

Always Been Yours Chapter 166

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Shortly after that, Nicholas paused in his tracks, though, and placed his jacket in its original position. Subsequently, he coldly exclaimed, "Ignore him."

"Then again, Young Master Gregory is a growing child and this would be bad for his development." Andrew expressed his worries.

At this moment, Nicholas's expression darkened, but he steeled himself and said, "He can starve then. Once he feels hungry, he would naturally come out to get some food."

"But-" Andrew was just about to express himself, but Nicholas had already hung up the phone.

With a sigh, Andrew could only stand by the entrance and continue to coax Gregory. "Young Master Gregory, stop throwing a tantrum. Come out and eat something. There are your favorite sweet pork ribs for lunch."

However, Gregory ignored him.

A resigned Andrew lamented, How can Master Nicholas be so heartless and just let Young Master Gregory starve? Young Master Gregory's such an adorable child and it would be such a shame if he were to starve for a long time!

Ultimately, Gregory didn't step out of his room for the entire afternoon.

Meanwhile, Nicholas stayed back in the office to work, but he was preoccupied for the entire duration.

In the evening, he had left before it was time to clock off from work to head home.

As soon as he entered the house, Andrew instantly greeted him, "Master Nicholas, Young Master Gregory hasn't eaten anything yet and it's been a whole day."

Then, Nicholas couldn't help himself from frowning. "Where is he?"

"He's in the music room," Andrew responded.

Nicholas casually flung his suit aside and quickly made his way to the music room.

As soon as he entered the doorway, he noticed that Gregory had a violin in his arms and he had fallen asleep on the couch. There were droplets of tears evident on his eyelids while he continued to snuffle even in his sleep. Evidently, he had fallen asleep from the exhaustion of all that crying.

Then, Nicholas patted Gregory. "Wake up. Let's go and have some food."

"Huh?"

At that moment, Gregory was woken up from his sleep and he rubbed his eyes sleepily. As soon as he saw his dad's face, he immediately responded with a pout. Shortly after that, his expression darkened as he turned his head in the other direction to avoid looking at Nicholas.

Meanwhile, Stefania got word of Gregory's hunger strike, so she hurriedly came over with Tobias and Kieran.

The two older adults noticed Gregory clutching his violin as soon as they walked in. Meanwhile, they felt a pang in their hearts upon seeing him sitting on the couch with an aggrieved expression.

At this moment, she hurried forward and asked, "My little precious, what's wrong? Why are you refusing to eat? Did something bad happen to you? Or, is it because Daddy has bullied you? Let me know and I'll stand up for you."

Kieran quickly added, "Yeah, Greg. I'll definitely stand on your side too! Tell us what's wrong. Don't keep it to yourself. It's not good to keep everything to yourself."

Subsequently, Tobias coaxed Gregory too. "Greg, you can tell me what happened."

Everyone tried hard and took turns to coax Gregory, but he chose to remain silent as he mechanically toyed with his violin.

"Gregory, could you at least say something? Don't make me worried."

Stefania then hastily reached out to hug him.

However, before her hands had even touched him, he immediately pushed her hand aside.

Suddenly, the entire music room descended into silence.

Stefania was quite affected by his actions. Her heart ached very much as she was quite despondent, but she forced a smile. "Greg, I thought I was your favorite person? Come, let me give you a hug. Tell me what's affecting you."

However, Gregory kept his head lowered without saying a word as he ignored everyone.

At that point, Nicholas lost his temper upon seeing Gregory's stubborn attitude. "Gregory Sawyer, watch your attitude!"

However, Gregory remained indifferent.

Nicholas suddenly flared up and he instantly yelled, "You're grounded, so go and stand in the corner. Don't come over until you've realized your mistake!"

As soon as Gregory heard that, he finally turned his head to look at Nicholas. However, he merely shot a cold, indifferent look at Nicholas and took his violin with him to stand at a corner. His stubborn little figure stood out prominently.

Stefania couldn't bear to see Gregory being punished and she turned to lash out at Nicholas, "Why can't you talk to him nicely?! Why did you yell at him?! Sweetheart, come over to me."

However, Gregory stood there without moving an inch and he expressed his stubbornness by keeping his back to them.

Meanwhile, Kieran was filled with curiosity upon seeing everything and he glanced toward Nicholas while speaking softly, "Gregory must be throwing a tantrum because of Miss Murphy again, right? Why did you fire her again out of nowhere?"

As soon as Nicholas heard that, his expression darkened significantly. "She was the one who wanted to leave and I tried to retain her."

"I don't get this. She's well-paid and this is such a great opportunity for her to get close to the Little Prince of the Sawyer Family. This is a job that so many others would have fought tooth and nail for! can't believe that she would actually reject it."

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Kieran was significantly surprised.

However, he noticed that Nicholas had a thunderous look, so he immediately returned to normalcy and said, "Uhh, well, this is a great thing too. After all... Gregory's too dependent on her and it's not good for him."

Nicholas didn't respond, but his expression turned darker than ever.

As soon as Kieran saw Nicholas's reaction, he suddenly found the situation quite interesting. "Nicholas, your current reaction is... Don't tell me that you're reluctant to see her leave too?"

At that point, Nicholas shot a cold glare at Kieran.

