The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 501 - 510

It was still early morning, so his desperate yell could've wakened up the residents in the building.

Naturally, Sebastian was woken up rudely.

He initially thought of ignoring Saul, but the kids were here, so he had no choice but to get up grimly.

"What's with the yell? He's ill, so it's perfectly normal for his son to send him to Jetroina, right?"

"Normal? Who knows what they are planning. Sebastian, stop being childish and follow me to the hospital right now," Saul declared and dashed forward to drag him out.

Luckily, Wendy was on his side. "Mr. Hayes, you should go visit your father before it's too late."

Sebastian remained quiet for some time.

In the end, he glared at them and changed his clothes before leaving with his cousin.

Around twenty minutes later, they arrived at the hospital.

Sebastian didn't want to be here, especially after the old man called him a hypocrite, causing them to have a fallout.

Yes, he had always rebelled against his father, but no one knew how important his father was to him.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have agreed to marry Sasha when Frederick ordered him to do so.

Alas, everything had changed now.

Saul drove ahead and glanced in the rearview mirror at the aloof man seated in the backseat. Seeing how grouchy the man was, he dared not say anything throughout the entire journey.

Upon their arrival, the leader of Black Hawk, Channing Woods, who had been working for Frederick for a long time, came to greet them.

Saul opened the car door without saying anything.

Channing took one look at the man in the car and exclaimed in delight, "Mr. Sebastian, you're here!"

It was as though Sebastian was his last straw of hope.

Regardless, Sebastian didn't respond to his enthusiasm and merely flash a mocking smirk.

Channing was rendered speechless.

Saul hastily dragged him away. "At least he's here, right? That's what's important. We should head to Frederick now."

"Okay!"

Channing led them into the hospital hastily.

Frederick had suffered from a heart attack, so he wasn't doing well now. After stabilizing his condition, they had to operate on him to save his life.

Still, as his heart attack came too suddenly, the local hospital dared not operate on him.

Hence, they suggested transferring him to a better hospital.

"Mr. Sebastian, we've contacted the best surgeon in Jadeborough. But Mr. Solomon refused to let us head there. He said it will be better if his father receives treatment in Jetroina." Channing explained the whole situation and gazed at Sebastian earnestly.

The moment Sebastian heard how he addressed Solomon as "Mr. Solomon," he couldn't help but shudder in disgust.

"Let him go to Jetroina, then. You should listen to your Mr. Solomon."

Channing paled, realizing he had said something wrong.

Saul hurriedly interjected, "That won't do! We're waiting for you to make a decision!"

He tugged on Sebastian and led him into the elevator.

The doctors were surrounded by a few strangers outside the ICU when they arrived.

A spectacled man in a suit holding a briefcase was questioning the doctors, "Are you sure he can't speak? I thought his condition is stable now? Why can't he talk? I need to confirm something with him right now."

"No. The patient is still in critical condition. How can he talk?"

"What? But it concerns his will!" the man blurted out.

Sebastian, who had just arrived, heard what he said clearly. He merely stuck his hand into his pocket nonchalantly, saying nothing.

Everyone felt an indescribable sense of oppression in the air, causing them to tremble in fear.

"M-Mr..."

"Kill him!" Sebastian ordered coolly.

He didn't even explode in anger or show any hint of fury in his expression. Standing there, he was the epitome of elegance.

Nevertheless, the spectacled man's face immediately contorted in horror.

"No, Mr. Hayes. Please listen to my explanation. I didn't mean that. I—"

Crack!

He didn't even get the chance to finish his sentence, for Channing had stepped forward to choke his neck. The spectacled man went limp under his chokehold promptly.

Channing Woods was someone more terrifying than Karl, for he was the one who established Black Hawk under the Hayes family. The mere mention of Black Hawk would get others to tremble in fear.

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"Mr. Sebastian, wait a minute. I'll dispose of him."

"Mm."

Sebastian gave him one last look and went to the doctor's office.

He might hate Frederick, but he wouldn't allow outsiders to humiliate his father.

