

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 391

As Sebastian had been absent from work for a few days, he went into overdrive mode the moment he entered his office.

He was so busy that Luke didn't dare disturb him in the slightest. However, he had no choice but to knock on Sebastian's door when he received the message from Howard. The rays of the morning sun shone through the window, casting a radiant glow on Sebastian's desk where he typed away on his laptop.

“Sir, I've just received word from Howard... According to him, everything is fine with Madam...I mean, Ms. Wand. She transferred the money over to Jackson instead of handing it over to Andy, and is going to work as usual.”

His fingers stopped moving when he heard that, and Luke held his breath as he thought Sebastian was about to say something.

However, Sebastian simply continued typing away a few seconds later and said, “No need to report these things to me from now on.”

“Huh?” Luke was shocked. “W-What about Howard?”

“The real dimwit should have received enough training by now, right? I want you to send him over, have Howard return, and forget all about this,” Sebastian replied coldly, much to Luke's surprise.

Oh, my god! Does he mean he won't care about her anymore? What's with this sudden change in attitude? Just two days ago, he was so worried about her safety that he ignored his own

well-being and kept her company throughout the crisis! I don't understand him at all!

Had Luke walked a thorny path all by himself for so long with no sight of hope whatsoever, he would probably be able to understand Sebastian a little better.

Sometimes, it would actually be better to let go and release oneself from the unnecessary pain.

“I'm sorry, Mr. Rind. My dad will be released from prison soon, and I need to rebuild the family business with the money I made. As such, I have no choice but to resign from the company,” Sasha said as she handed Andy her resignation letter.

Although she had been in conflict with that Wall Street titan at first, the company did look after her in the end.

Andy too, had a pained expression on his face when he heard about her leaving.

“Sigh... The company is going to lose a valuable employee, then...”

“You give me too much credit, Mr. Rind. There are plenty of other employees here much being more capable than I am. Besides, my family business also engages in trading, so we might even become business partners in the future.”

“Really?”

Feeling slightly better after hearing that, Andy approved of her resignation and even gave her a million as a reward for her hard work.

Sasha then left the office happily with the money and headed over to the mall. As she would soon return to the country, she wanted to buy some presents for her kids, Jackson, Sharon, and Sebastian.

“Say, isn’t that the girl from RockePharma?”

“Yeah, what do you think? She looks beautiful, doesn’t she? Who would’ve thought a medical nerd like her would have such a pretty face, eh? Too bad she’s already married! If I’m not mistaken, that guy she’s clinging on to should be her husband.”

Sasha froze when she heard that.

There isn’t a single doctor out there that hasn’t heard of RockePharma, the world-renowned pharmaceutical company owned by the Rocke family. Are they talking about Roxanne?

Sasha looked up slowly, and her gaze fell upon the huge LED monitor in the mall.

“According to the photographs published by the journalists, the president of RockePharma has held a birthday party for his wife with both Roxanne and her fiancé in attendance. Being the heir to the Hayes Corporation, her fiancé is also considered to be a prominent figure in the world of business! With such a grand appearance from both families, could it be that a wedding is in order?” said a reporter from the entertainment news station.

As RochePharma had been established overseas, it was a lot more popular among the general public than Hayes Corporation.

That popularity was the main reason the mall had chosen to display the news as it would attract more customers.

Sasha felt a shiver down her spine as she continued staring at the screen.

A grand appearance from both families? A wedding is to be expected?

Sebastian and Roxanne's interactions looked very intimate in the footage. Dressed in a bright red gown, she was clinging to his arm with her body pressed tightly against his.

To make matters worse, Sebastian showed no sign of resistance whatsoever. In fact, he even held her steady when they entered the hotel so she wouldn't trip over her gown.

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A sharp pain tore through her heart, and it hurt so much that even breathing felt painful.

Having lost whatever feelings of excitement she had earlier, Sasha placed the items back on the shelf.

"Would you like to purchase this item, miss?" the salesgirl asked.

"No, thanks..." Sasha replied emotionlessly and dragged herself out of the mall.

She was so absent-minded that she didn't even know how she got home. All she remembered doing was locking herself up in her bedroom straight till nightfall.

Lance soon returned home with Vivian and was surprised to see an empty living room.

“Where's your mommy? Is she still out?” he asked as he had bought a lot of ingredients to make their favorite dishes.

Vivian climbed off him and went looking for Sasha in her bedroom.

“Mommy? Are you in there? It's me, Vivi! Uncle Lance bought us a lot of ingredients today! Come on out, Mommy!” she shouted in her usual childish voice while knocking on the door, but there was no response.

Lance quickly came upstairs and carried Vivian in his arms as he said, “I think your mommy isn't home yet. She's probably busy running some errands outside. Come on, let's wait for her downstairs. I'll make you something delicious!”

“Okay...”

Vivian could only pout as she went downstairs with Lance.

Little did they know, Sasha slowly opened the door after they left and slowly dragged herself out of the room.

“Will Mommy come home for dinner tonight, Uncle Lance? You even bought her favorite crabs!”

“Hmm, I’m not sure... If she doesn’t, we’ll just keep it in the refrigerator and cook it when she comes back, okay?”

“Okay!”

Vivian clapped her hands in satisfaction.

Lance smiled back at her as he continued unpacking the daily necessities that he bought.

