### Please Take Me Home Daddy by Mona Surrey

# **Chapter 16**

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Laura's eves widened in disbelief.

Did this mean she had a home now?

Laura nervously clutched the hem of her dress and spoke with uncertainty. "Although I'm not your child, you're still bringing me to meet my uncle?"

Antonio's eyebrows twitched faintly, barely noticeable, as he averted his gaze with a touch of guilt. "Yes, your uncle will give you a place to live. You're no longer an orphan."

Laura gazed at him blankly, unable to utter a word.

Grace, on the other hand, cried with tears of joy and embraced her tightly. "Lala, this is great! You've finally found yourself a home. Make sure to take good care of yourself when

this time. Please, please don't come back here again!"

Laura blinked, still unable to understand the situation.

"I now have a family where I can see Mr. Smith?" she thought.

you go back

Laura's eyes suddenly brightened with excitement, and she couldn't suppress a delighted smile. Yet, she swiftly concealed it, anxious that Antonio might perceive her as complacent.

Nevertheless, she was still happy.

Antonio swept his cold gaze over her, initially not intending to make eye contact. However, a sudden warmth bloomed in his heart as he witnessed her reaction, and the tension instantly dissipated.

It felt as if the snow had melted and spring had arrived, with flowers blooming in abundance.

Jasper and the others wore solemn expressions but couldn't say much, given their father's decision. They could only prepare to welcome their half–sister into their home.

Zayn quietly departed without a word.

No one noticed him when he left.

The boys trailed behind him and felt sorry for him when they saw him like this. "Boss, since you like Laura so much, why don't you stop her from leaving? Why not stay by her side until she leaves?"

Another boy scratched his head and said, "That's right. You can't just show up whenever Laura gets into trouble and leave once she's fine. You two are good friends, so you should... share good food

get beaten up together."

and

Another one of Zayn's companions rolled his eyes. "It's called sharing joys and sorrows and

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enduring hardships together. Can you not spout nonsense, you uncultured idiot?"

With a trace of hostility in his eyes, Zayn sat on the slide gloomily. "All of you, leave. Stop lingering around me. It's annoying."

The young boys' expressions changed in fear, and they dared not say another word. They quickly turned around and left.

Inside, Laura remained lost in a daze.

She turned around and glanced into the classroom. Jasper's occasional glances in her direction and her two other brothers, who seemed uninterested in her presence, made her feel somewhat disheartened.

"Where is Zayn?" she asked.

Grace thought about it and shook her head, saying, "I have no idea. That brat might have gone somewhere to sulk. When your biological mother took you away last time, he didn't eat for days but got over it after a **while**."

Laura frowned as she turned around and ran outside.

Grace immediately called out after her, 'Lala! Where are you going?"

Putting down his phone, Jasper looked at Laura's retreating figure gloomily. He then took long strides and went after **her**.

Laura noticed Zayn sitting on the slide.

Seated solitarily on the slide platform, he gazed contemplatively into the distance. The sunlight enveloped his entire form, creating a fuzzy golden halo around him.

He looked warm and lonely at the same time.

She felt inexplicably sad. "Zayn."

Zayn's body stiffened as he heard her gentle voice. He glanced sideways. "What are you doing

here?"

Laura frowned.

She didn't know why Zayn always made a fuss when she had to leave. Softly, she uttered, "I want to thank you. Thank you for saving me. You were so cool just now, just like Ultraman."

Zayn's brows twitched as his irritation grew. "What bullshit. If only I really were Ultraman."

She sighed at his words. "Don't curse, or Ms. Mitchell will scold you again."

Zayn furrowed his brows and turned around, looking down at her from the higher platform, his tone irritable. "I'm not afraid of her scolding! I'm not afraid of anything. I fear nothing in the

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word!"

Laura said, "Then why didn't you bid me goodbye? Why do you always hide away whenever we had. to part?"

Zayn paused, stumped by her question, and his face fell..

eyes.

It felt as if a tiny part of his heart had collapsed, completely crumbling away in his "It's none of your business," he said before turning away. "I don't want to bid you farewell."

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# **Chapter 17**

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Laura lowered her eyes in disappointment, looked at Zayn, and left without saying anything.

Zayn stopped breathing momentarily and saw her walking toward the orphanage with her short legs.

He suddenly slid down the stairs. "Wait!"

Laura paused, looked back at him, and was suddenly held in Zayn's arms.

She was stunned and asked, "Zayn?"

This was the first time Zayn had hugged her.

Zayn shut his eyes. A lump formed in his throat, and he uttered with much difficulty, "Listen to me. The life of rich people is not as easy as you imagined. Although they're adopting you, they may not really care about you. You have to take good care of yourself. If someone bullies you, you will fight back according to what I taught you. Learn what they want you to learn. You should learn the best skills such as piano, dance, French, and everything they want you to learn. You are different from your mother. You can live a better life than your mother because you are smart. When you grow up and become strong, there is no need to care about whether the people around you love us or not. We don't have to rely on them, okay?"