The people who were trying to convince the doctors with the lawyer immediately fled the scene after seeing Sebastian's cruelty.

That was so scary! He might no longer be the president of Hayes Corporation, but he's still intimidating and merciless.

Sebastian and Saul came to the doctor's office.

"Mr. George, you shouldn't bring your father to Jetroina. It's too long a journey, and I'm afraid he can't take it."

"Yes, Mr. George. Old Mr. Hayes' situation is critical, so it's best for him to head to Jadeborough. Please reconsider your decision."

Clearly, the doctors were trying to convince Solomon to change his mind.

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Just a second later, a familiar voice rang out. "Don't worry about that. I'll arrange a private jet to bring him there. I've also contacted the doctor from Jetroina to come here. He will be on the same flight to monitor him."

It was Solomon's voice.

Saul felt his limbs going numb. "Sebastian, hurry and get in there. We can't stop him now."

However, Sebastian made no move to head in.

"Isn't that good?"

"But-"

"Mr. Hayes, you're here! Great. Come on in!"

When they were conversing, the doctor opened the door. He was pleasantly surprised to see Sebastian out there.

First Hospital was one of Hayes Corporation's assets, so Sebastian had shown up for a few management meetings here.

Those doctors who had been here for a while knew who he was.

Frowning, Sebastian had no choice but to walk into the office.

Indeed, Solomon and a man in his forties were in that room.

The man even gave Sebastian a nod and grinned.

Who is this?

The disgust in Sebastian's heart intensified. He didn't even bother sitting down and demanded, "What is going on?"

"Your father's condition is stable now. As he's old and had a blockage in the aorta, we suggest he gets transferred to a better hospital."

"Then?"

"Then, we suggest for him to transfer to a hospital in Jadeborough. We even contacted that hospital in advance. But Mr. George here says he doesn't believe the local doctors and insists on bringing his father to Jetroina. We think—"

"Sure. Go to Jetroina, then. That sounds like a great idea," Sebastian cut in coolly and agreed to Solomon's idea.

The doctors were stunned.

Even Solomon couldn't conceal his astonishment as he whipped his head around to stare at Sebastian.

Why is he acting differently? He's not here to stop me? What is his plan?

He found it hard to believe, but it was true.

The man who nearly killed him two days ago because of his wife seemed impassive today.

It was as though this matter had nothing to do with him.

"Sebastian?"

"That's it, then. I need to go now," Sebastian responded irritatedly and turned on his heels to leave.

Everyone else shared dazed looks. They couldn't believe he had just left without looking back!

Solomon snapped back to reality and sneered at Sebastian's retreating figure. "Frederick Hayes, just look at the son you brought up personally. You protected him and even stained your own hands with blood. Now, do you regret after seeing how ruthless he is?"

In the end, it was decided that Frederick would be transferred to Jetroina to receive treatment.

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As the matter was settled, Solomon returned to his company and left the private jet's arrangements to Ken.

"I warn you, this is the end of it. If anything happens to him after he arrives in Jetroina, I'll make sure you regret your actions!" he warned Ken before leaving.

The smile on Ken's face didn't even waver at his warning.

"What's wrong? Mr. George, do you have feelings for your biological father after spending a few months with him? You don't want to see him in trouble?"

"That's none of your business!" Solomon declared, his eyes turning crimson red in rage as though he wanted to tear Ken into pieces.

"Ken, inform that woman not to challenge my bottom line. That includes both Frederick and Sasha. Otherwise, she'll regret having given birth to me in the first place," he warned between gritted teeth.

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It was a blessing to be born into the world, but now, Solomon was saying he'd make his mother regret giving birth to him if she continued challenging his limits.

Ken said nothing after that and brought his men to the airport.

"Mr. Sato, you're here."

"Mm. Is the patient on the plane?" Ken asked as his gaze landed on the luxurious plane parked nearby.

The man wearing shades immediately nodded. "Yes, he's already up there. Everyone is ready, save for you."

