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Once he had finished saying this sentence, Scott picked up the wine glass and made his way toward where Tessa was.

As Kathleen looked at the back silhouette of the man walking farther and farther, she ground her teeth so hard that if one were to get closer to her, they would hear a faint cracking sound.

She knew that Scott's real purpose was not to greet Suenobe. Instead, he was going to say hello to Tessa.

Eventually, she could only suppress her anger and follow him in an effort not to let them spend time alone.

At 7.00PM, all the guests arrived, and the emcee officially announced the start of the birthday party.

As the star of tonight's event, Hathaway was invited by the emcee to give a birthday speech on stage.

"First of all, I would like to thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedule and attending my birthday party..."

After she had said a few words, she handed the stage back to the emcee.

The party went well, and soon, it was the gift-giving session.

As Hathaway's daughter, Kathleen was naturally the first to present her gift.

"Mommy, this is my gift to you. I hope you like it." She stood in front of Hathaway while holding an exquisite gift box.

Hathaway thanked her and then opened the gift box. She found a gorgeous and exquisite necklace worth tens of millions in the box. The sapphires shimmered dazzlingly under the light.

When everyone saw Kathleen's gift, they were amazed.

"This gift is worth a fortune. It looks like Kathleen really cared about Hathaway in her heart."

"I'm so envious of Hathaway now. She's certainly a winner in life!"

"You can say that again. It's good enough that she has an outstanding daughter. Her newly accepted student is also very talented. I really don't know what stroke of luck she has."

Despite feeling dissatisfied with them comparing Tessa to herself, Kathleen said

nothing when she heard these words.

Next, the rest of the people also sent Hathaway their gifts, all of which were valuable treasures. Hathaway thanked them graciously, one by one.

When it was Tessa and Scott's turn, someone with a sharp eye discovered that their gift boxes seemed to belong to the same gift shop.

"Did you two buy the presents together? Even the gift boxes are similar in style."

Tessa did not deny that claim when she heard that. Instead, she smiled cordially while holding the gift box "Mr. Brooks and I did choose our gifts together. My good friend, Mona, also tagged along."

As she spoke, Tessa beckoned Mona, who was among the crowd, to come over and present her gifts together with Scott and her.

Mona saw her gesture, smiled, and trotted over with her gift box in her arms.

Then, the three congratulated Hathaway in unison.

"Happy birthday, Miss Hathaway.

"Happy birthday and best wishes to you, Miss Hathaway."

"Happy birthday, Miss Hathaway."

Overjoyed, Hathaway thanked the three of them sincerely.

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Then, she opened the three gifts and was immediately attracted by Tessa and Mona's gifts. "This is the zither and the lute, the string instruments from Xerthania."

Tessa nodded with a smile and said, "Miss Hathaway, I know you like string instruments, but you're not short of violins. Hence, Mona and I thought about choosing these two string instruments as gifts."

"I really love them. Thank you." Hathaway looked at the three kindly. She could feel their care and effort in choosing a gift for her.

Meanwhile, the crowd also started a discussion about Xerthania's musical instruments.

Furthermore, everyone was interested in the zither in Tessa's hand as they all knew that the music played by this instrument was very melodious. They also knew the timbre produced by this instrument was special.

"When I saw this instrument, I couldn't help but think of the time I listened to the performance of Xerthania Symphony before. Their magnificent performance style was awe-inspiring."

"Honestly, I wish to hear a performance of this instrument. How about you guys?"

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"I want to hear it too, but I don't know if anyone present knows how to perform using this instrument."

"Well, there are so many people here. I think there should be someone who knows how."

"Why don't we ask around?"

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And thus, the people around whispered, hoping to find a musician who knew how to play the zither.

Unfortunately, there were very few who knew how. Moreover, they couldn't perform a song with the zither even if they had the skill.

At this moment, Tessa stepped out from the crowd. Then, with a faint smile, she said, "I can perform if you all don't mind. I hope my performance will be satisfactory."

Hathaway was a little surprised. "Tessa, you know how to perform with the zither as well?"

"I can play, but I'm not an expert in zither," Tessa responded modestly.

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Always Been Yours (Tessa and Nicholas)

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Even so, Hathaway was delighted. She quickly asked someone to bring a table and a chair over. Then, she put the zither on the table.

