



**The More the Merrier**

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## Chapter 1 My Children Were Snatched

- “Help!”
- Arissa felt a humid, warm breath at the tip of her ear as a man held her from behind.
- Thrashing reflexively, she tried to break free from his forceful embrace but to no avail.
- Her eyes brimmed with fear as her body shuddered violently in desperation.
- She was sold by her own father!
- “Let me go!” she whimpered before her voice was eventually muffled.
- “Don't be scared. I'll be sure to take responsibility,” the man blurted in a low, husky voice.
- Sealing Arissa's mouth with his strong hand, the man proceeded to do whatever he wanted with his frail victim.
- Nine months later, in a derelict house, the cries of a baby were heard.

- “Ms. Adams, it's a boy!”
- “Take him out of here!”
- Danna Adams, dressed glamorously, stood outside the makeshift delivery room, pinching her nose as she scowled at the gory scene within.
- A middle-aged woman who was attending inside suddenly screamed.
- “What happened?” snapped Danna. Having been waiting for this child for so long, she couldn't afford any mishap.
- “Ms. Adams, it's twins!” gasped the woman as she dashed out from the room, clutching a pair of newborns in her arms. “And both are boys!”
- Danna threw the newborns a distasteful glance. Still covered in vernix and blood, the babies looked like two squashed potatoes. “Why are they so ugly?”
- She wondered if the Graham family would reject them.
- “All babies look like this when they're born. They'll look much nicer in a few days,” the woman said. She was the midwife Danna found on short notice.
- “Hurry up and clean everything. I need to take them away,” Danna ordered, her hand waving dismissively.

- “Yes.” The midwife doubled back into the room, put the babies aside, and started cleaning up the place.
- After the grueling labor, Arissa York lay on the bed, gasping for air. Her body trembled in indignation at the callous exchange outside.
- Who is this woman? Why is she taking my children...
- That was when another sharp pang hit her stomach. Gritting her teeth as she started gasping, Arissa felt as if there was something else inside her that was trying to come out. As she drifted in and out of consciousness, her face was now as pale as a sheet.
- My children...
- “Are you done?” Danna prompted impatiently.
- “In a minute!” The midwife hurriedly covered the babies in fresh quilts and was ready to leave the room when she noticed that Arissa looked amiss.
- “M-Ms. Adams!” she cried out.
- “What's wrong with you? Take the babies out. I'm leaving now!” Danna, who was on the verge of exploding, felt the urge to gag the midwife.
- “Ms. Adams, t-there are four... There are four more babies!” Dumbstruck, the midwife gawked as more babies came out from their mother's womb.

- Danna entered the room. The slimy-looking babies lying beside Arissa made her have a gagging sensation.
- “Is she a pig? How could she conceive so many babies at once?” she sneered incredulously, snatching the first two babies from the midwife.
- “I'll only take these two. Get rid of the remaining four. Just burn them or whatever.”
- “But we'll be caught if we burn them...” choked out the midwife in horror. How inhumane would that be?
- Danna's gaze, tinted with a sinister glare, darted around Arissa's unconscious body. “She must die. Feed her to the beasts. Make sure that she doesn't come out alive! Here's five million. When everything's settled, I'll give you another five.”
- The midwife's face lit up as her eyes landed on the bank card in Danna's hand. She accepted it immediately, smiling ear to ear.
- “Thank you, Ms. Adams. Don't worry. I'll see to it that not a single trace is left!”
- “When it's all sorted out, go back to your hometown in the countryside and never breathe a word to anyone, or else... You know what I'm capable of!” Danna threatened.

- Her voice reeked of evilness.
- “Yes, yes. I understand!”
- When Danna was gone, the midwife called her men over. Together, they shoved Arissa into a van along with the four babies. Soon, the vehicle rattled off toward a remote site where they would dump the unfortunate souls.
- They took the precaution of gagging the babies with rags so that their cries would not attract attention. Deprived of their primary form of expression, the babies squirmed uneasily beside their mother with livid faces.
- A few hours had passed when the driver turned to the midwife and instructed, “Now, dump them!”
- The midwife felt her heart race as anxiety washed over her. “Won't people notice them?”
- “Nonsense—there's not a living soul here. You better be quick before the beasts appear unless you want us both to meet our makers. Or do you wish to be hunted down by that woman?”
- The mention of Danna sent chills down the midwife's spine. The sense of guilt of killing a woman and four newborns were nothing when compared to the possibility of offending Danna.
- Well, they shouldn't have messed with Ms. Adams in the first place.

- “Don't spite me when you become ghosts. Haunt Ms. Adams. She's the one who gave the order!” The midwife toughened up and shoved them out of the vehicle.
- “Okay. Move!”
- Soon, the barren wasteland resumed its silence as the van disappeared beyond the horizon.
- Arissa and her four children, half-dead, were now left on their own.

## **Chapter 2 Returning Stronger With Her Kids**

- Five years later, at Dellmoor International Airport, Arissa inhaled deeply, taking in the familiar air of the place.
- Her sharp eyes behind the sunglasses screened the bustling crowd as she immersed herself in the typical liveliness of the country.
- She was back.
- Though half-shaded by the sunglasses she had on, her dainty complexion looked exquisitely stunning. The onlookers could hardly avert their gazes from her.

- After all, beauties were meant to be admired. That rang true to onlookers of all ages and genders. However, what was even more eye-catching than the woman were the four little kids waddling beside her.
- Each of them was shouldering a backpack of dissimilar colors with cartoon prints while tugging a mini suitcase in their hand. Moreover, all of them were wearing matching outfits with their mother—a combination of black tees, jeans, and white sneakers, looking simplistic yet chic.
- Their brown berets framed their striking eyes and delicate features, all of which incited marvels amidst the onlookers.
- Interestingly, their expressions spoke nonchalance, naivety, delight, and curiosity simultaneously as each of them looked around and digested their environment. The adult-like manners they carried themselves with were especially intriguing to the onlookers.
- “Whoa! Quadruplets! What beautiful children!”
- “I'm so envious of their mom for having such adorable kids. It must be so much fun going shopping with them!”
- “They're all blessed with terrific good looks! I would no doubt giggle in my dreams if I were blessed with those beautiful kids!”
- “They aren't celebrities, are they? The woman is so elegant and pretty. She definitely stands out.”

- “Hush, what do you know? She's no match for Dani. My Dani's the most attractive woman living!”
- These exclamations were nothing new to Arissa. She had encountered countless such episodes when they were abroad. Whenever she was out with the kids, they would immediately become the center of attention.
- She continued to steer the four kids toward the exit. Looking back to count heads, she said, “Sweethearts, stay close. Don't get left behind.”
- The kids walked in a single file behind her like a rustling tail. To everyone present, it was a heart-warming scene to behold.
- Most onlookers pulled out their phones and started taking pictures. Some even took recordings and uploaded them on video-sharing platforms, giving them catchy titles with a unanimous emphasis on the quadruplets. Those videos soon became viral and gathered a lot of likes.
- “Got it, Mommy!” The quadruplets trailed behind Arissa obediently, lowering the edges of their berets when onlookers took photos of them.
- The youngest of the quadruplets, Jesse York, was the timidest among them all. Being her first time in such a crowded airport, she nervously clutched the hem of her mom's blouse and meekly uttered, “Mommy, everyone's looking at us. They're taking photos of us, too!”

- “It's okay.” Arissa turned to check on her kids from time to time, making sure that none was missing.
- “Don't be scared. We're just so good-looking that people can't help taking pictures of us!” remarked Jasper York, the third-born of the quadruplets, who marched behind Jesse. Being the most narcissistic one among his siblings, he boldly grinned at the adults taking photos of them.
- “That's a violation of our portrait rights!” Zachary York knitted his brows. Being the eldest brother, he marched last in the file and helped to keep an eye on his siblings.
- “It's fine as long as they're not doing anything bad. They just like us, that's all!” Not only was Arissa used to people's attention, but she also knew that the onlookers would stealthily take shots of them, even if asked to stop. Keeping an open mind would make things easier, just like how she would take photos of pleasant sceneries and people just so that she could admire them later.
- Zachary, however, thought otherwise. He kept the onlookers away and was offended by the unwanted attention. “Stop taking pictures! My brother is scared!”
- “Don't include them in your shots. Just take photos of me!” Jasper smiled and struck multiple fancy poses.

- At Jasper's words, the crowd who had just put away their phones after Zachary's objection started taking pictures again. “How lovely! Kids, you're so pretty! You made my day!”
- “Kids, are you quadruplets? You look alike and are extremely charming! Can I take a photo with all of you?”

### **Chapter 3 Misidentifying The Son**

- “I'm sorry! We don't want to take any pictures! Thank you for taking an interest in us, but you better stop taking pictures,” Zachary pleaded.
- After turning down the crowd's request, he approached Jasper and tapped him on the shoulder to warn him not to let other people take pictures of him.
- Jasper stuck out his tongue at his elder brother. Nevertheless, he followed Zachary's advice and ceased his poses obediently.
- Not only was the public not angry at the rejection, but they were also impressed by Zachary's politeness in handling the situation. They continued to watch the quadruplets with interest.
- As more curious onlookers began to gather around them, Arissa hurriedly shouted at her children, “Come on, kids! Let's move faster!” They could not afford to stay any longer to avoid causing congestion at the airport.

- The four young children immediately followed their mother's lead and moved away from the crowd. However, Oliver York suddenly called out to Arissa, “Mommy, I want to pee. I had too much juice on the plane just now.”
- Oliver clamped his legs together while looking desperately for any sign of a restroom. As soon as he saw a sign, he wanted to rush toward it.
- “Okay, I'll bring you guys over there!” Arissa prompted.
- She also wanted to use the restroom, so she let her children enter first as she watched over their luggage.
- “Zachary, I need to poop!” Oliver told his elder brother before rushing to an empty cubicle.
- “Ugh, you're so troublesome. Hurry up!” Zachary admonished him before leading Jasper and Jesse out after washing their hands.
- “Mommy, we're done. You can go in now. Also, Oliver is still inside.”
- “Okay, you guys be good and wait for me here. Remember not to wander off on your own!” Arissa reminded her children before entering the ladies' restroom.
- “Gosh! I wonder when Dani will arrive. I've been waiting since four o'clock. Yet, there's still no sign of her!”

- “Four o'clock? I've been waiting here since last night, just in case I missed her flight!”
- “There! Dani's plane has finally arrived! Come, follow me!”
- “What? Wait for me!”
- Someone in the crowd exclaimed, and hurried footsteps could be heard coming from outside, heading toward the entrance.
- Arissa was baffled by the crowd's reaction to the repeated mentions of a person called Dani.
- Who is she? A celebrity? They sounded like a group of young fans. Well, only fans would be in that kind of frenzy for their idol.
- Zachary stood beside the family's luggage along with his two younger siblings. Suddenly, a group of people dashed out of the ladies' restroom, and they headed in the same direction. The three siblings jumped back in fright. Some of their luggage was knocked over by the running mob.
- Zachary swiftly pulled the other two to the side to avoid getting hit by the rushing crowd.
- “What are they doing? They didn't even bother to apologize for knocking over our stuff! How rude!” Jasper glared at the girls' retreating form with anger.

- “Stupid fans!” Zachary protested. Jesse helped her brother in lifting the luggage and echoed, “I know, right? They're so stupid!”
- “If their parents knew about their awful behaviors, they would surely regret giving birth to them!” Jasper harrumphed while waiting obediently for Arissa.
- Jesse stood next to her older brothers while looking at her surroundings curiously. Then, her eyes stopped at the sight of multiple children with cotton candy in their hands. She swallowed and pointed. “Look! They have cotton candy over there!”
- Jasper quickly glanced in the direction and found the store his younger sibling was pointing at. He then tugged the hem of Zachary's shirt excitedly and said, “I'm going over there to buy some cotton candy for us!”
- “Mommy told us to wait here. So don't run off on your own!” Zachary advised despite also wanting to get a taste of the confection.
- They did not have cotton candy overseas. They only found out about such a thing from Arissa after seeing it on the internet.
- “Come on! I'll be back immediately once I've bought the cotton candy. Mommy and Oliver are still inside the restroom. I'll be back in a flash!”
- With that, he ran over to the store, leaving Zachary unable to do anything to dissuade his brother. “Be careful!”

- “I know!” Jasper cheered as he sprinted toward his destination.
- On the other side of the airport, a group of bodyguards looked around frantically for someone.
- “Oh, no! This is bad. Gavin has disappeared!”
- “Hurry up and find him! If Mr. Graham finds out about this, we'll be skinned alive!”
- The bodyguards hastily scattered in different directions, hoping to find Gavin before Benjamin returned.
- The airport was of average size. Nonetheless, with it being jam-packed with people, it would be a daunting task for anyone to search for a missing child.
- After searching for a while, one of the eagle-eyed bodyguards spotted a familiar figure with cotton candy in hand in front of a store.
- “I've found him! Gavin is over there buying cotton candy.” The bodyguard excitedly informed the rest of his colleagues.
- In less than a minute, they quickly gathered around Jasper.
- “Gavin, we've found you at last! Please don't give us such a fright anymore! There are too many people in the airport. It's too dangerous to run off on your own. Come on, let's return quickly! Mr. Graham will come out very soon.”

- They did not wait for Jasper's response, nor did they notice the difference in the appearance of the young boy. One bodyguard took the cotton candies, while another picked him up and darted off to another place.
- Jasper was rendered speechless as he was stunned by their sudden actions. What is going on?
- Regardless, he came to his senses soon enough.
- “Hey! What on earth are you doing? Let go of me quickly! Or I'll scream!” Jasper fiercely warned the group of black-clad bodyguards. He intended not to show them how frightened he was at that moment.
- “Gavin, please stop fooling around! Your daddy will be worried sick if he finds out that you have disappeared!”
- The bodyguards concluded that the little one was pulling a prank on them. They continued to coax him as they rushed toward the Rolls-Royce without further delay.
- Jasper's eyes widened in fear.
- Am I being kidnapped?
- “Help! Mmph!”

- Jasper struggled to break free as he tried to call for help, but the bodyguard immediately covered his mouth to muffle his voice.
- He frantically bit the bodyguard's palm in return. Unfortunately for Jasper, the guy did not let go of him as he continued to move forward.
- “Gavin, please don't be angry at us. I'll release you once we're back in the car.”
- The bodyguard was not furious at Jasper for biting his hand as he continued to coax him patiently.
- These bodyguards had learned their lesson that day. They would not dare to let him out of their sight in fear that he might run off again.
- After all, this was not the first time Gavin had hidden away from them.
- “Gavin, there are too many people here. Just let us know if you want to eat anything, and we'll buy it for you. What if you ran into people and got hurt?”
- The other bodyguards kept trying to talk some sense into him.
- Huh? Who is Gavin?
- Jasper was dumbstruck at the sudden realization.

