

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 296

Together, Sasha and Lance headed out to look for Andy.

When they arrived at his house, they saw several familiar faces from the party last night, waiting in the front yard.

"It seems like something big is going to happen," Sasha muttered to Lance, who was standing beside her.

He nodded in agreement.

Instead of speaking his mind as usual, he stood behind her politely.

Before Sasha could question his odd behaviour, she heard someone calling her. "Ms. Nancy, you are here! Please join us." The guests enthusiastically gestured for her to go over.

Being from the finance industry and under Andy's wing, they naturally formed a group when they saw each other.

Sasha walked towards them and politely greeted, "Have you waited long?"

"No. We just arrived." One of them shook their head before he suddenly probed, "By the way, Nancy, do you know which project we will be working on this time?"

Unfortunately, Sasha was unaware. Even if Andy held her in high-esteem, he would never reveal such information to her.

She shook her head in response. "No, I haven't. Do all of you know?"

With a mysterious smile, a man by the name of Pete chuckled. "A little. Do you know about Sky Precision in Jetroina?"

Crap!

The moment Sasha heard it, she felt her throat going dry.

Of course, she knew about Sky Precision. It was the top precision manufacturing company in the world that dabbled in machinery, digital electronics, and anything related to technology.

Andy is quite something. He asked me to make a move on Hayes Corporation, and today he wants to zoom in on Jetroina.

He is insane!

One person gasped, "Woah, Sky Precision? That's great! If we seal the deal successfully with such this major client, we will rake in at least fifty million in revenue, right?"

"Of course!"

Everyone was getting excited by the prospect.

A vast company like Sky Precision had a diverse variety of portfolio. With the opportunity to earn more, they were overjoyed.

Sasha stood there thinking about how much sense it made. If the project became official, she would be more than happy to be part of it.

Andy finally came out ten minutes later. Dressed in a leather suit, he also donned a top hat and a pair of leather shoes. Immediately, he requested for his assistant to distribute a laptop to each guest.

"Hello everybody, I shall go straight to the point. Today, we have a project with Sky Precision. You can look through your duties after you receive your laptops like always."

"It is really Sky Precision..."

The crowd started buzzing among themselves after his announcement.

Since they had to turn on the laptop to look through their responsibilities, Sasha passed her bag to Lance when she received hers.

Then she sat down in an empty chair to open it up.

“Futures?”

“Yes, Nancy. It is the first time you are participating in a project, so this is an opportunity for you to dip your toes in the water first. We have gold futures. Based on Sky Precision’s needs, we could trade on futures since they have substantial capital.”

Andy explained when he walked over and saw the disappointment written across Sasha’s face.

Sasha bit the inside of her cheeks.

Futures are not physical goods. They are derivative contracts involving financial products, such as bonds or stocks. A buy will receive the purchase only at a later date.

This old fox is being wary of me.

“It looks like we can’t make much money this time. Why are we buying into this? It is not a long-term investment or a specific stipulation from Sky Precision?”

She could not help but burst out when she spotted Andy.

Meanwhile, Lance was silent the entire time.

In fact, he stared blankly at the two as though he did not understand the conversation at all.

Sasha felt worse when she saw his expression.

“Why aren’t you saying a word? Don’t you understand these terms as a finance student? Last night, you were so eloquent with your analysis on how Hayes Corporation would threaten our foothold.”

Her cousin faltered for a split second before he finally forced himself to speak up. “I... was only afraid... to affect your judgement.”

“There is no need to be scared. We are family; we can discuss anything when we encounter difficulties. It’s perfectly okay even if you say something wrong,” Sasha chided.

A long while later, Lance finally nodded stiffly and whipped out his phone.

With the project details settled, everyone headed off to take care of their respective duties. Sasha finally had her chance to work as an official Wall Street financial trader after much difficulty.

By the time Sebastian got to his office, it was late.

Yet, the top level of his company was still brightly lit as his employees heard he would be returning. There were also several people waiting in the meeting room.

