

## The Secret 171

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As if perceiving a contemptuous look in her direction, Roxana turned around to observe her surroundings, perplexed; however, she did not see anything strange.

-What's going on? Leandro asked with a worried tone when noticing the change in expression.

She just looked away and shook her head, though she seemed a bit uneasy.

-It's no big deal.

As soon as she finished speaking, she seemed to be in her own world for the rest of the meal. She knew that the burning gaze she felt earlier was not just her imagination; however, she was unable to discover where she came from. Only after they finished eating did she reluctantly put her suspicions aside.

-It's late. Let me take you home —Leandro proposed like a gentleman.

However, she politely declined the offer.

-There's no need. I came by car, so I better not bother you.

He had no choice but to respect his decision. They both left the place while talking and, only after seeing that she got in the car, he went to his and slowly drove out of the parking lot. For her part, Roxana had just fastened her seat belt and was about to start the car when someone abruptly opened the passenger door; a man who emanated a chilling aura got on. She jumped in alarm and froze, but instinctively glanced at the passenger seat nonetheless. After getting a good look at the person's face, she frowned further.

"What are you doing, Mr. Fariña?"

Expressionless, Luciano closed the car door.

-Nothing. My car broke down and I happened to see her here. Please take me back, Miss Jerez.

The chilling aura surrounding him was almost palpable. Roxana knew very well that the atmosphere would only become more tense if she continued to investigate, so she started the car without saying another word. Throughout the entire trip, they remained completely silent.

Luciano frowned at the woman next to him. «She is so close to that man... And they just met. The way they interacted before made them seem like a couple...» At that point, he couldn't contain her curiosity any longer and broke the silence.

—That man... is he the father of Andrés and Bautista?

Roxana was instantly perplexed; she couldn't believe what she had just heard. "I wonder how she came to that conclusion."

Seeing her reaction, Luciano frowned even more and asked her again:

"Is it him?"

"He's thinking too much," she answered annoyed, when she came to her senses.

However, the man's tone remained contemptuous.

"So you intend to let him become the father of the children?"

Roxana was even more stupefied.

-No. It is true that I am close to Leandro, but do not make unfounded assumptions, Mr. Fariña. That will cause unnecessary trouble for others.

He looked at her with a searching gaze and her somber expression brightened a little.

"If that's the case, she might want to be considerate of her children and keep her distance from other men."

Actually, Roxana had found Luciano a bit strange since he got in the car, and at that point, even what he said made her feel a little uncomfortable. Hmm...why does he sound like he's being sarcastic and trying to hint at something?

The brief conversation had already made her upset and her patience had run out after hearing the last thing he said.

"Mr. Fariña, what right does she have to say that?" Do you think you are doing well in that regard?

Luciano recognized the irony in her words and frowned a little. Roxana stopped the car slowly and looked at the man next to her.

—Before meddling in other people's business, worry about your own.

-What did I do wrong? -Luciano's expression became more somber.

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The cars ahead began to move, so Roxana took her foot off the brake and paid attention to the road. Everything seemed even more ironic when she remembered Luciano's expression.

"Aren't you engaged to Miss Pedrosa?" Doesn't it seem inappropriate to be so close to me because of Ela?

"Besides, he doesn't even know who the girl's biological mother is." The more she thought about the matter, the more outrageous she seemed to him. "How dare she annoy me?" Luciano didn't expect him to name Estela.

"It's not the same," he replied, confused after his face was disfigured.

After all, Estela was Roxana's biological daughter.

-What is the difference? Roxana said in a mocking tone. Also, the only thing that unites us is Ela and we are not even friends because I decide whose to be. It has nothing to do with you. Don't you think you're being too controlling?

As soon as she said that, it seemed that the temperature in the car dropped. Luciano's expression turned grim as he looked into the distance. After that, he didn't say another word during the whole trip. Similarly, Roxana pursed her lips tightly; she couldn't stop thinking as she had the same expression as the man. Both remained silent for the rest of the trip. Luciano didn't tell her where he wanted to go, so she drove to her house.

