

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter

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Sasha was startled by his suggestion.

It finally dawned on her what that was about.

He was gone for such a long time, and that was to find a more comfortable spot for himself? And there I was...

Rage started to simmer in Sasha's chest once more.

"Suit yourself. But I'm not going!" She flung away Sebastian's hand and resumed her seat with a stern expression on her face.

Sebastian's face was as white as sheet.

The man continued to stand there for a few seconds before he decided to sit down next to her without another word.

The carriage finally quietened down.

After staring out the window for a while, Sasha grew tired and was about to lean back on her

seat when she sensed a chill coming from her right side.

What's this?

She turned to her right and realized that the chill came from Sebastian.

He was sitting still with his eyes closed. However, cold sweat was breaking out from his forehead all the way to his neck, looking to soak through his shirt underneath his down jacket.

"Sebastian, are you okay?" Blood drained from Sasha's face as she tried to shake him.

However, Sebastian seemed to be losing his consciousness.

He slowly opened his eyes. When his blurry vision recognized Sasha in front of him, he panicked and grabbed onto her arm abruptly. "Darling, don't...leave...me."

Urgh! This idiot is still hung up on that.

Sasha was on the brink of tears.

She helped him up from the seat and cried for help, "Please, can someone help me? My husband is not feeling well. I need to move him to the dining carriage."

Soon, a few people came over to offer assistance. Together, they helped move Sebastian to

the dining carriage.

Some people who suffered from a severe case of mysophobia would experience such panic-attack-like symptoms.

Like those who were diagnosed with claustrophobia, once they were forced into a place that triggered their phobia, their bodies would react to the surroundings negatively like a distress signal going off.

If these signals were ignored and the person prolonged his exposure to the surroundings, he

would inevitably lose his consciousness and end up passing out altogether.

Sasha spent ten minutes using her acupuncture needles on the man before he finally regained his consciousness.

“He’s finally awake. Thank goodness. Madam, would you like me to fetch him some hot chocolate?” One of the train service staff heaved a sigh of relief and thought Sebastian could use some drink to keep his fluid up and boost his energy.

No! He deserves this. Let him suffer!

Sasha was still mad at him. Now that the man had awakened, her anger resurfaced.

Nevertheless, Sasha nodded to the service staff and said, “Sure. That would be great. Thanks.”

The staff quickly turned around to get that drink.

Sebastian heard the last words said by his wife the moment he woke up. “Thanks, Darling.” Frustration continued to brew in her chest. But since the man was in no condition to stand up against her, Sasha begrudgingly suppressed her emotions.

“Sit up and see how you’re feeling overall,” the woman ordered.

“Okay.” Sebastian complied dutifully. Despite still feeling weak, the man was still over six foot two. So when he sat right next to Sasha, he still overshadowed her by a lot.

“Lower your head and let me see your tongue,” she said impatiently.

So he is tall. Big deal! Such a bully.

Sasha still had a long face. Her frustration made her chest feel tight.

Sebastian, who was supposed to stick his tongue out, suddenly pulled her into his arms and held her tightly.

“Darling, I’m sorry. I really am. I shouldn’t have raised my voice with you and given you the silent treatment. Can you please forgive me?” Sebastian buried his head in her shoulder.

Sasha was stunned by his action. His voice was...croaky.

After a long while, still being held tightly in his arms, Sasha said with a choked voice, “Then, why did you do that to me? What have I done wrong?”

The air froze for a few moments following her question.

The atmosphere that was warming up between the couple suddenly dropped to sub-zero once more following the man’s silence.

Does this mean he’s still not prepared to tell me what happened?

Sasha’s expression darkened instantly and she started to wriggle out from his embrace.

“Because... I saw Solomon looking for you at the hospital,” Sebastian said as he frantically grabbed onto her arm.

The man finally confessed what had been tormenting him and keeping him up for the past two nights.

Sebastian was very reluctant to let on his true feelings. For one, he did not want his wife to think any less of him for being jealous of another man. Besides, he was worried that Sasha

would not believe him, which would make matters worse. However, the more he tried to suppress his feelings and keep them under the lid, the more he was losing control of his mind over it.

Finally, he slowly explained what he saw in the hospital, "I was with my mother at the hospital the other day. Mom said she wanted to bring over some food for your friend in the hospital and she brought me along. That's when I saw you and Solomon talking in the corridor. I overheard your conversation and I couldn't control myself..."

Sasha was in a daze. She no longer heard what Sebastian was talking about.

As though being hit on the head, blood drained from her face and all she could hear was a ringing voice in her ears.

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So it was all because of that. Oh... he already knew.

Paralyzed by an overwhelming sense of terror, Sasha was as still as a statue. Her mind was in such a mess she could not make heads or tails.

"Darling?"

Her catatonic state alarmed him, making his heart sink further.

Is there really something going on between them?

The man fell silent.

For a few seconds, the world was reduced to just the two of them sitting side by side in the dining carriage. It was a pin drop silence and definitely resembled the calm before the storm.

The silence was finally broken by the service staff who had returned with the hot chocolate.

"Is everything okay?"

He, too, sensed the palpable tension in the air and felt a tingle in his scalp.

