

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 226

“Sasha?” He tilted his head at her in puzzlement.

However, Sasha had gone silent as she stood by the door. Her legs were frozen to the spot and there seemed to be a storm brewing in her pretty eyes as they stayed fixated on two particular people inside the hall.

That’s Xandra!

She’s really here. Xandra was wearing an expensive and exquisite gown, paired with jewelry that Sasha had never even seen before.

She was obediently standing beside Frederick right then, pouring him some tea with a flattering smile on her face.

“Mr. Hayes, allow me to pour you some tea. I just brought it back from Jetroina. Try it.”

After brewing the tea, Xandra politely offered it to him. Anyone who witnessed this would no doubt praise her for being a sensible and well-behaved lady.

Frederick, who was chatting with his family members, turned toward her. Then he reached out to accept the teacup in her hand. “Let the other elders try some as well.”

“Alright, Mr. Hayes.”

Xandra beamed at his suggestion.

She started brewing more tea and poured them into cups before serving them to all the Hayes and the Emmanuels, buttering them up as she went.

Sasha took an unsteady step backward.

As she watched this scene, her heart felt as though it had been stabbed, and her vision turned blurry suddenly.

“Sasha? Are you okay? What’s wrong?” Brandon rushed to her side to support her.

However, Sasha had already retreated into herself. There was a buzzing sound in her ears as disappointment and sadness spread through her veins. All she felt was a suffocating coldness and as though her heart was being carved right out of her chest.

Why?

Has Mr. Hayes abandoned me too? Is it because I’m no longer his daughter-in-law that he doesn’t see me as his family anymore?

But he promised he would treat me like a daughter after Mom and Dad left. He promised.

Sasha had never been so heartbroken.

This pain was completely different from being hurt by his son. She had always understood that Sebastian wasn’t obligated to give her what she yearned for.

Hence, she could still accept the outcome.

Whenever he hurt her, she would already be mentally prepared and could handle whatever he sent her way.

However, after witnessing this exchange, she was about to fall apart at the seams.

Why is he doing this to me?

Did I really do something wrong? Didn’t he promise to treat me like his own daughter? Why is he being so nice to this woman just after agreeing to let me divorce his son?

He used to love the tea I brewed for him, but now she has taken my place.

Tears rolled down Sasha’s face. Without even saying hello, she turned around and walked away in despair.

“Where are you going, Sasha?”

Brandon immediately went after her.

What the two of them didn't know was that the woman inside had long since spotted them. Right then, a triumphant smirk formed on her lips.

Did you really think you could win, Sasha? In your dreams!

...

At Hayes Corporation.

Sebastian had been busy with company matters all morning. As the big boss, naturally, he had to review the year-end statistical reports of every department.

Finally having a moment to himself, he was about to drink some water when his phone rang.

“Hello?”

“Daddy, Mommy has gone out for a long time.”

It was Ian. Though his words were short and concise, Sebastian detected a trace of anxiousness in his voice.

She went out? Where did she go?

Sebastian frowned and patiently reassured his son. “Did she go out to do something? Have you asked Ms. Dolivo?”

“Yes, but Matteo said that something's wrong with Mommy.”

Sebastian was quiet for a while.

Before he could speak, a rustling sound drifted over the phone and soon came another child's voice.

“Daddy, there’s definitely something wrong with Mommy. You have to find her quickly. I checked already. Her GPS tracker shows that she’s in the city’s east. There aren’t any supermarkets or malls in the east, only hotels and high-end residential areas. Why would Mommy go there?”

Sebastian remained silent.

“Also, Daddy. I hacked into Mommy’s phone and found that she has been texting someone with the number 130XXXXX for the past two days. I also saw that Mommy has a meeting with him today!”

Matteo spoke very quickly. After relaying his discoveries, his short and chubby fingers flew across the tablet in his hand.

Sebastian felt his phone vibrate and lowered it from his ear. Then he saw that a WhatsApp screenshot and a GPS tracker location had been sent to his phone.

Sebastian was bereft of speech.

He didn’t know how to react to his son’s otherworldly abilities, so he decided to click on what was sent to him instead.

At first glance, he noticed that the WhatsApp screenshot was a rather familiar chat history.

“Isn’t this the chat history with Ms. Fischer?”

