

## Always Been Yours Chapter 126

### Chapter 126 Found

The man didn't notice her. He skulked around for a moment and retreated deeper into the forest.

That might be the lead. I can't let him get away. Tessa didn't have time to inform anyone else. She had no choice but to follow the man alone, and she kept some distance in case the man noticed her, but she always kept him in her sight. About ten minutes later, her hands were already drenched with sweat, but she realized they were about to exit the forest, so she slowed down and hid among the bushes. Then, she saw a house before her.

The man went inside. "Boss, Nicholas and his men are at the factory, and they're holding our guys. What should we do?"

The man raised Gregory's chin and asked, "What should we do indeed? What should we do, boy?"

"Let me go. If money's what you want, my Daddy can pay you," Gregory answered calmly.

Tessa paused for a moment. I knew it. Greg's here, but there's a lot of kidnapers inside. I can't save him even if I tried to face them head on. What should I do? Oh, right. Nicholas. I have to call Nicholas. She took her phone out and called Nicholas with trembling hands. "I-I found Greg. Come over quickly. There's a ton of thugs here."

"Where are you? Don't make a move until I arrive." Nicholas' face fell, and he raised his hand to silence everyone.

Tessa almost couldn't even hold her phone. She whispered, "I'll send my location to you. Get here ASAP." She sent her location to him and hid in a place where she could see everything.

The kidnapers' leader held the boy's chin. "Your father? Your father doesn't want you anymore."

Gregory struggled to break free. "That's a lie! Daddy and Miss Tessa must be looking for me!"

The man in black snorted. "Yeah, and that's why they don't want you anymore. I told them to pay up, but they came here to look for you. They don't want you anymore, and you lost your only use. I might have to give your father a warning." He swung his bat a few times.

Gregory looked at him fearfully. "What do you want to do?"

The man in black snorted. "Break your arm, of course. This might scare your rich daddy into paying up."

Tessa's eyes widened. No, I can't let this happen. I can't wait for Nicholas anymore. She charged ahead and hugged Gregory tightly in her embrace. The kidnapper swung his bat, and it hit her back. Tessa grunted painfully, and she could feel her insides churning as pain spread across her body. She was seeing stars, and she almost blacked out.

Gregory was shocked, and he cried. "Miss Tessa! Are you alright, Miss Tessa? Don't scare me!"

Tessa was pale from the pain, but she wanted to calm the crying Gregory down. She tried to touch his face, but her whole body was screaming with pain, and all her strength left her, so all she could do was force a smile. "I'm fine," she assured him. "I'm okay."

Gregory had been holding on for a while, but when he saw blood flowing from Tessa's shoulder, he couldn't stay calm anymore, and he bawled. "I-I'll blow on your wound, Miss Tessa. The butler said that'll take all the pain away. Don't leave me alone, Miss Tessa. I'm scared."

## Chapter 127 Help Arrives

The kidnapper didn't see this coming, and he was annoyed by the boy's crying. He roared, "Stop crying or I'll kill this woman!"

Shocked, Gregory stopped crying, and he whispered through his sniffles, "Miss Tessa..."

Tessa tried to stay awake. "Don't cry, Gregory. I'm fine. I'm fine."

Once the commotion died down, the kidnappers' leader turned around and kicked his lackey. "You trash! You didn't even know you were followed! Did I hire you for nothing?"

The lackey tumbled backward, and he quickly got up just to kneel before his boss. "What should we do, boss? She's already here, so..."

"What else? She probably already told Nicholas. Take them away and tell the guys to split up!" the leader ordered quickly.

"Yes!" The kidnappers quickly came to separate Tessa and Gregory.

Tessa knew Nicholas was on his way. She was his greatest lead, and she would not allow them to quash it. Tessa hugged the boy as tightly as she could, and she whispered, "Hold onto me, Gregory. Do not let go no matter what."

Gregory held her as tightly as he could after he heard what Tessa said. "I won't let you go."

