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As Sebastian had been absent from work for a few days, he went into overdrive mode the moment he entered his office.

He was so busy that Luke didn't dare disturb him in the slightest. However, he had no choice but to knock on Sebastian's door when he received the message from Howard. The rays of the morning sun shone through the window, casting a radiant glow on Sebastian's desk where he typed away on his laptop.

"Sir, I've just received word from Howard... According to him, everything is fine with Madam...I mean, Ms. Wand. She transferred the money over to Jackson instead of handing it over to Andy, and is going to work as usual."

His fingers stopped moving when he heard that, and Luke held his breath as he thought Sebastian was about to say something.

However, Sebastian simply continued typing away a few seconds later and said, "No need to report these things to me from now on."

"Huh?" Luke was shocked. "W-What about Howard?"

"The real dimwit should have received enough training by now, right? I want you to send him over, have Howard return, and forget all about this," Sebastian replied coldly, much to Luke's surprise.

Oh, my god! Does he mean he won't care about her anymore? What's with this sudden change in attitude? Just two days ago, he was so worried about her safety that he ignored his own well-being and kept her company throughout the crisis! I don't understand him at all!

Had Luke walked a thorny path all by himself for so long with no sight of hope whatsoever, he would probably be able to understand Sebastian a little better.

Sometimes, it would actually be better to let go and release oneself from the unnecessary pain.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Rind. My dad will be released from prison soon, and I need to rebuild the family business with the money I made. As such, I have no choice but to resign from the company," Sasha said as she handed Andy her resignation letter.

Although she had been in conflict with that Wall Street titan at first, the company did look after her in the end.

Andy too, had a pained expression on his face when he heard about her leaving.

"Sigh... The company is going to lose a valuable employee, then..."

"You give me too much credit, Mr. Rind. There are plenty of other employees here much being more capable than I am. Besides, my family business also engages in trading, so we might even become business partners in the future."

"Really?"

Feeling slightly better after hearing that, Andy approved of her resignation and even gave her a million as a reward for her hard work.

Sasha then left the office happily with the money and headed over to the mall. As she would soon return to the country, she wanted to buy some presents for her kids, Jackson, Sharon, and Sebastian.

"Say, isn't that the girl from RockePharma?"

"Yeah, what do you think? She looks beautiful, doesn't she? Who would've thought a medical nerd like her would have such a pretty face, eh? Too bad she's already married! If I'm not mistaken, that guy she's clinging on to should be her husband."

Sasha froze when she heard that.

There isn't a single doctor out there that hasn't heard of RockePharma, the world-renowned pharmaceutical company owned by the Rocke family. Are they talking about Roxanne?

Sasha looked up slowly, and her gaze fell upon the huge LED monitor in the mall.

"According to the photographs published by the journalists, the president of RockePharma has held a birthday party for his wife with both Roxanne and her fiancé in attendance. Being the heir to the Hayes Corporation, her fiancé is also considered to be a prominent figure in the world of business! With such a grand appearance from both families, could it be that a wedding is in order?" said a reporter from the entertainment news station.

As RockePharma had been established overseas, it was a lot more popular among the general public than Hayes Corporation.

That popularity was the main reason the mall had chosen to display the news as it would attract more customers.

Sasha felt a shiver down her spine as she continued staring at the screen.

A grand appearance from both families? A wedding is to be expected?

Sebastian and Roxanne's interactions looked very intimate in the footage. Dressed in a bright red gown, she was clinging to his arm with her body pressed tightly against his.

To make matters worse, Sebastian showed no sign of resistance whatsoever. In fact, he even held her steady when they entered the hotel so she wouldn't trip over her gown.

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A sharp pain tore through her heart, and it hurt so much that even breathing felt painful.

Having lost whatever feelings of excitement she had earlier, Sasha placed the items back on the shelf.

"Would you like to purchase this item, miss?" the salesgirl asked.

"No, thanks..." Sasha replied emotionlessly and dragged herself out of the mall.

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She was so absent-minded that she didn't even know how she got home. All she remembered doing was locking herself up in her bedroom straight till nightfall.

Lance soon returned home with Vivian and was surprised to see an empty living room.