- These men had called him by that ever since they took him away. Furthermore, they mentioned something about a daddy just now.
- Jasper silently observed the dozen or so well-trained bodyguards around him. There was not a single hint of malice on their faces. With that confirmation, his anxiety quickly subsided.
- Jasper kept his gaze on them as he pondered about the current situation.
- These men are behaving as if they are familiar with me. I certainly don't know them! Perhaps they have mistaken me for someone else?
- Jasper heaved a sigh of frustration. He planned to go along with them for the time being.
- Even if he was kidnapped by these strangers, the chances of him escaping from their grasp were close to zero.
- Meanwhile, Arissa could only see Zachary and Jesse when she exited the restroom. “Oliver still hasn't come out? Where's Jasper?” she asked.
- “Mommy, Jasper went to buy cotton candy. Oliver is still inside the restroom.” Zachary glanced at the cotton candy store.
- However, his sight was blocked by a sea of people. Zachary frowned as he failed to locate his younger brother. Didn't you promise to return soon?

- “Where did he run off to?” Arissa clicked her tongue. Despite her nagging, she was not mad at Jasper.
- She knew her third son had a superb sense of direction. Regardless of how unfamiliar the place was, he would always find his way back to her.

### **Chapter 4 The Switch**

- “How long has Oliver been inside? Zachary, go check if he has diarrhea,” Arissa instructed her eldest son. She was concerned that her children could not acclimatize to the weather back home.
- “Okay!” Zachary went off to rush his brother.
- Arissa looked around for the aforementioned store, but she could not find it. “Jesse, where did Jasper go to buy cotton candy?”
- “Mommy, it's over there! The one with a blue plane!” Jesse pointed toward a direction as she spoke with a missing front tooth.
- Arissa scanned the surrounding for a bit before finally spotting the cotton candy store. Nevertheless, there was no sign of Jasper, much to her dismay.
- She could not see clearly as there was an influx of people moving around the airport. Arissa had no choice but to wait for Oliver's return before she could start searching for Jasper.

- At last, Zachary came out of the restroom with Oliver. After waiting for a few moments, Arissa brought her three little ones along in search of Jasper while hauling their luggage.
- When they arrived at the cotton candy store, however, there was no sign of Jasper.
- Arissa could not help but worry for his safety. After all, her children were still unfamiliar with this place.
- “Where is he?” she asked impatiently.
- “Could Jasper have run off to buy something else?” Zachary frowned.
- “Let's wait for him a little longer!” Arissa reassured her children while trying to convince herself that Jasper would return soon.
- As time passed, he still did not show up.
- Could it be that he went back to the restroom to look for us?
- Just when Arissa thought about going back to search for Jasper, a familiar figure suddenly ran toward them. She breathed a sigh of relief and embraced the little boy tightly.
- Gavin Graham froze in shock after getting hugged by an affectionate woman who was a complete stranger to him.

- “Oh, my gosh! You almost scared your mommy to death! Didn't I tell you to wait for me? Why are you running around in a place like this?” Arissa reprimanded.
- “That's right! We thought you had disappeared! If you still didn't return, Mommy was going to use the airport's public address system to find you!” Oliver chimed in.
- Mommy?
- This word caused a ripple in Gavin's heart.
- He was shell-shocked when he saw Oliver's face. That was because they looked like carbon copies of each other.
- Furthermore, there were two other children next to him. Both of them looked the same.
- Who are they? And why do they resemble me so much? Could they be...
- Gavin was rendered speechless at the sight of the three siblings. However, he managed to maintain an expressionless look.
- Arissa thought she had frightened her son with her stern words just now. She immediately embraced the boy and stroked the top of his head fondly.

- “Mommy was just scared that you had gone missing. Where did you go just now?” she asked in a much gentler tone.
- “I-I...” Gavin stuttered in response as he had yet to recover from the shock.
- “I couldn't find it just now...” Gavin had searched for a long time. He only found the location of the cotton candy store after some help from a passerby. Little did he expect to be hugged by an unfamiliar woman as soon as he came over.
- Gavin's heartbeat quickened as he realized Arissa's dotting gaze was on him.
- Is she my mommy?
- Gavin kept looking back and forth between Arissa and the three siblings, who resembled him. He was convinced that his instinct was correct.
- That mom isn't my real mommy. This lady is the real one—I'm sure she's the one. Also, it looks like I have several brothers too.
- Gavin felt a surge of surprise mixed with excitement within his heart.
- Arissa did not notice the difference in the boy as she reached out and rubbed his head again.
- “Okay, everything is fine now that you're back. Mommy will buy cotton candy for all of you!” she stated happily.

- Arissa swiveled around and headed off to buy the confection for her children. However, the observant Zachary noticed a slight difference in his younger brother and scrutinized Gavin from head to toe.
- Why do I get a feeling that this boy in front of me doesn't look much like Jasper?
- Zachary was shocked as a thought dawned on him.
- “Where did you go just now?” he whispered in Gavin's ears.
- Zachary's suspicion grew ever since Gavin said he could not find the location of the cotton candy store.
- “I... There were too many people!” Gavin had not calmed down from the earlier shock.
- He was more cold and aloof than Jasper, who had always been lively and energetic.
- Therefore, Zachary could not help but distrust the impostor in front of him.
- The eldest brother narrowed his eyes suspiciously at Gavin as he noticed the different cartoon print on his shirt.
- “You're not Jasper!” he whispered as he edged closer to Gavin.

- Both Oliver and Jesse followed Arissa to buy cotton candy. They were overjoyed to the point that they did not notice the odd conversation between the other two siblings.
- Gavin's heart skipped a beat as he believed Zachary recognized him as a fake.
- They must have mistaken me for someone else! This means there is another boy who resembles me, and he has disappeared for some reason. That's the reason why they think I'm him. We're quintuplets!
- “Kids, come here! One for each of you!” Arissa handed out the cotton candies to the quadruplets.
- Jesse immediately took a huge bite and chirped, “This is yummy!” The sticky cotton candy smeared all over the child's gleeful face.
- Oliver could not help giggling at the silly sight of his youngest sibling. “Jesse, your face is a mess right now!” he teased.
- “Eat slowly.” Arissa chuckled. She then wiped Jesse's face before giving the other children their treats.
- Each cotton candy was in a different color.
- “Hold it carefully!” she advised.

- “Thanks, Mommy!” Gavin cheerfully exclaimed as he chose the blue-colored cotton candy.
- “You're still being polite with me?” Arissa asked in surprise. She stroked his head and led them toward the exit.
- Zachary glanced at Gavin again.
- He knew Jasper's favorite color was green and that he disliked the color blue.
- Why did he let me have the green-colored one?
- Nonetheless, Zachary could not tell if the person was really an impostor after seeing the satisfied smile on Gavin's face.
- This was because his smile looked exactly like Jasper's.
- Anyhow, Zachary was still doubtful of the real identity of his brother. He had an inkling that something was amiss, so he approached Gavin while dragging the luggage.
- “What happened to your shirt?” he probed again.
- “I really like this design, so I exchanged my shirt with another person!” Gavin smiled through his lie.

- He realized that all of them were wearing the same clothes. The only difference was the cartoon design. Also, he was the only one not wearing a hat.
- “What about your hat?” Zachary continued with his questions.
- “I decided to give that person my hat since he liked it a lot! Otherwise, he didn't want to exchange shirts with me,” Gavin explained.
- Gavin took another bite of the cotton candy as he grinned in satisfaction, just like what Jasper would do.
- Suddenly, a steely glint flashed through his eyes.
- My bodyguards must have mistaken Jasper for me and brought him back home. He should be fine over there. I'll play along as Jasper for the time being.
- Gavin wanted to find out if this woman was his biological mother.
- Why did she take my four other siblings while leaving me with Daddy, if that is the case? Is it possible that my real mommy was replaced by that other one? Speaking of that other one, I really don't like her.
- “You can touch my face if you don't believe me!” he added.
- To dispel Zachary's doubts, Gavin shoved his face right in front of him.

- Zachary looked at him intently while trying to sort out his thoughts.
- Could I be wrong about him? There should be no other children who look so similar to us. Even his clothes and shoes are the same. This can't be just a coincidence.
- However, looking at Gavin's familiar face, Zachary's doubts began to dissipate. And he figured that it would be inconceivable.

### **Chapter 5 This Man Is His Daddy**

- Zachary chastised his brother, “You've been told to return after buying the things. Yet, you wandered off and made us worry. You must not do this again next time, or I will smack you!”
- Gavin froze as it was the first time a kid had ever scolded him. Excluding Benjamin, he was always the one who wanted to hit people back at home.
- At that moment, cheers erupted in one corner of the airport.
- “Dani! Dani!”
- “Dani! Ahh! Dani! The most beautiful goddess!”
- Arissa turned to look at the fans who were pushing their way to the exit in a frenzy.

- “Dumb fans. They knocked over our luggage earlier and didn't even apologize!” Jesse scolded, looking adorable as she huffed. Jesse's voice sounded the most feminine out of the four kids.
- “I'm genuinely curious as to what celebrity caused these people to act so irrationally!” Zachary snorted.
- “Did anyone get hurt?” Arissa was taken aback. If her children remained silent, she would have no way of knowing.
- “No. They just knocked over our luggage and ran off!” Zachary grunted and glared over at them.
- “They're truly obnoxious. I'm going to show them a thing or two!” Oliver, who also just found out about it, intended to seek vengeance.
- Arissa quickly stopped the impulsive Oliver. “Come back.”
- Gavin stared at the fans with a look of disdain. “Mommy, let's leave quickly. These people are really annoying!”
- Gavin was thoroughly annoyed. Most importantly, he did not want to meet the woman because he was frightened of being identified.
- “All right, let's go.” Arissa gathered her children and quickly headed outside. She gave no thought to the celebrity.

- Gavin looked over in the direction of the Rolls-Royce and vaguely saw a child in it. He exhaled a sigh of relief. As expected, Jasper had been mistaken for him.
- “Mommy, there are a lot of people here. Let's go out that way!” Gavin was afraid of being spotted by the bodyguards. As a result, he took a step forward and tugged on Arissa's hand to guide her to the opposite side. Arissa noticed that the other exit was busier. She couldn't decide whether she should laugh or cry. “Sweetheart, there are more people this way!”
- “There won't be too many people! It's easier to grab a ride there,” Gavin lied.
- Arissa saw taxis in the direction her son wanted to go and headed in that direction with the rest of her children.
- At that moment, a tall figure, surrounded by bodyguards, walked out from the exit.
- His features were captivating, and the sunglasses he wore could not hide his intimidating aura.
- His reserved and cold aura attracted a couple of stunned gazes from the crowd.
- Ethen Frank stayed by the man's side and observed the reaction of the onlookers. He was used to this scene.

- His boss was the center of attention no matter where he went.
- He looked around the area and noticed a couple of children off in the distance, making him take another look at them. Perhaps it was because of Gavin that he thought children of that age were cute.
- The four children wore matching clothing, and each carried a backpack as they gathered around a woman.
- Out of curiosity, Ethen took a few looks at them again.
- Could they be quadruplets?
- He took a look at the woman next to them and was stunned by her figure, even just from looking at her from the back.
- Gavin peeked over in Ethen's direction and was alerted to his presence. He turned his head away urgently.
- Daddy is here!
- Ethen saw the child's side profile and was shocked. “Mr. Graham, Gavin...”
- “Get in the car quickly. Don't waste time,” the man said and entered the car.

- Ethen reverted his gaze to the car and sighed a breath of relief when he saw a familiar face in it.
- He smiled and shook his head. I mistook him for someone else.
- “Gavin!”
- After greeting the child in the car, he walked over to the driver's side and took another look in the other direction, but he could no longer see the woman and the four children.
- Jasper was excited to see a Rolls-Royce when the bodyguards brought him over. All boys loved cars, especially such luxurious ones.
- Hence, he did not run away. He ate his cotton candy while he looked and fiddled around in the car.
- The bodyguards thought it was strange when they saw his actions. They felt something was different with him as the boy should have been used to it already.
- Jasper became aware of their gazes and controlled his expression. He prepared himself to meet this “Daddy” person.
- If the bodyguards have misidentified me, then there must be another kid who looks like me. This explains why they didn't notice their mistake. Yes. This

should be the case. Did Mommy not give birth to quadruplets but quintuplets instead?

- Jasper finally met Benjamin not long after.
- He looked at the man who got into the car. The man was cold and handsome, and his aura was intense. Jasper swallowed his saliva, which had a hint of sweetness in it.
- This man is my daddy?
- Jasper's eyes filled with curiosity as he looked at Benjamin.
- He looks somewhat like Zachary. This should be Daddy.
- Benjamin raised his eyebrows when he saw his son staring blankly at him. “Did you come to pick me up?”
- The man spoke in a low voice with a hint of softness in it. It was, however, strict enough that no one dared to defy. He was actually happy that his son came to the airport to fetch him.
- Regardless, Benjamin was a stranger to Jasper. The boy felt unsure of himself and did not dare to say anything. He was also worried that Benjamin would learn that he wasn't the boy whose full name he did not even know of.
- However, Jasper thought that this man was not too shabby.

- He has looks and riches—that's super powerful. He can surely protect Mommy!
- Jasper felt a surge of excitement in his heart as he took a bite of his cotton candy.
- Benjamin was also used to the fact that his son did not like to talk. He patted Jasper's head, and his eyes lit up when he saw the several cotton candies in Jasper's hand.
- Only children liked these things, but he would not turn it down if his son offered him one. “Is this for Daddy?”
- Jasper looked at the cotton candies in his hands before turning to look at Benjamin, who had removed his sunglasses. People were afraid to look into his narrow eyes as if meeting his gaze would betray their secrets.
- Jasper froze. The cotton candies were for his siblings and not for Benjamin.
- “I'll... give you one!” He eventually gave one to Benjamin.
- Since he bought five of them, he would not be able to finish them himself anyway. They were all starting to melt.
- As he saw his son staring at him, Benjamin took the cotton candy and bit into it. The intense kick of sweetness in his mouth made him uncomfortable, so he wrinkled his brows.

- This is too sweet. “Don't eat too much of these sweet things. You'll get cavities!” Benjamin shot a look at his son.
- “Gavin, did you buy one for me, too?” Ethen looked at Jasper with a smile on his face. Jasper blinked and shifted forward to give Ethen two cotton candies. He was now left with two for himself. One of them had already been nearly eaten up.
- “Thank you, Gavin!” Ethen sat back in his seat and ate his cotton candies happily.
- Benjamin's face fell when he realized how generous his son was to Ethen. After taking two bites, he was unable to take another. He then stared at the cotton candy in his hand as he tried to figure out what to do with it.
- Jasper noticed that Benjamin was struggling to consume the cotton candy as if it were medicine, so he said in a whisper, “Give it back to me if you don't like it.” It was something Jasper himself would enjoy eating.
- Benjamin detected that Jasper was craving them, so he returned the candy. “Next time, if you want to eat something, just buy one. Don't buy too many!”
- “Okay!” Jasper replied. He sat in a corner and ate his cotton candy. His eyes glanced over at Benjamin from time to time.

