

## Always Been Yours Chapter 635

### Always Been Yours (Tessa and Nicholas)

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Janet walked over to the piano room without entering. She stood outside and watched the man and the boy as a series of complex emotions flashed across her eyes.

Nicholas didn't know that she had been following behind him. He stood beside Gregory while questioning the young boy, "Why are you hiding here?"

"Miss Tessa has been too busy to talk to me recently, so I have no choice but to come here and stare at her belongings since I miss her." Gregory pouted as he spoke, and the disappointment was evident on his chubby face.

The boy's words amused Nicholas. "You sure have an interesting way of missing someone."

"Miss Tessa taught me well." Gregory stuck his chest out while speaking proudly. "I learn best when Miss Tessa's the one teaching me."

Nicholas' expression softened upon hearing the boy's words. "Stop pouting. It's time for dinner. Come downstairs with me."

"No." Gregory turned to face his back against Nicholas before he continued sitting on the floor and cleaning his violin.

A hint of exasperation surfaced in Nicholas' eyes when he saw how Gregory acted.

"Stop cleaning. I'll bring you over to visit Miss Tessa at the end of the month," he said.

The young boy's actions came to a halt before he gave his father an uncertain gaze.

"Are you serious?"

After all, Nicholas had refused to bring him over no matter how much he had begged him in the past. So, he found it hard to believe the man's words now that the man was offering to bring him over to visit.

Nicholas could tell what Gregory was thinking, and he found it amusing. I can't believe Gregory thinks I'm lying because I rejected his request several times. I wonder who this brat got such traits from.

He frowned at that thought. "Since when have I ever lied to you?" he asked.

Gregory knew that his father wasn't lying after hearing this question, and the young boy's dim gaze lit up immediately. "That's great! I finally get to meet Miss Tessa!" He let out a cheer of joy.

The boy's happiness seemed to be contagious as Nicholas spread his lips into a wide grin after seeing the look on the boy's face. "Are you going to be a good boy and go down for dinner now?"

"Sure. Of course," Gregory uttered as he placed the violin aside and got to his feet. He tottered over to his father before speaking in a childish voice. "Carry me, Daddy: Nicholas had no reason to reject Gregory's request, so he bent down and lifted the young boy off his feet.

They had been about to head downstairs when they turned around to find Janet watching them.

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Both father and son froze for a moment.

Even Janet looked somewhat surprised as she gazed at Gregory. This was her first time seeing the kid-she hadn't expected Gregory to look exactly like Nicholas:

When she first found out about the child, she felt a strong sense of jealousy and hatred.

At that point, she had the urge to murder both the child and the woman who gave birth to him. She felt like she was the only woman with the right to bear Nicholas' children.

However, she didn't take action in the end.

Back then, one of her men told her that Remus had gotten a surrogate mother to give birth to Gregory and that Nicholas didn't actually care or love the child. That was why she had suppressed the urge to kill anyone. However, it now seemed like whatever her worker had told her had been inaccurate. It was clear that Nicholas was emotionally bonded with the child. Nevertheless, that didn't matter-the Sawyers had more than enough money to rear a single child.

Regardless, Janet couldn't bring herself to be fond of a child that wasn't a product of her and Nicholas. But now that she wasn't officially with Nicholas, she had no choice but to put on an act. Even though she didn't actually like Gregory, she had to pretend to be a nurturing and loving woman. "You must be Gregory. How adorable!"

"Hello, Miss." Gregory didn't know who the woman was, but he greeted her politely before turning to look at his father. Who's this? Gregory questioned the older man by giving him a look.

Nicholas immediately understood what his son was asking for. "This is my friend. She's the one who was previously hospitalized."

A look of realization flashed across Gregory's eyes before he stayed still in Nicholas' arms without commenting any further. Janet didn't seem to mind this. It's the kid's first time seeing me, so he's probably still shy around me.

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"Gregory looks so much like you," Janet uttered with a smile as she went down the stairs with Nicholas. Nicholas nodded for a moment before he lowered his head to speak to the boy in his arms. "What have you done at home today?" he asked.

"I finished my homework in the afternoon, and I stayed in the piano studio to think about Miss Tessa in the evening," Gregory told his father about his day in a soft voice. When Janet saw how the father and son seemed absorbed in their two-person conversation, she felt terrible for herself as she couldn't seem to be a part of it. She bit her lips in jealousy. He's just a child that a surrogate mother gave birth to. Who is he to get so much of Nicholas' attention?