“Ms. Fischer? How’s that possible? She’s still in Clear. If she came here, she would definitely have visited us by now, but we haven’t seen her so far. How can it be Ms. Fischer.”

Matteo immediately shot down that possibility.

Sebastian narrowed his eyes and finally sensed something amiss.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 227

Hence, he immediately opened the location, finally verifying his suspicions. The GPS showed the hotel under Hayes Corporation which was located in the city's east. And at that moment, the Emmanuels were hosting a birthday party there!

This damned woman. She wouldn't have gone there, would she?

His face darkened and he ended the call before standing up to leave.

"Mr. Hayes? Are you going out?" Luke had coincidentally come in with a document in hand. Surprise was written all over his face when he saw his boss leaving.

Sebastian couldn't be bothered explaining to him though.

He only pointed at the desk, motioning for Luke to leave the document there. Shrouded in a layer of frost, he grabbed his car keys and took large strides out of his office.

Luke was slightly baffled.

What's going on? Why did he leave all of a sudden?

And his vibe earlier gave me the chills.

Luke shuddered a little before placing the document on the desk and exiting the office.

As soon as he came out, he found that the employees outside had powered on their computers and were watching the recently announced news on the Emmanuel family's birthday party, which was currently the talk of the town.

"Wow! The Emmanuels are really something. They even invited the media to their party."

"It's not that surprising. The Emmanuels are associated with Hayes Corporation anyway. Even Mr. Hayes Sr. is at the party, so of course it's big news. Just look, all the bigwigs are there."

One of the employees pointed out, hitting the nail right on the head.

The others echoed their agreements and continued watching the live broadcast. Luke took a glimpse at one of their computer screens and said, "Seriously? Our president isn't even there, so there's nothing worth reporting."

"True. Our president is the real deal. If he attended, he'd definitely be making the headlines every minute. Why is the media there anyway? What's there to report about?"

"Maybe they thought Mr. Hayes would be attending? Hahaha!"

Joyous laughter reverberated through the office.

Indeed, the attendance of the city's big figures at the Emmanuel family's party alone would not be enough to invite the media over for a live broadcast, even if Frederick was there.

Oddly, after settling into their seats in the banquet hall, the guests found that the big LED screen was broadcasting the very party they were attending.

Matilda asked, "Who invited them? It's just a party. Why were the media invited?"

"I'm not sure. Maybe it was Uncle Frederick? I mean, it's your birthday, so it's normal to get the media over," Philip answered.

Completely oblivious to the truth, the Emmanuels gave all the credit to Frederick.

Since they assumed it to be Frederick's doing, no one continued pursuing the matter. Hence, after the party began, the hall was filled with lively chatter and joyous laughter; it was a vibrant scene.

Sasha came back just then with her emotions already under control and went over to greet Frederick.

Just as she expected, although Frederick greeted her with his usual bright smile and waved her over to sit at his table, she noticed he did not ask Xandra, who was sitting beside him, to move aside.

Her fears had come true.

Thus, she endured the pain and sorrow in her heart. "It's alright. I'll sit at Brandon's table."

"What? No, this won't do. Sasha, come over and sit here, so that the two of you can have a good chat." Xandra hurriedly stood up.

Sasha couldn't deny that her acting skills were top-notch. Even at a time like this, she could put on such a gentle and virtuous facade.

Sasha forced a big-hearted smile onto her face as the Hayes and the Emmanuels at the main table showed displeasure.

"It's fine, sit. Take good care of Mr. Hayes. He can't eat many things at his current age, especially cold things as they can cause physical discomfort."

In response, Xandra feigned awkwardness.

Meanwhile, Frederick's expression changed subtly and his body turned stiff.

He noticed that the child who had called him Frederick all these years had changed her form of address to 'Mr. Hayes'.

Sasha and Brandon walked away to sit at the table furthest away from the main table.

"Do you wanna go home, Sasha?"

"What?"

Holding a fork with a dazed expression, she whipped her head up at his question.

Brandon became even more guilt-ridden just then.

He never thought that he would bring her so much pain today. Seeing her pale complexion and vacant eyes, he felt as though his heart had been pierced by a thousand needles.

"I'm sorry, I never should've brought you here." Brandon lowered his head, his handsome featured lined with regret.