"Okay."

Ken strode toward the plane.

After boarding the plane, before he could take his seat, a figure appeared behind him and struck him.

Instantly, he blacked out and collapsed weakly.

"Mr. Hayes, done. He's unconscious," the figure looked up and reported enthusiastically.

That man was the person who had just opened the car door for Ken earlier.

After dealing with Ken, he was reporting to the pilot in the cockpit.

Yes, the plane no longer belonged to Ken. It had been hijacked by Sebastian.

The man was sitting in the cockpit, his face grim. He didn't feel like answering his excited subordinate.

"So? Do you want me to teach you what to do next?"

Channing fell silent.

Just bear with it. He must be fuming now. I can't afford to offend him.

Silently, Channing brought Ken out of the plane to dispose of him.

After that, they flew to Jadeborough with Frederick.

Roxanne was heading to the Wand residence again.

"Wendy, are the kids at home? I brought along some snacks for them."

"Yes, they are."

It was the weekend, and Wendy couldn't lie and say the kids were at school, so she had no choice but to reply that the kids were home.

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Roxanne sauntered into the house cheerfully.

Matteo heard the commotion downstairs and immediately scowled unhappily. He didn't want to flatter and talk to his woman.

Suddenly, Ian stopped him.

"Daddy hadn't brought Mommy home yet. We still need to be polite to her."

"What do you mean?"

"We can try to fish some information from her. Perhaps she knows where Mommy is," lan explained.

In fact, Roxanne knew about it.

She was bold enough to come here, as she had a trump card.

"Matt, Vivi, your daddy isn't home today?"

"Daddy's at the hospital because Grandpa's sick. Ms. Rocke, didn't you visit Grandpa?" Vivian replied innocently.

Vivian disliked Roxanne too, but her brothers told her not to show her displeasure to the latter. Hence, she decided to chat with her.

Roxanne was delighted to hear that.

"Oh, I'll head there after visiting you kids. On second thought, I need to go to the hospital now. This is the medicine I prepared for your daddy to relieve his stress. Can you give it to him when he comes back later?" Roxanne uttered as she brought out a few bottles of medicine from her bag.

This was the main purpose of her visit today.

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After the boys came to her and offered their apologies two days ago, she felt it was time to try to seduce the man again. The medicine would be a perfect excuse for her to show up at their house.

Vivian and Matteo couldn't bring themselves to say anything, so Ian stretched out his hand and uttered coolly, "Okay."

His action pleased Roxanne greatly.

Ah, look how adorable he is!

She left, extremely pleased with herself. I shall come back when Sebastian is at home.

She would never know that the boy she called "adorable" would empty the contents of the bottles into the garden once she made her leave.

Matteo exclaimed, "lan! What if the flowers die from the poison?"

Vivian knelt beside the flowers sadly. "Ian, don't feed the flowers poison. Next time, we should pour them into the drain to poison the rats."

"Sorry," Ian apologized profusely.

Wendy's jaw dropped at the sight. Wow, the kids are really amazing.

After Roxanne's departure, Wendy allowed the kids to head out to have some fun on the weekend.

The neighborhood was quite safe, and there was a playground right outside their house.

When the kids held hands and skipped along the street, they saw a crowd at the market nearby.

"What happened?"

"Come, let's go and check it out!"

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The boys dashed over to find out what was going on.

To their utter shock, they saw a familiar person lying on the ground in the middle of the crowd.

"Aunt Sabrina? Why is Aunt Sabrina here?"

"Matteo, hurry. Let's call Daddy!"

"Aunt Sabrina!"

The kids panicked instantly.

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At General Hospital in Jadeborough.

When Sebastian received his son's call, he had just arranged for Frederick's surgery with the help of Devin Jadeson.

He couldn't believe his ears. "What? Aunt Sabrina?"

"Yes, Daddy. Aunt Sabrina is lying on the ground in the market opposite the playground in front of our house. When will you be back?" Matteo inquired naively. He had no idea his father wasn't in Avenport now.