Without waiting for him to say anything, she opened the car door and got out. A few seconds later, Luciano did the same.

"Since Ela has already recovered, it is convenient that she does not continue here. Mr. Fariña, I think the most appropriate thing is for me to come back to you.

Roxana thought about that the whole trip; Despite the fact that she was reluctant to part with Estela, she made the decision anyway. She was a little tired of Luciano going to her house frequently because the girl stayed with her. «From the first moment, when we met again, I was very clear and told him that we are strangers, but in recent times he has not stopped looking for me; she even did it during the birthday banquet of the great Mr. Quevedo. I'm really confused. Also, what kind of relationship is this? Not to mention that my children have clearly grown fond of him."

Bautista already liked him; In addition, both became even more attached after he gave them gifts. For this reason, Roxana feared that one day Bautista would tell Luciano everything about her. The man was very intelligent and she would undoubtedly find out that those children were her biological children, so she didn't even dare to think about what might happen if he found out about her.

After a moment, Luciano was still silent.

"Besides, it's notorious that Mrs. Fariña doesn't want Ela to stay with me," he continued.

She didn't know why, but she noticed that Luciano was looking at her strangely and, without being asked, the woman stopped talking. Luciano looked at her for the last time and walked away from her without saying a word. Watching him disappear, she gasped; she didn't say anything, but she sighed in relief. Then, she turned around and entered the mansion.

Upon entering, Andrés, Bautista and Estela rushed at her excitedly. As usual, the woman squatted down, held out her arms, and the three of them moved closer to hug her. When she felt the warmth and sweet scent of the three children, she was moved. She hugged them tightly and brought them closer to her while he stopped thinking about what was worrying her.

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-I'm sorry. I had to attend to a matter at night, that's why I couldn't go looking for them. They have eaten? Her," she asked worriedly as she released them.

-Yes we did it! The three nodded obediently. We have played for a long time.

Hearing them, she was relieved and stood up.

"Show me what you were playing."

Bautista ran into the living room excitedly.

—We used the Legos that Mr. Fariña gave us. It is fun!

On the other hand, Andrés and Estela stayed by Roxana's side. She walked with them hand in hand; she had one on each side as she watched Bautista smile.

It was evident that the game that Luciano had given them met their expectations in terms of design and level of difficulty; they really loved it. In just one night, the three children had already made a base; however, no matter how hard Roxana analyzed it, those Lego pieces seemed suitable for boys, but not for a girl.

"Ela, do you like to play with this?" Her," she asked as she watched her concerned.

The little girl's eyes lit up and she nodded excitedly. "As long as I can play with Andrés and Bautista, I'm content to play whatever."

At Estela's response, Roxana felt relieved. After looking at the time, she played with them for a while, since it was still early.

The two children were used to playing that with their mother, so they each began to build their models with great concentration; Roxana also chose one and began to put it together. While she was looking for a piece, she felt someone tug at her shirt twice; She turned around confused and saw Estela looking at

her with pity and helplessness. The girl was holding a box with the building instructions as she pointed to one of the pieces in it; it was evident that she could not find it.

The woman smiled tenderly; just as she was about to help Estela find the piece, she remembered how she used to talk. Roxana knew very well that the girl only occasionally uttered one or two words when she was excited.

While she was thinking about that, she looked at Estela confused.

-What happen?

She pointed over and over again at the piece in the painting, but the woman continued to look at her in bewilderment. After a moment, the girl became nervous and her face was disfigured. Roxana was moved and caressed her head.

"You must tell me out loud what you want me to do."

Estela blinked as she opened her mouth. The woman thought she was about to speak, so she looked at her expectantly. She looked like she was trying very hard, but after several tries, she didn't manage to say a word. She was discouraged; she called Andrés and Bautista, who were concentrating on building her models. Since both boys had spent time with her building the models, they knew exactly what she meant just by watching her move. When they tried to help her, they saw Roxana shake her head at them from behind the girl.

Seeing that, the children sat back down obediently despite not understanding what their mother was trying to do.

"Ela, you can talk, right?" she said calmly. Come on, tell us. What do you want us to do?

