

## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 46 RYAN I couldn't wait for the weekend to reach any more. I only found out about them a few days ago, and it is basically like I cannot live without them. The few times I FaceTimed Lily to speak with the kids, I only got to speak with Noah and Ethan. The few times Liam joined the conversation, he just sat there and listened to me without uttering a single word, despite my countless attempts to engage him in a conversation. The moment the chopper touched down the hotel's rooftop, I had Angelo take my stuff to my penthouse while I got into the car, one of my security accompanying me to help load the excessive gifts into the car, and I let an unpreferred driver take me to Lily's residence. Judging from the time. I was sure she was done with her hospital duties for the day, and even if she wasn't done, the kids were back from school, so I could just spend some time with them before she got back. I sent her a quick text to inform her that I was en route to her house, although she was already aware that I would be coming to Canada. today. The driver pulled over at her gate and one of the security walked over to our car and instructed the driver to roll down all windows. The moment he saw me, he gave me a curt nod before turning to his colleagues and instructing them to open the gate. With less stress on Gate. unlike the previous days, we drove past the headed for the building which was almost a ten minutes drive away from the Pulling over, I opened the door myself and got down, ambled to the trunk, opened it, and carried the gifts I had brought with me. Pressing the doorbell, a domestic staff opened the door and ushered me inside. She told me to make myself comfortable while she go call Lily. I have no reason to remain in the living room. What I believed was common sense told me that the kids would be in their study room, getting their homework done, so I went upstairs to surprise them myself. The staff noticed that I was just behind her, so she stopped. "Do you want to meet Ms. Lily yourself?" I nodded, walking past her. "I know my way around the house," or at least part of the house, so you don't have to show me around or do the calling for me. I made my way to the study and knocked once before pushing the door open. Instead of the kids, I saw Lily putting away their books on the shelf. Her eyes widened a bit in surprise when she saw me standing in the room with her. "Did you just arrive?" she asked, her eyes darting to the window. Why does she look nervous though? "Yeah, I just arrived." My eyes squinted at her suspicious behavior. "are you okay?" she blinked rapidly in response. "You are acting weird." Licking her lips, she nodded. "Yeah, I am fine." Turning, she placed the last book on the shelf. "You arrived earlier than planned, you should have at least called or texted." "I texted." I deadpanned, "finding her current reasoning annoying, "where are the kids?" Taking a bath. She replied, heading for the door, but I grabbed her forearm, halting her. "are you sure you are fine!" She nodded firmly, yet failed to convince me. "I am fine Ryan. I just had a busy day at the office and I am a bit tired." Nodding skeptically, I decided not to push it, despite knowing that she was not being entirely truthful. "Spring break is in two months, you know that right?" Tilting her head, she blinked up at me. "I am well aware of the school calendar Ryan." "Have you told them that they are going to

spend the holiday with me?" she fell silent which means she hasn't told them about it. "I am not trying to pressure you or anything, but I believe it would be much better if you let them know ahead of time." Truth be told, I am eager to spend the holidays with them. I want to take them to the park, wearing matching t-shirts and sunglasses. I 11:43 AM Chapter 45 want to take pictures with them, I want to take them to the movies, and share popcorn and ice cream with them. Yes, I am that kind of man, I want to be that kind of father "What if you tell them yourself?" she suggested and my eyes widened, "what?!" she blurted out, feigning ignorance on the reason for my nervousness. "I think it is a great idea for you to tell them yourself." I shook my head, letting go of her hand and taking a step back. "I do not think it is a great idea. You are just giving Liam one hundred and one reasons why he shouldn't go with me to New York for the holidays." She smiled at me. "Stop being scared of your son Ryan." She advised and I almost argued that fact. I am not afraid of my son, I am afraid of his feelings for me, I am scared of how he perceives me which is why I tread carefully around him. "Fine, I'll tell them myself." Lily nodded encouragingly, "that would be great. I will also inform the nanny of the travel plans so she can make adjustments too." Staring down at the beautiful ginger-haired lady standing before me, an idea formulated in my head and I smiled inwardly. "Is that necessary?" I asked her with a slight frown. Not exactly getting my question, her head tilted again. "informing her ahead of time?" she nodded, answering her question. "courtesy demands that we let her know despite her role or duties in this family." Slipping both hands into my pocket, I shook my head. I wasn't talking about that, I meant, is taking her along with us necessary? I have enough domestic staff that will take care of them and also there is Stephanie," I watched her frown at the mention of that woman's name. "since she is going to be their stepmother in the future, it is best that they

