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Sebastian was speechless.

There was a moment when he gritted his teeth so much that he could actually hear it. He was tempted to kick her out again.

I must be out of my mind. Why else would I agree to let her come back?

Sebastian closed the door with a loud bang! Then, he hopped to the desk where a notebook was sitting. He shoved that notebook back into his drawer.

The notebook contained a lot of data and statistics, with some sketches and some chemical formulas. He had been working on it for a while, and he had just finished drawing that last image that morning.

As warned, Sasha actually showed up every ten minutes.

"Мг…"

Bang!

The door opened once more and was slammed shut after a loud bang. Sebastian was so aggressive that the entire door shook a little.

All Sasha could do was swallow hard and chuckle awkwardly before saying, "So, Mr. Hayes, are you ready? Let's go."

She was smiling sweetly like a lap dog because his expression at the time was so scary that she thought he might actually skin her alive.

Perhaps she truly was too annoying, but the guy ended up getting in his wheelchair and letting her take him to the treatment room.

A few minutes later, the housemaids in the Oceanic Estate saw how the both of them went to the ground floor. That got the housemaids to admire Sasha's courage and stare at her like she was a goddess.

Sasha pushed her patient into the treatment room, which she had set up some time ago.

"We'll be scanning your brainwaves today, Mr. Hayes. Will that be okay?"

The treatment room was perfect with all sorts of medical equipment and machinery there. Jonathan had Grayson deliver everything over when the latter discharged Sebastian.

Sebastian went to lie down on the bed without putting up a protest.

This is truly strange. He was infuriated when we were outside his room and lost his temper with me. I wonder why he's not fighting me now that we're here.

Despite her thoughts, Sasha was delighted to see Sebastian behaving.

She put on her white coat and attached a device to his head. After that, she bent down and placed her finger within his line of sight.

"Mr. Hayes, please look at my finger."

Sebastian didn't reply.

His sharp, distant gaze focused on her finger as she requested.

Sasha held her breath and secretly pushed the button on the stopwatch she had with her.

Tick-Tock, Tick-Tock...

The rhythmic sound echoed softly like it was coming from a quiet and distant forest.

Sebastian closed his eyes slowly.

Sasha saw that and was elevated immediately. She turned around right away and checked the screen attached to the scanner.

Sebastian's brainwaves initially showed little activity, but they showed signs of change after he was hypnotized. It was as if a gentle breeze was blowing, and his brain waves were reacting to that breeze.

It's working!

Sasha was so excited that she almost jumped. She dialed a number right away. "Professor Gervais, it worked!" shared Sasha, "His brain is reacting to it."

"Of course it worked. With my method and the scanner affecting his brain, it is easy to get him under. What you'll want to do now is to whisper the things you want him to recall. Remember that you have just mastered this skill, so it is crucial that you stop as soon as there is any sign of distress," replied the guy from the other end of the line who had a strong Jetroinian accent. He was careful and reminded her to be wary, even as he taught her what to do.

Sasha agreed right away.

She hung up after that and turned her attention to the man who she had just hypnotized.

What do I him to remember?

There is so, so much.

She wanted him to remember who he was and the incredible life he had. She also wanted him to recall everything that happened between them and their kids.

Yet, when she saw how he was sleeping like that, her tears rolled down her eyes. All she managed to say was, "Please come home to me, Sebby. I need you."

After that, she brushed her lips against his.

The screen showed that Sebastian's brainwaves were moving exponentially.

It was as if something had hit him hard, and the huge waves on the screen were getting out of rhythm. Everything was changing.

I hear something. Who is the woman calling out to me? And who kissed me? It feels... so familiar.

Sebastian struggled in the darkness like he was a paper plane that was trying to stay in the air. He was eager to take a closer look at that familiar figure, but he wasn't fast enough to catch up to her.

Crimson red liquid suddenly dripped onto his head.

"Sebby, you must survive and live well, okay? Live well, my love, and survive. You have to survive...."

Sasha was stunned.

She was terrified when she saw how the guy was struggling on the bed despite being asleep. The agony he showed on his face was intense, and it shook Sasha so much that she hurried over and pulled the scanner's plug.

"Mr. Hayes, wake up. Sebastian, get up. Wake up now!"

Unfortunately, Sebastian remained unconscious.

His mind had fallen to the deepest pit, and his struggles were getting more intense.

He was pale, and sweat was donning his forehead. The noise his throat made somehow sounded like the roar of a trapped monster, and he looked downright terrifying.

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Sasha couldn't speak.

She was so terrified that she ignored all protocols and grabbed his hand, put it by her lips, and bit him mercilessly.

"Ah!"

The pain finally broke through to the guy, and he slowed down, then stopped struggling.

Seeing that got Sasha to sigh a breath of relief.

Unfortunately, that didn't last long. She hadn't even let his hand go before the recently conscious guy flung his eyes open and slapped her right away.

Slap!

A crisp sound came running.

Sasha was slapped so hard that her head flung the other way, and her vision was black for a while.

He freaking slapped me? What the hell?

Sasha's mind stopped working. She sat there and was motionless for a long, long time.

Sebastian, on the other hand, fell back down after slapping her. He seemed exhausted, and he was paper pale. He was also sweating so much that it was like he had just gone for a swim.

"Leave!"

When Sebastian finally spoke, he spat that one word through his gritted teeth.

Sasha didn't reply to him.

Her blood tasted metallic, but she licked it off the edge of her lips as she used her hand to readjust her jaw a little. It took her some time, but she slowly got it back into position.

"I will not leave. If you're angry, then you may continue hurting me. I'm okay with it so long as it makes you feel better."

Seriously? She doesn't even mind?

Sebastian's eyes instantly glowed with murderous intent so strong that they turned bloodshot. He sat up and, like a monster that had completely lost its mind, he reached out and dragged Sasha over.

"You do realize I can kill you, don't you?"