Once they got to the hall, Nicholas brought Gregory to the couch. Janet gazed at the identical father-and-son couple as she thought, If I want to be with Nicholas, I'll have to win over the young boy first.

"This is my first time seeing you, and I don't know what sort of toys you like, so I bought a few different ones, Gregory. I hope you like them." Janet pulled out a few toys that she had bought. She placed the mixture of toy cars and airplane figures on the table.

Gregory took a look at them and glanced at the woman as he felt a peculiar feeling in him. For some reason, I feel like this lady is... trying to please me.

Gregory blinked for a moment-the intelligent boy had quickly guessed that this woman had some ulterior motive. Janet had no idea that Gregory knew what she was trying to do. She curled her lips into a smile that she thought looked gentle and kind while she tried her best to get close to the small boy. But Gregory was familiar with such tactics, so he wasn't intrigued at all.

"Thank you for your kind gestures, Miss. However, I stopped playing with such toys when I was three," he replied. Janet froze upon hearing the kid's words, and the smile on her face turned stiff. Despite the awkward situation, she tried her best to maintain her smile while she continued the conversation. "What do you like, then? I'll buy you something else next time."

"I like violins, but my grandma collects tons of them, so I don't need anymore." Gregory rejected her with a straight look on his face. Janet was rather exasperated at this point, but she still kept a warm smile on her face. "It sounds like you really love violins."

"Of course. Miss Tessa is a great violinist," he replied with his chin stuck up high to form a proud look on his face, "I'm going to be as great of a violinist as her someday," he said. Janet could no longer keep the smile on her face when she heard Gregory praising the woman. She knew who Gregory was referring to, but she hadn't expected the kid to have so much love for Tessa.

Janet couldn't help but glance at Nicholas at this point. As expected, there was a pleased and contented smile on Nicholas' face when she looked at him. This made Janet unable to contain the jealousy she felt at that moment. I don't understand. How is Tessa better than me?

So, Janet tried even harder to get close to Gregory after that. "Gregory, do you want to hear about stories of your dad in the army?" she asked. She figured that boys would typically look forward to becoming a part of the armed forces. It was true that Gregory was rather curious, but he didn't want to give the woman a chance to please him.

"Thanks, Miss. I'll ask Daddy about it when I want to hear stories."

The more Janet arrived at a dead end with the kid, the more she felt a strong sense of dislike

toward him. All that this boy talks about is Tessa. It sounds almost like she's his biological mother! As much as she didn't like the boy, she tried her best to control her emotions. She knew that she had to do so since she wasn't with Nicholas yet.

A while later, Andrew walked over before speaking in a respectful tone. "It's time for dinner. Master Nicholas."

Nicholas nodded before turning to gaze at the woman, who didn't seem like she had any plans of leaving. "You can eat with us," he offered as a kind gesture.

"Thank you for having me." She nodded while smiling. She could tell that Nicholas had wanted to send her off, but she pretended not to notice anything. After all, she knew that Nicholas was a mannered man who would ask her to stay for dinner. When Gregory saw the sly look in Janet's eyes, he stuck his lips out as he scoffed to himself.

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This evil woman has to be interested in Daddy. I can't allow things to go her way. Daddy belongs to Miss Tessa! During the meal, Gregory ate his food silently without speaking to Janet at all. The young boy was really cold to her. Nicholas was just as quiet-he patiently peeled a few prawns for his son without saying anything.

Janet gritted her teeth when she saw the two interacting with each other. Her grip on her chopsticks tightened as she felt a strong sense of annoyance. Although the father and son didn't converse much, they gave off the feeling that they were both a part of the same family while she was just an outsider.

Nicholas placed some meat in Gregory's bowl, and Gregory munched on it before pouting and throwing an intentional glance in Janet's direction. "I still think Miss Tessa is better at preparing this dish." Nicholas nodded in agreement upon hearing the boy's words. Although their chef wasn't bad, the way that Tessa prepared this dish was somewhat different. She made it taste more like home.

"Finish your food. You'll get to eat Miss Tessa's cooking soon," Nicholas said while putting some vegetables into Gregory's bowl. The young boy nodded obediently before he continued eating his food. Janet's mouth was sour with jealousy when she heard the two of them talking. After they were done with the food, all three of them returned to the hall.

Janet didn't feel like leaving just yet, so she tried starting all sorts of conversations with Gregory and Nicholas. The father and son responded courteously, but their patience wore out as time passed. "It's getting late. You should go home to get some rest." It was clear that Nicholas' patience was at its limit.