Only then did Sasha understand where this was coming from. After recomposing herself, she forked up a large drumstick and placed it on his plate.

"It's okay. This was something I had to face eventually."

"But..."

Brandon was going to blame himself again, but glancing at the woman beside him, he decided to steer the topic away instead. "Then, do you wanna... go rest for a bit?"

"Rest?"

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 228

"Mm, the party isn't going to be over anytime soon. If you wanna wait until after Mr. Hayes leaves, I'm afraid there's still a long time to go, so you might as well go upstairs to rest."

Knowing that Sasha's pride wouldn't allow her to run away like a coward, Brandon was considerate enough to make this offer.

In the end, she agreed. "Okay."

Two minutes later, both of them left the banquet hall together.

Brandon was initially going to check into a room upstairs for Sasha to rest, but when they passed by the hotel's garden, she suddenly paused in her stride.

With a pallid complexion, she pointed at a bench near the lake, motioning that she wanted to sit there.

"It's really windy outside. Wait here while I get you a coat."

"Mm..."

Sasha nodded compliantly and allowed Brandon to guide her to the bench.

It really was windy.

However, she could hardly feel anything, let alone the wintry blasts on her skin. Only fatigue and emptiness were left, making her feel as though all someone had sucked the strength out of her and her soul had left her body.

Mom, why is life so tiring?

Sasha gazed up at the sky just as someone spotted her and called out, "Sasha Wand? Are you Sasha Wand?"

Huh?

Hearing someone call her name, Sasha subconsciously straightened and looked toward the source of the voice.

A young man in a black suit had come to the garden at some point. He walked over upon catching sight of Sasha, looking pleasantly surprised.

"Yes, I'm Sasha Wand. And you are?"

"Oh wow, Ms. Wand! Don't you remember me? I'm Dr. Kaye's student, and that makes you my senior." The man quickly took out a work ID and handed it to Sasha.

Dr. Kaye's student?

Sasha pondered for a moment as she tried to recall anything about this man.

But because her time with Dr. Kaye wasn't that long, she had no recollection of this self-proclaimed junior of hers. However, since he mentioned Dr. Kaye, she still offered him a polite nod.

"It's nice to meet you. Is there something you need?"

"Well, not exactly. Dr. Kaye passed this psychology book to me before she left. She said that I had to find you and give it to you no matter what."

The young man took out a book just then.

Sasha was taken aback.

"Before she left?" Her mind zoomed in on these three particular words and surprise was written on her face. "Dr. Kaye left? Where did she go?"

Sasha was quite emotionally attached to this doctor. First, she was her mother's good friend.

Second, she had helped Sasha a great deal previously, saving her and the triplets as well as arranging for her to flee abroad with two of her children while keeping it a secret.

Dr. Kaye was someone she would be forever indebted to.

Hence, the man's words brought a pang to her heart.

"Yes, she was transferred to another province, but she said that if you miss her, you can call or visit her any time."

"Really?"

"Of course. You've always been Dr. Kaye's beloved student. Otherwise, she wouldn't have asked me to give you this book. I've been looking everywhere for you, you know? Luckily, I attended this birthday party with my family today and chanced upon you."

The man had been strangely enthusiastic the moment he appeared. When he spoke about chancing upon Sasha, he became even more animated, revealing a row of white teeth as he grinned.

Seeing this, Sasha could only gratefully accept the book from his hand.

“Thank you. I really appreciate it.”

“It’s no problem at all. Dr. Kaye said that this book is very important. It contains the treatment for hereditary schizophrenia which you’ve been searching for. You read more about it in there.”

Silence ensued.

For a good few seconds, Sasha searched her mind, trying to remember whether she had told Dr. Kaye about this before.

Did I really ask her about the treatment for schizophrenia?

“Ms. Wand, may I ask? Who’s the patient with this disease?”

“What?”

“I mean, the patient with hereditary schizophrenia. Dr. Kaye said that it’s someone very important to you and that you’ve been searching for a cure all these years. Can you tell me who it is? I majored in psychology and even studied abroad before. This is a rare disease. Perhaps I may be of help to you.”

The man stated his question clearly this time and seemed to be genuinely concerned.

Sasha’s heart missed a beat.

He majored in psychology? And even studied abroad?