"But you won't. Sebastian Hayes, revenge and hatred aren't the only things in your mind. You saw it yourself. You have desires and love too. My hypnosis wasn't perfect, and it wasn't really a success, but I made you look into your heart, didn't I? I showed you something you never realized was in your heart. That is why you got mad, and why you hit me, am I right?"

Sasha remained calm as she slowly removed the layers of fake anger Sebastian had on and got to the truth.

She was right. That hypnosis session was not a success, but it wasn't a total failure either. At the very least, she showed him that there was more than hatred in him. That was what got him angry at her.

He must feel like I've disrupted his life goals and plans.

Crack!

The anger in Sebastian's eyes became more obvious because Sasha hit the bull's eye.

He tightened his grip.

Sasha instantly felt an immense pressure on her throat. She could no longer breathe, and it only took a second for her lips to turn darkish purple. Her eyes were losing focus as well.

"Y-you can kill me. That's... fine, but I-I will... wake you up... so long as... I still have a breath... left in me. Sebastian, I... will take you home..."

Sasha spoke in pieces despite the fact that her neck was about to break.

She said... she'd take me home.

Sebastian recalled how he heard someone asking him to come home when he was in that nightmare. He also remembered that soft and warm kiss on his lips.

Who exactly is she? Why is she so adamant about saving me? And this isn't even the first time she's gone all out. She was like a lunatic and kept coming to my rescue...

Sebastian finally loosened his grip. There was a moment when he lost all energy, and he fell back onto the bed.

Cough! Cough!

Sasha, on the other hand, fell to the floor right after she was released. She panted as she put her hand on her chest.

At that moment, she looked like a fish that had just broken the fishing line and regained her freedom and life.

Vivian hadn't seen her mom in a while, so she decided to go look for the latter.

"Mommy, where are you?"

She ran around in the enormous garden, but she never found her mom, even though her chubby legs had been running for a while. As a silver lining, however, she ran into an old man with a white beard.

"Who are you, mister?" asked Vivian in her baby voice as she tilted her round, chubby head up.

She's asking me who I am?

Jonathan was there with his team. When he turned his head down, he saw the little girl who was staring at him.

"Who are you?"

"Me? Oh, I'm cute Vivian. Mister, are you a housemaid as well? What happened? Why is your life so sad? Why are you working as a housemaid even though you're so old?"

Vivian couldn't help but sigh sadly when she saw how the guy's beard had all turned white.

Jonathan was speechless.

The team he brought with him couldn't help it. What the chubby girl said prompted them to turn their heads and look to the side. Their shoulders shook from trying to suppress laughter.

She is probably the only person in the world who would say that his life is sad.

"I have no choice. Life gets in the way sometimes," lied Jonathan. Everyone was surprised to hear how he entertained the kid after deliberating for a while.

Their jaws dropped instantly.

Vivian was the only one who didn't react that way. Hearing that response got her to tilt her tiny head and struggle for quite some time before she opened her backpack.

"Okay, then let me give you some money."

"Huh? You're giving me money?"

"Yeah. I'll let you in on a secret. My mommy gave me this money to buy candy, and I have been saving for so long. I'll share half with you so that you don't have to come work here anymore."

After saying her piece, the cute little girl shoved her chubby hand into her backpack and got a few coins out.

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Coins...

Jonathan couldn't help twitching his eye a little.

"Here, take it. It's not much, but it's all I have," offered Vivian. Her soft hand held the coins and shoved them into the wrinkled palm of the old man.

There was a moment when Jonathan stood there and suddenly felt like something had hit his heart. He had been a cold-hearted warrior his entire life, but at that moment, he was all warm and fuzzy.

"Okay, thanks."

Jonathan ended up keeping the coins.

Vivian ran off after she saw him doing that. Ah, I'm busy and have to go look for Mommy.

However, she had just turned around when she saw her mom walking over while pushing her dad.

"Mommy!" said Vivian as she ran toward Sasha.

Sasha saw everything that was happening earlier. Her mind went blank when she saw how Vivian was talking to Jonathan. Uncontrollable fear rained down on her and threatened to drown her.

"I am so sorry, Old Mr. Jadeson. This is my daughter. S-she didn't bother you, did she?"

Sasha picked Vivian up and quickly apologized to Jonathan, who was still holding the coins that Vivian had given him.

Sasha was truly worried.

In a way, her daughter was the guy's great-granddaughter, but Jonathan was tempted to kill Sebastian. Vivian is only six. Who knows what Jonathan would do if he learns that she is the daughter of his illegitimate grandson?

He might not kill her, but he will definitely take her away...

"Ah, so she's your daughter. I was wondering what is a kid doing here in the Oceanic Estate," said Jonathan after staring for a while. As suspected, his tone was cold and distant.

Sasha instantly stiffened while holding her child.

She was so scared that she didn't even know how to respond to that. She also worried that Jonathan would fire her and ban her from the place just because she had a kid.

"Why are you here again?"

Sasha was still lost when someone asked that question icily.

It was Sebastian.

What the hell? He's interrogating Jonathan and demanding to know why he is here? He even emphasized the word "again" to show how annoyed he is!

As suspected, Jonathan got so angry that he shifted his attention to Sebastian.

"The reason I'm here? Naturally, I came to train you! Boys, take him to the training field and get his arms and legs in shape!"

"Yes, sir!"

One order was all it took to get Jonathan to send his team over to drag Sebastian to the training field.

Sebastian's expression instantly turned grouchy.

Sasha, on the other hand, was worried sick upon hearing that. She quickly chimed in, "He hasn't recovered yet, so it is not ideal for him to do any vigorous exercise. It will only delay his recovery."

She spoke endlessly and almost stepped up to physically stop them.

The truth was that he honestly couldn't go for any training. Sasha had just hypnotized Sebastian, and that session had worn him out. His physical state was not great either.

Unfortunately, Jonathan didn't care about it at all.

