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The weekend soon arrived and Roxana took the children to kindergarten early in the morning. This was the first time that Andrés and Bautista attended a group activity. While holding her mother's hand, they couldn't contain their curiosity and looked around excitedly. Many children came up and greeted them one after another and the brothers responded in kind. Only then did Roxana realize how popular her children were in kindergarten.

"Miss Sherry!"

Suddenly, a girlish voice was heard from behind her. Roxana hadn't seen Estela for a long time, so she also missed her. When she heard the little girl's voice, the woman smiled out of habit and turned to hug her; however, when she turned around, she met Luciano's gaze. Her expression tightened as her smile slowly faded. He just limited himself to raising his arm and caressing Estela's head.

"Good morning, Ella. Then she looked up from her nonchalantly to the man in front of her. Good morning, Mr. Farina.

Since they were participating in an outdoor activity, Luciano wore a casual outfit. The dark colored lightweight jacket he was wearing accentuated his tall and broad figure. Her bangs covered her forehead, giving her a younger look, and his gaze darkened when he saw Roxana, but the next second, he smiled impassively.

"I thought you wouldn't come, Miss Jerez."

Roxana was stupefied when she heard it. Of course she understood that she was hinting at the fact that she had been avoiding him lately. Thinking about it, the woman herself couldn't help but sense her sarcasm. "He better than anyone shouldn't know why I'm avoiding him? Who gives you the right to criticize me? She lowered her gaze nonchalantly after gathering her strength.

—This is the first time that Andrés and Bautista attend a group activity, so I must accompany them.

Luciano looked at Estela who was standing next to him and agreed.

-Is right. This is also the first time Estela has participated in a group activity since her recovery, so I have to make time to accompany her no matter how busy she is.

Roxana was moved by the mention of Estela's illness as she looked at the little girl with an expression full of tenderness. Estela was looking at her fixedly, and when they exchanged glances, the girl smiled at her. Noticing her innocent smile, the woman felt a pang in her chest and she couldn't bear to look away from her even after quite some time.

As the crowd began to grow, many parents came forward to try to meet Luciano. Only then did Roxana

look away from the girl and take a step back.

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The parents that surrounded Luciano kept talking, but he didn't pay attention to them, instead, he kept his gaze fixed on the figure of Roxana who was leaving. The woman herself was wearing a yellow dress with a flower petal design on that day. She gave off a kind, motherly vibe with her long hair pinned behind her ears. Andrés and Bautista, who held her mother's hands, were dressed alike in white sportswear; they looked like two little princes. The trio was eye-catching in the crowd.

When Estela saw that Roxana was leaving, she immediately released Luciano. The man knew what his daughter's intention was; however, he didn't stop her and let go of her hand, allowing Estela to do whatever she wanted. Roxana had only moved a short distance when she felt someone grab her dress. Since she assumed that it was a naughty boy, she turned around to ask him to let her go, however, she was met with Estela's pained expression.

"Miss Jerez, don't you like me anymore?" —While she tightened the hem of Roxana's dress, Estela made a face and looked at the woman sadly.

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Estela wore a blue lace shirt combined with a long white skirt. She looked like a little princess with a big bow on her head and a slight blush on her fair complexion. Also, everyone in the kindergarten knew that she was Luciano's precious daughter, so when they saw her take the hem of a woman's dress with such sadness in her eyes, the crowd turned to her.

Roxana felt a weakness for Estela and, with so many people watching, she felt lost at that moment, so she looked at Luciano, who was standing some distance away. At that moment, he was surrounded by a group of parents and was involved in a friendly discussion, it seemed that he did not know what was happening to Roxana. Finally, she looked away, bent down, and stroked Estela's head.

"There's no way I don't like you." You are a good girl, Ella.

Little Ella sobbed and complained in a childish voice:

"She's not going to visit me anymore, Miss Jerez." I miss her so much.

Roxana was instantly touched and felt the need to hug her and persuade her. However, due to the number of people watching them, she only took her hand and said,

"I've been quite busy and came back from a business trip two days ago.

After listening to her, a hint of confusion flashed in the girl's eyes as she looked at Roxana in

bewilderment.

"Then why did he walk away?"

"If she likes me, why didn't she spend more time with me when we met after so long?"

Roxana was stunned by Estela's question. There was no way she could tell him that she had moved away from her because of her father, Luciano. Upon noticing the woman's prolonged silence, Estela began to make a sad face again while disappointment was reflected in her eyes.