"Where's your mommy? Is she still out?" he asked as he had bought a lot of ingredients to make their favorite dishes.

Vivian climbed off him and went looking for Sasha in her bedroom.

"Mommy? Are you in there? It's me, Vivi! Uncle Lance bought us a lot of ingredients today! Come on out, Mommy!" she shouted in her usual childish voice while knocking on the door, but there was no response.

Lance quickly came upstairs and carried Vivian in his arms as he said, "I think your mommy isn't home yet. She's probably busy running some errands outside. Come on, let's wait for her downstairs. I'll make you something delicious!"

"Okay..."

Vivian could only pout as she went downstairs with Lance.

Little did they know, Sasha slowly opened the door after they left and slowly dragged herself out of the room.

"Will Mommy come home for dinner tonight, Uncle Lance? You even bought her favorite crabs!"

"Hmm, I'm not sure... If she doesn't, we'll just keep it in the refrigerator and cook it when she comes back, okay?"

"Okay!"

Vivian clapped her hands in satisfaction.

Lance smiled back at her as he continued unpacking the daily necessities that he bought.

"Vivi, if your mommy doesn't come home before we go to bed tonight, I want you to tell her tomorrow that I bought you two all these stuff. They were mailed all the way here from Clear, got it?" he said while waving tubes of toothpaste and bottles of children's shampoo in front of her.

Those were all stuff that Sasha had wanted to purchase from Clear. As Vivian had sensitive skin, most of the commercial products available in the market weren't suitable for her.

As such, Sasha had no choice but to purchase them all from Clear Hospital.

I appreciate that he's helped me with the purchase, but... Why did he have to buy so much of it at once? Three months is a pretty long time, so he could just wait till we run out before placing an order for it...

Sasha thought to herself as she looked at them from the corridor above.

After instructing Vivian on the daily necessities, Lance then pulled out his wallet and handed her a few credit cards.

"Also, could you hold on to these for me?"

"What is this?" Vivian asked innocently.

Wait, those are the credit cards that I gave him! I've always been busy with work, so I had no choice but to task him with managing everything in the house. I gave him the credit cards so he could purchase the daily necessities and groceries. The money isn't much, but it's enough for...

Sasha narrowed her eyes and trembled slightly as she was hit with a sudden realization.

"Your mommy gave me these. Let's play a game tonight, Vivi. Your goal is to keep these safe for me, okay? You can return them to me when I come back tomorrow morning."

"Okay!"

Vivian naively clutched those cards tightly against her chest like they were some sort of precious treasure.

Lance's eyes reddened a little, but he fought off the urge to sniffle and gave Vivian an affectionate pinch on the nose before heading into the kitchen.

Having witnessed everything from upstairs, Sasha teared up as she ran back into her room and shut the door once again.

She never knew he was by her side the whole time, let alone the fact that he had let go of her by fulfilling her wishes.

Six months later, it was almost time for the birthdays of lan and Matteo.

"Sebastian, where do you plan on celebrating the boys' birthdays? This is Matteo's first birthday with us after returning to our family, so we have to make it a grand one!"

Frederick had come all the way to Frontier Bay in person just for the event.

Sebastian was putting on his coat before leaving for the office when he heard that. "Sure, you can make the arrangements," he replied with a nod.

Frederick's face was instantly filled with joy.

"Okay, we'll have it at a hotel, then. I'll invite everyone from the Hayes family over and get them formally introduced to Matteo. As for his mother's side..."

"That won't be necessary!" Sebastian cut him off the moment he mentioned Sasha.

The look on Frederick's face changed immediately. "What if people ask about the child's mother?"

"We've got Roxanne, haven't we? You can just invite her family over instead. We're engaged, so she'll be the mother of those children from then on. Don't you stir up any trouble now."

Sebastian grew impatient all of a sudden, and his tone grew a lot colder too.

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Of course... He doesn't remember a thing about that girl, so it makes sense that he wouldn't want to hear her name. Given the way he had treated her in the past, I suppose it's for the better...

Frederick let out a sigh at the thought of that and said no further.

Sebastian then headed for the office, and Frederick left shortly after as well.

To his surprise, however, he saw a beautiful woman and an adorable little girl waiting for him when he arrived at the Hayes residence.