"Haven't recovered? Then why don't you ask him what he had been doing over the past two days? He destroyed a few of my prize trees! And yet you have the audacity to tell me that he can't handle vigorous exercise?"

"Huh?"

Sasha was stunned.

That was when Jonathan waved his hand and Sebastian, who was still in his wheelchair, got taken away.

Sasha couldn't speak.

What the hell is going on?

•••

When Devin reached the Oceanic Estate, he saw that Sebastian was already swaying.

The latter was paper pale and was sweating so much that he looked like he had just been rescued from under the sea. If Sasha hadn't been fighting and making things hard for Jonathan's team, it was likely that Sebastian would have more sandbags attached to his arms and legs.

"Grandpa, what are you doing? He hasn't recovered. Making him go through such harsh training will just make things worse for him."

Devin was worried and angry when he saw that. He rushed over to talk some sense into Jonathan, who was monitoring everything.

This old man is not holding back at all! It has been three hours, but he is still monitoring the situation in person.

"Oh, what do you know? That is just a bullet wound. If we were on the battlefield, he would already be out there and killing his enemy. He's like a delicate flower right now, but trust me. Toughening him up is the only way to speed up his recovery."

This f*cking old man is too unreasonable.

Sasha had run out of patience by then. She saw how there was someone there to help her, so she ignored how stupid her actions would be. She ran over and pulled Jonathan's team away before rushing to Sebastian.

"It's fine. Mr. Devin is here, so you guys can let him go for now."

After saying her piece, she pushed away the men holding Sebastian in position and removed the sandbags attached to him.

Sebastian fell as soon as those sandbags came undone.

"Mr. Hayes!" called out Sasha. She immediately reached out to catch him, but his heavyweight overwhelmed her and pinned her down. Bang!

When Sasha landed, she heard a crisp and loud bang.

However, she didn't feel a thing. A second ago, the tall, muscular man was landing on her, but the next, she was lying safely in the sweaty guy's arm.

"S-Sebastian..."

"I knew... I should've just killed you."

Sebastian finally spoke up.

He was dripping in sweat and stuck to her as he panted weakly. Despite that, his words were clear and audible.

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In the end, Sebastian fainted from exhaustion and was brought back into the house.

Sasha followed along.

"See that, Grandpa? I told you. Sebastian is not trained since young, so he is just a regular man. Moreover, when he was younger, Frederick sent him to Sumanthova to treat his illness. Asking him to go through harsh training when he grew up under those circumstances... That is just equivalent to killing him."

Devin saw how Sebastian was being carried away, so he started arguing with Jonathan again.

To make matters worse, he got a chair over and sat right there to discourage his grandpa from insisting on making things hard for Sebastian. Devin would argue until nightfall if that was what it took.

Jonathan glared over.

"Why are you helping him like this? Aren't you worried that he'd regain his memory and seek vengeance?"

Devin didn't speak.

It was pindrop silence.

One sentence was enough to sting the young man who was initially amped up to fight for his cousin. It also got him so stuck that he couldn't say a word.

I am f*cking terrified. In fact, I was so scared that I didn't even dare to visit him in Heron Hill when he first regained consciousness.

Devin's gaze seemed darker. It took him some time before he replied, "Then, so be it. I owe him all that, after all."

Jonathan became speechless.

He stared at his eldest grandson as a complex feeling burned inside him. For a second there, he didn't know what to say.

A few minutes later, Jonathan left the Oceanic Estate. One of his men, Xavier, asked, "Sir, are you disappointed with what Mr. Devin said earlier?"

Jonathan sighed and replied, "He is just too kind-hearted."

"Yeah, Mr. Devin had always been like that. What's so bad about it?"

"It'd be great if he is just an ordinary guy, but he is the heir of the Jadesons. He will get in trouble if he remains this kind-hearted in Jadeborough, where danger lurks both in the light and in the dark."

Jonathan didn't hide his true feelings from his men.

Devin truly is too kind. That is why I hesitated when I was choosing an heir. Unfortunately, there isn't a better option, so I picked him.

Xavier turned to Jonathan and hesitated for a moment before asking, "Then... what do you think about Mr. Sebastian who has just returned? His style and cruelty would make him a better heir..."

No one spoke for a moment there.

Jonathan eventually harrumphed and dissed, "That kid? Please... he still has a long way to go."

Xavier didn't reply to that.

Jonathan's words and tone made it sound like he was dissing Sebastian, but the pause had already revealed what Jonathan was really thinking. His younger grandson, who was several times more intelligent and merciless than Devin, was not as unloved as how Jonathan made him sound.

He still has a long way to go... That means that Sebastian might still be the heir of the Jadesons if he recovers!

Xavier secretly gasped.

He suddenly felt like the sky above him was turning dark. It seemed that a storm was about to hit them...

At Jade Court.

Candice felt the danger looming as well. She was especially concerned when she heard how Jonathan took his men to Oceanic Estate to train Sebastian.

"Jonathan won't take his personal team over to train just anybody. He must have a reason for doing so, and that means he is trying to help that lunatic recover!"

"W-what do we do?"

Connor and the others were instantly disheartened when they heard that.

The heir of the Jadesons... If Sebastian actually accomplishes that, our bloodline will most probably perish. He will kill all of us!

Everyone in the Jade Court could feel the danger that would soon befall them.

"That useless Jasmine! I can't believe that she failed to do something so simple. I guess we have no choice but to do the dirty work ourselves!" growled Candice before she sipped some tea.

Connor chimed in and complained as hatred burned in his eyes. He said, "Exactly! That woman has always boasted to us, but she is useless when at such crucial moment."

"That is why we have to do it on our own."

"What do you mean?"

"We should leak this information to Jasmine. That will get her more worried and encourage her to attack again. When that happens, all we have to do is help her from behind the scenes," replied Candice as she held the cup and sipped her tea. A cruel grin crept up on her lips, and she looked so devious that she could get anyone to shiver.