Fortunately for him, Sasha snapped back to reality upon his entrance.

"Oh... It's all right. Is this hot chocolate? Thank you very much," she said while taking over the cup with her icy cold hand.

Sasha was holding it as though it was not some steamy hot chocolate in a porcelain teacup.

Sebastian stood in front of her and studied her stupefied expression carefully. At that moment, he felt as though he had just fallen into an abyss.

"Darling?" he uttered softly.

"Yes?"

When Sasha glanced up and locked eyes with Sebastian, she tried but failed to conceal the frantic state that she was in.

Her mind went into a frenzy. She could not even look at the man in the eyes without feeling guilty.

For the past few days, she had been blaming Sebastian for behaving unreasonably and making her upset. It now dawned on her that she was the root problem. However, she was struggling to offer a good explanation for what had happened.

“Yes. He did come looking for me at the hospital the other day, but it wasn’t what you think.” Many thoughts rushed through her head in an instance. Still holding onto the hot chocolate, Sasha started to recount the incident.

The man continued to keep silent. He was holding his breath just so he would not miss a word.

“Apparently, Solomon’s mother had said something to him, that was why he came looking for me at the hospital to thank me for begging you to let him off.”

Seeing as Sebastian was still waiting for her to elaborate on the matter, Sasha continued, “I’ve already denied my involvement in that matter, but he insisted that his mother had told him everything, so I panicked. I was afraid that you’d be upset about his visit, that was why I’ve decided to keep this from you.”

Sasha lowered her head. Her eyes welled up as she recalled how worried and terrified she had felt on those days.

I didn’t lie about this part. Solomon did come looking for me because of that and Yancy was very much involved in that matter too.

“Yancy? You mean she’s aware of this incident?”

“Yes. She might have approached my dad. I’m not so sure. But my dad came looking for me regarding this matter. I thought I only needed to have a brief word with you about letting him go. But I didn’t expect her to turn around and did something so evil!” With a heavy heart, Sasha told him part of the truth. To make it more believable, she swapped over the part where Yancy had looked for her.

Just one lie. I need him to believe me this once. I have no other choice. I don’t want that woman to lay a finger on him. But at the same time, I cannot let him find out the secret about his identity.

Fortunately, the man started to believe her story.

“So, you’re saying that she has planned all these so that I’d let go of her son. And at the same time, she also tried to sow discord between both of us?”

“That’s exactly right!” Sasha nodded in assent as tears trickled down her cheeks.

“Why didn’t you tell me earlier? Do you still not trust me?”

“No... It’s not like that.” She looked into his eyes.

At that moment, the resentment she had been holding against him dissipated instantly. It was replaced by guilt and self-reproach.

Lowering her head, Sasha slowly explained, “I knew you’d get worked up over this. I understand you don’t want me to have anything to do with him. But I didn’t think he would go

and see me at the hospital. I was afraid that you might misunderstand my motive in asking you to let him off, so I’ve decided to keep a lid on everything.”

Sebastian went quiet.

He finally felt a heavy weight lifted off his shoulder. He looked intently at the teary-eyed Sasha and only felt sorry for mistreating her in the past two days.

At that moment, his only wish was to hold her in his arms and make up for his mistakes.

“All right. Stop crying now. This is partly my fault too. I should have asked you about what I

saw instead of keeping it in. Let's us vow to always be honest and open to each other about everything, okay?"

Once again, Sasha stared into Sebastian's eyes, which were shining with passionate glint. She did that for a long while until she finally leaned into his strong chest and muttered, "Okay."

I definitely will do that. This kind of thing won't happen again.

The couple finally made up and got off the train together as it arrived at Avenport.

As they stepped off the train, a gush of cold wind made Sasha shiver.

"Are you cold?"

Sebastian stopped midstride and removed his down jacket.

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"I'm fine, you don't have to give it to me. You need it more than I do. I don't want you to faint again." Sasha quickly stopped Sebastian when she saw him taking off his coat, but he could not care less.

He pulled his coat over her and bundled her up securely.

Sasha was speechless as he did that.

"Mommy! Look at that woman. She looks exactly like me when I'm wearing your clothes.

Only her head is sticking out from the big coat."

A kid's voice rang crisp and loud on the platform. Everyone who heard him turned around to look at Sasha.

Sasha felt so embarrassed, yet Sebastian seemed unperturbed.

He wrapped her up nicely and pulled her over by the collar.

"Let's go."

"Where to?" Sasha cried, "Let go of me! I'm not a kid!"

She was losing it.

Sasha struggled to get away from him, but the commotion only attracted more jealous gazes.

Gosh, this public display of affection is just too much for me.

Why is it that all good men are taken? Life is so unfair.

Bystanders were wondering why a tall and handsome man like Sebastian would fall for someone as ordinary as Sasha.

A lot of women were envious as they watched the couple.

By the time they got out of the subway station, Luke was already waiting outside in the car.

When he saw Sebastian and Sasha, he got off immediately and opened the door for them.

"Mr. Hayes, Madam, you are finally back. Is everything okay?"

The assistant was worried sick.