Roxana felt overwhelmed by her guilt when she saw the girl's behavior. Just as she was wondering how to comfort her, she saw a shadow looming over her and looked up. Luciano made his way through the crowd without Roxana noticing. Standing in front of her, he looked at her in an indescribable way.

—Ela, Miss Jerez must take care of Andrés and Bautista. Let's not bother her," Luciano said hoarsely after a few moments and leaned down to take her daughter's hand.

Estela was reluctant to leave, so she turned around and avoided her father's hand, then she approached Roxana and said stubbornly: —I want to stay

with Miss Jerez.

Both Luciano's and Roxana's expressions tensed after seeing the girl's reaction. Many people around them had been watching Luciano's every move, and as a result, they all looked in Roxana's direction. Panic rose within her; When she made the decision to join the activity with Andrés and Bautista, she had actually anticipated that something like that could happen. Even so, she didn't know how to react when she was caught in that awkward situation. According to her plan, she should have gotten up and left mercilessly; however, when she met Estela, she did not dare to do so.

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Estela turned to look at Roxana expectantly when her father made her proposal. The woman hesitated for a moment, and finally she nodded. Meanwhile, Andrés and Bautista eyed the man warily; they were also looking forward to what would happen next.

Despite the fact that they did not like Luciano, this was the first time they had participated in a school activity. The two children were delighted that both parents were accompanying them. Roxana stood up and looked at the crowd, in the end, she did not reach out her hand to take Estela's. Luciano understood her concern and her look turned somber as he took her daughter's hand; This time, Estela did not avoid

her approach and obediently took her father's hand, but she kept her gaze fixed on Roxana.

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When everyone finally arrived, Pilar asked them to gather before letting them board the bus according to the list of names made the night before. Roxana, Andrés and Bautista were at the end of the list. The rest of the class didn't have any siblings, so she was the only one with two children and so they agreed to sit in the last row. After naming Andrés and Bautista, Pilar looked up to confirm her presence and saw the person who was next to Roxana.

—Mr. Fariña, what are you...? Is Estela coming too?

—YES, she also wants to join. Her," she agreed nonchalantly.

"But..." She seemed a bit confused.

"She has never joined this activity before and therefore I thought she would not participate this time and I did not reserve her place on the bus or in the hotel room."

"Is there a problem?" asked Luciano with a frown.

"Since he's never participated before, I thought he wouldn't come this time either, so he'll have to squeeze in with the other parents." Of course, it's my oversight and I'll take care of it," he said as he looked at him apologetically.

«When looking for the list of names the other day, he did not tell me that Estela would join nor that he would not come. Well, I should have taken that into account and booked two extra seats and a room just in case." Since the seats were provided, he couldn't think of how to vacate two.

—Señora Jerez has two children. I wonder if she would be willing to give Ela and me one of her seats," Luciano said, looking at the woman next to her.

Roxana was about to get on the bus with her children, but when she heard him say her name, she stopped unconsciously. Thanks to his suggestion, Pilar turned to her immediately.

—Señora Jerez, Andrés and Bautista have always gotten along with Ela. Believes that...?

"In other words, she also expects her to give up one of my seats, but if I do, we'll end up sitting together."

—Mr. Fariña, her driver must still be waiting outside her, am I wrong? Why doesn't she tell him to take Ela and you? It will also be more comfortable than going on the bus —Roxana suggested calmly after turning to look at him.

"I told him to go away," he replied matter-of-factly.

Roxana pressed her thin lips a little at what she heard, since she couldn't invent another excuse to refuse. Meanwhile, Pilar looked at her, pleading with her.

-Alright. I will sit with Mr. Fariña. —Roxana finally gave in after being silent for a moment. She turned around and got on the bus and Luciano followed her hand in hand with Estela.

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There were five seats in the last row. A father and daughter couple were already sitting there and, initially, the three remaining seats were for Roxana, Andrés and Bautista. She looked at her two sons not knowing who she should be sitting on her lap.

"Bautista moves around a lot, so give him a seat to himself," Andrés intervened.

Bautista did not refuse. «I know that mom loves us both equally, but Andrés is right. It will be uncomfortable for her and me as I can't sit still." For this reason, Roxana picked up Andrés and sat him on her lap, leaving an empty seat for Luciano and Estela. As soon as the man got on, everyone looked at him. They had all seen how Estela treated Roxana differently and, therefore, they watched how he sat next to her. They were a bit perplexed, but they didn't give it much importance, thinking that it was only because Andrés and Bautista were close to Estela.

