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Sasha arrived at the nursing home while wondering if the nurse came here often,

considering her familiarity with the place. The moment they alighted from the van, the nurse

led her to the innermost building, much to her confusion. "Let's go there first, Dr. Nancy."

"Hm? What about the ones outside? Sasha asked, glancing at the buildings near them in

bewilderment. The nurse seemed to panic a little as she explained, "Dr. Nancy, the ones

staying in the innermost buildings are the most serious cases. I think you should take a look

at them first." "Alright then," Sasha said as she decided not to probe further.

However, she noticed how different the building looked from the others. Besides being

impeccably clean, the furniture there was visibly more luxurious, and the employees there

seemed well trained and responsible. Huh, this place looks pretty unique! She walked into

the first ward to check on the patient staying inside, but stopped abruptly when she noticed

the nurse that had led her discreetly to the nursing home slipping away.

"What are you

doing, Ms. Sullivan?" she asked.

"Huh? Oh... nothing much... I'm just checking on the other patients!" the nurse said, hurrying

back into the room. Sasha glanced at her again, but she did not say anything else. The two

of them got to work, and they finished visiting every ward after about an hour. Sasha cleared

up the documents in her hands and got up to go to another building. However, the nurse

started acting strange the moment they exited the building. She kept fidgeting and looking

back, as though she did not want to leave it. What's going on? "Hey, Ms. Sullivan? Is

everything alright?" Sasha asked. "Huh?" the nurse exclaimed, whipping her head around to

meet her eyes. She shook her head and answered, "I'm fine. I'm just a little tired." Ella she's

just a little tired? "Alright then," Sasha said, taking the documents the nurse had been

holding on to. "Go back and take a break. I'll take over from here." "

Thank you, Dr. Nancy," the nurse said before disappearing out of the front entrance. Sighing,

Sasha had no choice but to get to work. She spent another hour going through the wards

and checking on the patients while carrying her equipment and documents along. When she

was done, several employees at the nursing home rushed over immediately. "Thank you, Dr.

Nancy. Can I get you a cup of tea?" "I'm alright. Thanks for the offer, "Sasha said, glancing at

her watch from her. "I have other matters to attend to." "Alright then. See you, Dr. Nancy!" the

employees chorused as they watched her exit the nursing home. The winter skies were

bleak and grey, and Sasha wondered if a snowstorm was on its way. When she exited the

building, she could not help but shiver violently as the cold wind cut across her skin. "Hm?

Where's the go?"

she muttered to herself as she stared at the empty driveway in confusion. Suddenly, a white

van screeched to a halt in front of the entrance, almost making Sasha jump out of her skin

in shock. Before she could react, an old, frail man with a walking stick alighted from the van

and met her eyes from her. It was as though time had come to stop as they stared at each

other in disbelief and shock. an old, frail man with a walking stick alighted from the van and

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disbelief and shock. an old, frail man with a walking stick alighted from the van and met her

eyes. It was as though time had come to stop as they stared at each other in disbelief and

shock.

Why is he here? Is this a coincidence? Sasha felt as though her head had been split open by

a lightning strike, and panic was the only thing left in her mind. Frederick was no better, but

he was more shocked than panicked. He just couldn't believe what he saw. He continued to

stare at her with wide eyes as her hands began to tremble. "

S-Sasha?" Sasha did not answer. Instead, she began to shuffle away at top speed. Frederick

called after her and stumbled forward on his walking stick. "Sasha! Wait!" "Mr. Hayes,

please watch your step!" "Tell her to come back! Can't you tell? Ella she's my

daughter-in-law!" the old man shouted as to tear escaped his eyes from him. Sasha could

hear his cries from afar, and she slowed to a halt immediately. Why am I running?I'll have to

face him sooner or later. He needs to know that I'm still alive, after all. I can't just hide from

him forever! She turned around to face the old man, who hobbled over to her as quickly as

her trembling legs would allow.

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"I'm sorry, Frederick!" With that, Sasha started crying. Frederick slowed to a halt and stared

at her while panting heavily, his eyes turning red immediately. "You... you're still alive? Why

didn't you... why didn't you tell me? Don't you know how depressed I was for the past few

years?" he asked, his voice shaking uncontrollably. As onlookers watched in much shock

and disbelief, Frederick began to sob like a child, despite being over seventy years old.

Sasha's fingers dug into her palms painfully. She looked up to meet his eyes from her

pleadingly. "Yes, Frederick, it's all my fault. Please don't be too hard on yourself."

She offered him her hands de ella, as though she was waiting for him to punish her.

Frederick simply stared at her wordlessly, the lump in her throat making it hard for him to

say anything. It reminded him of the older times, where she would stand before him and let

him scold her as he wished whenever she made a mistake. He used to be decisive in his

punishments of her, but as he stared at his long-lost daughter-in-law crying before him, he

found himself hesitating. He let his tears flow freely as he struggled to find words to

express just how relieved he was to see her again.

A few minutes later, a nursing home employee appeared by his side and helped him into the

building as Sasha followed them in silence. She had spent countless hours pondering over

what she should say in the event she met him, and she had been sure that a simple apology

would be sufficient. A lot of time had passed since then, and now she had kids to inform

him about. where she would stand before him and let him scold her as he wished whenever

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should say in the event she met him, and she had been sure that a simple apology would be

sufficient.

A lot of time had passed since then, and now she had kids to inform him about. I'm going to

tell Sebastian that he has a daughter too. Maybe I should just come clean with Frederick too?

"When did you come back? Where have you been the past few years? How were things

there? Frederick asked after he had a sip of tea to sooth his emotions from him. Sasha

looked up with a start. "I've been back for a while, Frederick. I thought you knew everything?"

"Of course I didn't! I just found out five minutes ago that you're still alive! How am I

supposed to know where you went or when you came back?" Frederick exclaimed. Sasha

fell silent. He didn't know about my return? Didn't Sebastian bring me back just to meet him?

Why doesn't he know anything? Something smelled fishy to Sasha, and Frederick' He looked

like he really didn't know that I am alive... What did he say?

'Are you still alive?' Did that guy hide the truth from his own father? Why would he do that?

Just...why? Her heart sank further into her stomach the more she thought about it. "What's

wrong, Sasha? You don't have to talk about it if you don't want to," Frederick said with a

wave of his hand upon noticing how uncomfortable she looked.

However, he froze when her

Sasha's made eye contact with him all of a sudden. "Frederick...

Sebastian brought me

back." "Que? Sebastian?" "Yeah. He found me in Clear, and he told me that he's going to

bring me back to meet you. Didn't he tell you that, Frederick?"

Her voice de ella grew softer as she spoke, and Frederick could only stare at her in disbelief.

He was indeed kept in the dark by Sebastian, but something seemed off about Sasha, and

he decided to tell a white lie. "He did tell me, but I didn't take him seriously..." "Stop lying,

Frederick. You always look to the left and clench your fists whenever you do that. Why didn't

he tell you?" Frederick fell silent. His speculation about him as Sebastian's father was that

his son about her wanted to cut off all the ties Sasha had with the Hayes family before he

knew of her return from her. "Everything's alright, Sasha. I'll protect you no matter what

happens," Frederick said gently. "Haha!" Much to her surprise, Sasha threw her head back

and started to chuckle.

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"Frederick, you have misunderstood. I didn't mean that. I'm just a little surprised that he

didn't tell you about it. But it's fine. It's the same now that we saw it. Have some tea."

Smilingly, Sasha served a cup of freshly brewed tea for the old man like nothing happened.

Frederick was a little startled. Is she really alright? Did I misread her looks just now? He

wanted to find clues from her expression. However, it seemed like she was fine when she

was calmly serving him the brewed tea. Well, I guess that's for the best. He finally stopped

wondering about it. When he took over the tea, he asked in a more relaxed tone,

"Alright. Since you came back, when are you planning to go home?" He still regarded Hayes

Residence as her home. Sasha lowered her gaze at the mists forming out of the teapot and

smiled. "Maybe in two days. I'm thinking of bringing your grandson over." "Grandson?" The

old man was suddenly excited. "You mean..." "Yes, we both survived. He hasn't met you yet,

but I believe he would be thrilled to see you." Sasha looked at her father smilingly and spoke

with a calm tone as if she was talking about everyday life. How is it common to suddenly

have another grandson? Frederick was astonished.

His hands were trembling slightly, and he teared up at once. He tried to say something but

only ended up with trembling lips. I have another grandson... Sasha only looked at him

quietly. After a while, she felt that it was time for her to go, so she put down the teacup she

was holding. "Frederick, if there is nothing else, I'm leaving now." "Huh? Where are you

going?" "I found a job at the hospital, and I still have to get back to work. Don't worry. I'll

bring the kid over as soon as possible." Sasha stood up and reassured him. Then, he only

felt relieved. Sasha left the nursing home. A few minutes later, Luke finally got a phone call

after waiting anxiously at Hayes Corporation. "Mr. Scott, Ms. Wand has left." "She-she left?"

Luke's words stuck at his throat. "Did she say anything or act weirdly?" "No, she only

remained calm. She did appear to be panicking and shocked when she saw Old Mr. Hayes,

but she looked fine after they entered the room," reported the bodyguard. Nothing

happened? Luke couldn't quite believe it. However, despite his further questions, the

bodyguard affirmed that Sasha did not show any abnormalities and even told him that she

went back to work as usual. Could it be that we took this matter too seriously? Although he

hesitated, Luke still went to his boss' office in the end. "Mr. Hayes, I was told that she has

left, and she seemed to be fine. So everything went well." Sebastian didn't respond.

He had been waiting for a long time in his bright and clean office. He was still seated in

front of his large office desk, and he looked like he was going through the files with his

slender fingers. Still, the atmosphere felt rather intense. Moreover, there was an occasional

crackling of fire sparks. It was from a lit cigarette that was not smoked at that time, but a

couple of cigarette butts could be found in the ashtray. Chills ran down Luke's spine when

he saw this. "What do you mean?" "I-I mean, Ms. Wand wasn't angered, but she-she seemed

to react indifferently toward this matter."

Trembling, Luke explained quietly. Hearing that, the man abruptly closed the file and took a

deep breath subconsciously. What a relief! However, he got confused the next second. "Why

did she react indifferently?" "Huh?" Luke felt exasperated by the man's question. What do

you mean why? Do you want her to go crazy instead? Is this guy masochistic? "But, Mr.

Hayes, isn't it better for her to stay calm instead? Nothing will happen that way." "What do

you know? That means she doesn't care!" "Yeah, she doesn't," added Luke simply. Then, he

realized that there was dead silence in the office, and it was more frightening than before.

Good grief! What is wrong with this guy? Luke felt that his boss was becoming more

unpredictable like a woman in menopause.

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Fortunately, things died down when the hospital brought news that Sasha continued

working as usual, and there was nothing to worry about anymore. Hence, the president

resumed his work. Two hours later, preschool was about to end. Before meeting a client,

Sebastian told Luke that it was Sasha's turn to pick the kids up. Thus, Luke called her to

remind her about it. "Ma'am, can you pick the kids up today, please? Mr. Hayes is meeting a

client." "Alright, I'm on my way," she agreed faintly. He smiled in relief after hearing her calm

tone. After chatting for a bit, he hung up and got back to work. Since it's the mother who's

picking the kids up, there's nothing for me to worry about. Yet that night, Sebastian didn't see

his children as expected even after getting off work, let alone the woman. "What's wrong?

Why aren't they back yet?"

"Huh? Didn't Ms. Wand call you about the children staying the night with her? Didn't you

know about it, Mr. Hayes?" The confused Wendy hurriedly explained the situation. Did she?

Sebastian took out his phone, but neither did he see any missed calls nor a single text

message. Then, why did she say that? What is she up to? The man was finally angered. Since

it was already late and cold outside, he immediately dialed Sasha's number with a solemn

expression. "The number you have dialed is unavailable." The robotic voice traveled through

the phone. Beep! What? He stared at his cell phone in unbelief and immediately redialed the

number. But what made him blow his top was the same recorded message from the phone.

This woman must have a death wish! He finally lost his patience. Hanging up fiercely, he

grabbed his keys and headed out again in a murderous manner. "Mr. Hayes? Where are you

going, sir?" "I'm going to kill her!" Amidst the cold night, the voice of the man gnashing his

teeth in the dark actually sounded a little funny. He looked like an entirely different person

from the one working in the company. During the day, he had a frosty attitude, and he would

control himself even though he was scolding someone. But now, he had utterly lost his

temper, especially when he said the word "kill" through gritted teeth.

Wendy leaned against the door and sighed, "These two..." — Sebastian drove speedily

because he was angry and worried about the children. It only took him less than thirty

minutes to reach Old Town from Frontier Bay. Soon, he found the building that Sasha was

staying in. However, he realized that it was pitch black upstairs when he arrived. Are they

asleep? After he got out of the car and slammed the door shut, he became puzzled.

Nevertheless, he was a pragmatic person. Since he already got here, he ignored his

thoughts and strode upstairs. A few minutes later, he reached the familiar entrance of the

rental house. "Sasha..." "Young man, who are you looking for? The family has moved away.

Don't come here anymore."

A lady coincidentally came down from upstairs. When she saw Sebastian standing in the

dark and knocking on the door, she raised her flashlight at him and reminded him. Sebastian

was shocked. "Moved away? How is this possible?" The lady replied, "Why not? I just helped

with her suitcase this evening. Everyone knows about her and her three children. So why do

I have to lie to you?" Sebastian fell silent. After hearing that, the man who rushed there in the

dark only stared at the door lock quietly with his ears ringing. She's right. If someone is in

there, why is this old-fashioned lock hanging outside?

So the reason why this woman didn't answer was that she ran away with my two children?

The tall figure was flummoxed and thunderstruck. His pupils constricted, and he went

berserk. The next second, he furiously kicked open the door with a loud bang! Sure enough,

it was empty. When he came over the other night, there were still many objects inside, such

as the small electric stove, the small but neat couch, and the tiny table he used to eat

noodles with... Now, everything was gone just like that, and the house was deserted and

lifeless only in a few hours. After only a few hours, the house was deserted and lifeless. His

eyes slowly turned bloodshot in a fury. "Sasha Wand!"

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When Luke had received the phone call, he had just taken a shower and got into bed. After

hearing the news, he abruptly sat up in shock. "Are you kidding? Ms.