"Ella, what's going on?" they asked when they understood what their mother was trying to do.

The three looked at her expectantly; Estela felt her emotion, so she made an effort to speak until her face blushed, but even so, she didn't say a word. After a moment, she began to panic, annoyed, and her eyes turned red. Roxana had been watching her all this time and, seeing how she reacted, she hastened to caress her cheeks and apologized.

"I'm sorry, Ella. I have rushed Let's take it easy. Shhh... Don't cry, don't cry anymore.

Meanwhile, Andrés and Bautista found the Lego piece that Estela wanted and held out their hands to show it to her; they were excited.

"Hey, look! Is this what you wanted? We found it for you.

She sighed, took it, and smiled again.

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The next morning, Roxana and the three children had breakfast together. Estela sat next to her in silence and allowed the children to feed her; she had her mouth stuffed in such a way that she looked like an adorable squirrel. Roxana was very touched to see how obedient he was of her, but she also felt sorry for her. "I think Ela wanted to talk last night." With that in mind, she looked at the girl fondly.

"Ella, do you want muffins?"

Estela nodded excitedly; the woman took one, but she did not place it on the girl's plate.

"If you want it, tell me."

The girl blinked; she was perplexed by what she had just asked of him. Disappointed, Roxana frowned.

"If you don't talk, I may not understand what you want, so I'll worry about not knowing how to take care of you." Ela, do you think you can get used to talking? Don't worry, I'll help you. We can do it little by little.

Hearing her, the children put down their forks.

-Let's do it together! We also want to hear her talk.

When they looked at her excitedly, Estela looked at each of them, clenched her fists, and tried to speak.

—Yes...

Roxana and the children delighted in the soft and adorable voice and their eyes lit up in surprise. «She was just seeing if she was lucky; she did not expect her to speak in truth ». Despite wanting her to say more words, Roxana knew that she had to be patient. She fondly stroked his hair and set the muffin on her plate.

The girl was ecstatic to learn that she could talk too and continued to be excited even when Roxana dropped them off at kindergarten.

"Ela, you're in a very good mood today, aren't you?" —Pilar commented when she saw the beautiful smile of the girl, who nodded with a smile.

—We are helping her so that she learns to speak! said Baptist.

Pilar thought they were joking; After all, she had tried to teach her for a while, but she had never managed to hear her say a word. However, the two boys took the matter seriously and even discussed how to encourage her to talk during class.

During breaks, Estela went to them as usual to play together; however, Andrés did not act as he used to.

"What do you want from us?" she asked with a frown.

Puzzled, the girl turned her head to look at Bautista. "I want to play with you! We do it every day, right?"

"Hurry up and tell us what you want," Bautista continued seriously. Andrew and I are busy.

It was evident that they both treated her with apathy. She woke up, she remembered how she followed them everywhere when she met them and how they ignored her. During the last time, she really enjoyed when she played with both of them, so she got nervous and took the pencil and paper that were on Bautista's desk to write what she thought, but, to her surprise, Andrés put the pencil away.

— She talks to us. If not, we won't know what you want.

Estela leaned against the corner of the desk in anguish.

"Didn't you promise Mom this morning that you'd learn to talk little by little?" Bautista stared at her. If you can't talk, at least say our names. We have always called you, Ela, but you never have.

Estela opened her mouth, but didn't say anything; she got nervous and was about to start crying. Seeing that, Andrés and Bautista gave him the pencil and stopped trying.

However, over the next few days, the two children distanced themselves from her, both at home and in kindergarten. Every time Estela approached them, Bautista sighed in annoyance.

"We've treated you right and you can't even call us by our names!" Let's ignore you.

Stella was devastated.

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During the following days, Estela played with Roxana at home, but she had no one to play with in kindergarten. She just watched as Andrés and Bautista interacted with other children and completely ignored her. Finally, she gathered her courage and ran towards them. The children looked at each other seriously.

-What do you want?

