

# Returning from the Dead: His Secret Lover

## Chapter 175

Dinner lasted for over an hour.

The meal might not be as rich as the food in hotels but, because it was entirely prepared by Sasha, the children showed their utmost support. They asked for seconds, even third helpings until they were completely stuffed.

"Ian, do you like Mommy's meatballs? It's made from shrimp."

"Yes, I do!"

Ian stabbed the last meatball with his fork and nodded without hesitation when Vivian asked him.

The girl was happy to hear that.

She was Mommy's loyal fan. She would support her mommy no matter what.

But when Vivian turned to look at Daddy to ask the same question, she was suddenly spooked by the look he had on his face as he stared longingly at the plate in front of him. Her face turned pale. She did not dare to say anything after that.

What's Daddy looking at? Why does he look so scary all of a sudden?

It was as if Sebastian had just witnessed something unfathomable. Grave horror could be seen projected in those dark eyes of his!

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What's up with Daddy? Does he not like Mommy's cooking?

The little girl had a bad feeling about it.

Sasha did not notice that. She was doing the dishes in the kitchen. The children, after they finished their food, had left a pile of dirty dishes for her to clean.

Therefore, she was not in the mood to take note of him.

If she had looked his way, she might not have stayed calm while she went about her duties.

It was a long-standing habit of hers. Sebastian never liked peeling oranges himself. He did not like having the sweet, sticky feeling of orange juice stuck on his fingers.

So, back then, whenever she went to see him in secret, she would peel an orange, cut them into several pieces, plant a toothpick on one of them, and slip the dish under his door while the Hayes family was away.

How long have I been doing that?

Sasha could not remember clearly. The first time she did it, she was in her first year of elementary school. By the time he was sent abroad, she had graduated from elementary school.

As Sasha was doing the dishes in the kitchen, she thought about the promise she had made to their eldest son. She contemplated how she should tell Sebastian that Ian could stay here.

"Little Ian, can you help me serve the grapes?"

"Okay."

Ian, who had been playing with Matteo, immediately rose and went to the kitchen to help Mommy with the grapes.

"Little Ian, listen to me. Although we have decided that you can stay here tonight, we still have to tell Daddy, alright? Can you please take these grapes to Daddy and tell him that?"

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Sasha felt like a coward for sending her eldest son out to confront Sebastian.

Of course, Ian would not expose Mommy's true intentions. At the same time, he was happy to do what he was told.

But when he brought the grapes out, he could not find Daddy in the living room. While he was wondering where Daddy could be, he noticed that the door to Mommy's room was left open.

Has Daddy gone into Mommy's room?

Ian approached the room with the grapes on a platter.

Just as he thought! When Ian got to the door, he spotted Daddy inside.

However, he was puzzled to see Daddy flipping through the books on Mommy's study table like he was looking for something. Several books on Mommy's table, which was usually so neat and tidy, had been turned over and strewn about.

What's Daddy doing?

Ian stepped into the room. "Daddy, what are you doing?"

Sebastian, who had been feverishly flipping through the books as though possessed, froze when his son called him.

What am I doing?

In fact, Sebastian was not sure himself. It could be that the idea he hatched just a moment ago had been so scary that he felt the urge to search for evidence. He could be wrong.

But, what if he wasn't?

He looked at the medical book in his hands, lost in a daze. For a long time, he did not look away from the annotations scribbled on the pages inside.

"Daddy, I want to stay here for the night."

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“What?”

“I’m not going to leave you, but I like having Mommy, Matt, and Vivi by my side. I... I like how tonight turned out.”

Ian tried his best to express what he really meant.

Indeed, he had never thought about leaving Daddy, but he really enjoyed spending time in Mommy’s apartment that night. He had his mommy, his brother, and his sister here to keep him company. It was much better here than Royal Court One, where it was cold and lonely.

Ian lifted his head and glanced hopefully at his daddy.

In the past, whenever he made the request, Daddy might give him one of his dirty looks as an indication of disapproval. This time, surprisingly, after Ian waited anxiously for a response, his daddy did not oppose.

“Got it. I’ll pick you up tomorrow.”

“Okay...”

The whole process went shockingly well.

Ecstatic, Ian sprinted out of the room with the platter of grapes. He was in a hurry to tell Mommy the good news.

Sasha, who was in the kitchen waiting for Ian to come back with an update, could not believe her ears as well. “Did Daddy really say yes?”

“That’s right, Mommy.”

Under the bright lights of the kitchen, the little boy’s eyes shone so brightly that they might as well be glowing.

Upon seeing those eyes glinting with excitement, Sasha concluded it must be true. She allowed Ian to resume playing with his siblings while she stayed to clean up the kitchen. After she was done, she left to check on her guests.

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“Hey... what happened to you? You don’t look so well.”

As soon as Sasha arrived at the living room, she ran into Sebastian who had just come out of her bedroom. Within the span of ten minutes, that man seemed to have transformed into a totally different person. His face, drained of color, was scarily pale.

