been to somewhere as fancy as this, Hayley! This is unbelievable!"

Hayley brought her cup to her lips as elegantly as she could and took a sip. "Tell me about Anastasia's recent developments, May."

“You know that jewelry design competition that’s been recently organized? Apparently, Anastasia’s design has made it to the finals, and the winner will be – declared next week. If she wins, she will receive a million in prize money!” May

informed the woman as jealousy gleamed in her eyes.

Even Hayley was astonished when she heard this. “What? A million?”

“That’s right! A competition like this typically caps the prize money at around 100,000, but I heard that President Presgrave is really going all out this year and racked up the prize to a million. It’s groundbreaking.”

Hayley tightened her grip around her cup. If she were to clasp it any tighter, the cup might break. So Elliot was the one who hiked up the prize money?

“President Presgrave is so generous,” May mused with a wistful sigh.

Hayley immediately thought of this as one of Elliot’s ways to repay Anastasia’s mother’s deeds, which meant that Anastasia was set to win the competition and walk away with a million in cash prize.

Elliot wielded power in various industries under the conglomerate, and it was only child’s play for him to manipulate the results of a jewelry design competition. As things were, it would not be the least bit surprising if Anastasia won first place.

No, I can’t let Anastasia walk away with that money so easily. I can’t let her win the competition without even breaking a sweat! Hayley was filled with spite and rage that she wanted to throw Anastasia out of Bourgeois and have her removed permanently from the design industry. I want her reputation to be fed to the dogs!

The jewelry design competition this time was the best opportunity for Hayley to get rid of Anastasia. Let’s see how you’ll fare when you fall hard from grace.

After lunch, Anastasia returned to the office with 100,000 in cash on hand. She took the satchel of money and walked up to the president's office, whereupon she knocked on the door. It was Rey who opened it from within, and at the sight of him, she asked, "Is President Presgrave in at the moment?"

"Yes, he is," Rey answered courteously.

She nodded. "I have some things to discuss with him." With that, she marched through the doorway and saw that Elliot was seated on the couch, looking preoccupied as he went through a mountainous pile of documents.

Upon sensing her entry, Elliot merely looked up at her once, then turned his attention to the documents before him as he asked absentmindedly, "Is there something I can help you with?"

Without another word, Anastasia put the stack of cash in front of him and said, "I'm here to pay you back the 100,000 I owe you."

Elliot's pen paused on the page for a moment, but he recovered and signed off on the document before closing the folder. Having done so, he looked up at her and said coldly, "Stop right there, Anastasia. Take your money back."

For all her love of money, Anastasia did not want to keep something that she did not deserve. She turned on her heels and said, "Donate your money to charity if you truly have nothing else to spend it on. There are others in this world who would appreciate your generosity."

Hearing this made Rey speak up on his boss' behalf from where he stood at the sidelines. "Miss Tillman, President Presgrave already has a charitable foundation under his name, and he donates billions every year into said foundation," he said.

When Anastasia heard this, she faltered and let out an awkward dry cough. "Well then, pretend I said nothing." With that, she flushed sheepishly and left.

When Anastasia picked Jared up from school that afternoon, she got the details for Family Day that was set on Friday. The teams would be made up of a maximum of two students each, and ideally, the students were to show up with their parents.

“Miss Tillman, I heard from Jared that his father will be here for Family Day as well. Here’s the thing—we’re going to need his father’s height and weight so that we’ll be able to get his shirt ready for the program. The shirts will be made according to the family teams.”

At once, the image of a tall and handsome figure surfaced in Anastasia’s mind as she asked the teacher, “Does it have to be matching family outfits?”

“It’s a school requirement, Miss Tillman, and it sets out a uniform dress code for the kids’ Family Day here. It wouldn’t be as fun if everyone wore whatever they wanted to the games,” the teacher said kindly, though she was making it clear that the requirement was absolutely mandatory.

Well, Elliot was the one who promised the kid he’d join Family Day, so he’ll have to wear the shirt no matter how ugly it is, Anastasia thought with dark amusement. “In that case, his father’s height is about six feet three.”

“Wow, Jared’s father is a tall one, isn’t he? What about his weight?”

“He has a pretty standard figure.”

“Okay, then. Now, if you could just transfer us the payment through the parent teacher group chat, that’d be great!” Having taken down the details, the teacher walked off to attend to her other duties.

Presently, Anastasia had only just arrived home with Jared in tow when Francis called to tell her that he was here and that he would like to bring them to go house-seeing.

The new place was a two-bedroom apartment, but the layout measured up to over a hundred square meters. In spite of the two bedrooms, the living room was spacious and held plenty of design potential. Anastasia could already visualize how she would divide the space and set up a kiddy’s corner in the living room that would be perfect for Jared.