“Vivi, if your mommy doesn’t come home before we go to bed tonight, I want you to tell her tomorrow that I bought you two all these stuff. They were mailed all the way here from Clear, got it?” he said while waving tubes of toothpaste and bottles of children’s shampoo in front of her.

Those were all stuff that Sasha had wanted to purchase from Clear. As Vivian had sensitive skin, most of the commercial products available in the market weren’t suitable for her.

As such, Sasha had no choice but to purchase them all from Clear Hospital.

I appreciate that he’s helped me with the purchase, but... Why did he have to buy so much of it at once? Three months is a pretty long time, so he could just wait till we run out before placing an order for it...

Sasha thought to herself as she looked at them from the corridor above.

After instructing Vivian on the daily necessities, Lance then pulled out his wallet and handed her a few credit cards.

“Also, could you hold on to these for me?”

“What is this?” Vivian asked innocently.

Wait, those are the credit cards that I gave him! I’ve always been busy with work, so I had no choice but to task him with managing everything in the house. I gave him the credit cards so he could purchase the daily necessities and groceries. The money isn’t much, but it’s enough for...

Sasha narrowed her eyes and trembled slightly as she was hit with a sudden realization.

“Your mommy gave me these. Let’s play a game tonight, Vivi. Your goal is to keep these safe for me, okay? You can return them to me when I come back tomorrow morning.”

“Okay!”

Vivian naively clutched those cards tightly against her chest like they were some sort of precious treasure.

Lance’s eyes reddened a little, but he fought off the urge to sniffle and gave Vivian an affectionate pinch on the nose before heading into the kitchen.

Having witnessed everything from upstairs, Sasha teared up as she ran back into her room and shut the door once again.

She never knew he was by her side the whole time, let alone the fact that he had let go of her by fulfilling her wishes.

Six months later, it was almost time for the birthdays of Ian and Matteo.

“Sebastian, where do you plan on celebrating the boys’ birthdays? This is Matteo’s first birthday with us after returning to our family, so we have to make it a grand one!”

Frederick had come all the way to Frontier Bay in person just for the event.

Sebastian was putting on his coat before leaving for the office when he heard that. “Sure, you can make the arrangements,” he replied with a nod.

Frederick’s face was instantly filled with joy.

“Okay, we’ll have it at a hotel, then. I’ll invite everyone from the Hayes family over and get them formally introduced to Matteo. As for his mother’s side...”

“That won’t be necessary!” Sebastian cut him off the moment he mentioned Sasha.

The look on Frederick’s face changed immediately. “What if people ask about the child’s mother?”

“We’ve got Roxanne, haven’t we? You can just invite her family over instead. We’re engaged, so she’ll be the mother of those children from then on. Don’t you stir up any trouble now.”

Sebastian grew impatient all of a sudden, and his tone grew a lot colder too.

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Of course... He doesn't remember a thing about that girl, so it makes sense that he wouldn't want to hear her name. Given the way he had treated her in the past, I suppose it's for the better...

Frederick let out a sigh at the thought of that and said no further.

Sebastian then headed for the office, and Frederick left shortly after as well.

To his surprise, however, he saw a beautiful woman and an adorable little girl waiting for him when he arrived at the Hayes residence.

"Go greet your grandpa, Vivi!" Sasha whispered and gave Vivian a gentle nudge when she saw Frederick.

Vivian had seen Frederick before, but she still felt a little nervous as they never got to spend much time together.

Regardless, she did as told and walked up to him as she said, "Hello, Grandpa! I'm Vivi!"

Her voice sounded so cute that it melted Frederick's heart and brought him to tears of joy on the spot.

"You've finally returned! Oh, I've missed you so much! Come on, come to grandpa!"

Frederick was so overwhelmed by emotions that he tossed his walking stick aside and bent over to carry Vivian in his arms.

He loved each and every one of his grandchildren very much, and even Sasha teared up a little as she observed that touching moment from the side.

She waited till Frederick had calmed down before approaching them. “Mr. Hayes, I brought Vivi here to see you because my dad will be released from prison soon, and I don’t think I’ll be leaving anymore.”

“Huh? Really? You’ll stay here from now on?” Frederick went wide-eyed with surprise.

“Yeah, really. I’ve made some money during my time overseas, so I’m going to rebuild the Wand family once my dad comes home. That was also the reason why I worked in Wall Street,” Sasha replied decisively.

Frederick got emotional once again. “That’s good to hear! Will I be able to see my precious granddaughter often, then?”

“Of course you can. I brought her over today to say hi, after all. Oh, one more thing... The kids’ birthdays are only a few days away, so I was hoping to let Vivi celebrate hers together with her brothers,” Sasha voiced out her request hesitantly.

Frederick smacked himself on the lap when he heard that. “Why, of course! They’re triplets, so it’s only natural to have them celebrate their birthdays together! Don’t worry, I’ll make the arrangements!”

Sasha smiled, feeling relieved that she had made the right decision.

The two of them stayed over for lunch in the afternoon, and Frederick went as far as having a chef from a five-star restaurant owned by Hayes Corporation come over to prepare that meal.

That was a luxurious treatment that no one else in that household had ever enjoyed.

Luke was so shocked when he heard about it at the office that he nearly spilled his coffee all over the floor.

What the hell is going on? Why would she come over when Sebastian has just decided to cut ties with her? Heck, she even went straight to the core of the family! This sudden turn of events sure is suspicious...