## **Chapter 6 Daddy Is Married To Another Woman**

- Benjamin noticed his son's expression and assumed he was looking for a gift. He then explained, “Daddy was busy this time, so I didn't get you a gift. I'll make it up to you next time!”
- Benjamin used to bring Gavin a present whenever he went on a business trip. Gavin, on the other hand, never said whether he liked them or not. He did not bring any this time, yet Gavin had come to fetch him from the airport. Hence, Benjamin felt a tinge of guilt in his heart.
- Jasper shot him a glance before lowering his head to eat his cotton candy.
- Ethen piped up suddenly, “Mr. Graham, it's Ms. Adams.”
- Jasper's ears perked up. Who is Ms. Adams?
- Benjamin's eyes flickered as he saw the woman walking toward them. He narrowed his eyes and turned to look at Jasper. This boy is not here to pick me up, but his mother instead?
- Danna caught sight of the familiar car and hurried over. The bodyguards outside greeted her with respect, “Ms. Adams!”
- “Is Benjamin here?” she asked and proceeded to open the car door. When she saw the man in the car, her heart pounded. “Benjamin!” she exclaimed with a smile.
- Benjamin's demeanor remained neutral.

- “You came to pick me up!” Danna was filled with excitement.
- “I just returned from a business trip!”
- Danna was taken aback for a moment and chuckled. “What a coincidence. I’ve just returned from making an announcement too.”
- She quickly scooped Jasper into her arms as soon as she sat down next to him. “Gavin, you came to pick Mom up? Your mom is very happy! Was it because you missed me?”
- Mom? Jasper furrowed his brows. His face fell in an instant as he stared at Danna. Who would miss her? Who is this woman? Daddy is married to another woman! Was it because of this woman that Daddy did not want Mommy there?
- Jasper was furious. This woman is not my mommy, yet she calls herself my mom? Also, her perfume reeks.
- Achoo! Jasper choked on Danna's perfume and sneezed in her direction.
- Something splashed on Danna, and she froze. She quickly threw Jasper to the side and grabbed a tissue to clean herself. “You...”
- When she remembered Benjamin was present, she quickly tried to suppress her anger and switched her expression to a smile. She pretended to be

concerned and reached out to touch Jasper's forehead. "Gavin, did you catch a cold?" she asked worriedly.

- Little brat, how dare you spew nasty things on me?
- Jasper brushed her hand away. He hated that she was touching him and shifted himself toward Benjamin. This woman was just about to scold me but turned around and pretended to care about me. She's just putting on a show that no one wants to watch.
- Danna noticed that Jasper shifted away from her and felt enraged. This bastard child. Wait till we get home, and I'll teach you a lesson. You won't even save me some pride. How insolent!
- Danna saw the cotton candies in Jasper's hand. She pretended to care for the kid and quickly snatched them away from him before tossing them into the car's trash can. "Children should not consume this kind of junk food. You'll get cavities!"
- "How could you throw away my things? You ugly freak!" Jasper could tell that Danna did it on purpose and screamed at her, forgetting that he was Gavin's substitute.
- The boy glared at Danna with a face full of rage.
- Danna had never seen the child this mad before. She was dumbfounded. She thought it was outrageous that Gavin spoke to her like this.

- “I did it for your own good, but you're calling your mom an ugly freak? Who taught you that? Benjamin, how did Gavin become like this? I only did it for his sake...” While she spoke, Danna's eyes turned red. She looked as if she was hurt and saddened by her son.
- Jasper rolled his eyes. She really knows how to act.
- Benjamin had never seen his son so angry before. When Gavin is angry, at most, he just won't speak and would ignore everyone. I haven't seen him in only a few days, and his personality has changed.
- “Gavin Graham, apologize to your mom!” Benjamin's face darkened. Danna is still Gavin's biological mother, no matter how awful she might be. Furthermore, the kid was merely speaking out of anger.
- “You want me to apologize to her? No way! She threw away my things on purpose. Why should I?” Jasper was stubborn. He glared at Danna without a care in the world. This ugly freak. Daddy must have abandoned us because of her.
- He thought about how Arissa had to struggle to raise him and his siblings. They were also almost killed when they were born. Jasper's eyes turned red when he thought of this. He felt wronged and angry.
- Because of this, he had begun to despise Benjamin. He shifted to the side of the car door. “Stop the car. I want to get out!” Daddy, my butt! Since he asked me to apologize to this ugly freak, I don't want him anymore.

- Benjamin furrowed as he held Jasper in his arms. He scolded in a low voice, “Why are you making a fuss?”
- You're just a kid. How could you scream and shout at adults? Benjamin was infuriated by his son's actions.
- Jasper cried out loud when he saw that Benjamin did not side with him and scolded him sternly instead. He felt utterly wronged. People would feel sorry for him if they heard his cries.
- “You are not my daddy! You are a bad person!”
- Benjamin's face was dark as he stared at the crying boy in his arms.
- Wah! Wah!
- Jasper's cries were so intense that they were deafening.
- “Benjamin, don't be so harsh. Gavin, come over to Mom. I'm sorry. I will apologize to you. If you like cotton candy, Mom will buy it for you. Okay?”
- Danna leaned over to carry Jasper to her side. Jasper was not Gavin. Hence, he definitely would not cooperate. After all, Benjamin had reprimanded him because of this woman.
- “Don't talk to me. You don't like me anyway, so don't be pretentious. You are not my mommy! You are a fake!” Jasper shouted at Danna.

- The atmosphere in the car turned silent in a second.
- Danna was shocked and frightened. How does this bastard child know? Danna suppressed her guilt and peeked at Benjamin. The man stared at the boy in his arms with a dark expression. She could not make out what he was thinking.
- “Benjamin, this boy...”
- Tears welled up in Danna's eyes in an instant. She put on a look as if she was incredibly hurt that her son disliked her. Looking over at Jasper sadly, she coaxed him, “Gavin, why would I not like you? I gave birth to you. I was pregnant with you for ten months and almost had a miscarriage. Are you mad because I did not give you a call? I was busy with work. I'll remember to call you next time, okay? Don't be mad at Mom. It makes me really sad...”
- Jasper watched the drama queen, Danna, while she skillfully acted as if they were blood-related. On the inside, he rolled his eyes.
- He peeked at Benjamin, and when he saw that Benjamin was glaring at him, his tears began to pour again. “Both of you don't like me. You think I'm a nuisance, right?”
- Jasper thought that he should not be too obvious. He did not want to lead Danna on with any suspicions. When the time came, he would then have the upper hand to deal with this woman.

- His face was full of sadness, and he cried till his shoulders were quivering. However, on the inside, he was thinking up a ploy.

## **Chapter 7 Why Did You Prick My Finger**

- “Stop crying!” Benjamin had never seen his son cry out loud. He did not know how to calm him down. “No one thinks that!”
- “Really?” Jasper buried himself in Benjamin's embrace and held him tightly. His body was trembling. His pitiful voice could cause others to choke up.
- Benjamin could tell from his voice that Jasper was afraid of being abandoned. His heart sank as he patted the boy's head. “Really,” Benjamin said with confidence.
- Danna looked at the father-son duo and secretly sighed a breath of relief.
- However, Ethen, sitting in the front, noticed her expression. His eyes flickered with a hint of suspicion. Ms. Adams and Gavin were not like this in the past. Although they were not as close as other mothers and sons, they still wouldn't have fought like this.
- Meanwhile, Arissa had arrived home with the four children and had started cleaning the house.

- Gavin hid in the bathroom to watch the surveillance footage of his own home.
- He was relieved when he saw that Jasper had returned home with Benjamin. He finally exited and went to help with the chores.
- It was dinner time already when they had finally settled down. The mother and children ordered takeout and ate together at the dinner table, making the atmosphere full of life.
- Gavin was afraid that he would accidentally reveal himself if he spoke too much. Thus, he would only add a little here and there to the conversation when everyone was talking. In the end, he managed to avoid any suspicions of being the odd one out.
- Zachary was the only one who thought his brother was a little different, but he did not question him further on his identity.
- After dinner, Arissa instructed her kids to shower and head to bed. She, too, washed up quickly and went to sleep.
- On the other side, Jasper had dozed off on the way home to the Graham residence with Benjamin after all the weeping.
- Benjamin glanced down at the boy in his arms, who still had tears caught in his eyelashes. He wiped them away and carried him out of the car.

- “Benjamin, let me!” Danna wanted to come with Benjamin. However, the man turned around and stated with a distant look, “No need.”
- Danna felt slightly helpless. She could tell that Benjamin was angry.
- Benjamin carried his son and walked forward a few steps before stopping. He turned on his heel and shot a cold glare. “Next time, if you think that he is in the wrong, keep your attitude in check and speak nicely! You can leave now!” Benjamin spat and signaled the butler to see the guest off before entering the house.
- Danna was startled. She watched the man's silhouette as he entered the house. Her heart was filled with pain. It has been five years. Why is he still so cold to me? Does he still blame me for that drugging incident? But I did that because I liked him. Was I wrong to challenge his boundaries? I know that he dislikes people scheming against him. Was I too desperate?
- “Ms. Adams, please get home early and have a rest!” The butler stepped forward as he spoke.
- Danna looked at the butler and smiled. “Edwin, I bought this gift overseas for Benjamin. It has calming properties. I forgot to give it to him earlier, so please give it to him for me!”
- She reached into her bag and pulled out a delicately packaged box before handing it over to the butler along with another one. “This one is for you!”

- “Thank you, Ms. Adams, but this is too expensive. I can't take it!” Edwin Whitley took over the one for Benjamin but did not take the one Danna intended to give him.
- “It didn't cost much. Just take it. I can't use it anyway!” Danna forcefully pushed it into Edwin's hand and turned to get in the car. She then looked at the mansion. Her eyes glinted ever so slightly.
- She had already come all the way here. Thus, she thought that Benjamin would ask her to stay the night.
- “Ms. Adams, take care,” Edwin said politely, then instructed the driver to drive slowly. He watched the car leave and headed back into the house.
- Benjamin carried his son upstairs into Gavin's bedroom and gently let him down.
- “Mommy...” Jasper whined and turned around, putting his feet on the bed.
- Benjamin's eyes flashed. He bent over to take off his son's shoes and reposition his sleeping posture. As he draped a blanket over him, he noticed a mole on Jasper's wrist. His gaze became tense. This kid did not have a mole, right?
- Benjamin picked up Jasper's hand to take a closer look. He was still unsure. After all, the father and son did not interact frequently. Thus, he had not paid careful attention to such details.

- Placing Jasper's hand down, he gazed at the boy's sleeping face and reached to stroke his head before getting up to leave.
- When the butler saw that Benjamin had come out, he politely handed the gift to him. “Mr. Graham, Ms. Adams brought this for you. She said it has calming effects!”
- Benjamin glanced over and showed no intention of receiving it. He then looked at the butler and said, “Next time, don't just accept things!”
- The butler froze and acknowledged, “All right!” Mr. Graham's relationship with Ms. Adams was good in the past. After they had Gavin, he became colder and colder. No one knows why for sure. Everyone expected Mr. Graham to marry Ms. Adams. However, their relationship did not grow deeper in the past five years. Instead, they grew further apart.
- The butler looked at Benjamin's indifferent face and couldn't help but sigh inwardly. He wondered who could enter Benjamin's heart and make him smile.
- Benjamin turned to return to his bedroom. He stopped in his steps and turned around to look at the butler. “Edwin, does Gavin have a mole on his wrist?”
- “Mole?” The butler was dumbfounded. He looked at Benjamin with confusion. “I don't think so!”

- As he was the one who always cared for Gavin and frequently helped him get dressed, he did not notice any mole.
- Benjamin furrowed his brow. No mole. Then what I saw earlier...
- Edwin was puzzled when he saw that Benjamin was serious. He rushed into the room and looked at Jasper's wrist, finding a noticeable mole there.
- He rubbed it but it did not come off. The butler furrowed his brows. "This... wasn't here before! Unless it grew recently?"
- As Benjamin wanted Gavin to be independent, he did not let the butler help him get dressed anymore and wanted Gavin to get dressed without help. Thus, it had been some time since the butler had taken care of Gavin in close proximity.
- Benjamin narrowed his eyes as his heart surged with worry. "Get the doctor!" There was no mole previously. Now suddenly, there is one. This is not a good sign.
- "Yes!" Edwin rushed to give the family doctor a phone call. He instructed the doctor to come to the Graham residence immediately.
- Shaun Bailey rushed over as he assumed something had happened. But it turned out they were asking him to look at Jasper's mole. He performed a quick check and found that there was nothing wrong with it. "You guys are

making a fuss over a minor issue. This kind of mole would grow later in life, too. Gavin is still young. Growing a mole is very common!”

- “Give him a blood test!” Benjamin did not trust his quick checkup.
- The corner of Shaun's mouth twitched. Under Benjamin's pressure, he was forced to take some blood from Jasper's fingertips.
- “Ouch!” Jasper was awakened by the pain and saw that someone was pricking his finger. With a glare, he kicked the man.
- Shaun was caught off guard and was kicked directly. He stumbled back and fell to the ground.
- “Gavin, it's me...”
- “Why did you prick my finger!” Jasper shouted in rage while he clasped his hand tightly. This guy is horrible for poking me in my sleep.
- Shaun was speechless from Jasper's question. He got up and turned to Benjamin.

## **Chapter 8 Fussing Over The Mole**

- He had a puzzled look on his face, but he remained quiet.

- Tch. Like father like son. Shaun thought the boy had lost his temper.
- “Your daddy asked me to check your body because he was worried about the mole on your hand. He said it wasn't there before. That's why I need to take some of your blood,” Shaun explained quickly.
- “A mole?” Jasper blinked and raised his arm to look for the mole. “Oh. This...” he trailed off as he frowned.
- Suddenly, he realized that he might have given himself away, so he quickly changed his expression and looked at them with a pout.
- “What's the big deal! It's just a mole, isn't it?” he exclaimed.
- Benjamin remained silent.
- Shaun couldn't help but let out a small laugh when he compared Jasper's calm expression to Benjamin's. However, he stopped smiling when Benjamin glared at him.
- “Gavin, it'll be over really quickly. Dr. Bailey will only take a little of your blood and check on you for a bit. Don't you want to give your daddy peace of mind?” Edwin said gently to Jasper.
- Jasper turned pale when he saw the little ball of blood on his tiny finger. He couldn't stand the sight of blood.

- Benjamin furrowed at Jasper's reaction toward blood. What's the matter with him? He would endure the pain in the past, so why is he acting so timidly now?
- “Hurry up and stop his bleeding already!” Benjamin shot Shaun a glare, making the latter hurry toward Jasper.
- “Gavin, hang in there! Let me get a little bit blood... and you're done!” he remarked after squeezing Jasper's finger. After getting enough blood samples into the blood collection tube, Shaun quickly put a cotton swab against the wound. “Good job! You'll be fine soon!”
- On the other hand, Jasper squeezed his eyes closed the entire time. Anyone would feel bad for him when one saw how mad and afraid he seemed.
- Edwin quickly hugged him as he applied some pressure against the swab so that Shaun could pack his stuff more easily.
- “Gavin, I'll be leaving now. I'll drop by and play with you some other time!” Shaun said and left in haste after seeing how Jasper ignored him. To be honest, he was also worried about Jasper and wanted to run the tests as soon as he could.
- “Gavin, why don't you sleep for a little while longer?” Edwin continued to coax him.
- Could it be that Daddy knows something is wrong? Jasper withered.

