

Chapter 73

Victoria went back to work and in about 30 minutes, she decided to call it a day. She started gathering her stuff, getting ready to leave the office.

The ride to Vicky's home was quiet and a bit tense, with her mind going through the possibilities of what was going to happen tonight.

After what felt like forever, Vicky arrived at her house, pulled up in the driveway, and got out of the car with her handbag and a little gift bag for her daughter.

Getting into the living room, she was welcomed by Gracie.

"How was your day, Ma'am?"

"Fine, thanks." She responded with a small smile, placing her handbag on the couch by the door. She could see her daughter at a distance with the little girl's attention on the TV.

"And yours? Was Sophie good today?" She asked, taking a glance at her daughter. As much as Victoria was trying to hide her pain, it felt so weird as she was used to her daughter welcoming her with hugs every time she came back from work.

"Yes, ma'am. She ate really well too."

"I wanted her to watch cartoons for a bit before I tuck her in."

"Don't worry, I will tuck her in tonight," Vicky said.

Gracie nodded and went to continue with the chore she was doing.

Vicky took off her heels, putting it aside. Then she approached her daughter where the little girl was seated with the gift bag.

"Hi, baby." Vicky leaned closer to Sophie and placed a kiss on her forehead before taking a seat beside her.

Usually, Sophie would kiss her mother back but she didn't do that this time around. In as much as it saddened Vicky, she was a bit grateful that her daughter had her attention on her and not on the cartoon that was playing on the TV.

"Are you still mad at me?" Vicky asked even though it was very obvious.

Sophie nodded.

Vicky sighed. She took one of Sophie's tiny hands and placed a kiss on it.

"I missed you, my love. You wouldn't even talk to me or kiss me this morning and that made me so sad throughout the day."

"I'm so sorry for everything, sweetheart. I admit that Mama was wrong and I promise that I am going to make it up to you."

"I'm sorry, mama." Sophie's voice came out as a whisper and Vicky almost got teary as that was the first kind word her daughter had said to her in 24 hours.

"You did nothing wrong, my love," Vicky said, caressing her cheek.

"Gracie said I was harsh to you which is not good of me. She said I made you cry. I'm

sorry Mama."

"Come here," She pulled Sophie closer to her and embraced her in a warm hug.

"My baby." She kissed her cheek, hugging her tighter.

She smiled when Sophie hugged her back.

The duo stayed in that position for a while, allowing their bodies to feel each other's warmth.

"Please don't ever stay mad at mommy again, okay?" She said when they pulled away from the hug.

Sophie nodded.

"I love you, mommy."

Vicky smiled, "I love you too, my baby" she caressed her cheek.

"You want to meet your Daddy?" Vicky asked, staring at her daughter intently.

"We saw him at the airport?"

Vicky nodded.

Sophie's expression changed to that of a sad one. "He seemed really sad."

"Will..." she was saying then stopped.

"Will Daddy like us?"

Vicky's lips curved into a small smile. "He will, sweetheart."

"He may be mad at me for keeping you away but I am sure it is going to be for a while and then he will come around."

"Your Dad has always been cool with you. I'm sure he loves you and I know he can't wait to bond with you."

Vicky's words calmed Sophie and she smiled. "Will he read me bedtime stories?"

"I am sure he wouldn't mind."

"I can't wait to meet, Daddy."

"Me too, my love. We will be traveling to see him this weekend."

"I feel excited." Sophie grinned, making Vicky happier.

"He is going to be present for your birthday."

"That will be so cool and we will take a family picture. I will put it in the frame beside my bed."

Vicky chuckled at her daughter. She was happy because Sophie was happy. "You have everything all planned, don't you?"

Sophie smiled sheepishly.

"I got you a present."

"What is it?" The little girl smiled even bigger.

With her heart beating a bit faster than usual, Vicky picked up the gift bag and handed it to her daughter.

"Thank you, Mommy." She said immediately she collected it and dug into the bag to see what it contained.

Vicky was hoping her daughter was going to reach for the bigger item first but she reached for the smaller item. It was a small frame with a picture on it.

She saw Sophie looking curiously at the frame before she asked her for help. "Is this an artwork?" She frowned at Vicky.

Vicky felt at ease immediately as a chuckle escaped her lips.

"Indeed! Your Dad created the artwork in me."

Sophie turned her attention to the Frame again, looking at it curiously. "But I don't know what it is."

"Maybe you should check the second present. It might give you a clue of what it is."

Sophie obeyed. She carefully put the frame aside and then brought out the other item in the bag. It was a T-shirt of her size and in her favorite color, pink. But it was the words on the face of the shirt that caught her attention.

"I am going to be a big sister?"

Victoria saw the glow in her daughter's eyes.

She smiled, "Yes baby."

Sophie looked down at her mother's stomach.

"You don't have a big belly." Victoria chuckled, caressing her daughter's cheek.

"That's because the baby is tiny and still growing."

