

Always Been Yours (Tessa and Nicholas)

Chapter 476

Chapter 476

None of them were suspicious upon hearing Kathleen's words—they simply left along with Kathleen. After everyone left, Tessa returned with a sickly look on her face. "Where's everyone?" she wondered when she saw the empty room.

Right then, one of the waiters from the restaurant walked over. He happened to — overhear Tessa's words, so he responded to her. "Are you asking about the people who were in this room? They've already paid the bill and left."

"They left?" Tessa asked puzzledly. "When did they leave?"

"Just a while ago. I think you might be able to go after them if you leave now."

The waiter began cleaning the room up after finishing his words. Tessa immediately headed out of the restaurant. But unfortunately, she was a little too late, and they were nowhere to be seen by the time she ran out of the shop.

Her stomach had been uncomfortable to begin with, and she felt even worse after she jogged to chase after them. Tessa gasped in pain as she clutched onto her stomach and squatted by the side of the road. Cold sweat began to form on her forehead.

In the end, she had no choice but to pull her phone out to call Nicholas. "Is your gathering over?" Nicholas's gentle and pleasant voice sounded on the other end of the line. Tessa bit her bottom lip as she forced her words out of her mouth.

"Can you come over to pick me up, Nicholas? My stomach hurts."

"Where are you? I'll come right now." His voice turned serious upon hearing her words. After she told him her location, she squatted by the stairs and waited for him to arrive.

On the other end, Nicholas ordered Edward to get the car immediately. He kept urging Edward to drive a little fast as they made their way to the restaurant. Then, about ten minutes later, Nicholas leaped out of the car to find her hunched by the stairs. He felt a twinge of pain in his chest when he saw her tiny and frail figure.

Nicholas took large strides over before lifting her into his arms. "Nicholas." Tessa felt grateful to see Nicholas beside her, and she rested her head against his chest

as he brought her back to the car. Then, when he saw how pale she looked, he hastily sent orders to Edward. "Drive us to the hospital immediately!"

Edward nodded and stepped on the gas. The black car sped off on the road at the speed of light, and Nicholas held her in his arms as he lowered his head and gently comforted her. "We'll reach the hospital soon. Just hold on for a while more." She nodded lightly. Her stomach no longer hurt as much after she inhaled the man's fresh scent.

Soon enough, they arrived at the hospital. Nicholas got Edward to register for Tessa while he brought Tessa over to the doctor's office. "What is it?" The doctor's gaze landed on Tessa the moment they walked in. "Gastric," Tessa replied honestly. The doctor stood up and pressed his finger on her stomach area.

"It hurts." Tears formed in Tessa's eyes as she was in too much pain. When Nicholas saw this, his expression turned sour as he shot the doctor a hostile glare. "You need to be gentler," he hissed in a cold tone.

The doctor smiled without acknowledging Nicholas's words. Instead, he simply returned to his desk before speaking to Tessa. "I smell alcohol on you. Did you drink just now?" he asked.

"I drank two glasses of whiskey," Tessa answered honestly. The doctor nodded while writing a prescription for her. "You may be suffering from acute gastritis. The alcohol in your system probably stimulated your stomach. I'll give you three days' worth of medication to cure the inflammation, but you shouldn't eat anything too spicy or strong-flavored after that. You need to watch your diet and stick to the more simple and bland foods," he ordered.

Tessa nodded while Nicholas was standing beside them, and he quickly took note of the doctor's advice. After they collected the medication, Nicholas got Tessa to take her first dose of medication at the hospital. The pills were quick and effective as her stomach no longer hurt after taking them.

While they were on the way back, he wrapped his arms around her. "Why did you drink alcohol?"

She rested all of her weight on him as she gave him a brief explanation of what happened in the restaurant. "During then, Kathleen would have started a ruckus if

I hadn't drunk. So, I figured that I would just drink a glass or two so that it wouldn't disrupt everyone else's dinner."

"It's Kathleen again," he grumbled.