Those thoughts made Luke incredibly restless, and he didn't dare tell Sebastian about it until it was time to get off work.

When he saw Sebastian return to his office after a meeting with his client, Luke mustered up the courage and ran up to him.

“Mr. Hayes, did you know that Ms. Wand is back?”

“What did you say?”

Sebastian looked up immediately upon hearing that, and his response made Luke even more nervous.

“I heard about it earlier in the afternoon. She suddenly returned with Ms. Vivian and went straight to the Hayes residence where the two of them had lunch.”

The office fell into a deafening silence, and Luke's palms were covered in sweat from the suffocating tension.

The atmosphere in the room was so tense that it felt as if the air had frozen over, and he didn't dare say a word nor move a muscle.

“Why did she come back?”

“I don't know, but I heard it has something to do with the Wand family and her dad's release from prison.”

That was the only thing Luke could recall at the time.

For the Wand family? Oh, right... Of course! Why else would she come back otherwise?

“Don't bring this up in front of me ever again. As for Dad, he can hang out with them all he likes, so you don't have to report that to me in the future either,” Sebastian said calmly as if nothing had ever happened.

Is he seriously going to end it all like this? Just ignore everything and forget about everything? If he cared about her, he would've done everything in his power to stop her from seeing his dad or even make some sarcastic remarks about it. But no, he's just completely ignoring them right now... If this is how he's going to be, then he might as well have his memories erased for real...

Luke couldn't help but feel a little sad at the thought of that.

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Sasha was a little busy throughout the next couple of days.

Having returned with Lance, the two of them had to renovate their family home.

As such, the two of them had no time to look after Vivian and had to leave her at the Hayes Residence.

“Sha, Sebastian hasn’t come to visit us at all... Are you sure it’s okay to leave Vivi there with them?” Lance asked worriedly.

He had become a lot more reserved and sentimental ever since that eventful night in Moranta.

Sasha flashed him a slight smile and said, “Of course it’s okay! He’s Vivi’s grandpa, and we have a lot on our hands right now. I don’t see anything wrong with having him look after her for a few days.”

“All right, then...”

Having no better idea himself, Lance could only go along with Sasha’s arrangement.

The Wand residence was starting to look a lot more presentable after two days of renovation, and Sasha went to pick Vivian back from Hayes residence.

“Hi, Mr. Hayes. I’m done with the renovations at my place, so I’ve come to bring Vivi home. Thanks for looking after her throughout the past two days.”

“What? Leaving already? Why don’t you let her stay another couple of days? I’ve told her brothers over at Frontier Bay about this, so they’ll be coming over to play with their sister over the weekend.”

Frederick was reluctant to part with his granddaughter and looked sad the moment he heard she was leaving.

He even went as far as telling Sasha he would bring Matteo and Ian over just so she would change her mind.

The idea of letting the three of them play together did seem like a great one, and even Sasha found herself a little moved by it.

“I want to stay here with Grandpa, Mommy! I want to play with Matt and Ian!” Vivian wrapped her arms around Sasha’s leg and begged to stay.

Fine, I guess I’ll just let her stay here for another two days... I still need to add some furniture to our house anyway...

With that in mind, Sasha agreed to let Vivian stay.

The next day was a Saturday, and Frederick had someone bring the two brothers over. Having been separated for about half a year, the three siblings got really carried away playing with each other.

“Vivi, is it true that Mommy won’t take you overseas again?”

“Yeah! Vivi will stay here from now on!” Vivian said happily, feeling overjoyed to have her brothers by her side again.

Matteo and Ian exchanged glances upon hearing that.

It's great that Mommy won't be leaving the country anymore, but... They've been here for quite some time now, so why hasn't Daddy paid them a visit yet? Come to think of it, Daddy has never mentioned a thing about it in Frontier Bay!

The two of them frowned at the thought of that.

“We should have Mommy and Daddy meet up.”

“How will we do that?”

“We'll have both Mommy and Daddy come over for a meal! That way, they'll be able to meet each other!”

Matteo had always been the one with brilliant ideas and proposed his plan to them.

Ian gave it some thought and agreed with his suggestion.

“Okay, I'll call Mommy right away and tell her to come over tonight!” Vivian was thrilled and offered to call Sasha herself.

Being the eldest of the three, Ian naturally took up the task of calling Sebastian.

Sasha was painting the moldy walls in the house when she received the call, and she broke into a faint smile when she heard Vivian inviting her over for dinner.

“What's the matter, Vivi? It's been so many days now, and you still don't feel like coming home?”

“No, it’s not that! It’s... We’ve prepared a huge surprise for you tonight, Mommy!”

Vivian wasn’t really good at lying and nearly exposed their plans.

A big surprise, huh? Okay, I’ll head over and see what surprise these kids have in store for me!

With a huge smile on her face, Sasha hung up the phone and called out to Lance who was busy moving the furniture, “Go get ready, Lennie! We’re heading over to the Hayes residence for dinner with Vivi!”

“Oh, okay!”

Lance happily put his stuff down and ran off to get changed.

In the evening, the two of them arrived at Hayes residence as promised.

“Hello, Tim.”

“Ah, Ms. Wand, you’re here! Come on in! Mr. Hayes Sr. has already had someone prepare the food, so we’re all just waiting for you and Mr. Hayes to arrive.”

Sasha, who had deliberately worn a brand new dress for the dinner, felt her heart skip a beat when she heard what Tim said.