- Suddenly, he felt someone's hand touching his head gently. He lifted his head and saw Benjamin's expressionless face without a second thought.
- “Does it hurt?” Benjamin asked awkwardly. He wasn't good at comforting others.
- Is Daddy always like this? How cold... No one would feel comforted if you acted like that, okay?
- “What do you think? Do you wanna try getting pricked?” Jasper huffed, acting like he was unwilling to converse with him any longer.
- Benjamin glanced at Jasper for a brief second without saying anything.
- “Gavin, are you hungry? I'll make something for you, okay?” Edwin volunteered quickly out of worry after noticing the silence between them.
- Jasper didn't reply, but his growling stomach did.
- Edwin patted Jasper's head like a doting grandpa and removed the swab from Jasper's finger. Once he was sure that Jasper's bleeding had stopped, he brought Jasper to the bed. “Rest a bit more, Gavin! I'll make something delicious for you!”
- Jasper lay on Gavin's bed as he blushed. He turned to the other side of the room to avoid looking directly at Benjamin, only to see that Gavin's room was filled with many of his favorite robot figurines.

- Wow! There are so many figurines here!
- Suddenly, a thought came to his mind. It was a serious question.
- If I am here in Gavin's place, then where is he? C-Could it be that he's gone missing? No, that's not possible. If I can find my way home, I'm sure he can do it too! I'm sure my brother is not a dummy! But, if he comes home, I'll be exposed!
- In the short time when Jasper was still acting innocent in front of Benjamin, ideas and strategies ran in his little mind.
- Benjamin seemed to notice Jasper's gaze on the figurines, so he said, "I will get you whatever you like, okay?" He usually wouldn't coax his son like that—it was a rare sight.
- Truthfully, Benjamin only got those figurines for Gavin because he noticed Gavin staring at them on the TV screen last time. Fortunately, the boy loved his presents.
- Jasper was shocked to hear him say that. That's right. These belong to Gavin, not me.
- "Really? Anything?" Jasper asked as he peeked at Benjamin.
- "Of course." Benjamin wasn't one who would go back on his word.

- Jasper briefly grinned before he stopped smiling so that Benjamin wouldn't see through him. “Daddy! I want another set of this!” Jasper declared. Yay! I can play it with Zachary and the rest when I switch back!
- Jasper's heart sank when he didn't get a response from Benjamin. Could it be that Daddy's angry with my request? Well, the figurines do look expensive, though... He turned toward Benjamin cautiously.
- “Are you sure you want another one of that?” Benjamin looked at him with a puzzled expression. Don't people usually want different things? Why would he want the same thing?
- Seeing that Benjamin wasn't angry, Jasper nodded while sneaking glances at him. Benjamin's ice-cold heart softened up when he saw how adorable Jasper was acting.
- “Okay. But some of these are one-of-a-kind items, and some are limited editions, so it might take some time for me to get them,” Benjamin said dotingly. As long as he loves it, I can also get the manufacturer to make another one.
- “Thanks, M—” Jasper coughed before he corrected himself, “Daddy!”
- Seeing how happy Jasper looked, Benjamin's eyes flickered as a warm and fuzzy feeling rose in his heart.
- “How's your finger? Let me see,” he asked at the side of Gavin's bed.

- In that instant, Jasper's body stiffened. Despite his fear, he extended his hand.
- Benjamin gently took Jasper's hand to look at it before blowing his little finger.
- Jasper's heart pounded at his action, feeling elated. Huh? This feels... nice. Even though Daddy is as cold as ice and always looks scary, he seems to be caring.
- At that moment, Benjamin's phone rang.
- “Mr. Whitley still needs some more time to prepare your food. Why don't you take a short nap?” Benjamin suggested before he left the room to pick up the call.
- Seeing that Benjamin had left, Jasper started to look around Gavin's room in admiration. He occasionally picked up a few figurines to look at them more closely.
- What he didn't know was that Benjamin was still outside of the room and could see in between the gap of the door. What's Gavin doing? However, the thought disappeared as soon as it emerged. Without giving much thought to it, Benjamin walked toward his study.
- After Jasper was done exploring Gavin's room, he walked out of the room and started to roam around the mansion.

- Whoa! This place is enormous and pretty, like a castle! It wouldn't feel cramped even if Mommy and the rest came to live here together!
- Jasper was behaving like a curious kitten as he explored upstairs before noticing a little light reflected off a smooth surface. His body stiffened a little. The next instant, he was rushing downstairs. Shoot! A hidden surveillance camera! Wait, there is more than one! Oh, no. I didn't give myself away, did I? I should be more careful before Gavin comes home.

## hapter 9 They Are Brothers

- That's weird. I've been gone for so long, but they haven't called me yet. Usually, they would be scrambling around to look for me already. Aren't Mommy, Zachary, Oliver, and Jesse worried about me at all?
- With that thought, Jasper checked his phone, which resembled a watch.
- Uh-oh. The battery died.
- “Gavin, your food's ready!” Edwin called out when he noticed Jasper as he was about to bring the food over to Gavin's room.
- “Okay!” Jasper responded as he ran to take his seat at the dining table.
- Seeing that the table was full of delicious-looking dishes, he quickly grabbed a fork and happily dug in.

- “Gavin, pace yourself. Please chew your food more slowly!” Edwin urged as the way Jasper ate shocked him. What's going on? Usually, he would chew more slowly before swallowing.
- “Mm-hmm!” The boy was beaming with delight as he ate. Oh my gosh! These are heavenly! Jesse would definitely love this!
- Suddenly, Jasper slowed down as he felt guilty. Did Mommy, Zachary, Oliver, and Jesse eat yet?
- “Mr. Whitley, these are really good!”
- “Hehe! I was afraid that you'd get tired of eating the same thing every day! Have some more if you like it!” Edwin suggested as he put more food on his plate.
- Jasper caught sight of Benjamin walking toward them and started to eat quietly.
- “Mr. Graham!” Edwin quickly prepared cutlery for Benjamin while the latter took his seat to eat with Jasper.
- His brows furrowed deeply when he saw Jasper swallowing the food without chewing.
- “Chew for thirty times before swallowing!”

- “B-But I'm hungry!” Jasper exclaimed in surprise. Thirty times? That's too tiring!
- “Don't eat too quickly! No matter how hungry you are, you must chew your food thirty times before you swallow!” Did he not eat well while I was away?
- Benjamin glanced at Edwin. “Mr. Graham, Gavin's been taking his meals properly in the past few days! Maybe he's eating so quickly today because he was hungry,” Edwin explained respectfully with his head lowered.
- Meanwhile, a small pair of eyes were looking at Benjamin and Edwin. Jasper paced his chewing. What's up with this rule? He's too strict! Mommy has never been as fussy as him!
- In the next few minutes, Benjamin would reprimand him whenever Jasper didn't chew at least thirty times. This is the hardest meal that I've had! Ugh. The food doesn't taste that good anymore.
- After he was done, he quickly ran toward Gavin's room and locked the door. Once that was done, Jasper continued to search the room as he looked for clues or ways to contact Gavin.
- Phew. Luckily they didn't call Gavin. I'll definitely be exposed if they do. No, I must find a way to call Gavin to see if he's okay.

- No matter how hard he looked, Gavin's number was nowhere to be found. In that instant, he heard someone knocking on the door. Jasper beamed when he knew that it was Edwin.
- “Yes, Mr. Whitley?” he asked as he opened the door.
- “Gavin, your dad asked me to make this for you! Let me know any time if you want to eat it in the future!” Edwin informed as he passed the cotton candy to Jasper.
- “Thank you, Mr. Whitley!” Jasper took the cotton candy merrily and took a bite. Yay! I get to eat this every day now!
- “Oh! Mr. Whitley, can I borrow your phone for a little while?” he asked out of the blue when Edwin was about to leave.
- “Here you go!” Edwin reached for his phone in his pocket and passed it to Jasper without question.
- “Mr. Whitley! Your font's too small! I'll make it bigger for you!” Jasper tilted the phone to an angle where Edwin couldn't look at the screen and quickly looked for Gavin's number in the contact list.
- Since Gavin had done the same thing before, Edwin smiled and waited patiently at the door without the slightest bit of suspicion.

- Without much difficulty, Jasper found Gavin's number after scrolling for a while. After that, he quickly memorized Gavin's number and changed the font size before returning Edwin's phone to him. Good thing Mr. Whitley doesn't have many contacts in his contact list.
- “This cotton candy is delicious!” Jasper exclaimed with a huge grin on his face.
- “Gavin, make sure to brush your teeth before you sleep!” Edwin reminded with a dotting smile.
- “Yeah! Okay! I'll do that! Good night, Mr. Whitley!” Jasper waved and closed the door.
- Edwin looked in the direction of Gavin's room before he went downstairs.
- Jasper quickly plugged the cable in to charge his phone. He took a few more bites of the cotton candy and finished it as he waited for his device to be fully charged. After that, he went to brush his teeth and took a bath. Once he was out, the indicator showed that it was fully charged, and he started composing a message on it to Gavin.
- I wonder... Is Gavin with Mommy, or is he stranded somewhere?
- Jasper texted him: Are you Gavin? I'm Jasper!

- Gavin, who almost fell asleep, reached for his phone when he heard the familiar sound of an incoming message on his phone. When he read the message, his eyes widened.
- It's Jasper! He contacted me!
- Almost instantly, Jasper received a reply from Gavin. Gavin texted: Yeah. That's me. Are you at my place?
- Jasper furrowed his brows. Huh? How does he know that I'm at his home?
- Jasper replied: Yeah. But how did you know that? Where are you now? Are you safe?
- Gavin texted: I'm with Mommy. Daddy hasn't found out about you yet, right?
- Jasper was shocked at his reply, but he quickly let out a breath of relief. So he really is with Mommy! That was quick. It sure didn't take him long to call someone he had just met Mommy.
- Jasper asked: Are we quintuplets?
- Gavin replied: I guess so? We look exactly the same! Does Daddy know that you're not me?

- Jasper responded: Nope, but he noticed the mole on my wrist. It's best for you to put on a fake mole when you come home. If he sees that you don't have one, he'll surely find out!
- Gavin replied: Mommy, on the other hand, didn't suspect a thing! I don't want to go back yet. Could you pretend to be me for a while longer? Daddy is very busy with his work, so you should be okay if you don't stay in the same room as him for too long. Oh, and you shouldn't talk too much.
- The two of them continued to chat and exchange information about themselves.
- “What are you doing, Jasper? Stop using your phone! Hurry up and sleep!” Zachary said when he saw Gavin still using his phone.
- “O-Okay!” Gavin hastily kept the phone and went to the bathroom.
- Zachary thought that something was up, so he reached for Gavin's phone.
- When Gavin returned, he saw that Zachary was going through the messages he had with Jasper.
- “You're not Jasper!” Zachary stared at him.
- “I'm Gavin,” Gavin admitted with a nod. Since he found out, there's no need for me to lie anymore.

- Zachary continued to read the messages. I can't believe that Jasper really did go missing. And it seems like he's with Daddy!
- You... Why did you contact Gavin and not me? I'm the eldest, remember?
- Zachary scrutinized Gavin more closely. He really does look exactly like us.
- At that moment, Zachary knew for sure that they were quintuplets.
- But, why didn't Mommy tell us?
- Gavin was worried that Zachary might dislike him from all of Zachary's staring.
- He walked toward Zachary and said, "I-I'm sorry. I didn't mean to lie to you. I-I just wanted to get to know you better and find out why Mommy didn't want me..."
- However, the longer he was with Arissa, the more he felt that Arissa wouldn't do such a thing.
- Mommy is really gentle and kind. There must be some misunderstanding!
- "There's no way Mommy would abandon her child!"

## **Chapter 10 Chased Away By His Fiancée**

- Zachary stared at Gavin angrily. “Why didn't you admit it previously?”
- No wonder something felt off about him. He wasn't Jasper. Tsk. Can't you just come clean when you blow your cover?
- “I was afraid that you would tell Mommy the moment you realized I wasn't Jasper. Would you guys still bring me back with you if you knew?” Gavin asked. He felt conflicted as he also worried that Arissa might not like him.
- “Of course not!” Zachary asserted bluntly, indirectly hurting Gavin's feelings.
- “But why?” Gavin asked.
- Zachary began to panic when he realized the hurtful look on Gavin's face. He quickly explained, “Well, you have to understand, you're supposed to be with your daddy now, and we're supposed to be with Mommy. If all of us were to follow Mommy, including you too, then your daddy would seek high and low for you, and that would expose us. Who knows if he'll come after us for this!”
- Gavin felt relieved upon learning that it wasn't because Zachary despised him.
- “In that case, let's figure out why we got separated in the first place and then inform Daddy about this!” Gavin suggested.

- Although Gavin was only a young child, he expressed himself in a calm and collected manner. Strangely, he also seemed to possess an innate ability that could make others yield to his request.
- Zachary furrowed his brows. Nevertheless, he agreed that Gavin had a point.
- “Agreed! Let me call Jasper then to caution him from exposing himself,” Zachary declared.
- Immediately, Jasper received a phone call from Zachary, where the latter lectured him for causing them the present mess they were in now.
- After Zachary finished lecturing Jasper, he turned to ask Gavin a crucial detail. “By the way, what is your daddy's name?”
- “Benjamin Graham!” Gavin answered casually. His eyes stared steadily into Zachary's before curling his lips into a smile. “Who is also your daddy!” he continued.
- Zachary gasped in shock. Wait, what? Our daddy is Benjamin Graham? That Grim Reaper whom no one dared to offend in the whole of Dellmoor?
- “Oh, I have a picture of Daddy. Here you go.” Gavin took out his phone and searched for Benjamin's photo before showing it to Zachary.
- Zachary only took one look at the picture before he was sure that the man was unquestionably their daddy.

- The man in the picture stood tall in a proud posture where his nobility clearly distinguished him from others. Furthermore, his defined features were almost identical to Zachary and his siblings, so much so that they were practically the spitting image of him.
- Didn't Mommy say that she didn't know who our daddy was?
- Zachary couldn't believe that Benjamin was their daddy. He had heard of this man's name before, but he never could find his pictures online in the past. Upon comprehending this newfound truth, he was amazed that he found his daddy after only being back in the country for a few days.
- Zachary was beyond delighted to learn this because Benjamin was none other than the boss of the Graham Group. As a famous and influential individual, he had a lot of power over others. Thus, as long as he was willing to protect them, Zachary was sure that their mommy would never be bullied by others ever again.
- “Does your daddy treat you well?” Zachary asked Gavin cautiously, hoping to fish out more information about Benjamin.
- “Yes, he does, but perhaps not as gentle as how Mommy treats me!” Gavin really did look up to Benjamin. However, it was also undeniable that the relationship between them was a bit awkward and distant.
- Upon hearing this, Zachary immediately heightened his senses. He sized up Gavin from head to toe. With his brows furrowed, he asked, “Are you sure that he treats you well? Please don't tell me that he hits you when you're bad.”

