

# Punishment and Surprise

(s3)

by Mel

“Jake, I have a surprise... What are you doing?” Diana asked, entering Father’s study.

The eight-year-old turned with a pout. A stack of five books sat next to him.

“Grandpa wants me to organize his books. Apha..alpha...-”

“Alphabetically,” Diana said. “And you’re almost done.”

“It’s taking forever.”

Diana hid a grin. In Father she found someone more obsessed with order than herself.

“Well next time you shouldn’t try reading in the bathtub. You almost ruined it.”

“Huh, drowning a book?” a man said chuckling. “That’s a new one, should’ve used that one on the old man.”

Jake ran. “Uncle Devin!”