Wand ran away with the

children? How is this possible?" "Do you think I'm kidding right now, Mr. Scott? Hurry up and

find them at the airports, stations, piers, everywhere. Just look carefully for every place that

departs from Avenport! Mr. Hayes is going nuts!" A bodyguard called Luke and told him

about everything that had happened. Luke was dumbstruck. Did she really run away? Good

grief, what is that crazy woman doing? Does she have to be so dramatic? He didn't dare to stay in bed anymore and immediately got off his bed to work. However,

what disappointed them the most that night was that they couldn't find Sasha and the

children, notwithstanding all hands on deck from Hayes Corporation.

Despite searching at

the airports, harbors, train stations, and even the highways, there was no trace of the

missing mother and her children. Furthermore, the people who searched within the city

couldn't find them either. Why? Did she just vanish into thin air? In the meantime, Sebastian

was waiting at the Blackwood family.

After waiting until midnight and still no news of them, he got up and immediately strangled

Jackson. "I will give you three more seconds. If you don't tell me where they are, I will kill you

right now!" He glared at Jackson murderously. If Jackson still didn't speak up at that point,

he would definitely be strangled to death. Regardless of that, Jackson was fearless before

Sebastian's threats and scolded instead, "Kill me if you can! Let me tell you something,

Sebastian. Even if I knew where she's at right now, I wouldn't tell you either, you bas*ard!"

Crack! "Stop it!" Luckily, Sharon was there, and she rushed over to stop Sebastian instantly.

"Sebastian, please calm down first. We know nothing about her disappearance nor your

history with her!

Ever since she was injured and stayed with you, she sounded cheery whenever she

contacted us. How would we know that she would suddenly take off with the kids?"

Sebastian fell silent, and his pursed lips became paler. Sharon continued, "Tell us what's

going on between you two so that we can look at it together. What do you think?" She tried

to let him explain the cause of this incident. Sebastian sneered silently. Hmph! Do you think I

would tell you? Never! Besides, I already knew the reason behind all these. It was because of

what happened this afternoon! At first, I thought she wasn't mad, but she was actually

pretending to be okay before delivering the fatal blow. What a ruthless woman! She

completely disappeared in only a few hours, and I couldn't find her even if I searched through

the entire city. So what is this?

She actually vanished into thin air and would never return? At that moment, when he

remembered what happened five years ago, he was deep in his thoughts. I've been through a

lot all these years, but I've never felt this powerless before. This is driving me crazy! I can't

even fight it! "Sebastian?" Sebastian was lost in thought. "Mr. Hayes, I might have an idea of

where she went." Suddenly, someone entered at that moment. When Sharon turned to look,

her expression changed drastically. "Xenia? Why are you here? Who asked you to come?" It

was Xenia Blackwood, their daughter. Nonetheless, Xenia ignored her mother and walked

directly toward Sebastian. "Mr. Hayes, my cousin was not an ordinary lady. When she faked

her death that year,

she managed to pay off my mother's massive amount of debt. She's incredible." "Xenia,

what on earth are you blathering about? Shut up right now!" "Am I wrong? Didn't she give

you a lot of money back then? Don't worry. I won't reveal her sponsor's name. I only want Mr.

Hayes to find his son. After all, it's his blood, and he couldn't be with other..." Smack! Without

waiting for her to finish, the enraged Sharon stood up and slapped her daughter fiercely. She

is an embarrassment to the Blackwood family! The chaotic living room became quiet once

more. But this time, because of Sharon's words, the atmosphere grew more dangerous with

every kind of terror, and even looking at it felt horrifying. "Sebastian, don't listen to her. She's

just a girl, and..." "Go on!"

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What a terrifying voice! He didn't look too angry, but there was a sinister look of impending

danger in his eyes as if he was a devil from hell. Xenia could not help trembling at that.

"We-we didn't know how she got that five million for us in one night when she went

overseas, and she was still with two children..." Ouch! After hearing this, Sebastian was

stabbed in the heart when he least expected it to happen. His growing hatred and disgust

made him tore off the armrest of the chair beside him on the spot! "Aahhhhh—!" Xenia

screamed with horror at the scene.

She immediately hugged herself tightly and squatted on the floor. This is way too horrifying!

Sharon was also shocked and scared. She quickly rushed over to protect his husband. When

she wanted to persuade Sebastian, the man suddenly laughed. Sponsor? Five million? Great,

just great. I thought how high and mighty she was, but she doesn't even have a million and

had to work at the hospital and withdraw half a year's salary in advance. So she lied to me and

had sold herself off to another man even with two children with her? Sasha, what a b*tch you

are! The man went nuts. He shot a murderous look, loosened his grip on Jackson, and left.

"Sebastian, where are you going? Don't be reckless! Xenia was just talking nonsense...

"Sasha immediately ran after him and tried to stop him. Nevertheless, the man left speedily.

When she reached the entrance, she had already seen him getting in his car and

disappeared from her sight in no time. Sharon was left speechless. Xenia saw it too, and

she stood up and jeered, "Mom, don't waste your energy. Sasha deserved it all along. She

should've learned her lesson long ago." When Sharon heard it, she smacked her again. "Do

you think you could snatch away her position if you got rid of her? Let me tell you this.

Sebastian wouldn't even want you if every woman in the world died!" No one would've

imagined that Sharon would rub this in her daughter's face, and Xenia was extremely

dumbstruck.

As if someone rubbed salt in her wounds, her face turned pale instantly. "What did you say?

You'd better shut your mouth, Sharon Goldstein!" She screamed angrily in embarrassment

and wanted to cover her mother's mouth at once. That was my secret that I've hidden for

almost twenty years! Heaven knows it was exposed by my idiotic mother just now... Sasha

could leave Avenport without a trace was because of someone's help indeed. However, this

person was not her sponsor, let alone the twisted relationship that Jackson assumed. They

were merely business partners. "

Ms. Nancy! I didn't expect you to call me first! How's it going? Did you have a pleasant

flight?" As soon as the helicopter landed on the Erihalian territory, the tall and handsome

blond man walked over and welcomed her with open arms when he saw her. She smiled and

received his hug without resisting it. "It was lovely. Thank you so much, Mr. Leonard." "You

don't have to thank me. It's my honor to serve you, Ms. Nancy. But since when do you have

another child?"

He suddenly looked at the children behind her. Ian, who hadn't spoken since getting on the

helicopter, suddenly frowned when he saw the man staring at him because he hated this

man. "No, Mr. Leonard. This is my brother, Ian. I have another brother now!" Vivian suddenly

spoke. When she saw Raymond asking about Ian, she replied while enjoying her fried

chicken drumsticks. Raymond was charmed by the adorable little girl. He already knew

Vivian and Matteo.

When he was in Clear, he went to visit Sasha and even brought them gifts. When he heard

that Ian was Vivian's new brother, the blond man walked toward her.

"Oh, really? Vivi has

another brother now?" Vivian nodded. "Yeah, Daddy hid him away. He was born together

with us." Raymond was dumbfounded. Daddy? He carried the girl in his arms and looked at

Sasha. "Ms. Nancy, didn't you say that he was dead?" Sasha became awkward. "...It was

fake. Erm, let's not talk about it now. The kids didn't sleep well nor eat anything last night.

Shall we go to the hotel first?" She changed the topic.

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Raymond quickly agreed, but he disapproved of the idea of them staying in a hotel. "Of

course! But how can you stay at a hotel when you came all the way here? You're welcome to

stay at my manor. I'll take you guys there. Let's go!" Then, the blond man carried Vivian in

one hand, pulled Sasha's luggage in another, and headed to the parking lot. Ian didn't look

very happy. Seeing this, Matteo immediately held lan's hand. "

Mr. Leonard is just a business associate of Mommy's. Don't worry.

Mommy won't be with

him." "Really?" After hearing that, Ian finally looked at his brother feeling a little uneasy.

Matteo immediately assured him. "It's true. Mr. Leonard is a nobleman. Although he's single,

his family would not allow him to marry a commoner. Besides, Mommy has her hands full

with little troublemakers like us." The little kid actually mocked himself as a troublemaker.

Hearing this, Ian was finally relieved. However, when he thought of the current situation, he

felt a little frustrated again. "Then, what about Daddy? Mommy really doesn't want him

anymore?" "Don't you talk about him anymore! Honestly, Ian.

Mommy and I already gave him lots of chances before. But look at what he did? Do you

have any idea how Mommy came back yesterday?" When Matteo brought this up, his tiny

fists tightened with incipient tears swelling in his eyes. Indeed, after the incident yesterday,

Sasha only remained calm in front of them. However, no one knew about the slap she gave

herself when she got into the car after coming out of the nursing home. She even had to

stop the car and got out to vomit on the way home. No one knew, except Matteo, who had

always placed a tracker on his mother. He didn't understand why she threw up, but he heard

her painful, suffering voice when she was vomiting. In the end, she moaned and wailed bitterly.

Matteo would never forget about it. Ian finally fell silent. He lowered his head and pinched

his robot with his tiny, pale fingers without saying another word. When Matteo saw it, he

was at a loss for words. He only held his brother's hand and followed after their mother.

Twenty minutes later. When the mother and children drove by the lane filled with sycamore

trees on both sides, a magnificent and luxurious Erihalian manor appeared before them.

Their eyes lit up at the gorgeous sight. "Is this your house, Mr. Leonard?" The sweet Vivian

asked excitedly when she saw such a magnificent-looking manor. Raymond nodded. "

Yeah. Do you like it, Vivi?" "Yeah, I like it. It's bigger and prettier than Daddy's house." She

mentioned her father once again and even compared it to his house at Frontier Bay. Ian

couldn't hold it in anymore. "No! My house is bigger and prettier!" Since the little guy wasn't

good with words and was highly aggrieved, he burst out these few words. When Sasha

heard it, she sensed her eldest son's temper and immediately turned her head. "Little lan,

don't be angry with Vivi. She's still young. And that's right! My sweetie's house is the

biggest." She reached out her hand to soothe the tense little guy.

Vivi leaned over too. Her round eyes flickered at Ian apologetically. "Ian, are you angry? It's

Vivi's fault. Vivi won't say anything like this again. Don't be angry, okay?" lan stayed quiet. He

could only swallow his bitterness when Vivian apologized, even if he felt wronged. It was not

his fault for experiencing mood swings because he had never left Sebastian before.

Besides, his mother found another man as soon as she left his father.

Hence, he was worried that he would never be able to see him again.

The little boy was

heartbroken. Sasha knew that Ian was upset, so she took the boy to a room to be alone with

him after they reached the manor. "Little Ian, do you regret leaving with Mommy?" "No!" The

boy denied firmly. Yes, I don't regret it because Mommy didn't abandon me this time. Sasha

was relieved at her son's answer. "Then, you just don't like it here, right? Don't worry. We're

only here temporarily. When Mommy's friend arranged everything, Mommy will take you

back to Clear." "Really?" The teary little boy finally broke into a smile, and his eyes lit up.

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Of course!" Sasha squatted in front of her son and took his cold hands into hers to warm

them. Ian finally felt better. But he still had questions in his head. Is Mommy never going to

let me see Daddy again? Are we not going home ever? In the end, he kept them to himself. I

know that Daddy made a big mistake this time. Matteo even said that Mommy slapped

herself after seeing Grandpa. Who could easily forgive something like that? Ian's beautiful

eyes were again shrouded in sadness... — That night, Raymond specially held a grand

welcome dinner for them to celebrate their arrival.

"Mr. Leonard, I'm feeling embarrassed that my children and I are giving you trouble. You

really don't have to do all this for us." She felt terrible about the luxurious treatment.

Raymond smiled. "Nancy, you deserve my everything. It's only dinner! I can give you more in

the future." This man sure is straightforward! Sasha blushed and fell quiet. After changing

into the dress that he had thoughtfully prepared for her, she carefully put on some makeup

and went to the banquet hall. "Good heavens! Who is this? She's gorgeous!" "Yeah, she really

is charming! Is this your new girlfriend, Mr. Leonard?"

As soon as Sasha appeared, everyone in the magnificent-looking banquet hall was amazed

by her beauty. She immediately became the center of attention and had attracted their

gazes. Sasha was a beautiful woman indeed. She wore an haute couture white gown, which

showed off her slender figure and graceful curves. Her long hair was carefully braided into a

bun by the hairstylist, revealing her beautiful nape. Most of all, her looks were

heart-stopping. What a gorgeous lady. Sasha felt bashful when everyone else was gaping at

her in awe. "Hello, everyone. My name is Nancy.

I am a friend of Mr. Leonard." "Nancy? So you're Nancy!" "Oh my!" Unexpectedly, when her

identity was revealed, everyone became more excited than before and looked at her even

more excitedly. Sasha was perplexed. What's going on...? She looked at the tall, blond man

beside her with a puzzled expression. Raymond smiled delightfully. "You see? All my friends

know you, and they have heard your name many times, my beautiful Ms. Nancy." He didn't

hide his smugness at all. Sasha blushed even more fiercely. — Sebastian received a photo

that showed that exact scene. The woman who had never shown him her beauty before

looked elegant and graceful like a fairy with fair skin. At that moment, a voice called from

the blond man's direction. "Sasha Wand!"

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"Mr. Hayes, they are there!" Luke was very excited as soon as he saw them. Wow, Sasha

blew my mind. I'd never expected this woman to be this capable of escaping with the children

without getting caught by the top businessman in Astoria. If it weren't for her idiotic cousin

who snitched, I don't think we can ever find her. Yet, the snitch astonished me once more. We

would've never expected that the person behind the scenes was actually a powerful family

from Yartran.

This woman sure is amazing. "Are we going in now, Mr. Hayes?" Luke asked timidly when he

saw Sebastian's murderous expression from the rearview mirror. He looks like he's about to

kill someone, and that woman still dares to put on a lovey-dovey show in front of him with

another man and Mr. Hayes's children! I can't look at this anymore.

"Wait here!" "Huh?" Before

Luke could react, Sebastian had already got off, slammed the car door, and was nowhere to

be seen.

Gosh! He's furious! This doesn't look good. Should I get a few more bodyguards here? What if

they started fighting? Can Mr. Hayes handle Mr. Leonard's men? — Meanwhile, Sasha was

chatting with Raymond's friends in the manor. Her stunning appearance had caused many

misunderstandings that she was Raymond's girlfriend, so now she had to clarify their

relationship. "Ms. Nancy, are you two not in a relationship?" "No, we're not," explained Sasha

smilingly while pouring wine.