Although Karl had told him everything over the phone earlier on, Luke still wanted to make sure everything was fine on his own. He wondered why Sebastian would take public transport instead of his private jet.

He wanted to know if everything was settled, but Sebastian did not even look at him. "Darling, do you want to go home or go to the company? What about we go to the hospital and get you treated first?" Sebastian asked, looking at Sasha's forehead. He actually wanted to ask her what happened earlier on, but he did not because he was afraid she might get upset. That was why he waited till now, yet Sasha did even care. "It's okay. It's nothing serious. It's just a scratch. We should just go to the company. We need to discuss our next step now that we have the contract. Time is of the essence." With that said, she hopped in the car while Sebastian and Luke looked at her speechlessly. It took Luke a while to snap back and he slowly turned toward Sebastian. "Mr. Hayes, I think you should treat Madam better. She's rather carefree, but this is not an excuse for you to bully her." "Get lost!"

Sebastian was already frustrated enough. Luke's words added fuel to the fire and Sebastian got into the car after shouting at him. Hey... did I do something wrong? I'm just telling the truth. Over in Lostaria, Jetroina, the weather had been gloomy for two days. A lot of the peonies in Jade Garden were shriveling up. Without proper care, the flowers could not survive the changing season. Like the flowers, Akiko had been downcast for the past few days. She had been agonizing over her brother and sister's deaths, but she did not dare to act on her emotions. "Akiko, is the tea ready? Mrs. Tsurka is waiting." "Coming." Akiko quickly responded, picking up the tea powder she had just grinded. Crash! Just as Akiko was approaching, something crashed on the ground. "How dare he? I used all my connections and did everything I could to help him! How dare he refuse to come and see me?" Yancy was indignant. Everyone in the garden held their breath and kept quiet. Akiko was afraid too. She wondered who Yancy was referring to. Is she talking about Solomon? So he's out already? Thinking of him, a sweet smile curved on Akiko's lips. She felt like she finally saw the light at the end of the tunnel.

"I'm sure he will drop by, Mrs. Tsurka. He probably just got back and needs time to calm down. He'll come over in a few days" the housekeeper said, trying to calm Yancy down. "He needs time? What for? I pulled all the strings I could to get him back. He should at least be grateful for what I did for him. Look at what he's doing now? Is he trying to show me he's

angry with me?”

“I totally understand why you’re furious, Mrs. Tsurka, but what should we do next? Should we just wait and see how things go before acting?”

The housekeeper reminded Yancy of their plan.

There was no way Yancy would just do nothing and wait.

Although Solomon was already released, they had suffered irreversible losses. Not only did they not get Hayes Corporation, but they also lost Sinch Enterprise.

Da*n it!

That bast*rd is not even one of the Hayes. How dare he takes over the company!

Hatred and bitterness blazed in Yancy’s eyes as she thought of the humiliation Sebastian had caused them.

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“We need to get back all the Hayes Corporation’s shares that we have lost.”

The housekeeper was astonished. “But... do you think that’s still possible, Mrs. Tsurka?”

“Of course it is. I’ll get anything I set my mind on. There’s nothing I cannot get.” A sinister smile played on Yancy’s lips as she concocted a plan in her heart.

The housekeeper thought for a bit and nodded.

It was true that Yancy always got her hands on whatever she wanted, but she was facing an formidable enemy this time.

Although the housekeeper knew full well what Yancy was capable of, the recent encounter with Sebastian really unnerved her.

She doubted if Yancy would succeed in getting back what was due to Solomon.

Despite her hesitation, the housekeeper did not express her thoughts. After all, Yancy did get Solomon out unscathed this time.

Meanwhile, Akiko had been waiting on the other side all this while.

It was not until Yancy finished talking to the housekeeper and came in that someone summoned her to go over.

“Come in, Akiko.”

She hurried in with the tray in her hands.

“Mrs. Tsurka.”

Yancy sat down on the sofa as she slowly picked up the teacup to take a sip. She glanced at

Akiko and put the cup back down. “How are you? Are you still sad because of what happened to your siblings?”

Akiko dropped to her knees, shaking her head.

“No, Mrs. Tsurka. I’m not.”

“You’re not? It’s normal to feel sad after losing your loved ones. To be honest, I’m really sorry

for their loss. Both of them had served me for a long time. I know they died because of me, and I can assure you that I’m no less exasperated than you are.”

Yancy knew just what she needed to say to play with the young girl’s emotions.

True enough, Akiko was touched to hear her words.

“Thank you, Mrs. Tsurka.”

“You have nothing to thank me for. On the contrary, I owe everything to you. I will see to it that their deaths are avenged, but I will need your help to do that.”

“I’ll do anything for you, Mrs. Tsurka.”

The innocent girl was all ready to pledge service to Yancy.

Yancy was satisfied with her answer.

She asked the housekeeper to bring over a new ID she had prepared for Akiko.

“You will infiltrate the Hayes with this new identity.”

“You want me to be a spy?” Akiko’s eyes widened in fear. She was still an inexperienced girl

in all regards.

A flicker of detest shone in Yancy’s eyes.

Useless.

She’s no way close to Ken and Hanako.