The smile on Janet's face stiffened when she heard the man's words, but she quickly returned to her usual expression before speaking in a gentle tone. "Is it okay if I stay with you guys, Nicholas? The villa over there is too huge, and I'm not used to staying in it alone."

Nicholas knitted his brows upon hearing her words. Janet thought that she had a chance, so she quickly added to her statement. "Don't worry. I won't wander around after moving in."

"If you feel like there are too few people around, I can arrange for more workers to stay there and care for the place," Nicholas spoke in a tone that brooked no argument.

"Please send Miss Brenner home, Andrew."

"Yes, sir." Andrew nodded dutifully before turning to send Janet off. She was fuming at this point. I've already made things so clear, yet Nicholas doesn't seem to be doing anything at all. Am I so much worse than Tessa? Little did she know that she meant nothing to Nicholas at all. Furthermore, Nicholas didn't like the idea of other women moving into his place for too long.

When Gregory saw the woman walking out of the hall, he let out a soft mumble. "She's

finally gone.”

“Do you not like her?” Nicholas turned to gaze at the young boy beside him. Gregory nodded. “I don’t like her.”

“Why not?” Nicholas asked.

“I’m not sure. I just feel like she has bad intentions,” Gregory explained.

Nicholas smiled when he saw the way Gregory scrunched his face up. “I’m guessing that you’re not fond of anyone else in this world apart from Miss Tessa, huh?”

“That’s true. Miss Tessa is my favorite person in the world. No one compares to her.”

Gregory stuck his chin up proudly. Nicholas burst out in laughter before ruffling the young boy’s black hair. “Do you want to talk to her?”

“Yes! Yes! Yes!” Gregory shouted in excitement. Nicholas pulled his phone out and gave Tessa a call upon seeing how elated the boy became. “It’s been so long since I last saw you, Aunt Tessa. I miss you so much!” Gregory spread his lips into a wide grin when he saw Tessa through the video call.

Tessa’s smile was just as bright as the boy’s smile. “I miss you a lot too.” She had been busy with practice throughout this period, so she hadn’t phoned Nicholas as often. However, that didn’t mean that she had missed them any less. Both Tessa and Gregory kept talking about how much they missed one another-Nicholas found it hard to interrupt their conversation.

Gregory clutched the phone without allowing his father a chance to speak at all. “I know you’ve been busy recently, Aunt Tessa. So, I practiced all of the songs that you taught me previously. I’ll perform them for you when I go visit.”

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The look on Gregory’s face made it evident that he was just waiting for Tessa to praise him. Tessa couldn’t bear to let the kid down, so she gave him a flying kiss through the phone. “Mwah! I’ll be waiting for you to come over and perform for me.”

Gregory’s cheeks were flushed with shyness when he heard what the woman said.

Then, with his tiny hands holding the phone, he responded childishly. “I want to give you a kiss too.” Then, he pouted his soft lips and placed them close to the phone’s camera.

Tessa felt like her heart had melted into a puddle at that moment. “How could you be so adorable, Gregory?!” she cried as she kissed him again through the phone.

They were so immersed in the conversation that they had forgotten entirely about Nicholas. He sat by the side and watched them interacting with a smile on his face. His eyes were full of love for both of them. After a while, Tessa and Gregory were finally done showering one another with love. Only then did Nicholas manage to get his phone back from Gregory. A look of sympathy flashed across his eyes when he saw Tessa’s skinny face through the call. “You need to take care of your health and eat more.”

Tessa's face had been tiny, to begin with, but she looked skinnier than ever now. "I know. Don't worry about it." Tessa's eyes twinkled as she looked at Nicholas, and the smile on her face seemed especially sweet. Yet, for some reason, Nicholas felt somewhat exasperated and annoyed upon hearing her response. "You always tell me that you know how to care for yourself, but you forget about it the moment you end the call," he grumbled.

"I promise to take care of myself this time. The most tiring period of practice is over now, anyway." Tessa knew that Nicholas was worried about her, so she comforted him in a gentle tone. "Our teacher told us that our practice schedules will be a little less packed from now on," she said.

Nicholas smiled upon hearing this. He wasn't genuinely mad at her—he just wanted her to know how much he cared about her health. She quickly changed the topic when she saw that he was smiling again. "I'm planning to bring the violin that you and Timothy bought me over to Mr. Louis for it to be serviced."

"Sure. I'll tell the caretaker to send you over," Nicholas uttered with a nod. After that, they chatted for a while before Tessa urged Nicholas to get some rest. It was getting late for him, after all.