However, Kieran couldn't care less as he continued with his words, "Oh, by the way! Didn't you intend to investigate her background earlier on? What's the progress?"

Then, Nicholas's expression turned colder than before. "I didn't find out anything about her."

At the hospital, Timothy removed the dressing on his forehead before covering the wound with his fringe. Once that was done, he entered Tessa's room once again.

The hospital room was exceptionally quiet and he scanned the surroundings, but he realized that Nicholas was nowhere to be found. Besides, there was no laptop or documents strewn around, so it looked like Nicholas had already left. Slightly surprised, he asked, "Tessa, where's President Sawyer?"

Meanwhile, Tessa calmly responded, "He went home and he won't be coming anymore."

"Why? Did you guys have a disagreement?" Timothy had a perplexed look.

At this moment, she lowered her gaze. "No, I don't plan to continue teaching Gregory and he's not obligated to take care of me, so I sent him home."

At that point, Timothy glanced at Tessa and found that she sounded quite calm and relaxed, although he astutely sensed that she seemed slightly unhappy. Nonetheless, as she had no intention of divulging anything, he didn't bother to pursue the matter. His only wish now was for her to recover as soon as possible.

“Tess, do you feel better today?” he asked her in a gentle voice.

She nodded. “I’m feeling much better.”

However, she hesitated slightly before adding, “Timothy, I find it quite boring in the hospital and since there’s nothing wrong with me now, there’s really no point staying here. Let’s go home, alright?”

“No, I can’t take your word for it. I’ll have to ask your doctor first. If he agrees, I’ll bring you home.”

He was aware that Tessa felt uncomfortable staying in the hospital, but he was quite worried about her condition at the same time. Anything related to Tessa was of utmost importance to him, so he would never respond haphazardly.

After he had said that, Timothy subsequently went to look for her doctor.

The doctor ran some checks on her and confirmed that her wound was recovering well before nodding his head. “There’s no need to continue administering antibiotic infusion for you, so you can go home if you want to. However, you must remember to be careful with your injury. If you want to continue playing the violin, then you must get plenty of rest and avoid straining the injured area. If your injury worsens, you might not be able to recover from it again.”

As soon as Tessa heard that, she nodded solemnly. “Thanks, doctor. I’ll definitely be cautious.”

Meanwhile, Timothy also followed suit and thanked the doctor profusely.

Meanwhile, at Sawyer Group.

“President Sawyer, Miss Reinhart has made arrangements to be discharged from the hospital. I think she should have arrived at Regal Gardens by now.” Edward had just received word from the hospital, so he mentioned this to Nicholas immediately after reporting about work to him.

Meanwhile, Nicholas coldly replied, “Do you have too much time on your hands? Are you paid so much by Sawyer Group to report on such trivial matters? From now on, don’t mention anything that’s related to her to me.”

As soon as Edward heard that, he was slightly perplexed. I thought that they were fine yesterday, but today...

Nonetheless, it was Nicholas’ personal matter, so Edward didn’t dare to ask too many questions. After all, it was wise to avoid trouble by not getting involved too much as the most important thing for him was to focus on his job.

He awkwardly nodded. “Sure, President Sawyer.”

After Edward left the room, Nicholas looked at the document in his hands as a sudden sense of frustration welled up within him. Suddenly, he lost all of his motivation to continue working.

Since it was close to the time to get off work, he gathered his belongings and prepared to leave earlier. He wanted to head home to see what Gregory, who was still in a bad mood, was doing.

Nicholas arrived at Dynasty Gardens and asked Andrew as soon as he entered the house, "Where's Gregory?"

"Young Master Gregory is in the music room. He locked himself there again as soon as you left, but he did eat something in the afternoon," Andrew mentioned with a slight wince. I really don't get what's wrong with the two of them! Why are things in such a state?

Meanwhile, Nicholas nodded. Okay, it's great that he has eaten. At least he's not silly enough to actually go on a hunger strike to protest. His tantrum doesn't usually last long. Generally, he would be able to interact with Gregory the following day, so he intended to have a talk with Gregory to help him see sense.

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Nicholas casually flung his jacket toward Andrew and made his way into the music room.

He saw that Gregory had his back facing the door and staring at the violin usually used by Tessa with a glazed look. The boy did not move an inch and seemed to be lost in thoughts.

Suddenly, Gregory noticed the flash of shadow that seemed to be coming toward him, so he came to his senses and turned to look toward the door.

However, his expression turned cold as soon as he saw that it was Nicholas. He merely gave a cold snort before turning in the other direction once again without even caring to greet Nicholas at all.

"Are you done throwing tantrums?" Nicholas coldly questioned Gregory.

Meanwhile, Gregory responded coldly as well, "I just want Miss Tessa back. Get her back for me."

"Gregory Sawyer, you should know when to stop even though you may be upset. No one will be there for you forever in this world. Some people are just meant to appear in your life for a short while before leaving. She's one example and there will be many more others like her in the future. You can't force them to stay by your side forever." Nicholas suppressed his anger and explained to Gregory.