Mr. Hayes? Huh... These kids sure don’t disappoint!

With that in mind, she entered the house feeling excited.

While it was true that her children did not disappoint her, Sebastian did by not showing up, and he didn't even bother calling to inform them.

“Um... I'm sorry, Sasha... You see, Sebastian doesn't really remember certain things, and he hardly ever comes here these days, so please don't take it to heart. I'll be sure to give him a proper lecture later on!” Frederick quickly explained when he saw how upset Sasha looked because of Sebastian's absence.

Sasha's pale lips twitched slightly upon hearing that.

He doesn't remember? No, he does. I'm the only one here who knows he didn't really get his memory erased... So, what does it mean if he chose not to show up?

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With a wry smile on her face, Sasha headed back home feeling utterly disappointed.

It pained Vivian to see her mommy so upset. “Why didn't Daddy come over for dinner, Mommy? Does he not want us anymore?”

Sasha didn't know what to say in response to her question.

Maybe he really doesn't want us anymore... No... Now that I've decided to take the first step, I won't let him abandon us!

Having regained her fighting spirit, she gave Vivian's chubby body a hug and said, “No, Daddy is just a little busy, that's all. Since we're moving in tomorrow, we can go to Frontier Bay and

invite them over for a meal! Both Daddy and your brothers. What do you think?”

“Okay!”

Vivian giggled and clapped her hands happily.

Avoiding me, are you? Fine, I'll show up at your doorstep, then! Let's see how you can hide from that!

Sasha thought to herself with a decisive look in her eyes.

After Matteo and Ian returned to Royal Court One in Frontier Bay, the two of them ran upstairs to confront Sebastian who was in the study.

“Why didn't you show up for dinner at Grandpa's, Daddy? Was that on purpose?”

Roxanne was in the study too, and she quickly defended Sebastian when she heard what Matteo said. “That's where you're wrong, Matteo. Can't you see that your daddy is busy working right now?”

However, that only made Matteo even angrier.

“That's not true! You wouldn't let Daddy go because you're afraid of him seeing Mommy! Do you think I don't know your plans, you evil woman?”

“You...”

Roxanne got mad and stood up from the couch.

Ian quickly pulled his brother behind him. “What are you doing?”

Despite his young age, his tone was almost as cold as Sebastian’s, much to Roxanne’s chagrin.

Eventually, she swallowed her anger and walked up to Sebastian who had been sitting quietly by the desk the whole time.

“Sebastian Hayes! Are you going to just sit around and let your kids slander me like this?”

The way she had rudely addressed him by his full name was a lot different from Xandra’s more cautious approach.

However, what Roxanne failed to realize was the fact that she had changed a lot over time.

Instead of just losing her temper and lashing out angrily on the spot like she normally would have, Roxanne was actually trying to please Sebastian without even noticing it.

Having taken a shower and changed into a light grey casual attire, Sebastian’s icy-cold aura had diminished significantly with the faint scent of shower gel and relaxed appearance.

However, that only made the cold look in his eyes a lot more intense as he glared at them.

“Ian, take your brother downstairs and go to bed.”

“Why?”

“You two went over to your Grandpa’s today without my permission. Ian, I’m being very lenient here by allowing you boys to see her, but you’d better not push it or you’ll regret it dearly!” Sebastian said, and the cold look in his eyes made it clear that he wasn’t kidding.

Matteo’s eyes reddened as he stood behind Ian.

“Daddy, you meanie! I don’t love you anymore!” he shouted as he ran off with tears rolling down his face, and his cries could be heard from the study upstairs for quite a long time.

Ian went livid with rage and glared daggers at Sebastian before going after his brother.

Roxanne grinned gleefully as she watched from the side.

Despite being overjoyed, she put on a magnanimous act and said, “Now, now... Don’t be so angry, Sebastian. They’re still kids, after all!”

I was actually worried about Sasha’s sudden return as I feared Sebastian would go see her and end up rekindling their past relationship. However, it seems my concerns were completely unnecessary after all! Sebastian’s cold and indifferent attitude toward her proves that his memory has truly been erased!

With that in mind, Roxanne left the room with a huge smile on her face.

A few minutes later, Sebastian came downstairs to see Matteo and Ian.

“The boys are already asleep, Mr. Hayes,” Wendy said.

She had come over to comfort them and tuck them in when she heard Matteo crying earlier.

Sebastian gave her a slight nod and scanned the bedroom to make sure they were really asleep.

He was about to return to his bedroom upstairs when Wendy called out to him from behind, “Wait, Mr. Hayes! There’s something I need to talk to you about!”

In view of her many years of service, Sebastian stopped in his tracks and turned around to face her.

Wendy swallowed nervously before continuing, “Mr. Hayes, they’re still too young to understand adult affairs. Right now, all they wish for is to be with their parents. If you have the time, and if they aren’t asking for too much, perhaps you could try to fulfill their request.”

Given her status as a housemaid, what she said was really out of line, and Sebastian had a displeased look on his face when he heard that.

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“What do you mean they aren’t asking for too much? The Wand family and the Hayes are no longer related, so it would be unfair to Roxanne if I were to give that woman a chance to get near me!”

“Huh?” Wendy was completely taken aback by his response.

Give her a chance? How could he say that? Has he forgotten how he used to treasure her like she meant the world to him? The others may not be aware, but I know that very well!