She was an injured woman, and the boy was raised in a loving and rich household. Anyone would think they could be easily separated, but the kidnappers were finding it tough to do so.

Tessa kept holding onto Gregory, and the boy wouldn't let her go. The kidnappers tried hard to split them up, but they still couldn't do it.

They could feel their boss fuming, so they stopped and reported carefully, "We can't split them up, boss."

Infuriated, the leader pushed the kidnappers away. "You useless sh\*ts. We already kidnapped the boy. Just beat her up for Pete's sake." He raised his rod and smashed it down on Tessa's back.

Tessa grunted, and she could feel her insides getting moved. However, she didn't scream, for she was worried Gregory might be scared. She swallowed her scream and told the boy, "It's okay, Gregory. I'm fine. Do not let me go. Your father will be here soon."

Even with her assurance, the boy still cried. "Miss Tessa..."

The kidnapers thought they could finally split them up, so they tried to pull her away, but she still wouldn't let the boy go. One of the kidnapers decided to push down on her injured shoulders to make her let him go.

Tessa could feel her wound getting torn, but she had held on for so long, and she was not going to give up now. "I won't let you do it." Nicholas isn't here yet. My boy still isn't saved. I can't give up. She was starting to panic, however. Why isn't he here yet? She kept holding on. I must protect him at all costs. I cannot let them take him away again. I have to hold on until Nicholas is here.

Enraged by her persistence, the leader raised his rod and aimed it at Tessa's head. "Fine. Don't blame me for this." He swung his rod down, but someone stopped it before it could hit Tessa.

## Chapter 128 Revealed

Nicholas stood before the kidnapper and took the rod away, then he slammed his foot into the man's chest. "How dare you?"

He came straight to her location after she told him where he was, but it was dizzying in the mountains, and he could only know her rough location even with the GPS, so he spent a lot of time finding her. He was already furious that Gregory was kidnapped, but when he saw Tessa hurt and Gregory bawling in her arms, he was enraged. His fury swept across the room and made everyone shiver.

The kidnapper's leader couldn't get up after he was kicked, and he looked pale. He curled up on the ground and spasmed, while the other kidnapers trembled in fear. They didn't help their boss, nor did they go against Nicholas. They didn't even dare to escape, and all they could do was stare in disbelief.

The cops arrived and caught all the kidnapers easily, then they pinned the perpetrators down.

"Tessa? Are you alright, Tessa?" Timothy ignored the kidnapers and went toward his sister.

Tessa eased up the moment she saw Nicholas. She knew they were saved, and all her strength left her. She couldn't even move a muscle, so all she could do was smile. "I'm fine."

Timothy was shocked, but he didn't touch Tessa in case he made things worse. "Shh, shh. You have to save your strength, Tessa."

"Greg!" Kieran quickly went to pick the crying boy up to check up on him. "Are you hurt, Gregory? Tell me. I'll mess them up if they hurt you."

Gregory was still bawling, but he shook his head and looked at Tessa. "But Miss Tessa is."

Kieran looked at Tessa's wound, and he frowned. She's badly hurt. Those guys must be trying to kill her. She was protecting Gregory, or he would have been the one who was hurt. That would be a disaster. The thought that Gregory might have been hurt so badly enraged Kieran. How dare they hurt my nephew? They just signed a death warrant. He looked at the kidnapers, but when he saw who the leader was, his eyes widened. "Lionel? It's you?"

Lionel used to be one of Sawyer Group's suppliers, and Kieran used to be the one working with him, so they knew each other. However, six months ago, Lionel, who had been working honestly all this time, provided subpar products for a big client and caused Sawyer Group to incur a huge loss.

When the company found out, Nicholas ordered everyone to stop working with Lionel and demanded a huge sum of compensation from him. Lionel was also blacklisted. Kieran explained the situation to Nicholas, though he never thought Lionel would vent his anger on a boy.

Nicholas looked at Lionel darkly. He tried to hurt my son because I stopped the partnership with him? Unforgivable.