Raymond suddenly came over. "Why not? Nancy, I've always liked you.

Can you give me a

chance, please?" His sudden confession shocked Sasha. "Raymond, wh-what are you

talking about? You know that I..." "Don't worry, Nancy. I don't mind your background and I will

love your children like my own." Then, he put down his wine glass, went on his knee, and

took out a giant diamond ring. This guy is out of his mind!

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The banquet hall fell silent. All eyes were on these two people, including the three children

who were enjoying the pastries. "See how charming our mommy is!" Matteo beamed and

gave his mother a thumbs up after seeing this scene, his eyes glowering like stars. Vivian

was beaming proudly too as she was a die-hard fan of her mother.

However, lan became

more upset. "Daddy, Mommy is running away." "Well, she can't!" A familiar voice came from

behind suddenly. Ian abruptly looked up. Before he figured out what was going on, a familiar

hand swooped the boy up and into the man's arms. Daddy? Is this really Daddy?

The little guy was surprised at the sight of the man for a long time, and he just couldn't

believe his eyes. Seeing the look on his face, Sebastian rubbed his head. "What's the

matter? Are you dumbstruck? Do you not recognize Daddy anymore?" Ian was still in a daze.

Hearing his father's words, teardrops immediately ran down from his beautiful eyes. He

immediately plunged into the man's arms. "Daddy...I thought...I thought I wouldn't see you

anymore...Daddy...I...I miss you so much..." He hugged his father's neck tightly with his tiny

arms. At that moment, the strong little boy finally broke into tears. He was just a kid, after

all. Besides, he had never left his father's side, and he was brought up by Sebastian all these

years.

Sebastian had never seen him this upset before, and he felt a twinge of pain in his heart. He

decided not to scold him for being ungrateful, as those words choked at his throat. "Alright,

don't cry. Isn't Daddy here now?" "Okay..." The little guy responded in a muffled voice while

crying in his father's chest, feeling a little better. Meanwhile, Sasha and Raymond were the

centers of attention in the banquet hall. She still couldn't believe that her business partner

would publicly confess to her out of the blue. "Nancy." She stayed quiet. "Will you be my

girlfriend?" Raymond asked persistently.

At that instant, everyone in the banquet hall cheered for him and urged Sasha to be with

him. They also reminded her about this rare opportunity that many women could only dream

about. They're right. Raymond is a son from an influential family who used to be royals. They

only became aristocrats when they weren't as successful. However, even if they are only

aristocrats, they're still a powerful family in this city. How would they allow a commoner like

me to be his girlfriend?

That's impossible. At that moment, everyone felt that Sasha had hit the jackpot. Therefore, it

disappointed them when the Astorian girl turned him down. "Raymond, don't mess around.

We're just business partners, and I didn't think of us otherwise." "But now you can!" When

Sasha was about to leave, the blond man suddenly grabbed her waist and pulled her toward

him. "Raymond, you—" Sasha was finally infuriated. Nonetheless, the tall man lowered his

head and stared at her with a longing, fiery gaze. "Nancy, I'm not joking. If you agree, I can

give you this manor right now." After saying that, he leaned in and tried to kiss her, but she

quickly pulled away from him.

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Nevertheless, Raymond stubbornly grabbed her when she struggled to prevent her from

escaping. "I'm not drunk! I'm more than sober. Nancy, I don't mind that you're a single

mother, and I'm more than happy to take care of the children. I really love you." After that, he

tried to kiss her again, and she struggled harder than before. What is this crazy man doing?

When everyone thought that Sasha could not escape from Raymond, Matteo, who was

about to rescue her mother, saw a tall figure walking in. He was wearing a black coat and

seemed to be carrying a child too.

Then, a murderous voice was heard before he showed his face. "Get your hands off her!"

The banquet hall fell silent. As if time had stood still, everyone's attention turned from Sasha

and Raymond to the man, including Raymond. What a terrifying voice indeed. "Who are you?

Who let you into my manor? You must have a death wish!" Raymond roared furiously.

Nevertheless, the man ignored him. When he strode out of the darkness with the child in his

arms, everyone could see his slender figure with a dark expression hanging on his face.

Moreover, the air of nobility around him had startled everyone. Who is this? Everyone

present was mostly wealthy and respectable but they still sensed the mysterious man's

threatening aura.

They felt his presence and winced subconsciously. Except Sasha. "I should be the one

telling you this instead. How dare you bother my children's mother? Do you want the

Leonard family to be wiped out from the surface of the earth?" The man finally spoke in a

deep voice with a threatening tone as he carried the child and walked into the light.

However, the deeper his voice was, the more frightening it sounded.

Raymond's eyes

suddenly widened in shock.

His children's mother? Raymond looked at the woman in his arms. He then realized that she

had been glaring at the man who suddenly appeared for a while. It looks like they are related

to each other after all. Raymond looked at the child and exuded a murderous vibe too. "So

you're Nancy's ex-husband? How dare you threaten me now?" "Ex-husband?" Hearing this,

Sebastian, who was carrying the child, suddenly smiled. "You're wrong. We're not divorced."

"What? Not divorced?" "Yes. She wanted to make me a widower but failed. So, if you don't

let go of her in three seconds, the Leonard family will be destroyed," he reminded kindly.

Sadly, Raymond didn't believe him. Hmph! Who does this Astorian man think he is? Even the

other powerful families can't touch us! He must be out of his mind.

Three seconds later, the

Astorian man took out his phone in front of Raymond.

"Confiscate every property that belonged to the Leonard family and send them to Mr.

Eugene's place and tell him that I sent him an expensive gift." Everyone in the banquet hall

fell silent. Mr. Eugene was the rival of the Leonard family. However, the Leonards wouldn't

dare to fight him because he was a royal family member. If he found their weakness, he

could destroy them easily. What? Does he know Mr. Eugene? And even want to confiscate all

our family property to send him as a gift? Raymond looked at the man who just hung up. The

manor was in chaos, and the housemaids rushed over to inform him about his family

members wanting to see him immediately. Finally, he realized things were going downhill.

"Who...who are you?

How do you know Mr. Eugene?" "So what if I do? I am the one who gave Mr. Eugene his land.

Do you still think that's weird?" Sebastian responded indifferently. After saying that,

everyone in the hall exclaimed in shock. The land that was gifted to Mr. Eugene was situated

in the most prosperous area in the country. The news spread widely and had caused an

enormous stir. Even the royal family was envious of that. However, no one knew that it was

actually gifted by the famous Hayes Corporation from Astoria. So this is the owner of Hayes

Corporation? This is too horrifying! No wonder this powerful man could enter with such a

domineering and threatening presence. Everyone froze on the spot, and Raymond almost

fainted. I actually offended the owner of Hayes Corporation by proposing to his wife!

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"Mr. Leonard, let go of my mother! Do you want to further infuriate my daddy? It won't go

well for you!" Matteo warned, in the nick of time. Raymond released his grasp as though he

was electrocuted. "I'm... I'm sorry, I didn't know. I thought..." Raymond stammered. "Mr.

Leonard, even if my father isn't the president of Hayes Corporation, this is still no way to

treat a lady, you got that? You went too far," Matteo continued, determined to give Raymond

a piece of his mind. After saying that, he stretched out an arm to pull his unsteady mother to

her feet. "Mommy, are you all right?"

Matteo asked concernedly. Sasha was distressed. It was unbelievable that with all the effort

she'd made to leave Avenport behind, this man still managed to track her down. It was a

frustrating and embarrassing experience to be cornered by her past which she sought so

desperately to escape. "I'm fine, Matteo. Mr. Leonard had too much to drink today. Why don't

you bring your sister and we'll get out of here," Sasha smoothed the front of her skirt and

tried to appear calm and dignified. The boys were speechless, as was Sebastian who had

just rescued her. He gritted his teeth in irritation at her obstinance. Why couldn't he keep his

hands to himself? Why does he have to trouble himself to be kind to her?

After she'd kidnapped his sons, he not only did not teach her a lesson, yet rescued her at the

first chance he got. He's reinforcing the notion that she has nothing to fear from him, is that

it? If this is the way she wants to play, so be it. Sebastian's temper flared up again. With a

wave of his hand, a guard snapped to attention and marched smartly into the room. "Mr.

Hayes," said the guard. "Take the children." Sebastian ordered. "Yes, Mr. Hayes," he

complied. "What are you doing, Sebastian? What right do you have to take them away from

me?" Sasha cried in fear and held them close to her bosom. "Me? Wasn't that what you were

doing?" Sebastian laughed coldly. "You whisked all three away without a word before. Have

some sense of shame."

At that, he gestured at his guard to grab the children. Sasha went berserk. Without regard

for the scene she was causing, she grabbed her skirt and ran after them, screaming

"Sebastian, you monster! You return my kids to me. They are mine, do you hear me?" Her

heart-wrenching sobs and yells followed Sebastian to his car. Luke, who was at the driver's

seat, glanced uneasily at the rearview mirror. He could see the stumbling and deranged

figure of Sasha in pursuit. "Mr. Hayes, perhaps there is a better way to handle this. Like it or

not, Ms. Wand is still their mother." He meant to say "This is no way to treat a lady", but

thought the better of it. It was a cold night, and she was in the street in a thin skirt with no

coat on. She may even risk freezing to death just to get her children back. However, the

powerful and mighty Sebastian was not moved.

After an indifferent glance at the rearview mirror, he ordered, "Slow down to 40mph." Luke

was perplexed. 40mph? He must have misheard his employer. 40mph outpaces a limping

snail, but just barely. But, as soon as he did as instructed, he understood Sebastian's

intention. The figure behind them stopped when she realized that she would not be able to

catch up. But the sight of the vehicle slowing down seemed to give her hope, and she

started giving chase again with renewed vigor. Luke wasn't sure to feel amusement or

horror at his boss's sadism. After maintaining this ludicrous speed for about twenty

minutes, Luke caught sight of Sasha stumbling and toppling over, too cold and exhausted to

stand. "Ms. W- " Luke exclaimed.

"Stop the car!" Sebastian cut across him sharply. He exited the stationary vehicle into the

penetrating frost of the night. Under the dimly lit streetlamps shrouded by fog, Luke

watched, dumbfounded, as Sebastian bent over and picked up the limp woman with

uncharacteristic gentleness. So, this was done on purpose? The unconscious Sasha was

placed in the car and the party proceeded with their journey. She, along with her children,

was brought to a hotel owned by Sebastian. The hotel bearing his name was second to

none in size and decor. Matteo said nothing throughout the entire trip. Being a cheerful and upbeat child, he was looking unusually somber.

Even upon checking in,

he stood holding his sister whilst glaring at his father without a word.

The events of the

night had greatly angered him. Sebastian easily deduced this. "Matteo, are you mad at me?"

he asked. Matteo did not answer. He maintained vicious eye contact with his father and

clenched his fists. These two children have completely different attitudes when it comes to

treating their parents. Before Sebastian arrived at the manor, Ian follows his mother but

thinks about his father the most. When Sasha was in trouble, Matteo was the one to defend

their mother. It is likely the consequence of being raised by two entirely different adults.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 153

Sebastian understood how Matteo was feeling. He did not compel his son to speak, but

knelt down in front of him. I'm sorry," Sebastian began. "I admit that I was violent and

hot-tempered. But if I did not do what I did, your mother wouldn't have obeyed me." Matteo

shifted his beady little eyes to look his father in his face. "You did all of that for Mommy to

follow you?" "That's right," Sebastian answered. "As you can see, your mother is stubborn. If

I did not pressure her, she wouldn't have come with us. Forgive Daddy, will you?" He was not

lying to his son. That was indeed his motive.

Matteo's unclenched his fists, but he did not throw himself into his father's arms for a hug

as he normally would. Instead, he remained by his sister's side and kept his distance from

Sebastian. "Mommy became like that because you were mean to her. Daddy, if Mommy

displeases you so, why won't you just let her go? Wouldn't you both be so much happier if

you went your separate ways?" Matteo's eyes were tinged red as he choked on the words.

Sebastian was startled. The boy was right. Why didn't he let her go? Since he hated her so

much, wouldn't it solve all of his problems if she were to disappear from his sight?

However, for reasons unknown to him, his heart ached at the thought of this woman living

her life without him. It was as though something that had belonged to him suddenly had

nothing to do with him. It was a deeply unsatisfying idea. Especially during the events in

Raymond's manor. When he arrived at the banquet, all he could think to do was to drag her

out of there, and keep her under lock and key. No one else could see her except him.

Sebastian felt as though he was losing his mind. He drew himself to full height. "Because I

want you brothers to grow up with both your parents. Ian does not want to lose your mother.

How about you? Are you willing to lose your father?" His words stung Matteo. Of course he wasn't willing.

Though sometimes his father can be despicable, Matteo loves him more than anyone in the

world. Except for his mother, of course. How could bear to leave his father behind? Matteo

fought back his tears and lowered his head. He allowed himself to be led into the shower

and for a fresh change of clothes, as did his sister. Sebastian cared for both children that

night. In the deep quiet of the night, they held a hushed meeting under cover of the quilt.

"Matteo, I wouldn't want to leave Daddy," Vivian whispered. "Daddy is the only one who

would stand up for us. If not for him tonight,

Mommy would have been taken advantage of by Mr. Leonard." She was clearly still upset

and angry at her mother's treatment in his hands. Matteo was fuming too at being reminded

of that. At the same time, his respect and love for his father increased. "But I think Mommy

would definitely not forgive Daddy this time." "Huh?" Vivian, whose eyes were shining bright

with optimism, dimmed in an instant. If it were me, what would I do? Sasha did not manage

to sleep at all that night. It could have been because she had over-exerted herself in the

pursuit of the car. But she had been mentally on edge for the past two days, compounded

with the sleeplessness the night before. Though she lay motionless in bed,

she remained painfully and exhaustedly awake. When she felt the bright golden rays of the

dawn of the following day warming her face, she opened her eyes slowly, lashes quivering

as she did so. "Finally awake, are you?" the dreadfully familiar voice called out. She froze.

What is this? Where is she? Why is this scum here? Didn't he rob me of my children last night?

The last thing she remembered is giving chase to the car. Oddly enough, she was actually catching up to it.

Sasha's disoriented mind was still making sense of the fractured events of last night. Before

she had the whole story straightened out, a heavy set of footsteps approached. Turning

towards it, a tall and thin shadow dominated her field of vision.