However, she quickly understood why when she saw the cold and indifferent look in his eyes.

Oh, right... Of course... Mr. Hayes has already forgotten all about their past... His memories of her have been erased, so there's no way he would care about her!

Wendy could only let out a sigh as she watched Sebastian walk away.

The next morning, Matteo and Ian looked listless after waking up as they were still upset about last night.

Wendy could only try to comfort them when she saw that. "Come on, cheer up! Since your daddy is off work today, I'll have him take you boys out to the amusement park, okay?"

"No!" Neither Matteo nor Ian wanted anything to do with Sebastian at the time.

With no better alternative, Wendy could only carry on with her work while the two played in the hanging garden on the second floor.

To her surprise, she heard the boys screaming excitedly moments later, "It's Mommy and Vivi! Look! They're here!"

"Yeah! Over here, Mommy!"

Standing by the fence of the hanging garden, Ian waved at the white car that was pulling up into the driveway below.

Sasha had driven here in a brand new car she bought after making up her mind the night before.

She rolled the windows down when she saw the two boys shouting excitedly and called out to Vivian who was in the child car seat, “Look, Vivi! Your brothers are welcoming you!”

“Really?”

Vivian was preparing the breakfast that she had brought them and stuck her head out the window when she heard that.

“Matt! Ian! Come on downstairs! I brought you two a lot of tasty treats!”

“Yay!”

Just like that, the two boys who felt depressed moments ago came running downstairs happily in a heartbeat.

A few minutes later, all four of them were standing by the front door, and Wendy hurried over to let them in.

“Long time no see, Ms. Wand! What brings you here so early in the morning?”

Wendy was delighted about Sasha coming over, and her eyes lit up with joy when she saw her at the door.

Sasha took a glance inside the villa and said awkwardly, “Yeah, about that... The renovations are officially completed for my

house, so I was hoping to bring these boys home. I'm not sure if that's okay with their daddy, though..."

"Ah, I'm afraid I can't make that decision for Mr. Hayes. How about you ask him yourself?" Wendy said while pointing at the third floor.

So he really is still at home!

Sasha felt her heart skip a beat from joy, and she quickly adjusted her dress as she said, "Matteo, Ian, you two look after your sister, okay? Mommy's going to have a talk with Daddy."

"Okay!"

Are you kidding me? Our silly Mommy is finally taking the initiative! This is such a miracle! All the best, Mommy! You can do it!

The triplets nodded profusely in unison and watched as Sasha entered the fancy villa that she had left for almost half a year.

The interior was mostly unchanged, and the huge chandelier hanging from the ceiling gave it an extravagant look even during the day. The spotless glass windows and the milky white couch gave off a warm glow in contrast to the icy-cold tiles, which added on to that luxurious vibe.

I remember this place like it was yesterday...

Sebastian wasn't the type who spends every waking hour working. Whenever he had the time, he would stay home on Sundays to spend time with his kids.

Sasha went straight to the third floor and saw his bedroom door still tightly shut.

For a brief moment, she spaced out and had a flashback of the time Sebastian had kidnapped her from Clear and brought her here.

The two of them were truly at loggerheads with each other back then. Although that was no longer the case, it still felt like they were back where they started.

Sasha took a deep breath to recompose herself and knocked on the door.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

The clear sound of her knocking sounded as clear as a bell and could be heard throughout the entire floor that was in complete silence.

After about a few minutes, she heard a rustling noise coming from inside the room.

“Who is it?”

Sebastian’s familiar-sounding deep voice could be heard as he asked in annoyance while opening the door, making Sasha a lot more nervous.

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“Who lets you—” Sebastian stopped abruptly.

Indeed, he was furious. He had not gotten much sleep, and it was dawn when he was finally about to doze off. However, he had barely closed his eyes when he heard a knock on the door.

The sight of the woman at his door made him stop mid-sentence.

“Hi, it’s been a while. Oh, did I wake you up? I’m sorry. I came to look for you because... I wanted to ask you, may I take Matteo and Little Ian to the Wand family’s residence today? I... I’m moving in today,” Sasha said nervously, her palms sweaty.

The moment he opened the door and glared at her like he was about to eat her alive, she felt a shiver run down her spine.

Is he angry that I’m here? No, even if he is angry, I can’t back down. I’ve got to persist. Only then will I stand a chance.

Sasha swallowed hard. “Also, I’d like to invite y-you to... join us. Is that okay?”

She put aside her pride, something she had never done before, and looked at him cautiously with wide eyes. She looked like a well-behaved kitten waiting to be petted.

Sebastian narrowed his eyes.

For a split second, he was about to relent.

He had never seen her like that nor heard her try to be nice to him before. As far as he could remember, they were like two prickly hedgehogs and as stubborn as rocks when they were together. They just rubbed each other the wrong way.

So what's she up to now? The Wand family has risen from the ashes, and she has achieved her goal. Does she feel that something is missing in her life if the kids aren't with her?

Instantly, the emotional turbulence raging within him subsided. It was like he turned into a completely different person.

"Ms. Wand, are you perhaps confused? Do we still have any form of relationship?" he asked coldly.

"Huh?" Sasha felt like she was struck by lightning.

"Why should I go to your house? I already have a fiancée, so we should keep our distance. Or do you want my fiancée to misunderstand?" he retorted. His harsh words showed his disapproval of what she had said and his protectiveness over his fiancée.

