

## The Secret 181

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As the sound of the news announcer could be heard faintly, Luciano knew that Roxana must have heard about their engagement, so he carefully analyzed her; however, she noticed that she seemed calm. Shortly after, he broke the silence.

"I came to visit Ella. How is she?"

Roxana stepped aside to let him in.

— She is upstairs. I need to talk to you about her.

They entered the living room and he indicated for her to take a seat on the sofa while she sat on a single one. Catalina served them coffee and left when she realized they had something to discuss.

-What's going on? —Luciano felt anguished when he noticed her expression.

—I accepted Ela to stay here temporarily, due to her condition. She has been better these days and she also started talking. Compared to the past, she's improved a lot, so it's not necessary for her to stay here," Roxana commented.

She told him to take Estela back to her house, so Luciano's expression turned somber.

"Since he's doing quite well here, he may make a full recovery if he stays." If you don't mind...

Roxana immediately interrupted him:

—I'm sorry. Ela is her daughter, so I think she will recover faster if she stays with you. After all, I'm just a stranger to her.

The man frowned as he realized how determined he was.

Why the sudden decision? I thought I took good care of her.

She met his eyes and smiled wryly.

"I am not obligated to take care of someone else's daughter. Before, I agreed to do it because she was sick and I did what I could. Mr. Fariña, you should know when to stop. We're not even related, so you shouldn't force me to take care of her daughter. She looked at the television, which was still playing the news, and added nonchalantly, "Besides, I don't want to get involved with a married man and risk being accused of being a homewrecker."

Luciano watched the television in silence and could not utter a single word in response. Since he didn't

deny it, Roxana assumed that she was right.

"I was busy with my work and taking care of your daughter only added to my burden. I don't want to force myself, so don't complicate the situation and take your daughter back as soon as possible," she said indifferently and expressionlessly; then she looked away and said nothing more as she dug her nails into her hands.

She made a decision quickly before Luciano arrived. «He is about to marry April, if Ela stays here, he will come often and that is not right. It is best to keep your distance rather than cause a misunderstanding in the future."

Sensing her intentions, Luciano frowned.

"Didn't he say that children are innocent?"

—I won't prevent Andrés and Bautista from being Ela's friends. She is welcome to come play with them whenever she wants," she answered without hesitation.

"I'll still do everything possible to avoid Luciano."

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They remained silent for a while, but, in the end, Luciano spoke:

—As you wish.

The woman nodded her head and went up the stairs to go find Estela. The three children were in Andrés and Bautista's room; they were upset and the atmosphere in the place was gloomy. Andrés and Bautista were playing with their toy robots, while Estela had buried her head in the belly of her stuffed animal; the three of them were immersed in their own worlds. When they heard the door open, they turned their attention from her to her. Roxana's attitude became kinder when she looked into her eyes; nevertheless, she thought of the man waiting below and came to her attention again.

"Ela, your father came looking for you.

The three children were stunned to hear her, in particular, Estela, who widened her eyes and confusion reflected in them as she hugged her stuffed animal, without moving a muscle.

"Your dad is waiting for you downstairs, so hurry up," Roxana repeated firmly after lowering her gaze.

Then she stepped aside and waited silently by the door.

"Miss Jerez..." the little girl murmured.

In her voice, you could tell that she was a little scared and she was quite reluctant to leave. The woman

forced herself to look away from the girl's face. She didn't dare say a single word because she was worried about letting him stay the instant she opened her mouth.

Some time passed before the girl walked towards the door. Roxana couldn't help but caress her hair; then she took her hand and they went downstairs together.

Luciano had already gotten up from the sofa by then and had one hand in his pocket as he stood in the middle of the living room. He looked like he was ready to take Estela away as soon as he showed up. Roxana held the girl's hand until they went down the last step.

"Go," she said in a sweet voice, letting go of his hand.

Estela stared at her father and then at the beautiful woman next to her; discontent and reluctance were reflected in her eyes. He only took two steps forward before turning around and hugging Roxana's leg tightly, refusing to let go. The woman was touched and she sensitized as she reached out her hand. At first, she wanted to stroke his head to comfort him, but she stopped her hand in midair before taking Estela's hands and gently pulling them away from her from her leg.

"Be good and go home to your father." I'll be very busy in the next few days and you know it.