Estela grabbed the corners of her skirt and wrinkled them; she frowned as she looked at them seriously. She opened her mouth and tried to make a sound. Andrés and Bautista were worried and anxious; they wouldn't have forced her to speak if they didn't believe that she really could. After a moment, when they were about to give up, they heard a whisper.

"An... Bau..."

Estela's cheeks were flushed and she only managed to pronounce one syllable of each of their names; she lowered her head dejectedly.

Both Andrés and Bautista were euphoric.

"Good job, Ella!" they exclaimed as they hugged her.

Estela was surprised by her sudden hug. Hearing how they praised her, she came to her senses and smiled again. After her first try, she found it easier to pronounce her names; she seemed to have overcome an obstacle.

"Mom treats you well and you adore her too, don't you?" Andres said seriously. But you have never called her by her name; I think she's much more upset than us.

"And...drés," she said after getting nervous and grabbing the boy's shirt.

She wanted him to teach her to consent to Roxana. The boy had a mischievous look and she decided to explain:

—We have forgiven you because you said our names. If you can call mom as Miss Jerez, she will be delighted.

The girl was excited and she spent the whole day in kindergarten practicing the phrase.

Roxana had been very busy those days. The project that Javier gave him was urgent and challenging; she had briefed him on the details, but she still had several matters to resolve. Therefore, the woman and her team had to think of various solutions.

It was the first time he had to work with most of the researchers at the institute. They didn't know each other, so his project was late. Fortunately, Conrado was close to her and helped her catch up.

When she finished the first phase, Roxana was exhausted. She looked at her watch and realized that Catalina must have already picked up the children from the garden. The young woman withdrew and drove back home to prepare dinner for them. Soon after, a person pushed open the mansion door; footsteps and the conversation of Andrés and Bautista could be heard.

"Mrs. Fa...?" Catalina was about to head to the kitchen when she met Roxana there. Why has she come back so early?

"I've left work earlier than usual," she replied, smiling. Dinner is almost ready. Please help them wash their hands so we eat.

The children ran to the kitchen and surrounded it. Bautista began to tell him stories about his day in kindergarten. Seeing them smile, Roxana forgot how tired she was.



-Miss! —An adorable voice was heard when Bautista finished speaking.

Stunned, he lowered his head to look at Estela, who was next to him. The girl hugged her leg and stared at her; she still had her mouth open. When they looked at each other, he called out to her again.

-Miss!

It took Roxana a moment to recover her senses; then she bent down and hugged her.

"Yes, here I am. That sounds amazing, Ella!

Her eyes were full of tears because, after taking care of Estela for a while, he already treated her as if she were her own daughter. Hearing how she called her, she remembered the day Andrés and Bautista learned to say mom.

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Despite being busy at work, Luciano went to Roxana's house every day. In his head, he kept remembering the moment when she met Leandro and how she had questioned him severely. After arguing with Luciano, the woman even suggested that she take Estela with him. Therefore, he only watched the four of them from afar and did not approach them.

Estela was more animated every day. Luciano supposed that it was because he adored Roxana; he did not know that the girl had begun to speak.

Meanwhile, Abril went to Grupo Fariña when it was time for Luciano to leave work.

—I'm sorry, Miss Pedrosa; Mr. Fariña has just retired," Camilo answered when he saw her press the elevator button to go to the executive director's office.

-Where is? she asked with a frown.

"I don't know what her activities are outside of work," she replied with a warm smile. If she's curious, she can call him and ask where she is. She—she curtsied politely and turned to leave.

As the elevator doors closed in front of her, April bit her lip; she was very upset.

Despite the fact that Luciano humiliated her in public and made her the laughing stock of the upper class, she was not going to give up. During the last days, she did not stop contacting him in the hope that she would change her mind. If he did and confirmed the wedding date, the rumors would not continue; that was the only thing she could do to reverse that situation. April was very disappointed after her repeated attempts to contact him resulted in apathetic responses.

After the incident at the birthday party, Luciano did not even try to comfort the Pedrosa family; instead,

he approached Roxana.

There was no need to call him because April knew that she should be with that evil woman, so with that in mind, she pushed the elevator button again and got out of it.