Laura was befuddled but remembered everything he said.

But she suddenly felt sad again. She reached out and hugged him. "Will we meet again?"

She liked Zayn the most.

Zayn frowned, and there seemed to be a surge of mist in his eyes. He nodded dully. "Yes. I will try my best to work hard. Let's meet at the top."

Laura looked up at him and asked, "How far is the top?"

Zayn was stunned and quickly turned his head away. "Go find your brother."

He didn't answer.

Laura sniffled and finally hugged Zayn tightly in reluctance.

She didn't say anything but held his thin body tightly.

Zayn's lips were trembling and buried in her neck. Then, he pushed her away cruelly.

"Go!"

Tears streamed down her face. Laura didn't say anything more and turned around to leave.

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Jasper stood in the corner and saw that scene.

Laura didn't look back because she was crying.

Therefore, she didn't see Zayn watching her cry silently.

He snorted coldly and thought, "Look at this. I've said this before. He's the most dangerous man. that will stop Laura from progressing in life in the future. He's such an unpleasant kid. Fortunately, he's just an orphan. We'll never see him again."

After going through the procedures, Laura said goodbye to everyone in Grace's arms.

At the farewell ceremony, Zayn still didn't show up.

Holding her small package, Laura followed Jasper and looked back at the orphanage.

Grace waved at her with tears in her eyes and said, "Lala! Don't come back!"

She looked at the four tall figures with tears in her eyes and was a little dazed, thinking, "Am I really not coming back?"

She was reluctant to leave. In the end, she still didn't see Zayn seeing her off.

Zayn was huddled in the corner, blankly watching Laura get into the extremely beautiful Maybach MPV and disappear from his sight.

His whole heart felt empty, and he looked around,

Laura was no longer by his side.

The girl who timidly poked her head out from the crowd and loved to cry from the moment she saw him was no longer by his side.

Laura who would secretly poke his palm and smile at him was no longer by his side..

Driven to distraction, he turned around.

Suddenly, there was the sound of a car braking at the door of the orphanage.

-Zayn looked back in surprise, but it was not the MPV.

It was a Rolls-Royce.

Grace was stunned. She saw two bodyguards getting out of the luxury car and another old man in traditional clothes walking into the orphanage step by step with a crutch.

Zayn's face changed slightly, and he clenched his fists vigilantly.

Grace stepped forward and asked, "Who are you looking for?"

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The old man, Nathan Graham, glanced at Zayn and said, "I'm here to pick Zay grandson."

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Everyone's faces changed, and they looked at Zayn'in unison.

Zayn's eyes were full of hostility.

He was calm and relaxed.

Sparks flew when they looked at each other.

The old man looked him up and down critically. "You are good–looking. You're tall and well- proportioned. Come with me. From now on, you will be the heir of my Graham Group. You can have whatever you want."

Zayn sneered and turned to leave.

Suddenly, he stopped and glanced at Nathan coldly. "Do you know the Yale family and the Smith family?"

Nathan said coldly, "The Smith family and the Yale family? Which are you referring to?"

Zayn said, "The biggest one."

Nathan's eyes gleamed. Nathan's bodyguard beside him tentatively said, "Mr. Zayn Graham should be referring to the Smith family, which Antonio belongs to, and the Yale family, which has a marriage arrangement with him."

Nathan raised his eyebrows and nodded. "How could I not know them? We are friends. Why do ask this?"

They were the top three families of Hestrya.

Zayn thought for a while, then said to Nathan, "If I go back with you, will it be possible for me to meet the children of the Smith family and the Yale family?"

Nathan was confused. "That's for sure. I will host a banquet for you in person, and then you can meet all the children in our circle. You will be the Graham family's only grandson."

Zayn's eyes darkened. "You said I could have everything I want."

Nathan was impatient. "Well, I'll buy you the stars, the island, and all the boats. Can we go now?"

Zayn raised his head proudly. "I just want the daughter of the Smith family."

Nathan was speechless, thinking "He wants a person?"

He finally began to look at Zayn seriously, thinking, "This grandson of mine is quite interesting. He's completely different from that unsavory son of mine. This grandson resembles me."

you

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He raised his eyebrows with great interest. "If the Smith family is interested, there's certainly no problem with that. You can raise or marry anyone you want."

Zayn said without hesitation, "Get in the car."

Nathan's mouth twitched, and he exchanged glances with his bodyguard, looking at Zayn's aloof figure from behind.

Nathan thought, "But the Smith family doesn't have a daughter. They only have three male descendants, don't they?"

Laura sat in the car and looked at the scenery blankly.

