

Always Been Yours Chapter 471-475

Chapter 471 A Reward for You

For a moment, a sweet vibe permeated the surroundings from Nicholas and Tessa. Later, when the server came and served the dishes, they were all Tessa's favorites. Nicholas was also very attentive to her during the meal, and the smile on the corners of his lips never faded away.

"Eat more. Their shrimp dish is very famous."

As he spoke, he gave her another piece of shrimp.

She observed him while eating the dishes on her plate.

When he noticed her gaze, he asked, "What's the matter?"

"I feel that you're acting rather strangely, yet I also feel like you're in a good mood." Tessa expressed her thoughts; however, she didn't expect him to acknowledge her words.

"I'm indeed in a good mood today."

"Did something good happen?" She looked at him curiously.

Unfortunately for her, he only remained silent for a long time as he looked back at her.

When Tessa saw this, her heart was aroused by curiosity. Thus, she urged, "Stop looking at me, and tell me what's the good news."

"There's no good news." Nicholas laughed. Then, he put more food on her plate and said warmly, "I brought you here today as a reward for you."

"A reward for me?" She repeated after him, utterly puzzled. Therefore, she could not help but ask, "Why do you want to reward me?"

Once again, he only gave her a mysterious smile without saying anything. Then, he changed the topic and urged, "Eat up, or the food will get cold."

Tessa did not ask further questions after she sensed that he didn't want to talk about it. She believed that Nicholas would naturally tell her when he wanted to.

After they were done with their dinner, they decided to walk around the street for a while, and they didn't return home until the night grew darker.

It did not cross their minds that they would see Gregory sitting on the sofa with his cheeks puffed up as soon as they entered the living room. And when Gregory saw them, his downcast eyes immediately lit up.

However, Gregory seemed to have thought of something again afterward, and he huffed in anger. Then, he crossed his arms in front of his chest, turned his head, and looked away from Nicholas and Tessa.

Tessa knew what Gregory was on his mind when she saw him deliberately ignoring them. So, she loosened her grip on Nicholas and walked over to Gregory with a dotting smile. After that, despite knowing the cause of his anger, she asked, "Greg, why are you angry? Tell me, who has upset you? I'll help you punish that person."

Gregory could not stand it anymore when he heard this. So, he immediately complained aggrievedly. "It's Daddy! He's bad! He promised me that he would bring you and me for

dinner tonight. But in the end, I only got to have dinner alone with Mr. Timothy!" Tessa felt that the whole situation was hilarious; however, she truly liked the feeling of being missed by Gregory. Finally, she took him in her arms and sat on the sofa. Once again, she heard Gregory grumbling in grievance.

"I've already let Daddy spend time with you at night time. But he still wants your attention all the time. He is too greedy!"

Gregory wrapped his arms around her neck and said with a pout, "Miss Tessa, let's ignore Daddy, okay?"

Nicholas' face slightly darkened when he heard this from his position by the side of the mother-son duo. He also suddenly felt that Gregory wasn't his son but was his love rival.

However, it was impossible for Tessa to ignore Nicholas.

So, she hugged Gregory and coaxed him by saying, "This time, it really was your Daddy who went back on his words. How about this? We'll take you with us no matter where we go in the future."

Even so, Gregory pursed his lips as he was still very unhappy. Meanwhile, Tessa was also very patient as she continued coaxing him.

In the end, it was only after Tessa agreed to many conditions that Gregory finally had a smile on his face again.

Later, they played for a while then she took him for a bath since it was already relatively late.

After the bath, Tessa intended to go downstairs to pour herself a glass of water. However, she did not expect to see Timothy massaging his legs when she passed by his room.

"Does your leg hurt again?" She pushed open the door and walked in. Then, she squatted in front of Timothy with a concerned look on her face and directly started helping him massage his legs.

Timothy was slightly startled. Then, he nodded and said, "It does ache a little bit."

"Have you not taken care of your legs and regularly soaked them in a medicinal bath recently?" she asked.

Chapter 472 Where Is Kathleen?