“Don’t worry. I won’t ask you to do anything dangerous. I just need you to keep an eye out for

what’s happening. You can also help Solomon with some of the things he needs to do.”

Now that Yancy mentioned Solomon, the young girl looked up at her with expectation.

“Really? I can do that?”

“Of course, you can. You probably know that he still can’t get over that woman. You can fill him in on what she’s up to if you go over. Solomon will be happy to know how she’s doing.”

Akiko’s face became pale.

But there’s nothing for me in it.

This is not how I want to help him.

“I know what you’re thinking. I promise you Solomon will take you as his mistress after our plan comes to fruition. You know he only has eyes for that woman, so being his kept woman should be good enough for you.”

Yancy pointed out the cold hard truth.

Akiko fell into silence.

His mistress?

It was true that the law in Jetroina regarded marriage as a civil affair that only allowed monogamous unions, but it was still a common practice among influential families that a man had many wives.

As for Akiko, she was well aware that given her social status and how Solomon regarded her, she was in no way qualified to be his wife.

Since this was the case, she should be satisfied with just being his concubine. This was the best she could have, so Akiko conceded.

She requested to see him one last time before she left, but Yancy was reluctant.

“Mrs. Tsurka, just let her do that. She’ll feel more assured of the deal you proposed,” the

housekeeper whispered in Yancy's ears.

Yancy grunted and finally nodded begrudgingly.

Back at Avenport, Sasha was busy with work.

Ever since she took over Wells International, she finally gained the approval of the people at the operational department. People started accepting the decisions she made.

They entrusted her to handle all the big and small matters in the company.

"Ms. Wand, now that the manager is gone, should we recruit a new person?"

"Sure," Sasha replied briefly without even looking at the secretary.

She was busy going through a proposal.

Although she was the owner of the company and cutting costs would be to her advantage, she was generous when it came to hiring the best talents. After all, a company would not be able to perform when it was understaffed.

After getting the green light from Sasha, the secretary notified the Human Resource Department.

They quickly got to work and interviewed a few candidates.

Since Sasha had no time to filter through the candidates on her own, she passed the job over to one of the supervisors before going upstairs to meet the president.

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"Good morning, Ms. Wand."

"Please have a seat, Ms. Wand."

"Are there any prospective projects you're working on, Ms. Wand?"

The executives started greeting her the moment they saw her in the meeting room. They were not as friendly when she first came to the company.

At first, they had their guards up against her because she was Sebastian's wife, but things had changed.

She had proven her capability after the incident with Wells International.

Sasha smiled courteously and waved the file in her hands. "I've just landed on a big client." Wow!

A big client?

Everyone's face lit up and they gathered around Sasha, wanting to take a look at the file.

When Sebastian came with his laptop in his hand, he was dismayed by the sight.

He used to be the center of attention, but this time around, everyone was so caught up with Sasha they could not take their eyes off her.

Sebastian looked at all the male colleagues smiling at Sasha as if they were trying to please her.

Behind him, Luke could sense a storm coming.

He kicked the door and raised his voice. "What's with the fuss? We're starting the meeting now."

Everyone scrambled back to their seats the moment they saw Sebastian at the door.

He swept his gaze across the room and walked in before sitting down on the chair. He was in a foul mood. Just as he was about to give them a stern warning, Sasha looked at him with her eyes full of gentleness, and his anger was instantly appeased.

“Shall we begin?”

After the meeting, Sebastian called Sasha over to his office to talk to her, but before they could discuss anything, he pressed her against the table, scrutinizing her.

“Mr. Hayes... we’re at the company. Watch what you’re doing.”

“Watch what I’m doing? You should say that to yourself. What were you doing with all the guys back there? Have you totally forgotten about me?”

Sebastian drilled his gaze through her as he locked his hands around her.

Sasha knew the best thing she could do was give in. “I’m sorry, Darling. Please forgive me.”

“Who’s your darling, huh?” Sebastian got testy.

“Sorry, Sebby.”

Sensing things would get out of hand, Sasha knew she had to back down. She circled her arms around his neck and shot him a smile.

“Why are you so angry? What’s so bad about people liking your wife. It means I’m capable.

I

did this for the company and for you too.”

She softened her voice and spoke tenderly to him.

Her smile roused Sebastian. He dipped his head, looking at her attentively. She was not someone who usually made a compromise, but when she did, she would still look charming.

A shade of pink manifested on her cheeks and her eyes curved in a crescent shape.

Sebastian simply found her irresistible.

Gosh, she is the end of me.

Sebastian could not hold back anymore. He pressed his lips against hers and kissed her.

When Sasha went back to the operational department an hour later, everyone was busy looking for her.

“Where were you, Ms. Wand? We were looking for you.”

Jenny was entirely clueless about what Sasha was up to. She failed to spot Sasha’s pink cheeks and fired a question right when she saw her.

Sasha evaded her gaze.

“What is it?”

“Oh, Mr. Anderson interviewed a few people. Here are their resumes.”

The secretary passed Sasha a folder containing a few documents.

Sasha took a cursory glance as she flipped through.

Since they were hiring a manager for the department, they needed someone with good work

experience. It would be perfect if that person were well-versed in investing and had a keen sense on the market trend.