As if she sensed that something was wrong, Estela took Roxana's skirt and shook her head fervently.

-No! I'm not going home!

Luciano frowned a little when he heard her and, at the same time, surprise and a hint of bitterness were reflected in her eyes. "He needs her mother so much, but this woman has no intention of taking care of her...".

Roxana looked at the man and begged him to say something; however, he just stood there with a stoic expression. He looked at both of them, but it seemed like he had no intention of helping. Roxana looked away from her when she saw him and bent down to look at Estela's adorable face. The girl's eyes filled with tears, she made a sad face and looked at the woman longingly.

"I want to stay with you."

Roxana's gaze became kinder. After all, she couldn't bear to see the girl cry, so she patiently comforted her:

"Be good, Ela. I know you like me, I enjoy spending time with you too, but I've been very busy and tired lately. If you want to help me, then be good and go home to your father, okay?"

"I want to stay with Miss Jerez..." Estela murmured stubbornly, biting her lip.

"It is not known if I will be able to see her again if I return home with dad."

When Roxana looked at the girl in her eyes, she realized what she was thinking and, for a few minutes, she didn't know what to say.

"I'll always be here and you can come anytime you want, okay?" Her," she said sweetly as she smiled.

However, Estela did not believe him. For her part, Luciano misinterpreted the situation and thought that Roxana was only saying it to scare the girl away.

—Estela Fariña, have you already forgotten that this is not your home? she reminded him firmly.

The little girl lowered her head, turned around and walked towards her father immediately.

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The mansion door closed slowly and Estela's small figure disappeared from Roxana's sight. As she missed the girl, the woman took a deep breath and forced herself to hold back her tears. They had spent a lot of time together and Estela had grown fond of her and the children, and her illness was showing signs of obvious improvement. If it were possible, Roxana wished she could stay with her and take care of her until she made a full recovery. "How I would like to hear her say a complete sentence...". Unfortunately, it seemed that this was no longer possible.

Since Andrés and Bautista went down the stairs after Roxana and Estela, they could tell that her mother was sad to say goodbye to the girl. Even though they felt the same way, they kept their words to themselves.

"Don't be sad, mommy. We promise that we will always be with you," the children said, snuggling into their arms when they saw how sad their mother was.

Roxana hugged them and, little by little, she was filled with affection again. Despite the fact that she resisted separating from Estela, the demands of her work made it impossible for her to deal with other matters, since every day she worried about her work commitments.

During that fateful day, Roxana followed her routine and left the research institute when it was time to pick up the children from kindergarten. While she was on her way, she received a call from Leandro and answered it.

-Hi leandro. What's going on?

-You can talk? I'd like to ask you a favor," he said a little worried.

Roxana could sense that something was wrong, so she agreed to help him without hesitation.

-Tell me.

"It's better if we talk in person. I'll send you the location later, let's meet there," she replied.

She agreed to meet him and ended the call; then she sped up and drove fast to fetch the children. After dropping them off at her house, she asked her friend if she could take care of them for her and she hurried off to meet Leandro at the restaurant she had chosen. The man was already there when she arrived, his expression grim.

"I'm sorry I asked you to come over unexpectedly," Leandro commented as he watched her sit down.

Roxana didn't care, so she smiled.

-Alright. Anyway, I'm free tonight. What do you need my help for?

As they talked, a waiter came over to serve them so they could talk while they ate.

"At first, I planned to stay for a short time, but an elderly person from my distant family developed a brain disease. I'm the only doctor in the family, so I stayed to help," Leandro said. I read your medical history and you need a craniotomy. Unfortunately, he is very old and the risk involved is very high. The success rate is only twenty percent.

They both worked in the healthcare field, so he was able to briefly explain the patient's situation. Those few words were enough for Roxana to understand why she needed her help.

—We worked together on several occasions when we lived abroad and, of all the doctors I know, you are the most qualified in this area. That's why I was hoping..." She trailed off as she began to hesitate.

Ultimately, a craniotomy is a difficult and risky procedure, so the surgeon performing the surgery would be under great stress. Roxana had no obligations and she didn't need to take a risk like that. However, she understood that Leandro was concerned that she would feel overwhelmed by the risk involved.