Sasha was dumbfounded.

She could not believe he would tell her off like that and that he would be so protective of Roxanne.

Did he really lose his memory? Otherwise, why would he say such mean things? Doesn't he know that it'll hurt my feelings?

Sasha's eyes reddened. "No. You... Why are you..." she stammered.

"What about me? Sasha Wand, the fact that I didn't stop you from seeing the kids was my way of showing you mercy. I hope you won't try to take things too far. Otherwise, don't blame me if you don't even get to see the kids!" he snapped.

With that, he slammed the door shut with a loud bang.

Sasha gaped.

Something seemed to snap in her, and tears began to stream down her cheeks.

It's not like that. That's not what I meant. Can't you see that I'm back?

Sasha had never been so heartbroken.

That day, Sasha took the two kids back with her.

After that, she did not return to Frontier Bay, nor did she visit the Hayes residence. It was as if she had disappeared off the face of the earth.

Because of that, Frederick was furious.

“You brat, did you say something to her? Why hasn't she been here? Don't you know that I miss my beloved granddaughter?” he asked Sebastian angrily, having gone all the way to Sebastian's office to ask him that.

Sebastian sat in his office. Before him was a pile of documents to go through, and on his computer were a ton of emails waiting for him to reply. He looked grim and emanated a chilling aura. When he heard what Frederick had come to say, he flung his pen onto his desk.

“If you want to see her, then go and look for her. Why are you here? Why is it my fault? Do you think I have so much free time?” Sebastian snapped.

Frederick was speechless.

After a while, he waved a finger at Sebastian and growled, “If it isn’t your fault, then do you think it’s mine? She hasn’t been back since she went to your place that day. Who knows what you said to her?”

Sebastian stared at him wordlessly. Just as he felt the urge to grab something and smash it, Frederick’s phone rang.

“Hello? What is it, Tim?” Frederick said.

“Mr. Hayes, I’ve located Ms. Wand. She’s in Adonia contacting the Wand family’s previous clients. It was Mr. Brandon who informed me about it.”

“Brandon?” Frederick repeated, raising his voice. “Why would he know where she is?”

Tim replied, “That’s because he’s with Ms. Wand. He’s helping her with contacting the clients since he’s familiar with that area.”

Frederick breathed a sigh of relief when he heard that. “Okay, call Brandon and tell him to take good care of Sasha. Let me know if anything comes up.”

Then, Frederick hung up the call. Without even looking at Sebastian, he left with a grin on his face.

Sebastian pressed his knuckles together.

Unable to control his emotions any longer, he swept everything off his desk.

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Sasha was indeed in Adonia at that moment.

Now that she had revived Wand Enterprise, she wanted to get it off the ground as soon as possible. The best way to do that was to get in touch with their previous clients and convince them to do business with Wand Enterprise once again.

And there were many old clients in Adonia that used to make large orders from them.

“I have to give it to you. I can’t believe you came looking for me after you found out that I was filming here,” Brandon said.

He could not help feeling pleased about becoming her guide.

But that was how he always was. He acted like Sasha was nothing but trouble every time she came looking for him. He would either end up being beaten or something similarly miserable.

However, whenever she needed his help, he was still eagerly at her beck and call.

Sasha knew it too, which was why she felt rather uncomfortable when she saw the pleased look on his face.

“What choice did I have? I only have one friend, and that’s you. Oh, let’s eat after going to Gerrain Enterprise. I’ll treat you to a feast, okay?” said Sasha.

“Sure! I want to go to the grandest restaurant here and order to my heart’s content. Do you have any problem with that?” he replied mischievously, leaning toward her and blowing gently on her ear.

“Get lost!” Sasha exclaimed.

His breath tickling her ear gave her goosebumps and she reached out to push him away.

Ten minutes later, they arrived at Gerrain Enterprise.

Since Gerrain Enterprise was doing quite well, it would be a great help to Sasha if they agreed to work with Wand Enterprise once again.

When they met with the owner of Gerrain Enterprise, Sasha placed the gifts she had brought on his desk and said, “Mr. Lovano, let me cut to the chase. It was thanks to your support that Wand Enterprise enjoyed the success it had all those years ago. Now that Wand Enterprise has resumed operations, if you’d be so kind as to give us a chance, I promise to offer you factory prices on all our products. What do you say?”

“Factory price?” Travis Lovano echoed. He smiled before continuing, “Young lady, how old are you? Are you over twenty years old? Do you know what it means when you offer factory prices?”

Sasha fell silent. Doesn't he believe me?

She glanced at her clothes, slightly regretting that she had dressed casually in a plain pair of jeans and a T-shirt.

“Of course. It would mean that we won't be earning a profit. However, if you order from us, those old clients of ours would surely follow suit. Since I'll be using you as a walking billboard, what more could I ask for?” Sasha explained smoothly without a trace of panic.

Travis was stunned. He had not expected her to be so frank. She's Rufus' daughter, isn't she? It looks like she has pluck and brains.

In the end, Travis agreed, but on one condition. He was meeting a client that night, and the client was a notoriously tough nut to crack. Travis had been trying to close a deal with him for the longest time. If Sasha could help him seal the deal, he would sign a contract with Wand Enterprise.

“Isn't he just making things difficult?” Brandon glowered when he heard that.

Sasha was also unhappy about it. However, she knew that if she wanted Travis to partner with the Wand family, she had no choice but to endure it.

