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"Does that hurt?"
"Yes Ouch"
Sasha lowered her gaze to avoid meeting Sebastian's. She turned her scarlet face to look elsewhere.
Sensing her discomfort, the man paused his actions.
His piercing gaze darkened ever further as his body rose in temperature.
The pair were more than just familiar with each other, given that they've had three children and have spent umpteen times in bed together. His sexual attraction to her was not abnormal.
Sebastian's force became gentler as he continued to apply the ointment for her.
Then, his unbridled desire compelled his hands to explore other parts of her body.
"W-What are you doing?"
Alarmed, Sasha was quick to respond to his advances and pushed him away without hesitation.

Sebastian stood there dumbfounded.

Immediately, he felt as if a pail of cold water had been splashed on his head. Her instantaneous recoil from his advances was an utter slap in the face for him.

"What do you think I'm doing? I'm applying the ointment for you. Besides, none of what I'm doing is illegal. You're still my lawfully wedded wife. Is there anything I can't do to you?"

Displeasure was written all over his charming visage.

This was not the first time she rejected him.

So she was deluding him all this while. She never had the intention to stay by his side.

Sasha's face immediately drained of color upon sensing his displeasure.

"N-no, that's not it. Listen to me, Sebastian. I was just... I'm just injured at the moment."

"Really? Or are you just opposed to the idea of getting into bed with me?"

"[..."

His sharp retort stumped her.

His remark wasn't entirely wrong. She had told herself time and again that she wouldn't have any more relations with this man, so there should never be the need for them to commit such acts.

"Sebastian... Listen to me... I... I mean... We haven't officially annulled our marriage, but it's still going to happen. That's why I... I think it's best for us not to maintain such a relationship. Lest it interferes with... With your life. Right?"

Sasha clutched onto her thin tank top tightly. Her throat was parched while her palms were sweating profusely. The last thing she wanted was to provoke him with her words.

She couldn't afford to offend him.

In the event he decided to kick her out, she would lose the opportunity to stay by the sides of her children.

The moment she finished her sentence, a suffocating silence permeated the air. The atmosphere was so tense it felt as though the temperature dipped radically.

Oh god. Did I make him angry again?

Sasha began to regret her words. She was about to attempt to placate him when he turned and left the room.

Bam!

The deafening sound of the door slamming reverberated around the room, causing the ground to tremble.

Sasha was left sitting on the bed, stupefied.

After she managed to pull herself together, she swiftly jumped off the bed to give chase. Alas, there wasn't a single shadow outside. Soon after, the sound of a roaring engine could be heard.

Sebastian had left in the middle of the night.

When what had happened registered in her mind, she staggered backward in shock and slumped against the wall.

What's the problem with what I said? Is it even possible to work things out between us? All those incidents... How can we act like none of them took place? That's impossible! Not for me, at least.

Sasha returned to her room, looking dejected. That night, all she did was toss and turn in bed.

The next day.

The children rose early, especially Matteo and Ian. Once they woke up, the duo holed up in a room and kept the door locked.

"Mommy and Daddy fought again last night. Did you hear?"

"Of course."

lan looked awful; he had dark spots circling his eyes.

Matteo held his cheeks in his palms as he sat in front of his brother and sighed. "Why are they always like that? Can't they just get along? Why can't Daddy just tolerate Mommy? It took so much difficulty for her to return to us..."

lan was in a dazed state as he listening to his brother rant.

His lips parted, as though he wanted to add on. However, he promptly shut his mouth.

Something felt amiss. He secretly caught the sight of Sebastian carrying Sasha upstairs, so he couldn't fathom why the two of them would argue out of the blue.

The matter is not as simple as it seems.

"We've got to do something."

"What?" Matteo's head shot up as his hopeful eyes gazed at his older brother.

"I think they've spent too much time apart. That's why they're like that now. We've got to create more occasions for them to spend some quality time together."

The quick-witted lan dissected the situation for his brother.

Matteo's eyes lit up as he heard lan speak.

That sounded spot on. People who were in love with each other probably spent lots of time together to develop feelings.

Familiarity breeds fondness.

Matteo concurred with his brother's genius plan.

That day, they waited until Sasha picked them up. Then, the three children began to chatter excitedly about an upcoming school trip.

"A school trip? But it hasn't been long since school started."