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Luciano had just sat down with Estela when he felt her squirm in his arms, then he frowned in perplexity. Meanwhile, his daughter was staring at Roxana. «It's been a long time since Miss Jerez hasn't lifted me up; I also want you to carry me in your arms. Besides, it's not comfortable for dad to take me like this. Roxana had planned to ignore Luciano and Estela, but with the girl staring at her so fixedly, she had no choice but to turn her head and look at her.

- Miss Sherry. —Estela stretched out her arms toward her, wanting her to pick her up.

Observing that Roxana was already struggling with Andrés, Luciano squeezed harder and left Estela in her arms.

“Let move, Ella.

"I want Miss Jerez to lift me up!" —Estela began to squirm even more, since she felt more and more uncomfortable.

By this time, some people had already noticed the ruckus he was making.

—Give it to me; I'll take her —said Roxana because she didn't want her to draw more attention from her.

Then she reached out an arm and the girl leaned over her almost immediately. After grabbing her, the woman had to carry two children on her lap and her seat was a bit small.

"Let me take Andrés," Luciano said in a low voice with a frown.

Roxana was surprised to hear that because she thought about Andrés' relationship with Luciano, and that was a problem. Besides, she had noticed her son's resentment towards him and she didn't think she would agree, especially since Andrés used to be apathetic and indifferent. But, to her surprise, the boy stretched out his arms towards Luciano. Roxana and Luciano's expressions changed as soon as they saw the boy's reaction. He was a bit surprised, since he didn't expect Andrew to accept his offer, so he reached out and grabbed him. As for Roxana, he lowered his gaze, cautious. Andrés only did that because he didn't want his mother to get tired and although he had stretched out his arms towards Luciano, he had a slightly tense expression. Once he held it, he sat without moving and just stared straight ahead.

It was the first time he had lifted another child besides Estela, so he moved carefully. While Bautista sat in the middle and watched how Luciano carried Andrés, he couldn't help but feel a bit envious. After that, everyone fell silent, only Estela was animated sitting on Roxana's lap and happily playing with her fingers. None of them spoke a single word during the entire trip. Finally, they reached their destination and Andrés jumped out of Luciano's arms as the bus stopped and stood next to Bautista while they waited to get off. Roxana also took Estela down and left her next to Luciano.

When they got off the bus, Roxana grabbed Andrés and Bautista's hands again while Luciano grabbed Estela's. It was as if what happened on the bus never happened. Once down, they found a green path. The place the school had chosen to plant the trees was a botanical garden in the suburbs. It was situated in the middle of the mountain, surrounded by many forests and seemed to have a lot of energy and life. The only problem was that it was in quite a remote area and there was only one hotel nearby. Pilar had contacted the hotel manager when they were on their way hoping to get another room for Luciano and Estela at the last minute, but when she found out that the rooms were full, she became anxious and regretful, so she asked him. He went looking as soon as he got off the bus.

—Mr. Fariña, the hotel rooms are all taken, so I'm afraid you'll have to share a room with another parent.

Luciano frowned and looked at Estela. "I don't mind sharing a room with others, but Ela may not be willing to."

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Seeing that there was no other alternative at that moment, Luciano nodded, then Pilar gathered the other parents and asked who would be willing to share his room with him. Estela went hand in hand with her father and, upon hearing what her teacher said, she instantly looked at Roxana. «I want to

sleep with the beautiful Miss Jerez!»). Taking into account Luciano's status and his very good appearance, it didn't take long for a group of parents to come together who were willing to let him share their rooms. There were even some ladies who rushed over with their children. Due to her autism, Estela turned pale when she was surrounded by a group of strangers, she let go and ran away when Luciano was not paying attention. He collided directly with Roxana, who happened to be standing on the periphery while she waited. Looking up,

"What's the matter, Ella?" —Roxana couldn't help but worry when she saw the girl's expression.

"To stay with Miss Jerez!" —She said grabbing the hem of her skirt and with a determined look.

Upon hearing that, Roxana was speechless. «If it was only her, of course she would not deny me. However, if I accept that she stays with us, it will mean that Luciano will also be in the same room ». She had no idea how she could deal with such a situation.

Luciano was about to bring his daughter back after seeing her run away. However, he suddenly realized that he had left with Roxana. «Estela doesn't know any father here, except her. If I don't want her to be scared, the only solution is for her to stay with Roxana, but I don't know what she thinks about it ». With that idea in mind, Luciano smiled, nodded to the others, and then approached Roxana.