Tessa looked up at Timothy with displeasure. If Tim takes care of his legs and regularly soaks them in the medicinal bath, it's impossible for him to have a relapse.

Timothy hesitantly spoke when he sensed her disapproval, "Since I started establishing the company, I have been busy. Sometimes, I just can't make myself get up after doing overtime."

"Who told you to be such a busy bee? I know the growth of your company is important. But didn't I tell you that your health is more important than your company?!"

At that moment, Tessa was furious. However, she felt distressed underlying her fury as she knew why Timothy was working himself to the bone. Tim is working this hard to provide us with a better life.

Tessa couldn't help the tears welling up in her eyes when she thought about that. Then, she

said with a choked voice, "You promised me that you would take good care of yourself." As Timothy listened to the sorrowful tone in her voice, he felt his heart clenched tightly. Thus, he quickly admitted his mistake and assured her by saying, "Don't cry, Tess. I'll take good care of myself in the future."

He felt panicked as he immediately helped Tessa wipe her tears.

Tessa glared at him, took a deep breath, and calmed down. Then, she remembered that he had never done acupuncture since she left. Hence, she went downstairs to get her acupuncture kit and gave him an acupuncture treatment.

During that period, Nicholas came over. However, he only stood by the door and watched the siblings speak softly. Then, instead of stepping forward to interrupt them, he left quietly. That was because he knew that Tessa and Timothy must have a lot of things to say to each other.

That night, Tessa did not return to the master bedroom until the middle of the night. After she entered the room, she found that Nicholas was still waiting for her.

Under the silver-white light, the man sat quietly and leaned against the headboard while holding a book in his hand. He had already washed up and was wearing a navy blue night robe. The robe belt was loose, revealing a large section of his masculine and sexy chest. He did not meticulously comb his jet-black hair; instead, it slightly covered his forehead messily. Nicholas immediately looked up from his book when he heard the sound of footsteps. As soon as he saw Tessa entering, his cold facial features softened.

"I filled the tub for you. Hurry and go take your bath."

Tessa felt a warm sensation lingering in her heart when she heard that. She nodded and went into the bathroom while taking a set of clothes with her.

After her bath, Tessa crawled into bed, and he quickly followed suit after he left the bedside lamp on. Then, he naturally took her into his arms, kissed her forehead, and said warmly, "Let's sleep."

Tessa nodded her head and leaned against Nicholas' chest. Then, with the corners of her lips curled up into a sweet smile, she closed her eyes and fell asleep, feeling safe and warm in his embrace.

The bright white moonlight shone in from the window, and the scene whereby the two slept in each other's arms was extremely lovely.

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The following day, Tessa accompanied Gregory for breakfast. After that, she rushed to Silverscape Theater. However, she did not expect to hear Hathaway's angry voice as soon as she entered backstage. "She's not a little girl! How can you guys not notice if she shows up or not?"

Hathaway reprimanded the surrounding members of the orchestra as she stood in the middle of the backstage. Everyone was silent, and some people even showed grievances on their faces.

Tessa quietly approached a member and asked, "What happened?"

The member was startled by the sudden voice in his ears. After seeing that it was Tessa, he breathed a sigh of relief and told her the whole story.

"It's Kathleen. We don't know where she'd gone. Miss Hathaway asked us to rehearse, but she's the only one absent. After asking the others, no one knew her whereabouts. We also couldn't reach her. Plus, we're abroad. Miss Hathaway worried that something happened to her, so she got angry."

Tessa frowned when she heard this, and she felt that Kathleen was behaving more and more outrageous. The day for the band to perform is just around the corner, yet she doesn't rehearse conscientiously. And now, she has even gone missing.

Just as Tessa was ranting in her heart, Hathaway's voice rang in her ears. "Tessa, I'm quite busy here, so I can't leave. Since you're the only one who's free here, go back and check if Kathleen is still in the hotel room for me."

Hence, Tessa had no choice but to take a taxi and head back to the hotel where the orchestra members were staying. It was just that she did not go to Kathleen's room right from the start. Instead, she went straight to look for the hotel manager.