"Mommy, now's the prime time. Our teacher said she'd bring us to tour the countryside to experience how farmers live."

Noticing her mother's reservations, Vivian hurriedly piped up to legitimize their scheme.

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Farming?

After Sasha heard about it, she did not voice out any concerns. Instead, she began to think it was a good suggestion.

Children in the cities grew up pampered — they knew nothing about nature. It was a great opportunity for the kids to go to the countryside and gain some insight.

Sasha soon agreed.

"Sounds good! I'll go back tonight and help you prepare for it."

"Okay! Mommy, let's prepare together. Our teacher said our parents should accompany us. You and Daddy have to go with us too."

Matteo guickly explained to his mother what his teacher had told him.

Initially, Sasha was in a good mood. However, when she heard what her son said, her expression stiffened.

Their father needs to go too?

Forget it. Sebastian definitely wouldn't want to go with me. We had such a fierce argument last night, and I didn't see him today. To be honest, I should count myself lucky that he didn't chase me out.

A bitter expression crossed Sasha's face at the thought. Avoiding the topic, she brought the kids back home.

As expected, Sebastian did not return that night. Wendy said that he did not even call.

He probably did not want to come back.

Noticing the situation, Sasha had no choice but to look for Wendy. "Wendy, the kids say they're going on a trip tomorrow. Why don't you call Mr. Hayes and ask him to free up his schedule for it?"

Wendy looked at her in shock before questioning, "Aren't you going? I heard the kids say that their parents have to go together?"

Sasha smiled bitterly. "He wouldn't want me to tag along. It's fine. He can just go with the kids. I'll pack their items for them."

Then, Sasha prepared to head upstairs and help the children pack for tomorrow.

However, at that moment, Wendy suddenly pulled her back.

"Ms. Wand, you shouldn't do this. Although you had a conflict with Mr. Hayes, your kids are innocent. Didn't you come here to keep them company? If that's the case, how can you be absent from such an important activity for the kids?"

"But..."

"Just listen to me. Mr. Hayes won't stop you from going, so you should pack your belongings and set off with them tomorrow morning," promised Wendy with a smile.

Since that was the case, Sasha did not protest any more.

Naturally, she wanted to go on the trip because she did not want to miss any opportunities to see her kids growing up.

Hence, she went upstairs and packed a few of her clothes, planning to tag along with them tomorrow.

The night went by peacefully.

Due to the trip, Sasha woke up early the next day. She helped the kids dress up before bringing them downstairs.

"Wendy, we..."

"You're finally back, Mr. Hayes. The children are already prepared and are waiting for you."

Before Sasha could finish her sentence, she spotted Wendy standing outside the villa. A man was also alighting a white Maybach at that moment. Surprised, Sasha quickly paused mid-sentence.

He really came back.

When the kids saw their father, they were evidently delighted.

"Daddy's back! Daddy, are you here to go on the trip with me?" Vivian, who had always been the most affectionate one, ran over to the man upon spotting him.

Smiling, Sebastian bent down and picked his daughter up into his arms.

"Yeah, I'm here to accompany you."

"Wow, that's great! Our family can have fun together now! I'm so happy, Matt!" The little girl clapped happily.

When Sasha saw this, she finally felt relieved.

Sebastian's expression did not look that hostile, and he did not seem like he was still angry.

Sasha took a small step forward.

"Sebastian, why did you go in alone? Come here and help me adjust the children's car seat. Why are you leaving everything to me? Do you think I'm invincible?"

Suddenly, she heard a woman complain in the white Maybach.

Sasha's expression changed immediately, and she halted in her tracks.

Is there someone in his car?

Everyone in the courtyard was shocked when they heard that voice, especially lan and Matteo. Their faces fell instantly.

Ms. Rocke? Why is she here now?

The woman was none other than Roxanne.

She had finally finished adjusting the children's seat in the car. Upon seeing that Sebastian did not bother helping her, she stomped in furiously.

"Oh, everyone's here! Are all of you ready? Matteo, Ian! Darlings, come here! I'll help you get into the car."

Roxanne beckoned at the two kids standing beside Sasha.

When Sasha heard that, her face paled.

Noticing that, Wendy demanded, "Mr. Hayes, why is Ms. Rocke here?"

"I told her to come along. Two adults are needed to take care of three kids," explained Sebastian as he carried Vivian in his arms.

