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## The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 101 - 103

Since Sebastian had made it explicit that he wanted Sasha out of Avenport, the bodyguard had no choice but to do as he was asked to. After sorting things out with the bodyguard, Sebastian went upstairs again and got ready for work. Just as he was about to leave his room, his phone rang again. He groaned and picked it up. "What is it?" he asked impatiently. "Mr. Hayes, you don't care about your son anymore, do you? I'll kill your son if you dare hang up again!" Sebastian rolled his eyes at the familiar voice. "Hey, what do you want? Money? If you're thinking about ripping me off, dream on. I have no time for games!" Sebastian's patience was wearing thin. The day sure did not start well with these annoying calls bothering him.

"It seems like you don't believe that I have your son, Mr. Hayes. Fine then, I'll send you a picture of him, and you can take a look for yourself. Make sure you come prepared with one billion!" The kidnapper hung up without waiting for a reply. Sebastian stared at his phone in disbelief before the screen lighted up again. He just received a photo from the man. Instantly, he tapped on it and zoomed in on the child. It was indeed a photo of a child being held hostage. Sebastian could not tell where the place was, but the kid in an orange jacket was bound up with thick ruffian ropes on a small chair.

His complexion was fair, and his cheeks were chubby. Although his eyes were covered with a rugged black cloth, his mouth and his nose were still visible. Sebastian squinted his eyes at the boy, perplexed. *Well, this sure looks like Ian. But Ian is in my room.* Sebastian headed out of the room with his eyes on his phone, still taken aback by how much the boy in the photo looked so similar to his son. He was so surprised he did not even notice Ian was already out of bed and was standing by the staircase leading to the second floor. Still in a daze, Ian stared at him blankly with his Transformers toy in his hand. Sebastian heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Ian. He deleted the photo in his phone and bolted down the stairs towards Ian. "I didn't know you're awake. Why didn't you change out of your pajamas?" Sebastian reached out toward him, wanting to bring him back to his room for a change. But Ian took a step back and looked at Sebastian, his face white as a sheet. "Were you on the phone with someone, Daddy? I heard someone got kidnapped." Sebastian was astonished Ian actually overheard his call. He waved his hand dismissively, saying,

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"It's nothing. You heard it wrong. It's a call from the office." "I know what I heard, Daddy. Someone said your son has been kidnapped, right?" Ian looked at Sebastian in the eyes with his hands clenched up tightly as he reiterated his question. "Well, yeah... But you're here, so it must be a prank call." Sebastian shrugged his shoulders, not understanding why his son was so worked up. The boy stood there quietly, and his body started quivering. For a moment, Sebastian thought he was seeing things. Ian seemed disconcerted, and his face was so pale. "Are you okay, Ian? Did you catch a cold?" Sebastian dropped the topic and went closer, wanting to bring Ian back to the room. "Let's go get changed, okay? You're gonna catch a cold if you're dressed so thinly." Ian sprang away from him instantly and dashed down the staircase towards the door.

Sebastian was totally taken aback seeing the boy running amok. "Ian! Come back! What's wrong with you?" Sebastian darted after him, his furious voice reverberating along the staircase. *Seriously, I really have to teach this boy a good lesson! Since when is he this rebellious?* Sebastian chased after Ian and finally caught him at the collar and tugged him back in. "What do you think you're doing, Ian Hayes? Do you want to stand in the corner?" Sebastian bellowed at the wild child. "Let me go! I want to go and find Ms. Nancy! Let me go!" Ian screamed and kicked all he could to free himself from Sebastian's grip. Even his voice was wobbling and breaking into tears. He knew something must have happened to Matteo.

Thus, he had to find Mommy and see if everything was okay. After he got home yesterday, he tried calling Matteo when he finally got a grip of himself, but none of his calls went through. Ian called him again in the morning, but still, he could not reach Matteo. That was when Ian knew something must have gone wrong. Hence, he was stunned when he overheard the call at the staircase. *Did someone mistake Matteo for me? Did someone kidnap him?* Guilt came eating him up from the inside as these questions spun in his mind. He huffed and puffed, trying to break free from Sebastian. His shrieks and struggles infuriated Sebastian. The enraged father was on the verge of slapping the kid in his face to make him calm down.

But Sebastian could not bring himself to do it. He felt helpless looking at Ian demanding to go back to Sasha. *Why does he insist on going back to that woman? After everything I've done to make sure she stays away from him, he still wants to go back to her even when he doesn't know she's his mother. Is there really such a thing as an inexplicable bond between a mother and her child?* Sebastian let out a sigh and finally caved. "Fine. I will bring you to her, but you have to promise me you'll go get changed. You can't go out wearing your pajamas." "I'll go right now!" Ian cried out and instantly rushed upstairs. Behind the boy, Sebastian raised his brows in resignation and shook his head. *Whatever. This will be the last time he's*

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seeing her anyway. And this time, I will make sure I get this point across when I see her. She will never be seeing Ian again. While waiting, Sebastian craned his neck impatiently and went upstairs to get his car keys.