Gregory had also calmed down after being upset for the past two days, so he nonchalantly glanced back at Nicholas and spoke in a calm voice, "There's no need to preach to me. I'm not a three-year-old kid and I understand everything that you just said. However, every other person can leave my life and it doesn't concern me. I wouldn't care about it either. Miss Tessa is the exception. She must not become a stranger to me. I know that you guys don't like her, but I do and that's all that matters! I won't allow you all to point fingers at her. I want her in my life and no one can stop me!"

As soon as Gregory finished his words, he didn't even bother to cast another look at Nicholas and immediately walked out of the music room to return to his own room.

Meanwhile, at Sawyer Residence, Andrew respectfully asked Remus, "Sir, I heard that Young Master Gregory has been depressed for the past two days since Miss Reinhart left. He even went on a hunger strike the entire day yesterday. Do you want to go over and visit him?"

Miss Reinhart? Remus remained lost in his thoughts for a moment before finally linking the name to a face as he slowly recalled. "I found that young lady quite familiar-looking when I first met her. I feel like I've seen her from somewhere before. During our second encounter, I was too worried about Gregory, so I didn't pay attention to her. Come to think about it, something seems amiss..."

Then, he paused for a short while and spoke slowly, "I have a strong feeling that she looks like the young lady who delivered Gregory back then."

As soon as Andrew heard that, he was significantly stunned. The whole thing had been orchestrated by Remus back then and he had been by Remus' side the whole time, so he naturally knew everything that happened. However, so many years had gone by and they had nearly forgotten about the whole thing. Logically speaking, the young lady had no idea of their identities back then, so it seemed quite odd to suddenly bring this up.

Andrew tried to reassure himself by saying, "Well, I think she shouldn't be that young lady, right? Perhaps this is all just a coincidence?"

Meanwhile, Remus shook his head and explained, "This shouldn't be just a coincidence. There are too many issues in this matter. Go and investigate this properly and investigate whether she's the one or not. If she is, we must stop them from seeing each other before the whole thing gets exposed. She must not step foot into the Sawyer Family."

"Okay." Andrew nodded solemnly.

The next morning, Remus had just gotten out of bed when Andrew appeared by his bedside.

"What's the result of the investigation?" Remus asked in a low voice.

"Sir, it is her indeed. These are her details."

Andrew nodded and handed over two documents. One of them contained the details of the young lady from their selection process and the other one had Tessa's details. Meanwhile, the contents in both of the documents were exactly the same.

Remus wore his glasses and took a look at Tessa's photo with narrowed eyes.

So many years had gone by since the episode and she had changed drastically. Back then, she was just a college student and looked way younger than she was right now. Over the years, there had been a significant change in her disposition too.

As such, he had merely caught a quick glimpse of her twice, which was why he hadn't been able to identify her at that point.

At that moment, Remus spoke in a low voice, "This is unexpected indeed. She is actually Gregory's mother."

Blood was thicker than water so it made sense that Gregory was so dependent on her. After he had seen her for the first time ever, he then requested to hire an unknown orchestra for his birthday celebration.

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Besides, Nicholas' actions were rather strange too. There were so many other professional musicians to choose from but somehow, he adhered to Gregory's wishes and chose someone like her without too many credentials. Has he started to suspect something?

Then, Andrew noticed that Remus' expression was quite solemn so he asked in a soft voice, "Sir, what should we do now?"

Meanwhile, Remus paused to think before responding, "You should start making some preparations and select a few young ladies from reputable families. Make sure that they come from good backgrounds and have exceptional personalities. Let's find a match for him and get his marriage sorted first."

As soon as Andrew heard that, he asked, "Sir, didn't Mrs. Sawyer previously arrange for that? She picked Miss Roselle Gingham from the Gingham family. Isn't she a suitable candidate?"

Remus snorted coldly. "That girl from the Gingham Family? No, she's not suitable. That girl doesn't have pure intentions. Although she's a worthy match for our family, she's quite good at putting up pretenses. In fact, she dislikes Gregory, so she's not a good candidate."

He added in a low voice, "Actually, I don't mind about anything else except for one single request. The person must be truly fond of Gregory and treat him well. Other than that, I can temporarily overlook the rest."

Remus was someone excellent at judging a person from their character, so he could tell with just a single glance what the other party was thinking. Roselle and her mother, Yana, were no match for him yet. Although they pretended to be gentle and caring in front of him, and had lovingly fawned after Gregory, he had actually seen through their facade.

Previously, the incident with Gregory being poisoned was also the despicable plot of this mother daughter duo. They had done that to approach Nicholas. In the end, the conclusion was that while Roselle was innocent and Yana had taken all of the blame, Remus didn't believe it.

"Okay, I'll make arrangements right away." Andrew hastily nodded his head.

Andrew had been working for Remus for so many years, so he naturally knew that Remus had an excellent judgment of a person's character. The people whom he disapproved of all ended up being worthless ones, so no matter how sincere they acted, their true selves would be revealed in the end as well.

Meanwhile, at Dynasty Gardens, Nicholas had no idea of Remus' plan and he arrived at the manor with Kieran in tow.

As soon as Andrew saw the two brothers arriving, he quickly walked forward to greet them, "Master Nicholas and Master Kieran, you're back. Dinner will be ready soon."

Kieran then smiled and nodded. "Are there any of my favorites for dinner today?"