For some inexplicable reason, as she looked into the man’s eyes, the encouragement and concern swirling in them seemed to call to her like a siren’s song. All of sudden, she was hit with a strong impulse to reveal the secret she was burdened with for such a long time.

Perhaps it’s really time I shared this secret with someone; this secret that has haunted me for so many years.

I dedicated the first half of my life in pursue of an answer, but I always hit a dead end. I really need someone to help me now.

Someone who's well-versed in this specific area. Yes, I need it.

Sasha parted her lips to speak.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 229

Unbeknownst to her, she was currently being projected on the LED screen in the banquet hall. Suddenly, the sound system was abruptly increased in volume, overpowering the noisy chatter in the hall.

"Can you really help him?"

"Of course, as long as you tell me who he is and describe his symptoms to me. You know, schizophrenia caused by genetic mutation is the hardest disease to treat in the world right now, and I've put a lot of time and effort in studying it."

On the screen, the young man who was standing in the garden by the lake spoke in a clear voice.

As soon as he finished speaking, Frederick's expression changed drastically, and the cup in his hand fell to the table with a clang.

"Mr. Hayes, are you alright?" Xandra cried out and moved to check on him.

However, Frederick shoved her aside and bolted up from his seat, roaring angrily at the screen, "Who's doing this? Turn it off! Turn it off now!"

He was so furious that the veins on his neck were bulging.

The banquet hall instantly spiraled into mayhem. Everyone looked at a hysterical Frederick with confusion sprawled across their faces, wondering what in the world was happening.

Matilda was as puzzled as everyone else.

Sebastian arrived right then. After alighting the car, he rushed to the banquet hall just in time to see this chaotic scene, and the video displayed on the LED screen.

“His symptoms... His symptoms are terrifying. When they act up, he’ll become very violent, as if he wants to destroy everything. He’ll also create a different personality for himself—a very rare manifestation—and he will use that personality to do whatever he wants, like...”

On the screen, Sasha finally trusted the man and was slowly disclosing the secret she had buried in her heart for over ten years.

As if someone had hit the pause button, the banquet hall abruptly fell into a pin-drop silence. Even the air particles seemed to have frozen in place.

In an instant, all the blood drained from Sebastian’s face. His eyes had gone wide as this scene unexpectedly jogged a memory which was filled with blood and violence.

His expression turned monstrous.

Sasha Wand!

“N-No. That’s not right. I remember now. I’ve never... never told Dr. Kaye about this. W-Who are you exactly?”

Just as the woman on the screen was going to tell the man everything, she stopped suddenly, looking like someone who was jolted awake and trapped in an internal struggle.

She’s refusing to continue speaking and is starting to question who I am?

The man was taken aback, probably stunned that she became clear-headed. Hence, he immediately stepped forward before she could react, making sure to capture her eyes with his own.

“Ms. Wand, perhaps you have too much on your mind and your memory is failing you. You said so yourself that back then, you asked Dr. Kaye about this matter, right?”

“I... I...”

Sasha backed away, feeling a terrifying force worming into mind to dig out the secrets hidden there.

Hypnosis!

This man is using hypnosis on me!

Being a doctor herself, Sasha realized what was happening. Suddenly, fear was born from what little consciousness she still possessed.

“S-Stay away from me! W-Who are you?”

“Be good now. This isn’t what we’re talking about. Tell me, who is that person? Who?”

Who?

Who? Who?

Imprisoned by his gaze, Sasha struggled hard to free herself from his influence. Like a devil whispering into her ear, his voice broke through her defenses and urged her to say the name.

No. I won’t say it!

I won’t, even if it costs me my life!

Sasha bit down hard on her tongue, the sudden sharp pain pulling her back to her senses ever so slightly. “Get away from me! Get away!”

She violently shoved him away and staggered to her feet, wanting to escape from that place even as her head screamed in protest.

When the man saw that she could still resist him, a sneer formed on his lips. In the next second, he caught up and grabbed her arm, dragging her back toward him.

Their eyes met once again.

But this time, he came so close to her that their eyes were mere inches apart.

“Not bad, Sasha. I guess being a doctor makes a difference, huh? But you’re no match for me. I told you I’m a psychologist. No one can fight against my hypnosis.”