Since Kieran recognized him, Lionel knew it was no use hiding anymore, so he smiled. "Nicholas, Kieran, you guys are only successful because you're born with a silver spoon, while I worked my way up. You guys called me unscrupulous just because I made one mistake? You guys have enough money for your grandkids' grandkids! But yet you came for a layman like me. Disgusting."

## Chapter 129 Saved

"If it weren't for your orders, my other clients wouldn't have stopped working with me, and my wife wouldn't have remarried another guy, nor would my company have gone bankrupt. Just because you said it's my fault, my whole family is now in ruins.

My mother fell ill because she couldn't handle the huge change, and she died because I had no money to pay for her treatment. Even the homeless think I'm trash now. Do you have any idea how hard life is for me? No, because you're sitting on top of your throne, destroying our lives on a whim. You don't care about us, and you ruined my family! I must have my revenge!"

Nicholas frowned. "This is your own fault."

Lawrence agreed. The hell is with this guy? He's a criminal, but he blamed the Sawyers for not covering it up for him? And he wants them to keep the partnership up? Does he think they're idiots? His skewed values is the very reason his wife went with another guy, but he blames someone else for it? What an arse.

One of the officers was annoyed, so he interrupted, "Shut up. You can talk all you want after you come with us."

The officers took the kidnapers away, but Lionel was still shouting. "As long as I live, I won't let any of you off the hook! You love that kid, don't you? Then keep a close eye on him, because he's going to get it bad when I come out. Curse you and your company! I hope you go bankrupt! I hope your family falls apart like mine did."

Nicholas ignored him. Just a dying man's empty threats. Tessa was the person he should be paying attention to. She had fainted from the pain of her injuries, and Nicholas picked her up. "To the hospital."

Timothy was also tearing up, and he followed Nicholas.

Kieran checked on the boy once more. It was lucky that the kidnapers didn't hurt him, and Tessa protected him before he was injured. He was fine, though he was out of breath from all the crying.

Kieran was about to catch a break, but Gregory pointed at Tessa and sniffled. He wanted to follow them and was asking Kieran to carry him, so Kieran picked him up and chased after them.

They went straight to the hospital, and Kieran called the medical staff on the way so they could get prepared.

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Thanks to the police cars, they came to the hospital soon after, and the moment they got out, Tessa was surrounded by the medical staff who took her to the operating theatre.

Timothy was pacing back and forth outside the theatre, and he kept looking at the glaring light above the doors. "Will she be fine?"

Gregory started crying again after he finally stopped. "Miss Tessa... Daddy, she'll be fine, right? I'm scared."

Nicholas was inscrutable. He held the boy who was crying on his shoulders. "It's alright. I'll make sure she's fine."

Kieran had been tense until that moment. Now that he had calmed down, he looked at his brother, feeling a bit confused. Hm, nothing wrong with that. He's a responsible man, and he didn't say that just to calm Gregory down.

Tessa was hurt because she wanted to protect him. But for some reason, he thought Nicholas was acting weird. He's different from how he used to be. He had a lot of questions, but he knew he shouldn't talk about that right now, so he opened his mouth just to swallow his words in the end.

## Chapter 130 Grandparents Arrive

After finding out that Gregory was safe and at the hospital, Tobias and Stefania quickly came over. When she saw her grandson, Stefania cried. "My sweet boy. Are you alright? Are you hurt? Tell me everything."

Gregory cried again when he saw his grandparents. He backed away a little from his father's embrace and hugged his grandmother, and he sobbed.

Stefania was worried. "Don't just stand there. Get someone to check on Gregory."

Gregory sobbed. "I'm fine, Grandma. But Miss Tessa's badly hurt, and I'm really scared, Grandma."

Stefania was heartbroken seeing him so sad, and she patted his back to comfort him. "It's alright, Greg. Miss Tessa will be fine. It's alright. Don't cry, Gregory. She'll be fine. Everything's okay now." She looked at her sons. "Where's the culprit?"

Kieran answered, "Arrested and detained. Don't worry. I'll make sure they pay the price for hurting Gregory."

