

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 271

"Are you sure it's her? Do you have any proof?"

"Yes." Sasha took out the USB drive with her manuscripts in it and showed it to Sharon.

"This is the evidence. All the books I wrote and published are inside this USB. The manuscripts Xandra has are exactly the same, even the typos."

"How sure are you that no one else has seen this before?"

"I'm positive no one else has seen this before. I made a copy for Xenia and brought everything with me before I went abroad, so there's no way there's another person aside from her."

Sharon heaved a sigh and sat like a deflated balloon in front of her. Her face turned pale and the energetic glimmers that used to shine in her eyes were nowhere to be seen.

Sharon was a strong woman.

The Wand family was indebted to her. She was in no way related to the family, but because she married Jackson, she shouldered the burden and pulled the family through the hardest time.

She was a woman of pride and ambition.

For her whole life, she strived to perfect everything she laid her hands on, but everything was left in shreds because of her daughter.

Sasha suddenly felt a pang of guilt and remorse looking at the dispirited woman. She felt she should not have broken this news to her.

"I hope you understand why I'm here, Aunt Sharon. All this began with me, and I will end it."

After a long time, Sharon lifted her head and looked at Sasha. Her pale lips parted as she tried to find her words.

“What are you planning to do?”

Her broken voice tugged at Sasha’s heartstrings.

She shifted her gaze and looked elsewhere. She could not bear to look at Sharon. “I won’t take her life. I came today just to let you know in advance that if Xenia continues this, I will do everything I can to make her stop.”

Everything you can?

Terror showed on Sharon’s face. “What do you mean? She’s your uncle’s only daughter. Can’t you just forgive her and give her a chance?”

Sharon ultimately sided with her own child in the end.

Shasha did not blame her for that. She was a mother herself, so she could totally understand.

“I did give her a chance. I called her before I came over, but she refuse to admit her fault. Aunt Sharon, you need to recognize the fact that Xenia will pay the price sooner or later. Sebastian and Mr. Hayes Sr. will still deal with her even if I don’t act. They knew I’m the author of that book. Xandra was already in their hands. Do you think they will let Xenia go just like that?”

Sharon’s silence was her concession. She knew what Sasha said was right.

She would rather her daughter end up in Sasha’s hands rather than the Hayes’. She could still beg Sasha to keep it a secret, but not the Hayes.

Sharon closed her eyes as tears rolled down her cheeks.

“What are you gonna do to her? Send her away? Lock her up?”

“I won’t. I’ll just make her lose her memory about this incident,” Sasha pronounced the sentence.

Sharon's eyes widened like two saucers. Never in her wildest imagination would she expect her niece to say that.

"Make her lose her memory? What does that mean?"

"Meaning I will make her forget about what happened completely. This is the only way I can make sure she will never do this again."

"Are you crazy?" Sharon yelled, springing from the chair. "Then, she'll forget everything else too!"

Sasha nodded. "But at least that will save her life."

Sharon glared at her in fury.

This was not the solution she was expecting from Sasha, but she was at a loss for words to reprimand her.

She would rather have Xenia lose her memory than lose her entirely. She could still make new memories with her child from scratch as long as she was alive.

Sharon slumped back in her chair at the thought.

This was not the Sasha she used to know. Back then, Sharon would readily ask her to go easy on Xenia, but not now.

She wanted to ask why Sasha could not just overlook this mistake just once, but she could not.

Sharon had never felt so helpless before.

"Alright. I will hand her over after new year."

Sasha nodded again and went downstairs.

She was miserable too.

They were like family to her, in fact, they were her only family. They were the last people on earth she wanted to harm.

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Unfortunately, Sasha did not have a choice.

She could not just let Xenia harm Sebastian nor let Sebastian go down with her.

Not on my watch!

Sasha got in the car and closed the door beside her. Hot incipient tears in her eyes rolled down her cheeks in streams.

"I'm sorry, Uncle Jackson and Aunt Sharon."

After some time, Sasha started the engine and got ready to drive off.

A thought came to her mind before she drove away. She wanted to see Dr. Rocke. She wanted to know how she managed to cure Sebastian.

There was also another thing Sasha could not understand. The doctor told her she was a ticking time bomb. What exactly does she mean by that?

Sasha set her GPS for the Rocke residence in Old Town. Just as she started driving, her phone rang.

"Yes?"

"Ms. Wand? Could you come home now? The Hayes sent Matteo home just now. He's not feeling well. It seems like he caught a cold yesterday."

“What? Matt fell sick?”

Sasha took a sharp U-turn and drove back to Frontier Bay.