They looked like they were preparing for a trial.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 297

Sebastian walked into his office and headed straight to the coffee machine to make himself a cup before he settled on a couch to catch his breath. He did not seem bothered about what was going on in the meeting room.

The strenuous activity from last night took up a lot of his energy.

On the other hand, Luke was pacing outside the office impatiently. His knees almost buckled when he saw how relaxed his boss looked.

“Mr. Hayes, why are you still sipping on your coffee leisurely? You don’t have time for that! The shareholders are in the meeting room. Even Mr. Hayes Sr. is here.”

“What?”

The last line grabbed Sebastian’s attention.

They got Dad to come over too?

These old blokes must have nothing better to do! They are only itching to create more trouble.

Sebastian pursed his lips and finally set his coffee mug down on the table before reluctantly trudging to the meeting room next door.

Bang!

He could already sense the tense atmosphere from the outside with sounds of things being thrown across the room.

“Frederick, the company is not owned by your son alone. He has cost us a billion in the blink of an eye, and he did not even seek consent before he made that decision!”

“Exactly! It’s a billion in losses, not merely a hundred thousand. Mr. Hayes, with all due respect, have you considered how we feel? We allowed him to take this position to help us profit, not thoughtlessly squander our money away.”

“You...”

Frederick had not stepped into the company in a long while. He couldn’t find the words to rebuke the angry shareholders’ accusations.

Sebastian had enough of the chaos and decided to enter the meeting room.

Click!

Immediately, the room went silent when they saw the person standing at the door.

No one dared to mess with him at Hayes Corporation, including the shareholders.

Sebastian did not speak as he took in the group’s reaction. Instead, he walked towards the head of the table and pulled out the chair that was rightfully his.

Like the perfect gentleman, he sat elegantly and glanced around the room with indifference.

When did he become such a calm person?

Luke was getting goosebumps as he watched the scene unfold.

“Speak up. Why aren’t you talking anymore? Please continue.” Sebastian stated after a long pause. There was a ghost of a smile on his face, scaring everyone else in the room.

It was common for these shareholders to act like that. When he was not around, they would think highly of themselves and insist on their ways.

However, when Sebastian was present, their courage seemed to have dissipated.

“Sebastian, we don’t mean to be rude, but we deserve an explanation regarding the loss,” one courageous shareholder spoke up.

“I have to report to you when it’s merely a billion? How about the time when I raked in tens and hundreds of billions? At that time, I didn’t see you making such a big commotion as you are doing now. Do you want to review the ledgers? We can most certainly do that!”

Sebastian straightened himself.

As the rest of the shareholders watched him, they collectively felt a chill down their spine.

“No, we don’t mean it in that way. We only want to understand why you did not stop our company’s share prices from plunging because we could have completely averted the crisis by acting earlier.”

As expected, their attitude towards him changed drastically. They stooped down to please him almost instantaneously.

Noticing their change in reaction, Sebastian sneered, “I’m the person who is in charge of the company. But I can’t even have the room to make losses. How are you so sure that I did not do that to profit more in future?”

His words were harsh, and no one dared to speak up in the room.

After all, in the last few years under his leadership, he did increase their revenue by a few folds. Many times, he did not play according to the books too.

Therefore, no one could argue with him when he brought up that point.

In the end, the shareholders could only leave in despair. Frederick watched them empty the room and turned to his son. "Do you have an actual project?"

Resting his legs on the conference table, Sebastian blew a smoke ring and shrugged. "Nope."

"Nope?" Frederick's eyes widened in shock. "Why did you say that earlier, then? How dare you lie to them? Don't you know how hard it is to deal with that bunch?"

"Ah, that was your era. Under me, those old blokes wouldn't even dare to raise their voices."

Sebastian was crude, even to his father.

However, one could not deny that there was some truth in his words. The shareholders loved to complain, but if Sebastian resigned, they would likely panic. Besides, no one else could manage the Hayes Corporation better than him.

Frederick sighed in defeat and asked after a short pause. "What have you done with the billion?"