"Sebastian!" Sasha sat up in

a flash. There was no mistaking it. The abductor of her children was standing before her in

the flesh. The shock was too much for her. As soon as she cried out, she collapsed back

into bed. Her brain tried to stay afloat to comprehend the insanity of it all. "I'd advise you to

remain calm," Sebastian said. "You'd need your strength if you still want to see your children."

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Sasha took several moments to compose herself. She turned to address Sebastian through

bloodshot eyes. "What have you done with my kids? You monster, return them to me." Her

children were her life. Without them, life wasn't worth living. Even in her current state, all she

cared about was their wellbeing. Sebastian brought a chair next to her and sat down

comfortably, propping his legs up on her bed. "Sasha, let us establish some ground rules.

First of all, the kids are mine as well as yours. Secondly, if I really intended for you not to

meet them, you will never be able to, make no mistake." She settled down.

Eyes remained fixed upon him with distaste and distrust, she nevertheless allowed him to

continue. Fear, hopelessness, and grief flashed in her eyes. In spite of herself, she was

trembling, with tears flowing freely down her cheeks. She was at a loss. Sebastian was

disturbed at the effect he produced. Before he could stop himself, he blurted, "I'm just

saying. Don't cry, I still haven't decided what I will do." Sasha felt a trace of hope at that.

Perhaps her children were not completely lost to her. She felt completely powerless. To go

against him would be akin to an ant struggling in vain to be stomped on. Sasha regained her

composure. "So... what will you do?" She clutched her sheets tightly. "I just want to talk to

you, Sasha. Why can't we coexist in peace?"

Sebastian said, finally revealed his motive for waiting for her all morning. "The responsibility

to raise our children is ours to share. Why can't we do it together?" All this time, they have

been fighting each other like cats and dogs, in the name of the children. Watching one's

parents fight like that is not something a child deserves. Is the fighting worth it if it deals

irreparable damage to them? Shouldn't they reflect on it and be ashamed of their behavior?

Sebastian observed her thoughtfully. After letting his guard down and displaying

vulnerability, Sasha's jeering response was not what he expected.

"Coexist? Sebastian, are

you toying with me?" Sebastian stared at her, at a loss for words. "Am I wrong? You are the

high and mighty Mr. Hayes of Hayes Corporation. I am just a lowly ant, subjected to be

crushed to death at the merest sign of your displeasure. How will we be able to coexist?

What peace is there to be found? My life is delicate in your hands. Do you think it's fair for

you to say that?" Sasha did not hold back in her mockery. She was still pale, appearing even

more so by the redness in her eyes. But at this moment, her sarcasm was razor-sharp, and it

hurt him. Sebastian went from white to crimson in an instant. This b*tch is tired of living!

His handsome features contorted in rage. Nobody has ever spoken to him like that. Even

worse, nobody has spoken to him like that after he had chosen to speak to them like an

equal. It was difficult, but he managed to control his temper. "The thing with my father,"

Sebastian said, trying to keep his voice even. "I know, I went over the line. But Sasha, it has

already happened. There's no point in pursuing this matter. I am serious about coexisting

with you. As a sign of my sincerity, I've decided that I will return your million to you." This

time, Sasha was the one who was speechless. This scumbag, did he wake up on the wrong

side of the bed today?

It's already a miracle that he had admitted to being wrong. But to loosen his wallet and give

her back what was hers? Something's wrong with him this morning. After his speech,

Sebastian stood up. "I will give you a day to consider. My motive for all of this is for our

children, whether you'd believe it or not. Do you think it'll make them happy if you took them

away from me? Think about what you went through last night." He said before departing.

Sasha was still stunned.

It was not until the ceiling fan stopped rotating that she came to. In a fit of anger, she

grabbed the pillow behind her and threw it at the door through which Sebastian left. "What

about last night? I was having a good time. Men still find me attractive.

There are plenty of

men who would be willing to raise your kids as their own. Does that thought sicken you?

" She yelled at the door. On the other side, Luke heard her and froze. He was praying that

Sebastian had not heard a word of it, though it was near impossible as he stood right next

to him. Strangely enough, Sebastian did not bat an eye, other than at the mention of "men

who would be willing to raise your kids as their own", to which he staggered slightly. But

otherwise gave no sign that what she said had bothered him. He was getting immune. After

all, he had heard this all before

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 155

Sasha finally gave in to return to Avenport together. If not for anything else, it was because

she couldn't bear to be apart from her children. If she was determined to return to Clear, she

reasoned with herself, it would be impossible for her to even bring one of her children with

her. Therefore, Avenport seemed like her best bet given the current situation. Her children

were overjoyed at her consent. They burst through the door and ran up towards her, pleasing

her a great deal. "Mommy, will you really return to Avenport with Daddy?" Vivian squealed. "

This is wonderful! I thought you weren't going to say yes." She was the first one through the

door and in her mother's lap. Sasha was surprised. "You were hoping that I would go back

there with your father?" "Yes, Mommy," Vivian replied. "I do not like it when the other kids in

the kindergarten ask me about my father. Even if I haven't been properly reunited with

Daddy, it still makes me very happy!" Vivian was a child with simple pleasures. It didn't take

much to fill her little heart with joy. Sasha felt a lump in her throat.

Wordlessly, she pulled her

daughter in for a big hug. Matteo came in next. "Mommy, I think that you should go with

Daddy too," he informed her solemnly. "We can't abandon Ian." He grabbed his brother by the

hand.

Ian did not know what to say. He looked down, not willing to let them see his watery eyes.

Sasha's heart ached with sorrow at the sight of him. She knelt down and pulled him in for a

hug as well. "Mommy won't even think about abandoning any one of you. I'm sorry for being

rash. I'm sorry for hurting you, Ian." "Oh, Mommy," Ian threw his arms around her neck. For

all the differences that those three had, they were all her kind and loyal babies. Whether it

was Matteo and Vivian who was attached to their mother or Ian who was reluctant to

forsake their father, they were angels, none of whom Sasha would willingly part with. So it

was on the third day, Sasha and her triplets followed Sebastian back to Avenport. At the

same time,

Xandra, who was abroad, was awaiting this piece of good news. Her Aunt Kelly had eyes

everywhere. The news of Sasha escaping with her children was caught by Kelly and

immediately relayed to her niece. Xandra was here to reinstate herself as Mrs. Hayes. Upon

hearing that Sasha voluntarily disappeared with her children, she was over the moon. "Is she

crazy?" Xandra exclaimed. "Dragging along three kids with her." "Who cares?" Kelly retorted.

"Isn't this what you wanted? You don't have to lift a finger." She sipped her coffee whilst

casting a disapproving eye at Xandra's drafts on her computer. Xandra followed her aunt's

gaze and panicked. She slammed it shut like she was afraid of being caught with something

indecent. "

What nonsense are you talking about? My contract is already signed for." "Is it, now? Then

you'd better make sure you write it well. If the quality is not the same as your previous ones,

you'll be in big trouble." Kelly said harshly. Xandra turned pale. She opened her mouth to

retort, but thought against it and let the matter be dropped. It is true that this incident had

been a thorn in her side. She has had years of experience as a publishing author. Even the

bestseller 'The Tattoo of my Heart' was her work. However, her writing was not what it used

to be in recent years. Though the publisher made an exception to sign her on the title of her

book alone, she has hit the dreaded writer's block. Xandra turned off her computer

resentfully and brewed herself a cup of coffee. "We should discuss our next move," Xandra

said. "Sasha Wand took her kids away.

Sebastian wouldn't be very happy about that. I think it's time for me to return." "That's not a

bad idea," Kelly agreed with her niece for once. After an upheaval in his house, a furious man

would need a woman's touch to restore things to order. It did not matter if he pursues his

kids. At this moment, he needs a woman by his side. When the kids return, she would have

plenty of time to assume a motherly role. And if he doesn't get them back, even better.

She would have him all to herself. It all looked good to Xandra. It was a win-win situation.

"But, before I go, I should investigate this woman." Kelly was startled. "Investigate her? Are

you crazy?" "Relax," Xandra soothed. "Of course I won't make it obvious. If that b*tch is

unlucky, we will find her, make her go away, and take the kids back to Sebastian. Isn't that

better?" She savored her coffee, delighted with the way her plan is coming together. Her

aunt was right, though. She needs to play this right and not do anything rash. With brains

like that, she will help the Hayes family return to their former days of glory. Kelly was

pleased. This plan might just work out. With that in mind, the two women started laying

down the finer details of their plan.

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The two of them could not have expected that their arrival was bad news. "Has Sebastian's

brain rotted? Why does he want to bring her back? Is he going to teach her a lesson?" Kelly's

first reaction was to be enraged by this news. However, Xandra was different. She thought

back to that day at the mall. Sasha had no idea how terrifying Sebastian had been when she

left with the man she bought clothes with. He treated Xandra like she did not exist and left

the store without another word. He immediately contacted someone to go to the preschool

to fetch his son. I've never seen him like this. Out of control and childish...

Where's the stoic Mr. Hayes? He acted just like a child throwing a temper tantrum, and his

actions were almost laughable. Is he really bringing the woman back to teach her a lesson?

No, it can't be. He might be bringing her back to keep her securely by his side. Click. Xandra

had squeezed her cup so tightly that he snapped. Fresh blood flowed from her palm. The

hatred in her eyes had reached its boiling point and had transformed into murderous

outrage. Go to hell, Sasha! Sasha finally returned to Avenport. The moment she alighted

from the helicopter, she led the two children away instead of climbing into Sebastian's car.

Although she had agreed to come back, it did not signify that she had resolved her issues

with him.

We're nothing more than strangers who happen to share children. Ian, who was standing at

the back and holding his father's hand, was upset by the sight. "Daddy, Mommy left..."

Sebastian did not know how to reply. He had expended a large amount of effort to get her

back. It was impossible for him to expect her to obediently go along with him. He tugged his

son into his embrace and said, "Let her leave. It's not like you can't see her again. Your

mother will fetch you from school tomorrow." "Really?" Sebastian's reply made the child

happy. His eyes lit up as he looked up at his father. This ungrateful little imp. Sebastian led

lan into the car. As for Sasha, when she returned to their old neighborhood, she found that

their previous house had been rented out. She had no choice but to search for a new house

along with her two children.

"Where are we going to live, Mommy? Can we live somewhere nicer this time?" When Vivian

heard that they were going to look for a new house, she thought back to the previous

dilapidated rented house. She could not help but voice out her request meekly. Frankly, both

children were rather sensible. Whether it was back in Clear, or this old neighborhood, they

followed Sasha with no complaints. However, this time the little girl wanted to stay in a

beautiful house. Perhaps it was because it was too cold, or because they had lived in their

father's house for some time. At the end of the day, they were both just children. Sasha

squatted down in front of them. "Fine, let's get a pretty house this time." Vivian cheered.

"That's great! Thank you, Mommy" Two hours later, the three of them finally settled on a

small condo that was decently high-end. "Matt, hurry up. Let's go and choose our rooms. I

want the prettier one!" "Okay." Matteo was also delighted. The two children went to see the

rooms. Sasha smiled at their figures as she started to unpack their luggage. She wanted to

organize the rooms before the sun sets so she could cook dinner for the children. Ding. She

suddenly received a message. She opened the message and saw that she had just received

one million. One million? Sasha scoffed coldly.

She logged into her online banking account and tried to return the money. After that, she

immediately called the bank to freeze the card. She left to finish her chores. Throughout, her

expression was one of indifference. I never said that I wanted this one million. I might be

back, but it has nothing to do with him. The mother and two children spent a peaceful night

in their new house. The next day. "Matt, Vivi, time to wake up. You have to go to preschool

today." "Okay, Mommy."

The lethargic child-like voices came from the pile of blankets. Shortly after, the small

humans were carried out by their mother and they started to wash up. Naturally, Matteo

dressed himself. A few minutes later, both children were neatly dressed and standing in the

living room. "What do you want to eat? I'll make it for you," asked Sasha. Matt was about to

reply, but his smartwatch started to ring. He picked up the call. "Hello? lan?" "Yes, I'm here."

No one expected Ian to say those words. Sasha was stunned. What does he mean? He's

here? While Sasha was still in a state of confusion, Matt had dashed to the balcony.

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"You really came, Ian."

Sasha was incredibly shocked. She followed Matt and saw a small human at the bottom of

their condo. He was accompanied by a man wearing dark sunglasses and an all-black attire.

They stood unmovingly at the entrance.

This child...

Sasha panicked and dashed back into the house to open the door and head down.

"Mommy..."

When she arrived downstairs, she immediately saw the child standing at the building's

entrance.

Despite being dressed in a thick down jacket, a hat, and mittens, the extremely cold weather

had turned his cheeks red. Even his snot had frozen.

"What are you doing? Why did you bring him here when it's so cold?" "I'm sorry, Ms. Wand. We had no choice. Ian was making a fuss about coming here. He's

insisting on going to preschool with Matt."

The bodyguard who was holding an umbrella rushed to explain.

Sasha was left with no other option but to carry her son in. Once her other two children were

done eating, she took them to the preschool.

At Hayes Corporation in the center of the city.

Sebastian, who had just arrived at the office, switched off his phone after he received the

photo from the bodyguard showing that the three children had entered the preschool. He

picked up his laptop and went into his office.

Luke walked in to announce that day's schedule.

"Mr. Hayes, tasks had piled up since you were absent from the office for two days. You

might want to read the email from Ms. Green first."

"Xandra?"

Sebastian, who had just taken his seat, was initially in a good mood.

However, his two

shapely eyebrows were now furrowed. "What email?"

Luke immediately brought out his laptop and opened the email from Xandra.

To be honest, it was rather contemptuous.

Even though Xandra had known Sebastian for many years, she still could not send him

emails. Sebastian's inbox had a spam filter. Other than company matters, no one else could

send him emails.

This included Xandra.

Sebastian scanned the email and realized it was a draft.

"Mr. Hayes, Ms. Green says that this is the draft she had just finished writing. She's about to

hand it over to the editors, but she wanted you to look it over first. If there's nothing wrong,

she'll send it to the editors," explained Luke.

Whenever Xandra wrote a new book, she would ask Sebastian to read the final draft. He

would always provide her with a satisfactory answer in the shortest amount of time.

However, after Sebastian scanned this latest draft, Luke caught sight of annoyance flashing

past his eyes.

"Set it aside first. Bring the other tasks over."

"Yes, Mr. Hayes."

Luke closed the laptop and handed the schedule over.