He did not even spare a single glance in Sasha's direction.

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Wendy was stunned by his crude answer.

She had initially wanted to ask Sebastian if he was mistaken. The children's mother was already there, yet he had asked another woman to accompany them for the trip.

However, at that moment, Sasha had already passed the suitcases and the kids over to her.

"Wendy, send them over."

"But..."

"It's fine." Sasha shook her head, trying her best to make herself look nonchalant. Then, she shoved the handle of the suitcase into Wendy's hand.

Naturally, she would be fine.

She would have to confront this issue sooner or later; it was just a matter of time.

Sasha turned after telling Wendy what to do, preparing to go back into the house.

"No! I don't want Ms. Rocke! I want Mommy! I have Mommy here, so why do I need another woman to accompany me for my trip?"

Suddenly, Vivian started yelling loudly in Sebastian's arms. She shot a furious glance at Roxanne before struggling to break free from her father's arms.

"Come back, Vivi!" When her father saw her acting like that, he tried to grab her furiously.

Although Vivian usually looked adorable and blur, she ran extremely fast at such a critical juncture. In a short while, she had caught up with Sasha.

"Mommy, don't abandon us! If you aren't going, I won't go too!"

Vivian hugged Sasha's legs and burst into tears.

When Sasha saw that, she quickly squatted and hugged her daughter tight. Her heart ached as if daggers were piercing it.

"Don't cry. I'm here, aren't I? I won't leave. I'll wait for you at home, okay? Go with Daddy and Ms. Rocke. When you come back, I'll cook some delicious food for you."

"No!"

Vivian was like her mother's most loyal fan. No matter what Sasha said or how she tried to convince her, the little girl would not change her mind.

Sasha was speechless.

Just when she was at a loss for what to do, Matteo and Ian, who were initially standing beside Wendy, immediately ran toward Sasha.

"Yeah, we won't go either!"

"We won't go!"

The children's minds changed simultaneously within a few seconds.

Sebastian was so furious that his face fell. Just when he was about to stride over and drag the three kids away, Wendy quickly intervened. "Mr. Hayes, if that's the case, just bring Ms. Wand along."

"Dream on!"

"Mr. Hayes, this is supposed to be a happy occasion for the kids. It won't matter even if you bring an extra person along, right? Since you have three kids, you can let Ms. Wand take care of one of them. Don't spoil the kids' fun!" persuaded Wendy.

It was true that her suggestion was the best solution for now.

Roxanne was quick to catch on. When she noticed what was going on, she agreed, "Yeah, Wendy's right. Let her take care of this little girl. I can't take care of so many children alone too."

Only then did the furious man show any signs of relenting.

After ten minutes, they set off in two groups. One group consisted of Sebastian, Roxanne, and the twins in his Maybach.

The other team consisted of Sasha, who seemed so out of place among everyone else, and Vivian.

Sasha instructed a bodyguard to send a car over before driving off.

"Mommy, I don't like Daddy. He's so mean! I can't believe he didn't let you tag along. Instead, he asked another woman to come!" complained Vivian gloomily as she sat on the children's seat at the back of the car.

Sasha, who was focused on driving, could not help but feel touched when she heard the girl say that.

However, she still tried to educate her the right way. "You can't think that way. Daddy loves all of you. He asked Ms. Rocke to accompany you because he wants to take care of you. You mustn't dislike him, okay?"

I see...

Although Vivian was still quite unhappy when she heard that, she stopped complaining about her father.

They drove for about an hour before arriving at the destination.

As they had departed late, the other children in the preschool and their parents had already arrived at the village.

"Vivi, why are you so late? Everyone has already received their tasks."

"Huh?"

Panting, Sasha reached the field while carrying her daughter. When she saw another parent greeting her, she quickly placed Vivian onto the ground.

"We were caught in traffic congestion. That's why we're late."

"I see. In that case, you can only look for the preschool teacher. There are a lot of tasks today—planting, fruit picking, harvesting, and more. You should see what tasks are left."

The parent was very kind to explain things. When she saw that Sasha and her child had arrived late, she explained what happened in detail.

The trip was not only a family bonding activity, but it was also an opportunity to train the children to work hard.

Sasha and the parent went to look for the preschool teacher.

While Vivian was being led away by Sasha, she started chatting with the kid beside her. "Molly, have you seen my brothers? They came before me."