Connor understood what to do right away.

Huh... killing him by conning Jasmine... that really is a genius plan.

At the Oceanic Estate.

Sasha was still in the bedroom on the third floor. Two hours had passed, but Sebastian was still lying unconscious on the bed. That torturous session had exhausted him.

"Dr. West, how is he doing? It's been a while. Has he woken up?"

Devin hadn't left either. He couldn't help worrying when he noticed that Sebastian had been unconscious for that long.

Sasha had a warm towel and was helping Sebastian by keeping him clean and comfortable. When she heard that question, she tilted her head up and replied, "It's fine. He's just exhausted and will come around once he regains his energy."

She didn't dare to tell Devin that she hypnotized Sebastian just before the training. That was understandable since she had no idea if Devin was friend or foe.

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"I see. Well, that's a relief," replied Devin as he sighed a breath of relief.

He checked his watch and saw that it was almost six o'clock, so he asked, "Do you need to go now? I can take over and care for him if you'd like. You can take the kid home. It's late, after all."

"It's fine. Mr. Hayes has allowed me to live here."

Devin was momentarily taken aback when he heard how she wasn't leaving.

He eventually came around and stared at how Sasha was sticking right by Sebastian. That got Devin to grin in exasperation.

That makes sense. He's her husband, and she has taken so much effort to come to him. Hence, there is no way she'd leave him. I have got to be an idiot to suggest that she head home.

Devin turned around and left.

He had just gotten to the ground floor when he saw a chubby little girl walking over. She climbed a little and tiptoed to reach the elevator's button. It seemed she wanted to go look for her parents.

Unfortunately, she was too short. She had already tiptoed, but she still couldn't reach the button.

This tiny little rascal...

Devin happened to be walking out of the elevator and seeing that got him to chuckle.

"Vivi, what are you doing?"

"Huh?" blurted the cute little girl. Her big round eyes looked at the adult who had just exited the elevator.

"I'm going to the third floor to look for my mommy. Do you know where she is?"

Her baby voice and chubby, round face made her look as beautiful as a doll when she stood there with the orange light engulfing her.

Devin suddenly felt a sting in his heart.

He knew the truth, so he was aware of whose kid the girl truly was.

Unfortunately, her parents can't be reunited just yet, and a six-year-old like her had to follow her mom everywhere... She even had to refer to her own father as Uncle Sebastian. She is too mature for her age. Devin couldn't help but feel bad for Vivian.

Devin got out of the elevator and picked the kid up.

He informed, "Your mommy is taking care of your Uncle Sebastian, so let's not bother them, okay? Let your Uncle Devin take you out and play with you."

"Huh?"

The small girl stared at the man who was holding her. Suspicion and curiosity shone in her big, round eyes.

He's going to take me out and play with me? But... why is he being so nice to me? Also, why does he refer to himself as "my" Uncle Devin? Wouldn't Uncle Devin suffice?

Vivian was a little confused.

"Don't worry, I am not a bad person. I am your Uncle Sebastian's cousin, so I won't kidnap you," replied Devin when he saw how the little girl was being wary. He couldn't help finding that funny.

How is she so guarded when she is just a tiny thing? Unless... This actually proves that she has been living in an unstable and unsafe environment. That is why she is so careful.

Devin's heart broke once more.

Fortunately, the little girl nodded and was relaxed after Devin explained himself.

Devin left with the kid after that. He told the housemaids to let Sasha know that he had taken the girl out.

However, Sasha was too distracted to pay attention to her daughter because Sebastian, who was still unconscious, suddenly developed a fever after Devin had left.

What's going on? Why is he burning up?

Sasha got her stethoscope out and placed it near his heart. That was when she discovered that his lungs had been acting out of the norm for a while.

How did this happen? Isn't he just exhausted? Why are his lungs making that noise?

Sasha's expression took a sharp turn. Like a professional, she placed her fingers on his chest and examined him.

As suspected, there was a minor tremble within, and it was obviously caused by straining too much.

So that old man's intense training had strained him too much and was beyond what his body could handle. Hell, it has gotten to the point where his lungs became vulnerable to infection! He developed a fever because the infection had taken hold of him. That freaking old fart!

Sasha was so angry that she was on the verge of bursting.

She had no choice but to help him up quickly and take his shirt off to give him an acupuncture treatment.

"W-what are you doing?"

The man who was leaning on Sasha suddenly woke up at that crucial moment. He opened his eyes, and his unfocused gaze told him that he was leaning on her. He also realized that she had taken his clothes off, so he was asking weakly.

Sasha turned to him and informed, "You have a fever, Mr. Hayes. Is your chest hurting right now?"

Sebastian didn't answer.

Sweat was dripping out of his forehead, and it was difficult for him to speak.

Hurting? It's a f*cking lot more than that! I am in agonizing pain and every breath stings.

"W-what happened to me?"

"Your lungs are injured from overexerting yourself. Don't worry. You'll be fine. I'll treat you right now and ease the pain. After that, all we need is to get you on a drip, and you'll be just fine."

After saying her piece, Sasha stabbed a small needle on the acupuncture point on his back.

A few minutes later, the immense pain in Sebastian's chest finally eased up, and he was no longer hurting with each breath. He sighed in relief and swayed a little before he fell backward.

"Mr. Hayes!"

Sasha hadn't taken the needles out yet, so she opened her arms and hugged him tight when she saw him falling backward like that.

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No one spoke.

She is so soft and smells so nice.

Sebastian was still in a daze when he fell into Sasha's embrace, but he was conscious. He smelled her pleasant scent and felt engulfed in love and joy once more.

His gaze soon became tainted with lust.

Sasha noticed how ambiguous things were as well. She was especially aware of how he was half-naked and how she was the one who took his shirt off earlier. That got her to blush in bright red.

"M-Mr. Hayes, I am so sorry. I didn't mean to do that."