start bonding now." Lily's lips thinned with anger. "Keep my children away from that woman." She hissed. Forcing to keep my smile locked in, I blinked slowly at her. "and why is that? If they can bond with their stepfather, I do not see what the problem is with them bonding with their stepmother." "Jake is glad to have the kids in his life, but I can't say the same for that woman." She gritted out. "That woman hates me for the very reason of my existence and I honestly do not give a , but if you leave my children under her care, she is going to make me regret it, so I'd rather not have that." I was certain Stephanie wouldn't want to be anywhere close to the boys, not that I'd let that happen anyway. "I need a mother figure in their lives within that short period, so if you do not want Stephanie, you will have to find a replacement "Their nanny is the best option." "I am not going to leave my children under the care of someone who doesn't know the streets or dangers of New York." "So what are you suggesting Ryan?" Squaring my shoulder, I tried not to look too excited that things were going exactly how I wanted them to go. "It is either Stephanie stays or you come to replace her." "You are insane!" The door to the library pulled open and Jake stomped inside. "she is not living in the same house with you in New York." I glared at the intruder. Was that the reason she was acting strange? Has he been here all along?! 11:43 AM Chapter 47

# Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 47 LILY The moment Jake opened the door and walked in, I knew we were about to engage in another argument. Ryan moved glances between me and Jake. "Didn't I tell you that I don't want to meet him anytime I come to spend time with my kids?" "This is my house, you can't be telling me who stays and goes whenever you want to come around." I sighed, turning to Jake. "Did y forget something?" He nodded before walking further into the room, intentionally bumping into Ryan's shoulder. "I left my jacket in the living room and then I realized I didn't you goodnight." He leaned forward and peeked my cheeks. "Good night love." I licked my lips. "Good night Jake." He ruffled my head before truning to leave, however he halted. "Don't let this man intimidate you into doing something you don't want to do." He glared at Ryan, "if he keeps threatening you about filing for custody, let him go ahead, I am certain we can beat him in court." Ryan threw his head backwards and laughed mockingly at him, "Beat me in court?" he blinked down, trying to contain his laughter as he shook his head "with what? The salary you earn from real estate?" he rubbed his thumb on his lower lips. "I will kick yo out of the real estate business faster than you can blink, then allowe you waste the little savings you have left in court, helping Lily fight for kids that aren't even yours." "Enough of the insult!" I snapped at Ryan. "I will not stand here and watch you insult my man." Ryan's jaw clenched. "insult your man you say?" he growled, "didn't you see him bump into my shoulder? Did you caution him? are you kidding me Lily?!" "You provoked him into that behaviour." I defended Jake. "You always say and do things that irk him then you expect me to caution him for acting out? Are you serious?" "Irk him?" Ryan spat, "I did not say a word to that fool ever since he walked into this room yet he bumped into my shoulder and you say I am the one who irked me?" he licked his lips. "I can see that you are taking sides Lily, and I don't really blame you." He pinched the bridge of his nose, "I blame myself for indulging this nonsense." He stomped towards the door and I called after him. "where are you going Ryan?!" "To see the real reason I came here." He retorted, slamming the door behind him. All alone with Jake, I finally gave him my attention. "that was wrong Jake," I pointed out, "I didn't want to reprimand him in front of Ryan. "you didn't have to bump into his shoulder like that." Jake scoffed, folding his head. "Countless times, you have watched that young man talk down on me and the one time I defend myself, you want to take his side?" he closed in the distance between us, "you should always take my side Lily, I am not freaking fiancé and he is your ex-husband, emphasis on the ex!" "I just defended you." I yelled back at him, wondering why he is screaming at me right now, "you basically listened to me scold Ryan and take your side so what are you saying?" "I should be asking you what are you saying?" he fired back, "After defending me, the moment the moment the door closed, on me Why? you turned "Why not?!" Placing my hands on my hips, I took deep breaths and counted unp to three before continuing. "Just because you are my fiancé doesn't mean I shouldn't call you out if you do omething wrong." He poked his tongue into his cheek and stared at me silently for a while. I waited for him to gather my thoughts. "Can you please tell me why we aren't planning our wedding yet." My jaw dropped. "And why