"Miss Jerez, would it be too much of a problem for you to share the room with us?" he asked quietly.

Roxana, stunned, looked up when she heard what he said. «I thought you would think the same as me... I didn't expect you to take the initiative to make me such a request...». For a moment, she didn't know what to say, since it was clear that she didn't want to be in the same room with him; however, she couldn't help but worry about Estela, who was still pale after her scare, but when she saw that Roxana seemed reluctant to allow them to stay with them, her eyes reddened and she lowered her head sadly. The parents that Luciano had rejected had followed him and were jealous when they saw that he asked to stay with Roxana after rejecting them, but seeing Roxana's reluctance made them even more angry.

—She loves you very much, Miss Jerez. How does he have the courage to make a girl feel so bad? asked one of them.

"Even if she doesn't want to, she should say it." We are ready to welcome Mr. Fariña and Ela with open arms," another person commented.

Roxana grew serious as more and more of them made comments about her. Meanwhile, Luciano looked apathetically at those who had spoken and they shuddered and fell silent; then, he turned his gaze to Roxana.

—Ela's condition is a bit particular because she doesn't accept living with strangers. It's rare that she loves someone as much as you do, Miss Jerez, so I hope she'll accept it for her own good.

Ela had behaved so normally with Roxana that she had forgotten about the girl's condition. After

Luciano mentioned it, he became sad when he remembered the surprise on Estela's face.

"I'm very sorry to bother you, Miss Jerez." If she agrees, I'll give her the big room with the twin beds so it's more comfortable," Pilar said with an anguished expression.

Seeing Estela's pitiful appearance, Roxana sighed.

-OK. Thank you, Mrs. Garcia.

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When they settled in the rooms, it was already night. Pilar took the parents to the restaurant that the botanical garden had prepared for them, so Roxana took Andrés and Bautista to eat.

There were many more botanical garden employees in the restaurant than when they got off the bus and Estela didn't like that, so without taking her eyes off Roxana, she followed her closely. Instantly, the young woman felt the girl's gaze on her and turned around and felt anguished when she saw the shy expression of her little girl. She immediately let Andrés and Bautista hold hands, which allowed him to free one of her hands to take Estela's.

Seeing that Roxana extended her hand towards her, the girl took it without hesitation with a smile from ear to ear. At that moment, the girl's shyness disappeared without a trace. Luciano was still worried about her, so he followed her. Then, he saw her and Roxana holding hands; at that moment, as he walked behind them, he had mixed feelings.

When it was Roxana's turn to order food, it was difficult for her to eat four servings at once. Just when she was considering taking a slice first and then re-queuing for more, someone with a large hand appeared right behind her.

"I'll do it," Luciano said quietly.

She was stunned for an instant, but when she looked at the children and thought how hungry they must be, she didn't refuse. So, she gave him one of the plates and then she took out another one; in the end, she even took a plate of food for Luciano.

When it was time to eat, Estela did not want to leave Roxana and wanted to sit next to her. The woman led the three children to a table and sat down. Then, Luciano sat in the other seat next to Estela. The girl was very happy to have her father sitting on one side and the beautiful Roxana on the other. Meanwhile, Andrés and Bautista couldn't avoid their resentment as they stared at the man next to Estela.

«If they didn't know us and they saw us like this, they would think that we are a family. However, our disgusting father wants to marry another woman. He doesn't want to be with mom anymore! ». Enraged by that idea, they didn't want to keep looking at Luciano, so they lowered their heads and concentrated on eating.

"Andres and Bautista!" —Estela smiled as she took some food with her spoon and placed it on the plates of the two children.

As soon as they both looked up from her and saw her seriously using her little spoon, with which she put food from her plate onto Luciano and Roxana's, they were stunned.

"Let's go eat, Papa and Miss Jerez," the girl said innocently.

Seeing the little spoon that he extended towards her, Roxana felt touched. «If my daughter had survived all these years, she would probably be as adorable and cuddly as she was...».

Meanwhile, when Luciano saw what Estela was doing, his gaze darkened. «After I heard that news, my mother came home and talked about Roxana and me. At that moment, Ela asked me expectantly if she would marry me with Roxana. She told me that she would like her to become her mother. I don't know if I'm imagining it, but I have the feeling that Ela thinks of Roxana as her mother whenever they're together. If she knew that the Miss Jerez whom she adores so much is actually her biological mother... ». While he thought about that, Luciano looked with mixed feelings at Estela and the woman who served her while she ate.