Sasha almost settled for a middle-aged man called Felix Carden as she went through the

resumes, but another younger female candidate caught her eyes.

“Jamie Crawford? Tell me about her. What does Gregg see in her?”

“Well, he said she graduated from a prestigious school. She’s a fresh graduate, but Mr. Miller

highly recommends her.”

After some hesitation, Jenny decided to just tell Sasha the real reason why Jamie was on the list.

Mr. Miller?

Which Mr. Miller?

“Who’s what?” Sasha asked.

“Peter Miller! I heard she’s his relative. Mr. Miller didn’t make the request on his own. He asked her to just come over. I think he’s trying to keep this low profile.”

Sasha said no more. She picked up a pen and put a tick on Jamie and Felix’s resumes. Since Peter recommended Jamie, Sasha felt obliged.

She would not mind an extra pair of hands on the deck.

Sasha got off work early that evening. She even went to pack some food before going home.

“Mommy, Aunt Sabrina said she wouldn’t be taking care of us anymore starting tomorrow.”

“Huh? Why?”

Sasha was taken by surprise when Matteo told her the news.

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“What happened? Did you guys make her angry again?”

“We didn’t! We are good kids. She said she’s not a nanny and she doesn’t want to take care of us anymore. She wants to live her life as she likes.”

Sasha wondered if Sabrina really said that, but from the looks of it, Matteo was not lying. Sasha was at a loss for words.

Sasha had earlier on told Sebastian that Sabrina was still young and talented. Sebastian should not ask her to stay at home to look after their kids.

However, Sebastian was still worried about his sister as the toxins in her body had not completely cleared yet. Hence, Sebastian did not want her to go out.

Besides, with Sebastian and Sasha working at the company, they needed someone at home

to take care of the triplets and Frieda.

Sasha decided to talk to Sabrina, but before she could even discuss things with her, Sabrina

was all ready to leave.

When Sasha arrived in her room, Sabrina was packing her bags.

“What are you doing, Sha? Where are you going?”

Sasha was getting anxious. She ran over to snatch the luggage from Sabrina.

Sabrina shot up in a fit, throwing the clothes in her hands away. She dashed over and pushed Sasha away. "Stop meddling with my life. I really need to get out. I'm so bored in here."

"Where are you going? It's almost Christmas!"

"I don't care. Don't you dare stop me, Sasha. You should just live your own life and stay out of mine."

With that said, she started packing her stuff again.

Sasha was speechless. She was just about to call Sebastian when the luggage in her hand slipped and opened in half. Everything fell out.

"What's this?"

Sasha caught a glimpse of a picture of a man.

Sabrina's face hardened and she grabbed the photo back. Sasha was shocked when Sabrina

pushed her away forcefully, hugging the picture as if it was a precious item to her.

"What's wrong with you, Sasha Wand? Don't you even touch my things!"

"Well, I didn't. I was just picking it up for you."

Sasha was disconcerted.

Before she could get back to her senses, Sabrina had already chased her out of the room and shut the door tight behind her.

Sasha had no choice but to leave.

When Sebastian got home at seven in the evening, Sasha darted over and filled him in on everything that happened. She also told him about the photo she saw.

"A man?"

Sebastian was alarmed.

He was fully aware of what was Sabrina thinking. Devin came looking for him once, and when Sabrina saw him, she fell for him.

She had no idea who he really was, but she fell head over heels for him.

Sabrina was not aware that although she was from the Hayes, Devin was still way out of her league.

When Sebastian found out about it, he hurried over to her room without even having dinner.

"I'm going all out this time. I don't care anymore. I'll go after the love of my life."

Sebastian had just arrived when he heard Sabrina talking over the phone with her friend.

Sebastian took a deep breath trying to abate his anger.

He booted the door opened without even knocking.

Sabrina whipped her head around in surprise. A frown carved on her brows the moment she saw Sebastian.

She ended the call and shouted, "What do you think you're doing, Sebastian Hayes?"

"Where are you going?"

Sebastian was doing everything he could to contain his fury. He eyed her coldly as he interrogated her.

"I... I'm not going anywhere. I just want to go on a vacation."

"A vacation? With a man?"

Sebastian asked her blatantly.
He saw the luggage Sasha mentioned from the corner of his eyes and kicked it open.

The things inside fell out and Sebastian immediately saw Devin's photo.

"You're going to him?"

Sebastian enunciated every word coldly and clearly as he pointed at the photo.

Sabrina felt a chill down her spine.

Although she was still older than Sebastian by three years, she often felt helpless and scared every time Sebastian got furious. In fact, she was more afraid of Sebastian than of Frederick.

"Why can't I look for him..."

"Do you know who he is?"

"He's your friend. Your good friend. What's wrong with me liking him? Are you embarrassed because I fell for your friend, or do you think I'm not worthy of him?"

Sabrina finally braced herself to speak up against Sebastian. She had tears welling up in her

eyes when she finally said her piece to Sebastian.

He was caught off guard. This was the first time Sabrina stood up against him.

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What's wrong with her?

Sebastian never once felt ashamed because Sabrina fell in love with Devin. He would readily

support her if it were Jake or Shawn, but not Devin.