After confirming the fact, Sebastian could hardly contain his happiness. "Matt, I'm not in Avenport right now. I've brought Grandpa to Avenport to treat his illness. Listen to me carefully. I'll ask Karl to come over right now. Take care of your Aunt Sabrina until he arrives, alright?"

"Sure!" Matteo answered.

Daddy gave us a mission to take good care of Aunt Sabrina. We must not disappoint him!

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The children held hands and formed a circle around Sabrina to protect her from the crowd.

"Stay away. This is our aunt, so no one is allowed to touch her."

"Yes, don't touch her!" Vivian warned.

Back in Jadeborough, Sebastian hung up and was going to head back to Avenport.

Devin frowned at his actions. "You're leaving that soon? Won't you wait until your father comes out of his surgery? The hospital director said his condition is quite critical. If you leave now..." he trailed off as his meaning was clear.

If Sebastian were to leave now, he might not get to see his father for the last time.

Alas, Sebastian was unfazed.

"That's his fate. I've done my job by sending him here," the man responded coolly and spun on his heels to leave.

Devin fell silent.

"Mr. Sebastian, can I talk to you in private?" Right then, Channing returned after dealing with the procedures. He immediately stopped Sebastian from leaving and asked to talk to him.

A few minutes later, they both stopped at a guiet corridor in the hospital.

Channing stood still and stared at the young man who he had watched growing up. After a long silence, he said, "Mr. Sebastian, before Mr. Hayes had a heart attack, he made a will with his lawyer, Gabriel Averton."

His words caught Sebastian by surprise.

Channing continued, "Mr. Hayes knew this would happen one day, so he made arrangements beforehand by leaving all his shares to you."

"What? Come again?" Sebastian regained his composure and glared at him.

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Did he leave his entire fortune to me? How could that be possible?

He was so afraid I'd take away his fortune meant for his other son. Didn't he curse and insult me back then?

Now, he's leaving his shares to me in his will? Isn't that too ridiculous?

Sebastian refused to believe it. "Are you lying to make me stay?"

"No. If you don't believe me, let me call Gabriel now. I'll ask him to send a photo of the will over."

Before waiting for Sebastian's reply, Channing dialed Gabriel's number.

A few minutes later, Sebastian's phone buzzed. He pulled it out and clicked into the photo he received hesitantly. Indeed, a legitimate will with Frederick's signature was displayed on the screen.

"Mr. Hayes didn't want you to take the twenty percent of shares because he had planned to leave his thirty-five percent of shares to you. He refused to let you take charge of Hayes Corporation to protect you. All he wanted was for you and your wife to have a blissful life together."

How ridiculous. Kicking me out of Hayes Corporation was to protect me? That's utter nonsense!

Anger clouded Sebastian's face as he parted his lips to press on. Right then, Devin rushed to him and declared, "Sebastian, your father isn't doing well. Hurry, let's go to the operating theater now."

Sebastian put off the cigarette in his hand instinctively and dashed toward the operating theater with his best friend.

Alas, Frederick was already in the operating theater when he arrived in a huff. He stared blankly at the red light outside the operating theater silently.

What if he didn't make it? What shall I do?

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That threw him into a dilemma.

I might feel exhilarated for a moment, for he had yelled at me and hurt my feelings a lot.

Nevertheless, Sebastian looked down and realized his hands were trembling. He couldn't even hold a cigarette.

"Damn it!" he growled and kicked the trashcan right beside him.

Instantly, the metallic clang reverberated throughout the hallway.

Devin told him, "Calm down. General Hospital is the best hospital in the country. Have some confidence in the surgeon. Your father will be fine."

Slowly, the emotional Sebastian gradually calmed down.

The surgery went on for three hours.

Three hours later, the doors slid open as a medical staff pushed out a body covered with a white cloth.

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Sebastian couldn't stand properly after seeing that.

Channing grabbed the doctor's shoulders and roared. "What happened? Isn't this the best hospital? What have you done to Mr. Hayes, huh?"