the hell are we discussing that now?" I drawled out, dumbfounded by the sudden change in conversation. "The fact that you think it is a

conversation we shouldn't be having shows there is something wrong." My breath hitched and I earnestly prayed that he won't ask the same question My kids are downstairs and I need to get to them." Lasked me. Jake, please let's not do this right now. 11:43 AM Chapter 47 "They are with their father which means this is the perfect time to have this conversation. He deadpanned. "so why are you trying to avoid the conversation about our wedding?" "I am not trying to avoid anything." I lied, "just that I do not see the reason why we should be discussing this right now." "We are having this conversation right now because I have been waiting for you to bring this up and you have failed to do that." He argued. "what exactly is going on Lily? Do you really want to get married to me?" My hand went to my neck and I rubbed the pendant anxiously, "when I accepted that ring Jake, you said we wouldn't rush the marriage preparation, so what is this?" He scoffed. "I said I won't rush you, but I never said anything about never seeing you walk down the aisle towards me." Rollin my eyes. I headed towards the door, hoping to put an end to this conversation. "Don't be ridiculous Jake." "I am not being ridiculous," he replied, chasing after me, "Look m in the eyes and tell me that we are actually going to get married." Breathing in and out, I turned around and looked him in the eyes. "we will get married Jake." He exhaled with relief. "Give me a date Lily, a month preharps. "I can't do that Jake," I muttered, "I am sorry." He frowned at me and I that moment, I knew it wasn't right to keep lying to him. "I didn't accept that ring because you said you won't pressurize me into getting married to you, but because I didn't want you to feel insecure about Ryan presence which I know which will be constant," because it is expected of him to be around the boys that he is getting to know. "but then I have realized that the solution doesn't lie with accepting the ring." "What is that suppose to mean?" "It means that even if we get married you will still be insecure whatever Ryan is around and I can't have that." His eyes narrowed. "Are you breaking up with me Lily?" I shook my head in response. "I am only telling you to work on your insecurity Jake. Ryan is going to be a constant presence in my life because of the kids and I can't have you behaving like this every time." "f@ck you!" he spat before stomping out of the room, banging the door as loudly as Ryan did when he left in anger too. Chapter 48

## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 48 STEHANIE I will not be treated like a goddamn fool. If Ryan accepted me back, divorced his wife because of me, then he has to take complete responsibility of me and my feelings. My parents did not f@cking raise a weakling that should be tramped upon, they raised a goddamn tiger and I am going to Ryan see just that. Pulling over at his parents' house, I got off the car and handed my keys to one of the securities to park my car properly, Walking into the living room. I approached one of the domestic staffs. "Where is Mrs. Sarah?" Ryan's mother will be the easiest to manipulate easily, and if I can get into her head, it will be so much easier to get into the head of Richard