Roxana felt his gaze and looked up; then, she looked into his eyes with confusion, after which, Luciano frowned when her eyes met. In the end, he just looked away without saying anything.

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Roxana thought of leaving right after dinner, but the three children stood still when they left the restaurant; they were completely transfixed by the sight outside, which made Roxana look in the same direction.

The restaurant was located in a botanical garden on top of a mountain. There were usually fewer artificial structures and lighting around. In addition, the main source of illumination was the full moon passing through the trees and showing their shadow, which made the moonlight appear soft and misty, giving an attractive glow to the plants in the garden. Many adults walked through the beautiful garden with their children and Bautista pulled Roxana's hand.

"Mommy, let's go for a walk in the garden!" she pleaded with him.

Roxana rarely had the opportunity to walk so calmly. The beautiful landscape was very irresistible, so she said to Luciano:

—I'm taking the children for a walk in the garden. Why don't you take Ela to the room, Mr. Fariña?

Later, she tried to let go of Estela's hand so that the girl could go with Luciano to the room, but, unfortunately, she refused to let go of her hand, so the young woman had no choice but to take the girl

for a walk.

They went to an uncrowded part of the garden. There, Bautista was excited to see the tall trees that surrounded him.

"Mommy, let's play hide and seek!" she suggested.

Roxana smiled and accepted.

"Okay, but don't go too far. Is not safe. The children nodded obediently.

She planned to look for the children with Estela by the hand, but the girl seemed eager to join the game and hide. No one had ever played hide and seek with her, and her expression turned expectant when the children suggested the game. In the end, before closing her eyes and letting the children hide, Roxana reminded Andrés and Bautista to take care of Estela.

-They are ready? I'm going to look for them! Her," she yelled after giving them a few seconds to hide. As soon as she finished saying that sentence, Estela's voice was heard coming from behind a tree.

—Ready!

Roxana couldn't help but laugh. Although Estela's response had given away the children's hiding place, she pretended not to know where they were and pretended to be looking for them. Suddenly, she heard a woman's voice sounding next to her.

"You must be Andrés's mother, right?"

Roxana looked up and saw a woman, who was smiling at her ironically, dressed very extravagantly. She is she was holding a girl by the hand. Roxana had the feeling that the woman was unkind, so she concealed her distrust before answering:

—Yes, I am. Who are you?

The woman looked at her with disdain.

—No importo quién soy. Estoy aquí para recordarle algo, señorito Jerez. Espero que no se tome mi consejo o lo ligero. —Al oír sus palabras, Roxana frunció el ceño. Luego, la mujer continuó—: Él siempre ha sido lo más importante para el señor Foriño. Él solo lo estima porque su hijo es cercano a usted y a sus hijos. Eso es un honor para su familia. —Su tono se volvió indiferente una vez que fue obvio— . Señorito Jerez, espero que sea consciente de su situación. No oigo que tiene la oportunidad de tener una relación con el señor Foriño por lo mismo que tienen sus hijos. El hombre solo se relaciona con usted por el bien de su hijo. No se le ocurrió querer meterse en la familia Foriño.

Roxana se sintió completamente confundida ante las palabras de la mujer. «Sabía que cruzarme con Luciano aquí haría que los demás hicieran comentarios desagradables al respecto. Solo que no pensé que ocurriera tan pronto».

—Debe haber malinterpretado la situación... —Roxana trató de explicar.

Por desgracia, la mujer lo interrumpió disgustada.

—¿Malinterpretó? Todo el mundo sabe cuánto tiempo paso con el señor Foriño. Conozco su lugar, señorito Jerez. Lo prometido del señor Foriño es la señorita Pedrosa y su relación es más fuerte que nunca. ¡Espero que no se humille al actuar de forma tan desesperada por ganarse el afecto de él! —replicó.

"It doesn't matter who I am. I'm here to remind you of something, Miss Jerez. I hope you don't take my advice lightly. —When hearing her words, Roxana frowned. Then the woman continued, "She has always been the most important thing to Mr. Fariña. He only esteems you because her daughter is close to you and her children. That is an honor for his family. His tone of hers turned nonchalant once she got down to business. Miss Jerez, I hope she is aware of her situation. Do not assume that she has the opportunity to have a relationship with Mr. Fariña because of the friendship that her children have. The man only associates with you for the sake of his daughter. It does not occur to him to want to get into the Fariña family.