He almost fractured the doctor's shoulders.

Devin immediately went up to stop them. "Calm down, you guys. Listen to what the doctor has to say first!"

The hospital in the military headquarters was the best in the country.

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This was why Devin admitted Frederick into this hospital after receiving Sebastian's call.

No one expected Frederick's condition to deteriorate all of a sudden.

"It's not the usual case of myocardial infarction. We noticed Mr. Hayes' aorta is all hardened, and it's due to excessive use of medication..." the doctor explained.

The doctor explained further about the condition, but Sebastian could not recall a thing he said anymore.

When Sebastian regained consciousness, he only remembered wearing the sterile gown and sitting beside the bed in the ICU ward.

Frederick was on ventilatory support even though his heart was not beating anymore.

"You're just gonna lie here and assume I'll forgive you?" Sebastian glared at the old man and murmured

Yet, at this stage, Frederick could no longer scold and annoy Sebastian like how he did in the past.

The ward was filled with pin-drop silence.

Channing, who stood outside the ward, turned to Devin and gave him a USB drive. "Can you please pass this to Sebastian later?"

Devin gave him a puzzled look. "Where are you going? Let's wait for him, and we'll discuss the next course of action together."

Yet, Channing, who had worked closely with Frederick for years, responded with a grin and left.

Two days later, Sebastian walked out of the crematorium with Frederick's cremation urn.

"We received news from Jetroina. Channing is dead, but he killed Ken Sato," Devin delivered the news with a heavy heart.

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Sebastian tightened his grip on the urn and closed his eyes. "Where's the thing he gave you?"

"Here." Devin took out the USB drive and passed it to him.

Sebastian had been avoiding the USB drive in the last few days because he could not accept Frederick's death.

At the same time, he was afraid to find out all the secrets he had been trying to figure out in the last two years. And he believed the USB drive contained all the answers to his doubts.

Yet, he did not dare to face the truth.

With the demise of Channing, Sebastian had no choice but to see what was in it.

While flying back to Avenport with Frederick's ashes, he opened the USB drive and found a video in it

"Sebastian, if you're watching this video, I'm afraid I would have been gone. I always knew this day would come, and I hope you can pull yourself together," Frederick, who was sitting in the garden, spoke in the video.

Frederick was all calm and steady, unlike how he had reprimanded Sebastian over the incident at the memorial hall. The elderly man was even smiling as he spoke.

"I know you're mad that I didn't hand the Hayes Corporation to you. I'm sorry, but I have my reasons, and I don't regret it. You're not made for that kind of life, Sebastian."

"When I forced you to take up Hayes Corporation, I thought I made the right choice," Federick explained why he did not want Sebastian to take over the corporation. "Yet, there were people who threatened you with your illness and tried to sabotage you. I finally realized I'd made a grave mistake. I thought I had your best interest in mind, but in reality, I made your life a living hell."

Is that the reason?

Sebastian did not buy the story.

Just like what Channing mentioned earlier, Frederick did talk about the will.

"This will is for you. I've given you thirty-five percent of the shares," Frederick continued. "Though you're not the ultimate decision-maker, you're still the second-biggest shareholder of the corporation. With this will, you should be able to live comfortably with Sasha and the kids for the rest of your lives."

Suddenly, Frederick stopped talking in the video.

Sebastian stared at the screen, wondering what he would say next.

"So please leave Solomon alone. I owed him so much, and I want to make it up to him. And he's also your brother. Let bygones be bygones, okay?" That was the last thing he said in the video.

Toward the end, Frederick's smile had disappeared, and guilt was written all over his face. Sebastian noticed that tears welled up in his father's eyes.

It was as if he was begging Sebastian not to complicate the matter anymore.

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Fury surged through Sebastian, and he was about to explode in anger. How he wished he could smash the USB drive into pieces.

This was what he had to say? That's all?

He included me in his will because he wanted me to stay away from his son. What a brilliant plan!