"I'm sorry for the inconvenience. However, we couldn't find and reach a member of our orchestra band, so I wish to check the surveillance videos to see if she had gone out."

Chapter 473 Irresponsible

Tessa gave the hotel manager a brief explanation of the reason she was there, and the manager instantly got his staff to show her the CCTV footage after he realized the potential severity of the matter. When they went through the videos, they realized that Kathleen hadn't left the room after she returned to the hotel the night before.

There was somewhat an uneasy look on Tessa's face as she thanked the staff and headed over to Kathleen's room. Knock knock. "I know you're in there, Kathleen. Open the door," Tessa uttered while knocking loudly.

There was no response from the person inside the room, but Tessa continued to knock anyway. Finally, after some persistent knocking, Kathleen opened the room door.

She stood behind the door with a sour look on her face. "What's wrong with you? Why are you knocking on my door early in the morning? Why won't you let me sleep?!" she shouted at Tessa.

Her actions made Tessa feel annoyed, so Tessa pulled her phone out to point at the time.

"It's already 10.00 AM, and the whole orchestra is waiting for you to rehearse. So, how could you still be sleeping?!"

"They can train on their own notes. It's none of my business. I don't need to practice, anyway. Get lost! Stop disturbing my sleep." Kathleen rolled her eyes as she tried to shut the door.

Tessa hastily stuck an arm out to stop the woman and frowned in disapproval as she commented on Kathleen's inappropriate and lazy attitude, "Everyone's training for the performance right now, so why are you the only one who doesn't have to train?"

"Are you lecturing me now?" Kathleen narrowed her eyes to give Tessa a nasty stare.

Tessa was speechless for a moment. "I'm not lecturing you. I just think that your idle manner

of working is extremely irresponsible toward the performance," she explained.

"Are you saying that I'm irresponsible?" Kathleen let out a mocking laugh as if she had just heard a huge joke. Then, she slowly lifted her chin while speaking in a disdainful tone, "Do you think you have the right to tell me what to do just because you're my mother's protégé? Well, you're nothing to me, so you have no right to speak to me like that!"

Tessa was infuriated by the other woman's words. After all, her intention was just to provide Kathleen with some words of advice—she hadn't expected to be attacked personally.

However, before she could say anything, Kathleen spoke up again. "What is it? Are you angry?"

Kathleen stared into Tessa's eyes with a scornful look in her gaze. "You'll have to hold it in even if you're angry. You only have the right to teach me a lesson when you're in my position."

Of course, Tessa's expression darkened after that.

Kathleen didn't seem to care—she simply turned around and shut the door with a loud bang! Tessa was fuming as the door slammed in her face, yet she had no other choice than to leave and return to the Silverscape Theater.

Back in the theater, Hathaway was the first to come over and check on Tessa. "Did you find Kathleen, Tessa?"

"I did. She's sleeping in her room, and she said she isn't coming for practice," Tessa replied. She stated Kathleen's wishes in a transparent manner, but she didn't bring up anything about the argument they had.

Hathaway was already furious just listening to Tessa's explanation. "Kathleen is getting too much! Does she think she's that great? How dare she not come for practice!" she cried.

Meanwhile, Tessa stood by her side, where she quietly waited for her teacher to release all her anger.

Although Hathaway was furious at first, she managed to calm her temper down after a while. Unfortunately, they didn't have much time until the actual performance, so she wanted to use her precious time to train the other members. In addition, Hathaway wanted to make sure that the show was flawless.

So, even though there was a missing violin among them, the rest of the orchestra members continued playing their parts. The song sounded almost the same, although they were missing a violinist. Tessa didn't have much to do, so she sat beside Hathaway and watched as the members practiced.

When she saw the empty spot where the violinist was supposed to be, a wild idea began to form in her mind. "Can I stand in Kathleen's position to practice with everyone?" Tessa asked. She had finally decided to share her true intentions.

Hathaway frowned as she misunderstood Tessa's intentions—she thought that Tessa was desperate to be on stage. "You may have shown great improvement in your bowing techniques and musicality, but you will have to practice a lot more before you can take Kathleen's place."