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### Chapter 176

Sebastian said nothing.

But his gaze fell sternly and steadily on her face for the first time in so many years.

When exactly did he start hating her?

If he remembered correctly, when he was around the age of ten, the Wand family moved into town out of the blue. They were originally from the North. Soon after that, Mr. and Mrs. Wand brought Sasha, who was only five years old then, to meet the Hayes. Young Sebastian was told that the girl would be his future wife.

At that time, a ten-year-old boy had yet to grasp the meaning of love.

But, on that day, he saw with his own eyes how her parents rejoiced at the arrangement. The look of pleasure on their faces, and the way the little girl gawked at him...

They filled him with disgust.

He saw the clinging greed in their eyes. He saw the little girl’s idiocy. He hated them all.

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But later, the adults of the Wand family got really close to his father. They often dropped by for visits with little Sasha in tow. And whenever they came over, they would leave the foolish girl in his company.

“Sebby, would you like an orange?”

Young Sasha was actually very gentle, just like Vivian.

Every time she came to visit the Hayes and met the handsome boy who never showed his emotions, she would always offer him her favorite candy.

But Sebastian had never appreciated her kindness.

He did not like her, so naturally, he did not like everything else about her. He would snatch the candy from her, toss it on the ground, and then stomp on it a couple of times to get her to leave!

Young Sasha’s eyes were always red and swollen, swimming with tears.

She would go away in fear, but very soon she would come back again. She would observe him timidly, and from a short distance away. She was like a piece of sticky bubble gum that he could never seem to shake off.

But, that had only been dislike.

What really made him turn to hate her completely was that one time when he had an episode, and she happened to run into him.

Back then, no one in the Hayes family knew about Sebastian’s condition. He did not confide in any of them. He was afraid that, once his family found out about him, they would take measures to control him or restrict his freedom.

So, at that time, he secretly contacted his uncle who was living abroad and sought his aid.

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But on that day, the foolish girl saw him. She witnessed him lose control and strangle the family cat until it took its last breath. Consumed by terror, she quickly fled the scene to tell her parents.

Subsequently, Sebastian was taken to the hospital by his parents.

That was the beginning of his endless treatment. Even after he was taken home, he was kept in his room in virtue of the authoritative diagnosis by the hospital. He had not stepped out of the house for six whole years!

It was not until six years later that his uncle finally managed to persuade his parents to send him abroad.

Therefore, saying that he disliked Sasha barely scratched the surface.

For Sebastian, hatred had occupied the majority of his feelings towards the woman. If it had not been for her, his uncle might have secretly snuck him abroad to undergo treatment while his symptoms were still mild.

Unfortunately, he had to spend six years in a living hell. All because of her.

As if that was not enough, a most unbearable fate was waiting for him. When he finally got out of that painful abyss, he still had to marry her.

How ironic!

Sebastian stared at the woman in silence. His gaze was like a sharp sword, covered in dust for many years. How he wanted to cut her open right then and see for himself what was inside of her!

Ever since the incident of that particular year, he never saw little Sasha again.

However, the peeled orange he was served that night looked too familiar to him. Of course, he had been eating the exact same thing for the entirety of six terrible years. From the very beginning when he turned a blind eye to the fruit until the very last one, which appeared alongside a letter wrapped in a handkerchief.

And so he ate.

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Because, on the letter, it said: Have something sweet to forget the bitterness in life.

“What’s... gotten into you? Are you having second thoughts?”

Sasha gulped.

She had never seen him look like this. The man had always worn his emotions on his sleeves in front of her. When provoked, he would fire up immediately; when obeyed, he would behave in kind.

When has he gotten so calm? The stillness is mortifying!

“No.”

Sebastian finally spoke. He slowly retracted his gaze. For an instant, his thin lips turned pale and his voice raspy, as though lead and sand had coursed through his throat.

Sasha was unnerved.

What’s gotten into him? Why’s he behaving like his life has been sucked out of him? Has something come over him?

Sasha might be puzzled by the man’s behavior, but when she heard that he was not having second thoughts, she was delighted. His personal troubles were not something she should bother with.

“Okay, then. Relax, I’ll take good care of Ian. I’ll get him home when he’s ready to go back.”

She assured him.

Surprisingly, the man rejected her offer.

“There’s no need for that. I’ll come get him.”

After that, he resumed his usual arrogance and took big strides towards the door.

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Sasha saw that he was leaving, so she quickly called her children to see their Daddy off. When the man left the apartment, the four of them burst into excitement and shouted in joy.

“Yay! Little Ian’s staying here tonight! Hooray!”

“Hooray!”

“Hooray!”

Only one person was quiet.

Sebastian, who had forged a great distance between himself and the door, could still hear the cheers coming from inside.

Are they that happy?

He entered the elevator in a daze...

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