A corner of his mouth quirked up. He stared at the USB drive with his teary eyes and burst into laughter.

"Mr. Hayes, are you okay?" Karl was worried upon seeing his reaction.

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"I'm fine. Pass this urn to Solomon later. Tell him the old man gave me thirty-five percent of the company shares. I'll give him all the shares, but he must bring her back to me." Sebastian handed the urn over to Karl so that he could give it to Solomon when they arrived.

Karl was taken aback.

Give...give this to Solomon? I must have heard it wrongly, right?

The moment they touched down at Avenport's airport, Sebastian stormed out of the building right away.

Karl had no choice but to bring the urn to Hayes Corporation.

At this point, Solomon had learned about Frederick's death. He flew into a rage, turning his office upside down.

When Karl walked into his office with the urn, Solomon froze. "What is it all about?"

The color drained out of his face as he stared blankly at the urn.

Karl placed the urn on his desk. "Mr. Hayes told me to bring this to you. He said he'll give you the thirty-five percent of his company shares once you bring his wife back safely."

"And if you refuse to cooperate, he'll personally come over and take over your position in the company." Karl pointed at his chair.

Upon hearing that threat, Solomon's face turned even paler.

Thirty-five percent of shares went to him? That old man gave all his shares to him?

It looks like the man cared about him more than me—his biological son!

Solomon clenched his fists so hard that his knuckle cracked. His jealousy toward Sebastian continued to grow stronger.

In the end, he still got in touch with the people in Jetroina.

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"What the hell? The old man gave the company shares to that bast*rd and not his own son? Was he out of his mind?" The woman in Jetroina cursed.

Solomon contained his anger and reminded her. "Since Sebastian is willing to give up his shares, I'll still be the biggest shareholder of the company even if we don't know where the 20% is. You should be happy."

The woman on the other end of the line kept mum for a while before saying, "So you really want me to release Heather's daughter?"

"Did I ask you to keep her around in the first place?" Solomon asked.

"I'm only doing this for you since you still have feelings for her, right?" the woman defended herself.

Solomon threatened her with a smirk. "Say it one more time, and I'll jump from the top of Hayes Corporation. You'll lose everything."

His threat rendered the woman speechless right away, and she eventually ended the call.

Solomon threw the phone aside and sat on his chair. He could not stop his body from shaking upon thinking about the news he received.

Meanwhile, at Kenford in Jetroina, Sasha found out that they were releasing her the next day.

"Mrs. Tsurka said you're free to go now. Here's your flight ticket and some cash. You can return to your country now." The woman who came to inform her was not Ken but a middle-aged woman.

Yet, the way she spoke was as aloof as Ken.

Sasha gave her a puzzled look.

I'm free to go?

She could not believe what the woman said.

Just a few days ago, Sasha attempted to escape because of the Sabrina incident, and these people reinforced the wall of the building to prevent her from running away again.

And all of a sudden, they changed their mind and let me go?

"What trick are you trying to pull next? Are you still trying to make me give up the share transfer agreement? I have told you that I know nothing about it, and I don't have it with me!" Sasha shot a sullen glare at the woman.

Surprisingly, the woman replied in a calm voice, "We don't need that agreement anymore. You'd better leave now before I lock the door."

Sasha immediately grabbed the ticket and cash over and dashed out of the premises.

Finally, she regained her freedom.

Instead of going directly to the airport, she put on a mask and made a trip to Lostaria.

That was the place of origin of the Tsurka family.

Sasha wanted to find out more about the mysterious Mrs. Tsurka. She wanted to know who she was and how did she get Solomon to do things for her.

The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 507

Sasha arrived in Lostaria.

"Excuse me, may I know how to get to the Tsurka family residence?"

"Might you be asking about Jade Garden?" the Jetroinian girl bowed politely and inquired in return.

Jade Garden?

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Sasha did not know too much about the Tsurkas, but nodded reflexively when she heard that name. "Yes."

"You should take a taxi and go about three miles in this direction, Miss. When you see a yard full of peonies, you'll know that you're in the right place," said the girl who went on to offer further details.