Sasha felt her world spin. With the taste of blood in her mouth, her consciousness started to waver again.

It turns out that this is all a conspiracy.

Someone had already planned for my downfall today.

Using every shred of willpower she had, Sasha pulled off the hair accessory pinned to the crown of her head with a shaky hand. "Is... that... so? Then today... let's see if I win, or you lose!"

With that, she stabbed the sharp accessory into her forehead.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 230

All he saw was a splash of crimson. Before he could process what was going on, the woman in his grasp went limp and fell over.

He froze, unable to comprehend strength of such caliber.

Not only that, she was vicious, too. Sasha targeted an acupoint, which allowed her to break free of his hypnosis. However, unbeknownst to her, this acupoint was also her Achilles' heel.

"Sasha." Sebastian appeared as she collapsed.

He replayed the moment in shock. In a flurry of movement, he was on his knees, heaving Sasha up from the pool of her own blood.

"Sasha, can you hear me? Wake up!" Sebastian gasped, fighting his raggedy breath to form words. His greatest fear was becoming a reality. He called her name over and over again, with each passing repetition diminishing in hope.

Sasha was unresponsive to his pleading. She lay in his arms, blood still spewing unrestrainedly from the gash on her left temple.

“You will be fine.” Sebastian fought back his tears. “Nothing will happen to you. Nothing!”

He carried her out the door to head to a hospital. As she swayed in the motion of his stride, Sasha’s delicate rhinestone hairpiece fell from her wound and shattered in the pool of blood.

In an instant, the metal which was tinged with blood stabbed him in the eye. He stumbled in shock. Broken images flashed before his mind’s eye.

Sebastian gasped at the pain in his head, as though a long-forgotten memory was being forcefully reopened. He staggered and fell to his knees.

“It was you! The man she was referring to was you!”

The psychologist did not move. He stood paralyzed at the realization that his deception was no longer effective.

“It was a genetic defect that caused schizophrenia. Of course it would be different from him. The lie you told yourself about your split personality; didn’t he do the same thing? Was it blood? A knife? Are you... a murderer?”

He was unafraid, having already given up all hope of escaping.

However, seeing Sebastian on his knees, he stepped forward slowly, with a joyous and maniacal glint in his eyes, like Columbus had when he beheld the New World for the first time.

As soon as he was close enough, Sebastian looked up to face him. The psychologist recoiled from the intensity of Sebastian’s pain.

Before he had time to react, the latter reached out with a bloody hand and grabbed hold of his neck. A crack like a gunshot reverberated throughout the room and the man was dead before he hit the floor.

Oh, the horror was unspeakable!

The guests who witnessed the scene gasped in shock.

Only Frederick remained calm. He surveyed the scene for an instant before deciding to send Sasha to the hospital.

After dismissing the crowd, he ambled over to his son, who was still on his knees.

“Sebastian.”

Sebastian did not seem to hear his father’s voice. His handsome features were void of life as he stared at his hands caked in Sasha’s blood.

“It is already done. No one will ever discover your secret,” Frederick told his son.

It did more harm than good. Sebastian jumped at the mention of the word “secret” and glared at his father malevolently.

“No one will ever know?” Sebastian repeated. “Doesn’t the whole city know by now? I told you before. You should have killed me. What’s the good of keeping me in this world?”

“Sebastian, wake up!” Frederick was furious. “You’re not living for yourself. If you think of yourself as broken and guilty, perhaps you should carry on living for those who bore the transgressions of your sins. You owe it to them to live on! They traded their lives for yours!”

The harshness of his voice forced Sebastian to look his father full in the face. He was looking quite deranged; the paleness matched the shock of white hair.

His eyes, however, were bloodshot.

Yes, I’m tired of living. Everybody in this cursed household is.

They did everything they could to hide the truth so I could lead a normal life. Everybody in this house gave up their hearts and souls.

“I know that you’re in shock today because of the girl.” Frederick took a deep breath. “But have you thought about it? She gave her life to protect your secret. Why do you have to blame yourself? Shouldn’t you be trying even harder to protect her from now on?”

It had to be said, even if he knew his son did not want to hear it at this time.

True enough, it did the trick. Sebastian's bloodshot eyes widened in comprehension, having renewed his purpose once again.