The new place also featured two balconies, one for airing laundry and the other for – plants. Once she added a small table for coffee and work, and she could turn it into

her own outdoor workspace.

Anastasia liked the place that Francis had chosen for her, and she appreciated how he had gone against Naomi and Erica just so he could provide a home for her and Jared.

“Pack up your stuff and move in whenever you want. If there’s anything you need at all, the mall is just an elevator ride away!” Francis said cheerily as he sat on the couch with Jared in his lap.

Anastasia nodded and said, “Okay, I’ll go back and pack up our stuff tonight. We don’t have much, so we should be done with the move by tomorrow afternoon. We could start cooking our first meal here tomorrow evening!”

“Great, then I’ll drop by and have dinner with you both,” Francis said with a grin.

Naturally, Anastasia would love to have her father over, but even she could not hide her worries in front of him. As if sensing her thoughts, he added hastily, “Don’t worry. I’ll be dropping by alone.”

Anastasia truly did not wish to have Naomi and Erica over. She nodded and said readily, “Okay.”

Over at the Tillman Residence, Naomi was still unhappy about her husband buying an apartment unit for Anastasia. The fact was very much a thorn in her side, and she had plans on asking Francis to splurge on a new apartment for Erica as dowry.

However, she knew that Francis couldn’t afford another apartment even though his company had been doing well recently. It was almost as if the universe was helping him; all his bids had been successful, and everything was smooth-sailing over at the company, not to mention the ledgers were looking positive. After all, it wasn’t easy for a small company with only millions in its assets to become a listed entity.

Meanwhile, Elliot was in his office at Presgrave Corporation, and he would be returning after his visit to Bourgeois this evening to tie up some loose ends at work. Just then, Rey approached him with a folder in hand and said, "President Presgrave, a new bid from Francis' company just came in, and we've already approved of it."

Elliot nodded in satisfaction. "Very well."

"President Presgrave, I don't think Francis knows that you're the one who has been secretly supporting his company and allowing it to grow into its current state."

"There's no need for him to know. His wife had sacrificed her life for mine, and it's only right that I treat his family well to repay her selfless deed." Elliot rubbed the space between his brows as he felt exhaustion wash over him.

"President Presgrave, we've also given word to the panel working on the jewelry design competition."

"Right," Elliot said in acknowledgement, his eyes suddenly lighting up in anticipation.

"You should be getting back, sir. It's already 9.00PM" Rey pointed out gently.

Half an hour later, Elliot returned to his villa in the hills. When he stood in the spacious living room, he couldn't help noticing how empty his home felt. It made him think of Anastasia's small but cozy apartment. Perhaps a woman's touch is just what this house needs, he thought. A child would liven things up too.

As his mind wandered, he thought about Anastasia and Jared. Anastasia was a stubborn soul who refused to take the easy way out. Moreover, she was independent, decisive, and never one to bend her will for the sake of money. She wasn't someone he could buy, and for all the power he had, he knew he couldn't make her marry him.

More importantly, he was the one who owed her a favor. As things were, he found it much harder to win over Anastasia than it was to manage a large corporation with a billion-something net worth.

He couldn't stop thinking about Anastasia and the curves of her silhouette. The more he thought about her, the stronger the heat that coursed through his entire body. All of a sudden, his pants felt very constricting.

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He lowered his head in shock. How could the thought of her make my body react this way? Now that she's found out about the one night stand between me and Hayley five years ago, I bet she'll hate me even more.

Elliot's phone chimed right then, and he unlocked his phone to see a message from Anastasia along with a picture of a yellow t-shirt.

'This is the uniform for Family Day. Are you sure that you want to come?'

What an ordinary t-shirt. I bet you can easily get these store-bought shirts in a similar pattern and cutting online for several bucks.

'I've already made a promise to Jared, so I'll definitely go. Elliot quickly typed a response to Anastasia's message.

'Still, this doesn't really fit your image, and I think it'll be better if you don't take part in this. I can let the teacher know and take over your place anyway.

After reading Anastasia's reply with narrowed eyes, Elliot texted back determinedly. 'I'll definitely be there.

At the same time, Anastasia was texting Elliot while laying in bed. Upon seeing how Elliot insisted on coming despite her attempts to deter him from doing so, she replied with one sentence. 'Fine! See you at 2.00PM this Friday:

'Sure. Is Jared asleep yet?' Elliot asked.

'He's asleep

'What are you doing now?'

'I'm talking to you while lying in bed. Anastasia's reply came in quickly.

'Anastasia, what if I give you 10 billion to marry to me?' Elliot suddenly asked.

Upon seeing that, Anastasia's mind went blank. 10 billion to marry him? Haha! Does he really think that he can do anything he wants to just because he's loaded?