Williams. Ryan will never leave me for Lily. I will make sure everyone one is against her or whatever bastards she birthed for Ryan. "She is in the garden." The domestic staff replied and I stomped off towards the direction of the garden. I met her tending to the roses which I believe she loves more than her son. I can remember sometime in the past when Ryan received a through beating from his mum because he mistakenly ran his mini car into the garden, thereby destroying some of Mrs. Sarah's roses. Masking a pitiful face, I called out to her. "Mum!" She halted with the watering can in her hand and turned around to face me. Slowly, she ran her gaze through my form with that expression that makes it difficult to figure out what was going on in her head. "Stephanie? What are you doing here?" Why do you think I will be here if not for your son who is hell bent on ruining my life' I retorted in my head. "I am here because I wish to discuss something very important with you." She turned to watering her useless plants. "Are you having another problem with Ryan?" she asked in a rather bored tune. "This is more than just relationship problem with Ryan." I replied, waiting for her to dump the watering can and follow me out of this place. The wet soil is irritating me.. Keeping mute or rather ignoring me, she continued to water her plants, while I stood still like a fool waiting for her to finish up. I stood for over forty-five minutes until she eventually finished watering the plants, dropped the watering can then remove her gloves. She watched her hands in the small sink provided at the entrance of the garden before walking past me into the house. I took that as my cur to follow her. "Get us some tea in my quiet space." Sarah called out to a random staff before heading upstairs to a room where she normally spends her time flipping through magazines. Walking in after her, I took a seat and crossed my legs, waiting for her to at least say something to me proving that she indeed heard what I told her in the garden, but instead, she deliberately blinked slowly at me, getting on every bit of my nerves, "Are you going to say something?" she finally asked as the door opened and the tea was brought to us. Who brings hot tea in a hot afternoon Sarah Williams, I guess. I waited until the door closed behind the staff who just brought coffee before speaking my reason for being here today. "I am pregnant." I announced and Sarah's eyes widened in astonishment. "I found out about it last week." Gradually, her lips stretched into a smile. "Isn't that supposed to be good news?" she asked, "why then does your face look so forlorn?" "I would have been happy about this new improvement have your son not decided to move mad." I deadpanned. The smile on her face gradually disappeared. "What is that supposed to mean?" she asked. "I really hope you have a very good reason for insulting my son." "Your son is refusing to get married to me despite knowing that I am pregnant because he is freaking cheating on me!" Her frown deepened. "I am going to need you to calm down." She pleaded gently, "I don't think the baby needs all that stress and the feeling of frustration coming from you." 1-3 11:43 AM Chapter 49 That's it, feel pity for me. "My parents are mad. They said they agreed to this whole getting pregnant thing in the first place because they believed Ryan will do the right thing by getting married to me the moment, he finds out that I am pregnant, and now that he has refused to do that, they are threatening to disown me because they'd rather lose me than have me tint the image name of my family. "Ryan is having an affair?" Sarah asked incredulously and I nodded. "Has he lost his mind?" picking up my glass of tea, I took a sip and allowed my words do its job. "Do you know the lady he is cheating on you with?" "You know the lady too." I responded, allowing a dramatic silence follow. "Ryan is cheating on me with his ex-wife



Lily, and that is the reason he constantly travels to Canada to be with her.” “Lily?” Sarah spat with disgust. “Is that bitch still leeching off him.” I didn’t think it was necessary to tell Sarah that Lily is far from being a leech. Bitch lives and rolls in money. Smacking my lips, I watched her vent her anger and disappointment in her son. “If Ryan doesn’t let that woman go and do the right thing, I am going to get rid of this baby.” I threatened and her eyes widened. “I will not lose my family over his foolishness.” Shaking her head, Sarah reached forward and took my hand in hers, “You will not lose your family, nor will you lose this baby. I will have a talk with my husband and we will make sure Ryan does he right thing.” She exhaled audibly. “You do realize that this baby is a miracle baby that we all have been waiting for, and it is going to save Ryan from losing his position as the chairman. You will not harm that baby

Stephanie. I sniffed, forcing a tear for the sake of more dramatics. “And you think I want to harm a baby that I have always prayed and worked hard for? Ryan is really breaking my heart” on to me meet my son.” She smiled reassuringly at me. “I will talk to him. be rest assured that you will be walking down the aisle soon “And Lily?” “I will remind that gold digger of her place.” Satisfied, I continued to take a sip of my coffee. Whether Ryan likes it or not, he will have to get married to me because I need to get married to him more than he needs to. After conversing with Sarah, I left her home. \*\*\*\*\* The moment I stepped foot into my house, my phone rang and I dipped my hand into my purse and retrieved it. My frown was instant when I saw the number calling me. Didn’t we agree that we won’t reach out to each other in the mean time? Why is he even calling me when he isn’t doing his job properly? I swiped the receive button, plopped down the sofa and placed the phone to my car. “What do you want?” I asked flatly. “Things are getting out of hand.” He replied and I frowned, disappointed that he is just realizing it. “It is either you are not doing the right thing, or there is an explanation you are not giving me.” I scoffed at the audacity of the fool talking to me. “The problem here is that you are the one who isn’t doing it right.” Because if he did, we wouldn’t have even been in this mess to begin with. The bastard sighed in my eat. “So, what do you suggest we do?” Chuckling mockingly at him, I shook my head. “And who exactly is under this category of we?” I asked him, wondering if he actually smoked something before calling me. “There is no we hear young man, I am trying to clear my mess, and I advise you do the same too.” Before he could get the chance to respond, I disconnected the call. Irritated by the conversation I just had with him, I wondered what he took me for. Getting off the sofa, I walked over to grab a glass of scotch Yes, you heard me! I am not pregnant, but I’d be damned before I let another woman steal Ryan away from me. That’s n happen. Not in this life, not in the next. never going to Since I am already in my villain era, all thanks to Ryan, I can as well act it out. All he had to do to stop this craziness was just to get married to me, but no, he chose to go after that bitch and for that reason un all a 11.43 AM Chapter 48 believe me when I say even those tiny bastard Lily birthed are not excluded in my anger. Chapter 49

## **Becoming Strangers Again**

Posted by Adminh, ?