"Where's the patient?" If possible, I think he should go see his condition in person. As you said, this is my specialty, so I might find another solution. Who knows? Maybe we can avoid the surgery," she said right away without waiting for him to finish speaking.

Leandro was still thinking about how to finish the sentence when the woman's words caused a flash of bewilderment to be reflected in his eyes. "D-he just agreed to help me like that?"

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"If it's okay with you, I can make a space for myself tomorrow and stop by the hospital to examine it," Roxana suggested after thinking about her work schedule for the next few days.

Leandro came out of his reverie and nodded immediately.

"Okay, I'll count on you then." If you ever need anything in the future, please don't hesitate to let me know.

She smiled.

-Alright. You helped me a lot while I lived abroad. Furthermore, it is our duty as doctors to help the sick. Since you think I can do this, there's no reason for me to back down.

They both talked a little more and established a time for Roxana to visit her relative.

The following afternoon, she finished working at the research institute and went to meet Leandro at the hospital entrance.

"I talked to the rest of my family, so I'll be the only one staying here for the night. You shouldn't feel pressured at all," the man said and led her into the room.

Lying on the bed was an old man who had had his hair shaved off and was still unconscious at the time. He had suddenly gotten sick, so he hadn't turned pale yet, so he looked like he was an ordinary old man who was just sleeping.

"Are you Juana?" asked the doctors in the room, who were in charge of caring for the patient.

Leandro had shared Roxana's pseudonym with the others even before going through there. Those doctors had heard about the famous Juana for a long time and were surprised to see such a young woman behind Leandro. Most of them even wondered if they had seen correctly.

Roxana nodded and turned her attention to the patient.

"I'm sorry, but now is not the time to exchange pleasantries." Please tell me more about the patient's condition and let me run some tests.

The doctors looked at Leandro for her approval when they saw how professionally she behaved. The man nodded in response, and with his approval, the doctors rushed to help Roxana; they showed her her medical report and helped her to do some tests. They worked for hours before Roxana had a complete picture of the patient. She couldn't help but feel discouraged by what she had found out; unfortunately, she had to admit that the case was difficult, even for someone with her skills.

-What do you think? Can you help him? asked Leandro in a worried tone.

Roxana's expression turned somber.

"I need some time to figure this out. He can hold out for two more days, so I'll use that time to hold a conference to discuss his condition.

Leandro trusted her, so he nodded and agreed to let her do her magic.

Roxana spent most of her time in the hospital for the next two days. She discussed the situation with some national experts who were recognized in that field; then she came up with a new medical proposal, but even then the chances of success were only forty percent.

On the day of the surgery, Roxana dropped her children off early in the morning at the kindergarten. She immediately went to the hospital to confirm the surgical procedure with the other doctors and they prepared for surgery.

The procedure would begin at one in the afternoon, and if all went well, the surgery would take five to six hours, which would give him just enough time to go pick up her children. Roxana's confidence caused her to discard the idea of asking Lisa to go look for them.

Soon, it was one o'clock in the afternoon and they started the surgery. Roxana and the other doctors worked diligently while operating on the patient. Everyone was trying their best to make that case one of the forty percent that was successful. Unfortunately, the patient was quite old and an unexpected complication arose during the surgery. The doctors had never dealt with anything like this before, so for a moment they panicked. Roxana was also worried, but she forced herself to calm down and continued operating on the patient.

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Before he even knew it, he was already over seven hours into surgery. By then, all the children in the kindergarten had left and only three remained.

Estela had left her house, but Andrés and Bautista continued to treat her the same way when she was with them. The children saw that no one was going to look for Estela, so they took her to the sandbox; they built a sandcastle and had a lot of fun.

When Luciano appeared, he saw the three children squatting in the sandbox. Their laughter could be heard throughout the small playground in the garden.

"Ela," said Luciano, who waited for them to finish playing before calling her.

However, Estela did not want to leave and she looked at her friends, even though her father had already called her.

Luciano frowned and focused his attention on Andrés and Bautista.

"Where is his mother?"

The children did not like the man, but they still politely stood up. Reluctant to answer the question, Andrés made a grimace with his mouth and turned his head to the side to look at the small castle they had put together earlier. On the other hand, Bautista had an innocent expression.