Therefore, she agreed to Travis' condition.

Once they came out of Gerrain Enterprise, Brandon could not hold in his anger anymore and scolded Sasha. “Why did you have to agree to it? He couldn't even handle it himself, but now he's

asking you to do it. Isn't it clear that he's finding a way to turn you down?"

"So what? At least he gave me a chance. I'm not my father, so I should thank my lucky stars that he didn't chase me out of his office right away," Sasha explained with a frown. Although Travis' request left her feeling somewhat helpless, she could understand why he did so.

After hearing her say that, what else could Brandon say?

They decided to stay at a hotel until Travis sent them the information on where to meet that night.

And because Travis remarked that Sasha's outfit made her look like she was playing house, Brandon purposely went out in the afternoon and bought her a new dress.

Sasha was speechless when she saw it.

She did not know how to express her gratitude. All she could do was change into the dress obediently.

Brandon was dazed when he saw her in it.

"All right, I'm ready. Let's go then," Sasha said after she had changed and saw that Travis had sent her a message. She picked up her handbag and prepared to leave.

Golden Gate Club? What sort of place is that? Is it a hotel?

She had walked out of the hotel and hailed a taxi when she saw Brandon rushing up with something in his hand.

“What’s that?” she asked.

“A scarf, of course. It goes with the dress. Well, hurry up and put it on,” Brandon said.

Without waiting for an answer, he draped the white scarf over her bare shoulders.

A scarf? Is that necessary? Why do I have a bad feeling?

She looked warily at the scarf and the dress she was wearing.

However, the taxi was waiting for them, so she had no choice but to go along with it. They got into the taxi, and she said to the driver, “The Golden Gate Club, please.”

“Okay,” the driver answered.

Then, the taxi sped off.

Golden Gate Club was a famous nightclub located in the eastern part of the city. The place would come alive after dark and was one of the hottest spots for the wealthy.

Once Brandon got down from the taxi and took a look at the nightclub, his handsome face paled, and he looked ready to kill someone!

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“Look at this place! Do you still dare to go in?” Brandon asked.

Sasha was silent, her face pale. But since I'm already here, I can't back out. I'll go in and take a look. If it's too much, then I'll leave.

Lifting her skirt slightly so that she would not step on it, she walked into the club, her heels clicking on the floor.

With her graceful gait and simple makeup that highlighted her features, she looked just like a flower in full bloom. As soon as she stepped into the nightclub, all eyes fell on her.

“Is this the newest arrival at Golden Gate Club?” someone remarked.

“Looks like it. Someone like her is a breath of fresh air. She's much better than the uncouth ones around here,” another person said.

“Right? Quick, let's go and ask the boss,” the first person replied.

Then, those men who could not wait to strip the clothes off Sasha's body hurried off to look for the nightclub's boss.

Sasha was oblivious to it all.

She had no idea that the dress Brandon got her would cause so much trouble.

Brandon was someone in the entertainment industry where the women jostled for attention by making every effort to dress up. And because of their influence, he had chosen that dress for Sasha.

Soon after they entered the nightclub, Sasha found the private room Travis had mentioned in his message.

“I’m here, Mr. Lozano,” she said as she walked in.

The smell of alcohol hung in the air of the dimly lit private room, and the atmosphere made one feel uneasy. As soon as Sasha walked in, she saw several coquettish ladies seated on the couch, and they were pressing their bodies up against a man.

“Ah, Sasha. Come in. Let me introduce you to Frank Wheatley. He’s one of our most prominent businessmen around here,” Travis said.

Travis had looked up when he heard Sasha’s voice, and his eyes lit up immediately. Well, well. She’s gorgeous once she dresses up.

Frank also turned to look at Sasha. She wore a pearl white dress that showed off her slim waist, making her look tall and slender. With her fair skin, delicate features, and sparkling eyes, she looked absolutely breathtaking.

Frank’s eyes widened, and he immediately pushed aside the women next to him. Where did such an ethereal beauty come from? Is she even human?

When Sasha saw that, she instantly felt a hint of disgust.

“Mr. Wheatley,” she greeted.

“Pretty lady, come over here and let me take a good look at you. Tsk tsk, Travis, where did you find someone like her? She’s so much better than any of these other ones,” Frank said.

Sasha did not expect him to utter such perverse words and lunge toward her.

The color drained from her face, and she took a few steps backward.

At that moment, Brandon stepped in front of Sasha. “What’s going on? Mr. Lozano, is this the client you mentioned? Do you have a death wish?” he demanded, raising his leg and aiming a kick at the disgusting bastard.

When Travis saw that, he quickly pulled Frank back.

“Mr. Wheatley, you’re mistaken. She’s not one of the girls here. She’s Sasha Wand, and she’s a friend of mine. I invited her here tonight to hang out with us,” Travis explained.

“A friend?” When Frank heard that, he glanced at Sasha a trifle sadly and had no choice but to suppress his urges.

Sasha could not bear to stay in the room any longer. She had not expected that the person Travis wanted her help with was someone so disgusting that she felt like throwing up. Nonetheless, when she thought about her family, she forced herself to put up with it.

“That’s right, Mr. Wheatley. I’m a friend of Mr. Lozano’s. I heard that you’re a very successful businessman. Would you consider

giving Mr. Lozano a chance? Gerrain Enterprise is one of the best,” said Sasha.

“So you’re here to broker a deal,” Frank replied.