“There is. Otherwise, do you want to add any extra dishes Master Kieran?” Andrew responded with a smile.

Meanwhile, Nicholas couldn’t help slightly frowning upon noticing the duo’s interaction.

Everything seemed to be pretty much the same in the manor, but he somehow felt that it lacked some human presence.

Ever since Tessa had left, Gregory seemed to revert to his previous self two years ago when Nicholas had just returned. Back then, Gregory was not used to Nicholas’s presence, so he was exceptionally resistant to Nicholas. Whenever he looked at Nicholas, Gregory generally had an indifferent and distant look in his eyes. It was pretty much history repeating itself.

As soon as Nicholas thought of Tessa, he couldn’t help his frustration.

Meanwhile, Kieran didn’t realize that there was a change in Nicholas’ mood and scanned the surroundings. “Where’s Gregory?”

“Young Master Gregory is in the music room,” Andrew mentioned with a sigh once again.

At that moment, Kieran glanced in the direction of the music room with worry. “Nicholas, we have to do something about it. We can’t allow this to continue. Don’t you think that Gregory seems slightly depressed lately? I’ve always been his favorite Uncle Kieran but now, no matter how hard I try to coax him, he keeps ignoring me.”

Nicholas coldly responded, “Stop being nosy about our matters here. You should focus on performing well at your job.”

“But then, Nicholas-” Kieran attempted to continue with his advice, but before he could finish his sentence, Nicholas had shot such a sharp look that he instantly held his tongue there and then.

That expression of his is scary... Kieran didn’t dare to continue with his words but he thought, It’s okay, you can treat Gregory like this right now. However, in the future, when you want to restore ties with him, you’ll finally have a taste of your own medicine! I give up!

Meanwhile, now that Tessa was back home, she was resting well and didn’t have much to do on a daily basis.

Her injury hadn’t fully healed yet, so the orchestra had also sought out another assistant concertmaster and didn’t need her there at all. Besides, she had also resigned from the job of guiding Gregory, so her originally busy life seemed to be on halt at the moment.

Generally, most people would enjoy some relaxing time, but having nothing to do all of a sudden was something that Tessa couldn’t quite get used to just yet.

She was like a couch potato day in and day out to the point where she was bored with such a sedentary lifestyle.

It was a coincidence that Timothy was recently about to start his own company, so she had followed him to the site.

“Tess! Stop walking around and put down that piece of cloth!”

Tessa had just taken a piece of dishcloth in her hand and she was about to wipe the table with it when he hollered at her to stop.

He instantly strode forward and took away the cloth in her hands. “You said that you were just here to have a browse and don’t do anything else. Just relax and have a rest. Have you forgotten what the doctor instructed? You need plenty of rest right now, so don’t exert yourself with all these menial jobs.”

As soon as Henry heard that, he couldn’t contain his laughter. “That’s right, Tessa. The two of us are fully grown adults, so trust us, we can definitely handle all these minor jobs! You should just sit back and relax.”

Meanwhile, Tessa was slightly helpless. “Only my shoulders are injured, but my limbs are perfectly fine. I’m just wiping the table, that’s all. I’m fine with doing that. An adequate amount of exercise will be beneficial for my recovery, you know.”

A resigned Timothy then spoke up as soon as he heard that, “Tess, stop coming up with all sorts of excuses to find odd jobs for yourself. I clearly remember your doctor’s words. You’ll have the chance to attend some recovery exercises in the future, but it’s not the time for that now.”

As soon as he finished his sentence, his expression suddenly became solemn. “I just don’t want you to experience any more hardships. In the past, it was because I didn’t have the capability, but everything has now changed. Just take a break when you need to. Whatever it is, the most important thing is to recover from your injury.”

Tessa knew that Timothy was merely being considerate, but she couldn’t quite shake off the sadness within her.

It wasn’t that she refused to take a break, but she didn’t know what else she could do during that period. Not to mention, the fact that she felt a strong emptiness within her to the point where she felt rather useless.

Meanwhile, Henry noticed that Tessa was rather moody, so he paused for a moment before mentioning, “By the way, Tessa, I heard from a friend who is a major in music that there will be an

extremely popular orchestra coming to perform in Brentwood soon. Would you be interested to attend?”

“Is it the Berlin Philharmonic? I’ve already known about it for quite a while now, but they’re a famous orchestra, so the tickets were well sought-after. As soon as the tickets went on sale, it was sold out almost instantly. There are no more tickets available.”

As he wasn’t a major in music after all, he didn’t know much about this. As such, Henry was shocked to learn about it, but he ultimately found it a shame. “Is that so? I thought that there would be some tickets available. That’s such a pity.”

Tessa stayed on for a while longer, but she realized that not only was her presence merely useless, others had to be mindful and work around her. Their efficiency had largely reduced as a result of that, so she decided to head home.

After she left, Timothy nudged Henry on the shoulder. "Hey, Henry. I need a favor."

"What's up? Just say it." Henry smiled at Timothy as he spoke.

Meanwhile, Timothy was slightly abashed. "You're friends with a lot of music majors, aren't you? Could you help me to find out whether anyone has managed to get tickets for the orchestra? I can pay them double the price that they paid."