When Karl saw this, he gave Sebastian a call. “Mr. Hayes, Ms. Wand is heading home.”

Sebastian was still working at his immaculate office when he got the call. “What happened?”

“She stopped by her uncle’s house for a while before coming out, but she stayed in her car for some time before leaving.”

She stayed in her car? For what?

Don’t tell me the two oldies scolded her because they wanted to save their daughter.

A hard look settled on Sebastian’s face.

“Follow her closely for the next few days. Make sure to report back to me about every single detail. Keep a close eye on Xenia Blackwood too.”

“Yes, Mr. Hayes.”

Karl called his men and relayed the orders.

Sasha sped all the way back to Royal Court One. When she reached home, she was worried sick to see her son frail and pale.

“What happened, Matt? Why did you fall sick all of a sudden?” Sasha carried the boy over from Wendy’s arms the moment she saw him.

She did not even greet Frederick when she saw him.

It was unusual for a healthy boy like Matteo to fall ill.

Matteo was a good baby growing up. Sasha had to take care of him and Vivian, so the boy saw to it that he never made his mother worry. He took good care of himself and was seldom sick, but he looked unusually weak today.

He did not even have the strength to call out to her when he saw her.

"I'm sorry, Mommy."

Ian came over and apologized when he saw Sasha's anxious face.

Sasha patted him on his head and comforted him. "It's not your fault, Ian. Don't beat yourself to it."

"Mommy, Matt fell sick after he went to grand-uncle's place. We won't go to his place ever again." Vivian came over and told Sasha.

Grand-uncle?

Sasha's brows furrowed and she finally remembered Frederick, who had been standing at the side all this while.

The old man held on to his walking stick and cleared his throat. "Everyone was over the moon when the kids came over. They all wanted to take the kids back with them, so I decided to just let them visit Roderick's place since he's the oldest among everyone else. They had a good time there but Matteo developed a fever at night. The doctor came over and did a check on him. He probably caught a cold when he was playing at the courtyard in the afternoon."

This was the first time Frederick talked to her privately after their last encounter. Xandra was around the last time they met, so they did not manage to talk.

After Frederick filled her in on what happened, Sasha nodded her head lightly and brought Matteo upstairs.

Wendy and Tim watched in horror as Sasha and the kids walked away.

They were appalled by her audacity.

Sasha brought Matteo to her room while the children went to get medication and warm water.

"Don't worry, Matt. I'm here. You'll be okay, Matt."

“Mommy...”

The playful boy was reduced to a sickly boy because of his fever.

It pained Sasha to watch him as he cuddled in her embrace.

She put the boy down in the bed and took his pulse. Much to her confusion, Matteo’s pulse was weak. This was not how it used to be.

This is definitely not a cold. He must have eaten something.

Sasha frowned and took out her acupuncture medical kit so she could treat him.

After some time, Matteo looked better and he could speak again.

“Mommy, I’m hungry.”

“I’ll make you some corn soup.” Sasha was relieved to see Matteo better.

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Ian and Vivian were glad to see Matteo recovering. When Ian learned that Matteo wanted to eat something, he rushed downstairs to tell Wendy.

A burden lifted off everyone’s chest when they knew about it.

After attending to Matteo, Sasha went downstairs to help Wendy in the kitchen.

She was shocked to find Frederick still around after all this time. He sat alone on the couch watching the news on the TV while drinking tea.

Is he... waiting for me?

Sasha suddenly felt uncomfortable.

He must have heard about the Sanders. After all, it was impossible that the Hayes were not informed about it. He probably stayed back to wait for her because he wanted to talk about this.

"I heard Matteo's getting better? Come over and have a seat."

As she expected, the old man gestured at her to go over when he saw her.

Sasha straightened her stiff body and walked over.

"Do you remember this black tea? It's the local specialty of the area your family used to stay. Do you want to try some?" Frederick asked, passing her some tea leaves in a bottle.

Sasha felt an urge to cry looking at the tea leaves.

She was surprised Frederick still remembered this.

Sasha sat down beside him and for a brief moment, she forgot what he told her at the Emmanuel family's gathering.

"I heard your dad got time off for good conduct," he said as Sasha made tea.

Sasha looked up in surprise and smiled in excitement.

"That's good news!"

This means she could see her father sooner.

"Yeah. His sentence was reduced by three years. He's been in there for six years, so that means he only has to serve his time for one more year with the three-year reduction."

Frederick seemed to be in a good mood as well.

Sasha tilted her head in confusion.

He's only sentenced to ten years of imprisonment?