"Go and look for Hayley if you're in need of a woman! Even if I'm lonely, I will never – take Hayley's leftovers. She rejected Elliot in a headstrong manner.

In the mansion, Elliot's face immediately darkened as the atmosphere around the couch that he was sitting on became tense. Does she really hate me that much?

He looked up with a sharp glint in his eyes. Just you wait, Anastasia. I'm sure that you'll be touched by my actions one day in the future. After all, we still have so much time together for the rest of our lives!

Right then, Elliot's phone started ringing. When he noticed that it was a call from Hayley, he accepted the call with a frown on his face. "Hey, Hayley."

"Elliot, I'm scared... Can you come over to accompany me?" Hayley asked with a pitiful voice as she tried to get him to feel protective over her.

"I'll get Mrs. Collins to go over and keep you company."

"No... I just want you... Elliot, I had a dream about that night five years ago, and I really miss you... I want to feel it all again..." Hayley sounded ambiguous and needy.

Nevertheless, Elliot paused. How could she miss what happened five years ago when I hurt her so badly that night?

“Hayley, do you even remember how I treated you that night? It should have been a nightmare to you,” he asked calmly.

Upon hearing that, Hayley whined. “I was afraid that night, but... I’m not afraid anymore when I think of you as the pain turned into pleasure.”

“You should stop thinking about it. I don’t want you getting traumatized,” Elliot said.

“Alright, then! By the way, I want to visit the company and have lunch with you tomorrow.”

“Sure,” Elliot replied. “I need to shower now.” With that, he hung up.

At the same time, Hayley, who was staying in a mansion at the city center, had cold sweat all over her forehead. Elliot almost found out about the truth! From his tone of voice, I bet he realized how much he tortured Anastasia that night. Still, he was out of his mind, and it was Anastasia’s first time, so I bet she was badly tormented by someone like him.

Even so, Hayley couldn’t help but feel jealous. If only I had been the one there that night.

I would have been able to experience how Elliot was like when he went all out. She felt her _body heating up at the thought of Elliot’s buff build.

Even if it’s just once, I really want to be his woman.

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On Thursday, Anastasia had taken a half-day leave and moved all of her luggage from the apartment to her new place with Francis’ help. While Francis went to pick Jared up, she started decorating the house

in peace. Since there was a mall downstairs that allowed Anastasia to get all her daily necessities, everything was progressing smoothly.

At night, she cooked and made them a hearty meal. From now onward, they had a place where they belonged within the city.

“Dad, how’s your company’s growth recently?” Anastasia asked curiously.

“Everything is progressing smoothly! We’ve recently gotten a deal that can give us about 100 million in profit if we are able to get our hands on the project.”

Hearing that, Anastasia felt happy for Francis. Seeing how Francis wasn’t getting any younger, he would be apprehensive if the company’s operation wasn’t smooth.

Suddenly, Francis looked at Anastasia and asked in all seriousness, “Anastasia, are you planning to continue your venture in the designing field forever? Have you never thought of learning how to manage a company?”

Immediately, Anastasia caught onto what Francis was implying. Does he want me to take over his company? I guess he’s anxious now that he’s almost reaching his sixties.

“I don’t think I’m good at that, Dad,” Anastasia replied in a self-deprecating manner.

“Well, at least you’re more mature than Erica, and I’d feel more relieved if the company is in your hands,” Francis explained truthfully, as Erica had been completely spoiled by Naomi and didn’t know how to do anything other than spending his money.

“You’re still young, though. Why don’t you decide again in two years, Dad? I’d still have to wait until Jared gets bigger before I have the time to help you out anyway,” Anastasia suggested after pondering for a moment.

Although Francis was just asking, he was still happy to know that Anastasia had plans to help him out. “Alright. I’ll manage the company for two more years before I make the decision to let you take over the company, then.”

– At this moment, Anastasia looked up at Francis and noticed his graying sideburns

before realizing that her father was really starting to get older now.

On the other hand, Hayley had invited Alice, Anastasia’s competitor this time, to have a meal at a restaurant. Then, she told Alice about how Anastasia was already set to be the winner of the International Jewelry Design Competition this time.

“How did you find out about that, Miss Seymour? Are you sure?” Alice questioned with visible anger in her eyes.

“I can assure you that my sources are accurate. If you want to win the competition fairly or even stand out among others in Bourgeois, you need to remove Anastasia. If not, the person who will outshine everyone in the company will definitely be her,” Hayley declared with a sharp glint in her eyes.

“How is that even possible?!” Alice harrumphed.

“Miss Thompson, I’m not trying to scare you, but you’ll only be able to surpass her if you leave Bourgeois, or Anastasia will surely overshadow you.”

“Miss Seymour, I’m guessing that this is not the main reason why you invited me out!” Alice was smart enough to catch on to the hidden meaning.

