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"Yes, I believe you. But keeping that secret with you is ultimately too dangerous."

"What... are you trying to say?" Sasha took some time before she could squeeze past her sobbing to ask.

Frederick smiled. "What I meant is that you'll be safer with me around. After all, Sebastian's life cannot be at risk. This time, you were alert and prevented a crisis. What about the next time? Sasha, none of us wants to take this risk."

The old man was finally making his intentions clear.

Sasha was stunned.

What does he mean by this? He doesn't want to risk his son's life, so he's going to imprison his best friend's daughter instead? For how long? One year? Ten years? Or is it going to be forever?

At this point in time, Sasha felt even more disappointed.

She felt lost as she looked at the man that once told her he would treat her as his own. In the end, she let the tears she held in for so long fall. "Actually, you don't have to be so tedious about it. Just kill me. That would be the safest option."

"What are you talking about? How could I kill you? I've watched you grow ever since you were young! Moreover, you are the mother to my two grandchildren. Why would I ever do that?" Frederick was furious.

Sasha showed no signs of reacting after hearing what he said.

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He won't kill me? What's the difference between imprisoning me forever and killing me? Maybe he doesn't want to bear the guilt.

Sasha grinned and said nothing.

Seeing that she was not going to say anything, Frederick felt a little awkward.

"Alright. I'll send someone to pick you up tomorrow. You enjoy your time with the kids tonight and don't worry. I'm not going to mistreat you. Everything will be like it was back then when you're with me."

Silence ensued.

After another long pause, Sasha finally responded, "Like how it was when I was your daughter-in-law?"

In an instant, Frederick's expression turned even more rigid.

"Since you don't want to be with Sebastian, you won't be my daughter-in-law. You're my daughter. I'll recognize you as my goddaughter."

"Is that so?"

"Yes. I've already agreed upon the marriage between Xandra and Sebastian. She will be my daughter-in-law from now on, but you don't have to worry. You will always have more authority than her in the Hayes family!"

Frederick gave Sasha a promise as if he was trying to assure her, giving her some special treatment.

When Frederick left, Sasha stared into his back. She felt the blood in her veins run cold, remembering a lot about what happened in the past and felt nothing from them anymore.

So, blood will always be thicker than water.

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After Sebastian got out of work, he came to the hospital just as expected.

However, this time around, he noticed that Sasha was even slower. When he came in, she carried a chair over and sat at the window, enjoying the cold breeze. There was no response from her even after Sebastian called out to her multiple times.

Has it gotten even worse?

Sebastian immediately became tensed and hurried over to her while tossing his laptop to the sofa. "Sasha Wand, are you deaf? Did you not hear me calling you?"

"Huh"

Sasha finally raised her head after having the cold breeze in her face for a long while.

The cold made her face slightly translucent, and Sebastian did not need to touch it to know that she was freezing herself, just based on the greenish color on her lips.

This woman really has gone mad.

Sebastian face turned dark and stern. He immediately bent down to carry Sasha out of the chair.

"Ah..." Sasha was startled, letting out a scream.

What's this man doing?

Before she knew it, her heart was racing. Her veins expanded as blood came flowing up to the top of her head, making her head ring.

"What... what are you doing?"

"What am I doing? Are you out of your mind? Why would you sit here? Do you want to stay in the hospital even longer?"

Sebastian was never a patient person. So, when he heard Sasha's question, he immediately got irritated.

Sasha stayed quiet until Sebastian put her down on the bed. He even pulled the blanket up to cover her up. After that, she was able to slowly calm herself down as the ringing in her head subsided.

Is he worried about me? Is he afraid that I might catch a cold?

Sebastian's actions reminded Sasha of him force-feeding her the glass of water. It was just a normal glass of water, but she thought he tried to poison, imprison, and murder her, so she refused the drink.

It was just water in the end.

On the other hand, the old man, who she was so happy to see and suspected nothing of, was the one who wanted to imprison her and put her away.

How ironic! Sasha thought as she slowly closed her eyes.

"Did you take your medicine?"

"I did."

"Have you eaten anything yet?"

"Yes."

"What about the injection?"

"It's done."

Their questions and the answers had no delay in it and flowed smoothly, and it surprised Sebastian, who was pouring some water for himself.

He turned around to look at the woman who he tossed onto the bed, the woman that stayed there in the same position without even moving an inch.

Has she recovered?

Sebastian walked over to her and pulled a chair from the side to him.

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"Your rate of recovery is quite impressive," he said.

"What are you talking about?" Sasha did not understand what he was saying.