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Ian got ready within ten minutes, and the two headed to Old Town.

Sebastian never probed into where Sasha was living as he had always thought she was staying with her uncle. After all, that was what she told him.

It was not until today that he found out that Sasha actually lied to him and that she had found another place to stay.

This obviously did not set Sebastian in a good mood. Thus, he drove Ian to Old Town without saying a word. This neighborhood is simply too squalid and slummy. His nose wrinkled in disgust as he looked around.

Beside him, Ian's reaction was totally different.

As the car drove nearer to Sasha's place, Ian poked his head out of the window and looked around in expectation. He was looking for her, and Sebastian could tell from his actions that his son could not wait to see her. That little boy was scanning the area meticulously, trying to get a sign of his mother.

Sebastian eyed the eager kid from the corner of his eyes and pursed his lips. Too bad this is the last time she gets to see Ian. The car drove towards an apartment, but Sebastian could not find a place to park since a large crowd had gathered at the entrance. Right in the middle of the group was a little girl who was holding a stranger's hand. The person was trying to calm her down.

Vivi!

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The moment Ian spotted her, he asked Sebastian to stop the car. He then jumped off immediately and ran over, pushing his way through the crowd.

“Vivi!” he shouted with all his strength.

Vivian turned her head around, trying to locate the direction of the familiar voice. Her frightened gaze wandered around aimlessly.

Ian! Ian’s here!

The moment Vivian saw Ian, she let go of the man’s hand and darted toward Ian. She ran as she tried to hold back her tears welling up in her eyes. “Ian! You’re here!”

She planted herself right in his open arms.

Vivian was terrified after a whole night of anxious waiting. Sasha did not come home, and neither did her two brothers. This was the biggest fright of her life. When she finally saw a familiar face, she could not hold it in any longer.

Ian instantly realized the despair on her face and welcomed his sister into his embrace.

A frown of disdain settled on Sebastian’s brows as he looked at the little girl in Ian’s arms. Isn’t this the girl I saw at the hospital yesterday? She’s the illegitimate daughter of that woman.

“What’s the matter? Why are you here? Where’s your mother?”

Regardless of the aversion Sebastian felt towards the girl, he went closer and asked her what all this mess was about.

Beckoned by a stern and unfamiliar voice, Vivi looked up and hid behind Ian.

Both Sebastian and Ian suddenly became speechless.

After a while, Ian turned around and asked gently, “Vivi, what happened? Where is Matt?”

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Vivi stole a timid look at Sebastian and then at her brother before finally talking again. "Matt came home after you left yesterday. When he heard that you're gone, he went out to look for you, but he hasn't been home ever since then. He went missing, and Mommy went looking for him... And now, Mommy is missing as well..."

Vivian finally lost it and broke down in tears, wailing away at the top of her voice.

Ian's hands dropped from his sister's shoulders in shock when he heard everything.

Meanwhile, Sebastian looked at his son's reaction and the crying girl and was left confused. "Who went missing?" he asked again.

"Matt... The bad guys got him..." Vivian answered again.

"Who is Matt?" Sebastian inquired hastily.

"My brother... Could you help me find him?" Vivian wiped away her tears and blinked her imploring eyes at Sebastian, hoping to get help. Although she knew the man standing before her was her father, she thought it would be better not to call him so without Mommy's permission.

Vivian's request elicited an unexpected response from Sebastian. A mocking smile broke across his strikingly handsome face, making Vivian withdrew in fear.

"So, are you telling me that your mother has another child other than you?"

Vivian looked at him in silence.

Yeah... Mommy has two more kids... Ian and Matt. We're all Mommy's babies.

Looking at Sebastian's expression, Ian decided to step in and begged him to help. "Daddy, please save Matteo before it's too late."

"Why should I save him? He's not related to me," Sebastian asked in return.

His tone was scornful and indignant.

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Seriously, this woman never fails to surprise me. Not only has she an illegitimate daughter, but she also has another son. Hah! The last thing I would want to do is to associate myself with that disgusting woman!

Just as Sebastian was about to reject his son's entreat, his phone rang.

"Sebastian Hayes, do you really want your kid to die? Fine! I'll give you what you want!"

Over the phone, there was a series of ruffling noises before a deafening gunshot pierced through the noises. Almost concurrently, a desperate scream joined in the commotion. "No!" A woman's raucous shout came right after the gunshot.