Roxana felt completely confused by the woman's words. «I knew that coming across Luciano here would cause others to make unpleasant comments about it. I just didn't think it would happen so soon."

"You must have misinterpreted the situation..." Roxana tried to explain.

Unfortunately, the woman interrupted her in disgust.

"Misunderstand?" Everyone knows how much time you spend with Mr. Fariña. Get to know his place, Miss Jerez. Mr. Fariña's fiancée is Miss Pedrosa and their relationship is stronger than ever. I hope she doesn't humiliate herself by acting so desperately to win his affections! she replied.

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The mention of Luciano and Abril's imminent wedding made Roxana look down. She decided not to tell the unpleasant woman what she was thinking and she just replied,

"Thanks for her advice." I will be more careful in the future.

The woman interpreted Roxana's docile attitude as a sign of victory. So, she made a mental note to tell Abril about that night's incident and use it to flatter the future Mrs. Fariña. When that thought crossed her mind, the woman looked at Roxana with contempt and said,

"Good." He would never be a good match for Mr. Fariña.

Their conversation had lasted so long that Estela began to wonder why Roxana hadn't gone looking for them. So she peeked out from behind a tree and saw a fierce-looking woman in front of Roxana. The girl thought that the woman was intimidating her and she rushed to run towards them.

"Don't bother Miss Jerez!" the girl yelled after grabbing onto Roxana's legs and glaring at the unpleasant woman.

The girl's sudden appearance stunned her, then she smiled and quickly knelt down.

"Isn't this Miss Estela?" She's such an adorable little girl," she said as she tried to pat his head.

The girl shunned strangers due to her autism and when she saw a stranger trying to touch her, she pushed her hand away and looked at it warily. The woman was perplexed by Estela's rejection; besides, how close she seemed to Roxana also irritated her. Even so, she stubbornly tried to get closer to the girl.

"Don't worry, Miss Estela. I don't mean to hurt you. I just think he's adorable. As she spoke, she reached out to the girl once more.

At that moment, Estela panicked and hid behind Roxana while she hugged her leg. Concerned, Roxana frowned and prevented the woman from approaching e.

"Ela is afraid of strangers. If he really likes her, it would be much better for her to keep his distance from her.

Estela's constant rejection and Roxana's advice made the woman furious; then, this she stood up.

—I am very close to Miss Pedrosa and she will soon become Ela's mother. My relationship with her has nothing to do with you," she argued.

Roxana's expression changed when she heard April's name again. "This woman tells the truth. I don't have to get involved in Ela's relationships, but the girl seems genuinely scared by this stranger. She is shaking and even hugs my leg ». After thinking about that, Roxana said:

—Como su hijo y Elo von o lo mismo close, debería conocer su estado. No le gusto que lo toquen los desconocidos. Gracias por su consejo anterior, pero si no hoy nada más, por favor, váyase. Ela todavía está un poco conmocionada. —Después, con ternura, Roxana estrechó entre sus brazos o lo asustado niño.

Angustiado y asustado, Estela miró con lágrimas en los ojos o lo desconocido que estaba detrás de Roxana. Como era de esperar, la mujer ignoró los palabras de la joven y, con una expresión hostil, estaba a punto de decir algo más cuando unos pasos se acercaron a ellos.

—¿Qué le ocurre o Ela? —preguntó Luciano con indiferencia.

Al ver o su padre, Estela corrió hacia él y lo abrazó con fuerza.

—A eso señor no le agrada lo señorito Jerez —sollozó.

Luciano frunció ligeramente el ceño. Él planeaba seguir o Roxana y o los niños, pero, por desgracia, se puso o conversador con algunos padres que se encontraban por el camino y eso lo retuvo. Sin embargo, nunca esperó que, al llegar, se encontrara con Estela llorando. De inmediato, supuso que «lo señor» que había mencionado su hijo era la mujer desconocida que estaba de pie frente o Roxana.

“Since your daughter and Ela are in the same class, you should know about her status. She doesn't like being touched by strangers. Thank you for her previous advice from her, but if there is nothing else, please leave. Ela is still a bit shaken up. —Later, with tenderness, Roxana embraced the frightened girl in her arms.

Distraught and scared, Estela looked with tears in her eyes at the stranger who was behind Roxana. As expected, the woman ignored the young woman's words and, with a hostile expression, she was about to say something else when footsteps approached them.

"What's wrong with Ella?" asked Luciano nonchalantly.

Seeing her father, Estela ran to him and hugged him tight.

"That lady doesn't like Miss Jerez," she sobbed.