I thought it's fifteen years? Or did I get it wrong?

Sasha brushed off the thought and focused on the good news instead. She could not wait to see her father.

"Can I go see him anytime soon? I've been away for a few years. I think it'll be good to see him again."

"Sure. You can drop by anytime. I'll make the necessary arrangements."

Frederick agreed without much thought.

Things seemed to have improved between the two of them. For a short moment, they seemed to have found the long-lost harmony between them again.

"Is there something you want to talk to me about? Is it about the Sanders?"

Sasha decided to bring this up since Frederick did not mention it at all. She was grateful for what Frederick had done for her, so she decided to reciprocate his goodwill, but to her surprise, the old man shook his head.

"No. I'm just here to tell you about your dad. As for the Sanders, I'm leaving it to Sebastian. That's his own issue anyway. I know he trusts you a lot, so I'll just let him deal with it himself," Frederick replied, sipping the tea Sasha made for him.

"I'm also here to apologize. I had my own bias against you, but in hindsight, I shouldn't have felt that way. I watched you grow as a kid, I should know better than anyone else what kind of a person you are. I shouldn't have doubted your feelings for Sebastian. I hope it's not too late for me to ask for your forgiveness."

Sasha was not expecting this from Frederick at all.

Not only did he not question her for what happened, he even apologized for his past behavior.

All this felt so surreal to Sasha.

For the first time after such a long period, Sasha felt she could finally let her guard down and open up her heart to another person. She felt like she could finally stop being paranoid

all the time. When she saw Frederick getting ready to leave, she quickly got up and sent him off.

“You don’t have to apologize. I’m in the wrong too...”

“But I know you did it because you wanted to protect him. That is enough for me.”

With that said, Frederick left.

He finally acknowledged Sasha and approved of her existence in Sebastian’s life. He knew he could trust his son in her hands for the rest of his life.

By the time Sebastian reached home after getting the news, Frederick had already left and things had died down.

Matteo was resting upstairs while Sasha and the two other kids were keeping him company in his room. The huge house fell into an unbearable silence as night descended without the children playing around.

The unusual quietness made Sebastian uneasy.

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He darted upstairs without even changing his shoes after he got in. He looked around and went toward the beam of light shining through the door.

“You’re back?”

Sasha was reading the children bedtime stories as they sat around her on the floor carpet. When she heard the door open, she looked up with anticipation and smiled widely at him. The yellow light from the bedside lit the room dimly and the scene warmed Sebastian’s heart.

She's so happy to see me.

He felt a gush of bliss in his heart.

Sebastian took off his shoes before entering. "How's Matteo?"

"He's better now. I think he ate something wrong. I heard from Vivi that they had some peaches at their grand-uncle's place."

Seeing Sebastian coming over to take care of Matteo, Sasha stood up and got ready to go downstairs to make Sebastian something to eat.

"You don't have to cook anything. I had dinner with the staff at the company just now. It's the last day of the month."

"Ah, right."

Sasha stopped and went back to the children.

She realized that it had become a habit for her to cook for Sebastian. It used to be him asking her to do so, but somehow she started doing it even when he did not even ask her to.

After spending some time with the children, Sebastian asked her to go upstairs with him so he could check if she had gotten better.

She asked Wendy to come over and take care of the children before following Sebastian to his room.

"What is the medication you gave me? I'm feeling a little dizzy."

"How would I know? I'm not the doctor here." Sebastian threw the tube of medication aside and carried her over to the bed.

When Wendy heard the noise upstairs, she smiled and pulled Vivian back to her room so she would stop looking for Sasha.

As for Ian, he had always wanted his parents to spend more time together.

When morning came the following day, Sasha woke up to the first ray of the sunshine. She had had a good night's rest. Just as she was about to stretch, she was surprised to find herself hugging Sebastian like a bolster.

She thought it was really a pillow.

She shook herself awake and was horrified.

Sasha stared at the man up close for a long time before her gaze softened.

What a handsome man!

The sun showered on his face generously, augmenting his chiseled features and defined brows. Now that he was sleeping, he looked relaxed and the severity on his face was nowhere to be seen. Sasha looked at his face adoringly until his fine sets of long lashes flapped alarmingly at her.

"Are you done admiring me?"

Sasha jerked back and evaded his gaze.

She was caught red-handed.

"You're drooling."

Sebastian turned to his side and took a good look at her. He laughed seeing the embarrassment on her face as she looked away.

She didn't even know I was already awake, but who cares?

She looks cute now.

"What were you thinking?"