“You’d better.” Stefania’s face fell. She almost died when she heard that Gregory was kidnapped. He was her precious grandson, but those kidnappers took him away. I will not let this slide. They must pay the price.

Everyone nodded. An hour later, the light above the operating theatre’s doors went out, and Timothy went over to the entrance to talk to the doctor. “Is she alright, doctor?” he asked anxiously.

The doctor answered, “Yes, but her shoulder is heavily wounded. It’s a bit cracked.”

All the color disappeared from Timothy’s face. “Can she still play the violin?”

“Not for now,” the doctor said. “She has to rest, and she can’t use her shoulder, so don’t ask her to lift anything heavy.” Timothy looked upset, so the doctor said, “It’s fortunate that she’s not in any danger. If her artery was hit, it would have been much, much worse.” Then he left.

Tessa was taken to a ward, and she looked as pale as a sheet. Her eyes were tightly shut, but she was frowning, possibly from the pain, and it pained Timothy to see her like that. “Tessa dreams to be a musician, and she loves the violin. Will the orchestra take her like this? The performance is next month, and she just got promoted to assistant concertmaster. But this...”

Nicholas heard Timothy, and he looked at Tessa quietly.

Gregory lay before Tessa’s bed and stared at her. He was tearing up, but he didn’t make a fuss. All he did was stare at her.

Stefania felt sad seeing him like that. He just got away from the kidnappers, had the shock of his life, cried the whole afternoon, and now, he was staring at Tessa without even moving. This can’t go on. He can’t take it. She tugged on him. “Can you come home with me, Greg?”

“No. I want to stay here with Miss Tessa,” he answered without turning back. I’m not leaving. What if she wakes up and misses me like how I missed her? If I’m not here, she would feel sad.

Stefania still tugged on him. “Be good. She’ll be fine. She’s just sleeping.”

“No, I won’t go home. I want to stay with Miss Tessa. What if I’m not here when she wants to see me? That’ll make her sad.”

## Chapter 131 Bad News

Gregory turned around and looked at Stefania adamantly. His eyes were still red, and he sniffled. “I don’t want to leave, Grandma.”

Left with no choice, Stefania looked to Nicholas. “Tell him to go home.”

“Leave him be, Mom. Kieran will take you and Dad home. I’ll stay here to take care of him,” Nicholas said.

Kieran noticed the look his brother was giving him, so he said, “Yeah, mom. It’ll be fine if Nicholas is here. And the kidnappers have been caught, so don’t worry about it.”

Stefania couldn't do anything if Gregory didn't want to leave, so she just nodded and followed Kieran back home.

Tessa finally opened her eyes at night, and she saw white walls all around her. She blinked a few times, and she realized she was in a hospital.

Gregory had been staring at her all this time. Now that she was awake, he was delighted, and he called out to both men, "Daddy, Mr. Timothy! Miss Tessa is awake!" He climbed up the stool and leaned his head on the bed. "Are you alright, Miss Tessa? Are you hurt anywhere? Tell me. I can blow on the wound for you."

"Thank you, but I'm fine," she answered weakly. The anesthetic had worn off, and she could feel her wound clearly. It was painful, but she couldn't show it to the boy, who was concerned for her. She didn't want a child to be worried about her.

"Do you want to eat anything, Miss Tessa? I'll get Daddy to buy it for you," the boy said.

Tessa forced a smile. "Thank you, but I'm not hungry yet."

She still looked lethargic after she woke up, so Gregory was worried, and he teared up.

"Are you alright, sis?"

"How do you feel?"

The men asked her at the same time, and they looked at each other, but they said nothing. Then, they looked at Tessa with worry in their eyes.

"I'm fine," Tessa said. She felt like she had been lying down for a long time, so she tried to sit up, but the moment she moved, she felt the wound on her shoulder tearing apart, so she gasped. It was a simple movement, but she was already sweating from it.

"Don't move. You can't move too much with that kind of injury." Timothy quickly helped her lay back down. Then, he adjusted her position so she wouldn't press down on her wound.