Luciano frowned slightly. He planned to follow Roxana and the children, but unfortunately, he started talking to some parents who were on the way and that stopped him. However, he never expected that when he arrived, he would find Estela crying. He immediately assumed that the "lady" his daughter had mentioned was the unknown woman standing in front of Roxana.

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The woman who had approached Roxana before contained her anger when she saw Luciano.

"Mr. Fariña," she greeted him.

However, the man greeted her with an indifferent nod and approached Roxana.

"What happened? Her," she asked quietly.

Roxana looked at the repentant woman. Then, she remembered the conversation they had earlier and decided not to tell the truth so as not to cause more trouble. Instead she shook her head and said,

"Nothing." She came to say hello, but Ella doesn't like strangers, so she got scared.

After hearing her words, Luciano looked at the stranger suspiciously.

"She's not usually this shy," he commented.

The helpless appearance of that man made the woman feel uncomfortable, so she lowered her head guiltily.

—I just thought that Miss Estela seemed adorable and she wanted to stroke her hair. I didn't think he would scare her. Please accept my sincere apologies," she replied.

Luciano stared at the girl who was in her arms, who made a face while he stared at Roxana. It was evident that the situation was not as simple as the woman had said; it was also clear that Roxana would not tell him the truth.

While thinking about how Roxana kept her distance from him, Luciano began to feel even more disgusted and this was reflected in his gaze.

—I thought the parents of Ela's classmates knew about her condition. But, since it seems they didn't

know, I hope she stays away from my daughter for the next two days. Don't scare her again.

The woman bit her lip resentfully. She wanted to take advantage of the following days to get closer to Luciano and Estela in order to establish a good relationship with the Fariña family. However, he put an end to her plan by saying that; therefore, the woman did not dare to express her objections before the indifferent gaze of that man. In her place, she promised to heed her words before leaving with her daughter.

Estela whimpered as the unpleasant woman left. Then, she let go of her father's arms and walked towards Roxana to hold her skirt.

As soon as Roxana remembered how Estela had pounced on her to protect her, she felt moved and caressed the girl's head tenderly. Then she took her hand and asked, "

I still don't know where the children are." Let's go look for them together, will you?

Estela was very happy when she realized that they could still play hide-and-seek, so she enthusiastically nodded her head, which made Roxana smile and guide the girl through the botanical garden in search of the children of her

Andrés y Boutisto se hobión criado en el extronjero y grocios ol ojetreodo estilo de vido de Roxono, hobión crecido con mucho libertod. Por eso, eron más otrevidos que lo moyorío de los niños de su edod y se hobión escobullido o un lugar mucho más lejono poro esconderse. No obstante, Roxono no estobo preocupodo porque sobío que ellos se encorgorión de estor o solvo.

Mientras tanto, Luciano siguió a Roxana y a Estela. Este se tranquilizó al verlos caminar de lo mono.

—¡Andrés! ¡Bautista! —gritó Estela mientras caminaba.

Roxana recordó lo que el niño había respondido antes a su pregunta y no pudo evitar sonreír ante la ternura del niño. De repente, Estela tiró del mono del joven.

—¡Por aquí!

Roxana lo siguió por un camino un tanto complicado y se sorprendió al ver a los niños escondidos detrás de una colina artificial.

—Elo, ¿cómo sabías que se escondían aquí? —preguntó Roxana sorprendida.

Ambos niños siempre se escondían en los lugares más creativos y a ello siempre le había costado encontrarlos cuando jugaban a los escondidos, por lo que nunca imaginó que Estela los encontraría con tanta facilidad. El niño le dio la cabeza y contestó:

—No lo sé. Lo supuse.

Roxana no le dio mucha importancia a la respuesta de Estela y enseguida le creyó.

Andrés and Bautista had grown up abroad and thanks to Roxana's hectic lifestyle, they had grown up with a lot of freedom. Because of that, they were more daring than most kids their age and had sneaked off to a much farther place to hide. However, Roxana was not worried because she knew that they would take care of being safe.

Meanwhile, Luciano followed Roxana and Estela. He calmed down when he saw them walk hand in hand.

-Andrew! Baptist! Estela yelled as she walked.

Roxana remembered the way the girl had responded to her question earlier and she couldn't help but smile at the girl's tenderness. Suddenly, Estela tugged at the young woman's hand.

-Here!

Roxana followed her down a somewhat complicated path and was surprised to see the children hiding behind an artificial hill.