- Sensing that Zachary misunderstood him, Gavin immediately shook his head and clarified, “Daddy never hits me, but if I were to make a mistake, he would make me face a wall and place me under time out!”
- Zachary nodded his head. That's pretty normal. Mommy would make us do that too. Not to mention, she'll get mad at us.
- The two young boys continued to chatter away quietly, discussing other details, mainly about Benjamin.
- The next day, Arissa woke up early to prepare breakfast before waking her children up.
- After enjoying her breakfast with her children, she instructed them to stay home before rushing to Graham Group.
- She managed to arrive at the office earlier than agreed. There, Ethen personally escorted her to Benjamin's office so as she could wait for Benjamin's arrival.
- “Ms. York, please wait here for a moment. Once our CEO arrives, he will proceed to interview you,” Ethen communicated.
- “Sure, no worries. I'm the one who arrived earlier than agreed. You guys have a waiting room, don't you? Let me head over there and wait for Mr. Graham instead,” Arissa replied. She was dressed in a white-collar suit, looking classy and professional.

- After all, this was Benjamin's personal office. It did not feel right to her to be waiting for him here while he was away.
- “No, it's fine. Just take a seat,” Ethen replied politely with a smile. He then instructed a secretary to make Arissa some coffee before informing Benjamin of Arissa's arrival.
- Arissa sat on the couch in the guest area. She looked around Benjamin's office and realized that its design had a grey tone focus, making the space look sophisticated and sleek. One of the walls had a bookshelf filled with business-related books.
- She was astounded by the sight of this office. Indeed, it matched the image of an office owned by the world's richest man. Although it was spacious and grand, there was an indescribable sense of superiority in the space nonetheless. Arissa even felt that she had to place her cup down cautiously.
- Suddenly, a series of clacking sounds made by heels could be heard from the direction of the door. Arissa immediately turned her head to seek the source of the noise.
- Right then, Danna walked into the office. The two of them locked gazes and were startled by each other's presence.
- In no time, Danna began to recognize who Arissa was. Gradually, a look of shock and panic glazed her eyes.

- She's alive! What is she doing here? Has Benjamin met her already?
- Danna was absolutely petrified. She immediately scanned the room for Benjamin's presence. Realizing that he wasn't here, Danna quickly recollected herself and put on a stone-cold expression. With much pride and arrogance, she walked over to Arissa's side.
- “Who are you? And what are you doing here?” Danna questioned.
- Arissa, who was taken aback by the woman's tone, was stunned.
- She quickly stood up after that and politely said, “I'm here to attend a job interview, currently waiting for Mr. Graham.”
- Danna felt immensely relieved upon learning that Arissa had not met Benjamin. She proceeded to size Arissa up disdainfully. Realizing how beautiful Arissa was, Danna quietly clenched her teeth.
- Immediately after, she tried to chase Arissa away. “There is no need for you to wait for him. You already failed to demonstrate a basic understanding of etiquettes. Don't you know that Benjamin hates strangers waiting in his office, especially when he is not around? Leave already!”
- Arissa was baffled by Danna's criticism. She immediately tried to explain herself, “But it was Mr. Frank who asked me to wait here!”
- Who the hell is this woman? Why is she deliberately targeting me?

- Danna continued to scrutinize Arissa with her contemptuous gaze. She then scoffed, “So what if that's true? If I don't like you, Benjamin won't like you either. So get lost now and stop being an eye-sore!”
- Danna was determined to chase Arissa away before Benjamin got back.
- “Also, I was just on a phone call with Benjamin earlier. He told me that he has other matters to take care of today and won't be coming in anymore, so leave already! The Graham Group will never take in a candidate like you who knows no manners!” Danna roared.
- Seeing how arrogant and rude this woman was, on top of the fact that she kept insisting that Arissa did not know her manners, Arissa was bewildered.
- Jeez. Aren't you the one who knows no manners? I'm here at the Graham Group today to attend an interview, not to be humiliated by an individual like you.
- Feeling offended, Arissa immediately fought back. “Since it was Mr. Frank who asked me to wait here, I shall continue to wait here! I'm here to meet Mr. Graham, not you. Who are you even? If Mr. Graham couldn't make it to the interview today, his assistant would naturally inform me of it. Why should I leave just because you say so? If I really were to leave, then that would truly be rude of me!”
- A sinister look flashed across Danna's eyes. She tossed her hair over her shoulders before curling her lips into a sardonic smile. “Who am I? I'm his fiancée. How dare a mere candidate like you talk back at me? Do you know

the consequences of offending me? Now, seeing how you're probably just ignorant about how things run here, I'm going to let you off the hook. Just get lost!”

- Arissa was pissed to the brim. Why would Mr. Graham fancy a fiancée like her? How could such a powerful and influential person like him have such bad taste?
- Arissa proceeded to pick up her stuff. With a cold gaze, she stared straight into Danna's eyes before uttering, “Please convey this to Mr. Graham. The Graham Group is way out of my league. Please have him find someone more competent and fitting for this position instead!”

## **Chapter 11 Benjamin Misunderstood**

- Danna let out a disdainful snort. With inexplicable animosity, she scoffed, “Now, be on your way out!”
- Arissa was breathless with anger. After shooting one last glance at Danna, she turned her back against Danna and left the room.
- Seeing how she had offended her potential boss' fiancée, she reckoned that she probably did not have a chance of getting the job anymore.
- “Even if you really were his fiancée, you shouldn't be so rude and unkind to others!” Arissa retorted. At this point, she was no longer intimidated by

Danna's threats. She was determined to leave this situation with her dignity intact.

- “You!” Danna's face began to scrunch up in anger.
- She glared at Arissa's departing figure with sinister thoughts boiling within her.
- At this point, Arissa had walked out of Benjamin's office and headed toward the direction of the elevator. She then boarded the elevator immediately.
- Just then, the private elevator inside the CEO's office opened. Benjamin stepped out of the elevator.
- The man's posture was tall and proud, while he had extraordinarily handsome features. He also radiated an innate sense of nobility that could make anyone's heart in his presence flutter.
- Danna's heart began to pound at the sight of him. Staring at Benjamin's impeccably handsome face, a hint of madness arose within her. This man was hers in her mind, and whoever was to stand in her way shall be met with death undoubtedly.
- With his long and narrow yet sharp phoenix eyes, Benjamin quickly scanned the room. However, instead of finding the supposed interviewee, he saw Danna instead. Immediately, he frowned at the sight of Danna.

- “Benjamin, you're here! I brought you breakfast,” Danna exclaimed after quickly adjusting into a gentle expression. She then briskly walked over to Benjamin's side and attempted to wrap her hand around Benjamin's arm. However, Benjamin swiftly dodged that attempt of hers.
- He walked toward his desk with a stone-cold expression instead.
- “What are you doing here?” he asked in an eerily cold voice, with no hint of warmth in his tone at all.
- Danna's heart sank. Looking at her pair of lonely hands, the smile on her face began to stiffen. Nevertheless, she recollected herself and quickly followed after him, gathering a smile on her face once again.
- “Well, I was afraid that you haven't eaten breakfast. Here, I made this for you. Please eat it while it's still hot!” Danna replied as she opened the lunchbox and placed it on Benjamin's desk.
- Yet, Benjamin only swept one glance at the lunch box before monotonously replying, “Please go and leave me alone. I have other things to do.”
- Benjamin sat down and began to work. That eerily cold and apathetic attitude of his made her feel like her heart sank alongside a large stone. After all these years, he still refuses to forgive me?
- “Benjamin...” Danna called out. She could feel a tinge of sorrow in her nose. Seeing how indifferent and cold Benjamin was, her heart fluttered in panic.

- Especially after that encounter with Arissa, Danna sank even deeper with fear. If Benjamin were to find out...
- “I've just had my meal back home. Now, put these down and head off. I'm busy!” Benjamin ordered.
- He cut her off abruptly without even casting her a glance, demanding that she left that instant.
- “In that case, please have them when you feel hungry later!” Danna pleaded. She cast him an unwilling gaze, reluctant to part ways with him.
- However, she soon spotted Benjamin dialing an internal extension number. It looked like he was summoning for Ethen.
- Immediately, Danna could tell what he intended to do next. Feeling panicked, she opted to strike first.
- “Oh, by the way, Benjamin, when I arrived at the office earlier this morning, there was a lady sitting here by the couch. She seemed to have accepted a phone call from another company inviting her for an interview. She requested that I convey this on her behalf. Apparently, the other company managed to offer her a better remuneration package than Graham Group. The total remuneration offered by Graham Group was too low in comparison now. So she chose the other company and decided to leave this interview prematurely.”

- Benjamin's face darkened immediately. The eerie sense of chills he radiated prior grew more intense too.
- Realizing how mad he had gotten, Danna secretly beamed with smugness.
- There shall be no chance for you to join Graham Group anymore, Arissa York. The one thing Benjamin hates most is people failing to keep their promises. He hates a sudden change to pre-agreed plans too.
- “Got it.” Benjamin put the phone back down. He proceeded to ignore Danna and got back to work.
- Gazing toward her perfect guy, Danna hoped to stay on for a little longer. Nevertheless, in the face of Benjamin's cold hostility, she did not dare to approach him anymore. Thus, she had no choice but to leave the office.
- Danna had just reached the office entrance when she bumped into Ethen. Upon seeing Danna, Ethen was stunned.
- “Ms. Adams!” Ethen addressed her.
- “Hmm,” Danna murmured. She put on her cold and aloof stance once again, then headed in the direction of the elevator with her head held high.
- This brief encounter had Ethen muttering inwardly. Ms. Adams can be pretty disrespectful and ill-mannered sometimes, huh?

- Soon after, Ethen retracted his gaze and walked toward Benjamin's office. Seeing how Arissa wasn't there, Ethen was puzzled.
- Could it be that Ms. York has gone to the bathroom?
- “Mr. Graham, have you met Ms. York already?” Ethen asked as he walked toward Benjamin's work desk. Yet, he received a piercing glare from Benjamin in return.
- Ethen felt utterly puzzled. Looking at his boss, who was clearly infuriated, he tried to carefully ask again, “You've met her?”
- “Next time, don't waste my time with people who are disinterested in the company!” Benjamin roared. Which bloody company is it that could afford to offer a better remuneration than Graham Group?
- “Blacklist this candidate and never consider hiring her again!” he continued.
- Jeez. Do you think my business is short of a mighty individual like you?
- Upon hearing this, Ethen blinked in confusion. He had no idea what had happened. Arissa was a candidate that he spent a lot of effort getting in touch with. It was a mere coincidence that she had plans to return to the country, thus was willing to accept the job offer. Mr. Graham, don't you know how hard it is to get hold of promising talents these days?

- “Mr. Graham, mind if I ask what happened?” Ethen was determined to get to the bottom of this.
- “You're asking me?” Benjamin's piercing gaze swept across the office. When he caught sight of the lunchbox on the desk, his temper exploded into an even fouler state.
- Well then, who else should I have asked? Weren't you the one who saw her?
- Ethen let out a sigh. He felt it was such a shame this recruitment effort did not go through. Previously, Benjamin had seen Arissa's resume too. He also agreed that her skills and experiences were suited for the role and the company.
- “Now, take this away!” Benjamin instructed domineeringly.
- “Right, okay!” Ethen quickly picked up the lunchbox on the desk. He carefully peeked at his boss before commenting, “Ms. Adams treats you well, huh? Making an effort to make you food the moment she returns is great.”
- Honestly, Ethen did not like Danna much as a person. Regardless, he had no choice but to speak nicely of her since she was his boss' sweetheart. Who knew if the day came when she became his boss' wife? It was safer and wise to speak nicely of her now.
- Benjamin shot Ethen another glare. Ethen was surprised, gulping instinctively.

- He then smiled awkwardly and said, “I'll take it away this instant if you don't like it. But Mr. Graham, Ms. York is a rare talent. Are you sure you won't reconsider your decision? Has there been a misunderstanding somewhere along the lines?”
- Ethen had only gone to the bathroom and left her for a short moment. Thus, he couldn't understand why Arissa had left by the time he came back.
- Sigh. If only I hadn't walked away. None of this would have happened then.
- “The woman declared that the terms we offered were not up to her expectations,” Benjamin scoffed. “Now, is there anything else?”
- Seeing how bad of a mood his boss was in, Ethen merely shook his head and decided not to report other matters pertaining to their work. He would wait for Benjamin to be in a better mood again before reporting the rest of their work details. With his brows knitted together, Ethen turned around and left the office. Didn't Ms. York agree to the terms offered by our company the last time we spoke over the phone? Why did she change her mind at the last minute?
- Ethen couldn't get over his confusion. When he reached the entrance of the office, he turned back to face Benjamin before asking him, “Mr. Graham, did Ms. York personally tell you that she was declining our offer because our offer was unattractive?”
- Ethen just felt that something was off. Typically, even if an employment negotiation failed to work out, candidates would usually be more indirect in

declining the offer. They wouldn't outright fuss and complain about the employment offer, especially when their potential employee was Benjamin Graham. Wouldn't they think twice before choosing to offend Mr. Graham? Only a dimwit would be stupid enough to do that, right?

- “She told me about it!” Benjamin stated bluntly. He wanted Ethen to drop this ordeal. That way, he could go back to reading his documents.
- After being stunned for a while, Ethen caught on that Benjamin was referring to Danna. His lips twitched in response to this realization.
- Ms. Adams could have come to see Mr. Graham at any time of the day. Yet, she came coincidentally at the moment of Ms. York's interview. Also, Ms. Adams didn't respond to my greetings on her way out. Could it be that she was the one who chased Ms. York away?
- Ethen glanced over at Benjamin but did not dare to say anything more. He headed back to his office. After giving things some thought, he decided to call Arissa and understand what happened.
- After all, he was the one who scouted for Arissa. His instincts told him that there must be a reason behind her unpleasant encounter today. Arissa couldn't have despised the Graham Group for no reason.

## **Chapter 12 The Other Woman Named Adams**

- After exiting the Graham Group office, Arissa turned around to look at the sky-high building. It was undeniable that she felt a little disappointed with the interview outcome.
- At first, she thought the interview would proceed smoothly and that she would soon begin working here. But who knew a turn of events would change this trajectory.
- Since fate had other plans, she could only search for other opportunities.
- I mean, there are plenty of other companies besides Graham Group anyway.
- Arissa hailed a taxi to go home. On the way back, she suddenly received a phone call. Seeing that it was Ethen, Arissa felt odd that he could still call her after her earlier encounter.
- Arissa furrowed unconsciously. Nonetheless, she answered the phone call with a courteous tone. “Hi there, Mr. Frank!”
- “Hello, Ms. York!” Ethen replied, secretly trying to test the waters. “Ms. York, is there something that you're unsatisfied with Graham Group? If the concern relates to your remuneration, please know that we're open to discussion. Our CEO, Mr. Graham, really values your talent. We sincerely hope that you'll consider working with us.”
- Arissa was stunned by Ethen's words. What is Mr. Frank up to now?

- Arissa tried to make sense of the situation before concluding that Ethen and the rest of them probably didn't know that she was chased away by Danna.
- Thus, she replied, “There's nothing that I'm unsatisfied with the Graham Group. I came to today's interview with sincerity to join the company too. However, since Mr. Graham's fiancée did not like me and chose to shoo me away with a mouthful of nasty and impolite words, I figured that there is no longer a reason for me to join your company. I will take my shot with other companies instead.”
- Upon listening to this, Ethen was shocked. “You mean Ms. Adams?”
- Ms. Adams!
- Arissa's heart skipped a beat at the sound of that name. The name instantly brought out a deep-seated hatred that she had buried deep in her heart for many years.
- Five years ago, a woman, who was also called Ms. Adams, forcefully took her children away from her. Furthermore, she instructed cruel treatments upon Arissa and her children. It was extremely fortunate that someone found them. Otherwise, she and her children would have died a painful death.
- Is this Ms. Adams the same individual as the woman from my past? Or is it just a coincidence that they happened to share the same last name?