Both Timothy and Tessa were sweating when they were done.

He's being so careful. Tessa wanted to joke and say he was making a mountain out of a molehill, but the pain on her shoulder felt real, so she asked, "What happened to me?"

"The doctor said your shoulder bone cracked, so you have to rest and try not to pull on the wound." He paused for a moment before telling her about the injury, but he didn't tell her that the doctor said she couldn't play the violin for now.

Tessa's heart sank, and she immediately knew what he was getting at. I can't practise now, so that means I can't join next month's performance as assistant concertmaster.

## Chapter 132 Crying

She blanched, for that was bad news indeed.

Timothy sighed. He knew he couldn't hide it from her. Even if he didn't say it, she would reach that conclusion eventually. I can't do much. She can't heal up immediately and perform onstage right away. He paused for a moment and pretended to look relaxed. "You're really fortunate, Tessa. It's just your shoulder. You'll be fine in no time. The doctor said you would have been in danger if the perp hit your artery."

She nodded and forced a smile. "Yeah, I am." She might be smiling, but she felt sad. However, she couldn't worry them, for they were already concerned about her wound. She looked at Gregory. "Are you alright, Gregory? Did they hurt you before I came?"

"I'm okay. They told me to be quiet, so I was, and they didn't do anything to me." He shook his head.

At least they didn't hurt him and I managed to get there in time. She heaved a sigh of relief. "Good to hear." She had been worried the whole day. If Gregory was hurt, she would never be able to forgive herself even if she was hurt.

"I'm fine, Miss Tessa. Heal up soon. I'm waiting for you to come home." He looked at her, worried.

Since Gregory was looking lively, Tessa felt her pain subside a little. They made some small talk, but Tessa was tired not long after that, as her wound was serious. "I'm tired. I need to sleep. You've been out the whole day, Tim. Go back to school."

Timothy had always listened to her, but this time, he shook his head. "I'll stay here with you. I won't leave no matter what you say, so stop convincing me. Get some rest if you feel tired."

Tessa was easily exhausted for the time being, so she couldn't argue with Timothy and just let him do what he wanted. A while later, she drifted to sleep.

Thanks to the Sawyers, Tessa was staying in the most luxurious single ward. There was a couch and another bed beside Tessa's. It seemed more like home than a ward, and that was thanks to the Sawyers. Timothy didn't want to take the other bed, so he slept on the couch.

Since Gregory was shocked and refused to leave Tessa no matter what, he laid his head on her bed and stayed there. He wanted to hug Tessa, but since his father said that might make Tessa's bad condition worse, all he could do was sit on the stool and stare at Tessa. Gregory had gone through a lot in the day and cried for the whole afternoon, so he was already tired. He was only a child after all, so he slept not long after.

Nicholas looked at the sleeping boy, and he sighed. He took the boy and put him on the other bed. The boy was still sniffling.

Nicholas didn't sleep. Because of the kidnapping incident, he had left some work aside, so he had to go through some files now. However, he would glance at Tessa and his son from time to time. All of a sudden, he heard someone sobbing quietly, so he paused and looked at Tessa curiously. Her blanket was trembling, and her head was bobbing. Oh, she's crying.

Tessa didn't know Nicholas had noticed her. Indeed, she was crying silently under the blanket. Everyone knew she couldn't perform this time, but she knew that that wasn't the only thing she lost.



There were a lot of people in the orchestra, and a lot of them were more experienced than she was. Missing a performance or two was enough to warrant a performer change. It was common in the orchestra. Moreover, she was just an inexperienced newbie who had nothing in her portfolio to back her up. Even though she had solid basics, the possibility of her getting promoted was slim to none. She wanted to be seen, so she had been practising as hard as she could in the orchestra and tried her best to be the top performer among the newbies. Thanks to her effort, Trevor noticed her.

Because of her unbelievable talent and hard work, Trevor promoted her to assistant concertmaster. It was a never-seen-before act, but her path after that promotion was rocky, and because of that promotion, she was inevitably the object of a lot of people's envy.