"Go greet your grandpa, Vivi!" Sasha whispered and gave Vivian a gentle nudge when she saw Frederick.

Vivian had seen Frederick before, but she still felt a little nervous as they never got to spend much time together.

Regardless, she did as told and walked up to him as she said, "Hello, Grandpa! I'm Vivi!"

Her voice sounded so cute that it melted Frederick's heart and brought him to tears of joy on the spot.

"You've finally returned! Oh, I've missed you so much! Come on, come to grandpa!"

Frederick was so overwhelmed by emotions that he tossed his walking stick aside and bent over to carry Vivian in his arms.

He loved each and every one of his grandchildren very much, and even Sasha teared up a little as she observed that touching moment from the side.

She waited till Frederick had calmed down before approaching them. "Mr. Hayes, I brought Vivi here to see you because my dad will be released from prison soon, and I don't think I'll be leaving anymore."

"Huh? Really? You'll stay here from now on?" Frederick went wide-eyed with surprise.

"Yeah, really. I've made some money during my time overseas, so I'm going to rebuild the Wand family once my dad comes home. That was also the reason why I worked in Wall Street," Sasha replied decisively.

Frederick got emotional once again. "That's good to hear! Will I be able to see my precious granddaughter often, then?"

"Of course you can. I brought her over today to say hi, after all. Oh, one more thing... The kids' birthdays are only a few days away, so I was hoping to let Vivi celebrate hers together with her brothers," Sasha voiced out her request hesitantly.

Frederick smacked himself on the lap when he heard that. "Why, of course! They're triplets, so it's only natural to have them celebrate their birthdays together! Don't worry, I'll make the arrangements!"

Sasha smiled, feeling relieved that she had made the right decision.

The two of them stayed over for lunch in the afternoon, and Frederick went as far as having a chef from a five-star restaurant owned by Hayes Corporation come over to prepare that meal.

That was a luxurious treatment that no one else in that household had ever enjoyed.

Luke was so shocked when he heard about it at the office that he nearly spilled his coffee all over the floor.

What the hell is going on? Why would she come over when Sebastian has just decided to cut ties with her? Heck, she even went straight to the core of the family! This sudden turn of events sure is suspicious...

Those thoughts made Luke incredibly restless, and he didn't dare tell Sebastian about it until it was time to get off work.

When he saw Sebastian return to his office after a meeting with his client, Luke mustered up the courage and ran up to him.

"Mr. Hayes, did you know that Ms. Wand is back?"

"What did you say?"

Sebastian looked up immediately upon hearing that, and his response made Luke even more nervous.

"I heard about it earlier in the afternoon. She suddenly returned with Ms. Vivian and went straight to the Hayes residence where the two of them had lunch."

The office fell into a deafening silence, and Luke's palms were covered in sweat from the suffocating tension.

The atmosphere in the room was so tense that it felt as if the air had frozen over, and he didn't dare say a word nor move a muscle.

"Why did she come back?"

"I don't know, but I heard it has something to do with the Wand family and her dad's release from prison."

That was the only thing Luke could recall at the time.

For the Wand family? Oh, right... Of course! Why else would she come back otherwise?

"Don't bring this up in front of me ever again. As for Dad, he can hang out with them all he likes, so you don't have to report that to me in the future either," Sebastian said calmly as if nothing had ever happened.

Is he seriously going to end it all like this? Just ignore everything and forget about everything? If he cared about her, he would've done everything in his power to stop her from seeing his dad or even make some sarcastic remarks about it. But no, he's just completely ignoring them right now... If this is how he's going to be, then he might as well have his memories erased for real...

Luke couldn't help but feel a little sad at the thought of that.

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Sasha was a little busy throughout the next couple of days.

Having returned with Lance, the two of them had to renovate their family home.

As such, the two of them had no time to look after Vivian and had to leave her at the Hayes Residence.

"Sha, Sebastian hasn't come to visit us at all... Are you sure it's okay to leave Vivi there with them?" Lance asked worriedly.

He had become a lot more reserved and sentimental ever since that eventful night in Moranta.