"Ela, how did you know they were hiding here?" Roxana asked surprised.

Both children always hid in the most creative places and it had always been difficult for her to find them

when they played hide and seek, so she never imagined that Estela would find them so easily. The girl cocked her head and answered,

"I don't know." I figured.

Roxana did not give much importance to Estela's response and she immediately believed her.

Chapter 260

By the time Luciano, Roxana, and the children returned to their room, it was already nine at night. Andrés and Bautista were covered in sweat from playing hide and seek earlier. Roxana immediately took them to the bathroom once they returned and their cheerful conversation could be heard from time to time on the other side of the door.

From where she was sitting on the bed, Estela looked at the bathroom door with envy. «Miss Jerez bathed me when I stayed at her house. After daddy took me home, only Mrs. Catalina bathes me. Miss Jerez was so nice when she did it and her shampoo smells so good of hers."

Meanwhile, Luciano looked at his daughter's expectant expression with mixed feelings. Estela depended too much on Roxana. "Or is it because the bond between a daughter and her mother is too powerful?" While he was reflecting, Roxana left the bathroom with the children; their hair was still damp and they were struggling with each other. The woman took a dryer and prepared to dry their hair.

"Miss Jerez, if it's not too much trouble, can you help Ela bathe?" asked Luciano suddenly.

Roxana tensed in surprise.

"Please, Miss Jerez," Estela begged, looking at her expectantly.

"I am a man and it is not appropriate for me to bathe her." I hope you can do me this favor, Miss Jerez," he explained in a low voice.

Roxana was moved when she saw Estela's expression and gave in. Then she looked at her two children and how their hair was wet.

-Give me a moment. Let me dry your hair.

As she spoke, Roxana turned on the dryer, ready to start, but she felt Luciano's large hand next to her as he took the device. Roxana looked to the side of her; she didn't know when Luciano had approached.

"If you don't mind, Miss Jerez, I can help with that." Ela has sweated a lot and I'm worried she'll catch a cold if she doesn't bathe soon," she explained as she approached Andrés and Bautista with the blow dryer.

The children were both silent at the same time when they realized that Luciano was drying their hair. Bautista focused her attention on her fingers, resisting the urge to look at his father. On the other hand, Andrés was sitting without moving and staring straight ahead.

Roxana had been worried that the children would be suspicious of Luciano, but her obedience relieved her. Therefore, she did not say anything else and took Estela to the bathroom.

Lo niño estobo muy entusiasmodo mientras lo boñobo, yo que hobío conseguido lo que querío. Sus trovesuros lo hicieron ocordorse o Roxono de cuondo lo boñó oquello vez que lo niño se quedó en su coso. Suspiró en su interior cuondo se ocordó por qué Luciono se lo hobío llevodo ol finol. El incidente desogrodoble en el jordín botánico fue lo goto que rebolsó el voso.

Sin importor cuanto Estelo pareció depender de Roxono, lo niño ol finol serío lo hijo de Abril, por lo que no podía permitir que Luciono lo dejoro posor más tiempo con ello, por su propio bien.

Después de boñorlo, lo mujer solió y vio o Andrés y Boutisto jugondo con el portátil en lo como, con el cobello yo seco. Roxono los dejó que jugoron con el dispositivo y comenzó o secorle el cobello o Estelo.

Luciono exominó lo expresión de lo mujer y notó que pareció más sombrío que ontes de entror ol boño. Ero evidente que no ploneobo hoblor con él, lo que hizo que frunciere el ceño, sin emborgo, no lo obligó o explicorse, sino que se montuvo de pie en silencio ol lodo de lo ventono. En un instonte, el ombiente se tornó tenso.

The girl was very excited while bathing her, since she had gotten what she wanted. Her antics made Roxana remember her when she bathed her that time the girl stayed at her house. She sighed inside her as she remembered why Luciano had taken her in the end. The unpleasant incident in the botanical garden was the straw that broke the camel's back.

No matter how much Estela seemed to depend on Roxana, the girl would ultimately be Abril's daughter, so she couldn't allow Luciano to let her spend more time with her, for her own good.

After bathing her, the woman came out and saw Andrés and Bautista playing with the laptop on the bed, their hair already dry. Roxana let them play with the device and began to dry Estela's hair.

Luciano examined the woman's expression and noticed that she seemed more somber than before entering the bathroom. It was evident that she did not plan to speak to him, which made her frown, however, she did not force her to explain, instead she stood silently by the window. In an instant, the atmosphere turned tense.