Less than ten minutes later, Sebastian was done looking through the schedule. He walked

into the meeting room with the documents and laptop in hand.

For the rest of the day, there was not even a moment's rest.

However, he could not have expected that on this day, the unimaginable would occur.

"Mr. Hayes, there's been a problem. Mr. Hayes Sr. suddenly went to the preschool and took

the two boys out."

"What did you just say?"

Sebastian was so shocked that the pen in his hand fell and clattered onto the table.

What is this old man doing? Why is he pulling such a stunt all of a sudden? Doesn't he know

that I just managed to bring the two children back to the country? What if that woman is

pissed off by this?

What if she disappears again?

Sebastian's expression shifted completely. He sprang to his feet and dashed out of the

meeting room with no regard for the ongoing meeting.

The people left in the room shared dazed looks.

Mr. Hayes's behavior is becoming more erratic...

A few minutes later, a black Bentley sped out of the car park. Sebastian stepped on the gas

pedal as he called his father on Bluetooth.

Ring... Ring... Ring...

"Hello?"

"What are you doing, Dad? Why did you suddenly take the two children out of preschool? Did

you ask me for permission first?"

When he heard his father's voice, Sebastian exploded with anger.

Before he could finish speaking, his father roared back, "You piece of shit. How dare you talk

to me like that? You knew full well that I have two grandchildren, and my

granddaughter-in-law was still alive. But you kept it from me!" For a long time, his ear buzzed.

"Dad, I have my reasons for not telling you."

"As if. Do you really think I don't know what goes on in that mind of yours? Sasha is

innocent. If it was any other woman, she wouldn't have let you off." The old man continued

to berate Sebastian.

Sebastian's veins throbbed as he listened to his father, and he constantly wanted to rebuke

him.

Innocent?

How about I rip her open to show you her true colors? Why don't you see for yourself what

she did the past two days?

Sebastian gnashed his teeth together. As he drove, he willed himself to stay calm.

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"Dad, calm down and listen to me. If she finds out that you pulled the two children out of

school like that, she'll be angry too. Can you let us know before you take them?"

"Sasha said that she was going to bring the children to see me. I waited two days but they

didn't show up. You had to have been causing trouble."

Frederick hung up the phone.

Sebastian almost popped a vein.

In Dad's eyes, that woman can do no wrong. It's always my fault. No matter what she does,

she's seen as innocent.

Sebastian suppressed his rage as he sped towards the Hayes residence.

He had a reason for being so strongly opposed to this. Firstly, he had just had a big fight

with Sasha, and it took a lot of effort to convince her to bring the children back.

He was afraid that if something set her off, she would never come back again.

Who knows what she'll do at that time?

There was also the matter of Matteo.

Matteo had never seen his grandfather or been to the Hayes residence. Sebastian was

afraid that Matteo would be uncomfortable and traumatized if he was suddenly dragged

there.

He was only a five-year-old child, after all.

Sebastian pressed down on the gas pedal again.

Meanwhile, at the entrance of the Hayes residence.

Vivian had said that Raymond's mountain villa was huge, but Ian had said that the Hayes

Residence was even larger. Not even ten of Raymond's mountain villas could compare.

Actually, he was referring to the Hayes Residence instead of the Frontier Bay.

The Hayes Residence had stood since ancient times. It was truly an ancestral home, and it

had an estimated market value of a billion. There was no other house in Avenport that could

compare in value.

Ian and Matteo were suddenly dragged there. When they saw the opulent and exquisitely

decorated mansion, Ian was fine since he had grown up there, but Matteo was suddenly

unwilling to go in.

He was slightly afraid.

"What's wrong? Why aren't you going in, my darling grandson? This is your home. Let's go in,

okay?"

Frederick tried to coax his motionless grandson.

However, Matteo did not take a step further.

lan's heart went out for Matteo. He took his brother's hand and whispered, "Don't be scared."

He led Matteo in.

"He's here. Our other grandson is finally here!"

"Really? Let me see."

"Me too..."

They swarmed around Matteo the moment he stepped through the entrance. They fawned

over him like he was a precious gem, each dying to get a look at him. It was inevitable. This was too shocking!

No one expected that another one of the triplets had survived. He was already so grown.

They stared at the child. Their eyes were like headlights, unblinking and bright.

Matteo was silent.

Am I a monkey? Must they gawk at me like this?

Frederick was chuckling at the side. "Darling grandson, these are your uncles and aunties. A

few of them are your grand-uncles. They heard you were coming and came especially to see

you."

Fredrick was afraid his grandson would be terrified and he rushed to do the introductions.

Matteo scanned the room and met the staring eyes. He became even more overwhelmed.

When some of the people realized how much he resembled Ian, they could not help but

pinch his handsome face.

"It's real! He's real!"

He rubbed his aching face. Suddenly, his fox-like eyes curved as he smiled.

"Of course I'm real. After pinching an adorable nephew like me, are you going to give me a

present, Auntie? I'm more than welcome to it."

"Huh?"

The woman who had pinched him was taken aback by his cheeky and innocent words. "Of...

Of course. I'll give you a present."

She was stupefied. Ian would never have said anything like that.

Rather, he would not speak at all.

Matteo was delighted to hear that he would receive a present. "Great! You're so pretty,

Auntie."

"Hahahaha..."

The yard-full of people dissolved into laughter. None of them expected that this new child

would be completely different from his brother.

"He says such cute things. Uncle, who raised him? Why is he completely different from Little

lan?"

"Yes. I love him. If they didn't share the same face, I wouldn't believe that they're brothers."

"Exactly! He's adorable!"

All of them were surprised by Matteo. They surrounded him as they tried to hug him.

Matteo was not scared anymore. He allowed them to hug him and even greeted each of

them in a sweet voice. They became even more entranced by him.

Soon, his arms were overflowing with presents.

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Ian raised his eyebrow.

"Why are you accepting these? Daddy has all of them!"

"I know. I'm just joking with them. I'll give them all to Grandpa soon. Don't worry."

Matteo patted his brother's shoulder and assured him that he was just acting. He was not

actually going to accept their presents.

Ian was happy to hear that.

Although they had no intention of accepting the presents, they were shocked to see one of

the great-uncles carry an embroidered box over.

"Fredrick, I did not expect that our family would have another heir. I'm going to give your

grandson the gold pendant you gave me."

With tears in his eyes, he handed Matteo the embroidered box.

Matteo was confused.

What's happening?

Why did they suddenly give me this?

Ian nodded. "I have one too."

Matteo was stunned.

Is that so?

Matteo did not know that because of the Hayes family's immense wealth, they had always

been conscious of heritage. Their heir could only be someone of the purest bloodline.

Anyone else did not stand a chance.

Frederick's bloodline was pure. Thus, Sebastian was the one who inherited Hayes

Corporation.

It was a pity that although Sebastian had Ian, Ian's physical condition had always been

weak. There had been no motion for Sebastian to get remarried.

Hence, Frederick had given one of the gold pendants to his brother.

However, there was Matt now...

Frederick nodded. "Matt, you should accept it. It's rightfully yours."

Without hesitation, he told Matteo to accept this gift he had personally given away.

Matteo was only a child. He did not overthink things.

Since his grandfather told him to accept it, Matteo did just that.

Matteo happily slipped the gold pendant around his neck. The brothers went with their

grandfather into the dining room for lunch.

As for the great-uncle, he continued to smile while everyone else was still present.

When they all left and the area was quiet, the smile completely dissipated.

The smile was replaced with an absolutely devious expression.

How persistent.

There's even a healthy one now!

By the time Sebastian rushed to the Hayes residence, a noisy meal was ongoing.

The room was full of people. Sebastian wondered if his father did it on purpose. He invited

every member of the Hayes family and even some of his friends over. It looks like a banquet.

"Dad..."

Sebastian walked in and his eyes glanced past the two children who were feasting next to

their grandfather. He yelled at Fredrick, who was seated at the head of the table.

Frederick lifted his head. As per Sebastian's expectation, Frederick did not seem happy to

see his son.

"Finally here? Have lunch with us."

Sebastian did not want to start a row with his father here. Hence, he nodded and sat next to

his two sons.

"You're here, Daddy. Did Mommy come with you?"

Matteo was overjoyed to see his father.

But after he looked around and realized that his mother had not come, his smile turned

upside down.

Sebastian noticed this. He pursed his lips and rationalized a reason for him. "Your Mommy

is at work. They'll dock her salary if she asks for leave." "Oh."

Matteo did not ask anymore.

This was a serious problem. His mother was raising him and his sister on her own. It would

be bad if her salary was docked."

The two boys went back to eating.

Ten minutes later, the banquet's atmosphere became solemn. It might have been due to

Sebastian's arrival. Shortly after, a few people excused themselves after taking a few more

bites.

Sebastian had an intimidating aura in this house. It increased after he inherited power.

After everyone left, Sebastian checked his wristwatch. He intended on taking the two

children back. "Dad, since they've seen all the family and friends, I'll be taking them back."

"What's the rush? Their mother isn't even here yet."

The old man tossed out the statement casually.

Sebastian's eyes narrowed.

What does he mean? Did he let that woman know?

His expression changed. Anger flashed across his face. His tone became extremely

unpleasant. "What are you trying to do, Dad? Do you just do whatever you want now? Are

you never going to discuss anything with me anymore?"

"What a joke. I'm your elder. Why should I discuss anything with you?" Frederick had no intention of backing down.

Sebastian was so angry that he started to chuckle. "What do you think? I'm the head of the

Hayes family now. I have the right to make the final decision about everything. Did you ever

stop to think about the consequences of your actions?"

"Think about the consequences? Why do I need to do that? Don't you know that I've been

cleaning up after you all these years?"

"You don't know what I mean? How about you ask their mother to give you another

household register? This way, you'll be officially divorced. What's the point of playing all

these sneaky games? Are you even a man?"

Frederick told someone to take the children elsewhere so he could glare and chastise his

[&]quot;What do you mean?"

son freely.

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Sebastian's expression changed.

His nerve had been touched. He had been so self-righteous and determined. But now, he

had lost his voice.

His handsome face was an amalgamation of red and white.

"You're lucky Sasha is well-mannered. She doesn't hold it against you.

Do you think you'll be

standing here still if it was any other woman?"

A few seconds later, the strained Sebastian murmured, "I wanted to compensate her. She

didn't want it."

"Compensate? How much did you give her? Two hundred billion? Three hundred billion?"

Frederick's tone still carried a hint of rage.

Given the Hayes family's wealth, Sasha deserved much more as the two children's mother.

Sebastian kept his mouth shut.

He could not tell Frederick that he had only returned the one million to Sasha. If he did,

Frederick would be even more livid.

Why should I give her so much money anyway?

All I did was lie, and I apologized. The matter is done. Why should we blow it out of

proportion?

"Can't speak? You jerk. I knew it! Fine, I'll decide this for you. When Sasha comes, you bring

out her identity. The two of you will go to the civil affairs office to get divorced today!"

"What did you say? Divorce?"

Sebastian finally reacted. He stared at Frederick. He looked more astonished than he had

ever been.

Frederick glared at him. "Yes, divorce! I told you before. Since I'm the one who convinced her

to marry you, now that you want her to return to the Wand family, she has to walk out of our

family with her head held high. A piece of shit like you can't be allowed to do as he pleases!"

Sebastian was silent.

His mind was blank. Before he could think about what he was saying, he uttered, "Who says

I want to divorce her?"

Frederick was appalled. "You don't want to divorce her? Then why are using such despicable

methods? You even want to strike off her name from our household register. How is this not

trying to sever ties with her?"

Sebastian had been rendered speechless.

It was as though something had gotten caught in his throat. He wanted to protest but he

could not get a word out.

It was true that he had had this thought before he went through with it. Whether it was five years ago, or five years later, Sebastian never wanted to see Sasha. She

was stupid, greedy, and shameless. Just the mention of her name repulsed him.

Thus, when he found her in Clear, he had immediately instructed Luke to do it.

He did want to sever ties with her.

But now that divorce was on the table, he realized that he was not as happy as he thought.

"That's not what I meant. I just..."

"Frederick, you misunderstood. It's not that he doesn't want to divorce me. He just doesn't

want to make a big deal out of it. He's the president of Hayes Corporation. He's currently

linked to Ms. Green. If news gets out that he has an undivorced ex-wife, it'll hurt his

reputation."

Just as Sebastian was about to cobble together an excuse, a voice interrupted him.

After she spoke, the two men fell silent and looked her way.

They were surprised to see a young girl wearing a khaki-colored jacket with jeans and white

sneakers.

Perhaps it was because she had been hurriedly called away during work, but she was

dressed exceptionally casually. Her hair was tied in a simple ponytail.

However, there was

radiance in her simplicity. Her face was small and her complexion was clean. Her face

looked like exquisite jade poised atop her high-collared wool jacket. Her bright eyes seemed

cold, but they were full of light. She was so brilliant that no one could tear their eyes away

from her.

Sasha?

She really came?

Sebastian took a double take.

This woman is really different from Xandra.

Xandra preferred branded goods. Everything she wore came from luxury stores. Whenever

she went out, her makeup had to be perfect.

It was as though she was afraid that people would be unable to recognize her as the future

wife of the president of Hayes Corporation.

However, this woman was different.

She gravitated towards a natural style and dressed simply as though she did not care for

superficial things. She looked extremely casual.

However, Sebastian could not help but feel that she looked good. In his eyes, she looked

unblemished.

Something is wrong!

"You're finally here, Sasha. Come in quickly. Have you eaten? Shall I ask the housemaid to

make you something?"

Mr. Hayes also saw Sasha. He was delighted and hastily ordered a housemaid to prepare

food for her.

Sasha waved her hand dismissively. "No thank you, Frederick. I've already eaten. I still need

to work later. Did you ask me here because of the matter you just mentioned?"

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Sasha even cut to the chase and asked for the reason she was called here.

Frederick nodded and answered honestly, "Sasha, I've given this matter some thought. I

thought I had made the right decision when I arranged for you to marry into our family years

ago, but now I've come to regret it. So, if you want to, I can have that reversed immediately."

Sebastian fell silent.

"Sure," the woman, who had just walked in, replied succinctly without any hesitation.

She had not even taken a side glance at Sebastian the whole time.

Sebastian clenched his fists but could not control the veins in his temples from popping

violently.

"Alright, since that's what you wish, I'll get the household register right now. Once we have

your identity restored at the registration office, you and Sebastian can get your divorce

certificate right after."