"Yeah! They went to farm with your father," said Molly enthusiastically to Vivian.

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When Sasha imagined the scene, her eyelids twitched.

Can a man, who was born with a golden spoon, do something like that?

Sasha eventually received the task of fruit picking, just like Molly. It turned out that the tasks were randomized. After everyone finished their tasks, they could exchange some food from the farmers for lunch.

The preschool was quite creative to have come up with such an arrangement.

Sasha and her daughter walked toward the orchard with their baskets in hand. As Vivian had never participated in such activities, she was extremely excited. She and her friend, Molly, kept skipping along the way.

They soon spotted Matteo and Ian in the fields nearby.

"Matt! Ian! I'm here!" exclaimed Vivian happily.

To make sure her brothers could see her, the little girl waved her chubby hands enthusiastically.

Sasha was at a loss for words to see her daughter behave in such a manner.

As expected, the scene in front of her was ridiculous.

Are they farming?

No way! The four of them are actually standing in the fields. Sebastian's wearing a dashing suit, and what about the woman? She's wearing fashionable clothes and a diamond-studded pair of heels!

On the other hand, Sasha had already prepared the two boys for the trip that morning.

They wore sports shoes, a hat, and green shorts that could not be easily dirtied. Hence, they looked like they were actually ready to work.

"Sasha, are they your friends? Why are they dressed like that? How can they work like that?" remarked Karen, Molly's mother, when she saw this scene.

Sasha smiled.

Work? Isn't it better for them to be displayed like monkeys in a zoo?

Sasha ignored them. With her daughter's hand gripped in hers, she turned, about to head toward the orchard.

However, because of Vivian's shouts, the people standing in the fields had already looked over. Roxanne immediately called out to them, "Sasha, wait! What are you going to do now?"

"We're going to pick fruits, Ms. Rocke!"

"Huh? How can you be so lucky? You're picking fruits?"

Roxanne's eyes lit up.

Without caring about Sebastian behind her, she quickly made her way toward Sasha, stumbling on her high heels as she did so.

Sasha looked at her incredulously.

When Roxanne reached her, she suddenly snatched Sasha's basket away. "Sasha, I'll pick the fruits on your behalf. You can farm for me."

Sasha was instantly annoyed. "Are you out of your mind? Why should I exchange tasks with you?"

Roxanne rebuked indignantly, "Because I saved your son! Why can't you swap tasks with me? If I didn't bring your son back from the hospital, he would've died!"

Sasha was at a loss on how to retort her statement.

In the end, she could only watch helplessly as Roxanne snatched both her basket and her daughter away.

What's wrong with her?

Sasha glanced at the man standing in the fields and discovered that his expression had turned gloomy when Roxanne escaped. Even from a distance, she could feel his cold aura.

Do I still have to go there?

Sasha hesitated.

However, she decided to leave the path and head toward the fields.

Although she was reluctant, she heard that they would not have any lunch if they did not complete their tasks. As she did not want her two sons to be hungry, she approached Sebastian.

"Mommy..."

When the two boys spotted her, they ran toward her and hugged her happily.

Stroking their heads, Sasha shot a glance at Sebastian. She wanted to say something, but when she noticed his intimidating and hostile glare, she decided to keep silent.

Instead, she started farming with her two sons.

"Sweeties, let's farm together. Matt, stand beside me and follow me. Little lan, you don't need to come down because the water's cold. You can just pass me the plants, okay?"

"Okay, Mommy!" replied the two boys happily after being instructed by Sasha.

Meanwhile, Sebastian watched coldly at the side.

Now that things had gone out of his control, he was extremely unhappy. He initially wanted Sasha to suffer a harsh blow and realize that she was now being exiled by him.

From now on, she had no right to participate in the Hayes family's affairs.

She would not even have the chance to intervene in his and his children's lives. Her position would be replaced by someone else, and all she had once owned would be gone. In the future, she would have nothing to do with him.

However, things were looking different now.

He was seething in fury.

However, he soon realized that Sasha, who had tagged along unhesitatingly, actually did not know how to farm despite trying to lead the two kids.

She tried to plant the seedlings by following the other parents, but they kept floating up after a while.

"Mommy, why do they keep floating up?"

When Matteo saw it, he widened his large eyes and stared at the seedlings incredulously.