Sasha suppressed her emotions and tried to get her thumping heart to calm down. She was quick but careful when she pushed the guy away.

Sebastian finally returned to his bed.

It only took a second for that warmth and softness to leave him. He didn't want to admit it, but even in that confused state, he could still feel that he was reluctant to part. He wanted her warmth to engulf him and loved the mild perfume she was wearing.

"I'll go get you a bag of glucose right away."

Sasha, however, didn't dare to even look at him. She left to get a bag of glucose as soon as she fled the crime scene.

Unfortunately, her heart was still beating out of rhythm when she returned with the bag of glucose.

Sasha stood at the side of his bed.

Thank the heavens that he has gone back to sleep.

The way Sebastian laid there with his eyes closed also made it seem like the incident from a moment ago never happened.

Sasha held his hand up and was going to penetrate his skin with the needle when...

"Be gentle."

"Huh?"

Sasha jumped in surprise when she heard the guy talking.

"Y-you're awake?"

No one replied.

Sebastian stopped talking and simply rested on his bed. He was still pale when he frowned and turned to face the other side like he was getting annoyed.

Sasha was speechless.

It took her a while before she calmed her thumping heart down. She tilted her head down and used the thin, sharp needle to stab the back of Sebastian's hand.

If Sebastian were being honest, he would say that he didn't feel anything at all.

She lived in Clear for five years, and during that time, she had to act as both the doctor and the nurse because there weren't many staff there. Hence, she would diagnose her patient, write the prescription, and give the pills to her patient all in one go. That wasn't challenging for her because she was also a TCM practitioner.

As expected, color slowly returned to Sebastian's cheeks after a while.

Sasha noticed that Sebastian's shirt remained unbuttoned, so she steeled herself out and reached out.

"Mr. Hayes, I-I'm going to button you up, okay? It's late at night, and it'll get chilly. It'd be bad if you catch a cold," said Sasha, who deliberated for a long while before she mustered enough courage to ask that question.

Unfortunately, the guy never budged, even after she finished her sentence.

Is he asleep? He's laying there with his eyes closed, but that's how he was earlier when he was awake... Does this mean he went back to sleep or not?

Sasha tilted her head down and observed for quite some time. She worried about him catching a cold, so she ended up reaching out for the shirt that was barely hanging on to his waist.

They were so close that it was a little suffocating.

Sasha was blushing so hard and she acted like a thief. Her long, beautiful eyelashes fluttered as if they were wings of a butterfly.

Fortunately, the guy never moved, even after she dragged him to sit upright.

I guess that means he's asleep.

Sasha sighed a breath of relief right away. She also became gutsier, so to make things easier, she pulled his shirt up and bent over him. She even put her hand on the back of his neck as she helped him lie back down.

"What are you doing?"

It felt like a bomb had suddenly gone off.

This idiot has the worst timing and woke up again! He even opened his eyes.

Voom! Sasha stared at him as her mind exploded. Blood rushed to her head and stunned her so much that she stayed in that position.

"Macy West, what mischievous plan do you have for me? What are your intentions?"

Sebastian's condition had stabilized after getting the dextrose he needed from the bag of glucose.

He stared calmly at her as his dark brown eyes shone with unreadable emotions. Despite that mystery, his beautiful eyes glowed with the kind of serenity that could get anyone to melt in them.

Sasha immediately felt her cheeks burning hotter. She explained, "I… No, I would never…"

"Then why are you always trying to get close to me? Do you realize what you look like at this moment?"

"W-what?"

"Like a hungry slut!" growled Sebastian through gritted teeth as he lay under her.

Sasha's eyes bulged in response to that.

A slut? How dare he use that word on me?

Sasha came back around. Her first instinct was to push him away immediately in a fit of anger.

Unfortunately, the guy suddenly put his hand on the back of her head and ambushed her before she got to react. His long fingers locked in on her, and he pulled her in for a kiss.

What the hell?

Sasha was petrified.

Her eyes bulged like she had just been struck by lightning, and her irises dilated exponentially as she stared at the man she was kissing...

Actually... that wasn't right. She wasn't the one kissing him. He's forcing me to kiss him!

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Sebastian's irises constricted as well. He never thought that he would end up doing something like this.

It was as if he was under a spell. He knew that she was attached, but when he smelled her perfume and looked at her soft, red lips... He didn't know why, but an insane impulse came at him.

I want her!

It was as if she belonged to him in the first place.

Sebastian's heart was thumping in excitement. He finally got to taste her sweet lips, and it felt like electricity was coursing through him. That got the lust in his eyes to burn wilder.

Sasha couldn't speak.

She was completely defenseless.

He has his hand on the back of my head and is locking me in position. Darn it, how did he get my teeth to part, so he could invade my mouth like this? He's nuts! Sasha didn't know how she got free.

All she remembered was hearing a pained moan before she came around and push Sebastian away. After that, she saw how the needle attached to the back of his other hand had fallen off. He bled right away.

"Ah!"

Sasha regained her footing immediately. She stood up right away and gripped his hand before using a ball of cotton and putting some pressure on his injury.

W-what the hell was I doing?

Sasha was blushing so hard that she looked like a bright apple. She didn't even dare to look at Sebastian.

Similarly, Sebastian had come around. He looked at his own hand and instantly stiffened. Fury swelled up in him at the very next second. He was mad at Sasha...

But he was also angry at himself.

Am I retarded? Why would I do something like that to her?

"Leave!" commanded Sebastian.

It only took him a second to revert to his old self. His gaze was icy and distant, and he looked so grouchy that he was terrifying.

Sasha couldn't respond.

She stared at him for a moment. At first, she wanted to say something, but her mind was in a mess. Hence, she readjusted his needle, then fled immediately after.

Yep, fled was the right word to use.

Sasha had never thought that he would do something like that, so she had been thinking about running away for some time. Under those circumstances, there was no way she could think of anything else.