- To this day, Arissa still couldn't understand why that woman wanted to take her babies away from her. They had no past grudges and didn't even know each other. Yet, that woman secretly set Arissa up and locked her in an abandoned building until she gave birth to her children.
- Initially, Arissa thought that this whole thing was her father's doing. However, as time went by, she realized that things didn't make sense.
- She will never forget those dark days and had sworn to find that woman to exact retribution. But more importantly, she needed to find her lost children back.
- “Ms. York?” Realizing that Arissa had stopped responding for a while, Ethen called out to get hold of her attention.
- Arissa finally came back to her senses and responded, “I'm here!”
- “Ms. York, so are you saying that you were chased away by Ms. Adams and did not leave the interview because your negotiation with Mr. Graham failed?” Ethen was still in shock. He needed Arissa to confirm this explicitly as he still had a lingering worry that the interview might have failed because of the negotiation between her and his boss.
- Who knew that Ms. Adams would interfere with the company's hiring interview?

- “I haven't even gotten the chance to meet Mr. Graham before being chased away by that woman. That woman said that if she couldn't see my potential, Mr. Graham wouldn't see it either.” Arissa's mood was affected by the memories and realizations she recalled. Since she wasn't in a good mood, she didn't bother to explain herself to Ethen further.
- “Anyhow, your company is way out of my league. Goodbye now!” Arissa commented before ending the call.
- Am I being overly sensitive about this matter? That woman from the office earlier sounded different from the woman five years ago. That woman who took my babies had a slightly more hoarse voice.
- Arissa then tried hard to recall the encounter with Ms. Adams at the office earlier. She recalled seeing how shocked Ms. Adams was when she caught sight of her.
- Initially, she thought that the woman was just surprised to find someone else in her fiancé's office. But come to think of it now, it did seem like she recognized Arissa.
- Not to mention the way she arrogantly treated Arissa and that inexplicable animosity she had against her. She seemed to be rushing to chase Arissa out of the office.
- The more Arissa thought about it, the more she shuddered.

- Could she be the same woman from that incident five years ago? If that's the case, wouldn't my children be with her now?
- Arissa quickly took out her phone to search: Benjamin Graham's fiancée.
- If that woman is Mr. Graham's fiancée, then the media must have covered her news in the past. It's probably just me who's struggling to find her information. Could it be that Mr. Graham has hidden all the personal and private information relating to him? Seeing how unique his identity is, it's probably normal if the media chooses not to report news about him too. Perhaps I could ask Ethen for Ms. Adams' first name. That way, it'll be easier for me to conduct my investigations.
- At the thought of that, Arissa quickly tried to call Ethen. However, Ethen did not have his phone with him now. He was on his way to the CEO's office to find Benjamin. At the office, Ethen carefully studied Benjamin for a while. Nonetheless, he failed to determine what Benjamin was feeling. “Speak if you have something to say. If not, get out and get back to work!” Benjamin roared after casting Ethen a sharp gaze.
- “Mr. Graham, I-I have just spoken to Ms. York...” Despite being glared at by Benjamin, Ethen mustered his remaining courage to finish his sentence. “She said that it was your fiancée who chased her away earlier!”
- There was pin-drop silence in the air. Consequently, Ethen closed his eyes so that he wouldn't have to look at Benjamin.

- “My fiancée?” Benjamin snorted with skepticism. Benjamin never doubted Danna. On the contrary, he believed that Arissa could not be trusted.
- What is wrong with Ethen? Did he get brainwashed by that candidate? Why is he speaking on her behalf time and time again?
- “She's quite good at coming up with excuses, isn't she? So what if she was chased away? What good is a candidate like her if she didn't even think to check things through with you?” With a stern voice, Benjamin continued, “Stop wasting more time on her and find someone else. It's not like the Graham Group would fall apart without her. Now get out!”
- Benjamin was in a terrible mood. After being reprimanded, Ethen rubbed his nose and left the room.
- Sigh. Ms. York really is a precious talent that the Graham Group needs. Can't Mr. Graham be a little more understanding? Doesn't he realize how hard it is to find another suitable candidate? I mean, we're looking for the best IT engineer in the industry, not just some ordinary engineers.
- Meanwhile, Danna arrived at an underground parking lot. With a fierce look of mercilessness flashing across her eyes, she picked up her phone and called someone.
- The recipient answered the phone call while trembling in fear. “M-Ms. Adams!”

- “So you do remember me!” Danna's voice was vicious and rude. A complete difference from how she portrayed herself in front of Benjamin.
- “Of course, I remember you, Ms. Adams. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't have the life I have today,” the middle-aged woman replied with fear and gratefulness.
- “Is there something that I can help you with, Ms. Adams?” Danna had not contacted her for a few years. Thus, the middle-aged woman could tell that nothing good was up now that Danna reached out to her out of the blue. Her heart palpitated with uneasiness.
- Danna let out a snort before interrogating the middle-aged woman, “Why didn't you tie up loose ends for that thing I asked you to do five years ago? I just saw that woman alive and well right in front of me, fool!”
- “Alive and well? That's impossible! All of them were eaten alive by beasts!” the middle-aged woman exclaimed in disbelief.
- That woman is alive? But that's impossible.
- “Did you see her being eaten alive with your very own eyes?” Danna pressed on. She had to find out what exactly happened back then.
- If Arissa did die, then the woman Danna met earlier in the office couldn't have been her. Yet, Danna trusted her own eyes more. She was sure that she did not mistake Arissa for someone else.

- “W-We... Back then, we saw a pack of wolves rush up to them and tear them apart. T-Then, we left. We couldn't bring ourselves to see the rest,” the middle-aged woman whispered. Indeed, we did not witness them being eaten alive ourselves. There were so many wolves among that pack. We were afraid of being attacked too.
- If the wolves were to charge at them, they would have a hard time leaving the scene even if they were inside the car, which was why they sped off after seeing the wolves closing in on the family from afar.

### **Chapter 13 Do Not Feel Sad**

- Arissa was on pins and needles when she did not receive any reply from Ethen.
- Did I offend him for being rude earlier? Is that why he's ignoring me now?
- In an instant, her mind was awash with all sorts of speculations. After hesitating for a short while, she finally gathered herself to make a call. She felt uneasy as she waited, and the call was eventually picked up before it disconnected.
- “Ms. York?” Ethen sounded surprised.
- “Mr. Frank, there's something I'd like to ask you!” Arissa probed cautiously after holding in the jumble of emotions rising in her.

- “What's it about?”
- “What is the full name of Mr. Graham's fiancée?” asked Arissa, holding her breath.
- “Danna Adams!” Ethen was slightly taken aback by the unexpected question. Doesn't she know Danna?
- “Oh, thank you. All right then. I was just curious.” Keeping her composure, she hung up the call. The next instant, she looked up for Danna on her phone.
- Danna Adams is the only daughter of Adams Group. Despite being born wealthy, she has expressed her deep interest in the film industry. She's now the hotshot movie star, and her fans call her Dani.
- Upon reading that, Arissa's brows settled into a frown. Is she the Dani that I heard at the airport?
- She had her eyes fixed on Danna's photos as she continued to ponder. Why does she look like a completely different person from what I saw? She looks pretty yet elegant, and her smile is so lovable in the photo. If I didn't meet her in real life just now, I bet I'd be fooled by her appearance too.
- Staring at the screen flooded with information, Arissa fell into deep thoughts. If she was really the one who did that to me back then, it's going to take me some effort to probe further into the matter. Besides, I'm sure she must've done something to cover up her doings. Where should I start then? If

Danna's truly the mastermind behind the scheme years ago, I think I've just exposed myself. In this case, I'll have to be wary from now on. Otherwise, I'd probably be dead before I even get to seek revenge!

- “Miss, we've arrived!” the taxi driver reminded as he turned his head.
- His voice immediately drew Arissa out of her thoughts. After taking a quick glimpse of the familiar neighborhood, she hastily paid the fare before getting off.
- As soon as she arrived home and opened the door, her children rushed over before hugging her thighs. Jesse was even trying to climb onto her. “Mommy, you're back!”
- Their sweet voices instantly lightened up Arissa's mood.
- Smiling, she replied, “Yes. I'm home!”
- Oliver also climbed, causing Arissa to lose her balance and stumble backward. Instinctively, she held them tight before closing the door.
- “Hey! Mommy's about to fall down. Get down now!”
- “No way! I want Mommy to carry me!” Jesse's front teeth were missing, and she could barely utter a clear word. Regardless, she was cute speaking in her soft voice.

- Arissa patted Jesse's plump cheeks lovingly as she said, "Sweetheart, come here!" Standing still, she carried Jesse before giving a peck on her cheek.
- "Hehe! Mommy, I want to kiss you too!" Jesse wrapped her arms around Arissa's neck and gleefully placed a couple of kisses. Within seconds, Arissa's face was all covered with saliva.
- "Mommy, I want kisses too!" requested Oliver after seeing what Jesse did. While he was trying to climb onto Arissa, his glasses slid down his nose. Arissa could not help laughing at his silly look.
- The other two were glad to see Arissa, but they did not do the same.
- Instead, Zachary and Gavin clung to Arissa's thighs on each side.
- "Okay. No one will be missed!" Then, she carried Oliver and gently kissed him on the cheek.
- Oliver pushed his glasses up. After his vision became clear, he dropped a light kiss on Arissa's cheeks.
- Upon looking at her bubbly children, Arissa's heart melted as she beamed at the blissful scene before her. She squatted down before pulling Zachary and Gavin in her arms to kiss them. Nonetheless, she did not notice that Gavin's cheeks had turned red.

- “I'm going to the bathroom, and I'll be back to join you in a moment!” She hugged them all before running to the bathroom. They could not help giggling when they saw her in haste.
- They were having fun on their own when she came out. The four of them looked exactly the same. Arissa stood at the side as she watched them fondly. They're all my kids. It'd be great if my eldest son could be here too.
- A hint of melancholy fled across her gaze as that idea hit her. I don't even know if my son is doing well. Why did the woman take him away? If she intended to raise him as her own, is she treating him right?
- Soon, Zachary and Gavin spotted the sappy look on her face. Feeling puzzled, the two exchanged glances. What's wrong with Mommy? Didn't the interview go well?
- They approached Arissa before asking in concern, “Mommy, how was the interview?”
- Arissa swiftly hid her sadness behind a gentle smile. “I failed the interview!”
- “Huh?” Zachary was shocked as he frowned. That shouldn't happen because Mommy's pretty capable.
- He turned around and shot Gavin a doubtful look. What's wrong with your daddy?

- Earlier in the morning, Gavin was overjoyed to hear from Zachary that Arissa was going to Graham Group for an interview. He was confident that she would definitely get the offer.
- Upon hearing the disappointing news, Gavin questioned anxiously, “Mommy, why didn't you get the offer?”
- “Mommy, didn't you talk to the assistant? Why did you fail the interview then?” Zachary stared at her in bewilderment. After a moment's pause, he asked, “Who was the one that failed you?”
- Was Daddy the one who did that? At the same time, Gavin had his eyes locked on her as he waited for a solid answer that could clear his doubt.
- Oliver and Jesse went over too. Both of them held Arissa's hands as they comforted, “Mommy, don't be sad. It's their loss they didn't hire you. We'll look for better companies and let them learn their lesson for missing out on a good candidate like you!”
- Arissa broke into a smile when she heard those words. She led them to the living room and sat down. “Everything went well without a hitch, and I thought I had a high chance too. Not until I met a woman when I was waiting for Benjamin, and she chased me out!”
- Little did she expect such a drastic turn of events before she could meet Benjamin.

- Gavin narrowed his eyes with a scornful expression on his face. “Mommy, who's that woman?”
- Could she be Danna Adams?
- Gavin had already taken Arissa as his mommy, and the only feeling he harbored toward Danna was nothing but hatred.
- “She's Benjamin Graham's fiancée!” Arissa looked at her children as she expressed her grievance.
- Gavin's lips slightly twitched as the name rang in his ears. What a shameless woman! She isn't even Daddy's fiancée! Even though she thinks she is, Daddy has never acknowledged her, and he has no plan of marrying her too! If he really intended to do so, he would've done that when she brought me back four years ago. How shameless is she to go around telling people that she's Daddy's fiancée?
- “Mommy, don't get fooled! I've never heard about Benjamin having a fiancée!” Gavin certainly did not want Arissa to get things wrong.
- Zachary took a look at the former before he retorted, “How dare your... How dare that woman say that?”
- At that moment, Gavin was rendered speechless by Zachary's blunt reply that was so close to exposing him.

- Grinning, Arissa was touched by their protective acts.

## Chapter 14 She Tried To Pinch Me

- Arissa was pleased to see her children defending her when mistreated and showering her with care at a time like this.
- “Okay! It's okay. I'll just look for another job!” She wore a smile to set their minds at ease.
- Zachary grabbed her hand. “Mommy, don't worry. We'll take care of you!”
- Arissa was utterly moved by Zachary's words. She gave him a warm embrace before patting his head. “There's no need for you to do that. I'll take care of you!”
- It's the thought that counts. Of course, I won't let them bear the burden of living. It's still too early for them to take on such a heavy responsibility at this young age.
- “Mommy, I can make lots of money after selling another program!” Oliver assured confidently.
- “Mommy! Don't forget about me! I can earn a lot of money by modeling too!” Jesse hugged Arissa tightly. She also wished to help out.

- “Mommy, I have some money too. I can take care of you!” Gavin raised his thought without hesitation, hoping that Arissa could worry less about getting a job.
- Moved by their acts, Arissa held them closer in her arms.
- “Thank you for your kind thoughts. I've got this covered. So, you can keep the money for yourselves. Oliver, you should stop writing those programs.”
- It took a lot of effort to do programming; she definitely did not want her child overworking himself.
- Oliver ducked his head timidly after getting warned. Letting out a chuckle, he replied, “All right. Mommy!”
- “Jesse, you're not allowed to accept modeling jobs without my permission!” Arissa caressed Jesse's head.
- After all, it was not easy money. The children probably had to work harder than the adults, as they had to undergo training constantly.
- “Mommy, anything you say!” Jesse's lips curled into a bright smile. Her missing front teeth made her look rather endearing.
- Gavin cast his gaze upon Jesse, who looked fairer and more delicate than the rest.

- He has the same dimples as Mommy when he smiles. The more I look at him, the more he looks like a girl to me. How good it would be if he were a girl and were my sister.
- Jesse caught sight of his attentive gaze and returned with a smile.
- Gavin cracked a smile as he patted her head. “Jesse's so cute!”
- Arissa looked at Jesse, and she thought the same too.
- Jesse had been raised as a little boy ever since she was born. Her hair was short, and she wore the same outfit as her brothers. Hence, everyone would easily see her as a boy.
- Arissa took Jesse in her arms and kissed her cheek. Jesse was so happy that she could not stop giggling.
- “My baby is so adorable! Let me kiss you!” Arissa was laughing as she played with Jesse.
- “Hehe! Mommy, that tickles!” Jesse ducked her head in, and she was beaming with joy.
- The other three chuckled at the scene too.
- Meanwhile, Zachary went to sit at a corner and texted Jasper: Mommy didn't get hired by Benjamin.

