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What do I do? What can I do to gain his trust again?

How do I make sure he doesn't get distracted by anyone else?

She looked down and let the tears fall as she clenched her fists tightly. "Yes, I don't see Ian as my own child, because I want to have one of my own!"

"What?" Sebastian exclaimed, rising from his seat abruptly. "Your own child?"

Xandra looked into his eyes and continued, "Yes, Sebastian, I want a child of my own. I have craved for reciprocated love and emotional contribution from your end for five whole years?"

Sebastian fell silent with a grim expression on his face.

However, Xandra was not going to give up. This was her chance to fight back, and she would not let that chance slip by.

"I feel neglected and scared every night, and I see nothing but you leaving me behind every time I close my eyes," she said sorrowfully. "Don't you know, Sebastian? I was the girl who left you those letters under that magnolia tree for ten years. I didn't want to reveal myself, simply because I was scared that you'll treat me like I was transparent!"

She opened her bag with shaking hands and took something out.

Sebastian narrowed his eyes at the sight of the object that she took out.

It was just an old fountain pen wrapped in an old and yellowing handkerchief, but Sebastian could see the magnolia flower embroidery on its edges from where he was standing.

He curled his fingers instinctively.

"I've never thought of sucking up to you, so I never expected you to write back. You told me afterwards that you'll take care of me for the decades to come in return for the warmth I gave you those ten years, and that's why I went home with you. Don't you remember, Sebastian?" Xandra cried, almost choking on her tears.

Sebastian pinched his fingers together.

He prided himself on his self-control, and he knew Xandra's true intentions. Somehow, he managed to keep his emotions in check despite her irritating attempts to get his attention.

"What do you want, exactly?" he asked.

Xandra looked up with a start, her pitiful act completely forgotten.

What do I want?

I want to return to your side and live like how we used to before!

Without even bothering to wipe her crocodile tears off her face, Xandra blabbered, "No, nothing much. I just wish to go back to Frontier Bay and make up for my mistakes... "

"There's no need, Xandra," Sebastian said coldly. "Now listen up. I won't let you touch my son ever again."

Xandra's hopeful expression disappeared immediately, and her face turned as pale as a sheet. Left with no choice, she decided to change gears.

"Can I come and work here instead? I really miss you, Sebastian. Is there any position that I can fill?" she asked.

"Work here?" Sebastian repeated guietly, eyes still trained on her.

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By the time Sasha heard of Ian's plan to get her a job at the Hayes Corporation, it was already the next afternoon.

Her eyes widened when he told her about his plan. "Why are you telling me to work at your Daddy's company? I'm a doctor! I can work in a hospital!"

lan raised his head to look at her in the eyes as he slung his bag over his shoulders. "I'll go to school if you agree to work at Daddy's company."

Huh?

Sasha stared at him with a perplexed expression on her face.

What has going to school got to do with me working at the scum's company? Since when did he learn to strike deals with people?

Sasha pondered over it for a moment and decided to mention a certain person as a last resort. "You see, Ian, getting into your Daddy's company isn't as easy as you think. Your Daddy doesn't even like me."

She bent down and looked into his eyes as she spoke those words while trying her best to hide her sorrow.

Isn't it true? He'll never let someone like me work at his company. He wouldn't even have let me into his life if not for lan's illness!

However, Ian simply grabbed her hand and dragged her out of the house. "Let's go and see Daddy!"

Huh?

What in the world is happening?

Sasha's eyes widened in shock as she stumbled after lan.

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Sasha tried to stop him, but before she could say anything, a man descended the stairs just a few meters away from them.

"lan? Why are you here? Aren't you supposed to be in school by now?" the man asked as he fussed with his beautifully pressed black suit.

Hidden under his blazer was a dark-colored, handmade dress shirt, and a pair of long pants covered his slender legs. The sunlight shining in from behind him illuminated his perfectly chiseled features, and it made Sasha clench her fists instinctively.

"Daddy, what do you think of the deal I mentioned?" lan asked.

"Your deal?" Sebastian said, a little confused. He stopped to look at his son with a mildly amused expression. "What deal?"

"I'll go to school if you let her work at your company!" lan declared solemnly while pointing at Sasha.

Sebastian froze for a moment before turning around to glance at Sasha.

She could almost see the storm clouds settling on his face, as though he was going to accuse her of feeding words into his son's mouth.

Sasha waved her hands immediately in fear. "Hey, don't look at me like that! He told me that he'll only go to school if you let me work in your company. I don't know what's going on too!"

She shrugged to show her innocence, and the clouds on Sebastian's face seemed to clear a little.

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"lan, why are you trying to get her into Daddy's company? Daddy doesn't run a hospital, you know," Sebastian asked.

"She can take care of you there!" Ian said, crossing his arms in front of his chest.

The two adults' eyes widened when he said that, and Sebastian was furious. "Stop messing around. I don't need anyone to take care of me! Now be a good boy and go to school, lan!"

"No! I won't listen to you unless you listen to me!" Ian shouted, yanking his bag off his back and throwing it onto the ground before stomping off with swollen eyes.

Both adults watched as he left, absolutely dumbfounded.

Oh boy!

After a few seconds, Sasha glared at Sebastian and stomped her feet. "What the hell are you doing? None of this would have happened if you agree to his conditions! You can just give me a position in your company, and you don't even need to pay me. Is that alright?"

Sebastian was a little taken aback by her sudden outburst, and he pondered over it for a few seconds in silence.

Why is it my fault now? It's all your fault for rejecting my offer in the first place!

It took ages for Sasha to convince Ian to pick up his bag again and get ready for school.

Sebastian stood outside lan's room with a grim expression, but he remained silent, much to Sasha's relief.

"Shall I send Mr. Ian to school now, Ms. Wand and Mr. Hayes?"

"Yeah, go ahead."

Sasha waved her hand as a plan formed in her head. What if I just ignored his request and ran off on my own? He won't know about it.

However, Ian waved a tablet in front of her face when he walked past her. "You see this? I can see everything in Daddy's office just by hacking into the cameras!"

Sasha resisted the urge to scream. Her plan had been rendered useless by this revelation.

Ten minutes later, Sasha sighed and headed towards the uniquely numbered Maybach with her bag slung around her shoulder.

She had never ridden in that Maybach, not now, not five years ago. She had told herself to stay away from it at all costs, but Ian had given her no choice.

She could feel her muscles tensing up the moment she saw the man sitting inside, and her breaths quickened as beads of cold sweat began to form on her palms.

Why am I like this?

"Hey! Why are you just standing there? Hurry up and get on!" Sebastian yelled, visibly annoyed. He glanced at his watch impatiently to signal to her just how precious his time was.

Sasha pulled open the door and slipped into the car quickly to distract herself from her thoughts.

Much to her delight, the soft covers of the seats and the pleasant interior of the car calmed her nerves considerably.

Taking in deep breaths of the sweet aroma in the air, she sat up stiffly and pretended to look at the scenery outside.

Looks like I haven't gotten over him yet...