Henry smiled in response. "Okay, we're buddies so there's no need to be so courteous with me. Even if you didn't ask for this favor, I would definitely ask on Tessa's behalf too."

It was at this moment when Timothy smiled and he was about to say something when his cell phone interrupted with its ringing. When he answered, it was Nicholas on the line.

"President Sawyer, do you need something from me?" Timothy asked.

At that moment, Nicholas' calm voice rang out. "I need you to come over to the Sawyer Group now."

"Is there something wrong?" Timothy was slightly confused.

"The software that you developed has slightly malfunctioned during the execution stage, so we've stopped using it for the moment," Nicholas replied.

As soon as Timothy heard that it was a software issue, he hurriedly responded, "Alright, I'll be there shortly."

Henry had also heard the details of the conversation as well. As soon as Timothy hung up the phone, a worried Henry asked, "Hey, how about I go along with you?"

At that moment, Timothy grabbed his jacket and spoke while wearing it, "It's okay, I can handle it by myself. I'm sorry, though. You'll have to tidy up the place on your own. Once you're done, head back for some rest."

"Okay then, let me know if you need any help." Henry nodded.

Shortly after that, Timothy headed off toward the Sawyer Group as fast as he could.

This was by far his most important project and the most prospective one that he was currently involved in. Moreover, this was also the venture that earned him his first profits, so he couldn't allow anything to happen to this project. Otherwise, it would result in unrecoverable consequences for his future company and he was definitely concerned about the issue.

"President Sawyer, may I know what the issue is?" Timothy didn't waste any time at all and he went straight to the point as soon as he entered the office.

Apart from Kieran and Nicholas, the office was bustling with people.

At this moment, Nicholas raised his head and looked at Timothy. "Come over here and take a look for yourself."

After giving a slight nod of his head, Timothy walked over to the computer.

Next to him was a technician clicking on the screen. "There's a problem here-it looks like something invisible is blocking the video. I've tried several methods, but haven't been able to bypass it no matter how I try to start the program. Is there a bug?"

"Let me see." With that, Timothy's fingers began to fly so rapidly across the keyboard that the only evidence of what he was doing was the sound of the keyboard clacking.

Not long later, he pressed the Enter key and stopped moving.

The light that indicated the software was working lit up and the originally frozen video began to play as well. Following that, ethereal music began to play in the background.

"Is it working now?" the technician asked with some surprise.

It was after Timothy inclined his head once more that he explained, "It's not a bug. It's a hidden protection software that I previously installed. As I was afraid that our information would be stolen, I installed the software and was prepared to unveil it on the eve of the listing, but kept forgetting to inform you guys about it. I apologize for the trouble."

Hearing that, Nicholas lifted his head and deeply looked at Timothy.

On the other hand, Kieran threw his arm around Timothy's neck with a smile. "Who knew that you had such hidden depths, you little scoundrel? You're more capable than I thought."

In response, Timothy offered a somewhat embarrassed smile.

The only reason why he had installed this software was precisely because of the incident where his computer had been snatched by Silas and Lauren. He was afraid of such a situation happening again.

The technician was so astonished that he commented, "How could we not have discovered it before?"

"I set it in such a way that it wouldn't lock unless the program was shut down," Timothy explained. "Since you had kept the program running before, you wouldn't have been locked out. Today must have been the first time you exited the program. I'll teach you how to unlock it now."

Since all the employees present were elites of the IT industry, the only reason why they had been bamboozled was because they hadn't known of the hidden protection software. Now that they were aware of it, they were quick to learn the method to unlock it.

They understood the basics in a short while.

Then, another technician asked, "Are there other programs apart from this which are locked in a similar way?"

“Yes, I installed them on five programs in total. Each one has a different method of unlocking, which are these...” Timothy moved the mouse once again to point out the remaining four areas.

Then, the technicians quickly memorized the methods to unlock the respective softwares. “Not bad; you’re very capable. We weren’t able to discover this software even after working on it for ages.”

An apologetic Timothy smile. “It’s my fault for not mentioning it earlier, though. Once again, I’m sorry.”

After pointing out a few key parts for the technicians to take note of, he looked at Nicholas. “If there’s nothing else that you need, President Sawyer, I’ll be leaving now. Do call me if there are any other questions.”

Tilting his head, Nicholas questioned, “How’s your company doing?”

“We’ve found the physical space that we need and are beginning to hire people, but it’ll take a while before we’re on the right track,” Timothy replied.

Nicholas nodded. “Let me know if there’s anything you need my help with.”

Although he was angry at Tessa’s departure, he was not one to distinguish between personal and public affairs. Thus, he naturally wouldn’t vent his anger on Timothy, who was not involved in the situation.

Moreover, he had admired Timothy’s way of resolving issues without dragging it out.

Furthermore, he was a firm believer in fostering talent and Timothy was an IT genius who deserved his assistance.

After a moment of hesitation, Timothy said with some embarrassment, “There is a small matter that I may need your help with.”

Looking up at him, Nicholas responded, “Tell me.”

“The Berlin Philharmonic is coming to Brentwood City to perform, but the tickets have been sold out. Sawyer Group has more influence and connections than me, so I was wondering whether you’d be able to help me secure a ticket. Of course, it’s okay if you aren’t.”