Chapter 474 Replacement

"I think you've misunderstood me, Miss Hathaway. I'm not saying that I would like to go on stage. I just thought that I could gain some experience through learning from others since Kathleen isn't here today. I would like to gather some experience for the future—I know that there's a lot more I need to learn." Tessa wore a sincere expression as she explained herself to Hathaway.

After contemplating for a moment, Hathaway finally agreed to Tessa's request. Although she wasn't prepared for an actual performance, it would be good for her to train with the other members just to get some experience. That way, Hathaway wouldn't have to train Tessa's performance skills in the future.

Kathleen only showed up sometime in the afternoon. When she entered the theater, she found Tessa standing in her position and rehearsing with the other members. Kathleen lost her temper immediately. "Who gave you the permission to stand in my spot, Tessa?!" Kathleen barked. She didn't care if the rest of the members were halfway through their rehearsal—she immediately threw her bag in Tessa's direction.

Fortunately, Tessa's reflexes were quick enough—the bag would have smacked her in the face otherwise. Unfortunately, Tessa's reaction only made Kathleen more furious than ever. "How dare you dodge my attack, b*tch?" Kathleen glared at Tessa angrily. "What is it? Are you annoyed after what I said in the morning? Do you think you can take my spot in the performances just because you're standing in my position now?"

"That wasn't my intention at all." Tessa suppressed her annoyance to explain herself when she saw that Kathleen had misunderstood her. However, Kathleen didn't seem to hear what she was saying at all. "Why would you stand in my position if that wasn't your intention? Don't you think you seem really pretentious now?" Kathleen glared at her disdainfully. Tessa took a deep breath to contain her anger. She believed that she had to clarify things with Kathleen, as she knew that things would get messy otherwise. She could tell by Kathleen's expression that Kathleen would undoubtedly create a fuss. "I'm standing in your position because you didn't come for the rehearsal, and I wanted to take this opportunity to gather some experiences in preparing for a performance. I really look up to Hathaway Philharmonic's maturity, and I appreciate every opportunity I get to learn from them," Tessa explained.

The rest of the members couldn't stop themselves from speaking up for Tessa at this point. "Tessa was just learning from us. You shouldn't overthink it," one said. "Yeah. You know what Tessa is like. She would never look down on you. Your spot was empty since you didn't show up for practice, so what's the big deal with allowing Tessa to learn some stuff?" another one said.

Kathleen's face darkened upon hearing these individual's words.

"She has no right to stand in my position, even if I'm not around," Kathleen hissed. She scanned all of her team members with a threatening look in her eyes. Although some of her members thought that she was being irrational, they didn't have the guts to speak up as

they were inferior to her.

Kathleen gave Tessa a contemptuous glare before scoffing. "I don't care what your true intentions are, but you're far from replacing my spot in the orchestra. Do you think you're protected just because my mother watches over you? If I see you standing in my spot one more time, I'm going to turn you into a cripple!"

Tessa's face turned sour, and even Hathaway seemed rather infuriated by her daughter's words. Hathaway had been silent as she thought that Tessa would be able to deal with this on her own. But she hadn't expected her daughter to be so arrogant and demanding!

"That's enough, Kathleen! Who are you going to turn into a cripple?" Hathaway stood up from her seat in the audience before storming toward her daughter. "I was the one who allowed Tessa to go on stage. Do you want to turn me into a cripple too?"

When Kathleen realized that her mother was around, she was no longer as aggressive as before. "That wasn't what I meant, Mom. I was just too angry because I thought Tessa was trying to overtake my role," Kathleen said.

"Is that so? Didn't Tessa explain herself to you earlier? She said that she just wanted to learn from the orchestra since you weren't around. So, why are you still clinging on to this matter now?" Hathaway asked.

When Kathleen heard how protective her mother was over Tessa, Kathleen despised Tessa even more than ever.

Chapter 475 Drink Up

Kathleen was afraid of her mother, so she didn't say anything in the end. However, Hathaway wasn't about to let her off the hook yet. "I don't think there's anything wrong with Tessa's eagerness to learn. You, on the other hand, have been getting lazier and lazier. You even skipped half a day of practice. Do you think you're that great?" Kathleen pressed her lips shut without saying a word.