"Are you crazy, Sabrina? Do you even know who Devin is?"

"What do you mean?"

"Have you ever thought about who he really is? He managed to get me a spot at the General

Hospital in Jadeborough when dad was in a critical condition. He could even ask the doctor to come over to the press conference to be a witness. He could even force Sinch Enterprise to cough up all our company's shares they had acquired. Have you never ever wondered who he is?"

Sebastian bombarded her with a litany of questions.

Even if Sebastian was a magnate in the business world, there was only this much he could do.

He did not command so much power so as to do whatever he wanted—not like Devin.

Sabrina felt her legs giving way.

She slumped to the chair and asked weakly, "Who is he?"

Sebastian smiled at her sadly. "He's beyond your league. He's from a military family in

Jadeborough.”

He paused and looked at his sister before continuing, “I might be rich, but wealth and power are two completely different things. His family is like royalty. They are so powerful they are only answerable to one person in the whole country. Do you think a businessman’s daughter

is a good match for someone like him?”

Sabrina fell into utter silence.

There were dejection and sorrow in her eyes.

“But he saved me once...” she mumbled.

“What did you say?”

Sebastian did not hear her clearly.

Crash! When Sebastian heard a loud noise from the outside, he rushed out of the room frantically.

Sasha was coming over with a bowl of soup on a tray and she overheard their conversation. She was dumbstruck when she found out about Sebastian and Devin’s friendship. She was so stupefied the things in her hands slipped.

“Darling! Are you okay?”

Sebastian looked at her all over to see if there were any scratches.

Devin Jadeson?

So Sebastian knows the Jadesons?

Sasha felt like she was struck by a thunderbolt.

In the end, Sabrina stayed back.

She locked herself in her room and refused to see anyone for a good whole day.

Sasha applied for leave at work just to keep an eye on her. She told Sebastian that Sabrina needed someone to take care of her.

Sebastian agreed and went to the company on his own.

Sasha heaved a sigh of relief when Sebastian left. Instead of going over to Sabrina’s, she spent the whole day outside the sitting area, thinking about her next course of action.

What should I do now?

I can’t believe he is a friend with one of the Jadesons. How did I not know about this at all?

This is just like a ticking bomb. I need to do something to make sure this bomb never explodes.

Gosh! This is driving me crazy!

“Sasha, I didn’t know you’re here.”

Frieda was holding a bunch of plum roses in her hands when she greeted Sasha. Her hair looked disheveled as she ran over.

“Yes, Mom? Is there anything I can do for you?”

“Flowers! They are pretty!” The old lady gave her some roses, smiling at her like a child.

Sasha looked at her and felt like crying all of a sudden.

Yancy said that Sebastian ended up under Frederick’s care because the Jadesons refused

to acknowledge Frieda and the child she was carrying back then. They even wanted to kill the baby.

Although the patriarch relented eventually, the thought itself was telling of what they could do to Sebastian.

There was no place for this mother and son in that family. This woman before her very eyes was a taint to the family. A military family like them would not tolerate someone like her.

When Shin died, Frieda had destroyed the hope of the entire family.

This sin was unforgivable to them and nothing she did would ever atone for her mistake.

Would they spare Sebastian and Frieda if they knew they were still alive? Sasha knew just how easy it was for that family to wipe Sebastian and Frieda out, not to mention now that Sebastian had had a family of his own.

They would uproot the whole family.

Sasha's heart wrung at the thought.

"Mom, do you like Shin?"

"Shin?" Frieda's eyes sparkled at the mention of this name.

"Yeah! I give him flowers. He likes them too."

She stood up and ran off speedily.

Sasha looked at the sick woman as she ran away. Before long, she made up her mind and stood up in determination, walking toward Sabrina's room.

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When Sebastian got home at night, the home was already in a ruckus.

Sasha stood before him with her head low and looked pale as if she was ready to get a good

round of scolding from him.

"What happened?"

"Please don't be angry at Madam, Mr. Hayes. Ms. Sabrina insisted on leaving. There's nothing we could do to stop her."

Wendy came to Sasha's defense when she realized things were going out of control.

Sebastian was incensed. He almost flipped the whole table upside down when he found out about it.

"Does she want to get herself killed?"

When Sasha saw Sebastian had gone berserk, she quickly came over and held him.

"Are you okay, Sebby? I'm so sorry. It's all my fault. I should've stopped her," Sasha kept apologizing.

"This is not your fault. You stand no chance against her if she wants to leave."

Sebastian knew this very well.

He was enraged because Sabrina was being intractable. He had already told her clearly about the gravity of the situation, yet she insisted on going her way.

Is she that stupid?

Sebastian was so infuriated he did not even have dinner.

Sasha came over and spoke slowly to Sebastian when she saw this. "Sebby, it's not a bad thing altogether if you think about it."

"What do you mean?"

"She'll know she really stands no chance when she experiences it for herself. She won't understand unless she has gone through it herself. She will learn her lesson the hard way."

Sasha looked at Sebastian carefully as she chose the right words.

As she expected, Sebastian felt better after hearing her words.