Antonio sat opposite her and looked at her. "Don't you have anything to ask me?"

He thought, "Doesn't she want to say anything when I adopted her after much hesitation and repeatedly reconsidering my decision?"

Laura came back to her senses and shook her head. "No.",

She thought, "Mom said not to ask questions I shouldn't."

She was not interested in it either.

Antonio frowned. "I brought you back not because you are my daughter but because I know your uncle, your mom's brother."

Jasper chimed in, "Your mom has four brothers and one sister. Your mom's sister is my mom. I don't know if you know that."

Laura thought for a while and remembered the name her mother would say every time she got drunk.

Laura thought, "Winnie."

She pursed her lips. "I know."

Jasper said sarcastically, "I guess your mom must've frequently scolded my mom."

Laura was stunned and shook her head. "Mom scolded her sometimes, but she just cries most of the time."

Antonio's eyes turned cold. "Cry?"

Laura said in a soft voice, "She calls out the name 'Winnie' when she cries."

There was an instant silence in the car.

Laura felt cold and shrank her neck. "Did I say something wrong?"

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The eldest son of the Smith family, Xander Smith, broke the silence and said, "Anyway, your mom's relationship with your aunt is not very good. You should also know that your mom attempted to kill your aunt but failed, so you can't appear in front of your aunt because you are your mom's daughter, and that itself is a mistake. Do you understand?"

The second son of the Smith family, Everett Smith, snorted and said, "In other words, if you dare to appear in front of our mother, we will directly abandon you."

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Laura trembled with fear and nodded quickly. "Okay! I won't show up in front of Mrs. Smith!"

After saying that, she hurriedly looked outside to hide her panic.

Laura knew that no one liked her.

Even her mother always said that her birth was a mistake.

She had long been used to it.

Laura quietly looked out of the window and continued to be lost in her thoughts.

Suddenly, **a** card was placed in front of her.

Laura was startled for a moment before she looked in the direction the card was handed over and saw Antonio. She was perplexed.

Antonio's eyes darkened. "There are 400 thousand dollars in the card, which is your pocket money. Take this money and buy some clothes for yourself. You can get the money from me again in two months, which means your pocket money is 200 thousand dollars a month. If you think it is not enough, let me know right now."

"He said 200 thousand dollars a month. How much is 200 thousand dollars? Laura's head was buzzing as she wondered. Then she asked, "How many packets of dried pasta can I buy with this money?"

Jasper chuckled and mocked Laura, saying, "You only care about your dried pasta! This money could buy several houses of dried pasta! Poor people."

Laura was flattered. She gasped and waved her hand frantically. "Mr. Smith, this is too much money! I can't take it!"

She thought, "Mommy used to be angry with me for the sake of 1 dollar, but Mr. Smith is giving me money that is worth several houses of dried pasta. I can't take it!"

Antonio couldn't be bothered to deal with Laura, so he handed the card to Jasper. "Take care of it. You take this money to buy her some clothes and throw away all the second—hand clothes she brought from the orphanage. Don't let her live in Louis' house looking poor and shabby."

Jasper was dumbfounded. "Why me?"

Everett giggled and teased Jasper, "Jasper, aren't you the closest to this new little girl among us? You even secretly read the greeting card she gave you just now. Who else is responsible for her if not you?"

Jasper was agitated. "Who said I read her shabby greeting card? I didn't even look at that shabby thing. I will feed it to the paper shredder today!"

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As Jasper said that, he stared at Laura cautiously. "Don't listen to him. I don't like your shabby greeting card, and I didn't read it at all!"

Laura blinked in a daze. "If he doesn't like it, he doesn't like it. Why does he have to emphasize it to me once more?" she wondered.

Laura nodded obediently and said, "Okay, Jasper. I won't believe what Everett said. I don't believe it

at all!"

Jasper was rendered speechless.

Everett laughed so much that his body was rocking back and forth. "Hahaha! Jasper, it seems that you are going to have lots of fun in the time to come! Hahaha!"

Antonio seemingly curled his lips into a faint smile and looked out of the window. "Hork Mall is here. You bring her to go in there and do some shopping. I will send the bodyguard to you later. As for what to buy, you can

see to it, but the money is for her, and you are not allowed to spend it on yourself," he reminded Jasper.

Jasper jumped out of the car angrily. "Who cares about that small sum of money? Let's go!"

With her short little lere

Laura followed behind Jasper clumsily. She politely waved to the others in the car and said, "Goodbye, Mr. Smith! Goodbye, Xander and Everett! Thank you!"

Then, the door closed, and the car drove off.

Jasper urged Laura impatiently and complained, "I really don't get why I have to handle such a trivial matter of yours. Because of this nonsense, I am stuck here with you and can't even enjoy the holiday!"