Sebastian's mind went blank instantly.

Even he could feel the anguish of the woman from her scream.

Right then, Ian's choking pleas shook Sebastian back to reality. The kid had heard the gunshot from the phone and broke down as he clung to Sebastian's leg. "Daddy, I hate you! Why didn't you save Mommy? Why didn't you save Matteo?"

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Instead of waiting for Sebastian to come around, Ian pulled Vivian's hand and ran off. They did not know where they had to go to seek help, but all they knew was they had to do something to find their Mommy and save Matteo. After a while, Sebastian finally came back to his senses and ran over to the two children. "Hey! Where do you think you're going?" "Let us go! We want to go save Mommy!" Ian bellowed in uncontrollable rage. He glared at Sebastian with his eyes full of hatred as he pushed his hand away forcefully. It did not take long before Ian realized his blunder. He had shouted "

Mommy" twice when he was lashing out at Sebastian. To Ian's surprise, instead of interrogating him, Sebastian seemed unusually calm. He looked at the two kids for a few seconds and dragged them into the car. "Stay inside!" Speaking, he slammed the door

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behind them and went to the driver's seat before the car zoomed off. Within a few minutes, the black Maybach was already out of Old Town when Luke called. "Mr. Hayes, I've got their whereabouts. They are in an abandoned vessel by the pier. We've already sent some helicopters and snipers over." "Got it." Sebastian hung up after receiving news from Luke. He straightened his back and stepped hard on the pedal as the car sped down the street. Although he was caught in a tense situation, his face did not betray any emotions. Sebastian drove on steadily, just as he would any other day when he was going to work. Despite his cool, it was obvious that he took this incident seriously. After all, he had sent out helicopters and a few snipers.

This itself was enough to illustrate how severe the situation was. A glimmer of zest broke out on the abductor's face when his phone rang – he had been waiting anxiously for Sebastian's call for the past fifteen minutes. "Mr. Hayes, have you made up your mind?" "Where's the kid?" Sebastian ignored his question and interrogated the man about the child instead. "How do you know he's not dead?" The man asked after a slight pause. An apathetic chuckle came from Sebastian's side. "I figured you won't kill the child, 'cause it's money you want. Besides, it's not like you have the guts to kill my son. You can't afford to." Sebastian's threats rendered the man speechless. What Sebastian said was true, so the kidnapper had nothing to say in retaliation. "Well, yes, the child is still alive. I hope you've got the money ready." "I have the one billion you want, but you'll have to prove to me that the child is still alive," Sebastian negotiated calmly but firmly. One billion was not a small amount, so Sebastian thought he had better err on the cautious side and make sure Matteo was alive. After all, Sebastian Hayes would never make a losing bargain.

The man half-expected Sebastian's request. Thus, he fiddled with his phone for a bit and switched the voice call to a video call. When the video got less grainy and Sebastian could finally take a good look at the hostage, he finally understood why it was not a prank call. The kidnapper really had a child with him. But he was not the only person in the video. There was another woman. Although her face was splattered with blood, she had her shaking arms around the boy. "What are you doing? Don't touch him!" the injured woman yelled. When the woman realized the man had them caught on a video, her arms tightened around the child she was protecting, trying to shield him from harm. *Sasha Wand!* Without Sebastian himself realizing, a hint of anger sparkled in his eyes as he narrowed his eyes at the familiar figure. "Get lost, woman! Or I'll kill both of you!"

The man shouted and lifted his leg to kick Sasha's back mercilessly. "Mommy!" Matteo bawled the moment Sasha fell to the ground. The impact sent a fresh flow of blood gushing out of her shoulder as she hit against the cold, wet floor. On the other hand, Sebastian's face was taut with concentration. His nails dug deep into the leather steering wheel as his grip

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intensified. "Mommy!" Matteo cried out frantically as he knelt in front of Sasha, demented with worry and fear. "Come over here, you brat! Come over if you don't want your mother to die!"

The man gave Matteo a brutal tug and dragged the five-year-old over effortlessly, like an eagle preying on a small animal. "Let him go!" Sasha scrambled desperately towards the brute, stumbling her way to Matteo. Her body was soaked in blood, and yet, she was relentless. The man booted her aside and brought Matteo closer so Sebastian could see him. Sebastian almost hit the brake pedal in an emergency when he saw the boy. What he saw hit him like a lightning bolt. He jerked his head closer to the screen and scrutinized the boy before his eyes. *Who is he? Ian? Wait, no! Ian's in the car. Who on earth is this boy? Why does he look so much like Ian?* His eyelids twitched as he looked at Matteo. An inexplicable glint flashed in his eyes as Sebastian fixed his gaze on the child.

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