"I'm not against her loving Devin. I just don't want her to get herself hurt. You know what that family is capable of..."

Sasha was hoping Sebastian could elaborate further, but he did not.

"Are they really that powerful?"

"I heard from Devin that his uncle fell in love with a commoner many years ago. The whole family was so shaken up they refused to take his remains back even after he had died for so

many years. God knows what they did to the girl. They must have gotten rid of her."

Sebastian lay down in bed and narrated everything with pain and resignation in his voice.

Sasha stared at him quietly.

So his dad did not even get to go back home even in his death.

They are so heartless. He's their son. Do they really have to be so cruel just because he brought shame to the family?

What will they do to Sebastian if they found out he's actually Shin's son?

Fear gripped her as her though wandered.

Sasha was terrified. Her body quivered uncontrollably as if death was tightening its grip around her throat.

Sasha felt breathless all of a sudden.

"Are you okay, Darling?"

Sebastian sat up and looked at her worriedly.

Sasha flung herself on him and hugged him tightly. "Sebby, promise me we'll grow old together? We should steer clear of their way and never cross paths with them.

Did I scare her?

Ha. There's no way we will ever come across this family.

Sebastian did not give it much thought. He thought Sasha was petrified because of what he told her about the Jadesons.

He hugged her back and assured her, "Don't worry. I'll take care of Sabrina. I am quite close

to Devin, so I'll give him a call and ask him to sort this out."

Sasha nodded and finally fell asleep peacefully.

Sebastian gave Devin a call the moment he reached the company the next day, but before he could say anything, Devin beat him to it.

"What's going on, Sebastian?" he asked begrudgingly, "Why did you ask your sister to come all the way to the army camp to look for me?"

"What?" Devin's forthright question made Sebastian uncomfortable. "I didn't ask her to go over. She sneaked out and went over on her own. That's why I'm calling."

“Then, you should have been more careful. You know what the army camp is like. Now everyone here knows about her coming in and getting on my bed. Don’t get me wrong. I don’t really mind what she’s doing, but you’ll have to think about your family’s reputation.” Devin sounded harsh on the phone. He was probably still upset over what happened. Likewise, Sebastian was seething with anger upon hearing Devin’s remarks. He ended the call and slammed his phone against the table.

“Get in here, Luke!” The assistant, who had been waiting outside for several minutes, jumped

when his boss shouted from his office at the top of his lung.

He rushed in without losing a moment.

“Go and get her out of that place! I want that shameless piece of trash back here right this instance!”

Sebastian was shouting so loud the whole office was shaken, but his rage was understandable.

No one would be able to take this kind of embarrassment, especially someone as influential and powerful as Sebastian.

Devin’s words slapped him hard in the face.

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Sasha breathed a sigh of relief when she found out about what happened.

Now that the two had a fallout, she no longer needed to worry about them getting too close.

“Ms. Wand, this is the proposal Mr. Anderson asked me to bring over.”

A young lady came over with a whole stack of documents in her hand just as Sasha was working in her office.

Mr. Anderson?

Sasha read through the proposal and nodded in approval.

“Did you put this together?”

“Yes, I did. Mr. Anderson said you already have enough on your plate, so he asked me to finalize the proposal before letting you have a look. It will help to save you a lot of time.”

The young lady who was talking looked beautiful and well-educated. Her demeanor and bearing put people around her at ease too.

Sasha browsed through the proposal and felt the woman did an impeccable job. She had a good impression on her.

“Good job. I heard you just graduated. I’m sure you’ll learn a lot of things under Mr.

Anderson. Let me know if you need guidance on anything.”

“Sure. Thanks, Ms. Wand.”

Jamie was on cloud nine when she received a compliment from Sasha.

She stepped forward to pick up the other documents that Sasha had already perused. She

took a quick but careful look at Sasha when she bent over.

She's really pretty.

Well, she doesn't look dashing and breathtaking at the first sight, but her complexion is good. Her features look perfect and her oval-shaped face is beautiful too.

Jamie's fingers pressed hard against the stack of documents she was holding. She had to admit that Sasha had the most alluring eyes she had ever seen. Her almond-shaped eyes were so clear and bright as if she could see through simply anyone's soul.

Jamie recalled how her sister died. Hanako almost got her hands on this flawless face.

"Is there anything else I can do for you?"

Sasha was quick to realize there was something weird about Jamie. She looked up at her impatiently.

Jamie jerked and quickly apologized before heading out.

Sasha dismissed her unusual behavior and dived into work until noon. She was still thinking about making lunch for Sebastian when she got a text.

Then, she received a message from Sebastian. "You don't have to make me lunch today, Darling. I'm going out."

Sasha was disappointed. "Alright. I'll just order take away then."

A notification lit up on her phone right after.

"You need to watch your diet. I'll ask Luke to get you something."

Sasha wondered since when Sebastian became so naggy. Why is he treating me like I'm his child?

The door was pushed open just as Sasha wanted to reply the message.

It was Jamie.

"Ms. Wand, do you need me to buy you something for lunch?"

"I'm fine. You just go ahead."

Jamie went out and got something for Sasha anyway. Just when Luke called Sasha to go upstairs for lunch, Jamie went back to Sasha's office.