Arriving at the Pedrosa residence, he saw Santiago and Gina in the living room. When she entered, they were about to ask her if she had met the man, but they noticed the expression on the young woman's face and they understood immediately.

"Have you not seen Luciano?"

During the last days, Abril and her parents tried to meet with him, but to no avail; the man refused to do it. She looked for him repeatedly, but he refused to see her.

"It's that bitch's fault!" She said angrily at the same time that she dropped her bag. Why do you like it so much?

—Has Luciano met her again? Gina replied with a frown.

—Everyone says that he is going to marry Roxana! Her," she exclaimed as she sat up angrily. I'm just a gold digger shamelessly clinging to it; Even though he offers him everything I have, he still doesn't choose me.

Gina and Santiago looked at each other; they too had heard that rumor. However, like Abril, they thought that he would dissipate once Luciano agreed to marry her. Unfortunately, the situation did not turn out as they expected.

Gina patted April on the back to reassure her.

"Whatever happens, he will soon give us an explanation." Take it easy.

"Do you want me to calm down?" If we wait any longer, that bitch will marry him at any moment! - She said madly.

Despite her fury, Gina remained calm.

—It may be that Luciano and the Fariñas don't want the same thing. Haven't you seen how her mother was prejudiced towards that woman in the past? Her," she said calmly despite seeing April exasperated.

"Are you saying that...?" The young woman began to calm down.

—Let's go to the Fariña residence! Gina exclaimed listlessly.

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The three argued for a moment until they agreed to invite Sonia and her husband to dinner at El Muelle that night.

When Sonia and Elías arrived, the Pedrosa family was already waiting for them in the private room. April lowered her head; she looked downcast, while her parents had an unfriendly expression. When the couple entered the place, the young woman raised her head and forced a smile.

—Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. Fariña.

Shortly after, she stopped smiling, as if she wanted to show them her dissatisfaction, which puzzled Sonia.

"April, what's going on?" Has someone bothered you? Tell me.

"She's upset about what people are saying," Gina replied. People are accusing April of being a gold digger, so she has cried for the past few days.

-No; I know Luciano doesn't mean it. I've heard the rumors, but I haven't taken them seriously," he refuted immediately, his eyes reddening.

Gina looked at her resigned and concerned.

—You've been with Luciano all these years, so we know how you feel about him, but other people don't. If Luciano... —she paused and lowered her voice—: If Luciano loved you, he wouldn't allow you to suffer. He can ignore your situation, but I can't. Listen to me; you must part with him.

The Farinas clearly heard their conversation and Sonia frowned.

-What is happening? Is it because of the rumor? I'll take care of that right now.

Gina smiled bitterly and raised her head.

"How is she going to do it?" Everyone in Homeros knows it and they affirm that the two of them are engaged only because Abril is in love with her, but that Luciano doesn't really want to marry her. They also ensure that our family depends on theirs to climb positions. Since Luciano is interested in someone else and hasn't announced his wedding to Abril, they say that my daughter is a nuisance to Luciano.

-That's silly! —Sonia's face became gloomy.

-They are right. For the last few years, Abril has been with Luciano and we are the only ones who know about the engagement. He has given us a lot, but since he doesn't care about April, we shouldn't keep him. Gina looked anguished at her daughter. April still... I have counseled her for a few days, but she does not dare to part with him. As her mother, it breaks my heart to see people gossip about her; the best thing is to end this pain and not prolong her agony. In her name, she announced the cancellation of

the wedding.

April lowered her head and trembled a little. No one could see her expression, but it was quite evident that she was devastated.

Sonia did not expect her to abruptly request that and the expression on her face changed drastically.

-Impossible! Luciano and Abril have been engaged for years. How are we going to cancel the wedding like this?

"It's the only thing we can do to end the rumors," Gina explained bitterly. Don't worry; I will tell April that she forget about him so that she can find happiness.

The place was silent. After a moment, Sonia responded apathetically:

—There is another solution.

Before Gina could answer, Mrs. Fariña took her bag and stood up.