She smiled, "A baby brother?"

Vicky returned the smile, "We don't know the gender yet. But it could be a girl too. Would you still be happy if it was a girl?"

Sophie nodded. "I promise to be a good big sister. I will take care of my baby sibling and share my snacks and toys with my baby sibling."

"I love you so much, Sophie." She stared down at her daughter with nothing but love and affection in her eyes. "I do not doubt that you will be an amazing big sister."

"I love you too, mommy."

Vicky felt her heart was going to burst with so much pride when Sophie leaned closer to her and kissed her belly.

"Can I wear this to school tomorrow?" She smiled, staring at the shirt. The words in it read 'Big Sister.'

"Yes, baby."

She picked up the frame and Vicky explained to her "This is a picture of your sibling in mommy's belly. This is our precious little one but it's still very tiny."

"When will my baby brother get here?" She smiled looking into her mother's eyes.

"You are really excited. Aren't you?"

"I am very happy."

"In about 7 months."

The smile on her face was slowly replaced with a frown.

"Why that face?"

"It is a long time, isn't it?"

"Not really but you will have the opportunity to see your baby grow in mommy's belly. You will feel it move and kick and you can always talk to it and shower it with kisses."

She placed her hand on her mother's belly.

Victoria laughed, seeing the eagerness in her daughter's eyes.

"Not yet, my love. But you will be able to feel it move very soon."

Sophie smiled, nodding.

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The duo talked some more after which Vicky took her daughter to her room, read her bedtime stories, and tucked her in.

Victoria eventually returned to her bedroom in a lighter and happier mood. She went straight to the bathroom for a shower and changed into her nightwear.

Thinking of what to have for dinner, the sound of her phone ringing brought her out of her thoughts.

Coming face to face with the caller ID, She smiled, and then answered the call. "Hi, Sis,"

"Hi love, You sound really cheerful tonight. Whatever it is, I am glad you are happy."

Vicky chuckled, "How are you?"

"I'm doing good. What about you? How are Sophie and the baby?"

Vicky smiled. "Weird, but I have to get used to the fact that I have two kids now and it is not just Sophie."

"Okay?! Is there anything I am missing?" She asked hopefully.

"I've decided to keep the baby."

"Are you for real?" She could hear the relief in Lara's voice, making her smile.

"Yes,"

"I wish I was there to hug you right now. I am so happy, Vee. No doubt you have made the right decision."

"Thank you, I am happy too." She smiled, caressing her belly with her free hand.

"How about Sophie? You told her already?"

"Yes, and she is really excited about it. She wished the baby was here already. She couldn't stop talking about how she can't wait to spoil her baby sibling."

"Her happiness has motivated me to even want to be a better mother to both of them."

"As it should. You have been so good with Sophie. I have no doubt that you will do amazing with this little one."

"Thank you."

"I also took up the offer to go on the business trip. I will be taking Sophie with me. The plan is to get a chance to talk to Oscar and hopefully, he doesn't freak out."

"I am so happy to hear all of these, Vee. I'm glad to know you are finally taking this bold step."

"I want you to worry less because everything is going to be fine. There is no way Oscar is going to refuse you, not even now that you are expecting his second child."

"Remove your mind from any negative thoughts and you will see that everything will go better than expected."

"I am so happy for you and proud of you. I wish I could hug you right now."

Vicky smiled. "Thank you, Lara. We can hang out tomorrow if you are not busy."

"Yes, I will come to the house after work tomorrow."

"I will be expecting you. How is Gabriel?"

"Gabe is fine. He is being a bit stubborn about everything but he is fine."

"He stepped out to get a few things at the store but he will be back soon."

"I miss him. I never imagined a day would come that I would go days without talking to him."

"It is just for the meantime, Sis. I know he misses you too. But I am sure he is going to come around."

"I hope so," Vee whispered.

"Thank you for being there for him. It means a lot to me."

"You and Gabriel mean so much to me so I am going to do whatever I can to protect you both."

"Oh, looks like your brother just pulled up."

"Okay, I will leave you both to make Babies!"

"Vee!" Lara groaned but Victoria could picture her smiling which was exactly what she was doing.

"Sophie had always been a good girl. Don't you think it is high time you rewarded her with a baby cousin?"

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"I will keep that in mind"

"That's good to hear."

"I got to go. See you tomorrow and kisses to my babies."

"Sure, Goodnight, Sis." She said, ending the call.

Victoria was so excited that she was almost not hungry but because she had a very precious person who relied on her for growth, She knew she had to eat something.

Vicky exited her room and proceeded to the kitchen. She took out ingredients and made herself some mac and cheese since that was what she was craving.

She retired to her room after 15 minutes of occupying herself with the TV, She took her medications and crawled into bed.

Cuddled under her duvet and surfing through her phone, Vicky found herself on her browser, putting Oscar's name in the search box and clicking the search button. She fought a smile and her hand instantly caressed her belly as soon as his pictures came up.



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