"Mommy has major surgery today. It's likely that she's dealing with some problem and that's why she hasn't arrived yet," he replied. As soon as he finished speaking, he turned around and saw Andres's expression, so he added, "But, uh, she should be here soon. Goodbye, Mr. Farina. Goodbye, Ella."

Luciano nodded and went to take Ela's hand, but to no avail, as the girl lowered her head and took a few steps back. At that moment, she was standing behind Andrés and Bautista, shaking her head at her father.

The children realized that she refused to leave, so they turned around to convince her, but no matter how hard they tried, Estela stubbornly shook her head.

"Stay together," she insisted after holding her backpack.

Estela had been quite hostile to Luciano ever since he had taken her from Roxana's house. She cried non-stop over any trivial matter and made Luciano relent. At that moment, she no longer dared to force her to do something she didn't want, so she had no choice but to nod and say, "

I'll wait here with the children."

With Luciano present, the children could not play as freely as before and all they did was sit on the bench in silence.

After they waited almost an hour, it got dark, but Roxana didn't show up. Luciano frowned and took out the phone to call her. He made several calls, but no one answered. "I guess she's still in the operating room." He glanced at the time before turning his attention to the children.

-They are hungry? I'll find them food.

After listening to him, Estela turned to Andrés and Bautista with an expectant look. However, Andres took his backpack and shook his head with a frown.

"Let's wait for mommy." Mr. Fariña, please go away and take Ela home.

When Bautista heard what he said, he forced himself to ignore the hunger he felt and nodded in agreement.

—I'm sure Ela is hungry, so please take her home, Mr. Fariña.

The sparkle in Estela's eyes disappeared in an instant.

"I'm not hungry," she told her father, shaking her head stubbornly.

«If they don't leave, I'll stay with Andrés and Bautista; I want to keep them company.»



Luciano couldn't help feeling that he was going to have a headache; even after he tried to talk some sense into them, they were all adamant to stay there. With no other choice, he ordered Camilo, who was waiting outside, to buy food and bring it to him.

"Thank you, Mr. Fariña, but we're not hungry," Andrés lied, stubbornly rejecting the offer.

Meanwhile, Bautista caressed his belly sadly and echoed his brother's words.

By now, Luciano could know the reason for his hostility. The incident earlier must have left a bad impression on the children and made them hate him. Oh, they're so infuriating.

"I bought these two especially for you. If none of them are going to eat, then I have no choice but to throw them away," he said, pretending to look for a trash can.

The children hesitated for a moment, but after all, they didn't want to waste food, so they accepted it.

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It had already gotten dark when Roxana left the operating room. She saw the dark sky and realized that she was late to pick up the children, so she immediately changed her clothes and hurried to the garden.

At the entrance, she saw in the distance a man with his hands in his pockets standing next to a bench. The children were sitting together eating hamburgers with their heads down. Roxana couldn't help but stop when she saw them. It seemed that Luciano was able to perceive her gaze because he raised his head towards her. Then he turned her attention to the children and said something to them, for after that all three turned to her. They each had a half-eaten hamburger when they ran to her. Remorseful, Roxana bent down and stroked their heads.

-Sorry for arriving late.

Andrés and Bautista were used to being late, so they didn't care and they shook their heads when they heard what he said; they were actually worried about her.

"Mommy, have you been working all this time?" You are tired?

"Not at all," she replied as she smiled.

Despite what she said, she was actually exhausted.

If she wasn't for her children, she wouldn't even have the strength to raise an arm. Years ago, she had a complication when she gave birth to children and she lost a lot of blood. As a result, her body became fragile and weak. For the same reason, whenever she operated for a long period of time, she was always tired and she needed to rest a lot to recover.

"Why Ella...?" Roxana asked as she looked at her with confusion.

«Luciano is already here to look for her, so why hasn't she gone home yet? Or... did she stay out of courtesy to take care of Andrés and Bautista? ». She felt a mix of emotions when she came to that conclusion.

No one noticed that Luciano had approached.

"Ela refused to leave them alone," she replied impassively after hearing the question.

Roxana couldn't help but be surprised after hearing it and she immediately came across a self-critical thought.

"I tried to contact you, but you didn't answer the calls," Luciano said.

At that moment, Roxana recovered her senses, stood up to look into his eyes and forced a smile.