He was also starting to feel tired, so he got Gregory to say goodnight to Tessa before they ended the call. After the call, Tessa tidied her place up a little before she brought her violin out for orchestra practice. That evening, she brought three violins over to Louis' manor after practice was over.

"What brings you here?" Louis gazed at Tessa puzzledly. He knew that Tessa had been extremely busy in recent days. She would drop by during her off days in the past, but she had barely shown up recently since she had been so busy.

"I have a favor to ask from you today, Mr. Louis." She beamed as she placed the violins on the desk. He took a look at them before responding with a disdainful scoff. "I knew you wouldn't come for no reason," he spoke playfully. Despite this, he stood up and walked over to check the instruments. "You didn't destroy all three of these violins, did you?"

"They're not spoiled at all. I just wanted you to service them a little, Mr. Louis." Tessa hastily

explained herself before opening the violin cases for all three of them.

All three violins had unique styles, but Louis quickly noticed the distinct details in each of them. The last violin particularly excited Louis when he first saw it. "This is one of Stradivarius violins!" He stared at Tessa in disbelief.

As a famous luthier himself, he was familiar with famous violinists all over the world. A violin as unique as Stradivari's violin was one that any violinist would hope to own in their lifetime. Louis previously heard that someone had kept a Stradivarius violin as a keepsake for themselves. Still, he would have never expected to see it with Tessa. He ran his fingers gently across the violin's surface before he gazed at Tessa. "Can I try playing this?"

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“Of course.” Tessa had never seen Louis this excited, and she understood how much he must like this violin. She had no reason to reject his request. Upon getting her consent, he cautiously lifted the violin into his hands as if it was some precious treasure. Right then, Angus walked into the hall with a long black windbreaker draped over him. He happened to see the look of mesmerization in Louis’ eyes as Louis brought the violin out of its case. “It’s been a while since I saw this look on my uncle’s face. I’ve missed this.”

Tessa smiled as she turned around to look at the owner of the voice. “You’re here, Mr. Angus.”

Angus’ eyes gleamed when he saw the smile on the girl’s face. He was about to say something when a soothing tune rang in his ears. He watched Louis press the violin against his shoulder and begin to play it with elegant movements. Angus let out a sigh when he saw the look on Louis’ face. “It’s been so long since I last saw Louis play the violin. I believe it’s his hobby to get the chance to play such exclusive instruments.”

Tessa instinctively took a look at Angus. He met her gaze before shifting to look at his uncle with a rather complicated expression on his face. “Louis had a dream to pursue music when he was younger, but he got involved in an accident that injured his hand. He wasn’t able to play the violin for long since then, so he gave up on it. This is one of his biggest regrets.”

Therefore, Tessa turned to Louis with an empathic look on her face upon hearing Angus’ words. She could understand how much it hurt to be forced to give up on one’s dream. In the past, she had been close to having to give up on her dream. However, she felt the sudden urge to do something upon thinking about this.

She paid attention to the tune of the song that Louis was playing to realize that it was ‘Canon in D. There were a lot of emotions unleashed through the melody of the song. As she listened to the man play, she gazed at the other violins and came up with an idea then. She lifted another one of the violins and began to match her rhythm with Louis. They played a duet for the second half of the song.

With the addition of Tessa’s playing, the song that had been pleasant, to begin with, sounded even better than before. It had a moving tune, and Tessa had brought all the best parts out with her playing. Angus stood by the side and listened to them attentively. His gentle gaze fell upon Tessa after a while. Once the song was over, Louis still seemed rather hesitant to put the violin down.

Tess noticed this, so she made an offer. “What about another song, Mr. Louis?”

Louis was tempted, but he eventually smiled and shook his head. “Forget it. I’m getting old, so I don’t have the energy anymore. One song is fine, but I can’t do more than that now.”

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Tessa didn’t force him into anything after hearing his explanation. Instead, she lowered the violin and let out a sigh. “I’ve always known how good you were at fixing violins, but I had no idea that you were so good at playing them too. You’re at the standard of a master,” she uttered.

“Stop trying to please me. I’m not going to fall for your tricks,” he replied. Despite sounding rather disdainful, Louis’ smile revealed his genuine emotions. “I’m not trying to please you. I’m just being honest. You can ask Mr. Angus if you don’t believe me,” Tessa said with a smile as she turned to look at Angus.

Angus nodded in agreement. “I think Miss Reinhart is right. You might not be a musician but your skills are definitely at the level of a master,” he said. .