Sasha thanked her promptly before she flagged down a taxi and headed toward the place described.

Peonies?

Does Jetroina have peonies? And an entire garden of it?

That was the one question Sasha obsessed over the short ride.

After ten minutes or so, her eyes widened in astonishment when greeted with the sight of a sea of deep purple and brilliant red before she steadily alighted.

They really are peonies!

Not only that, the entire garden was intricately imbued with an old-world charm. The walls which enclosed this sea of blossoms were constructed using blue bricks and red tiles, with circular sectors hollowed out at intervals within its wave-like form.

At first impression, she felt like she have stepped into a Chanaean garden back home rather than any place in Jetroina.

Why would a Jetroinian family employ such an architectural style?

That did much to pique Sasha's curiosity, and when she came closer, she discovered a sweet voice emanating from the other side of that wall.

"He's being difficult."

"What's the matter? Has he upset you again?"

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The discontent conveyed through that delicate voice was followed closely by the gentle inflection of a concerned older male.

The woman sounded mildly miffed, and it was not certain what she was doing before the splashing of water was heard.

"He's not being appreciative at all. The reason why I kept that lass around was because he couldn't seem to move on from her, and now he's cussing at me and even threatening to jump to his death? Is he mental?"

Sasha was slightly taken aback.

This voice, doesn't sound that lovely anymore.

After hearing how the demure voice from before had seemingly morphed into that of a mean-spirited and foul-mouthed shrew, Sasha could no longer refrain from peering inside through that fan-shaped opening.

There was, indeed, a woman and a man inside, but to Sasha's surprise, they were not in a yard, but a hot spring surrounded by peonies on all four sides.

At this moment, a bikini-clad woman with a wicked figure was canoodling with a pot-bellied elderly man.

"So, this is what it's about. There's no need to get all worked up over this. The kid cares a lot about his pride and surely won't make a move for as long as that girl remains Sebastian's wife. But worry not. With Frederick now dead, we'll just have to wait until we secure all of Hayes Corporation's shares. When the time comes, wouldn't it be easy for us to have her marry Solomon?"

Sasha was all thunderstruck and mouth agape as she listened in.

Is Frederick... dead?

However, this was not the worst of it. The more terrifying sight she picked up through her vantage point was when the woman was happily coaxed into facing around toward the elderly man.

Smack!

Sasha's mind blanked out when she glared at the woman, stupefied.

How could this be?

This woman... why does she resemble that person in the photograph Mom had always kept close to her?

Mom said she's called Yancy Young, her very best friend who, unfortunately, passed away when her child was only eight.

Shell-shocked to see the woman still alive and kicking, Sasha staggered backward and missed her footing.

Crash!

"Who's there?"

The man inside the hot spring turned around sharply with a murderous gaze.

Sasha brought a hand over her mouth to prevent herself from crying out, but she had no time to escape before several deft shadows rose from within the Jade Garden and pounced upon her.

"How disappointing. I've considered letting you off this once on your mother Heather's account, but you just have to show up here. Now, you've no one else to blame but yourself."

After Yancy got dressed, she walked over with arms akimbo and regarded the woman who had been subdued by the bodyguards.

Sasha jerked her head up and glared back. "So, it really is you. Why did you do it? Why did you lie to my mother?"

"Hmm..." The woman finally evoked some semblance of self-consciousness. "It was... a matter of expediency back then."

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"A matter of expediency? My mother supported and raised your son like her own until he turned eighteen, and kept his identity a secret at your request. When you wanted to send him abroad at eighteen, she put in the money and effort to make arrangements. And now, you're turning around to casually dismiss it as a matter of expediency? How could you, Yancy Young?"

Recalling everything that her mother did for this woman made Sasha choke up when she confronted her.

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Yancy appeared to be rather bristled.

"What the heck do you know? I did it all for the sake of vengeance, and besides, didn't my son already repay you for everything that your mother had done? When you were forced out by the Hayes and cast adrift overseas, wasn't my son the one who has been constantly helping you?"