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Since Nicholas had already offered his assistance, Timothy was no longer bashful and instead made his request in a few short words.

The moment that Timothy mentioned about an orchestra, Nicholas didn’t need any clarification as he knew why Timothy was asking. Thus, he replied, “I’m not too sure, but I’ll have Edward ask around.”

After a pause, he continued, “How’s your sister’s injury?”

An exasperated Timothy replied, “She hasn’t been able to sit still since leaving the hospital and keeps looking for something to do. That’s why I want to get her a ticket to the concert. Otherwise, I have no idea how else she’s going to keep herself busy.”

Since he wasn't a chatty person, he ended the conversation at that point and simply thanked Nicholas once more.

However, Nicholas' expression had slightly darkened at the statement. After Timothy left, he glanced at Kieran and ordered, "Handle this."

"Huh?" Kieran asked in a somewhat manner.

"The tickets." With that, Nicholas swept out of the office, leaving his brother behind.

Although Kieran was somewhat dumbfounded, he couldn't help but curl the corners of his mouth upward when he recovered his composure.

It was because Nicholas' actions had betrayed him. Despite being exasperated at Tessa that no one had dared to bring her name up in front of him for the past few days, here he was, so eager to help her find a ticket the moment the orchestra was brought up.

Why was it that Kieran had to look for a ticket when Nicholas was the one who made the promise, though?

After thinking about it, he decided that his brother probably had hundreds of matters to attend to and would be too busy to personally look for a ticket.

Very well. I can help with such a small matter.

At the worst, I can get back at him later.

Not long after Timothy returned to his workplace, someone came by with a ticket.

When he received the ticket, he thought to himself, Tessa would be thrilled to see it.

He immediately went home as he was eager to see his sister's happy expression.

"Guess what I have for you, Tessa?" Timothy beamed at her the moment he entered the door.

Taken aback, Tessa shook her head. "What is it? You're acting so mysterious."

"Look at what it is!" Timothy brandished the ticket in her face with a smile.

Upon seeing the ticket that was difficult to obtain, she cried out with a pleasant surprise, "What? Weren't they sold out? How did you get one?"

Although he had been about to say 'through Nicholas,' on a second thought, he decided that she wouldn't be thrilled if she knew that it was Nicholas who helped now that she had drawn the line between them both.

So, Timothy guiltily replied, "A music teacher at school gave it to me. Something happened to come up in her schedule and she couldn't make it."

Tessa smiled in happiness. "Thank you, my darling brother."

She hadn't been in a good mood as of late and even though she went about her day with a smile, he had been able to sense that her emotions were forced, rather than it being genuine.

It was only now that Tessa was genuinely ecstatic did Timothy breathe a sigh of relief.

He had no other wish; it was only to give his sister a good life at any cost.

Somewhat amused by him staring at her with a smile, Tessa asked, "Why are you looking at me like that? Did you do something behind my back?"

Timothy's grin broadened. "Don't slander me. I'm only glad to see that you're happy."

After they chuckled at each other, he proposed, "By the way, will you come with me to buy a car tomorrow?"

"Sure, I'll come along with you. It's about time that you have your own car, anyway," Tessa agreed with a nod.

The next morning, they set out for the car dealership together after getting ready for the day.

Since there weren't many people in the shop that early in the morning, a salesperson greeted them the moment they entered the door. "Sir, miss, is there anything I can help you with?"

"I'd like to look at cars that companies use," Timothy replied.

The moment the salesperson heard that, he led them in the direction of an exhibition area while saying, "We have many models here. Take a look at this one first-many people have been purchasing it lately."

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It was a brand that Timothy was familiar with-he had done some planning and studied all of the major car brands.

The car that the salesperson showed them was pretty much what he had expected, but it didn't feel quite classy enough.

Since he was looking for a car for corporate use, he would have to look for something better.

Although he was not a vain man, there were some principles of the industry that he understood.

Since his company was just starting, he would undoubtedly need to travel to his clients. If the car looked terrible, the client would inevitably doubt the ability of the company and look down on it. It wouldn't be worth it to have such an unnecessary doubt.

On the other hand, if the car was perfect, it would look like he tried too hard-not an outcome that he wanted either

"Can I look at the Mercedes instead?" he asked, pointing at a black Mercedes-Benz.

The salesperson's eyes instantly brightened when that question was heard. "Of course. You have good taste, sir. That model was released this year and some people have been purchasing it as well. It has sleek lines and good performance while being cost-effective. It's not that expensive."

The trio then walked over to the car. After getting into the car, Timothy tested out its different functions and how it felt under his hands before turning to look at Tessa. "What do you think?"

"Not bad." She nodded.

This model was much better than the one they had previously looked at, and for someone who was about to start his own company, he was better suited driving a Mercedes as well.

"We'll take this one, then." Timothy inclined his head at the salesperson before turning to Tessa. "Next, let's look for a car for you."

"Me? I don't need one." Tessa waved her hands with a frown.

Although they were somewhat well-off now, they were not meant to be splurging their money. Now that he was about to start his own company, there would no doubt be a lot of places in the future where he would need to spend money on.

To spend it on a car for her would be too much of a waste!

"It's fine, Tessa. Let's get you one. I've long thought about buying a car for you, and now that we're already here, we might as well get you one. Otherwise, we'd have to come again in the future, and that would be so troublesome."