- Jasper could not help but scowl at the text message. Benjamin didn't hire Mommy?
- His anger spiked after knowing that Arissa was kicked out by Danna.
- “That's horrible!” Losing his rag, he threw the book in his hands.
- Edwin was dumbfounded by the former's action.
- Did someone mess with him? Edwin went over to calm him down. “Gavin, what's wrong?”
- Jasper glanced at Edwin and pondered for a brief moment. Only Benjamin and I are staying in this place, and Danna's not here. I'm eager to ask Edwin about Benjamin's relationship with Danna.
- Just then, the housekeeper walked to them. “Ms. Adams is here!”
- Danna was following behind the housekeeper. Apparently, she was there to look for Gavin.
- Her sudden appearance did not help matters because Jasper was more enraged after seeing her. He then shot her a death stare.
- Danna furrowed when she met his menacing gaze, and she started cursing inwardly.

- What a brat! Now that he has grown older, he's getting more and more disrespectful. He's even glaring at me like this! I must teach him a lesson today!
- “Ms. Adams!” Edwin greeted her politely.
- “Edwin, go tend to your chores. I'll spend some time with Gavin!”
- Danna held her anger in before gesturing for Edwin to leave. Wearing a smile, she went closer to Jasper.
- Edwin peeked at Jasper and saw his furious expression. Despite feeling worried, he still moved aside.
- Danna grinned from ear to ear when she saw Jasper. “Gavin, are you still mad at me? I'm sorry. Let me take you out for some nice food!”
- Edwin gave her a quick sidelong glance without saying a word.
- She's Gavin's Mom, and she has been bringing him out all this while. There's nothing wrong with her taking him out this time too.
- “I don't need you to do that! You're such a shameless person! I feel disgusted whenever I see you. Get lost!” exclaimed Jasper, seemingly not afraid to offend her feelings.
- Jasper could not care less about anyone when he was triggered.

- Edwin had never seen Gavin speak to Danna in such a harsh manner before. Thus, he was stunned by the scene.
- There was a hint of viciousness that fled across Danna's gaze when she placed her hand on Jasper.
- She put on a helpless expression as though she was an unwanted mother by her son. At the same time, she was secretly exerting force and attempting to pinch Jasper's arm.
- However, she did not know the child in front of her was not Gavin. In fact, Jasper was not someone who would tolerate such an act.
- Before Danna could make her move, Jasper responded with a kick. Consumed by pain and wrath, her eyes turned red in seconds.
- “Gavin Graham!” Danna yelled furiously. She was caught completely off-guard by his attack.
- I didn't know this brat could be so strong!
- Jasper met her sinister glare. He was startled for a bit before he burst into tears.
- Edwin rushed over and held Jasper in his arms. He dared not get angry at Danna but comforted Jasper instead, “Don't be afraid!”

- “Mr. Whitley, why did she do that? Why? What have I done wrong? She's not my mom... I don't want a mother like her. She even tried to pinch me...” Jasper wept in sorrow.
- Edwin's face turned solemn after listening to Jasper. He averted his gaze to Danna. “Ms. Adams!”
- Danna widened her eyes in disbelief. I didn't expect Gavin to complain about me!
- She caught Edwin's skeptical gaze and went into a state of panic. “I-I didn't do anything. Edwin, don't listen to him! Gavin, how could you tell lies? What have I taught you? Why are you lying? I'm your mom!”
- “You're not my mom! Not only did you try to pinch me, but you've been scolding me too! Besides, you even told me to lie! You're a bad woman, so you're not my mom!” Jasper wailed while burying his head in Edwin's arms.
- I've never expected her to try doing that to me in front of everyone. She could've done worse when no one was around.
- Jasper shuddered when the scenes of Danna attempting to harm him flashed across his mind.
- I feel sorry for Gavin. Danna must've done the same to him before, and he surely didn't know how to retaliate.

- Jasper made a scene on purpose only because he felt bad for his “younger brother.”
- “Gavin Graham!” Danna's face contorted in rage. She wished she could teach him a lesson on the spot.
- If I knew earlier that Benjamin wasn't going to marry me even after I brought this brat back, I would've abandoned him back then rather than having him raise his voice at me and accuse me now!

### **Chapter 15 Benjamin Was Infuriated**

- Jasper was trembling in fear, and his response drew Edwin's sympathy. The latter said in a low voice, “Ms. Adams, you've frightened Gavin!”
- “Edwin, look at him! It has only been a few days, but he's already acting out of line now. He even learned how to tell lies! I must teach him a lesson today!” Danna could no longer keep her composure. She reached out her hands, wanting to pull Jasper over.
- Jasper grabbed Edwin's thigh tightly and glared at her. “Do you dare say that you didn't try to hurt me?”
- A look of guiltiness flashed across Danna's eyes, but she soon managed to keep her cool before chiding with a straight face, “You're lying! Your daddy will be so disappointed to find out that you're telling lies!”

- Jasper was about to explode with rage. He rolled his sleeve up before stretching out his hand. “Mr. Whitley, she really had the intention!”
- When Jasper had tried to free himself from Danna's grip before, a mark was left.
- Convinced by Jasper's allegation, Edwin's face fell as he stared at Danna. “Ms. Adams, I'll have to call Mr. Graham!”
- Edwin was burning in fury because he could not believe Danna would try to do that to a child even when he was around.
- The Grahams will never allow anyone to lay their hands on their family members. Hence, she's in no position to punish Gavin even though she's his mother.
- Although Benjamin was not someone expressive in his feelings, he cared a lot about Gavin.
- “Edwin, don't! I didn't try to hurt him! Gavin, how could you play such a dirty trick! Once your daddy's back, I'll make sure that he educates you well!”
- Danna was guilty of her doings. How would I expect him to fight back? It's better if I push all the blames on him!
- “What a hypocrite! You were trying to hurt me just a while ago! Mr. Whitley, why is she such a vicious woman? I want Daddy! I want Daddy!” Jasper

started crying aggrievedly again. Besides, he was also taking the chance to see if Benjamin truly cared about him. If Daddy sides with this bad woman, we'll leave him behind!

- Edwin's heart ached to see Jasper cry, so he carried the poor boy in his arms. “Gavin, don't cry. I'm here, and I'll call your daddy back home now!”
- Danna was terrified as soon as she heard that Benjamin would be coming home. If Benjamin knows about what I tried to do to Gavin, it will definitely affect our relationship. He has already warned me after I got rid of this brat's cotton candy yesterday.
- “Edwin, Benjamin's still at work. I don't think we should bother him because of such a trivial matter.”
- Angered by Danna's action, Edwin brushed her off in a stern manner, “Ms. Adams, I think it's better if you can talk to Mr. Graham personally regarding this matter!”
- We've been doing our best to keep Gavin safe from injuries. How could she try to do that? If she dares to do so even when I am present, she'd probably go overboard when we're not around! Come to think about it, Gavin has been behaving strangely whenever she's here! I bet this wasn't her first attempt! Edwin's heart sank after fathoming the situation.
- The butler called Benjamin right away. The latter instantly rushed back home upon hearing the news.

- At that point, Danna was fully aware that it would make the allegation stick if she were to leave. She sat on the couch in the living room nervously.
- If Benjamin still cares about me, he'll probably let this slide. I'm Gavin's mom, after all.
- Meanwhile, Jasper was still crying.
- Danna stealthily shot him a death glare.
- He has been keeping everything to himself previously. Why is he going against me today? In fact, he actually started doing this yesterday. That's such a drastic change!
- Danna narrowed her eyes as she thought of bumping into Arissa at Graham Group.
- Did Arissa happen to meet this bastard child?
- Astounded by that possibility, Danna was torn between anger and trepidation.
- Has Benjamin already met Arissa before this? It's time for me to figure out a way to get rid of her forever!
- The evil look in Danna's gaze grew intense as she plotted against Arissa deep inside.

- In the meantime, Arissa was still unaware of everything happening behind her back.
- She spent some time playing with her children before bringing them out for a meal, and they were all over the moon.
- “Mommy, I want to have a lot of nice food!” Jesse, who was a foodie, could not hide her excitement as she tugged at Arissa's hand.
- “Mommy, what are we eating?” Oliver was delighted too. He had been waiting to try all the nice foods he saw on the internet before they returned to the country.
- “You can eat whatever you want!” Arissa gave them a playful wink as she fixed their hats. Only then did she notice that Jasper's hat was missing.
- “Jasper, where's your hat?”
- “Mommy, I gave it to another kid at the airport!” Gavin played his role well as Jasper without exposing himself. He was pretty good at imitating Jasper's expression, so much so that Arissa did not notice anything out of the ordinary.
- Zachary cast him a glance as he ridiculed inwardly. He's pretty good at it!
- If he did not notice it earlier, he would have been fooled by Gavin too.

- “I'll give you my hat!” Zachary removed his hat and placed it on Gavin's head.
- “I don't need that.” Gavin turned Zachary down, thinking it was fine not to have one.
- “Listen to me and take it!” Zachary wore a smile as he put it on Gavin, acting like he was the older brother.
- Gavin froze for a moment. Is he taking me as his younger brother? If Danna took me away instead of them, it's most likely that I'm the eldest kid among them.
- “Let's go! I'll buy you a new one!” said Arissa, keeping the smile on her face.
- Gavin was on cloud nine when he heard that. Grinning from ear to ear, he chirped, “Thank you, Mommy!”
- Arissa then brought her children out for a scrumptious meal.
- On the other hand, Benjamin rushed his way home within ten minutes.
- Before he made it to the door, he could hear Jasper's pitiful wail coming from the inside. He had already heard him crying when they were on the phone just a moment ago.

- Benjamin's face darkened as he furrowed his brows, and his apathetic demeanor shut him off from the others.
- “Mr. Graham!” Edwin went toward Benjamin with Jasper in his arms, looking anxious.
- Jasper had been crying for a long time that his eyes were red-rimmed and swollen. His nose had turned red too. It hurt Edwin to see how aggrieved he looked.
- “Benjamin...” Danna went closer to Benjamin, but she stopped in her tracks when she caught sight of his sharp gaze.
- “Daddy! Daddy...” Jasper was so worn after crying his heart out for a long time. He went toward Benjamin to ask for a hug when he finally saw the latter.
- Benjamin scooped Jasper in his arms and gently patted him on the back. “Don't cry.” Even though he sounded slightly awkward, he spoke in an exceptionally gentle tone.
- Jasper leaned on Benjamin's shoulder, and his eyes lit up within moments. It seemed like Benjamin did care about him.
- Then, he complained to Benjamin with a pitiful look, “Daddy, she tried to hurt me!”

- Danna did not succeed in her action, but the idea of trying to do that was enough to infuriate Benjamin.
- Benjamin's gaze grew darker with a sense of murderous intent as he shot Danna a stern look.
- It was Danna's first time to see him staring at her that way. She immediately felt a chill down her spine. Quivering, she attempted to explain herself, “Benjamin, listen to me. This...”
- “Get lost!” exclaimed Benjamin in a cold manner.

### **Chapter 16 I Look Nothing Like Her**

- Benjamin held Jasper close while gently placing a hand on his head in a protective stance. He acted coldly toward Danna. “No one is allowed to harm a child of the Graham family. Don't you dare to come close to Gavin anymore!”
- “Benjamin, I am Gavin's mom, and he's my beloved child. Why would I ever hurt him? He was the one that...” Her eyes met Benjamin's cold gaze. She did not dare to place the blame on Jasper and immediately started to beg for mercy, “I did not do it on purpose. All I wanted was to give him a hug... I never thought of hurting him.”
- “Are you taking me for a fool, Ms. Adams?” Benjamin scoffed.

- Danna opened her mouth in shock. Her eyes grew red-rimmed as she shook her head. “No. Don't you know that I have never taken you for a fool...”
- “Get lost!” Benjamin chased her out and glanced at Edwin before carrying Jasper to his study.
- “Please take your leave, Ms. Adams!” Edwin remained polite despite being fueled with anger.
- Danna watched as Benjamin left along with Jasper. She felt hurt at the realization that he was kicking her out for real.
- “Please leave, Ms. Adams. Have you not caused enough harm by hurting Gavin? I don't care if you don't treasure him, but as a mother, you should never bully him,” Edwin heartlessly urged.
- With the fact that Danna planned to marry Benjamin by leveraging on the fact that Gavin was their son, Edwin was shocked to see her be so cruel toward Gavin.
- He felt that Danna was way more ruthless than any stepmother in the world would be toward her son. Gavin is still young, and yet he has to endure cruel treatment from his mother. He doesn't even utter a single word about it. No wonder he has a gloomy personality and shuts himself out.
- Danna gritted her teeth furiously and left. “I'll come to see Gavin next time!” You're the b\*stard that made Benjamin scold me. I'll get my revenge!

- “Ms. Adams, I suggest that you stop coming over. Gavin is not pleased to meet you either. Stop pestering him!” It was true that Gavin felt uncomfortable whenever she was present.
- She glared at him in return. “Are you not afraid that I might tell Benjamin about your attitude toward me, Edwin?” Even if I were wrong, Gavin is my son. You're in no position to judge me!
- “Go ahead and snitch on me, Ms. Adams.” Edwin was well-aware that Danna was enraged and snorted secretly in his heart. She must be putting up an act. How could she be the one that gave birth to Gavin? It's so pitiful that he has her as his mother. I hope that he now knows her true nature after this incident.
- Danna was pissed and had no idea how to deal with Edwin. He was a senior and had served Benjamin for a long time. All she could do was say things out of spite to relieve herself. There was nothing she could complain about in front of Benjamin as it would all be pointless.
- She had no other choice but to leave since she did not wish to make Benjamin hate her more.
- Benjamin entered his study while carrying Jasper. Then, he grabbed the first aid kit. An irritated look was visible on his face as he checked if Jasper had any wounds.
- Jasper looked briefly at him. He took a deep breath as he was slightly frightened by Benjamin, who remained silent throughout the process.

- Benjamin had a look at Jasper and noticed that the latter was crying. Tears flowed non-stop out of his swollen red eyes. Benjamin felt his heart ache at how distressed the child appeared. “Stop crying. You're a big boy!”
- Jasper bit the corner of his mouth frustratingly. “I'm hurt! Why does she hate me? Other children's mommy could not bear to hurt their child, but mommy tried to pinch me with all her might. Is she even my mommy?”
- Benjamin was stunned. They previously underwent a DNA test to prove that Gavin was no doubt their child. He gulped and took a quick glimpse at Jasper before proceeding to close the first aid kit.
- He softened his tone and spoke. “You can stop seeing your mommy if you don't like her!”
- Benjamin was confident that his son would grow up properly even if his mother was not around. Danna had gone too far this time.
- Hope lit up in Jasper's eyes as he asked pitifully, “Really? Don't you love her? Are you still going to marry her, then? She told me that you would, Daddy!”
- Benjamin frowned. “You don't have to worry about it! It's never going to happen.”
- Jasper was stunned by his reply. What does he mean? Does this mean that Daddy does not love Mommy? Or is he not going to marry her? “I feel that

she is not my mommy. She hated me since I was young. Whenever you all were not around, she would try to pinch me in places that would not be easily visible when she was displeased.”