Raising his brows, Sebastian did not bother to hide his intentions either. "I gave it to your daughter-in-law. Didn't you want me to win her back?"

Within minutes, Frederick's mouth hung open.

"Are you talking about Sasha? You found her?"

"Yes."

"What is she doing? Why do you have to spend so much money on her? Did she agree to come back? Otherwise, did you give her the money to break up with her..."

As Frederick rambled on, he could only come to that conclusion.

The moment those words were out of his mouth, joy faded from his face, replaced by a look of disappointment.

Sebastian glanced at him.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 298

Sebastian had been suspicious of how Frederick acted around Sasha for a while, especially with the history of his outrageous actions.

Looking at his father's reaction, he felt more defensive.

"No, she wants to revive the Wand family, and I helped to pave the way."

"Really?" Frederick seemed surprised. "That is good. If the Wand family manage to stand up on their feet again, she might not hate us as much as before."

That was apt. What were we hoping for, anyway? We have to make up for our past mistakes by helping the Wand family so that Sasha will return.

After all, the three children need their mother.

By the time Sebastian returned to Royal Court One, the three children were asleep. Instinctively, he went to his daughter's room to see the sweetheart he got back recently.

After the paternal test, he realized this child was his. It only made him feel more guilty.

The woman was with his child under his nose for almost six months. Unfortunately, he did not know the truth and even used the child to humiliate her at that time.

A man as blind as me doesn't deserve to be a father at all.

Sitting on the child's pink bed, he watched his daughter sleep peacefully under her covers. He could not help but bend down to leave a kiss on her cute, chubby cheek.

"Mommy, are you back?"

The little girl sleepily mumbled when she felt the kiss on her cheek.

It had been a month since she last saw her mother.

Suddenly, Sebastian felt suffocated as he recalled the events in Clear. In the small dark yard, the words that the lady left rang in his ears. "I don't want her. She is all yours!"

It was a stab to his heart. Even breathing was painful.

Sasha, what will it take for you to return? Don't you know how much the children miss you?

"Daddy, are you back?"

A small figure appeared by the bedroom door. His voice jolted Sebastian out of his painful memory.

The little boy stood at the entrance when he spotted his father, looking smaller than ever. His sad expression was void of the mischief that usually hung on his face.

Sebastian regained his senses. He immediately calmed himself down and suppressed the tears that were about to spill.

"Yes, I'm home. Matt, why are you still awake? Come over here." Opening his arms, he gestured for his child to walk to him for a hug.

Matteo obediently shuffled to him.

Without hesitation, he threw himself into his father's embrace and allowed the sturdy arms to circle him. At that moment, he felt protected and warm.

He did not only have a mother, but he also had a father. It was a long time ago since the three of them last spent time together.

Comfortably leaning on the older man's arm, Matteo whispered, "Daddy, were you looking for Mommy?"

It caught Sebastian by surprise.

How did he know?

"I know you are looking for Mommy. I'm sure you won't abandon her, right?"

"Of course," Sebastian replied in a solemn tone.

Still wrapped in the hug, his son smiled.

Afterwards, Matteo fished out something from the pocket of his pyjamas and handed it to his father.

"This is for you. It is a list of places where Mommy lived with her friends abroad over the years. You must work hard to bring her back. Otherwise, you will be a widower."

"Widower?" Sebastian froze.

"It is a term for old men who lost their wives but still carry the burden of looking after their children. It will be difficult for you to remarry," Matteo explained as he saw how bewildered his father looked.

Sebastian's face fell.

How am I old?

I am not even thirty years old.

Also, why would it be difficult for me to remarry? If my wife leaves, I can definitely look for another woman to replace her.

Given my wealth and looks, I'm sure there will be plenty of women out there who will be more than willing to throw themselves at me.

Sebastian was unhappy with how his son termed him.

The sensible boy continued to analyze things for him. "Well, you do have the money and looks. I'm sure there will be many ladies waiting in line to be our stepmother. However, have you thought about how things will work once you remarry? Don't you think the relationship between our stepmother and us and her in-laws will be a bother?"

