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"Sad?!" She chuckled. "No Honey, I'm not."

"It's not good to tell lies, Mommy."

"I have you. So why would I be sad?"

"I don't know." She shrugged with her tiny shoulders.

"Someone made you sad."

"I'm not sad, my love." She caressed her daughter's rosy cheeks. "I might be a little tired from work but I'm not sad. I have no reason to."

"Okay, I know what will make you happy."

"Really?" Vicky folded her arms. "What is it?"

"I drew a picture of us. It's in my school bag."

"Interesting."

Sophie nodded. "It's very pretty. My teacher said I did an excellent job."

"No doubt you did. My baby is very smart and I love her so much." She kissed Sophie on her forehead, making the little girl giggle.

"What's the picture about?"

"A family tree."

"Daddy, Mommy, Sophie, and baby brother."

The smile on Victoria's face slowly faded.

"But it's just me and you, remember?"

"I know." She mumbled.

"Then how did Daddy and Baby brother get into the picture?"

She shrugged.

Victoria sighed. In as much as her daughter was really smart and the fact that she wouldn't hesitate to give her anything she would ever ask for, She wished her little daughter had it all. A happy family with a very loving father in the picture.

Even though her elder brother, Gabriel, tries to play that role perfectly whenever he is around, She knew it wouldn't suffice for having a real loving and caring father who was actively involved in one's life.

"I know you told me Daddy is dead."

Vicky's heart almost flew out of her chest at the mention of her daughter's statement. She had no idea if it was guilt from the fact that she saw him earlier or the fact that Sophie brought the 'Daddy topic' today which happened to be the same day he chose to show up again in her life.

"I know you told me that he's no more. But I know I'll still have a family. I don't know how." She shrugged again. "But I think it will happen."

"Trina is a big sister. She tells me of how much she cares for her baby sister. I think it's cool. I want to be a big sister too. But I want a baby brother." She smiled, waiting for her mom to say something.

Victoria sighed, looking deep into her daughter's eyes. "You know that I love you, right?"

Sophie nodded. "I love you too mama."

Vicky leaned closer to her and placed a deep kiss on her forehead.

"I know life isn't perfect, but as your mom, I promise that I'm going to love you beyond words and give you Everything you ever think of."

"I love you, Mommy."

"I love you too sweetheart." She returned her daughter's hug.

Vicky made some food for herself and her daughter. They ate, and watched tv for a bit after which Vicky helped her daughter with her homework.

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"Hi Sis," Lara smiled the moment Vicky opened the door for her to come in.

The duo exchanged a hug after Vicky shut the door.

"Where's my baby?" She asked after Sophie.

"In the living room. So good to see you, Sis. Gabriel said he would get you to come to check up on me but I didn't think you would actually come."

"Oh, come on. You know how possessive I am about you and Sophie. You don't expect me to hear that and don't stop by."

Vicky sighed. "Thank you."

"Aunt Lara!!!" That happy and charming voice came through.

"My loveeeeeee." She picked the little girl up and embraced

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her in a warm hug after which she showered her face with kisses, making her giggle.

Victoria smiled as she stood aside and watched the duo.

"I miss you, Aunt Lara."

"I miss you too, my love."

"Have you been a good girl to your mom?"

"Yes!" She nodded.

"I got you something." Lara handed the gift bag she was holding to the little girl.

"Thank you, Auntie."

After one final hug, Sophie made her way to the living room with her gift bag.

"Thank you for the gift, Lara. You hardly come here without anything for Sophie."

"It's nothing, Sis. I love that little girl as much as I love you and I would do anything for you both."

"Thank you." She smiled. "It warmed her heart to know that her brother was with a very good woman."

"You want something to eat?"

"No, I'm fine. We will talk over a glass of wine."

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"So sorry about today. Do you still feel nervous?" Lara said the moment they settled on the couch in the living room.

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Sophie was on the carpet rug, playing with the new toy Lara got her

"I was but now I don't know."

"Gabriel already told me about the securities and that has calmed me a little."

"I'm just still scared."

"About what?"

Victoria sighed. "He's.....Oscar can be really dangerous. If he wants something, there's actually no one that can stop him from getting it."

"You think he's going to come back for you? He's the one who betrayed you, remember?"

"That's what confusing me."

"He looked at me like someone who ruined us and when in the other way around, he and his family are the ones who ruined me. It's hard to believe that he's making me look like a bad person."

"I feel there's more to this."

"I don't think so!"

"Why?"

"He's just a narcissist. He wants things to go his way."

"Did he look remorseful or some sort?"

"He was really shocked to see me. I don't know why he expected me to embrace him. I saw pain and betrayal in his

eyes. He deserved every form of pain he would ever have but I don't understand the Betrayal when he was the one who betrayed me."

"Then he got really jealous, seeing me with my Client, and really wanted to cause a riot."

"Your client is a male?"

"Yes!"

"I see,"

Vicky arched her brow at Lara.

"This shows he's very jealous and that he still likes you."

"Like me? No?" Vicky shook her head. "That can't be possible."

"How can you like someone and you bear to see that person in pain? He literally ruined me, and deprived me of my job, house, and literally everything on the same day. Maybe if not for my brother, Sophie and I would be dead by now."

"I understand you. He did really terrible stuff to you. But from all you said, I think he still likes you."

"I don't believe so. I just want him to stay the hell away from me."

"Do you still feel something for him?"

"What?!"

"Be sincere."

"What are you saying, Lara? How would you even think that?"

Oscar literally humiliated me and ruined everything I had."

"I understand you, Sis. Please don't get angry about my choice of words. I'm only saying this based on your reaction when you were saying how you feel."

"You know, sometimes, we can't help with the way our heart feels when it comes to the person we love no matter how much they've hurt us."

"Wait," She interrupted before Vicky could say anything.

"Did you guys by any way make any contact?"

"Not really. He touched me against my will."

"Did you feel anything? Like those things you felt in the past?"

Victoria stared in disbelief as she thought back to her encounter with Oscar when he held her.

"I....I....don't know.....I was really nervous."

"Your cheeks are turning red."

"Lara please....."

"Oh, sis. I'm not trying to make you feel uncomfortable. I just want to see the reality of how things are. If you told your brother you still feel some kind of things for him, I'm sure he would be brutal to you and I'm sure it would also be something you will find really hard to come to terms with."

"I don't mean to startle you. I just like knowing the realities of situations."

"I really don't care about him. God knows I don't give a fuck about him. I just want him away from my life forever and

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there's no way in hell I'm going to allow him to come close to my daughter. With all that he and his family put me through, there's no way I'm gonna reunite with him."

"Will you ever give him some attention if he comes to you?"

"Sorry If I'm pushing your sensitive buttons. Before I came across your brother, I'd been with really terrible guys. Whenever they want to reconcile with me, they come with manipulating talks, giving reasons why they acted douche."

"There's nothing Oscar would say that would justify his brutality towards me. He's a bastard for all I care and I don't want him anywhere near me or my daughter."

"Mama, who is Oscar?" Sophie's curious voice came through as she approached her mommy.



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