"Well... I wasn't thinking about anything..." Sasha fumbled with her words, not knowing what to say. When she sensed him coming closer, she quickly moved aside, but it was too late.

Sebastian pulled her back into his arms and made sure she could not leave.

Sasha held her breath guessing what he was going to do next.

“Were you thinking about kissing me again?”

“Huh? No!”

“You sure? You’re the one who clung to me and kept hugging and kissing me yesterday. You refused to let me go until you’d kissed me enough.”

Sebastian made everything sound so casual. It was as if he was talking about someone else.

Sasha, on the contrary, was completely dumbfounded.

I hugged and kissed him?

I’m not a sl*t! I’ll never do that!

Wait... Did I take him for the kids?

This thought dropped on her like a bomb. She wanted to hide somewhere and beat herself for doing something like this, but Sebastian’s arms secured around her, leaving her no room to escape.

“You finally remembered?”

“No... I mean... I didn’t mean it. I thought you’re Vivi. That’s why I...” Sasha’s face was pumped red and hot as she mumbled away, trying to find the right words.

Just as she was busy explaining herself, Sebastian’s grip tightened around her waist.

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“Mmm!” Sasha looked up at him instinctively, glowering at him, but Sebastian had already dipped his head and planted his lips on hers.

Her whole body stiffened.

What is he doing? I told him I mistook him for Vivi!

Everything happened so quickly Sasha was still unable to respond to Sebastian’s sudden entreat.

Little did Sasha know, she was not the one who started this. It was Sebastian who forced a kiss on her last night, not her.

It was true that she hugged him yesterday. Sasha was used to sleeping with the children, so she habitually hugged those sleeping beside her. It was just that the person she hugged turned out to be Sebastian.

Sebastian was a man too. He could not say no when Sasha threw herself on him. After all, she was his wife.

Sebastian closed his eyes and kissed her harder. An irresistible urge overtook him and he caved to his desires.

Everything escalated swiftly and a passionate session ensued. When everything was finally over, Sasha felt like she was broken to tatters.

“Are you tired? What about I help you shower?”

Sebastian was in a good mood after he was satisfied. His voice was gentle and he even offered to help Sasha shower.

Sasha spared him a lethargic look from the corner of her eyes.

No way.

Over my dead body!

The thought of it made her cheeks red again. She pulled up the blanket and hid in it.

"I don't want to get a shower. Get out. Don't come in unless I ask you to."

What? It's not like it's our first time!

Sebastian stared at her in disbelief. Since he woke up on the right side of the bed this morning, he did as she said. He got up and changed before heading downstairs.

"Daddy! Good morning! You're late. We've already had breakfast."

The kids were already playing when Sebastian came down. Matteo's condition had improved after a night of rest too. He even flashed Sebastian a bright smile when he saw him.

This only made Sebastian more cheerful.

He went over and bent down in front of the boy. "Are you feeling better?" he asked, ruffling his hair.

"I'm fine already. Where is Mommy? Did you take care of Mommy yesterday?"

Sebastian laughed heartily and patted him on his head.

Then, he walked into the kitchen to grab some food. "Morning, Mr. Hayes. Are you going to the office today?"

"No, I'm not. What's that on the table?"

"Oh, that's the herbal soup you asked us to make for Ms. Wand. I made some for her today too. Do you want some? There's extra."

Sebastian's expression suddenly became rigid.

"No, I'm fine."

"Ah, I understand. Ms. Wand needs to take more so she can recover sooner."

Sebastian got out of the kitchen, not wishing to continue the conversation any further. He was just about to go see the kids when someone came in.

"Hi, Sebastian. I heard you're on leave today, so I came over. I'll just do a quick check on you and be off."

Roxanne saw herself since she was already familiar with the house.

Her chestnut hair flowed gracefully on her brown coat as she walked in. Her sweet smile coupled her elegant outfit perfectly.

She was a woman of every man's dream.

Sasha, who had just showered and was heading down, was stupefied when she saw her.

"What's there to check? I'm fine."

When Sebastian saw it was her, he reacted coldly and walked off toward the garden to look for the children.

Roxanne was already used to his attitude. She followed after him.

"I still have to do it even if you say you don't need it. I'm your doctor. I came all the way here just to see you, so you'd better cooperate."

"I didn't ask you to come."

"Do you think I want to come? Your dad is the one who called. Come on, stop wasting my time. I still have other things to do."

Roxanne was getting impatient. She stuck out her hand and pulled Sebastian by his arm.

Sasha was taken aback to find out they were actually that close.

Even Xandra did not dare to touch him.

Jealousy crept all over Sasha as she watched both of them.