Always Been Yours (Tessa and Nicholas)

Chapter 477

Chapter 477

Nicholas frowned—he was displeased to learn about what had happened. Tessa immediately sensed a shift in his mood, and she hastily attempted to calm him down. "You shouldn't let someone like her ruin your mood. I'm fine."

He gazed down at the woman in his arms. "There will be no more next time," he hissed.

"I don't think there'll be a next time," she replied with a small voice. Although Tessa had been trying her best to tolerate Kathleen, she would no longer allow herself to be bullied if Kathleen went overboard.

Later that night, he insisted on carrying Tessa out of the car once they arrived at Dynasty Gardens. Timothy and Gregory were still awake when they walked into the living room. They hurried over to Tessa when they saw Nicholas carrying him in. "Did something happen to Tessa, Nicholas?" Timothy asked.

"What happened, Aunt Tessa?" Gregory chimed in. Tessa felt a warm, fuzzy feeling in her heart when she heard the concern in both their voices. Then, she ran her fingers through Gregory's soft, black hair. "I had a stomachache earlier, but I'm much better now," she uttered faintly.

Timothy knitted his brows and looked like he was about to continue questioning her, but Nicholas stopped him before he could do so. "It's getting late. I'll bring her into her room for her to get some rest." Then, Nicholas carried Tessa up to her bedroom upon finishing his sentence.

Although Timothy and Gregory were still worried, they couldn't bear to disturb Tessa when she wasn't feeling well. Meanwhile, after Tessa and Nicholas got to her room, he lowered her onto the bed before he tended to all her needs.

Initially, Tessa felt somewhat embarrassed to get him to care for her. However, she felt less shy after realizing that they had done everything that they shouldn't

have done prior to this anyway. Then, she finally allowed him to take complete care of her after that, with her heart full of gratitude for the man.

The next day, Tessa woke up a bit later than usual, perhaps because she was ill the next before. However, her stomach no longer hurt in the morning, and she finally looked like she had some color on her face. Everyone at home felt less worried when they saw that Tessa's condition had improved.

Nicholas's initial plan was for Tessa to stay home and rest. However, Tessa realized that the orchestra's performance was happening soon, so she rejected this idea. He had no choice but to send her over to Silverscape Theater. When she got out of the car, he eyed her worriedly. "Take care of yourself. If you're not feeling well, you shouldn't push yourself too hard. Call me if there's anything you need. I'll come over to pick you up."

"I got it," she replied before walking into the theater. When she first entered backstage, Kathleen caught sight of her, and Kathleen immediately started on her odd and long lecture. "You said I was lazy yesterday, yet you're the one who's late now! What's wrong with you?"

Tessa frowned as she tried to explain herself. But before she could say anything, Kathleen bombarded her with a string of words. "You may not have to perform, but the orchestra members have to show up every day. Look at the time! Can't you manage your time a little better?" Kathleen spoke at the rate of a machine gun's bullets.

Tessa couldn't find a comeback-it was true that she was late, after all. The members around her tried to speak up for her, but Kathleen shot them a warning glare the moment they spoke. Hathaway couldn't bear to look at how pushy and domineering her daughter was, so she went over to stop the conversation. "That's enough," she barked.

Kathleen finally kept her mouth shut after that, but a grim look formed on her face. Hathaway didn't seem to care about this-she simply turned to look at Tessa with concern-filled eyes. "Did something happen to you?" Hathaway was questioning Tessa because Tessa was usually punctual in rehearsals.

Tessa apologized before explaining herself. "I drank some alcohol last night, and my stomach was acting up after that. So I went to the hospital at night, and I got up a little later this morning." Hathaway's expression softened upon hearing

Tessa's explanation. "You should get more rest if you're not feeling well."
"I'm fine. Thank you, Miss Hathaway." Tessa nodded. Hathaway smiled at her before turning back to Kathleen, and her expression changed in a matter of seconds. "Why did you get Tessa to drink last night? You're the reason her stomach was unwell. She even had to go to the hospital at night."
Kathleen was furious upon hearing what her mother said. However, she was too afraid to talk back at her mother, so she had no choice but to glare in Tessa's direction. At that moment, she just felt that hypocrisy filled Tessa's actions

Always Been Yours (Tessa and Nicholas)

Chapter 478

Chapter 478

She claims that she got a stomach ache after drinking a few glasses of alcohol! Who is she trying to fool here? I don't know how that b*tch managed to trick or hypnotize my mother, but my mother seems to always be on her side, Kathleen thought.