“I know you hate Anastasia, and I do, too. I want her to leave Bourgeois, and I really hope that she won’t be able to stay in the jewelry designing industry any longer, so I’m hoping that you can partner up with me.”

Obviously, Alice knew why Hayley hated Anastasia. How could she, as President Presgrave’s girlfriend, not hate Anastasia when Anastasia and President Presgrave kept flirting around with each other in the

company? Thus, she agreed without any hesitation. "Sure. I'm willing to work together with you, Miss Seymour, but what can I do?"

Hayley already had an answer to Alice's question. "Do you know the chairman of the company that is sponsoring the International Jewelry Design Competition this year?"

As Alice had wide connections in the designing field, she actually did know who the chairman that Hayley mentioned was. The chairman was a notorious pervert that had once tried to ask her to a meal, wanting to help her expand her connections, but she had rejected him.

"I have his contact number, and I can contact him anytime."

Hayley smirked with satisfaction. "I'm planning to get Anastasia and him in one bed before taking a picture of it and revealing it during the awards ceremony. By then,

she definitely won't be able to win any awards and will even be a laughingstock in the designing field. What do you think?"

Although Alice thought that the plan was risky, she really couldn't stand Anastasia any longer. If Anastasia was really set to be the winner of the competition this time internally, the reward of a million would end up in her pockets, and that didn't sit right with Alice.

"Sure! I'm willing to help you by asking the chairman out, but how can you get Anastasia to fall into the trap?" Alice asked curiously.

"I have my own ways. Ask the chairman out this Saturday at night and set up the surveillance camera beforehand. I'll definitely get Anastasia to show up in his bed in time."

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Now that Hayley was loaded, she was more daring and opinionated, and she definitely wouldn't hesitate to pull dirty tricks.

“Alright. It’s set, then,” Alice nodded and agreed to work with Hayley.

On Friday morning, Anastasia received a text from Jared’s teacher. “The family activity will start at 2.00 PM today. We hope all parents will be able to attend on time.

After forwarding the message to Elliot, her landline started ringing in no time, and guessing that it was probably Elliot, she picked up the phone. “Hello?”

“Meet me at the parking lot at 1.00 PM sharp.” A man’s magnetic voice rang out before Anastasia replied, “Alright.”

After Elliot hung up the call, Anastasia went speechless as she started regretting her decision to let Elliot act as Jared’s father to join the family activities.

Isn’t that just me asking to get upset? I should have asked Nigel instead.

Not knowing what kind of games would be held during the family activities, she could only hope that they could be normal activities instead of those involving too much interaction.

When it was 1.00 PM, Anastasia grabbed her bag and entered the elevator. At the same time, May, who had been observing Anastasia, quickly followed after her and asked with a smile, “Are you going out, Anastasia?”

“Yes! I have to leave to do something.”

Then, Anastasia pressed on the first basement floor while May got down on the first floor before she quickly ran down from the staircase at the side to follow after Anastasia.

While she was on the way down, she saw Anastasia entering Elliot’s private car. Immediately, May’s eyes widened. Is Anastasia going on a date with President Presgrave during working hours again? They’re not on the way to the hotel, are they?

She quickly took her phone out and reported what she saw to Hayley. After learning – about what happened, Hayley felt so angry she could go mad'at any second.

Looks like Anastasia had really been using work as an excuse to go out on dates with Elliot. What a manipulative person! I can now confirm that the hickey on Elliot's neck was definitely left by her on purpose. I guess Elliot only looks like he didn't have any desire or biological needs, because Anastasia has been secretly satisfying him. How despicable. How dare she criticize Elliot in front of me but seduce him behind my back using all sorts of dirty tricks?

Meanwhile, Anastasia started feeling like she was insane to allow Elliot to act as Jared's father while they were on the way to kindergarten.

"Why don't you... not go instead? I'll explain it to the teacher." She turned toward the man and suggested that she didn't want him to ruin his image by going with her.

Nevertheless, Elliot continued looking ahead of him and said with determination, "I promised Jared to go."

"I can explain to Jared that you can't make it because you're busy. Jared won't be mad at you since he's a forgiving person. I'm begging you, Elliot, can you not go?" Anastasia gave him a pleading look.

"What's wrong? Am I embarrassing you?" Elliot turned to give her a look.

Yet, this wasn't about any one's reputation, as Anastasia just didn't want Elliot to act as Jared's father because she wouldn't be able to explain herself if anyone found out about this.

"I'm serious. You really shouldn't go. I'll promise to treat you to a meal if you don't go

-no, I'll treat you to an entire day of meals. How about that?" She tried her best to persuade Elliot to change his mind, but Elliot remained unmoved. "I'm going."

"What do you want me to do for you to not go, then?" Anastasia tried to negotiate with him.