Meanwhile, on Tessa's side, she had already put on her finger cots and directly took her seat.

Everyone waited with bated breaths as they watched her actions silently.

With a strum, an elegant sound of the zither sounded. Shortly after, a song called 'Fisherman's Song at Dusk' gradually played out.

Everyone listened attentively, and the beautiful melody unknowingly attracted them. They could not help but close their eyes and appreciate the music.

Following the beautiful melody, many could imagine an aesthetic image of the sunset reflecting on the blue waves, the fishers being leisurely, and the fishing boats traveling with the waves at this moment.

The moment Tessa played this song out, everyone was amazed.

At the same time, everyone was shocked that not only did Tessa can play the violin so well, but she was also so skilled in playing the zither.

Once the music ended, everyone applauded. There were even many who wanted to

hear more.

“Splendid!”

“Oh no, Hathaway! I really want to poach your student in front of you now.”

“What stroke of luck did you have? It’s good enough that you have an outstanding daughter. The student you accepted is also amazing!”

Hathaway felt highly proud as she heard everyone’s praise and envious exclamation.

Then, she stepped forward and held Tessa’s arm intimately. Finally, she beamed as she professed, “My student is truly amazing. However, I’m sorry to say, none of you will be poaching her away from me.”

Many were highly amused by Hathaway’s triumphant look and declaration. The

atmosphere of the party was harmonious as it went full swing.

At this time, someone asked, “Miss Reinhart, since you know how to play the zither, can you play the lute? I see that these two instruments played off traditional tunes, so the musical technique should be similar.”

When she heard that, she wanted to respond to the inquiry. However, Scott’s gentle voice rang in Tessa’s ears just when she was about to answer.

“I’m rather a little familiar with this instrument.”

“Scott, you know how to play the lute?” Kathleen was stunned. Besides her, Tessa also looked at

Scott in surprise.

I didn’t expect Scott to know how to play the lute. After all, the lute is mainly practiced by women.

Scott noticed the curious gazes around him as he explained with a smile. “I was curious before, so I have been studying the musical instruments of Xerthania for a period of time. Perhaps we can perform a duet today for you.”

After he finished speaking, his admiring gaze fell on Tessa. “Miss Reinhart, I wonder if you would like to play the song ‘Mountain Torrent’ with me.”

“Of course.” Naturally, Tessa would not refuse such an invitation, especially since it was Hathaway’s birthday today. After she answered with a smile, she turned around and sat back in front of the zither.

Two different timbres filled the air above the party a while later, and the octaves constantly leaped. Sometimes the music felt weightless, and sometimes the heavy bass would make the audience feel grounded. As one would expect, the performance was indescribably melodious.

The melody unknowingly enticed everyone, and they closed their eyes as they listened. However, Kathleen was the only one among these people who did not enjoy the ensemble.

She gritted her teeth as she looked at the two who played in perfect harmony, wishing to destroy Tessa so severely. In the meantime, her resentment kept surging to higher levels.

After the performance was over, thunderous applause sounded again.

“You guys work so well together. I’m totally captivated by the performance.”

“Scott, you really gave us a great surprise tonight.”

“It’s a lovely song.”

Everyone praised Tessa and Scott, but both were very humble when they received the

praises.

At this time, someone could not help but ask curiously, "Miss Reinhart, are you familiar with many musical instruments?"

Tessa nodded as she replied. "Apart from piano and violin, I dabbled in some of the famous musical instruments unique to my country."

When Kathleen heard these words, she felt that the resentment in her heart finally had an outlet.

"What's there to brag about being a jack of all trades and master of none?"

Kathleen could not help but sneer. However, she realized she fumbled when she saw the gazes that were shot from Hathaway and Scott the moment she finished speaking.

Only then did she calm down and berate herself for her impulsiveness as she backtracked immediately. "I mean, its nothing to fuss about. After all, all musicians are a little knowledgeable about other musical instruments."

As Tessa watched Kathleen, who forcibly defended her opinion, she didn't take it to heart at all. Instead, she said lightly, "Kathleen is right. Rather, it was me who showed my incompetence"

Others admired her even more, when they saw her being so gracious and humble.