"Ms. Wand, I got you something for lunch. I'm not sure what you like, so I got you some pasta."

She came in and put the lunchbox on the table as she spoke timidly.

Sasha thanked her and took the food upstairs.

Luke was appalled when he saw the food Sasha brought. He had ordered a lot of food for her.

"Are you having cafeteria food, Madam? You can't take food from that place. You're the president's wife."

Sasha shrugged nonchalantly and handed him the lunchbox before sitting down at the table.

"The new girl at the office got me this. It's really kind of her to do that. I don't want to let her down."

“I see.”

Luke was relieved to hear that.

Sebastian had already told him explicitly that Sasha should not mix and mingle too much with the employees.

Sebastian did not want Sasha going to the cafeteria to eat, but Luke had to say the new employee was very tactful.

She knew how to get on her employer’s good side.

Luke looked at the lunchbox and decided to eat it himself.

Meanwhile, Jamie had just sent two pictures over to Yancy.

The first was a picture of the proposal.

The other was a photo of Sasha. There was still someone around in the office when Jamie came by to take a picture of her secretly.

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The picture was taken when Sasha was texting Sebastian. Although it was shot through a transparent glass, her face was still clearly visible.

Despite Jamie’s updates, Yancy did not seem satisfied with what she did. “What’s the use of

sending me all these photos?”

Yancy took a look at the first picture, grumbling away.

“Calm down, Mrs. Tsurka. She’s still new. She’ll get her hands on something more significant

soon. We should be patient with her. We can just give her more specific tasks next time,” the

housekeeper said.

Yancy nodded briefly, but her eyes squinted the moment she saw the second photo.

“I have to say this photo is well-taken.”

“Let me have a look.”

The housekeeper came closer and looked at the photo.

This was the same girl they had locked up at their place last time, but she looked much better in this picture. She was like a flower blossoming under the summer sun.

Her beauty could even leave any other woman in awe.

After some time, Yancy scoffed. “Heather really did pass down some good genes to her daughter, didn’t she?”

The housekeep dared not breathe a word.

She took another glance at the photo and locked the phone.

“What should we do next, Mrs. Tsurka? Should we send Mr. Solomon this? He didn’t know we sent someone over to Hayes Corporation. Will he be pissed if he finds out?”

“Pissed?” Yancy broke out in a laugh. “I’m sending him pictures of the woman he loves. He has nothing to complain about.”

With that said, she forwarded the photo to Solomon.

As she anticipated, Solomon called her from Terrandy the moment he saw the photo.

“What are you up to this time? Where did you get this photo from?”

“Spare me those questions. You don’t need to know how I got it. I know you’re happy to see her. You don’t have to thank me for that.”

Yancy completely disregarded Solomon’s anger. She talked to him casually while the servants massaged her.

Her attitude piqued Solomon. “I’m warning you. You’d better not do anything to her. I won’t let you off if anything happens to her.”

Solomon was neither glad nor thankful to his mother when he saw the message.

Instead, he was worried.

Yancy sat up in rage when she heard him.

“Are you even my son, Solomon George? I asked someone to get a picture of her just because I think you’ll like it. What kind of a person do you take me for? A psychopath?”

“Ha...” Instead of replying to her question, Solomon simply smirked.

The housekeeper could tell from Yancy’s face that she was about to lash out, so she hurried over to coax her. “Come on, Mrs. Tsurka. You’ve always been the bigger person. Your son knows nothing. This is just how he is. I’m sure he’s actually smiling looking at the woman’s photo.”

“Alright. I won’t do this if you don’t want me to, but you’ll have to get out of that broken hotel and go back to work.”

“Why must I listen to you?” Solomon was brazenly honest with her.

A menacing smile broke out on Yancy’s face.

“Well, you can choose not to listen to me, but bear in mind what will happen to you once the court convicts Sinch Enterprise of all the charges Hayes Corporation has pressed on you. You’re a real Hayes, but you’ll end up being the biggest joke in the world. Everyone will take you for a bast*rd.”

There was silence from the other side.

“You could’ve had it all, Solomon. All these are meant to be yours. The woman you love is sleeping in the arms of another man right now. Will you just let it be?”

“Shut the f*ck up!”

A deafening outburst came from the other side.

Solomon was shaking in anger. His eyes looked red and bulged out in fury. At that moment, he felt like choking Yancy and ripping her to pieces.

Never had he loathed his mother with such intense hatred.

Yancy chuckled and hung up.

Ultimately, she was still the one who knew her son the best.

Don’t try to be cool, my son.

I can read you like an open book.

I know what your heart longs for and what you fear.

There’s no way you can win against me.

Yancy lay back down leisurely. "Send a message to Akiko and ask her to keep an eye out for

Hayes Corporation's court case against Sinch Enterprise. Ask her to report back to me the moment she finds anything."

"Yes, Mrs. Tsurka."

"By the way, ask her to take more pictures of Sasha. It'll be best if Sebastian is there too."

Yancy rolled her eyes while devising an evil plan.

Although the housekeeper had spent many years of service around Yancy, her scheming nature still made her shudder.

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