Sebastian remained silent.

After a few seconds, he realized his child was right.

Who the hell told him such things?

Over the next few days, Sebastian was occupied with the company's affairs. The shareholders obediently retreated to their homes without stirring more trouble after his return.

Everyone but Patrick Young.

"Patrick Young, I have already asked the company's securities department. They found out that the transaction regarding a large number of shares was closed overseas. Given our ability, it is impossible to track who was responsible for it. We have already reported the information to the banking regulators."

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 299

"That's right! Hayes Corporation could have turned the tide and maybe even gained a billion! Why did Sebastian veto that? I wonder what his motive is?"

It was a quiet afternoon, and a few minor shareholders were gathered in the garden of a villa, discussing Sebastian's decision.

"Don't say that! Mr. Hayes must have his own reasons for making that decision," Patrick chided. He was the villa owner and had a bigger shareholding compared to the rest.

"Why? Don't forget he is not quite right up there, Mr. Young. Who knows what he is up to?" One of the aggrieved men retorted, pointing to his head to indicate Sebastian's rumored mental problem.

Patrick's face fell, and he warned, "Mind your words! Don't go around spreading unverified rumors!"

Although he defended Sebastian, he was actually a two-faced, cunning man.

It would not be easy to oust the president in a direct confrontation, so he used other underhanded means to achieve his aim.

After the other men left, Patrick went back to his study, and his secretary followed closely.

When they were alone, the secretary couldn't help but ask, "Mr. Young, will the new successor of Hayes Corporation really give us what we want if we managed to oust Sebastian?"

"Of course! Otherwise, he can kiss Hayes Corporation goodbye!" Patrick laughed confidently as he happily picked up his golf bag and headed out.

Meanwhile, over at Wall Street in Moranta, Sasha was in distress.

She had only closed one contract worth a few hundred thousand that day, and that was to be executed six months later. At the rate she was going, she would be in financial trouble soon.

Sasha was in a sullen mood when she got back to her temporary accommodation, a place that belonged to Solomon's friend.

Lance had left her alone and kept to himself for the past few days. It was only when he realized she had no plans to leave the place that he approached her for a discussion.

"Sha, shall we move out?"

"Huh? Move? Where to?" Sasha asked him in return.

"It may not be nice for us to stay here when Solomon is not in. Since we have no plans to leave Moranta soon, it would be better to find our own place. What do you think?" Lance reasoned.

"Oh, you are right! It slipped my mind. Sure! Could you help look around for it?" Sasha agreed.

"Okay." He immediately turned to leave.

Sasha was preoccupied with her own thoughts, so it took her a while to realize her mistake. Lance was not familiar with the place and the language there. She should not have given him the task of looking for their accommodation.

About an hour later, her cousin came back with the good news that he had found them an apartment.

“How did you manage that? I thought you couldn’t speak the language here?” Sasha asked in disbelief.

Lance’s expression changed briefly. “I... Erm... we communicated in writing since I could read,” he stammered.

I see!

Sasha accepted his explanation, and they moved into the apartment immediately.

Solomon heard about that in the evening. He called to ask her about it, followed by an explanation that he went away for just a couple of days to settle some matters in Clear, but he would be back soon.

Sasha did not want him to feel bad, so she made up an excuse. “I found a place closer to Wall Street. Since I am working with Mr. Rind now, that would be a more convenient location for me.”

“Oh, alright then. By the way, I heard you’re working with him on the Jetroina project. Is it true that he hasn’t been giving you many lucrative leads after assigning you to handle some futures contracts?” Solomon asked.

Feeling aggrieved about that, so she took the opportunity to grouch, “It’s true! I think he is not too happy with my stand and doesn’t trust me yet.”

“Your stand about making money the legal way?”

“Yes. Those who went with me were earning millions after being allocated the hottest financing projects!” she complained in frustration.

It was indeed easier and faster to earn big money in investment banking.