Sasha flashed him a slight smile and said, "Of course it's okay! He's Vivi's grandpa, and we have a lot on our hands right now. I don't see anything wrong with having him look after her for a few days."

"All right, then..."

Having no better idea himself, Lance could only go along with Sasha's arrangement.

The Wand residence was starting to look a lot more presentable after two days of renovation, and Sasha went to pick Vivian back from Hayes residence.

"Hi, Mr. Hayes. I'm done with the renovations at my place, so I've come to bring Vivi home. Thanks for looking after her throughout the past two days."

"What? Leaving already? Why don't you let her stay another couple of days? I've told her brothers over at Frontier Bay about this, so they'll be coming over to play with their sister over the weekend."

Frederick was reluctant to part with his granddaughter and looked sad the moment he heard she was leaving.

He even went as far as telling Sasha he would bring Matteo and Ian over just so she would change her mind.

The idea of letting the three of them play together did seem like a great one, and even Sasha found herself a little moved by it.

"I want to stay here with Grandpa, Mommy! I want to play with Matt and Ian!" Vivian wrapped her arms around Sasha's leg and begged to stay.

Fine, I guess I'll just let her stay here for another two days... I still need to add some furniture to our house anyway...

With that in mind, Sasha agreed to let Vivian stay.

The next day was a Saturday, and Frederick had someone bring the two brothers over. Having been separated for about half a year, the three siblings got really carried away playing with each other.

"Vivi, is it true that Mommy won't take you overseas again?"

"Yeah! Vivi will stay here from now on!" Vivian said happily, feeling overjoyed to have her brothers by her side again.

Matteo and Ian exchanged glances upon hearing that.

It's great that Mommy won't be leaving the country anymore, but... They've been here for quite some time now, so why hasn't Daddy paid them a visit yet? Come to think of it, Daddy has never mentioned a thing about it in Frontier Bay!

The two of them frowned at the thought of that.

"We should have Mommy and Daddy meet up."

"How will we do that?"

"We'll have both Mommy and Daddy come over for a meal! That way, they'll be able to meet each other!"

Matteo had always been the one with brilliant ideas and proposed his plan to them.

lan gave it some thought and agreed with his suggestion.

"Okay, I'll call Mommy right away and tell her to come over tonight!" Vivian was thrilled and offered to call Sasha herself.

Being the eldest of the three, Ian naturally took up the task of calling Sebastian.

Sasha was painting the moldy walls in the house when she received the call, and she broke into a faint smile when she heard Vivian inviting her over for dinner.

"What's the matter, Vivi? It's been so many days now, and you still don't feel like coming home?"

"No, it's not that! It's... We've prepared a huge surprise for you tonight, Mommy!"

Vivian wasn't really good at lying and nearly exposed their plans.

A big surprise, huh? Okay, I'll head over and see what surprise these kids have in store for me!

With a huge smile on her face, Sasha hung up the phone and called out to Lance who was busy moving the furniture, "Go get ready, Lennie! We're heading over to the Hayes residence for dinner with Vivi!"

"Oh, okay!"

Lance happily put his stuff down and ran off to get changed.

In the evening, the two of them arrived at Hayes residence as promised.

"Hello, Tim."

"Ah, Ms. Wand, you're here! Come on in! Mr. Hayes Sr. has already had someone prepare the food, so we're all just waiting for you and Mr. Hayes to arrive."

Sasha, who had deliberately worn a brand new dress for the dinner, felt her heart skip a beat when she heard what Tim said.

Mr. Hayes? Huh... These kids sure don't disappoint!

With that in mind, she entered the house feeling excited.

While it was true that her children did not disappoint her, Sebastian did by not showing up, and he didn't even bother calling to inform them.

"Um... I'm sorry, Sasha... You see, Sebastian doesn't really remember certain things, and he hardly ever comes here these days, so please don't take it to heart. I'll be sure to give him a proper lecture later on!" Frederick quickly explained when he saw how upset Sasha looked because of Sebastian's absence.

Sasha's pale lips twitched slightly upon hearing that.

He doesn't remember? No, he does. I'm the only one here who knows he didn't really get his memory erased... So, what does it mean if he chose not to show up?

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With a wry smile on her face, Sasha headed back home feeling utterly disappointed.