Frederick was about to instruct someone to retrieve their household register when Sasha

spoke, "Thanks, Frederick. But I think we should keep a low profile, just in case it damages

the company's reputation."

"What do you mean?"

"Sebastian and I can just settle the matter at the civil affairs office at any time. But if he's

not willing to, you may still have to come with me," Sasha suggested. Once again, the old man was touched by the thoughtfulness of this woman who would soon

cease to be his daughter-in-law and was prepared to agree to her suggestion.

Before Frederick could speak, his son beat him to it as he gritted the words through his

teeth, "You're not seriously asking my father to go to the civil affairs office with you? It

sounds like it's him you're divorcing!"

The atmosphere in the living room immediately turned frosty. The tension was so tangible in

the air one could almost smell the explosives.

Frederick's eyes widened in intense fury; his fists balled up as he was about to teach his son

some manners.

It was Sasha who maintained her composure and spoke matter-of-factly, "I don't blame you

if you understood it that way since that was how we got married in the first place anyway."

"You—" Sebastian was so overcome with anger he was fumbling for more insults to hurl at

the woman.

Being the president of the Hayes Corporation had not prevented Sebastian from being hit in

the sore spot the second time in the same day.

The man was beside himself. "Sasha Wand! Do you have a death wish?" This woman is not taking me seriously at all!

"I don't understand why you are so worked up, Sebastian. I thought you have always wanted

my name to be taken off your household register so that you can replace it with your new

partner's name. I think you should be thanking me for this."

Seeing Sebastian standing motionless, Sasha raised her voice and continued, "I don't know

what is it that you're planning in your head against me, but let me be clear on one thing.

Although you didn't wish to marry me in the first place, I've still given you two sons. So, if

you insist on being a jack*ss about this and don't mind things getting ugly, I'll just see you in

court!"

Sasha finally fixed her gaze on Sebastian.

Her glare was not only cold but also piercing sharp. Each of her words was filled with anger and hatred.

That must be why he's refusing to sign the divorce papers now. Before this, he was more

than willing to pull out all the stops to get away from me. But now, he's changed his mind

because Frederick is giving me an easy way out and he's worried that Xandra's reputation

will be harmed if our divorce gets publicized. How cruel and selfish can this person be!

Sasha was still glaring at Sebastian; the corner of her eyes reddened, and her body was

trembling from trying to suppress the numbing pain in her body. There was a hint of regret

on top of resentment in her emotional eyes.

Sebastian was momentarily dumbstruck.

Am I seeing regret in her eyes? What's she regretting? Marrying me, or having met me in the

beginning?

The intense hatred in Sasha's eyes had struck him hard. As the man's thin lips pursed

together into a line, he wondered why he felt panicky and lost at the same time. These

unfamiliar feelings scared him because, for the first time, Sebastian was losing control of

his usual composure.

"Sasha Wand, have you gone crazy? I've never said that I didn't want to be divorced from

you, so stop barking like a mad dog! Wait here, and I'll get somebody to prepare the divorce

documents right now!" With great self-restraint, Sebastian hurled the most hurtful words he

could think of at her and grabbed his car key before he stormed out of the living room.

Sasha stood still as she watched the fast-moving figure disappear from the corner of her

eyes. Suddenly, she felt like the last ounce of energy had left her body as she slumped into

the chair behind her.

"Sasha, are you okay?" Frederick was silent the whole time the couple exchanged curses.

Her abrupt fall into the chair startled him.

Sasha opened her mouth in an attempt to say something, only to realize that she was too

exhausted to utter another word.

Fatigue had overcome her.

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It was as though she was finally freed from the shackles of her past. The feeling of being

liberated was so overwhelming that her whole body was trembling. I'm finally free.

She would no longer allow herself to harbor the faint hope of reuniting with Sebastian and

find excuses for him every time he hurt her, telling herself that he did those things for a

good reason.

Who am I kidding? I was my own prisoner, but I no longer am. I'm going to have a new life

after this.

While Sasha sat on that chair, tears started to roll down her cheeks.

Clutching her chest, she

wanted to cry her heart out. But as she took a deep breath, she realized that her aching

heart did not allow her to do so.

She felt as though her heart had been pierced through with a dagger.

...

Sasha remained at the Hayes residence the whole afternoon.

Since Sebastian had indicated that he would have the divorce papers sent over, she wanted

to be there when the documents arrived.

But hours had passed, and there was still no sign of Sebastian.

After a while, Sasha grew drowsy from getting too worked up earlier on and fell asleep in the

house.

When Matteo and Ian came over for their mother, they saw a sleeping Sasha. They then

scuttled to their grandfather. "Grandpa, is Mommy sleeping?" Frederick was looking intently at a booklet in his hand when a child's voice broke his daze.

He quickly put down the booklet and replied, "Yeah, she's asleep. What are you guys doing

here? I thought you were spending time with your uncle?"

"We did. But we've got to go back now," said Matteo smilingly after checking the time on his smartwatch.

It's about time to pick Vivian up from her preschool, or the crybaby will surely kick up a fuss

if we're late.

After hearing that Matteo intended to go home, a hint of hesitation crept up the old man's

face as he looked at his grandson and asked tentatively, "Well, I was thinking... maybe you

could sleep here tonight and spend some time with me?" "Huh?"

Frederick's unexpected suggestion startled the boys.

lan did not resist that idea as he had spent a lot of time here growing up. Matteo, on the

other hand, was instantly filled with reluctance.

He was not used to sleeping in a strange place without his parents.

"But Mommy said that we need to go back home so that we won't be late for our preschool

tomorrow. Grandpa, why don't we come back to visit you on the weekend?" Matteo had

cleverly turned his rejection into a visit in his sweetest voice possible.

However, Matteo's suggestion only made the old man's heart grow heavier.

Unbeknownst to the boys, the booklet their grandfather was holding onto was the Hayes

family's household register. Frederick was just thinking about the custody of Matteo as they

barged into his room.

Matteo is a Hayes, so it is without question that he will have to return to the Hayes family.

Moments before Matteo walked in, Frederick had tried to put himself in Sasha's shoes while

considering who should get custody of the child.

After all, the Hayes family owed her that much.

Nevertheless, the moment he saw the boys walk in together, he was reminded of what a

sweet and cheerful little person Matteo was compared to his frail twin brother. The old man

now had second thoughts about letting him go.

"Oh, that won't be a problem. I can take you guys to school, and I promise that I won't be

late. What do you think?" Frederick was insistent.

"Huh?"

"Alright, let's get the butler to show you to your room. I've re-decorated the room, and I think

you'll like it."

Without waiting for a reply, Frederick beckoned his butler over and instructed him to bring

the boys to their room.

lan's face darkened in an instant before he shouted, "I'm not going!"

"You—" Frederick was once again stumped by his elder grandson.

Sensing the rising tension in the room, Matteo was quick to defuse the situation. "Don't be

upset, Grandpa. It takes time with Ian. Let me talk to him."

With that, Matteo pulled his brother out of the room before Frederick could stop them.

After they reached a deserted courtyard a few minutes later, Matteo asked his brother, "lan,

you did that on purpose just now, didn't you?"

"Hmm," Ian admitted while lowering his head in embarrassment, the back of his ears turning

pink.

With a big grin on his face, Matteo patted his brother's shoulder to indicate a job well done.

He then attempted to analyze the situation. "Something must have happened between

Daddy and Mommy. Otherwise, Grandpa wouldn't be acting this way." "Hmm." Ian frowned in agreement.

"We can't both stay here. We've got to find out what's going on between the two of them.

Didn't you see what Grandpa was trying to do just now? He was trying to keep me here. Me!"

lan was rendered speechless by his brother's reasoning.

Matteo's voice turned solemn when he continued, "If Grandpa is really planning to fight with

Mommy over me, things will definitely turn ugly. He's way more powerful than Daddy, and

there's not much we can do to help Mommy in this matter."

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Leave a Comment / The Love that Never Really Dies / By chapternovel lan was still lost for words, but the Transformers figurine in his hand was clutched more

firmly as he listened to his brother's analysis.

No, they can't do this to Mommy. It's our mommy, and no one can hurt her!

For the first time, the boys balled up their fists together, their eyes staring out with

unswerving determination.

Sasha was awakened by the kids.

"Mommy, wake up. We need to get Vivian. It's almost 4 o'clock."

"What?" Sasha sat up straight from the futon, well alert in an instant.

"It's almost 4 o'clock?

Alright, let's go get your sister now," she said while hurriedly getting ready to leave.

Matteo quickly brought over Sasha's scarf and handbag as she was putting on her shoes.

When Sasha was all set, Matteo naturally slid his little hand into his mother's palm.

Enveloping her son's hand in her own, Sasha's eyes searched one round for Ian but to no

avail. "Where's lan?"

"lan is staying here. Daddy will come to fetch him tonight," Matteo explained delightfully.

Is that so...

Sasha did not say more. After all, the boys had been living separately since their births; one

with her while the other with their father.

Sasha and Matteo had just stepped outside the guest room when they bumped into

Frederick, who was holding onto his walking cane.

"Sasha, I suppose you're heading back now. There's something I've been meaning to give

you."

Sasha and Matteo stopped in their tracks as the old man walked toward them.

Despite what Sebastian had done to her, Sasha still felt grateful toward Frederick, especially

for helping her today. He had chosen to protect her and set her free rather than siding with

his own son.

"Frederick, it's cold out here. You should've just gotten one of the housemaids to pass on

your message to me," Sasha said politely.

"This is too important for them to handle. Here, I want you to have this," the old man said

while handing her a red booklet.

Sasha looked down at the booklet and was startled when she saw the words "household

register" on the cover. "Frederick, this is—"

"I'm really sorry that you've wasted the whole afternoon. I've checked with the office.

Apparently, someone important showed up, and Sebastian had to meet with them. As such,

I've decided to give you this. Once your identity is restored, you can apply for a divorce with

this," Frederick said apologetically while still holding out the booklet. Sasha was still in shock.

No way... Did I hear him right? is he seriously giving me their household register?

Staring at the booklet with her gaping mouth, Sasha was still in disbelief.

Seeing as the woman was stunned, Frederick stuffed the booklet into Matteo's hand while

reminding him, "Keep this for your mommy. This is very important, so you have to take good

care of it, okay?"

"I understand, Grandpa." Matteo took over the booklet happily. He then carefully slid it into

his pocket.

So Mommy and Daddy are getting a divorce! Oh, just as well. Problem solved!

With that thought, Matteo left happily with Sasha.

That night, as Sasha was giving Vivian a bath, Matteo called Ian, who was now back at

Frontier Bay.

"lan, I know what's going on with Mommy and Daddy."

"What is it?"

"It turns out they're getting divorced!" Matteo exclaimed in exasperation.

He was disgruntled at their fruitless effort in carrying out all the plans in hopes that their

parents would reconcile.

Now that their parents were getting a divorce, a complete family seemed like a farther

dream to them.

lan's face darkened on the other end of the line. "Is it Daddy's fault again?"

"I'm not sure. But more importantly, I need to ask you this. Do you want them to be

separated?" Matteo asked over the phone.

lan was taken aback by his twin brother's unexpected question.

What does Matteo think about this then? He must be thinking that Mommy and Daddy

should separate, or he wouldn't have asked me such a question.

Standing inside his bedroom, tears welled up in lan's eyes the next instant, and the blood

drained from his already pale face. Without any warning, he cast his smartwatch aside and

dashed into the cupboard.

"lan? Ian?" Matteo called out in panic.

There was no response from lan, and Matteo grew anxious as he could hear loud thuds

from the phone.

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Ian! Matteo was in complete shock. Immediately, he rushed into the bathroom, where Sasha

was giving Vivian a bath.

"Mommy! Mommy! Something's happened over at Ian's. Can you please check on him?"

"What?" Sasha sprung to her feet. "What happened to lan?"

"I-I don't know. We were on the phone just then, but he went quiet all of a sudden, and then

there were loud noises... Mommy, I'm so sorry."

Matteo's eyes reddened as he was in full-blown panic mode.

Sasha comforted him by saying, "Don't worry, it's not your fault. Maybe something else was

going on over there. I will go over right now, and you're gonna stay home to look after Vivi,

okay?"

After taking Vivian out of the shower and dressing her up, Sasha hurried out the door.

What's happening to Little Ian? He still seemed fine at Frederick's today. How can he be in

trouble so soon after?

In her frantic moments, Sasha had entertained the brief idea of calling Sebastian to ask him,

but the thought of what had occurred at Frederick's earlier that day stopped her promptly.

I'd better not alert him to this. Since we're getting divorced, what if he decides to stop me

from seeing lan?

Sasha put down her phone, but her mind was still unsettled. Luckily, it was an off-peak hour,

so traffic was considerably smooth. She arrived at Frontier Bay after about half an hour.

"Ms. Wand? What are you doing here so late?" The security guard at Royal Court One

recognized Sasha but was still surprised to see her visiting late at night. Sasha, on the other hand, was so flustered she had no time to explain to him. "I'm here for

Ian. What's happened to him?"

The guard was puzzled by the woman's question. "lan? He's fine. What's the matter?"

Ignoring his bewilderment, Sasha pushed open the heavy gate and walked straight in.

A few minutes later, Sasha arrived at the villa. However, once she stepped into the living

room, she was met with dead silence.

The cold winter night coupled with the absolute silence made the villa seem haunted.

Why is it so quiet around here? I thought something has happened to lan?

While Sasha stood in the living room in a daze, a voice came from behind her. "Ms. Wand?

When did you get here? You should have let me know that you were coming."

The voice belonged to Wendy. She thought she heard something and came out of the

kitchen to check.

There was finally someone Sasha could talk to in the villa. "Wendy, where's little Ian? Is he

okay?"

"Ian? He's fine. I sent him off to bed after giving him a bath just now." Like the security guard,

Wendy also seemed confused about Sasha's late visit tonight. Saying no more, Sasha stole a quick glance at the second floor and started striding toward lan's room.

Matt will never lie to me. Since he said that something has happened to lan, then something

must be wrong. The housemaids and guard may not have noticed it yet. In no time, Sasha arrived outside Ian's bedroom.

"Little Ian?" she called out her son's name while trying to push open the door.

Her heart sank when she realized the door was locked from the inside. What's going on with this kid? Why is he doing this again all of a sudden? Wendy, who had followed closely behind Sasha, saw what happened and hurried downstairs

to retrieve the bedroom key.