On the other end of the phone, as Solomon was talking to Sasha, he was flipping through the file on the Jetroina project. Suddenly, his eyes lit up, and he suggested, "How about you contact the person in charge of the Jetroina project directly?"

"What? Contact him directly?"

"Yes. The lead might have come from Andy, but if you close the deal and share your earnings with him, I am sure he would not object to it. What do you think about that?"

His proposal for her to bypass her boss and negotiate with Sky Precision directly was tempting.

Just then, Lance came in with a bowl of dessert for Sasha. She ended her call with Solomon and casually sought her cousin's opinion. "Lennie, Solomon said we should bypass Mr. Rind and negotiate with Sky Precision directly. What do you think?"

"No way! That is inappropriate."

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 300

"Sha, we are now working under Andy. He will be mad if he finds out you bypass him to negotiate directly with Sky Precision."

"But isn't it the same if we close the deal and split the earnings with him?"

"How is that the same? An egoist control freak like him would definitely not be happy with that. What matters more to him is submission and obedience from his subordinates, not money." Lance was stern, quite unlike his usual self.

Moreover, his reasoning and analysis were way too sophisticated, beyond what a normal college kid could come up with.

He spoke as though he was an experienced expert in such matters. How could that be? Did I hear him wrong?

His rebuttal left Sasha speechless.

Seeing her reaction, he realized his unusual behavior had stunned her, so he changed his tone and explained, "I... Sha, don't get mad. I might sound a little harsh, but I have heard about such things from my friends. I am just worried for you."

Sasha stared at him for a few seconds. She decided he was telling the truth and dismissed her own suspicion.

"It's okay. I'll think about it again. You'd better head off to bed," she said.

That very night, she tossed and turned in bed, torn between Solomon's attractive proposal and Lance's very rational analysis.

Unexpectedly, like a magician, Solomon appeared out of the blue right in front of her the next morning. For a moment, his stunning features and warm smile dazzled Sasha. He had specially flown back from Clear to accompany her to meet the person in charge of the Jetroina project. He seemed to have read her mind and knew she was hesitant.

"Morning, Nancy. I knew you would be undecided, so let me accompany you there."

Sasha was grateful for his concern. His presence gave her assurance and eased her worry.

Bang! Just as she was about to take up his offer, the door upstairs burst open. Lance came out and greeted them with a sharp look.

"Oh Lance, you are up? Perfect timing! Solomon is here, so maybe we can give it a try. What do you say?" His stony expression gave her the shudders, and she tried to appease him with a conciliatory tone.

However, her cousin was definitely not his usual obedient self that morning. His face darkened further upon hearing her, and he stormed back into his room, slapping the door hard behind him.

Both Solomon and Sasha were dumbstruck as they wondered what was wrong with him.

After she recovered from her shock, Sasha hurriedly turned to Solomon with an apology. "I am really sorry about that. He was against the idea because he was worried I would offend Andy by doing so."

Fly into such a rage just because he was worried for his cousin?

Solomon's eyes narrowed in doubt. He stared fixedly at the door for a long time, highly concerned as the Lance he knew would never behave with such anger and disdain. His menacing stare was frightening.

On the other hand, Sasha did not read too much into the episode. Lance had warned her about the issue the night before, so she could understand his anger over her decision to go ahead.

As Lance was in a wrathful mood, she decided to go ahead without him. Just as she was about to leave, her cousin came out of his room and whined, "I am coming along too!" He stood there with a pained look in his big, soulful eyes.

"Huh?"

The huge change in his attitude astonished Sasha. He had been very unpredictable in the past few days, raging like a bull one moment and then meek as a lamb the next.

She wanted to be firm with him, but when she saw his disappointed bowed head and lowered eyes, she softened. "Okay, go get changed. I will wait for you." She relented, ruffling his hair.

Lance immediately broke into a wide grin and ran back into his room to change.

Solomon, who was watching them from the hall, was perplexed. What he just witnessed was the usual behavior of Lance. However, he felt something was not quite right. It was bothering him because he could not single out exactly what was wrong.