The plump jerk! He figured it out immediately. Oh well, so be it. I won’t have to beat around the bush then.

Sasha nodded. “I wouldn’t go so far as to say that. A nobody like me wouldn’t have the right to do so. Rather, I’m here to analyze the situation for you so that you can see how much benefits you’ll gain by working with Gerrain Enterprise.”

“Such as?” Frank asked.

“For example, if you work with Mr. Lozano, I can find a way to sell the futures that you’ve tried to get rid of for so long. Oh, you haven’t gotten a single cent from the bonds you got from those other companies, have you? I can help you with that too,” Sasha replied with a calm and polite smile in her eyes.

Frank’s expression changed. How does she know about all that? No, that’s not important. What’s more important is that she says she has a solution. How is she going to do that?

Despite the fact that she was not over twenty years old, Frank began to take her seriously.

“You’re not just full of hot air, are you? I’ve asked many experienced people about that, but I still haven’t been able to find a solution. How is a young lady like you going to handle it?” he asked.

“By relying on the same skills that allowed me to work on Wall Street and achieve a record of one billion in orders. Mr. Wheatley, is that enough?” Sasha answered.

Everyone was shocked.

There was complete silence in the private room.

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In the end, Sasha managed to help Travis in closing the deal with Frank.

And once the filthy rich Frank found out who she was, he even signed a contract with her worth over tens of millions.

It was an unexpected windfall.

Overcome with emotions, Sasha went over to the two men and raised her glass. “Mr. Wheatley, Mr. Lozano, here’s to you!”

“All right, come on. Cheers!” the two men chorused.

With business out of the way, a beautiful lady before them, and the fact that they were there to have a good time, there was no reason to reject a toast. Therefore, they proceeded to drink to their heart’s content.

When Sebastian kicked open the door to the private room, they were drinking merrily. As for Sasha, after a few glasses of wine, she had taken the initiative to sit down next to Frank.

The door flew open with a loud bang, and everyone in the private room turned to stare at Sebastian, wine glasses in hand.

What's going on? Why is he here? Sasha's mind went blank for a moment.

Brandon was also shocked. He stared at Sebastian in disbelief, suspecting that his eyes were playing tricks on him. What a coincidence! Is he here for business too?

It was deadly silent in the private room that one could hear a pin drop.

“Who is he? How did he barge in? Waiter! Is this how you do your job? Are you thinking of closing down by letting this sort of riff-raff in?” Frank demanded, launching into a tirade once he recovered from the shock.

Sasha jolted back to her senses, but it was too late. Sebastian had kicked open the door looking worried and anxious. However, the moment he laid eyes on the scene in the private room, his gaze darkened, and he saw red. Then, he turned on his heel and left.

No!

Without a second thought, Sasha tossed aside the glass in her hand and picked up her skirt. As she hurried after Sebastian, she called out, “Sebastian, wait! Sebastian!”

She ran as fast as she could, but he was even faster.

He strode away quickly as if he was escaping from something disgusting and detestable. His gaze was cold and filled with

abhorrence. It did not take him long to go down to the second floor.

When Sasha saw that, she became frantic.

“Sebastian, listen to me. It’s not what you think it is.” She took off her shoes hastily, worried that she would not be able to catch up and that we would disappear before her very eyes.

She never would have guessed that this would happen.

The last time she saw him, he had brushed her off so coldly that all hope had vanished. That was why when she saw him kick open the door, she felt as though she had been struck by lightning.

Did he think that I was getting bullied? Is that why he showed up at that very moment? If that’s true, then does that mean despite his coldness, he has been secretly keeping an eye on me? It’s just like in Moranta when our relationship was falling apart. I said some very mean things, but he still arranged for someone to stay by my side.

Sasha saw Sebastian about to exit the nightclub. Anxious to catch up to him, she tried to take longer strides as she descended the stairs.

However, the dress that Brandon bought for her was much too long. And especially since she had taken off her heels.

As she took a step forward, she tripped over the hem of her skirt and lost her balance, tumbling down the stairs.

“Sasha!” Brandon’s voice shouted from behind her.

Is she crazy? He’s gone, so what’s the point of chasing after him?
Doesn’t she remember how he treated her?

Brandon rushed toward her, his face pale with worry.

At the same time, the others in the club stopped what they were doing and turned to stare in surprise.

Once he was at her side, he helped her up. “How are you feeling? Are you okay? Did you hurt yourself?” he asked anxiously. Although she had made her way halfway down the flight of stairs before tripping, she had still fallen from a height and could well have gotten hurt.

However, what infuriated Brandon the most was even after helping her up and seeing the injuries on her palms and face, she did not pay the slightest attention to them. Instead, she gazed at the doors to the club with tears in her eyes and said, “He’s gone...”

Brandon was dumbstruck.

He was about to tell her off harshly when they saw a tall, slender figure pacing in front of the doors.

“Oh, look! Look, he’s back! Sebastian, don’t go. I can explain.”

Although she had just been crying a second ago, she immediately brightened up and smiled. She tried to get up, but as soon as she made a slight movement, she flinched from the pain and sank back down to the floor.

“Ouch—” she groaned.

“Why are you trying to get up? Don’t you know the state you’re in?” Branded snapped.

Sasha was silent. She gazed at the figure by the doors with tear-filled eyes and a hurt expression. Finally, Sebastian strode over to her.