49 RYAN I volunteered to take the kids to the park while Lily goes off to handle an emergency at the hospital. It seems the nanny is on leave today because I did not see her when I showed up at the house, nor did she come with us to the park. I am left alone to handle the kids with my security details. Dressed in a grey T-shirt and black pants complimented with a baseball cap, I watched the boys race around with a water gun, shooting bubbles at each other. More often than not, I found myself smiling just by watching them play around, however, my joy escalated when Noah called me dad. "Dad! Please, could you get me some water?" he urgently called out to me, his voice carrying a hint of desperation. Scanning the surroundings, I made a quick visual sweep to ensure that Jake wasn't lurking nearby. Satisfied that Jake was nowhere in sight, I deduced that Noah was indeed calling out to me. A wide grin spread across my face as I gracefully stepped onto the colorful picnic mat that we had laid out under the shade of a sprawling oak tree. I made my way over to Noah and in my hand, I held a sturdy bottle of water. With a deft twist, I uncorked the bottle and extended it towards him. Noah eagerly seized the bottle, his fingers wrapping around it and with eager gulps, he savored the refreshing taste, drinking to his heart's content until his thirst was thoroughly quenched. With a contented sigh, he returned the partially empty bottle to my outstretched hand, a grateful smile lighting up his face. Returning to our cozy picnic spot, I found Liam trailing closely behind. As I settled back onto the soft blanket, Liam mirrored my actions, nestling beside me. With a gentle rustle, he rummaged through the picnic basket beside us, his small hand emerging, clutching a plate of fruit salad and a spoon. Silently, Liam ate his food, his attention divided between his meal and the playful behavior of his brothers. Retrieving another spoon from the basket, I cleared my throat softly to capture his focus. "Would you mind if I shared the plate with you?" I inquired gently. He cast a fleeting glance in my direction before turning his gaze back to the plate, shaking his head in response. Taking his gesture as permission. I dipped the spoon into the assortment of sliced fruits and milk, carefully transferring a portion onto my own spoon. "Are you still upset with me for being away for so long?" I asked, the words escaping my lips with apprehension. Liam glanced at me once more, his expression unreadable. "Why?" he asked, his voice soft yet filled with curiosity. A pang of guilt tugged at my heart as I searched for a suitable explanation, a justification for my prolonged absence. Yet, no excuse seemed adequate to justify the time I had missed with him and his brothers. I was preoccupied with other matters, I admitted quietly, "But in doing so, I lost precious moments with you and your brothers. I missed out on witnessing your growth, and for that, I am truly sorry. Frowning slightly, Liam returned his gaze to his plate, his brow furrowed in thought. "I'm not angry with you," he began, his voice soft. "Mum said it wasn't your fault for being away for such a long time. She said you would have been here if you could." A surge of relief washed over me at his words. "If you're not angry with me, then why do you seem distant?" I inquired gently, my heart yearning for a deeper understanding of his feelings. "It's like you hardly acknowledge my presence in the room." Liam hesitated for a moment, his fingers tracing patterns on the edge of his plate. "I don't know what to say to you," he admitted quietly, his voice barely above a mumble. "That's why I stay quiet most of the time." At least we are making progress I reached out and gently pulled Liam towards me, guiding him to settle on my thigh. "Liam, you can share anything with me, I reassured him, my voice tender yet earnest. "I love hearing about your day at school, your favorite animal,

your preferred foods, your friends, your adventures during holidays—everything. Liam. Your voice matters to me, and I want to hear it all Suddenly, a radiant smile illuminated Liam’s face, mirroring the warmth in my own heart. I reached into the picnic basket and retrieved a bottle of water, eagerly taking a gulp to quench my suddenly parched throat.