That was why Sasha fled that night...

Devin had been out with Vivian for some time.

He initially planned on taking her home at around eight o'clock that night, but he saw his mom and cousin, Kira, in the shopping mall. They were in a branded store at the time.

Have they made up already?

Devin saw them there, so he carried the kid and headed over.

"Mom, Kira, what brought the two of you here?"

"Huh? Devin? I didn't know you're here."

Jasmine was delighted to see her son there.

Kira, however, wasn't as delighted to see her cousin. A hint of panic ran in her eyes, and her beautiful face turned a little pale when she saw him.

"I took the kid out to play with her. What are you two doing here? It's late, so why are you still shopping? Oh, what's that? Ingredients?" asked Devin as he put the kid down and walked to the store where the ladies were.

Jasmine quickly replied, "Yeah, Kira has a few days off, so I asked her to come over and whip up a delightful meal for us. Oh, by the way, you mentioned a little girl. Whose kid is she?"

Jasmine was quick to change the topic and divert everybody's attention to the child.

Oh yeah, where did the kid come from? My son hasn't gotten married, and I have never seen him around a child before, so... whose kid is this?

Vivian was holding Devin's hand when she saw how the lady in front of her was staring menacingly. That prompted Vivian to squeeze Devin's hand with her chubby fingers.

"Uncle Devin, carry me!"

"Huh?" Devin tilted his head down and picked the kid up before complaining, "Mom, why are you staring at her? You have scared her."

"It's not that. I'm just wondering who the kid belongs to. Why is she with you? Is... is she your illegitimate daughter?"

Jasmine was being serious. She noticed that the kid was especially beautiful and looked a little like Devin.

"Why are you so agitated, Mom? She is the daughter of Sebastian's doctor. Grandpa practically tortured Sebastian today at the Oceanic Estate, so her mom needed to work overtime to care for Sebastian. That is why I took the kid out. I didn't want the good doctor to get distracted," explained Devin quickly because he worried about his mom traumatizing the kid. He frowned in displeasure as he did so.

Jasmine sighed a breath of relief upon hearing that.

Thank the heavens!

Kira was relieved as well.

"So, Mom, I'll take her back if there's nothing urgent. It's late, and I worry that the good doctor will be looking for her child."

Devin didn't want to waste any more time with his mom, so he was ready to leave with the kid.

Unfortunately, Jasmine suddenly grabbed his arm and stopped him. She instructed, "Wait. I need you to take Kira to the Oceanic Estate tomorrow. I've already talked to your grandpa about it. She will be cooking for Sebastian for the time being."

"Huh? She's going to cook in Oceanic Estate? But what about the White House?"

"She's on holiday. Your grandpa knows how good of a cook she is and thought about how she finally had some time off. That is why he asked her to go cook a few meals for Sebastian. See? I bought extra so she could take these exquisite ingredients over tomorrow."

Jasmine worried that Devin wouldn't agree to it, so she showed him everything she bought.

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In the end, Devin agreed to do so.

He, like everyone else, knew just how great of a cook Kira was, and how his grandpa, Jonathan, really enjoyed her cooking.

Hence, he didn't think that there was anything off with driving her over.

What he didn't know, however, was that the women stopped smiling the second he turned around and left with the kid.

"Do not let him figure this out, understand?"

"Yeah," replied Kira with her head down. Her voice was so soft that it was ridiculous.

Seeing that instantly got Jasmine mad once more. She dissed, "What is with that expression? Do you think I enjoy this? That old man has sent his personal team over to train Sebastian, so what do you think is going to happen next? Sebastian is obviously trying to compete against your cousin to be the next head of the Jadesons. Let me get this straight. If Devin is not the heir, both you and I will lose everything!"

Kira didn't reply.

Her fingers paled a little as she held the bag of groceries. It took her some time to garner enough courage and complain, "Even then, there is no need for me to mix these ingredients and cook for him. It'll kill him!"

"How would that kill him? All it'll do is make him a permanent cripple," denied Jasmine right away.

Jasmine didn't want to keep arguing with Kira, so the former glared over evilly and warned, "Do not get in my way again or I will marry you off to Alfred's nephew!"

Kira was already pale, but hearing that got her even paler. It was as if her life was sucked out of her, and she stared fearfully at her aunt.

Kira didn't dare to say another word anymore because she would rather die than marry that j*rk.

••••

Sasha ended up spending the night in the room on the third floor.

She worried that Sebastian would develop another fever, so she returned after she calmed down and put her daughter to bed. Sasha guarded over Sebastian the entire night.

Bzz! Bzz!

The vibrating phone woke Sasha up.

She heard that hum, so she groggily got her phone out and answered, "Hello?"

"Madam, how are things on your side? Why haven't you called to update me? I am worried sick here."

It was Karl. He had been waiting outside the Oceanic Estate since she entered the place with Vivian. That day, he worried endlessly as he waited for her update.

Sasha regained her composure and rubbed her sleepy eyes beside the desk before she sat up. She was about to tell Karl that everything was fine when she noticed that the bed was empty.

"Where is he?"

"Where's who?"

Karl was slightly taken aback because he was on the phone and couldn't see what was going on.

Unfortunately, Sasha didn't have the time or the mood to explain anything. She simply replied, "We're fine. I have to hang up now. I'll tell you more about it via WhatsApp later."

She hung up immediately after and hurried out of there.

Just how deep of a sleeper am I? I didn't even know that he has left!

Sasha took the elevator down right away. "Olivia, did you see Mr. Hayes around?" asked Sasha.

"Huh? Isn't he at the observation tower? I saw him heading in that direction earlier," answered the housemaid, Olivia, as she pointed in the direction of the observation tower.

As the name suggested, the observation tower was the spot where one could enjoy the scenery of the place in its entirety.

That was supposed to be a place to serve the VIPs. The designs and style made it so that the VIPs would get the best view of the city. Hence, the observation tower was, without a doubt, the best place to relax.

