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The hostility in Sebastian's eyes dissipated with his good mood.

"What are you doing?"

Sasha turned melancholic and asked anxiously, "I'm trying to pick up the sound card. Sebastian, I might have gotten you involved in another nasty situation because I was in the middle of a fight with the maids of your aunt. Matteo couldn't stand it anymore and accidentally hurt the legs of your aunt's beloved grandchild. What should we do?"

She tried to defend her sons and took all the blame, but the moment she did that, she was on pins and needles. Since Sebastian's aunt was involved, she felt helpless.

He hated to see her like this. "What's the big deal? Are we supposed to be concerned?"

Sasha couldn't believe her ears. She stuttered, "H-Huh? S-Shouldn't we be concerned about his condition?"

The man started emanating an intimidating presence and dead-panned his reply. "Excuse me? Are you trying to be merciful towards the ones who have bullied your son?"

"N-No... He's but a child. I'm afraid Matteo might have gone overboard..." Sasha explained herself.

As a mother, she knew parents would always side with their own children. She wasn't trying to be a saint, but she couldn't herself from sympathizing with them.

"Some children are born angels, but some are the exact opposites. Do you really think Matteo has gone overboard? Do you know what will happen if that brat manages to put the sound card into lan's instrument?" Sebastian countered. Sasha didn't reply him.

Ian, who has just taken his baby steps, will be ridiculed by the others. Their mockery would be a fatal blow to him.

Sasha's hands balled into fists. Her eyes brimmed with tears. She couldn't believe she had been so foolish as to pity that arrogant boy when he almost caused irreparable damage to her son.

"I-I'm so sorry for being such a weak mother."

"No, you're not weak and there's nothing wrong with showing others mercy. However, you must protect your loved ones. You don't have to be kind to those tyrants," Sebastian said simply.

It sounded more like a gentle reminder than a reprimand. Judging by Sasha's look of guilt, he knew she had learned her lesson.

Sasha nodded.

Little did she know, Sebastian kept the last part of his reply, which also happened to be the deadliest part, to himself. He would never allow others to force his sons into submission, let alone bow before them.

When Sebastian showed no signs of going to them, the Emmanuels decided to go to him. Sasha caught a glimpse of the approaching bunch and hid behind Sebastian.

The man frowned and looked at his children who were nearby. "Ian, come here. Show your siblings and your mother the way out."

"Sure!" Ian was delighted to carry out his father's instructions.

After he returned to his mother and siblings, he marched out of the hall with them, emanating a majestic presence similar to those of his father's.

Just like his father, Ian would never allow others to challenge his authority.

Philip Emmanuel, the arrogant boy's father, brought his wife over to Sebastian's side when they were the only ones left in the hall. His wife was the middle-aged woman who had reprimanded Sasha in front of others.

"Sebastian, my wife was wrong. She went overboard because she wasn't aware they were your children. I hope you won't take that personally."

Sebastian replied nonchalantly, "Oh? I won't. As long as she bows before my sons."

He had no intention to waste his time with them.

Philips was startled by his demand. It wouldn't be much of a big deal for his cousins to bow to each other.

However, Sebastian wanted them to grovel at his sons' feet. It was evident he wanted to humiliate the arrogant Emmanuels in front of others.

"S-Sebastian, don't you think that's too much? After all, my wife is their elder. Don't you think it's inappropriate for her to bow and beg for a child's forgiveness?"

Sebastian decided not to put them in a tight spot. "If that's the case, I guess I'll liquidate Hayes Corporation's shares in Eternal Group to compensate for my son's losses."

The Emmanuels and the Grahams went pale at his words.

"N-No!"

"S-Sebastian, please don't make any impulsive decision! We'll do it! We'll do it at once!"

Flustered, Philip was about to pull his wife and sprint out of the hall in search of Matteo when he saw the impatience on his cousin's face.

All this while, Eternal Group's operation was sustainable due to Hayes Corporation's support. Without the Hayes, Eternal Group might go out of business for real.

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Sebastian's annoyance caused Philip and his wife to fall to their knees.