113 AM Chapter 49 “Does this mean you and mommy are going to get married?” Liam’s unexpected question caught me off guard, causing me to choke on the water. Clearing my throat to dislodge the misplaced sip, I redirected my gaze to my son. “Why do you ask?” “All my friends at school who have daddies, they all live together with their mummies because they’re married,” Liam explained between mouthfuls of fruit. “You only come around on weekends, so I was wondering if you and Mum are going to get married so we can all live together.” My heart sank at his words, realizing this was a conversation best had with Lily. “Do you want us to get married?” I deflected, sidestepping his direct question He shrugged nonchalantly. I just want a complete family,” he mumbled, his words punctuated by another bite of fruit. “But I don’t mind if you want to be like Uncle Jake to Mum.” Confusion clouded my thoughts. “What do you mean, Liam?” I pressed, attempting to understand his cryptic statement. “It means you can come over every day and take care of us and Mum,” he mumbled absentmindedly, his attention now drawn to a group of children playing nearby. “I’m going to love you all even more than Uncle Jake does,” I countered quietly, more to reassure myself than anything else. Liam seemed to have lost interest in our conversation, promptly covering his plastic plate and returning it to the basket before darting off to rejoin his brothers in their play. By the time we arrived home, exhaustion had claimed the boys, their small bodies succumbing to the blissful embrace of sleep. I scooped up Noah in my arms, while the two security personnel who had accompanied us to the park carried Liam and Ethan. Entering the living room, I found Lily seated, engrossed in a magazine. She rose to her feet at the sight of us. “They’re all asleep?” she inquired, her gaze drifting to Liam with a hint of amusement. “Even Liam?” She chuckled softly at her own question. I suppose he’s just a kid after all I carried Noah to his room, gently laying him on his bed and carefully removing his shoes before tenderly tucking him in. Returning to the living room, I overheard Lily instructing the maids to begin preparing dinner. “Are you going to wake them up?” I inquired, sinking into the sofa as Lily nodded in response. They’ve been out all day, sweating and interacting with other kids. They’ll need showers, and once they’re clean, they’ll be wide awake and hungry, Lily explained, her tone practical and efficient, Her words sparked a realization within me. “Liam opened up to me today,” I shared with a smile, noticing her expression mirror my OWIL “Really? What did he say?” Lily asked eagerly. Just the thought of o me dad conversation alone gives me peace of mind. I summarized my conversation with Liarn to her, “and Noah called Her smile

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stretched even wider. “I am glad the kids are warming up to you Ryan. I have been praying earnestly for this.” I waited till dinner was ready, and helped Lily and the nanny bath the kids before leaving. I guess one can say my day went perfectly well, or at least it did until I received a call from my father. “You will not tell me who to get married to.” I snapped at him. Who the does he think he is intervening in my personal life like that.



“You will not bring disgrace to a reputation that I have worked so hard to build.” He snapped. “getting a woman pregnant and refusing to do the right thing is an act I will not condone.” Poking my tongue into my cheek, I tried to breathe through the anger and frustration bubbling in me right now. “And what do you think I have been doing this my adulthood?” I snapped at him, “I have been living my life, trying to do everything that will benefit the family and the company, and honestly, I am done doing that!” “what is wrong with you son?!” he rebuked, “are you really not going to take responsibility for your actions?” he cursed at me. “do I need 2/8 11:43 AM D Chapter 40 to remind you that the board needs that baby?” “Taking responsibility is exactly what I am doing now.” I argued. “and as for babies, I already have heirs that I am going to introduce to the press soon.” He fell silent for a moment. “what is that even supposed to mean?” “It means Lily had three sons for me, and I am going to do right by them.”

## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 50 RYAN I was supposed to leave for New York this morning, but I made a quick stop at Lily’s place to discuss something very important and I hope this time, we can come to a conclusion. “Is everthing alright?” she asked the moment she opened the door. “I need to take the kids to New York to introduce them to the board and media next weekend.” I informed her and she frowned. “Isn’t it too early to expose them?” she asked as she walked over to the table and picked up her coffee. “You literally just had Liam warm up to you and you want to turn the spotlight on them already?” Stephanie’s actions have propelled me into action, compelling me to take this course of action to safeguard my children from potential negative portrayals in the media. “I must do this, Lily, I affirmed earnestly, meeting her gaze with unwaveringly. “I give you my word. I will shield them from any harm.” With a resigned sigh, Lily turned to face me directly, her demeanour filled with resignation and concern. “You’ll bring them back by Sunday, ensuring they’re ready for school on Monday,” she stipulated, her tone leaving no room for negotiation. I nodded in acknowledgment, fully aware of my responsibilities as a parent. “Indeed, I will adhere to our agreement,” I confirmed, “though my mind has been drifting towards the 1 decision I had recently reached She arched a brow, demanding that I explain further. Tve been contemplating my future, I began, bracing myself for her reaction. “And I’ve made the decision to relocate to Canada,” I disclosed, Her eyes widened in surprise, undoubtedly caught off guard by my unexpected announcement. “But why?” she inquired. My response was immediate, “Because I want to be closer to my kids, I explained earnestly, and also because I want to be closer to her. “Traveling to New York is a mere hour and a half flight, perhaps two at most, I pointed out, seeking to alleviate any apprehensions she might harbor Tm prepared to fly to New York if it means I can remain involved in their lives while pursuing my career. Lily’s skepticism lingered, her brows furrowing as she posed a valid concern. “But what about during inclement weather?” she challenged, her doubt evident in her tone. Responding with a hint of self-assuredness, I countered, “As the CEO, I believe certain perks come with the territory,” though even I couldn’t help but acknowledge the potential obstacles such circumstances might pose. Lily took another sip of her tea, contemplating my decision.

“Well, if you’ve made up your mind, she conceded, her acceptance tinged with a hint of resignation. Glancing at her watch, she appeared suddenly conscious of the time, her movements becoming more hurried. “Do you require any assistance in finding accommodation?” she offered, her willingness to help evident despite her reservations. With a confident shake of my head, I assured her, “I’ve already enlisted someone to assist me in the search. I’m optimistic I’ll secure suitable lodging before the upcoming Sunday.” Acknowledging her impending departure, I gestured towards the door, silently inviting her to make her exit. “Allow me to offer you a ride, I proposed, stepping aside to grant her passage. “It’s conveniently along my route.” As Lily gracefully made her way towards the door, she shook her head in refusal. “I don’t believe that’s necessary, she insisted, her movements elegant and deliberate. “If you were to drive me, it would mean I’d have to rely on a taxi for my return journey, and that’s not ideal.” Undeterred by her protest, I proposed a solution, determined to alleviate her concerns. “Your security detail can follow behind us and arrange for their own transportation back home, I suggested, hoping to sway her decision. Her amused expression softened into a smile as she turned to face me, her eyes alight with amusement. “And why should I subject him to such inconvenience?” she countered playfully, though her resistance was gradually waning. A light chuckle, I made my way to the car and held the door open, gesturing for her to join me. “Because you compensate him handsomely for precisely these sorts of responsibilities,” I replied, a mischievous twinkle in my eye. “Come now, indulge me as my passenger, princess,” I teased, extending an invitation with a grin. After a moment’s contemplation, Lily relented, tossing her keys to one of the waiting security personnel. With a graceful motion, she settled into the car, and I gently closed the door behind her. With a sense of satisfaction, I rounded the vehicle and took my place behind the wheel. Arriving at the office later than my usual time, I swiftly attended to several pressing calls and emails before convening the impromptu board meeting I had arranged earlier in the day. As I entered the room, I couldn’t help but notice the subtle disapproval etched on my father’s face; evidently, he was displeased with my failure to disclose the meeting’s purpose beforehand. Taking my place among the assembled board members, I cleared my throat to command attention. “Thank you all for accommodating this last-minute gathering,” I began, acknowledging their presence with a nod of gratitude. A hushed anticipation permeated the room as the board members exchanged glances, their curiosity palpable. It was Mrs. Lawson who broke the silence, her voice cutting through the tension as she addressed the speculation head-on. “Rumors have circulated Ms. Stephanie’s alleged pregnancy. Is that the catalyst behind this meeting?” she inquired, her tone measured yet inquisitive regarding While informing my father of Stephanie’s pregnancy was understandable, the notion of disseminating such sensitive information to the entire board was disconcerting. Nevertheless, I remained composed as I addressed the inquiry. “While the topic of an heir is indeed the focal point of our discussion today, I affirmed. Murmuring filled the room and I allowed it to go on for a while before continuing to speak. “It is important to clarify that this heir does not stem from Stephanie, nor is it coming from her.” The woman’s disapproving gaze bore into me, her raised brow a clear indication of her incredulity, “You’ve impregnated another woman?” she questioned, her tone laced with judgment and disbelief. Suppressing a smirk at her reaction, I couldn’t help but find irony in her astonishment. After all, hadn’t they all been fervently advocating for the