Tessa simply pretended not to notice Kathleen's glares as she turned around to help her other members. Kathleen was extremely obedient for the rest of the day, perhaps because her mother had lectured her. When they got off work in the evening, Kathleen's voice sounded in Tessa's ear while Tessa was packing up to leave. "Why don't we go for a drink or two tonight? We have been so worried about the upcoming performance, and we haven't gotten the time to relax," Kathleen uttered cheerfully.

Many of the members were tempted by this suggestion, and they all agreed to Kathleen's idea. "We've been talking for so long, but we still don't know where's the best bar in Southend," someone said after a while.

"I bet someone else knows the answer to that." Kathleen's gaze fell on Tessa after she finished her sentence. "Can you recommend some fun bars, Tessa?" Kathleen spoke in a slow, arrogant tone.

"I don't really drink. Perhaps you guys can do some research online." Tessa was telling the truth, but her words sounded like an excuse in Kathleen's ears.

"We might be able to find some spots online, but we don't know the way there. So you will have to go with us. After all, the orchestra only allowed you to join us

because you're familiar with this area," Kathleen muttered hostilely.

In the end, Tessa had no choice but to lead the way. She found a clubhouse with high ratings on the internet before she got a cab for the members and led them over to the location. They arrived at a place called Cosine Club which was situated on one of the busiest streets in the city center.

After they got out of the car, Tessa only took one look at the grand and luxurious front doors of the building. She didn't seem like she intended to follow them in. "I'll head home now. You guys should enjoy yourselves. Don't stay out too late!" she said to all of them.

"Heading home? What do you mean? Who's going to send us home when we get drunk tonight?" Kathleen stepped forward to stop Tessa. Kathleen's tone was firm and demanding-she spoke as if Tessa was their nanny. The rest of the members didn't realize anything-they simply agreed to Kathleen's words.

"Since you're here, you should have some fun with us too, Tessa," someone said. Tessa was about to reject their offer when she felt someone grabbing her arm and dragging her into the clubhouse. "Let's go. Let's have fun!" Tessa had no choice but to stay with them.

When all of them entered the clubhouse together, they attracted the people's gazes around them. The reason was simple-it was because everyone in the group, except for Tessa, were foreigners to the country.

Tessa didn't like being the center of attention, so she hurried over to look for a waiter to book a private room. But her body stiffened when she turned around and saw Hayley walking in her direction. Hayley noticed Tessa at the same time, and she tugged a pleasant smile onto her face.

That night, Hayley had dropped by to drink with her best friend, Marianne. She hadn't expected to bump into Tessa there. Nevertheless, a series of thoughts flashed across Hayley's mind, and her friend, Marianne, immediately noticed when Hayley's footsteps slowed down. "What is it, Hayley?"

"Nothing much. I'm just staring at the person I hate and wondering how I could deal with her," Hayley replied. Tessa had no idea what Hayley was thinking about. After giving Hayley a polite nod, Tessa got the waiter to prepare a room for them. However, the waiters told her that there were no longer any rooms available for that night.

The group of them had no choice but to settle down on a large couch in the hall. Tessa didn't drink any alcohol because of her stomach. Instead, she ordered herself a glass of juice. Kathleen was unhappy to see this, but she didn't say much about it. She was the one who asked everyone out for drinks, so she didn't want to ruin the mood that night.

The members chit-chatted with each other, and they all looked like they were having a fun time that night. A while after that, a few tipsy young men visited their table. They all stared at Tessa and the rest of them with a sneaky look in their eyes. "Where's the fun in drinking on your own, huh? We'll come over to have some fun with you guys," the man offered.