“If you marry me right now, I won’t go,” Elliot turned around and answered thoughtfully, while Anastasia gave him a speechless look. “That’s impossible.”

Then, he continued driving emotionlessly, and they reached the kindergarten in no time. Just then, there were already many parents there, although they had arrived 15 minutes earlier. After glancing at her watch, Anastasia suggested, “Why don’t we wait in the car for a while before entering? Jared is probably still taking his nap right now.”

Elliot nodded in agreement before she started using her phone to check the latest news to kill time. Meanwhile, the man next to her, who didn’t have the habit of mindlessly scrolling through his phone, fixated his gaze on her.

At this moment, Anastasia’s long hair was pushed to the back, leaving a few strands of baby hair to accentuate her full cheeks. Her cheeks were soft and bouncy, showing how well her skin was.

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Right then, Elliot’s gaze shifted to Anastasia’s lips instinctively. Her lips were plump and soft, sending off signals to invite the man over.

Meanwhile, Anastasia, who was in the midst of reading the latest news, felt a pair of eyes staring at her before she turned around to meet Elliot’s deep gaze. When she sensed what he was thinking about, she was taken aback.

Is he getting aroused again?!

“It’s time. Let’s go!” Anastasia kept her phone and got out of the car.

At the same time, the lustful look in Elliot’s gaze vanished before he got out of the car and headed toward the kindergarten together with Anastasia. Just then, the two young female teachers that were ushering at the kindergarten entrance were stunned when they saw the couple heading toward them.

The man walking next to Anastasia was giving off an arrogant and noble aura. Although he was just wearing a white dress shirt along with black slacks, his 6'2 height made him look as if he was royalty. Is this the definition of perfect? Oh my God, is that Jared's father? What a handsome man!

"Miss Tillman, is this Jared's father?" one of the female teachers asked curiously.

... "Uh..." Anastasia pursed her lips.

"Yes. I am Jared's father." The man next to her admitted with a deep voice.

"Come on in. The activity is starting soon." The teachers took a few more glances at Elliot. My goodness! Jared's mother must really be enjoying this view! It must be nice to marry such a good-looking man and conceive a good-looking son as well.

"Jared and his father bear so much resemblance to each other!" one of the teachers chimed in.

However, Anastasia was speechless when she heard the teacher. Seriously? How can my son look similar to this man? Do all good-looking people look similar? Still, it's impossible to look so alike that even strangers think they look like father and son, isn't it?

Since the program would be held at the kindergarten's field, they had built a stage -along with chairs for the parents. As Anastasia enrolled Jared in an ordinary

kindergarten, it was understood that the types of equipment were slightly aged.

At this moment, the children came out one by one, holding onto the hems of the shirt of the person in front of them. All of the children looked adorable and happy as their faces lit up proudly when they saw their parents.

When Jared saw the people he was expecting, he broke into a smile, revealing his white teeth, before Elliot waved at him. Right then, Elliot's presence was not just fan service to the teachers but also eye candy to all the young mothers. All of them stared at Elliot intently, as if he would become theirs if they stared long and hard enough.

Even the fathers started scanning Elliot up and down while thinking to themselves, How unfair is it for this man to get all the benefits when we are all men? How can he be handsome and have a great build while looking elegant, smart, and rich?

Nevertheless, Elliot had his arms crossed gracefully before his gaze landed on Jared. At that moment, his gaze was gentle and soft, as if he was really staring at his own

son.

Right after the headmistress finished giving her speech, the teachers started bringing the kids up on stage for their class performances. For the Grade 3 class, every child came up as adorable looking angels before the Grade 2 class children came in dancing adorably to a lovely song, and Jared was part of it as well.

Following that, the youngest children who were in Grade 1 came on stage before a few of them started crying, causing some of the parents below the stage to start chuckling as Anastasia giggled as well. When she looked up and met the gaze of Elliot, who was sitting next to her, she suddenly noticed that he had a gentle look on his usually cold face.

“Alright. We want our parents to change into the outfits prepared for the activities later on because our family activities are starting soon.”

After getting the outfits, everyone, including Elliot, went to the washroom to change. A while later, everyone came out while Elliot stood in the middle of the crowd in a yellow t-shirt. Although he was just wearing an ordinary t-shirt, he made it look somewhat expensive, as if it cost tens of thousands.

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Even Anastasia took a few more glances at Elliot. It was rare to see him in such a sight, and she really wanted to take a picture of him as a keepsake.

“We would like to request for parents to stand next to their children because we are starting our first round of family activities now.”

When Elliot went over to stand next to Jared, the boy gave him a hug happily while Anastasia heard the pair of women next to her gossiping. “He’s the hottest dad I’ve ever seen.”