"I turned off the phone and didn't see his calls until I left the operating room. Thank you for taking care of Andrés and Bautista.

Luciano frowned when he saw that Roxana was a little pale.

—It's only the right thing to do, since you took care of Estela for a long time.

They didn't have much to say to each other and Roxana was very tired, so she exchanged friendly comments with him before stepping back and nodding.

"Well, I'd like to take Andrés and Bautista home now."

The children then said a courtesy goodbye to Luciano. However, Estela continued to look at Roxana with her huge, round eyes; she the girl did not want to say goodbye to her, just like that. When Roxana saw her expression, she was touched by her and bent down to caress her head.

"Be good, Ela, and go with your father." Andrés and Bautista will play with you tomorrow, yes?

Only then, Estela nodded obediently.

"Goodbye, Miss Jerez," she answered in a childish voice.

"See you tomorrow," replied the woman, who was touched every time she heard Estela's adorable voice. Then she took the children by the hand and left.

Luciano's gaze was unreadable as he watched them leave. This was the first time they had interacted again after taking Estela from her house. The woman treated him the same way she had when she first

saw him. "If he hadn't helped take care of the kids, he probably wouldn't even have bothered to talk to me."

Estela waited for a moment, but her father remained there without moving, so he swung his arm in confusion. Only then did Luciano come to his senses, he picked up his daughter in his arms and they left.

### [Chapter 187](#)

At the mansion, Lisa had been waiting for them to come back for dinner for a long time.

-What happened? Why was everyone so late? Her," she asked after hurrying towards them when she saw them enter.

-No problem. I had to work overtime. Please take care of the children. I'm a little tired, so I'll go to sleep now," she replied, forcing a smile.

When Lisa saw how pale and tired Roxana was, she agreed to take care of them immediately. Roxana talked a little with the children and then went to her room.

The next morning, when Lisa finished preparing breakfast, she realized that Roxana was nowhere to be found. On the other hand, the children had already gone downstairs and had even dressed.

"You guys eat, I'll go see your mom," Lisa said.

She was a little worried when she remembered how tired Roxana had looked the night before, but the children stopped her when they heard what she said.

-Needless. Mommy is always tired after doing surgery. She let her sleep and only wake her up if she is still sleeping in the afternoon.

Lisa hesitated for a moment, but in the end she accepted what she was told. She made sure the children ate breakfast and then took them to the garden.

It was quite late for her when she got home, but Roxana was still sleeping; however, she decided that she was not going to bother her. She only prepared some porridge so that Roxana could eat when she woke up.

The woman got out of bed the instant she woke up and saw the time. "It's eleven o'clock, the children are late!" She was about to throw away the sheet when she remembered that she had hired a maid and the children were probably already at school. Strangely, she felt exhausted after she relaxed; so she went back to sleep until there was a knock on the door.

"Miss Jerez, is she awake?" Lisa asked.

She had waited all morning and she hurried to see how she was when it got to noon.

-Yes I'm awake. I'm leaving," she replied.

He didn't realize his voice was hoarse until he finished speaking. "I have a fever?". However, Roxana did not give it much importance. She stood up and cleaned up before going downstairs to eat, but her fatigue was more noticeable when she walked.

"Miss Jerez, why is your face red?" Lisa asked with a surprised tone as she served him a bowl of the porridge she had prepared.

I think I may have a fever. Please find me some medicine," she said a moment later as she frowned.

Alarmed, Lisa reached for the medicine cabinet and gave Roxana some pills.

Although she didn't have much of an appetite, she forced herself to eat before going back to her room to rest. Roxana had not imagined that she could get sick so easily. "I just did surgery. I can't believe that's all it took to get so exhausted I got sick. When did I get so weak? Maybe because she had a fever, she was a little confused; many thoughts crossed her mind and she fell asleep.

That night, Lisa noticed that Roxana was still resting and assumed that she still hadn't recovered, so she went to the garden to look for the children. When she arrived, she saw Estela with the little ones.

She reflected disappointment in Estela's look when she saw Lisa there.

Andrés and Bautista knew that Estela missed her mother and they were worried that she would refuse to go home like the day before, so one of them came forward and asked: "

Where is mommy?"