### Chapter 133 Obstinace

It was her maiden performance after her promotion, but she couldn't show up because of her injury. She knew recovery would be a long process, and she would lose a lot of chances to perform. Maybe someone will have taken over after I go back. If that happened, it would be hard for her to take her position back after she made her return. Now I'm further away from the stage I dream of.

She only pretended to be calm after she knew about her injury so she wouldn't worry Timothy. However, when she was left alone to ponder about her situation, she was overwhelmed by sadness. She wanted to cry her heart out, but she was worried she might wake everyone up, so all she could do was hide under her blanket and shed her tears quietly. Because she didn't want to pressure her wound, she had turned her back to the other bed, so she didn't know that Nicholas was awake.

Nicholas was startled that Tessa was wallowing in her sadness. But after thinking about what Timothy said and combining that with Tessa's reaction after she found out about her wound's severity, he knew why she was so sad. Nicholas was a smart man after all. She had gone through a lot today and had been holding it down, so it was natural that she had to vent it all out to heal. Since she's crying quietly while everyone's asleep, that means she doesn't want everyone to worry.

Hence, Nicholas didn't say anything. All he did was stare at Tessa, who was still crying silently.

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After Tessa woke up the next morning, she chatted with Timothy like nothing had happened.

Gregory was awake as well, and he looked happy that Tessa was getting better. "Are you feeling better today, Miss Tessa?"

Tessa nodded. "Yes. Thanks for the concern, Greg."

Gregory was happy to hear that. "Great. I asked the doctor last night. He said you'll heal up in no time."

Tessa nodded. "You're a good boy."

Since she was keeping it to herself, Nicholas pretended nothing had happened as well. He told Edward to bring breakfast over for Gregory and the Reinhart siblings. After they had breakfast, he said, "I'll go home to get changed. Call me if you need anything. I'll come back shortly."

Tessa disagreed. "You don't have to do that, Mr. Sawyer. I'm feeling better now. You have a lot of work to do, so please go to your company. You don't have to stay with me." She paused for a moment. "And I was the one who caused this, so I was supposed to save Gregory. We're even now."

Gregory knew what she was getting at, so he hugged Tessa. "No, Miss Tessa. It's not even. You got hurt because you tried to save me. It's only right that we take care of you." He looked at his father imploringly. Say something, Daddy. She's chasing you away now. Does that mean she doesn't want me too? I can't let that happen.

Nicholas nodded. "You're not to blame. Gregory was the one who insisted on coming with you. You did not make the offer, and the kidnappers are my family's enemies. That has nothing to do with you as well. Even if you hadn't taken him along, they would still have found a way to kidnap him. In any case, you saved Greg."

Tessa was stunned, and she was at a loss for words. But I did lose Gregory while he was under my care. I can't just shirk my responsibility.

Nicholas looked at the boy. "Are you coming home with me?"

"No. I want to stay with Miss Tessa. You can go home if you want to, Daddy, but I'm staying." Gregory couldn't tug on Tessa, so he held the edge of her bed. He didn't want to be taken home, and he looked at his father adamantly.

#### Chapter 134 Taking Care of Miss Tessa

Feeling helpless against Gregory, Nicholas took a glance at him. However, he eventually said nothing much. "We're in the hospital. Don't make too much noise."

Upon hearing that, Gregory nodded happily. "I'll behave!"

Following Nicholas' departure, Tessa turned to look at her younger brother. "Tim, you should head back to the university. I'm really fine."

After carefully tucking Tessa into the blanket, only then did Timothy raise his head and look at Tessa.

"Young Master Gregory is still young. Who will take care of you after I leave? I think I'll just wait here until President Sawyer is back. Once he's back, I'll go back to the university."

"Mr. Timothy, that's not true. I-I can take good care of Miss Tessa!" Gregory straightened up the blanket for Tessa, unwilling to show his weakness.

Both Tessa and Timothy did not know whether to laugh or cry after they saw Gregory behaving in such a manner.