—April will be the only daughter-in-law I will accept. Don't worry; I'll take care of the matter myself. — After saying that, she turned and walked away from her without looking back.

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Inside the private room, April slowly raised her head. She didn't have a single tear on her face.

"Be patient," Gina exclaimed.

In addition to canceling the engagement, the other way to silence the rumors was to organize the wedding and the woman was sure that Sonia thought the same as her.

The next morning, Luciano arrived at his office and realized that Camilo was acting strangely.

-What happen? He—was puzzled.

"Mr. Fariña, you and Miss Pedrosa..." Camilo replied after hesitating for a moment.

"What's wrong with us?" Luciano frowned.

"Is he really going to marry her?" He asked cautiously, noticing that he was also confused.

After saying that, Camilo quickly lowered his gaze. First thing in the morning, he found out about the rumors that his boss was actually going to marry April. Everyone there stayed on the sidelines, but the assistant had worked with him for several years and he noticed from the beginning how close Luciano and Roxana were and that he really didn't love Abril. Even for a person outside the relationship, it was

notorious that the only one in love with her was Miss Pedrosa. For the last six years, Luciano refused to commit to the young woman, but it was strange for Camilo that he agreed without prior notice.

Luciano's expression instantly turned listless.

"Where did you hear that?"

Hearing how upset his boss was, Camilo understood what was happening.

"Everyone talks about it," he answered seriously. It was also published in some morning newspapers.

He took the phone from him and showed Luciano the news posted on the Internet.

«Grupo Fariña and Grupo Pedrosa: A marriage of convenience! After six years, the marriage alliance between the Fariña and the Pedrosa finally materializes ».

Luciano read several headlines and also the comments that ensured that he and Abril were the perfect couple. At that moment, the tension was felt in the environment.

"Find out who spread that information!"

Overnight, the situation spiraled out of control. I must find out who the hell dares to create this ruckus over me. It is evident that the culprit did not even bother to hide the identity of him ».

In less than an hour, Camilo went to his boss's office to tell her what he had discovered. Seeing the expression of his assistant, he became distraught.

"Mr. Fariña, it was the executive director who gave this information," he informed cautiously.

He was surprised to find out that Luciano's father was the one behind the matter. In fact, it was Elias's assistant who contacted various media outlets and ordered them to get the story out before dawn. That caused some media to have to withhold the information they were supposed to publish that day about the marriage of convenience. In just one morning, the news hit all the headlines and almost everyone in Homeros was talking about it.

Luciano was perplexed; After a moment, he came to his senses, but he was still expressionless.

-I understand; you can retire.

Camilo nodded and, realizing that his boss was in a bad mood, he didn't say a word, he left the office and closed the door.

Luciano went to his office window and stood looking out; he was confused. For the past six years, his parents had constantly reminded him that he should marry April, but he always ignored them and

assumed they understood that he didn't want to. Unfortunately, and after insisting for so many years, they acted against his wishes and announced the wedding to the public.

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After a while, he took out his phone to call his father, who answered quickly.

"What's going on, Luciano?"

Elias had not gone to work that day and was enjoying breakfast. After answering his son, he looked at Sonia, who was sitting in front of him. The woman herself knew why she had called him and she took the phone from her husband, who allowed her to take it without objection.

"Was it you who spread the news of the wedding?" Him —he asked seriously, not knowing that Sonia had the phone.

Camilo had investigated the matter, but Luciano wanted to hear his father admit it, but to his surprise, he heard his mother's voice.

"It was my idea. Any problem? He responded nonchalantly.

Luciano tensed and frowned.

"Why didn't you ask my opinion?" This is none of your business. Besides, I told you not to interfere because I have other plans.

-And which are they? She asked, annoyed when she remembered what the Pedrosas had told her the night before. Are you going to ignore April forever? She became the laughing stock of the town for what you did. Did you take care of the matter? Is this part of your plan?

Luciano's head was beginning to ache.

"How can you be so sure I didn't do anything about it?"

She had found out about the rumors immediately after going out with Roxana before a crowd. Although she disliked April, she owed her grandfather a favor from her and, therefore, she was not going to ignore the matter. Before he could act, the situation turned into a disaster and he ended up involved too, which caught him off guard.