It pained Vivian to see her mommy so upset. "Why didn't Daddy come over for dinner, Mommy? Does he not want us anymore?"

Sasha didn't know what to say in response to her question.

Maybe he really doesn't want us anymore... No... Now that I've decided to take the first step, I won't let him abandon us!

Having regained her fighting spirit, she gave Vivian's chubby body a hug and said, "No, Daddy is just a little busy, that's all. Since we're moving in tomorrow, we can go to Frontier Bay and invite them over for a meal! Both Daddy and your brothers. What do you think?"

"Okay!"

Vivian giggled and clapped her hands happily.

Avoiding me, are you? Fine, I'll show up at your doorstep, then! Let's see how you can hide from that!

Sasha thought to herself with a decisive look in her eyes.

After Matteo and Ian returned to Royal Court One in Frontier Bay, the two of them ran upstairs to confront Sebastian who was in the study.

"Why didn't you show up for dinner at Grandpa's, Daddy? Was that on purpose?"

Roxanne was in the study too, and she quickly defended Sebastian when she heard what Matteo said. "That's where you're wrong, Matteo. Can't you see that your daddy is busy working right now?"

However, that only made Matteo even angrier.

"That's not true! You wouldn't let Daddy go because you're afraid of him seeing Mommy! Do you think I don't know your plans, you evil woman?"

"You..."

Roxanne got mad and stood up from the couch.

Ian quickly pulled his brother behind him. "What are you doing?"

Despite his young age, his tone was almost as cold as Sebastian's, much to Roxanne's chagrin.

Eventually, she swallowed her anger and walked up to Sebastian who had been sitting quietly by the desk the whole time. "Sebastian Hayes! Are you going to just sit around and let your kids slander me like this?"

The way she had rudely addressed him by his full name was a lot different from Xandra's more cautious approach.

However, what Roxanne failed to realize was the fact that she had changed a lot over time.

Instead of just losing her temper and lashing out angrily on the spot like she normally would have, Roxanne was actually trying to please Sebastian without even noticing it.

Having taken a shower and changed into a light grey casual attire, Sebastian's icy-cold aura had diminished significantly with the faint scent of shower gel and relaxed appearance.

However, that only made the cold look in his eyes a lot more intense as he glared at them.

"lan, take your brother downstairs and go to bed."

"Why?"

"You two went over to your Grandpa's today without my permission. Ian, I'm being very lenient here by allowing you boys to see her, but you'd better not push it or you'll regret it dearly!" Sebastian said, and the cold look in his eyes made it clear that he wasn't kidding.

Matteo's eyes reddened as he stood behind lan.

"Daddy, you meanie! I don't love you anymore!" he shouted as he ran off with tears rolling down his face, and his cries could be heard from the study upstairs for quite a long time.

lan went livid with rage and glared daggers at Sebastian before going after his brother.

Roxanne grinned gleefully as she watched from the side.

Despite being overjoyed, she put on a magnanimous act and said, "Now, now... Don't be so angry, Sebastian. They're still kids, after all!"

I was actually worried about Sasha's sudden return as I feared Sebastian would go see her and end up rekindling their past relationship. However, it seems my concerns were completely unnecessary after all! Sebastian's cold and indifferent attitude toward her proves that his memory has truly been erased!

With that in mind, Roxanne left the room with a huge smile on her face.

A few minutes later, Sebastian came downstairs to see Matteo and Ian.

"The boys are already asleep, Mr. Hayes," Wendy said.

She had come over to comfort them and tuck them in when she heard Matteo crying earlier.

Sebastian gave her a slight nod and scanned the bedroom to make sure they were really asleep.

He was about to return to his bedroom upstairs when Wendy called out to him from behind, "Wait, Mr. Hayes! There's something I need to talk to you about!"

In view of her many years of service, Sebastian stopped in his tracks and turned around to face her.

Wendy swallowed nervously before continuing, "Mr. Hayes, they're still too young to understand adult affairs. Right now, all they wish for is to be with their parents. If you have the time, and if they aren't asking for too much, perhaps you could try to fulfill their request."

Given her status as a housemaid, what she said was really out of line, and Sebastian had a displeased look on his face when he heard that.