“Whatever Miss Reinhart says probably sounds right to you.” Louis beamed at his nephew before his gaze fell on Tessa. A somewhat hesitant look surfaced on his face for a moment before he seemed to make a decision in his mind. Then, he turned and walked to the cupboard before retrieving an old music sheet from inside.

“This is for you. I’ve kept a lot of these sheets for a long time. I hope you can give them life again,” he said while handing them to Tessa. Tessa was shocked. The sheets were clearly valuable, and Louis mentioned that there were countless famous pieces inside. She couldn’t imagine how much these sheets were worth.

“I really appreciate this, but these sheets are too valuable. I can’t take them.” Tessa handed the sheets back to Louis.

However, Louis insisted on giving them to her. “Alright. Since I gave them to you, you should just take them. I wouldn’t have given them to you if I didn’t like you. Others can never get this even if they wanted to!”

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Louis’ words amused Tessa, and she began to contemplate whether to actually take the music sheets that he was offering her.

Angus seemed to have realized the look of uncertainty on her face, for he offered her some advice. “You should take it since Louis is offering to give it to you. He can’t play the violin, so it’d be a waste to just keep them here with him.”

Since Angus and Louis were convincing her to take the sheets, Tessa felt she’d be making things hard for them if she disagreed.

Louis shoved the sheets into her hands at that moment. “I’m telling you to just take this,” he uttered.

She hugged the sheets against her chest. Louis’ offer touched her, so she rushed forward to throw her arms around him. “You’re the best!”

Louis froze for a moment before he spoke in a disdainful tone. “What’s up with all this hugging?” He clearly didn’t mean what he said. He had never had a partner in his life, and his true love had always been the violin. Now that Tessa was clinging to him, he felt as if he had a daughter who was craving his love. Although he spoke as if he weren’t a fan of her actions, the smile on his face looked especially warm and kind.

Angus couldn’t believe what he saw as he watched them from the side. He knew his



uncle the best, after all. Throughout the years, no family member could tolerate his uncle's eccentric temper. Because of this, many of the family members had distanced themselves from Louis. Even Angus had to bear the consequences of his uncle's nature just to get close to the man. However, Tessa's appearance in their life seemed to have changed Louis.

At that moment, Angus changed the way he gazed at Tessa. Tessa didn't seem to realize anything-she simply calmed herself down before handing the three violins to Louis. "I'll need your help for these three violins, Mr. Louis." She glanced at him playfully.

Louis accepted her request. "I'll make sure to take good care of these three violins. Then, after I check and ensure that all three of them are in good condition, I'll give you a call."

Tessa nodded before the three of them went to sit in the hall for a chat. Soon enough, the housekeeper came over. "It's time for your meal, Mr. Louis," he said politely.

Louis nodded before turning to extend his invitation to Tessa. "Why don't you have dinner with this old man?"

Tessa had no reason to decline his invitation. Angus couldn't help but tease Louis when he saw how much Louis liked Tessa. "Are you only asking her to stay for dinner?" he asked.

"Well, are you going to leave if I don't ask you to stay for dinner?" Louis scoffed. He clearly knew what was going on in his nephew's head. "I wonder who insisted on staying around even when I chased him away."

"I was wrong, Louis. Stop bringing the past up." Angus held his hands up to show defeat. He didn't want Tessa to know about the embarrassing stories of his past.

Tessa pressed her lips into a smile as she watched the interactions between the two men. Soon enough, they headed over to the dining area. During their meal, they didn't have the habit of eating without any conversations, so they chit-chatted about music while eating.

After the meal, Tessa sat around for a while before excusing herself to head home.

After getting home, she cleaned herself up before giving Nicholas a video call. On the other end of the line, Nicholas was having breakfast with Gregory.

He gazed at Tessa fondly while asking about her day. "How was your practice today?"

"It was pretty good," she replied before picking some exciting stuff to tell him. Gregory

leaned in to get some of her attention as well. While they were chatting, Janet walked

over with a lunchbox. "I'm here to visit you guys, Gregory and Nicholas." She beamed.

Tessa heard the other woman's voice, and she froze for a moment before looking at

Nicholas. Nicholas observed the look in Tessa's eyes as he was worried that she would

misunderstand the situation. "I'll explain things to you in a while," he whispered.

Then, his expression darkened as he raised an eyebrow and stared at the other woman annoyed. "What are you doing here?"

Janet didn't realize that Nicholas was on a video call with Tessa, and she felt rather awful when she heard the unwelcoming tone that Nicholas used with her. "I didn't have much to do, so I thought I would come over to look for you and Gregory. By the way, I made some dessert for you guys. Try it!"