“I know, right? I thought he was some celebrity initially!”

Then, they gave Anastasia an envious look before one of them mustered up the courage to go toward Anastasia and asked, “Is that your husband and son?”

Upon hearing that, Anastasia felt her face flush a deep red before she nodded in acknowledgment. The first round of family activity was a dribbling game held on stage, and there would be three groups competing at the same time. Every child would be paired up with their fathers, and the fathers would need to pass the balls to their children, while the children would be needed to bring the balls to the endpoint.

All the parents below the stage were entertained when the competition started. When it was Elliot’s turn, he quickly threw off the two other father-and-son pairings with his fast movements, while Jared quickly carried the ball and dashed toward the endpoint, making them the winner of the round. Then, every winning group continued into the eliminations before Elliot and Jared finally ended up in the first place.

Upon seeing Jared’s pleased smile, Anastasia, who was below the stage, felt herself tearing up as this was her first time seeing Jared looking so proud and pleased while the man next to Jared bent down to wipe Jared’s sweat off gently. At this moment, she finally came to a realization that she really owed Jared for not providing him with a complete family.

Following that was a ball hoop game where every father had to quickly turn around six times while carrying their children before throwing the ball into a hoop, and the group that could make the fastest and most accurate throw would be the winner.

While everyone else got dizzy after making too many turns, Elliot had already – completed ten sets of turns and threw the balls into the hoops at lightning speed with

insane accuracy, impressing the crowd.

“My goodness! That dad is so good at this game! How cool!” one of the mothers couldn’t help but exclaim loudly.

Having said that, it was what all the mothers present thought as well. This father is the GOAT!

Everyone below the stage was full of praises for Elliot, while Anastasia’s eyes widened in shock, as this was her first time seeing Jared so happy.

They won again.

After Jared won twice consecutively, the headmistress went on stage and announced, “Let’s invite Jared’s mother to come up on stage with us.”

Immediately, Anastasia’s mind went blank. What is the headmistress trying to do?

However, she knew that she couldn’t cower away from getting up on stage, so she took a deep breath before she went up with a smile. Right then, the headmistress asked excitedly, “Jared’s mother! Firstly, I would like to ask where you ended up finding yourself such an outstanding and handsome man as your husband?”

Immediately, Anastasia blushed before she pursed her lips into a smile and stuttered, “W-Well... I guess it’s fate!”

“Jared’s father was really amazing! May I know what his occupation is?”

“I’m currently working in the finance field.” Elliot’s magnetic voice was extremely mesmerizing

“Wow! I bet you’re good at earning money!” Right then, even the headmistress, who was already in her forties, glanced at Elliot a few times because this was her first time seeing such a good-looking father.

“Alright. Coming up next, let’s get Jared’s father to tell his mother: you’ve done well, wifey.” The headmistress suddenly requested.

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Oh my God! I want to kick myself so badly!

Although the mic was already passed to her, Anastasia’s mind was completely blank, as she couldn’t say it.

“Say it, Mommy!” At this moment, Jared, who was standing next to her, pulled on her pants anxiously.

Just then, Anastasia had no choice but to say into the mic quickly, “I love you, hubby.”

After saying that, she wanted to leave the stage immediately, but the headmistress’s relentless voice rang out again.

“Why don’t we let Jared’s father give Jared’s mother a hug now?”

While Anastasia was dumbstruck, Elliot’s arm came snaking around her waist before she was pressed against his chest and started smelling the scent of his male pheromones. Meanwhile, the crowd started applauding before Anastasia finally came back to her senses and pushed Elliot away instinctively.

When they went down from the stage, Jared quickly went back to his seat while Elliot returned to his seat next to Anastasia. However, Anastasia was afraid to look at Elliot and only wanted the family activities to end as soon as possible.

Fortunately, the activities following that were family activities between children from other classes with their mothers. Around 4.00 PM, the awards ceremony started, and Jared came back pleased with a mini glass trophy of his own. Finally, Anastasia sighed in relief when the headmistress announced the end of the ceremony because she couldn’t wait to leave with Jared.

When they got into Elliot's car, all of the parents noticed that Elliot was driving a Rolls-Royce Phantom that cost millions.

Meanwhile, in the car, Jared exclaimed, "Mr. Presgrave, you were so cool today!"

"I bet you're tired! Let me treat you to dinner tonight," Elliot turned around slightly and offered.

However, Anastasia rejected him. "It's fine. I'm taking Jared home."

"Mommy, Mr. Presgrave shouldn't have to treat us to a meal because it's the other

way round instead. Why don't we head out to have a meal tonight? Your treat." Jared had already had everything planned out.

On the other hand, Anastasia didn't want to appear stingy and ungrateful in front of Jared. Besides, she realized that Jared was right, and she should repay Elliot for helping Jared out today.