"Young Master Gregory, you're great, but that's not what I meant. I'm just worried about your Miss Tessa. She'll need help if she needs to do something. Am I right?" Timothy smiled.

Upon hearing that, Gregory felt a little troubled. "T-Then, Mr. Timothy, you should stay and wait until my daddy comes back." If Miss Tessa needs help to do something, I am really of little help.

After letting out a laugh, Tessa still pulled a long face and said, "No, Tim. You should listen to me and go back to the university. Don't set aside your studies. If not, I'll ignore you no matter what. Besides, this is the hospital. Doctors and nurses are constantly walking up and down the hallway. What more is there for me to be worried about if I ever need any help? Right now, your time is precious, so don't waste it by staying here. It's not too late to come over after your class."

Seeing Tessa was being so strong-headed about this matter, Timothy could only nod his head. "Well then, Tess, if you face any problem, make sure to give me a call."

Tessa nodded. "Sure, I will."

"By the way, is there anything you want to eat? I'll fix it up for you shortly after my class," Timothy uttered.

Upon hearing that, Tessa smiled. "As long as it's made by you, I'll take anything. Even if it's just a simple cheese omelet, I'd still think it's delicious. So, just cook anything you feel like cooking for me."

"Sure thing." Timothy nodded. After that, he simply freshened up and left the ward.

The once rather lively ward now only left both Tessa and Gregory.

Looking left and right, Gregory eventually fixed his gaze on the sofa. Then, he slid down the stool located at the head of Tessa's bed and ran next to the sofa.

Rather confused by Gregory's action, Tessa looked at him and saw him standing on tiptoes. With slight difficulty, Gregory took up the kettle and filled the cup with water.

Next, Gregory walked carefully to the side of her hospital bed, holding the cup of water. His big eyes shone brightly. "Miss Tessa, have some water."

Tessa was stunned for a moment but instantly smiled. Like a ball of threaded wool in the winter months, Greg really melts the coldness and warms up my heart.

Still smiling, Tessa said, "Sweetheart, you are so well-behaved and even can take care of others now."

Then, Tessa saw there were droplets of sweat on Gregory's nose tip. I guess pouring a cup of water is still a rather difficult task for him. After taking a sip of the water, Tessa added, "Hmm... As expected from the cup of water poured by my sweetheart. It tastes so good."

Pursing his lips, Gregory smiled happily. "Mr. Timothy was wrong. I can take care of others. Isn't that right, Miss Tessa?"

As she saw Gregory happy smile, Tessa burst into a happy laughter. "Yes, that's right. You're the sweetest." This child is trying to prove his capability, it seems.

Meanwhile, Gregory thought to himself, There's no sign of toys around here, and Miss Tessa can only lie on the bed. She cannot move or go anywhere, so it must be boring for her. After taking a look around the ward, Gregory suggested, "Do you feel bored, Miss Tessa? How about I tell you some stories?"

Upon hearing that, Tessa looked at Gregory in surprise. "Sure!"

Instantly, Gregory's eyes lit up. Yay! Miss Tessa wants to listen to my story-telling! Feeling rather delightful, Gregory retold the story he had heard in a serious yet adorable voice.

After Gregory was done with his story-telling, there was a knock at the door. Immediately afterward, a middle-aged guy walked in with a fruit basket. "Tessa, how are you feeling now?"

The guy was the orchestra manager, Trevor. Upon hearing Trevor's voice, Tessa looked at him and smiled. "Much better."

Last night, Trevor had heard the news about Tessa injuring her shoulder and hand and was in constant worry about her injuries. So, he rushed over to the hospital early in the morning.

### Chapter 135 Unwilling to Relinquish

Before visiting Tessa in her ward, Trevor had gone to the doctor's office and asked about her condition.

Minor bone fracture... The thought of these words were enough to make Trevor's mood become rather heavy.

Now, after seeing the thick layer of gauze bandage on Tessa's shoulder, Trevor seemed pretty upset. "You should rest and take care of yourself during this period."