After their orchestra practice ended in the evening, all of them went for a meal together. As usual, Tessa was the one who picked their dinner spot. The group chit-chatted with one another, and she was laughing happily at a joke that one of the other members said. The happier Tessa was, the more displeased someone else was. When Kathleen saw the bright smile on Tessa's face, she felt especially triggered. Then, Kathleen's gaze darkened further as she glanced at the juice on Tessa's table.

An idea popped up in her head at that moment. "Tessa," Kathleen said as she got out of her seat. She headed over to Tessa's table with a glass of whiskey in her hand. When Tessa saw Kathleen, she knitted her brows slightly. "Is anything the matter?" A few of the people around them also glanced over worriedly. They were afraid that Kathleen would pick a fight with Tessa.

Kathleen pretended as if she couldn't see the worried looks on other people's faces. She simply stood in front of Tessa before filling her glass up with alcohol. "I'm sorry," Kathleen uttered sincerely. "I was too hot-headed this afternoon, so I'm here to apologize to you."

Tessa wasn't the only one who was shocked upon hearing Kathleen's words—the rest of the people around them were just as surprised. Did Kathleen just apologize to Tessa? Is she still the Kathleen we know?

Naturally, Kathleen noticed the dumbfounded looks on everyone's faces. However, she didn't seem to care much about them. She beamed when she realized that Tessa didn't have an alcohol glass for herself. "Oh, dear. I didn't even realize that you don't have a glass. Hold on. Let me get you a drink." When Tessa saw Kathleen moving over to get her a glass, she hastily stopped Kathleen. "It's fine. I'm drinking juice."

Kathleen's eyes glinted before she spoke when she heard Tessa's words. "Are you trying to disrespect me by rejecting my drink, Tessa?" Kathleen twisted her face into a frown as she glared at Tessa.

Tessa felt rather uneasy to see the change in Kathleen's expression, but she tried her best to remain patient. "That wasn't my intention," she explained.

"If that wasn't your intention, then do you think it's right for you to drink juice while I drank alcohol for my apology?" Kathleen asked. So, Tessa had no choice but to explain herself again when she saw that Kathleen wasn't willing to let this slide. "It's not the right time for me to drink alcohol now," Tessa stated.

"I don't think it's about the timing. You just don't want to drink with me, right?" Tessa felt rather annoyed by how pushy Kathleen was. Since Tessa didn't want to ruin their dinner, she finally gave in and drank two glasses of alcohol. Cough cough...The burning sensation in Tessa's throat made her cough a few times, and her pale face turned visibly red under the bright lights.

When Tessa lowered her glass of alcohol, she turned to gaze at Kathleen with her slightly teary eyes. "Are we done now?" she asked in a hostile tone.

"Of course." Kathleen wore a sly and smug grin on her face when she saw Tessa suffering. She knew that Tessa's stomach had been acting up—that was why she forced Tessa to drink alcohol. Tessa wasn't aware of Kathleen's plan, but her stomach felt extremely uncomfortable after the two glasses she had. At first, she could still tolerate the pain, but she soon felt like her entire stomach was on fire. She was in a lot of pain. "I need to use the washroom." In the end, she couldn't control herself any longer—she hurried out of the room after informing those around her that she had to use the washroom.

When Kathleen saw Tessa leaving, she curled her lips into a smirk. Then, after dinner was over and everyone was about to leave, they suddenly realized that Tessa hadn't returned from the washroom. "Tessa has been in the washroom for a long while. Did something happen?" someone asked.

"I don't know, but I noticed that she seemed rather pale when she left earlier," someone else replied. "Why don't we go take a look?" A few of them agreed with one person's suggestion. A faint annoyance flashed across Kathleen's gaze when she first overheard their conversations. "You guys don't need to look for Tessa anymore," Kathleen said as she stood up to stop them. "She texted me a while ago and said that she had already left. So she told us to head home on our own."