"Sebastian! Please give us another chance! We will never repeat such a silly mistake! Don't worry! I'll beat that brat up once we're home! Can you please have mercy on us?"

The duo groveled at his feet as they begged for his forgiveness.

Sebastian paid no heed to them and marched out of the hall with his slender pair of legs. His mind was on Sasha and his children.

He couldn't be bothered by the Emmanuel family. Over the years, they had been leveraging their relationship with the Hayes and caused him all sorts of trouble, including his Aunt Matilda. Regardless, he had turned a blind eye.

This time, since they had the guts to pick on him, he decided to get rid of them once and for all.

Sebastian showed no mercy and returned to his loved ones right after he walked out of the hall.

In the meantime, Sasha, who was outside of the hall, asked concernedly, "Ian, have we caused your father a lot of trouble?"

"Nope!" Ian replied with a determined look.

"Are you sure? We're talking about your grandaunt's family, aren't we?" Sasha looked torn.

Along with her children, they were sitting on the staircases. She had been asking her son the same thing over and over ever since they made their way out of the hall.

Ian would reassure her each time. He couldn't help but find his mother a silly woman.

What's wrong with Mommy? Why would Daddy be concerned when he had never once taken the Emmanuel family seriously? Actually, it's the exact opposite. They are the ones in huge trouble because they have picked on Daddy!

Staring at his silly mother, Ian heaved a long sigh.

Matteo was equally anxious because he had just reunited as a member of the Hayes. He had yet to sort out the unspoken rules and the relationship of the members of the family.

Shortly, he glimpsed Sebastian walking out of the hall.

"Daddy!" the little boy yelled in excitement, dashing in his father's direction. He was certain things turned out just fine.

Stunned, Sasha turned around and walked cautiously with the children to meet him.

"Daddy, have you taught the bad guys a lesson on my behalf? Aren't you afraid of Aunt Matilda?" Meanwhile, after Sebastian cradled Matteo in his arms and the little one wrapped his around his father's neck, blurting out his concerns.

Sebastian took a peek at the anxious woman who was nearby. He narrowed his eyes and replied with a smirk, "What do you mean, Matt? Do you think I'm a coward?"

"Nope! But, she's your aunt, isn't she?"

"So, what if is she's my aunt? Keep that in mind; I will never allow anyone to bully my children, not even the king of the nation."

Sebastian finished his sentence with a confident smirk. It sounded like an announcement of his inviolable status.

Sasha's heart skipped a beat. She was completely charmed by the man's domineering manner.

The family boarded the black Bentley after they wrapped up their conversation. When they were about to depart, a white Lamborghini suddenly pulled in front of Sebastian's car.

The curious Sasha couldn't think of anyone who would have the guts to get in the tyrant's way.

She leaned out of the window in curiosity.

A young man with blonde hair, who had decked up ostentatiously, alighted from the Lamborghini and walked towards the Bentley.

"Sebastian, are you going to liquidate Hayes Corporation's shares within the Emmanuel family? Why? What have they done to trigger you again?"

Brandon?

The person who had stopped Sebastian was Brandon Emmanuel, the youngest son of Matilda.

A gloomy expression loomed over Sasha's face the very moment she wound down the window. She had merely exposed herself for a few seconds, but the man had noticed her presence.

"W-What the heck! It's Sasha! You're alive! This is unbelievable!" Brandon's jaw dropped open.

He ignored Sebastian, sprinted over to Sasha's side with a look of disbelief, and he stopped her from winding up the window with his keys.

Suddenly, the Bentley was filled with an awkward and tense silence.

Sasha had a bad feeling about it and yelled at Brandon, "What do you want? Move your keys away!"

"I can't believe you're alive! Oh, God! Sasha, I had my doubts when others told me you weren't dead! It turns out they have been telling the truth all this while! Can you lean over and let me pinch your face to verify I'm not dreaming?"

Brandon could barely conceal his excitement. He was in awe because he had the chance to meet the woman with ethereal-looking features again.

Sasha's lips twitched.

Seriously? Has he lost his mind? How could he bring up such an absurd request? Does he have a death wish and want to be beaten to a pulp by Sebastian?