- Jasper honestly had no idea if Danna had always acted that way. He was just making things up to make Benjamin believe him.
- Benjamin's face turned solemn as he asked with a deep voice, “Why did you not tell me about this before?”
- Jasper glimpsed at him and pouted. “I did not dare to do so because she threatened me!”
- He lowered his head and shivered as he explained. His sorrowful look made Benjamin's heart clench in pain.
- Benjamin gently ruffled the boy's hair and promised, “From now on, I won't let anyone bully you!” He felt guilty that his beloved child was almost hurt, not just by anyone but Danna.
- Jasper buried himself in Benjamin's arms and sniffed. “Are you still going to be in a relationship with her, Daddy?”
- A glint appeared in Benjamin's eyes as he had no clue how to answer his question. “Well, would you like me to be with her?”
- Jasper shook his head. “No!”

- Benjamin paused for a second after hearing Jasper answer with determination. He lowered his gaze onto Jasper's head. I thought that he would want us to remain together.
- “Do you feel pain anywhere?” He held Jasper and continued to check if Jasper had suffered any wounds.
- “Here!” Jasper patted his left chest to show Benjamin that he was physically fine but felt emotionally hurt by Danna's actions.
- Benjamin rarely witnessed his son crying. Ever since Gavin learned how to walk and speak, I've never seen him cry in such a manner. It breaks my heart.
- He gently patted Jasper's head and comforted him, “Everything will be all right.”
- Benjamin frowned as his expression darkened. How could his own mother be so rough toward him? I would never try to hurt him.
- Benjamin was very protective of his son. Even if Danna was someone who held an important place in his heart and was Gavin's mother, he could not help but feel agitated.
- Jasper felt that something was off with Benjamin and asked with caution, “Daddy, is she really my mommy? Could my mommy be someone else?”

- Upon hearing that, Benjamin knitted his brows. He looked at Jasper's hopeful eyes and cheekily squeezed his cheeks. “She is your mommy. You're overthinking.”
- “Hmph! For all I know, she might have adopted me. Don't you think that I look nothing like Mommy, Daddy?” Jasper said in disappointment.
- A shiver ran down Benjamin's spine. Then, he observed Jasper's facial features. The child was roughly seventy to eighty percent similar to Benjamin in terms of looks, but he indeed had no resemblance to Danna.
- Usually, children took after their parents' looks. He was unable to convince Jasper since Jasper looked nothing like Danna.

### **Chapter 17 First Present From Mommy**

- “Hey, Daddy. What if Mommy wanted to marry you, so she took someone else's child to claim as hers?” Jasper added while Benjamin remained confused.
- Benjamin rubbed Jasper's head. He was amazed by the child's imagination. When Benjamin woke up years ago, Danna was already by his side. He was furious at her schemes. She then left him just to return with a child, claiming he was theirs through a DNA test.

- There was a blurry memory that never left his mind. It was a memory where there was another woman with a gentler voice, and she wore a unique perfume.
- He cut his train of thoughts. If Danna really adopted a child and the child is mine by coincidence, then who exactly is that woman?
- It was not as if Benjamin never suspected so. However, it was scientifically proven that Gavin was indeed Danna and his child. Could she have altered the results of the DNA test?
- “Daddy, I don't want her as my mommy. I want another mommy!” Jasper held on to Benjamin and nuzzled against him. Gavin had never acted childishly around Benjamin, hence Benjamin's heart melted at this sight.
- Benjamin patted Jasper's head and said, “Don't say such silly things!”
- Even though Benjamin had his doubts, there was no way he could discuss them with his son without having solid proof. He wanted to prevent his son from unnecessarily hating Danna even more.
- Jasper pouted. It seemed that Benjamin had yet to fully trust him. I have to obtain concrete evidence to persuade Daddy. “Daddy, if she really isn't my mommy, would you be with my biological mommy instead?”

- Benjamin never thought of such a scenario. If Danna was not Gavin's mother, how would Gavin's true mother be together with Benjamin if he had never even seen her face?
- Meanwhile, Arissa brought her four kids out for a meal and went shopping to let them familiarize themselves with their surroundings. “Jasper, what kind of hat do you prefer?”
- Gavin was not used to other people calling him Jasper, so it took him a while before he responded. Zachary lightly tapped Gavin since Arissa was puzzled by his lack of response. “Mommy is calling you!”
- Gavin came back to his senses with a blush on his face. “What did you say, Mommy?”
- Arissa noticed that he wasn't paying attention and squeezed his cheeks while pointing at the store. “Which hat do you like?”
- Gavin looked at the hats available and replied, “I like the black one!”
- Arissa froze. Doesn't he like green? “Are you sure?”
- Gavin had no idea why she was asking him such a question. “Yes!” he answered while nodding.
- Arissa was shocked and teased him, “Are you going for a change of style? Didn't you like green?”

- Gavin was stunned to hear that because Jasper never mentioned that he liked green.
- Zachary laughed as he noticed that Gavin was confused. He was worried that Arissa could see through their lie. “Mommy, he wants to look cool!”
- Gavin glimpsed at Zachary and remained speechless. What do you mean? It's just my favorite color.
- Oliver rubbed his chin as he felt that Jasper was acting weirdly. “Wasn't green your favorite color? When did that change?”
- Gavin glanced at him and smirked in return. “Am I not allowed to have a change in style?”
- “I want to change my style too!” Jesse exclaimed smilingly. “Mommy, can I have the pink one?”
- Arissa was amused by Jesse's request. She requested the storekeeper for two hats, one black, and one pink.
- Jesse instantly tried out the hat and showed it to the others. “How do I look?”
- “It's perfect!” Gavin supported Jesse. His gaze remained on Jesse as the hat made the latter seem even more feminine.

- “Here, try the hat.” Arissa squatted and helped Gavin wear his hat. He looked fantastic in the black hat, making his features stand out even more.
- She sighed as none of her children looked like her. She was confident that they looked like their father, but she did not know who their father was, nor did she know where to find him. Even if she did, she did not have the courage to seek their biological father out as she was worried that he would be an improper person. She would prefer to never know about their father if that were the case.
- Oliver adjusted Gavin's hat by turning it around. “Now, you look cooler!”
- Gavin looked at them and turned to the mirror. He agreed with Oliver's statement. “Mommy, I want this hat!”
- “Sure!” Arissa adored him and caressed his face.
- “Thank you, Mommy!” Gavin's face flushed with excitement because it was his first ever present from his mother.
- Arissa smiled at him and paid for the hats before continuing their shopping trip. She bought whatever they needed.
- Before heading home, they shopped for groceries for their dinner.
- “Mommy, rest! We'll handle dinner!” Zachary told Arissa as soon as they reached home.

- Arissa was touched. “You all should rest too. I'll make dinner in a moment!”
- “We're not tired at all!” Zachary called his siblings, and they carried the groceries into the kitchen before keeping them neatly.
- It was the first time Gavin did such chores. Thus, he found it interesting. However, he kept misplacing the groceries, causing Zachary and Oliver to be pissed.
- Jesse lightly tugged the corner of Gavin's shirt. “Jasper, let's prepare the vegetables. Leave the rest to them!” Jesse sat on a chair and started to prepare the vegetables.
- Gavin was amazed by how skilled Jesse was and asked out of curiosity, “You're so good at it! I don't know how to do it as properly as you!”
- Jesse felt puzzled. “Jasper, you're doing a better job than me. Are you trying to make me happy?”
- Gavin quickly added, “Hehe. I am!” He learned how to prepare the vegetables after observing how Jesse did it.
- Zachary and Oliver started to cook the dishes after storing the groceries. Gavin stood aside and watched in amusement.

- Zachary noticed that Gavin was in awe and smirked. “From now on, we have to help Mommy with these chores! Whenever Mommy is not at home, we have to prepare our own meals!”
- They're incredible! Gavin was amazed.
- “That's right! Mommy works very hard, so we have to help her!” Jesse agreed.
- “Would you like to sweep the floor, or should I do it instead?” Oliver asked Gavin.
- Gavin knew how to sweep the floor, so he answered, “I'll do it!”
- “Sure. I'll mop the floor then!” Oliver split the chores among themselves.
- Arissa walked over and was delighted to hear the heartwarming conversation between her children. She felt that any kind of pain and suffering was worth it if it was for the sake of her children.
- “Kids, go and play. Leave the rest to me!” She told her children to leave and proceeded to cook the meals. Gavin did not leave. Instead, he stood in the kitchen, watching her cook.
- Arissa looked at him and noticed that his expression was filled with curiosity. She felt that something was off. “Are you hungry, Jasper? You can have

some bread in the meantime, but make sure not to eat too much since we're going to have dinner soon!”

## **Chapter 18 Zachary Hacked The Computer**

- “Mommy, I want to watch you cook!” Gavin said softly, looking at her in eager anticipation.
- Arissa smiled at him in return and said with a gentle voice, “Sure. Sit down aside and don't stick close to me. Watch out for any oil splatters.”
- “Okay!” Gavin was over the moon. He pulled a chair over and sat down obediently.
- “Why did you suddenly want to watch me cook?” Arissa asked.
- “I want to accompany Mommy!” Gavin replied while his eyes were glued onto her.
- Arissa was moved by his reply and smiled brightly.
- Gavin did not get to watch for long before Oliver called him, “Jasper, are you trying to slack off? You said that you would sweep the floor! Come out here and start sweeping!”
- Gavin was startled. Oops, I forgot about that.

- “Mommy, I'm leaving for a moment!” Gavin uttered. Arissa turned around and acknowledged him with a smile.
- Gavin ran out and hurriedly started to sweep the floor. On the other hand, Oliver washed the mop and mopped the floor. Meanwhile, Zachary tidied the rooms along with Jesse.
- The four children worked together and busied themselves with chores. Arissa was pleased to see them so obedient at such a young age. Without their help to do some of the chores, she would have been overwhelmed.
- Half an hour later, the four children lounged on the sofa watching animations. Oliver was browsing through the many channels available.
- Suddenly, a news title caught Jesse's attention. The child tugged Oliver's shirt with excitement upon seeing someone that had a similar appearance to them. “Go back to the previous channel!”
- Oliver changed back the channel, but it was too late. Jesse was upset. “Why is it gone?”
- “What's the matter, Jesse?” Zachary turned his head and asked.
- “I think I saw Daddy just now!” Jesse looked at him in eagerness. That person looks exactly like my brothers.
- Zachary was dumbstruck.

- Gavin also looked at Jesse. It is common for Daddy to appear on television programs, but he usually hates to do so. Why did I not notice him even though I was watching the television too?
- Jesse tried to convince them. “The person was tall and looked handsome. Just like Oliver! It must be our daddy!”
- Oliver scratched the back of his head and frowned. “Why did I not see it?”
- “Daddy was standing at the back!” Jesse described.
- There was no doubt that the person Jesse saw was Benjamin. It was an opening ceremony. The camera happened to catch him in their footage for a second. It was a mere second, and the media did not talk about him directly.
- “You don't even know who it is, and you're already claiming him as your daddy!” Oliver poked Jesse's head.
- Jesse dodged him belatedly. “Don't you want to know?”
- “I do, but there are billions of people out there. Besides, the news didn't mention the event's location!” Oliver pursed his lips. They didn't even know if their father was dead or alive.
- Zachary and Gavin stared at each other, debating if they should tell the others the truth.

- “That's enough. Change the channel already. Don't you want to watch television?” Zachary chimed in. Oliver immediately changed the channel, and Jesse hugged a cushion happily. The latter's favorite animation was on television. “It's starting! It's starting!”
- Arissa heard Jesse's joy from the kitchen and peeked at them. She saw the four siblings watching television together and continued checking if the soup was ready.
- Zachary fished out his phone and found Benjamin's phone number through Gavin's phone. He then sent Benjamin a message.
- Gavin's eyes widened. He asked softly, “What are you doing?”
- “Keep quiet!” Zachary shot Gavin a look and glanced toward Oliver and Jesse.
- Gavin silently looked at him in return and noticed that Zachary was sending a message as Arissa to request working with Benjamin.
- Gavin pulled Zachary's sleeve and whispered into Zachary's ear, “You could have just asked me to recommend Mommy!”
- Zachary was doubtful. “Can Mommy join the company without his approval?”
- Gavin frowned and decided to discuss it with Ethen.

- Benjamin soon received a message through his private number. He was confused as he opened the message.
- The message read: My name is Arissa York. I regrettably had to leave earlier according to the wishes of your fiancée. Mr. Graham, if you have yet to find a suitable candidate, please consider giving me a chance. I am confident that I can handle the company's job well!
- He narrowed his eyes as he read the message. How did this woman get my private number? Hmph, does she have other motives? Is she coming back to Graham Group because she hit a snag elsewhere? If she really wanted to join Graham Group, she shouldn't have left without leaving any explanation. He texted back: No way!
- Zachary read Benjamin's reply and became furious. How dare he reject Mommy without giving it any thought.
- He typed another message and sent it in a blink of an eye: You will regret this!
- Benjamin's expression turned dark after seeing the reply. I've never regretted anything in my whole life.
- Gavin also saw Benjamin's text and sighed. Why doesn't Daddy want to give Mommy a chance? She's extremely talented!
- Zachary rushed to his room, and Gavin followed him.

- Oliver did not understand why they were in such a hurry.
- He followed them into the room and saw Zachary turning on his laptop.  
“What are you doing?”
- “Shh. I'm going to teach someone a lesson!” Zachary pressed his lips together.
- Gavin could guess what his plans were. Zachary could hack someone within seconds just by obtaining their address. His superb hacking skills still amazed Gavin.
- Oliver settled down behind Zachary and asked Gavin, “Who is Zachary dealing with?”
- Gavin replied, “I'll answer that later!”
- Zachary cut off the electric supply at Benjamin's mansion. It was evening, and the mansion needed electricity to light up the area.
- It turned dark at the mansion, so Edwin swiftly headed downstairs to check the electric switches just to find out that they were fine. Therefore, he called a repairman to fix the issue.
- Benjamin frowned as he exited his study. “What's going on?”

- “The electrical circuit might be broken. We'll repair it as soon as possible!”  
Edwin had no clue what the problem was.
- Benjamin was worried that Jasper would be afraid of the dark, so he rushed upstairs to Jasper's room. It was at this moment that the computer in his study was hacked.
- Benjamin saw that Jasper was fast asleep and headed back downstairs.
- Then, he noticed that someone had messed with his computer. The keys were not working at all. With this, he realized that the blackout was not due to pure coincidence.
- “Hehe!” Suddenly, there was a burst of creepy laughter from the computer.  
“You can never catch me!”
- On the screen, a few chicks were running around, mocking him.
- It made Benjamin think of Arissa. Haha. She has a few tricks up her sleeve. Is she doing this out of spite because I rejected her?
- Anger surged within him as his face turned icy cold. Now, he wanted to get to know Arissa better.
- He took out his phone and dialed her number, but no one picked up.