Laura's expression changed suddenly. She lowered her head apologetically, and her innocent face was full of fear. "I'm sorry, Jasper. I've caused you trouble. Why don't you go home? I can do it myself."

As Laura looked as if she was about to cry, Jasper was taken aback and smacked his lips. "Come on! As far as your intelligence is concerned, you are most probably just going to get yourself lost!"

Then, he turned around and walked into the mall. "Come with me!"

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Laura hurriedly followed Jasper with her short legs.

The moment she stepped in, the shopping mall on the television instantly came into her view. Her eyes lit up in a flash and her mouth opened wide in astonishment.

"Is this the place that sells clothes?" she wondered.

The places where Laura used to buy clothes with her mother were all narrow alleys, which were crowded with people and not as fancy.

"It's so beautiful here! Even the floor reflects my figure!" she exclaimed inwardly.

Laura stared at her reflection in a daze. Then, she noticed her old and dirty little shoes and looked toward Jasper, feeling inferior. She subconsciously stayed a little further away from him.

Jasper found that Laura didn't catch up. He turned his head and saw Laura walking cautiously with her head down, like a listless little puppy. Her aura was rather depressing.

Jasper was so exasperated at Laura's undoing that he grabbed her and questioned, "What are you doing?"

#### Laura was so W

that she shrank back a little. She thought Jasper was going to hit her, so she hurriedly raised her hand. "Mommy told me to keep a distance from her whenever we were outside, or I would embarrass her. I'm sorry, Jasper! I shouldn't stay so close to you!" she said with a trembling voice.

Jasper, who was furious and wanted to scold Laura for walking too slowly, changed his expression slightly when he heard that. "Your mom didn't let you walk next to her?"

Jasper was never let out of his mother's sight when he was a small child. "Why did her mom treat her like that?" he wondered.

Laura was shivering. She was scared that she might get beaten up. "I'm sorry, Jasper. Please tell me the rules, and I shall obey them. Please tell me once more."

Jasper's heart skipped a beat. He couldn't bring himself to reprimand Laura. Instead, he said angrily, "The rule is that you must stay by my side, stay close to me at all times, and don't stay out of my sight. Do you hear me?"

"Yes." Laura trembled a little.

Jasper snorted...

Laura was worried that Jasper might still be angry, so she tugged at his clothes timidly and said, "I'm sorry, Jasper. I didn't know. I just thought I was too dirty to walk by your side."

Jasper found it absurd and tilted his head. "What has your mom been saying to you all this time?

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Why do you feel so inferior?"

When it came to her mother, Laura felt a little sad. She muttered, "Mommy said that I was a failure, and people who were failures didn't deserve to live well."

Jasper was stunned for a moment, and his rage disappeared instantly. He thought, "She has been growing up under such treatment by her mom? Mommy praised me, as well as Xander and Everett, 800 times a day, saying I'm good–looking, smart, and charismatic. But Laura's mom..."

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As Jasper didn't say anything, Laura was getting more uneasy. She tugged at his clothes timidly and said, "Don't be angry, Jasper. I won't do it again."

Jasper's lips twitched. He awkwardly glanced at Laura's plump little hand and turned his head. coldly. "I'm not angry."

Laura breathed a sigh of relief. "I'm glad you are not angry. I promise I won't leave you this time!"

Jasper shot her a glance and continued to walk forward.

Laura barely caught up with him with her short little legs.

Jasper was walking fast, and Laura was struggling to keep up with her short legs.

As Jasper noticed it, he pretended to slow down his pace unintentionally.

Laura quickly ran over to Jasper. She took a glimpse at him secretly and then walked side by side with him.

Meanwhile, the passersby spotted Laura and exclaimed, "Oh my gosh! This little girl is so cute."

"Her brother is handsome, too. These siblings are so good–looking!"

"They look so much alike!"

"Damn it! You're trying to get me to give birth to a daughter again. How can she be so beautiful?" "Why do I think this little girl looks a bit familiar?"

"Ah! She is so cute. She even has long hair!"

Laura looked around in confusion. "Are they praising me?" she wondered.

Laura had never received such compliments when she was with her mother. Most people pointed at her, saying that she was the child of a prostitute and murderer and that she would not grow up to be a decent adult in the future. Other people said that she was pitiful. She had never received so many compliments.

The corner of her mouth couldn't help but curl into a smile. She pursed her lips and smiled secretly, **as** she didn't dare to show it in front of others.

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Jasper gave Laura a sideways glance.

He saw that she silently moved her eyebrows slightly and couldn't hide her smile. He also noticed the faint dimples on her cheeks around the corners of her mouth.

Laura looked particularly sweet when she smiled.

Jasper's lips couldn't help curling up, but he immediately frowned and suppressed his smile.

"She is just a little cute. That's all!" he thought.

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