Sasha smiled awkwardly.

After thinking about it, she admitted, "Perhaps I haven't learned how to do it properly. Wait, I'll ask that man over there."

She walked over to a male parent who was planting the seedlings nearby.

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The male parent was extremely enthusiastic when he saw her coming. As he had seen Roxanne earlier, he thought Sasha was not the children's mother.

Hence, he personally started to teach Sasha right in front of Sebastian.

"The water in the fields causes the plants to float. When we plant the seedlings, we must exert a lot more force."

"Force? To what extent?"

"Your finger must reach this depth." The male parent grabbed Sasha's hand, planning to demonstrate how much strength she should use.

When Sebastian witnessed this, he could not hold himself back anymore and yelled, "Sasha, come over here right now! You don't even know how to plant seedlings! Are you stupid?"

Sasha was at a loss for words.

After a short while, she smiled at the male parent awkwardly. "I'm sorry, the kids' father has a bad temper."

The male parent was surprised.

The kids' father? Isn't she unrelated to him? Why is he scolding her so harshly?

While the other parents shot her complex gazes, Sasha returned to Sebastian. Her temper rose as she glared at him unhappily.

"What are you doing, Sebastian? Instead of working, you're throwing a tantrum here. Do you want the kids to go hungry?"

"I'm throwing a tantrum? You can't even do something so simple. Yet, you're shameless enough to ask others!"

Not only did he refuse to reflect on himself, but he was also even meaner and shameless than Sasha.

Furious, Sasha threw a seedling at him. "If you're smart, do it yourself! Don't just stand here motionlessly! If you are capable enough, you should work!" she exclaimed furiously.

That jerk deserves to be taught a lesson!

However, she was in for a surprise. Immediately after she spoke, he took off his socks and shoes, revealing his fair ankles. He then made his way over.

Sasha gaped in shock.

Similarly, Matteo and Ian widened their eyes as they stared at their father.

Daddy's coming? This is surprising! He was standing there with Ms. Rocke earlier for so long, feeling disdainful and disgusted to come down! The other parents even laughed at them! Is he really going to come now?

The two kids moved aside simultaneously and welcomed Sebastian with much enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, Sasha stood there and watched as the elegant man planted his legs into the muddy water.

"Uah!"

When he entered, the muddy water immediately contrasted with his fair skin.

As expected, he frowned and could not help but hiss in disgust.

He was already a clean freak, to begin with, so it was a challenge for him to come to a place like this.

Sasha's anger gradually dissipated.

"Okay, I was joking with you. Go back up, and I'll do this." She picked up the seedlings in front of him and was about to start farming.

However, to her surprise, he shot her a cold glance before waddling into the field directly.

The woman stared at him, utterly stunned.

"Daddy has finally come! Let's plant the seedlings together!"

Matteo clapped his hands happily.

Ian was very happy too. He squatted and passed a seedling to Sebastian, chirping, "Here, Daddy!"

Sebastian took it. It was the first time that he, who dominated the corporate world, felt extremely pleased after being praised.

That's strange.

Even Sasha smiled.

However, she did not dare to praise him. Otherwise, he might lash out at her again due to his ego.

Sasha entered the field, about to teach him how to plant. However, she soon discovered that although he had been standing aside just now, he had managed to plant the seedling firmly on his first try.

"You're amazing, Daddy! You managed to plant it firmly!" When Matteo saw that, he showered his father with praises again.

Sebastian felt even more disdain for Sasha.

"Do you think I'm like your mother? She's as stupid as a pig!"

Sasha almost flung the seedlings at his face in anger.

He's really testing my limits! Why can't he stop bullying me?

However, she controlled herself.

It was true that Sebastian was exceptionally intelligent. Although he only joined the party in the fields later on, he soon mastered the technique. He could plant the seedlings better than the rest.

On the other hand, Sasha was too weak. Every time she planted a seedling, it would still float up.

"Go distribute the seedlings with your sons."

When Sebastian saw that, he snatched the seedlings away from her disdainfully and chased her away.

As it was true that her skills were inferior to his, she had no choice but to do whatever her sons were doing instead.

When the other parents in the fields saw that, they could not help but discuss the situation amongst themselves. "The twin's family sure is efficient. After the father joined them, everything is getting done well. He's much better at this as compared to their mother."