Sasha grabbed a coat and headed over.

When she reached the place, she saw that a guy was sitting under the rays of sunrise.

However, he was not the only one there. Another person was next to him. A small coffee table was sitting in between them, and they were enjoying their drinks as they admired the sunrise together.

"I'm sorry. I was too eager yesterday."

No one replied to that.

That sentence got the man, who was in a wheelchair and had a poker face on, to shift his gaze over for a while.

It didn't take long before he reverted to his distant self and shifted his focus to the view ahead.

Jonathan picked up the teapot and poured a drink for himself.

"I spent my entire life on the battlefield defending the country, and that got me used to being aggressive. That is why I am not used to taking my time or living a luxurious life. Take a look around, and you'd see proof of my words. There aren't many weaklings among the Jadesons," said Jonathan after he sipped some tea. It sounded like he was explaining himself, but it also seemed like he was just making conversation with his grandson.

Excitement flushed in Sasha right away.

That was the first time she heard Jonathan speaking in such a warm manner. It didn't matter what was the fight between them anymore. At the very least, those words meant that Sebastian's life wouldn't be threatened... At least not for a while.

What truly ticked Sasha off and got the vein on her head to pop was that the man in the wheelchair didn't react to it at all.

He kept staring ahead, and his handsome face showed no response. He didn't even bother looking at Jonathan.

Bang!

"Yeah, you're right. I remember when I first got here, I noticed that Lieutenant Colonel Jadeson and the others were all strong and beefy. They truly are incredible and are the best of the best," complimented Sasha. She was quick to rush over. I'd better speak up before Jonathan loses his temper.

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Damn it! Is he dumb? How can he be so rude?

"Oh! It's you!" Jonathan was not really pleased the moment he saw her.

At the same time, Sebastian also turned in her direction. In a split second, his face turned grim. "What are you doing here?" he snapped at her.

"Mr. Hayes, I'm here to bring you a jacket. You had a fever last night. It's too windy here. I'm worried that you will catch a cold and fall sick again," she explained as she approached him with the jacket.

What a stubborn fellow! How I wish to teach him a lesson! Why does he come all the way here early in the morning? Doesn't he know that he is still weak and might fall sick again at any moment?

Sasha could not resist scoffing inwardly. Pfft! What an ill-tempered man! No doubt, old Mr. Jadeson is quite annoying. Anyway, there is no harm bowing to him, so he will be pleased and be more lenient with his intensive training. After all, there's nothing to lose. Why can't this man learn to cool his head off and control his temper?

Sasha approached Sebastian and was about to put the jacket on his shoulders.

"Get out of my way!" He shrugged her off in dismay the moment her hand touched him, as though he was stung by an insect. His lips tightened into a thin line; his eyes were blazing with utter resistance and abhorrence.

Astounded by his bellow of anger, Sasha froze on the spot with the jacket in her arm.

Why is he boiling with anger again? Is it because of what happened last night? He was actually the one making the first move; yet, I didn't even lash out at him!

Sasha pouted her lips and looked at the man indignantly. Fortunately, it was rather windy when they were at the top level of the observation

tower. Meanwhile, Jonathan was savoring his cup of tea. Thus, he was unaware of the tense atmosphere between both of them.

Even so, it still caught his attention when Sasha mentioned that Sebastian had a fever the night before.

"What did you say just now? He had a fever?" He put down the cup and fixed his penetrating gaze on her.

Hmph! Fine, I'd better stop getting on this arrogant man's nerves. Let me try talking things out with Old Mr. Jadeson instead!

Sasha came to her senses at once and moved to stand alongside Jonathan. "Yeah, it seems his lungs were injured in a way due to overexertion, resulting in the drastic rise in body temperature. Anyway, his condition is currently under control after going through acupuncture last night," she explained to him tactfully.

In an instant, a hint of awkwardness flashed across Jonathan's face. Miraculously, his simmering anger was gone within seconds.

Nonetheless, he put on a grim look and refuted, "It's because he still lacks exercise!"

"Old Mr. Jadeson, Mr. Hayes' physical condition is quite good. However, he was unconscious for three months and sustained different injuries constantly after regaining consciousness. Subsequently, his body becomes weaker unavoidably. Please allow me to treat him with my traditional methods for a period of time. By then, I'm pretty sure he will be as fit and strong as Mr. Devin and the others." Sasha tried to convince Jonathan.

In the meantime, she could not resist recalling how Sebastian used to look before that. Her lips curved into an attractive smile as she reminisced about those moments.

If only they knew how the omnipotent man used to manage such a big corporation! Regardless of various challenges, he was as fit as a fiddle!

This round, Jonathan did not utter any words to retort.

After about ten minutes, the morning sun gradually moved higher in the sky. Shrouded by the golden ray of the rising sun, they started to feel warmer.

Jonathan finally put down his cup and was about to leave. He uttered solemnly, "Have a good rest then. All of them will come later. Bear in mind to cool yourself down and mind your manner."

Sasha was dumbfounded before she asked curiously, "Old Mr. Jadeson, what do you mean by 'they'?"

"All the Jadesons. I will officially move back here from today onwards. Since everyone hasn't seen each other for a long time, I will grab the opportunity to hold a feast at noon. It is a reunion lunch for the Jadesons in a way," Jonathan explained nonchalantly as he stood up. Even so, there was a hint of warning in his eyes when he threw a meaningful glance at Sebastian before he strode away.

Sasha was rendered speechless.

The Jadesons? Does he mean Jared Jadeson's whole family and that branch family? Why did he invite them over for lunch all of a sudden? What caused him to move back to Oceanic Estate within such a short span? Hmm! It will be inconvenient for me since he has moved back!

Sasha's mind drifted in a daze due to the sudden change.

On the other hand, Sebastian moved away in his wheelchair right after Jonathan left. Somehow, there were not even the slightest bit of changes in his countenance, as though he did not catch Jonathan's words at all.