This was no joking matter. Everyone in Royal Court One knew that Ian was not allowed to

lock his bedroom door. Given his fragile body and unpredictable emotional state, there was

no telling what would happen if he locked his bedroom door.

Therefore, Sebastian had declared that his son's bedroom door was not allowed to be

locked from the inside.

And all this while, Ian had been obeying his father in this regard. But now, he had locked it again.

Wendy rushed back with the key in her hand. "Ms. Wand, here you go. The key."

Sasha grabbed the key and swiftly opened the bedroom door.

"Little Ian, what—"

Sasha's jaw dropped as soon as she dashed inside the room. When she was told that

something had happened to Ian, she thought that maybe he had fallen ill again.

But when she was inside lan's room, she was taken by surprise; the room was a complete mess!

What's going on here? What happened to my little Ian? Sasha's face turned pale as she surveyed the room; there were over-turned furniture, broken toys, and smashed items on the floor. Panic-stricken, she started searching for her son in

the room.

"Little Ian? Little Ian, where are you?"

"lan? Ian, please tell us where you are," Wendy called out while checking every corner of the room.

The two adults looked as though they were living their worst nightmare.

They had searched

every spot in the room, but there was no sign of lan.

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It's like the kid had vanished into thin air!

"How did this happen? Where did he go?"

Panic-stricken, Wendy was about to summon the security guards to search for the kid.

Sasha was no better off. However, she didn't believe that her child would run away from

home. He is only five and will definitely leave some clues behind even if he runs away.

Sasha suppressed the fear in her heart and continued searching the room.

In the end, what got her to breathe a sigh of relief was hearing the soft breathing that came

from the huge closet.

"Little Ian!"

Sasha opened the closet immediately.

As suspected, a small, curled-up figure appeared before the two adults.

The pale-faced boy

with pallid lips was only half-conscious at that moment.

"Little Ian..."

...

Sebastian was in a club when he received the call from home.

After he got home that afternoon, Leslie showed up and informed Sebastian that the club

Hayes Corporation invested in had opened its doors. He was then invited to go check things

out as well as relax in the new club.

That was why he went over.

The cocktail had just been served, and it hadn't even rolled down Sebastian's throat when

his phone rang.

"Sebastian Hayes, what the hell are you doing? Why aren't you home at this hour? Don't you

know that something terrible happened?"

The sudden angry howl was like dynamite blowing off right beside his ear, which stunned

the man and forced him to move his phone away.

"What's wrong? Who is it?" asked Leslie, who was sitting at the side.

He was curious. This is Sebastian Hayes! Who on Earth is crazy enough to yell at him as

soon as the call is picked up?

Life, however, always had a way of surprising a person. Sebastian merely paused for a

moment after being reprimanded that badly.

After that, he placed his phone by his ear again and complained, "Sasha Wand, have you

gone nuts? How dare you butt into my business?"

"Are you insane? Who the hell cares about you? I'm only calling to ask you to come back

because something happened to your son. He has to go to the hospital immediately. As his

father, aren't you being a little too irresponsible?"

What followed next was another series of furious howls.

Sebastian was rendered speechless.

Leslie blurted, "Holy moly, who is that fearless woman? I have got to meet her."

Those words made Sebastian's expression turn even uglier.

Surprisingly, he wasn't actually angry. On the contrary, receiving that call and being yelled at

made Sebastian feel pretty good.

I wonder if that is how other wives react. Will they call their husbands up and reprimand

them like this whenever the men went home late?

Sebastian put his drink aside.

"Got it."

Without saying another word, Sasha hung up the call immediately.

That got Leslie utterly stupefied.

I swear, I need to ask this gutsy woman where she found the courage to go up against this

tyrant.

And the dude doesn't even seem angry!

When Leslie walked over and saw that Sebastian was leaving, he asked, "What's wrong? Did

something happen?"

This man is acting out of the norm today. Besides staying here for the entire afternoon, he

also looks unusually grim. Even though Sebastian never said a word, Leslie, who had known

him for over a decade, could still tell that something was amiss.

The problem was that he had no idea what was troubling Sebastian.

"It's fine. lan's just sick."

"Huh?" blurted Leslie, who was genuinely worried upon hearing that.

"Are you sure that

everything is alright? Do you need me to go with you?"

Leslie knew that Ian had always been in poor health. Hence, hearing about the news got him

worried, and he truly wanted to pay a visit.

Unfortunately, the man standing in front of him outright rejected his kind gesture.

"There's no need for that. Just make sure that business is running smoothly here."

Leslie was dumbfounded.

"By the way, Sabrina said that she would be dropping by today.

Remember to go welcome

her later," reminded Sebastian before grabbing his car keys and leaving. Leslie felt like he was just struck by lightning.

Sabrina? D*mn it, there goes my good days.

At the People's Hospital located in the city center.

Sasha worked in that hospital, so everyone recognized her when she rushed over with her

son in her arms.

"Nancy, the boy..."

"He's my son," replied Sasha without hesitation.

She has a son?

The doctors on-site hurried over upon hearing that. What truly surprised them, however, was

that the boy looked similar to a certain someone...

"What is everyone standing around for? Examine the boy now!"

The head physician scolded the other medical staff when he saw everyone gathering

around. With that, everyone dispersed and got to work immediately.

On the other hand, Sasha remained composed while standing at the side.

The kid had always been in poor health, and he practically grew up in the hospital. Hence, it

was only natural that the medical staff knew about his condition.

A few minutes later, the ER doctor finally finished examining the boy.

"How is he, Dr. Woods? Is he going to be alright?"

"He's fine. His condition was likely caused by emotional distress. Did something upset him

greatly?" asked the doctor.

Upset him?

However, Sasha was clueless about what happened to the kid too.

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That being said, Sasha was aware of how easily lan's physical health got affected by

emotional turmoil. That was why she didn't use her acupuncture techniques on him and

took him to the hospital instead. From her experience, the most suitable treatment for him

in such circumstances would be sedatives.

And he'll also need psychotherapy.

As Sasha stared at the boy on the bed whose eyes remained shut, she felt guilt-stricken.

"I don't know. He was already hiding in the closet when I arrived, all curled up like a ball. It's

likely that something horrified him." Sasha speculated.

She was at a loss as she honestly had no idea what had happened to her son, and the kid

refused to talk even after he woke up. He simply kept his eyes closed without moving a

muscle.

That got Sasha extremely worried.

Dr. Woods nodded and agreed, "Yes, that is most likely what happened. Let him rest for a

while. We'll ask him about it after he wakes up. Maybe he'll open up then."

"Okay."

Sasha breathed a sigh of relief after hearing that. After getting the prescription from the

doctor, she went to pay the bill and retrieve the medicine.

Sebastian made it to the hospital before Sasha returned from the pharmacy. Upon entering

the room, he saw a tiny figure lying on the bed.

"lan?"

Sebastian was much calmer when dealing with his son's illness. After all, he had brought the

child to the hospital countless times.

Despite that, watching the tiny figure under those white sheets still gripped Sebastian's

heart.

He walked over to check how his boy was doing.

Unfortunately, the moment he approached the bed, he saw the tiny thing inching away under

the sheets. Ian still had his eyes closed, so he didn't catch a glimpse of Sebastian but only

detected his scent.

Yet, that was enough to make the kid keep his guard up, refusing to get close to his dad.

Sebastian was at a loss for words upon seeing that.

"Here's the medicine, miss. Please administer it to my son," said Sasha who had just

returned at that moment before handing the medicine for the boy to the nurse.

Hearing that from the side of the hospital bed, Sebastian retracted his long fingers that were

clutching onto the edge of the sheets.

When Sasha walked over with the nurse, she realized that Sebastian was there too and

abruptly paused in her tracks, almost causing the nurse to crash into her.

"Dr. Nancy?"

"Sorry, let's go over there."

Sasha quickly averted her gaze and followed the nurse to her son's bedside with a needle.

At first, Sebastian had some doubts, but when he saw that the lady seemed professional, he

swallowed his words, and with his hands in his pockets, he strode to the seat beside the

window.

He seems so freaking relaxed.

Sasha checked the kid's temperature after attaching a saline bag to him.

She later glared at

the man icily and informed, "I'll leave the rest to you."

Sebastian was swiping on his phone with his legs crossed at that moment. He appeared

relaxed and nonchalant, exuding the aura of a powerful man. Hearing Sasha say that she

would leave the matter to him simply made him look up with an indifferent expression.

"Before you leave, shouldn't you tell me what happened?"

The hell? He's only asking about this right now? Was his fatherly love just an act this entire

time?

Sasha's beautiful face turned hostile instantly as she growled, "You're asking me? How

would I know? He was already hiding in the closet when I reached the villa. He was all alone

like... like an abandoned pet! If you were home, you could've prevented that from

happening!"

Sasha's eyes reddened as she spoke.

Upon recalling how pitiful the child looked inside the closet, tears welled up in her eyes.

Every time she thought about his crouching figure, her heart would wrench in pain.

Sebastian was stunned as he didn't expect her to become so emotional all of a sudden.

She's even crying...

Sebastian stiffly retracted his gaze. For the first time, he didn't reprimand her for losing her

temper with him.

"It's been a while since he last acted this way. When he was younger, he stayed in the Hayes

residence for some time. That was when he became reclusive and resisted social

interactions. After I brought him to my place, he stopped having meltdowns like this."

Sasha was speechless.

Her bloodshot eyes were still wet with tears when she stared blankly at the man in front of

her.

What is that supposed to mean? Is he trying to say that Little Ian is autistic? If that is the

case, then everything makes sense since it's normal for autistic kids to lack a sense of

security. In fact, that is precisely the cause of the disorder. As his mother, it is my fault for

not giving him the sense of security he needs!

Sasha recalled how the boy always looked sorrowful and reluctant whenever he heard her

saying that she was leaving. Now she finally understood the reason behind it.

Her heart ached the second she made sense of everything, and she could no longer stop her

tears from rolling down her cheeks.

Sebastian was speechless.

What is wrong with her? She's crying regardless of whether I speak up! "Then I won't go back tonight. I'll stay and take care of him."

Sebastian was utterly baffled.

"Oh, Matt and Vivi are still in the apartment. Get someone to take care of them after you go

back. Wendy will do. It's not safe for two kids to be alone at home." Sasha then took out a set of keys from her purse.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 167 Sebastian was stunned once again.

He did not expect any of that to happen. When he shared that story, he was just trying to let

Sasha know why Ian was sick.

Why are things spiraling this way?

No one knew what was on his mind as he sat there quietly with his dark brown eyes fixated

on those keys.

That gaze...

Sasha thought that Sebastian was going to reject her request, so she turned grouchy and

demanded, "Why aren't you leaving? Have you forgotten that Matt is your son too?"

Upon hearing that, the man raised his brows.

He then got up from the chair and grabbed the keys on the way out. What the hell is wrong with him?

...

That night, Sasha stayed in the hospital with her eldest son.

Meanwhile, Sebastian left with the keys to the apartment. Sasha thought that he would do

as she instructed and get someone else to take care of the kids in the apartment after he

returned home.

She didn't realize that the man went to her place immediately after he left the hospital.

Mommy?

Matteo was in his room when Sebastian reached the apartment. The kid had not been able

to sleep because he was worried about Ian. Abruptly, he heard the door being opened.

His tiny head popped out from under the sheets instantly.

"lan..."

Vivian, on the other hand, was snoring lightly like a cute piglet. Sensing her brother moving

about, she got upset that the cold air had invaded her warm blanket and grumbled in her

adorable voice.

Her chubby arms hugged her brother even tighter.

He was about to pry his baby sister's arm away when he heard a series of heavy footsteps

and the sound of something being tossed onto the table.

He could tell that the person was heading directly to their bedroom.

"Mom... Daddy? What brought you here?"

When the little boy saw the tall figure standing by the door, he was so surprised that his big,

round eyes bulged.

Sebastian was a little surprised as well.

It was likely that he didn't expect the little one to be awake at that hour.

"Were you waiting for your mommy?"

Sebastian walked to the kids' bed and sat beside them. Stroking the boy's head, he gestured

for him to lie back down so that he won't catch a cold.

Matteo lay back down obediently.

Still, he was happy to see his daddy there. His eyes shone as brightly as the stars in the sky.

"By the way, Mommy went to check on Ian. Daddy, is Ian alright? Is he sick? Also, why are

you here? D-did you come just to see us?" asked Matteo, who was especially careful when

he said the last sentence.

Unlike Ian, Matteo wasn't raised by Sebastian, so their interaction was a little stiff, and they

couldn't chat freely like how Ian did with Sebastian.

Being the intelligent person he was, Sebastian could guess what the kid was thinking.

He sat down by the bedside and tucked Matteo in. "Ian got a fright," answered Sebastian.

"Your mommy is staying in the hospital, so I came to see how you guys are doing."

"Really?"

As suspected, the little one was ecstatic to hear that answer.

Daddy really came over for us!

As his father gazed at him lovingly, Matteo's cute face lit up with a bright smile. The boy

then asked, "Is Ian's illness serious, though? I was talking to him over the phone at that time,

but he suddenly stopped talking."

"You were talking to him?" blurted Sebastian in mild astonishment.

"What were the two of

you talking about?"

"We... uh..."

Instantly, the little guy lying on the bed was lost for words.

He couldn't exactly tell his father that he and his brother were talking about their parents'

divorce. Daddy will definitely be angry if he learns the truth. He will think that we're bad kids

for eavesdropping.

"I-It's nothing. We were just talking about the games we play."

"I see. Ian's fine, and he will be in good shape again by tomorrow. It's late, so be good and go to bed."

Sebastian didn't press on after hearing that reply. He simply stroked the little guy's head

before telling him to go to bed.

Matteo grinned at his daddy and said, "Okay, but where will you sleep tonight, Daddy? Are

you going to sleep here with us? We don't have that many rooms here, and the only other

room is Mommy's."

This kiddo is teasing his daddy...

Sebastian pinched Matteo's button nose before exiting the nursery. It was not possible for Sebastian to sleep in their nursery because there was only a kid's

bed. There was definitely not enough space for an adult, especially with two kids already

sleeping there.

Sebastian ended up going to Sasha's bedroom. When he opened the door, he saw a small

but clean room.

Given Sasha's financial capabilities, it was normal that she couldn't afford a luxurious place.