Although Timothy knew what his sister was worried about he'd already decided before coming over that he would get Tessa a car.

After all, he wanted nothing but the best for her.

"There's no need to buy one for me. It's not like I'm always on the go, anyway. The vehicle would only be sitting there and collecting dust, which would be such a waste." Despite Timothy's reassurances, Tessa was still unwilling.

Seeing that Timothy was extremely generous, the salesperson at the car dealership hurried to interject, "It's rare for a brother to dote on his sister so much, miss. You should accept his gift. Even if you don't head out a lot, there might be a day when you'll need to leave the house. It'll come in handy then. I've been working here for at least five or six years, and this is the first time I'm seeing a pair of siblings with such a good relationship. Truly, I'm envious! Since your brother wants to give you a car, why shouldn't you accept it?"

An exasperated Tessa could only nod. "It's for home use, so it needn't be too extravagant."

She quickly chose a car that was worth 250,000.

By the time they completed the paperwork, it was already noon.

Since they were too lazy to cook at home, the siblings dined outdoors before heading back:

Upon arriving home, Timothy told his sister, "I have to go to work, so I can't keep you company this afternoon. Do be careful when you're home alone and don't do any heavy labor, okay? If there's anything that you need done, just wait until I'm home."

“Okay.” Tessa nodded with a smile. “It’s not like I’m a three-year-old. I don’t need you to accompany me. Quickly head back to work as company matters are more important.”

“Be careful when you attend the concert tonight, then. Stay safe and call me when it ends so that I can head over to pick you up,” he exhorted softly.

“I know, I know.” Once again, she inclined her head.

As she watched his confident figure leave the house, she felt in a much better mood.

Without Tessa even noticing, Timothy had grown into an adult who was much more mature in speech and action than he was as a child. He had such a bright future as well and would be opening his own company in the blink of an eye.

As she reflected on how he had changed these past few years, she suddenly realized that he doted on her so much that her motherly attitude had somehow turned into a maidenly one.

Truly, she was all too grateful to have such a good younger brother.

Chapter 174

Tessa went to select the outfit that she would wear to the concert in rather good spirits. In the end, she wore a dress in haze blue that had a tad bit of starry decoration before heading to the International Convention and Exhibition Center.

Meanwhile, Nicholas returned to Dynasty Gardens. Upon seeing him, the butler, Andrew, went forward to greet him, “Master Nicholas, Young Master Gregory has been in the music room for the entire day again.”

Nodding his head, Nicholas passed his coat to Andrew before striding off to the music room on the second floor.

Gregory was inside wiping the violin strings with a special cloth so carefully that he didn’t even notice when Nicholas entered the room. His behavior caused Nicholas to frown before calling out in exasperation, “Greg.”

When Gregory heard the greeting, he looked up before lowering his head to continue what he had been doing once he saw that it was Nicholas. He carefully and mechanically wiped the strings while treating Nicholas as an invisible person and didn’t even give Nicholas another glance.

He hadn’t addressed Nicholas as ‘Daddy’ for the past few days and apart from their argument a few days ago, he hadn’t spoken to Nicholas either. His son’s lukewarm attitude toward him left Nicholas in a truly bad mood.

In his twenty-odd years, he had been ever victorious, be it in school, the army, or even the corporate world. He was able to get what he wanted to the point where no one was able to make him feel fear. Yet, he was now defeated by a child. For the first time in his life, he understood what a setback was.

With a sigh, he slowly approached Gregory and handed him two tickets. "This is for tonight's orchestra. Are you coming along?"

Alas, Gregory only continued his motions, not even glancing at the tickets that his father handed him.

An undeterred Nicholas continued mildly, "No? If you aren't, I can give these tickets to someone else, but you must know this is Tessa's favorite orchestra from Berlin."

Seemingly catching Nicholas' drift, Gregory looked up at him as if searching for a lie. At the same time, the little boy was trying to guess whether Tessa would be attending. However, Nicholas intentionally remained silent and only smirked at Gregory in response to the little boy's question.

After they stared at each other for a while, Gregory found the answer that he wanted from Nicholas' gaze and snatched the tickets. "I'm coming."

When he saw the word 'Berlin' on the tickets, Gregory's eyes brightened in happiness. Whatever music that Miss Tessa fancied, he would make an effort to attend the concert as well. Then, he would be able to see Miss Tessa! Who would know whether Miss Tessa would be elated or surprised to see him?

Upon seeing the vigor return to his son's eyes, Nicholas finally let out a breath.

For the past few days, Gregory had been as lifeless as a block of wood as he went about his day listlessly. The most active thing that he did was shut himself in the music room and space out with Tessa's violin in his arms.

"If you want, we can go, but you'll have to eat first," Nicholas instructed with a deliberately stern face.

Of course, Gregory didn't care what expression his father now had and only thought about seeing Miss Tessa again. So, he vigorously nodded. "A promise is a promise!"

With that, he ran down the stairs and sat at the dining table while declaring; "I want to eat, Andrew."

When Andrew heard that Gregory finally wanted to eat, he frantically nodded. "Of course, of course. I'll serve you at once, Young Master Gregory."