prospect of me fathering an heir? Yet now, faced with the reality of the situation, they appeared shocked and critical. "I assure you, I am not responsible for impregnating any woman, I clarified pointedly, making a mental note to exclude Stephanie from the conversation. "My ex-wife, whom I divorced six years ago, birthed to triplets without my knowledge, and it has come to my attention that they are indeed my children" A flurry of murmurs erupted among the assembled board members, but this time, I refused to entertain any side discussions. Firmly addressing the room, I declared, I intend to introduce them to you all next weekend." Mrs. Lawson, ever the skeptic, couldn't resist probing further. "And why were they not brought along today?" she pressed, her voice dripping with skepticism. Dismissing her question with a scoff, I leveled a steely gaze in her direction. "As a parent yourself, surely you understand the importance of prioritizing their education," I retorted Her lips pressed together tightly, rendered speechless by my response. It was evident that my assertion had struck a chord, effectively silencing any further objections or doubts regarding my decision. "I think you all can now get off my case as you all have the stability that you've been looking for." Standing up, I adjusted my suit. "this meeting is officially over." Picking up my phone, I walked out of the conference room and made my way to my office Returning to the sanctuary of my office, I barely had a moment to collect my thoughts before my father made an unexpected appearance. "Did Lily truly bear your child?" he questioned, his tone laced with disapproval as he settled onto the sofa, crossing his legs in contemplation. Caught off guard by his directness, I couldn't help but respond with a touch of sarcasm. "Do you honestly believe I fabricated everything I disclosed in there?" I retorted,

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His expression twisted with disdain as he processed the implications of Lily's actions. "She kept your children for six years and kept it from you?" he remarked incredulously, his disappointment evident. "How selfish can one person be?" Despite my own reservations, I felt compelled to defend Lily against his harsh judgment. "I'd prefer if you refrained from such derogatory remarks," I cautioned him firmly, my tone leaving no room for argument. "That is one thing I will not tolerate from you." Scoffing, he shook his head. "I can't believe you are actually defending her right now." He spat. "that woman kept your children from yet you stand there and defend her? please tell me that you are going to file for full custody." you ILLIAM Chapter 50 His demand for full custody stunned me, prompting a bewildered double blink as I struggled to comprehend his audacity. "Excuse me?" I repeated, unable to conceal my incredulity. His expression remained resolute. "Full custody," he repeated bluntly, as if the mere suggestion was self-evident. "You're going to pursue full custody, aren't you?" My patience waning. I felt a surge of anger rise within me at the suggestion. "No, I am not," I snapped, my voice edged with irritation. The notion of depriving the children of their mother struck me as abhorrent, regardless of Lily's past actions. "I refuse to be the kind of man who would keep those kids away from their mother." Enraged by my refusal to comply with his demands, my father's face contorted with anger, his accusations ringing out like a verbal assault. "So you're willing to let those children be raised by someone with no moral compass?" he spat, his anger boiling over. "Have you completely lost your mind?"

“I should be the one asking you if you have lost it!” The sheer audacity of his accusations sent a surge of fury coursing through my veins, my temper flaring as I struggled to contain my outrage. “Who do you think you are to speak about the mother of my children in such a despicable manner?” I roared. “For years, I’ve allowed you to belittle her, all in the misguided pursuit of your approval. But no more. If you can’t respect Lily, then don’t bother coming around me.” Stunned by the suddenness of his question, I struggled to formulate a response. Before I could gather my thoughts, he jumped to his own conclusion, his tone laced with scorn. “Of course you have,” he declared. “That’s the only explanation for your irrational behavior. But I’ll rectify this. I’ll ensure you snap out of whatever –haze she’s ensnared you in, and you’ll start thinking like a Williams again.”