That being said, she kept her room clean, regardless of where she stayed. Even the shabby

house in Old Town seemed welcoming after she decorated it.

When Sebastian entered the room, he noted that the room was illuminated by warm lighting

with a tidy bed in the middle of it. On the bed was a neatly folded light blue blanket. The

room was simple but not lacking. There weren't many decorative items next to the bed,

which suited Sasha's style because she had always been a minimalist. Besides a bedside

table with a thick medical book on it, there was only a nightstand.

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Despite that, Sebastian didn't feel like there was anything lacking in the room as he saw a

purple vase on the study table placed some distance away. Some fresh chrysanthemum

flowers were blooming in the vase.

The stunning flowers were like a ray of sunshine in winter, and they lit up the entire room.

This woman has pretty good taste.

Sebastian took his coat off.

At first, Sebastian planned on spending the night sitting in front of the study table. He

regarded himself as a dignified man who was too high and mighty to touch the foul bed that

the woman had slept in.

The annoying reality of it was that for some unknown reason, he lay down on it before he

even realized it.

To make matters worse, he caught himself wrapped up tightly in that blanket when he woke

up the next morning, and he could smell the fragrant scent of that woman wafting from it!

I must've been possessed last night!

Overwhelmed by conflicting emotions, he was about to throw the blanket aside and get up

when a tiny figure dashed into the room.

"Morning, Daddy. How did you sleep last night?" It was Matteo.

Sebastian felt even more troubled at his son's sudden appearance. He quickly whipped his

head around and acted like he had been looking in another direction the entire time.

"Good morning. Are both of you up?"

"Yeah, we have to reach the preschool by eight-thirty. Daddy, will you drop Vivi and me off at

preschool today?" asked Matteo.

His tiny face was filled with anticipation when he made that request. Preschool?

Sebastian finally turned around to take a glance at his son. All the man saw was the

eagerness and hope in the boy's eyes, which prompted Sebastian to nod without hesitating.

"Sure. Is everyone ready?"

"Not yet. Vivi hasn't combed her hair yet. Daddy, do you know how to do it?"

Sebastian was taken aback by Matteo's sudden question as he had no idea how to do

something like that.

He had experience in taking care of kids, but since Ian was a boy, there was never a need for

Sebastian to tie his hair.

Unfortunately, there were no other adults in the house, so Vivian, who was already in her

uniform, had to follow her brother to Sasha's room. She couldn't help but feel a little scared.

At first, Vivian didn't actually believe it when Matteo said that their daddy came to their

apartment.

Why would Daddy come to our small apartment? Besides, he is not on good terms with

Mommy, and they're constantly arguing. So why would he come here when he despises her?

Vivian remained skeptical until she actually saw that tall figure in the room.

"Come here, little girl."

Sebastian looked down at the frightened little girl, who was hiding behind her brother. It was

early in the morning, so Sebastian's patience hadn't waned yet. He waved his hand to

beckon her over.

Only then did the little girl finally approach him.

Unlike his sons, the little girl had plumper cheeks and looked cute as she walked to

Sebastian in a daze. She had been standing in front of him for some time with her head

tilted up, staring at him with her big, round eyes.

Why is she staring at me like that? Is she showing off her large eyes? Sebastian reached for the back of her collar and picked her up like she was in a bag. After

that, he put her on a stool.

"Gah! You can't pick me up like that. I am a kid! You're supposed to carry me," the little girl

finally spoke up. She glared at her daddy after being placed on the stool, and her tiny arms

waved in the air when she complained in her cute voice.

Sebastian was stunned.

It was as if he was by the riverbank, and a gust of comforting wind had just swept past him.

His heart was filled with a sweet feeling as he looked at her tiny face and listened to her

baby voice that was completely different from that of his sons.

With that, Sebastian's heart softened.

"Okay, I won't do that again."

Vivian didn't utter another word.

Her big, round eyes gleamed as she sat obediently on the stool so that her daddy could tie

her hair up for her.

However, she acted up again when he tied her hair.

"Do you actually know how to tie my hair? It hurts when you do that!" complained Vivian

angrily as she touched her head of hair that was disheveled. There was no saying how upset

she was at that moment.

How is he going to be my daddy if he can't even tie my hair properly? Sebastian was a little stumped.

He honestly tried his best, but tying pigtails for the little girl turned out to be more

complicated and nerve-racking than signing contracts worth billions! Whose sh*tty idea is this? Why must girls tie their hair up? Sebastian was tempted to toss the comb into the trash can.

However, he suppressed that desire, and after putting in his all, he managed to help the little

girl tie a simple ponytail. Matteo, who had been watching from the side, could not help

cringing.

Nevermind. We should let him off the hook this time. After all, he's never helped comb his

daughter's hair before.

Surprisingly, Vivian was pretty happy about it.

Her tiny, plump hand caressed the ponytail that her daddy had tied for her. It was like she

had just received the most precious gift in the world, and she hopped out of the house

happily, leaving the other two dumbfounded.

What the...

...

At the hospital.

Sasha had woken up by then, and she was getting ready to take Ian home.

"Let's go home, Little Ian. The doctor said that you're fine now, so you've been discharged,"

cooed Sasha as she gazed at the boy who had been sleeping in her arms all night.

Unfortunately, the boy, who was recovering well, closed his eyes as soon as he heard about

going home.

He even wanted to turn around and ignore her completely.

Sasha was at a loss.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 169

"I was talking about going back to the apartment where your siblings are staying, not the

one in Frontier Bay. Do you want to go over there, Little Ian?"

Seeing that the kid refused to talk to her, Sasha deliberately whispered those words into his

ears.

As expected, the rascal's long eyelashes flickered upon hearing that while he was in his

mommy's arms. His eyes remained closed, though.

Sasha couldn't help finding that hilarious.

Soon after, she took him out of the hospital and brought him to her place. Fortunately, lan no

longer showed any sign of resistance.

Deep down, Sasha was filled with guilt. She had no idea that she played such a huge role in

the child's mental wellbeing. Back then, she saw how sad he was every time she left the

house, but she had always assumed that he was simply a little reluctant to see her leave.

I never realized that I affected him that much.

Sasha decided then and there that she would deal with her son's issues before getting a

divorce.

When Sasha took Ian back to the apartment, she assumed that her other kids would be

home as well since she didn't return the night before. But she was surprised to find it empty

when she opened the door.

Huh? Where are the kids?

Panic-stricken, she immediately fished out her phone and called Wendy. "Hello, Wendy? Did

you take the kids somewhere?"

Wendy paused for a moment before replying, "No, Ms. Wand. I didn't babysit your kids."

Panic instantly rose in her heart. Without another word, she hung up the call and rushed to

the rooms.

She noticed that the nursery looked normal, but the same could not be said for her own

room as her bed was messy. It looked like someone had slept on it, and there were even two

balls of crumpled-up tissue paper on the floor.

"It's Daddy!"

"What did you say?"

Standing by the door, Sasha was stunned to her core upon hearing that.

Her eyes bulged as

she shifted her gaze to her son, who had followed her to the room.

lan pointed at the nightstand and said, "His watch..."

A look of surprise crept up Sasha's face.

...

At Hayes Corporation.

Sebastian had forgotten to put on his watch that morning.

The moment he woke up that morning, his son got him to tie Vivian's hair, and the rest of the

morning was just one hectic event after the other, so there was no way he would have

remembered to wear his watch.

Luke noticed it as well.

That's strange. Where is his watch?

After entering the room with a bunch of folders, he placed them on the desk before

checking his own watch and asking, "Mr. Hayes, are we going to the airport later?"

"Why would we do that?"

Luke didn't expect the man, who was busying away at the desk, to look up and ask that

question in a confused tone.

That got Luke to choke a little on his words.

Really? Has he forgotten what he said yesterday as well? That he wanted to go on a

business trip today? I had to rush to get those air tickets!

Luke felt like it was necessary for him to remind the man. "Mr. Hayes, you mentioned

yesterday that you wanted to go to Moranta, remember? You even told me to buy air tickets

for a flight at eleven o'clock."

The boss did not say another word after hearing that.

However, the man didn't move from his seat either. He simply stiffened a little before turning

to the folders that Luke had brought over and reading them half-heartedly.

"I'm not going anymore."

"Huh?" blurted Luke in a stunned voice. "You're not going anymore?"

"Well, yeah. That annoying Ms. Sabrina is back. Go reserve a private room for tonight. We'll

throw her a welcoming party," instructed Sebastian calmly.

Luke was baffled.

Is that really necessary?

Since when did these two siblings get so close? Doesn't he usually ignore his big sister

whenever she returns?

Sometimes, Ms. Sabrina would drop by the office to pay her brother a ridiculously short visit,

but that's all. When has he ever thrown a welcoming party for his sister? Luke found it strange.

However, his boss had already given out the orders, so Luke had no choice but to obey.

"Should I inform Mr. Ian about it?"

"Isn't that obvious?"

"And what about Ms. Wand? Should I invite her?" asked Luke cautiously.

Luke's intentions were simple. It was a family gathering, and since Ian was going, it was only

natural for Matteo, who was also Sebastian's son, to attend the party as well. After all,

Matteo had never met his aunt before, so it was the perfect opportunity to introduce them to

one another.

To Luke's surprise, Sebastian rejected that suggestion without giving it a thought.

"There's no need for that. Just pick Ian up from Frontier Bay."

"Understood."

Not daring to say anything else, Luke simply turned around and left to deal with the matter.

Sabrina Hayes... It's probably better if the boy never meets her.

Sabrina was even more notorious than her brother Sebastian. Almost all the other members

of the Hayes family kept their distance from her due to her eccentric behavior.

That was especially true for Sasha all those years ago.

Naturally, Sasha didn't know that Sabrina had returned. The former didn't clock in that day

and stayed at home to care for her eldest son instead.

The two of them ate some home-cooked delicacies, and when afternoon rolled by, they went

to the mall where Sasha bought him a new blanket and some pajamas that matched his

siblings' nightwear.

After that, the two of them went to the preschool to pick up Matteo and Vivian.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 170

"Little Ian, you will be sharing a room with Matt from now on, okay? Vivi and Mommy will

stay in the other room."

"Okay."

The little rascal had completely recovered and was sitting in the backseat as he hugged his

brand new pajamas. His cool features could not contain his excitement and contentment at

that moment.

His wish had always been that simple, and it was finally going to be fulfilled.

When Sasha caught his smile through the rearview mirror, she couldn't help feeling ecstatic

as well.

They soon reached the preschool and picked up the two other rascals., who were delighted

when they got into the car and heard that their brother would be moving in with them.

"Yay! I love having Ian staying with us!"

Vivian had always been a lively and passionate kid, so she practically tackled Ian, wrapping

her tiny, plump arms around him to welcome him in the warmest manner.

Matteo was just as excited.

However, he was still bothered by what had happened the previous night, so he held his

brother's hand and asked out of concern, "Ian, are you okay? What happened last night? Is it

because—?"

lan already had his head lowered before Matteo could finish his sentence.

His expression exuded a hint of guilt and panic as he did so.

Upon noticing that, Matteo didn't say anything.

So my speculation is spot-on. He was deliberately putting on an act to prevent Mommy and

Daddy from getting a divorce...

Matteo finally understood what had happened, and the way he looked at his brother

changed instantly. For a moment there, he was filled with conflicting emotions. There was

one thing that Matteo was certain of, though.

He never blamed Ian for his actions.

Silly kid...

Matteo draped his tiny arm around his brother's shoulder and comforted him, "It'll be fine. I

know you're only doing this to prevent Mommy and Daddy from getting a divorce, so I don't

blame you at all."

Ian lifted his head upon hearing those words.

"Really?"

"Of course. That was also the issue I wanted to discuss with you when I called you earlier. I

don't want them to get a divorce either, so I wanted to brainstorm some ideas with you,"

Matteo confessed to his brother in a low voice.

Matteo's words managed to put Ian at ease.

After clearing all misunderstandings, the three kids resumed their usual playfulness. As

always, Ian was sitting quietly like a young gentleman while Matteo and Vivian caused

mayhem.

About twenty minutes later, they arrived at the apartment complex.

"I wanna hold lan's new pajamas! Give it to me!"

"Then I'll help Ian with his new slippers."

"Alright, alright. I'll take his blanket then. Shall we cook up a feast to welcome lan?"

Sasha couldn't resist chiming in when she saw Matteo and Vivian fighting to help Ian carry

his things.

lan's lips curled up as well. He had never experienced that kind of happiness and warmth

before.

Seeing his mommy and siblings help him with his things prompted him to dash over to them

and take back his toiletries.

Sasha smiled as she watched her kids having fun.

It was truly a happy and heartwarming scene.

After they got into their unit, Sasha went to make the bed for her son, but she received a call

before she could finish her task.

"Hello?"

"Madam, did you take Mr. Ian over to your place?" asked Luke.

Sasha turned around and took a glance at her eldest son, who was playing with the

bedsheet's packaging with his siblings before she nodded.

"Yeah, I did. What's wrong? Did Sebastian ask you to take him back? If so, please tell him to

let Ian stay here for the night. Ian's mood is a little off, and spending the night here with his

siblings can help him relax."

Sasha thought that Luke was calling because Sebastian wanted Ian home.

However, Luke shook his head and replied, "That's not it, madam. His aunt is here, and Mr.

Hayes told me to fetch him back for dinner."

"Who did you say has returned?"

Sasha, who was busy making the bed, turned pale when she heard those words and froze in

place like a statue.

"His aunt, Ms. Sabrina. Have you forgotten about her, madam?" asked Luke.

Luke assumed that Sasha didn't remember, so he courteously reminded her over the phone.

Ms. Sabrina? Of course I haven't forgotten her. How could I? I will probably remember her

existence even after I die. She is the first person who taught me what being stabbed in the

back felt like.

That was why Sasha remembered that woman, even after all those years. In fact, the mere

mention of her name sounded like a nightmare to Sasha.

Sabrina Hayes!

Sasha's gaze turned hostile as she replied, "Little Ian is busy today. He's sick and can't

attend any social gatherings or parties."

After saying her piece, Sasha hung up the call.

Luke was utterly speechless.

Holy crap. That certainly went well. How am I going to explain all this to Mr. Hayes?

Luke felt that things had gotten out of hand.

But what he had not expected was that someone arrived at Sasha's apartment right after

she hung up the call.

"Excuse me, is this Ms. Wand's place? We're here to pick Mr. Ian up."