"Fine. I'll treat you to a meal, then." Anastasia told the man who was driving.

"Sure. Where are we heading?"

"Let's head to the restaurant that serves local cuisine below my house!" She didn't want to travel far because she still had to clean her son up afterward.

"We stay here," Jared informed Elliot when he stopped by the street where Anastasia bought her new place, after which Elliot nodded at the young boy.

The restaurant served local dishes, and the business was doing well. After Anastasia picked a table close to the window and got seated, she ordered a few local delicacies, and their food was served in no time. At the same time, Jared was still toying with his trophy on his seat.

“Eat up! Although this isn’t some fancy restaurant, the dishes here are not bad,” she offered the man sitting in front of her.

“I’m not picky.” Elliot grabbed his utensils and started eating, while Anastasia picked some food for Jared. From an outsider’s perspective, they looked just like a family of three. Right then, Anastasia couldn’t help but feel relief that Jared was in an ordinary kindergarten, and the parents here didn’t have wide social circles, so Elliot wasn’t recognized.

After dinner, while she was paying the bills, Jared walked around without paying any attention to his surroundings and was about to run into a waitress who was rushing over with a few dishes.

“Jared, be careful.” Elliot quickly pulled Jared behind him to protect him while the waitress got scared before her tray tilted, and all of the dishes landed on Elliot’s arm.

“I’m sorry. I’m sorry...” The waitress, who was an intern, started crying due to shock before she tried to clean his arm in a hurry.

As Anastasia witnessed Elliot soiling his shirt to save Jared, she quickly rushed over to console the crying waitress. “It’s alright. We stay nearby anyway.”

After leaving the restaurant, she had no choice but to invite Elliot over to clean himself up.

“Fortunately, the t-shirt that you wore for the parents’ activities just now is still in the car. You don’t mind changing into that, do you?” Anastasia asked Elliot.

“Sure. I’ll take a shower at yours.” Obviously, a clean freak like Elliot wouldn’t choose to go home in a soiled shirt. After getting the t-shirt from the car, Anastasia went home along with Jared and Elliot.

When Elliot saw Anastasia’s new place, he realized that it was bigger than the apartment that she used to stay in, and it was cozier than before.

Anastasia realized Elliot didn't take the t-shirt with him after he entered the bathroom. While Jared went back to his room to play with his Lego, she started tidying the living room and lost track of time.

When Anastasia heard the door to the bathroom opening, she turned around instinctively to see Elliot, whose hair was wet, coming out wearing nothing but his slacks.

Under the light's illumination, his strong physique was completely exposed, revealing his refined shoulder blades and collar bones, as well as his defined abdomen muscles. As Elliot didn't have his belt on yet, Anastasia couldn't help but feel threatened by his presence right there and then.

Nevertheless, she couldn't help but go into a trance as this was her first time seeing such a perfect male built. As a perfectionist, Anastasia really wanted to sneak a few more glances at Elliot.

"Are you done with staring?" Elliot's sore throat made his voice sound slightly hoarse, while Anastasia's face flushed quickly before she lowered her head and wiped the table in a hurried manner to act as if she was busy.

"Uhm... Your t-shirt is on the couch," she reminded.

Then, Elliot took long strides toward the couch before wearing the yellow t-shirt. Just then, his gaze landed on Anastasia's slender waist. Suddenly, he felt unwilling to end the day just like that.

At this moment, he got more agitated due to the shower before he headed to Anastasia's room and asked, "Where's my phone?"

At the same time, Anastasia was shocked. Although she hadn't seen Elliot's phone, she was sure that his phone wasn't in her room.

"It's not in my room," Anastasia said before she quickly followed him to her bedroom.

While Elliot was looking around the bed, she reached his side before she was grabbed by her arms and forced to fall into the man's firm chest. Within the next second, Anastasia's chin was grabbed before she was forced to look up while Elliot lowered his head and kissed her against her will.

Upon tasting the sweet scent of Anastasia's lip, Elliot tensed up as Anastasia's soft lips

were so addictive it kept making him yearn for more. Since when did this woman become so charismatic that she could arouse me with just a kiss?

On the other hand, Anastasia was dumbstruck. God damn it. How dare he trick me into my room to take advantage of me?!

Nevertheless, Jared's room was just next door, and she didn't want Jared to run into this scene since the house was small, so she could only try to push Elliot away forcefully while refusing his kiss.

Meanwhile, Elliot was shocked. Why does this feel so familiar? This is just like what happened that night five years ago. This sweet, unforgettable scent, this moan of hers, and the way she pushes me away... are all too familiar.

Still, Anastasia knew that Elliot got more possessive the more she tried to push him away, as it triggered his urge to dominate her. Right then, someone's leg tripped onto another, and the two of them fell down onto the soft bed within the next second.