However, she still opened her eyes and looked towards him, who was at her bedside. Sebastian was sitting up straight with his legs crossed. He had a beautiful nose and a flawless face, reading Sasha's medical record with one hand on the armrest. The whole scene looked casual, yet, there was a mysterious elegance to it that made others unable to shift their eyes away.

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"Are you done staring at me?"

"Huh? What?" Sasha snapped out of it, her pale face flushed in a matter of seconds before she turned around and hid under the blanket.

That was so embarrassing!

However, the man behind her was snickering. Sebastian grinned after seeing what Sasha was doing. "Since you're performing exceptionally well, I'll allow you to get discharged tomorrow.

"Really?"

Sasha was like an excited little girl, instantly turning back towards him.

"Yes." Sebastian raised an eyebrow. "I'll come and handle the paperwork tomorrow morning. The day after happens to be Christmas Eve, so you should do some preparations when you get home. I'm too busy to do anything."

Within a few sentences, Sebastian was able to push all the work onto Sasha.

If it was in the past, Sasha would have been delighted.

They hardly ever got along, so it was out of the question for him to give her any work to do. Back then, even being delegated some house chores would make Sasha feel happy.

Having said that, she just looked at him and sat up.

"I'm hungry."

"Didn't you just eat?"

Sebastian raised his head after hearing her and looked at her with his beautiful onyx eyes. He was amazed.

Right then, Sasha shifted her gaze away awkwardly. "What I ate... was lunch."

Her voice was as soft as a little kitten. She sounded like any patient would, weak and winded.

It made Sebastian's heartbeat speed up as he seldom saw here in this current state.

Thus, he said nothing more and made a call to order some food.

After half an hour, a deliveryman appeared at the door with two huge boxes of food.

What's this? I'm the only one eating right? That's too much!

Sasha looked at the man on the sofa with a puzzled expression. "Why did you order so much food? How do you expect me to finish them?"

"Who told you that you're the only one eating? I have to eat too, you know," Sebastian replied while he sat on the sofa with his legs crossed, his fingers gliding across the keyboard on his laptop.

Sasha was instantly taken aback by what he just said.

He hasn't eaten too? Wait... this isn't about whether he ate or not. Why is he eating here in the first place? And with me?

With that in mind, her eyes gaped, thinking that she misheard him.

On the other hand, Sebastian went on with his work for quite some time before finally shifting his eyes from the screen to Sasha. "What's wrong?"

She stayed quiet and took some time before she turned awkwardly to get the food. "It's fine. You should eat with me. Don't let it get cold."

"Okay. Let me get this email done first."

Sebastian lowered his and returned to his work.

As soon as Sasha saw the food, she gulped and finally accepted the situation that she was in. It was something Sasha would have never thought about.

When Sasha said she was hungry, she was only trying to make Sebastian stay there a bit longer. Never in her wildest dream would she thought that Sebastian would be dining with her.

Sasha proceeded to take out the boxes of food. She realized that Sebastian was really going all out. Only two people were eating, but he ordered a ludicrous amount of food. There were two main courses, two side dishes as well as a whole bunch of other stuff.

What's this? Sasha looked towards him once again. "I think you ordered too much. We won't be able to finish it with just the two of us."

"We can throw it out if we can't finish it. Why would you think about whether you can finish it when you're eating? Aren't you tired of living like this, Sasha Wand?" Sebastian commented in his usual domineering tone.

The only response Sasha could give was a sigh before she sat down.

After a while, Sebastian was finally done with his work. So, he got up from the sofa and sat right across the small table facing Sasha.

"What would you like? The broccoli soup, garlic bread..."

"Those are for you. You're still recovering, so you need to eat light." Sebastian told her while picking up some pasta.

Did I hear this right? Sasha instantly froze with the noodle she had hanging from her mouth.

These are all for me? Why? Since when did he become so considerate?

Back then, Sebastian would always ridicule and belittle Sasha, taking shots at her all the time. He had never actually cared about her.

The more she thought about it, the more she felt a lingering fear creeping up on her.

Nevertheless, Sasha was without a doubt happy when she heard what he said.

And so, she quietly confirmed that Sebastian was only eating the rice and nothing else before grabbing the soup that she had been eyeing on.

Sebastian kept quiet. You're such an idiot!

It took some time for the two of them to get over the awkward atmosphere before finally talking like how they used to.

"How are the kids at home?"

"They're fine. They listen to me since you're not there," he answered as he ate.

Even though they were worried about their mother, the kids were rather obedient the past two days since Sebastian promised them that he would bring Sasha back.