"Hey, Mr. Hayes, wait for me!" At the sight of Sebastian, who was leaving the place, Sasha finally came to herself and tried to catch up with him.

She intended to push his wheelchair. Nonetheless, he turned to shoot her a cold glance when her hand was about to touch the handles.

"Stop following me!" he snapped coldly.

Sasha's hands stiffened in mid-air as she mumbled quizzically, "Huh? Mr. Hayes, I have to look after you. Why can't I stay by your side?"

"I don't need that!" the man rejected her right away with a grim look on his face.

"The residence will be very packed later. Bring your child back first and come again tomorrow," he instructed coldly.

"But..." Sasha tried to argue. It never crossed her mind that he would make such an arrangement.

Even so, he left without sparing her another glance.

Sasha was dumfounded.

All the Jadesons are coming! Even Charles Jadeson, who harbors grudges against him, is coming with his family! How can I go back now? My goodness! I still shudder whenever I recall how they had tried to kill him under broad daylight in the hospital previously! How can I let him face all of them by himself?

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After pondering for a while, Sasha made her way to the main wing of the residence.

To her surprise, the housemaids were all very occupied. They were all busy wiping the furniture and carpeting the floor. Some of them were even decorating the hall by hanging colorful balloons on the wall.

Are all these preparations merely for welcoming Jonathan's return? Well, I don't think it's as simple as that. It's uncommon for him to gather all the Jadesons out of the blue. Hmm! I bet he must be thinking of putting everything that has happened in these two months to an end!

Haha...

Sasha snickered at the thought and stepped into the hall.

"Olivia, all of you look busy today. Do you need any help?" She approached the housemaid and offered to give her a hand.

"Ah! Dr. West, you are here! It's all right. How can we trouble you to help us?" Olivia turned her down courteously.

Sasha only smiled and started wiping the table voluntarily.

All of a sudden, Devin emerged with a bunch of grocery bags of various sizes and yelled out, "Olivia, come and give me a hand with these!"

"All right, Mr. Devin." Olivia wiped her hands at once and made her way toward Devin.

At the sight of the grocery bags, Sasha followed behind her to offer help. "Good morning, Mr. Devin. What are all these?" "Morning, Dr. West," Devin greeted her with a warm smile. "These are all the ingredients bought by my cousin, Kira," he explained further and pointed behind him.

Only then did Sasha realize that there was a pretty young lady standing behind him. Her hands were full of grocery bags as well.

"Let me help you," Sasha stretched out her hands immediately to take over some of the grocery bags from her.

Kira's forehead was beaded with sweats. She looked up at Sasha thankfully and asked hesitantly, "Thank you. Are you... Dr. West?"

"Yeah, do you know me?" Sensing that the young lady kept gazing at her, Sasha asked in bewilderment.

Nonetheless, the young lady looked down hastily at once. She avoided having eye contact with Sasha and explained incoherently, "N-No, it's just because Devin mentioned your name these two days. He... he said that there is a very caring doctor who takes good care of Mr. Sebastian. That is why I tend to remember your name."

"That's no big deal. It's my job responsibility," Sasha replied humbly.

She did not sense anything awry from Kira's words and helped her carry the grocery bags into the kitchen.

On the other hand, Devin also stepped in with a basket full of premium dried ingredients and a bottle of oil. Apparently, those were all the ingredients needed for the feast at noon.

"Dr. West, how is Sebastian now?" Devin asked about Sebastian's condition right after he put the things down.

Hmm, this man seems to be really concerned about him!

Sasha dusted off her clothes and put on a smile. "He had a mild fever last night, but he's fine now. If you feel like having a look at him, you can go up any time now," she replied casually and added the last sentence on purpose. Since Sebastian was reluctant to let her stay by his side, she had no choice but to let Devin go up and check on him.

"All right, I will go in a while," Devin replied at once.

After that, she turned and went back into the kitchen. In the meantime, Kira was holding the basket full of dried ingredients. Earlier on, she put the packet of beef slices and a bottle of red wine into the basket secretly. Right that instant, she was about to take out the beef slices to be stewed in red wine. Her heart skipped a beat when Sasha was back to the kitchen again.

"Dr. West, are you planning to prepare anything here?" she asked warily.

"Mr. Hayes had a fever last night and can't take oily food. Hence, I'm thinking of preparing some yam porridge for him," Sasha replied casually with a smile.

She was unaware of the abrupt change in Kira's expression. As her mind was preoccupied with preparing something suitable for Sebastian, she started looking for the ingredients in the kitchen.

Hearing that, Kira was stunned before her eyes lit up again. She tossed the packet of beef slices back into the basket swiftly, grateful that she had found an excuse.

"Oh, is it? Coincidentally, I have bought some yams today. Let me get you some," Kira told Sasha eagerly and crouched down to look for the yams from the grocery bags.

Sasha was glad to hear that and crouched down to help her as well.

After a while, they found the packet of yams from one of the grocery bags.

"Dr. West, perhaps you can consider adding some of these bell peppers. I believe they will add flavor to your yam porridge." Kira turned to take out another grocery bag and looked at her eagerly.

"Thank you so much. You're really thoughtful!" Sasha thanked her sincerely and gave her a thumbs-up inwardly. What a helpful young lady!

A while later, Sasha washed and cut the yams as well as bell peppers into smaller cubes. When the water in the pot came to a boil, she put in the cubes to simmer at low heat.

Kira also heaved a sigh of relief and was glad that she could focus on the preparation for the other dishes.

All of a sudden, a housemaid rushed into the kitchen and yelled nervously, "Dr. West, your daughter fell down a while ago. She is crying in pain now. Can you go and have a look at her?"

Sasha felt a prickle of anxiousness and rushed out of the kitchen at once.

Kira lifted the glass lid of the pot instinctively and helped to have a look at the simmering yam porridge.