Finally, Anastasia managed to get away from Elliot's grip before she glared at the man on the bed with a disheveled look and cursed, "Elliot, you a*shole!"

At the same time, the man in the bed looked stunned as well. Just a while ago, there was a strong urge within him to keep her for himself and dominate her. Elliot could feel himself going crazy, as he wasn't able to do that.

1. "I want you to leave my house now. You're not welcomed here any longer." Anastasia

glared at him before she rubbed her lips angrily to indicate her disgust.

Meanwhile, Elliot lowered his gaze before a conflicted look flashed past his face.

After he came out, he didn't say anything and left after grabbing his car keys and phone on the couch while Anastasia sat on the couch with her forehead propped against her palm. I can't keep allowing the wolf into my house again and again. This man is too dangerous, and I can't let him come over anymore.

Chapter 90

During the night, Anastasia accompanied Jared until he fell asleep before she returned to her own room. As she lay in bed, she kept having flashbacks of what happened before an electrifying sensation ran past her body.

How is this even possible? I've been avoiding men and any physical contact with them other than occasional contact with Nigel after what happened five years ago, but it's strictly platonic between the two of us, so why did Elliot manage to arouse me? Is it because he's way too charismatic? No. That's impossible. Elliot is Hayley's man, and I'll never allow anyone with any association with Hailey to touch me again.

On Saturday morning, Anastasia woke up and checked her phone instinctively to see if she had any notifications before she noticed a message from an unknown number. Initially, she thought that it was a spam message, but the content of the text made her sit up abruptly in shock.

'I was the man from five years ago. Why didn't you tell me that you gave birth to my

son?'

Upon seeing that, Anastasia had her face go pale as she stared at the message in shock before her mind went blank.

How is this even possible? How did the man from five years ago find out about Jared? Did Hayley or Erica tell him about it?

Nevertheless, the thing that she was the most afraid of was finally happening. The bast*rd was finally showing up to steal Jared.

Hayley must have been the one who told him about it! Since she arranged everything in the first place, she must have stayed in contact with him.

Still, Anastasia forced herself to calm down before replying to the text message. 'I don't know what you're talking about. You got the wrong person.'

Anastasia Tillman, you better listen to me if you don't want me to take your son away from you, or I'll definitely take him away.

She felt a murderous intent rising when she saw the man's reply. How dare a person who had committed a crime try to snatch my son away from me?

– 'I'll kill you if you try to take my son away from me. Hatred was evident in Anastasia's

reply.

'I want you to meet me at my appointed place, or you can just wait for your son to be snatched away from you!'

Jared was Anastasia's biggest weakness, and she'd do anything for him, including risking her own life. Since the b*stard of a man finally appeared, there was no way for her to avoid him even if she didn't want to meet him.

'Alright. I'll meet up with you.' Anastasia replied to the message.

At the same time, Hayley, who was in her luxurious mansion, smirked evilly when she read Anastasia's reply to her. The show just started. As long as I can control this character well, I can get Anastasia to do anything due to her fear of losing Jared.

Despite that, Hayley still had another plan for tonight.

On the other hand, Anastasia had been in fear and anxiety the entire day. After that, she contacted Francis to get him to come over during the noon to take care of Jared because she needed to go meet that man.

Anastasia really hoped that Jared would have a great father, but the man was an a*shole. After settling Jared down, she checked her phone to see an address as well as a message from the man. 'Be here on time. If you refuse to come, I'll make sure you pay for it.

Around 5.30 PM, Anastasia took a cab to the agreed meet-up location. Since she wasn't sure about the precise location where they were meeting, she got down from the cab around the agreed meet-up location before realizing that she was in a remote alley with no people there. Right when she wanted to ask the man about his whereabouts, a person suddenly covered her mouth from behind before she inhaled the drugs that caused her to faint.

Immediately, Anastasia was dragged inside a van before the van drove away, revealing a sports car behind it, while Hayley, who was in the car, sent a message. 'Send her to the appointed hotel.

Then, she contacted Alice to make sure that she had done everything from her side as well. "I told Chairman Morris to meet me at the hotel room at 10.00 PM tonight. Are you sure that Anastasia is going to be there?"

"Don't worry. Anastasia is in my hands right now, and I'm sending her to the room for Chairman Morris to enjoy later on." Hayley smirked because her plan was progressing smoothly, as she would be able to get the footage of Anastasia and Ben Morris tomorrow morning. Once she played the footage during the awards ceremony, everyone would know that Anastasia won by getting into Ben Morris's bed.

By then, she would surely lose all her credits and become the laughingstock in the field. Even if Elliot were to try to help her out in Bourgeois, Anastasia would still be humiliated and wouldn't be able to make a comeback anymore.