Lisa was worried about Roxana, who was home alone at the time. Upon hearing the question, she frowned.

—Senorita Jerez is ill and resting. Let's hurry.

The two children became nervous when they heard her. They assumed that her mother would recover after resting a bit, as usual; but they did not imagine that she would be so tired as to get sick.

## [Chapter 188](#)

Estela refused to go home with him because she wanted to see Roxana, and for that reason Luciano had no choice but to wait in a corner. He never imagined hearing such news. Estela looked at him nervously and took him by the sleeve.

- Miss Sherry.

Luciano knew what her daughter wanted to ask him, so she helped him finish what she wanted to say.

"What happened to Miss Jerez?"

Lisa, who knew nothing of her story, told them what had happened to her:

"Miss Jerez hasn't been feeling well since she came home last night. I thought she was exhausted, but when I went to see her at noon, she had a fever. I have to go back to take care of her. Then she took the children by the hand and left.

Andrés and Bautista left in a hurry and did not say goodbye to Estela, so the girl's eyes reddened.

"Miss Jerez..." she couldn't help but murmur under her breath.

Luciano looked at the girl and hesitated for a moment. Then, he asked the driver to follow Lisa's car so they could visit Roxana.

The children were so worried about her mother that they ran into her room and said nothing when the man entered the house. Lisa didn't stop Luciano and Estela from going up. Roxana woke up when the children opened the door; She opened her eyes and was met by large, innocent eyes.

-Mommy how are you? You must be feeling very uncomfortable. —Andrés touched his forehead and was surprised by the heat.

"It's just a fever; It'll go away when I get enough sleep," he replied with a reassuring smile.

Suddenly, he heard the voice of a little girl.

- Miss Sherry.

Roxana was paralyzed for a moment. She turned her head to one side and saw Estela touch the edge of the sheet and looked at her with concern. "The A? Why is she here? ». Out of instinct, Roxana looked towards the door and saw a slim figure standing in the doorway. After exchanging glances, Luciana frowned and entered the room.

-High fever?

-It is not a big problem. I'm a doctor, so I know my body well. I'll get better when I get enough sleep," she said calmly, looking away from her with mixed emotions.

Lisa couldn't help but rebut,

"She's been sleeping for almost twenty-four hours, but she still didn't get better. Why doesn't she go to

the hospital?

The man narrowed his eyes suspiciously.

Roxana clenched her fists for a moment, but she was so dizzy that she couldn't think of an excuse to turn down the offer. She knew that she had a high fever; in fact, she waited for Lisa to come home so they could go to the hospital together, but she never imagined that Luciano would be there.

Andrés and Bautista were also worried about her mother.

—Mommy, we will go to the hospital with you. You will feel better once the doctor gives you an injection. You always give us one every time we have a fever that high.

The children took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Estela was so exasperated that her eyes reddened. Seeing how anxious the children were, Roxana had no choice but to obey them. She nodded and looked at Lisa.

"Can you come to the hospital with me?"

The children insisted on accompanying her, but Roxana refused with a frown.

—You stay at home to rest, okay? I will be back soon.

She didn't want her children to go out at that time.

Before Lisa could say yes, she heard a thick voice from behind.

—I'll take her. Lisa can stay home and take care of the children.

## [Chapter 189](#)

Hearing his suggestion, Roxana felt a little anxious. She wanted to stay away from him, but she had to admit that this was her best solution.

"Thank you," she said a few seconds later.

Luciano agreed. After asking Andrés and Bautista to move away, he got up, but before he could get to his feet, his head began to spin. Then he swayed and put his hand on the bed to steady himself.

"Let me help you." Lisa immediately reached out to grab her arm.

Roxana's vision blurred for a few seconds and when she recovered, she responded with a slight nod. The three children also came up and went to her side. Roxana was so weak that she had to lean on Lisa when she walked, even Lisa had a hard time holding her. Noticing that, the three little ones wanted to

help her, but before they could extend their hands, a tall figure appeared in her path. Luciano positioned himself in front of Lisa and frowned at her.

-Let me do it. You take care of the children.

Before Roxana could react, he wrapped his hands around her waist and picked her up. At that time, she was still in a daze because she was in a state of confusion. When she came to, she resisted, but to no avail. The man was clearly in control of the situation, so she had no choice but to stop resisting; she then frowned and expressed her dismay:

"Put me down, I can walk."