As she knew what Trevor meant, Tessa felt her heart jolt, and her smile became slightly disinclined.

"I am distressed by your injury and personally feel bad for you. I know how hard you've worked for the performance, but Tessa, there's not much time left until our day of performance, you know? Not only am I a member of the orchestra, but I'm also the orchestra manager. The fate of the orchestra rests in the palm of my hand, and I'm responsible to decide on what's good for the orchestra. Hence, you may probably need to give up the position of assistant concertmaster. Don't worry. I'll find a suitable person to replace you."

Although she had already expected this the moment she knew of her injury, it was still difficult for Tessa to swallow the news now that she heard it with her own ears. There was a sense of anger lingering in her heart, and she felt terribly suffocated.

No, I'm really unwilling to hand over this chance. It took me tremendous effort and time to climb up to this position from the bottom as a mere substitute. And now, all my previous efforts have gone to waste because of my injury.

No doubt, it was rather hard for Tessa to accept the fate.

Before Tessa knew it, her eyes turned red, and her voice trembled. "Mr. Oswald, c-can you give me a chance? I-I think I can do it. I'm sure this injury won't affect my performance."

Upon hearing that, Trevor had no choice but to reprimand Tessa, "Are you kidding me!? With this injury? Even if I ignored the risk of possible mistakes during the performance, and even if you executed your performance perfectly and achieved success momentarily, what about your future? This is bone fracture that we're talking about, and not some other minor injuries like ligament strains. It's a bone fracture! If you don't tend to your injury, no one can say whether you'll be able to recover in the future

or how much you will recover. Are you really willing to ruin your whole life because of one performance? Do you think it's worth it?"

After lashing out, Trevor stayed silent. He knew his words were a bit harsh, and it was inappropriate for him to say such harsh words to an injured patient. However, he had to slap Tessa back to her senses with his words.

Tessa had always been an outstanding member among the younger generations in the orchestra. She was smart and hardworking, and there would be a time in the future where she would shine.

Because he valued her very much, Trevor needed to be responsible for Tessa, and even more for the entire orchestra.

If Tessa was really allowed to perform alongside the other musicians, or even perform as an assistant concertmaster, that would not only be a fatal risk to the orchestra but would also potentially send Tessa to the rock bottom if something went wrong. By then, it would be difficult for Tessa to reestablish herself again.

Regardless, it was impossible for Trevor to take such a risk and promise Tessa to let her perform with an injury.

Undeniably, Tessa herself understood these facts. She knew that Trevor was thinking about the orchestra and her future, but she felt extremely afflictive deep within her heart.

I don't want to ruin my life because of my injury. But, I really am unwilling to let go of this opportunity. It's my first time to participate in such a large-scale performance as an assistant concertmaster. My talent can potentially be discovered by more people. Now, that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is about to slip out of my hand. I don't know how much longer I'll have to wait and how much more I'll have to endure to achieve another opportunity like this.

Once again, Tessa's so-called day to shine bright on stage became a distant prospect.

Knowing that this was not a yard sale, Tessa sighed as she knew she could not bargain her way into this. The decision was final. After all, she was injured to this extent, so there was nothing that she could do to turn the table.

Upon realizing that, Tessa reluctantly quirked up the corners of her mouth and said to Trevor, "I understand. Thanks, Mr. Oswald, for enlightening me."

Seeing that Tessa had slightly calmed down, Trevor breathed a sigh of relief. "Don't you be all sad now. You're only in your twenties. Age-wise, you're still young, and you're talented too. So, you don't have to rush for success."

As a matter of fact, it was not easy for Trevor to make this decision. As part of the orchestra, Tessa was a budding violinist, but now...

"Mr. Oswald, I understand." Tessa nodded.

"Well, that's settled. I'll get going first because there's still something I need to attend to in the orchestra. You can consider this as a break from the orchestra. Don't pressure yourself too much, take adequate rest, and take care of your injuries. I'll see you again in the orchestra."