-It does not matter. This was the only way to silence the rumors —Sonia exclaimed; her tone of voice gave rise to no objections. You're the reason people started making comments, so you'll be the one to kill them. April has been with you for years and, therefore, you must take responsibility for her and make her your wife. I announced the engagement for you; there is nothing wrong with that.

Luciano massaged his temples to try to control his anger.

"You know I don't want to marry her!" I'm sure you are well aware of Ela's condition and that she never liked April. He even hit her a few days ago and now you ask him to accept the fact that April becomes her mother. Have you ever considered Ela's feelings?

"Ela doesn't like April because they don't spend time together," she said deadpan. Still, April was aware that she had been too rude in punishing Ela like this and acknowledges her mistake. They are getting married soon, so whatever happens, Ella will have to accept April and if she does, they will be able to spend more time together. She —she didn't even wait for Luciano to respond and continued—: If you're not going to marry Abril, do you plan to do it with Roxana instead of her? No matter what happens, I will not allow him to enter our family again. I also wouldn't have allowed Ela to stay with her for so long if you hadn't told me that she could help her with her condition. That was my way of showing interest in your daughter.

Luciano didn't say a word.

"She must have recovered by now; you should bring her back so that she can spend more time with April —she ordered Sonia—. Also, remind Roxana not to get her hopes up because I will never allow her to marry into the Fariña family again.

After saying that, she ended the call; Luciano's face was disfigured.

### [Chapter 180](#)

Roxana always turned on the television in the morning so that she could listen to the news during breakfast with the children.

—The news of the marriage of convenience between Grupo Fariña and Grupo Pedrosa has persisted for six years. Recently, they finally decided to set a date for the wedding," the announcer reported.

The woman herself kept one hand in the air and was silent for a few moments before continuing what she was doing with a nonchalant attitude.

Andrés and Bautista immediately lost their appetite as their smiles faded. When they were abroad, they were curious and excited to know who their father was; Upon returning to Chepa, they were upset to find out that he had a daughter and they despised him for having abandoned his mother. However, after spending some time with him, they realized that he was not as bad as they supposed; on the contrary, he was a loving man. Even though he didn't know that they were his children, he was very patient and gave them gifts. They were about to accept him when the news of his marriage was announced, and so their impression of him was ruined again.

"Daddy is a bad man! He treats us well, but he's going to marry another woman. He shouldn't have come near us!" Estela's gaze turned somber upon hearing the news. «I don't like Miss Pedrosa because she is an evil woman. I want Miss Jerez to be my mom. Dad promised that he would not allow that woman to become my mother. Why did he break his promise? Could it be that he no longer loves me? ».

The girl was discouraged; Noticing her expression, Roxana frowned.

"What's going on, Ella?"

"Sad," she replied with an anguished grimace.

During the last days, after the efforts of Roxana and her children, Estela learned to pronounce simple words to express her feelings.

-Why are you sad? Her," she asked confused. Do you want to tell me?

Estela lowered her head and played with her fingers in anguish. I want her to be my mom, but I don't think she likes dad; he is a bad man. How can he agree to marry the evil lady? ».

The three children became anxious during breakfast and Roxana was exasperated when she saw them. When they were done, instead of playing with Legos on the carpet, they walked up the stairs together. The woman knew they were angry about what they had just learned, but she couldn't understand why. Furthermore, she was also puzzled and was in no mood to guess what they thought.

«Six years later, Luciano will marry Abril. His wish finally comes true ». While he was thinking about it, suddenly the doorbell rang. Roxana recovered her senses and opened the door. Seeing who she was, she was stunned and didn't come to her senses for a few seconds.

"Why has she come?"

The person they were talking about on the news was standing at the door of her house; she had a light shirt and her hair was a bit messy.

After the last discussion, she knew that Luciano often went to visit her; however, he was considerate and tried not to let her see it. This was the first time they had met in person after the fight.

After hearing the news, Roxana didn't know how to face it.