He turned a deaf ear, turned to Lisa and said,

"Please prepare something for them because they haven't eaten anything so far. Take them to bed if we come back late.

Lisa agreed, but the kids didn't like it; they then followed the adults and tried to climb into the back of the car. After climbing Roxana, Luciano turned around, grabbed the little ones and took them out of there. Andrés, Bautista and Estela got angry as they looked at the woman in the vehicle.

"He'll worry if they insist on following us, and that's not good for his recovery." She will feel relieved to know that everyone stayed home, had dinner, and went to bed early," Luciano explained patiently.

The children looked at Roxana with doubts, but she smiled and said:

-Yeah. Sleep early and don't wait for us.

The little ones had no choice but to nod. Luciano got into the vehicle, sat next to her, closed the door and prevented them from being seen. He then instructed the driver to rush to the hospital.

After seeing them off, the children reluctantly returned to the mansion with Lisa. Roxana kept looking at them in the rearview mirror and she felt relieved when they all entered the house.

The warm and cozy atmosphere in the car made the woman want to fall asleep, but when she thought of the man sitting next to her, she forced herself to stay awake. Due to her fever and despite trying to stay awake as she dug her nails into her palms, she soon fell fast asleep.

-How do you feel? —Luciano expressed his concern while they were stuck in a traffic jam.

Getting no response, she looked to the side of her and realized that she was asleep. He was overwhelmed by the mixed feelings he had; therefore, he looked away and ordered the driver:

"Drive slower."

He soon felt a weight on her shoulder, so he turned and looked at her sweetly.

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Roxana slept throughout the journey; she didn't wake up even when they got to the hospital. Luciano hesitated for a moment, but decided not to wake her. After instructing the driver to open the door, he covered her with her coat and took her out of the car.

The Emergency Department was the only place with staff on call, as they arrived late at night. After registering at the reception, he loaded Roxana and headed there; she woke up as soon as they entered. It took her a few seconds to realize that she was in Luciano's arms while the doctor looked at them from the opposite side. She blushed right away, but no one noticed as she was flushed with fever.

"Put me down!" Her—she nudged him, embarrassed.

Upon hearing her voice, Luciano, who was listening to the doctor explain Roxana's state of health, realized that she had woken up so he looked at her, but did not let go. The woman, who also heard the doctor's voice, fell silent and hid her face in his coat to avoid feeling more embarrassment. The man's chest was so warm that she fell asleep again; she could barely hear the doctor's voice and Luciano's questions. "You don't need to ask those questions in detail. I know very well everything he said ». After consulting her, the man woke her up, placed her on the bed and said:

"They're going to give you a drip, so you'll have to stay in the hospital tonight."

Roxana, who was still stunned, nodded. She waited for the nurse to give her the IV and then she fell into a deep sleep. Luciano sat next to the bed, looked at the small face of the woman and her expression darkened a little. "I haven't seen her in six years and she seems to have lost quite a bit of weight; she looks even more fragile now that she is sick ». Despite carrying her in her arms and walking a lot, he did not feel exhausted because she was underweight. Did she at least take good care of herself for the past six years? She even had to raise two children alone ».

Roxana woke up in the middle of the night and opened her eyes. She still felt a bit dizzy and she was a bit lost. Everything that had happened before that was like a dream to her. "Why does he treat me so well if he is about to marry another woman?" While she was still confused, she heard someone breathing heavily in the room; She then looked to the side and saw Luciano leaning on a chair, which was too small for her height and muscular physique. Despite not being in a comfortable position, she was still able to sleep without a problem. She looked at the IV and realized that it had been exchanged for a new bag; she couldn't help but be stunned for a moment. So it wasn't a dream. Luciano must be exhausted after taking care of me all night.

At that moment, Roxana had mixed feelings; she then glanced at the clock and realized it was midnight. "I can't believe she slept for so many hours. I wonder if the kids are sleeping well too." She pulled the phone from her, but hesitated as she went to text Lisa. She might disturb her sleep if she bothered her at that time, so she thought about it for a moment and put the phone down beside her.



After spending a few hours resting in the hospital, she was feeling much better. Then she touched her forehead and felt that her fever had gone down.