After turning back to see that Nicholas was no longer furrowing his brows, the weight in Andrew's heart was finally lifted. The father and son had at long last reconciled.

Meanwhile, Gregory ate in an enthusiastic manner and accepted whatever dish he was given. His pale face gradually regained its color. It was possibly due to his eagerness to see Tessa that he ate at lightning speed.

Soon, he was soon so full that his little stomach swelled. After finishing, he lifted his head and wordlessly stared at Nicholas to urge Nicholas along.

The concert would start at six in the evening. If they left now, they would be able to make it in time, but they would be late if they delayed any longer.

At this juncture, Nicholas couldn't help but smile at Gregory's liveliness. He quickly packed their belongings whereupon they left the house together.

"Faster. Faster!" Gregory urged throughout the entire journey.

Truly, he had hoped that he would be able to meet Miss Tessa as soon as possible.

If only he could attach a pair of wings and fly to Tessa's side at this moment!

By the time the father and son arrived at the International Convention and Exhibition Center, the check in process was close to the end, but there was still a line at the entrance.

Although he was in Nicholas' arms as they waited in line, Gregory craned his neck and scanned the area as if searching the crowd for Tessa.

His eyes suddenly brightened as he stared at the front of the line. The frontmost woman in the haze blue dress looked like Tessa!

Gregory was eager to rush forward to hug Tessa and tell her just how much he had missed her during these few days.

However, he recalled that she was dodging him during this period of time and hadn't called or video called him. Afraid that she would run away if he called out to her, he forcefully swallowed his shout while his eyes remained bright and excited.

Noticing Gregory's reaction, Nicholas followed his son's line of sight to spot the figure.

Instantly, his gaze turned complicated.

At this moment, Tessa had no idea that there were two pairs of eyes locked on her. Now that her ticket had been inspected, she entered the concert hall and headed to the second floor.

It was only when she arrived at her destination that she realized she had the best seat in the house. At a glance, there were only about a dozen other seats like hers.

The reason why VIP seats were so named was that their occupants had the widest views and the best treatment.

At this moment, she couldn't help being astounded. Since the ticket had only mentioned '2nd floor', she had no idea that her brother was able to secure such a good seat for her.

Meanwhile, Nicholas entered the concert hall with Gregory and entered the booth opposite Tessa. They were facing each other from a distance.

However, because Tessa didn't care about who sat opposite her, she never glanced over and had no idea that there was a child staring at her.

"It's Miss Tessa!" Gregory, who was in the other booth, joyfully and longingly stared at her. He had truly missed a lot.

If it weren't for the fact that he was still in Nicholas' arms, he would have pounced over there at once. Then, he would climb into her lap and burrow into her embrace as they enjoyed the music together.

Reading his thoughts, Nicholas warned in a low voice, "I only brought you here today to look at her, but I do not permit you to head over there to greet her. If she wants to come back, she will come and look for you on her own. This is just like when someone has to apologize after they've done something wrong and intend to reconcile. Do you understand?"

Although Nicholas' words had entered Gregory's ears, he ignored his father and kept his eyes on Miss Tessa. In his heart, he thought, Who doesn't know that? However, what if... What if Miss Tessa isn't willing to return?

No, he would not stupidly agree to his father's order just like that.

The entire audience was seated ten minutes later. Given how hard it was to secure tickets to the performance of an international orchestra, there were naturally no absentees after a ticket had been purchased.

Seeing that the audience was packed and the hour had arrived, the music director took the stage to make a short speech.

"And now, I declare that the performance formally begins!"

With that, he withdrew.

The curtain behind him instantly drew back to reveal the large orchestra already set up onstage.

With a flourish of the conductor's baton, the concert began.

Tessa fell into a trance as she listened to the powerful music.

Since her gaze had been drawn to the orchestra on stage, any hustle and bustle around her fell on blind eyes and deaf ears.

This was the Berlin Philharmonic-the most famous orchestra in the world.

She sadly glanced at the concertmaster's seat. It was the position of her dreams in which she had yearned for and been looking forward to.

Ever since she started learning the violin, she had dreamed of the day when she would stand on the magnificent stage and fluidly, confidently, perform the piece that she excelled at.

However, now that her arm was injured...

The day of Heavenly Chorus Orchestra's performance abroad was fast approaching and her arm had yet to fully recover, which meant that she had missed her golden opportunity.

As she listened to the heart-stirring ensemble from the orchestra, grief and unhappiness once again crept into her heart.

That night, the Berlin Philharmonic's performance went on for two hours before it finally ended.

After the music director declared the end of the concert, the audience was allowed to disperse and Tessa followed the crowd moving at a snail's pace to the exit.

She idly watched the performers leave the stage. Although she felt like she could still hear their music playing in her ears, she felt somewhat unfulfilled.

That was because she couldn't help imagining what it would be like for her to also be standing onstage.

With her whole head full of the earlier performance, Tessa would have stood there lost in thought as she replayed the audiovisual feast she experienced earlier that night if it weren't for the fact that the hall was closing.

Since she was lost in thought, she didn't notice the child and the adult following behind her.

Seeing that Tessa was about to leave and head home, Gregory became somewhat anxious. He longed to run up to block her path and demand, "Come home with me, Miss Tessa!"