The lead of the group of guys sent a playful smirk in everyone's direction before he landed his eyes on Kathleen's breasts.

Always Been Yours (Tessa and Nicholas)

Chapter 479

Chapter 479

The men behind him laughed along with him. "Yeah. How could it be fun for you girls to drink on your own? You need a little something to spice your night up. Let us do that for you."

Tessa knitted her brows as she watched these men who had just approached them.—. The rest of the people wore looks of displeasure on their faces as well. Kathleen wasn't interested in these young men, so she reprimanded them in a high-pitched voice. "How dare cheap men like you guys come over to hit on me? Get lost." But the more she played hard-to-get, the more those men craved for her.

"This girl's a feisty one. I like her," one said.

"I like her too," another one said. All of the men began to scan Kathleen from head to toe. She could sense the men's perverted gazes all over her, and she fumed at the thought of these men checking her out. How dare these rotten apples look at me like that? "Take your eyes off of me!" she hissed.

Right after that, she picked up her glass of alcohol before splashing it at the man, who looked like the group leader of those men. The man had never been treated

that way, so he lost his temper immediately. "F*ck! Get her!" The rest of his men didn't dare to disobey his words, so they immediately followed his orders. The reason was simple—the man who had just been splashed was also the young master of the Abrams Family, Colin Abrams.

The rest of the men weren't as well off as Colin was, so Colin was naturally the head of their pack. Although Tessa and the rest of them attempted to stop his men, they were one step too late. The men grabbed onto Kathleen's arms and brought her over to him. "Let me go. Let go of me!" she howled as she thrashed her limbs angrily.

Unfortunately, her actions were of no use at all—she wasn't able to resist the grip of two strong men with her limited strength. Then, he wiped off the alcohol on his face as he glared at her. Finally, he gripped her chin harshly before curving his lips into a cunning smile. "You're pretty aggressive for a foreigner."

Kathleen couldn't contain her anger—she spat directly in the man's face. Colin couldn't dodge her spit in time, so her saliva splattered all over his face. He froze for a moment before he twisted his expression into one of rage. Then, in a split second, he slapped her across her face. "You b*tch! I was nice enough to be interested in you. You got lucky there! If you don't satisfy me tonight, I'll make sure you're miserable for the rest of your life!"

He grew up as the treasured child of a powerful family, and there were only a few people in Southend who had the guts to go against him. So, naturally, he didn't feel the need to show any respect to a foreigner like Kathleen. She was so furious that she felt like she would lose her mind.

Kathleen, too, had been pampered since she was a child. So, she had never been shamed in such a manner before this incident. After giving Colin a furious glare, she addressed the rest of the orchestra members. "Are you guys dead? Why aren't you guys coming over to help me?!"

Tessa and the others immediately hurried over to help her out. Although they were women, they largely outnumbered the small group of men, so they soon managed to rescue Kathleen out of the man's grip. Kathleen was shocked, and she instantly hid behind the backs of the other girls after she was saved. Colin was infuriated to see that his prey had escaped his grip. "You guys are useless!" he hissed. After cursing at his men, he turned to fix his hostile gaze on Tessa and

the rest of the girls. "I won't allow you guys to leave until you guys give me an explanation today." With that said, he pulled his phone out to make a call. In less than a minute, a group of well-trained bodyguards appeared in the hall, and all of them were dressed in black suits. When he saw that his bodyguards had arrived, he pointed a finger in Tessa and the other girls' direction. "I want you guys to surround them," he ordered in an arrogant tone.

"Yes, sir!" The leader of the bodyguards shouted before he instructed the rest of his subordinates to form a human barrier around Tessa and the other girls.

All of the girls' expressions dimmed when they saw the size of the bodyguards. They knew that they were no match for these bodyguards. "What should we do now? Should we call the police?" one asked.

"It's too late to call the police," another commented.

"What should we do, then?" another one asked. All of them were communicating in hushed voices. Like the others, Tessa knitted her brows as she began to think of what she could do. Kathleen hid behind the group of people, with her face filled with worry and frustration.