"You..."

"Enough of this. I'm done talking. Now that you found out about me, you can forget about going back."

With a wave of her hand, the woman motioned for the few attending bodyguards to have Sasha pulled onto her feet and taken away.

Upon sensing her intentions, Sasha started to put up a desperate struggle. "You won't get away with this, Yancy. You killed Frederick and deceived your best friend into raising your son for you. Sebastian will surely seek you out to avenge his father, and nothing good shall befall you!"

The woman's lips pursed tightly before she suddenly raised her hand and slapped her.

Sasha, who was being dragged along, felt her own face arched to one side with a resounding smite.

"Nothing good shall befall me? What have I done wrong to be deserving of such a fate? At twenty, I became pregnant with the child of a man who would rather abort his own child in order to safeguard one who wasn't of his own blood. What wrong was I guilty of then?"

All inside the yard, including Sasha, fell dead silent.

What did she mean by that?

Safeguarding one who wasn't of his own blood?

"Listen here, Sasha Wand. I've already cut him enough slack, and all I want is Hayes Corporation. If I were to tell the world about his inglorious past, would you believe that it'll completely destroy the Sebastian Hayes you've come to know?"

The woman loomed over Sasha with savagery and hatred in her eyes akin to that of a viper capable of ending her at any time.

Sasha was motionless, and as though struck by something from above, she was suddenly devoured by a boundless terror and darkness which made her scream.

No. It can't be...

Elsewhere.

Sebastian brought a delirious Sabrina back to the Wand residence.

It was uncertain what exactly she was put through, but she was both anxious and fearful. She would scream hysterically whenever anyone else came near.

To think that this used to be the insufferable young lady of the Hayes family.

"There are some wounds found on Ms. Sabrina's body, Mr. Hayes, which the doctor has ascertained were produced by beating. As for her hysteria... it could have been induced by shock, coupled with the injection of some form of substance."

Karl regarded the state of the young lady of the Hayes before he cautiously explained with his back turned to her.

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When his voice trailed away, Sebastian, who had his eyes fixated upon his sister all this time, drove his fist violently into the wall.

While Karl held his silence in response, the mentally disturbed Sabrina thumped her knees into the floor with her hands raised protectively over her own head.

"Stop. Don't hit me anymore. I'll perform... I'll go perform for them..." the terror-stricken woman kept prostrating toward Sebastian while she muttered to herself.

Widening his eyes in shock and without regard for his own bleeding knuckles, Sebastian rushed forth and supported her by her arms to help her onto her feet.

"Look at me carefully, Sabrina. I'm your brother!" Even the voice with which he howled beside her ear was quivering.

Brother?

Perhaps the volume had been loud enough this time that it seemed to have yielded some semblance of a response from Sabrina.

My brother?

"That's right, your brother," Sebastian felt a lump in his throat and his eyes just reddened for no rhyme or reason.

The two siblings had never actually hailed each other as sister or brother before this.

Owing to their personalities and some things that happened over the course of their formative years, they usually either called each other by their full names or yelled at each other when things went south.

However, Sebastian told her straight up that he was her brother.

For a moment, Sabrina seemed to have calmed down, but her eyes then quickly glazed over. "Why didn't my brother come and rescue me? Does he blame me for losing his wife?"

The air in the room became stagnant to the point of suffocation.

"No, I didn't do it on purpose. Not on purpose..."

Then, she suddenly started to struggle violently, and with that, her face became awash with tears and overcome by pain and self-reproach.

By the time the thunderstruck Sebastian came to his senses, she had already slipped out of his hands and concealed herself elsewhere.

"Mr. Hayes?"

"What are you still standing there for? Didn't I send you to Jetroina to keep an eye on things? Go get on it. Once you've had her, kill them. Kill them all. Do you hear me?" Sebastian roared with such an intensity that the whole room seemed to be guaking.

What else could Karl have said except to see to the matter right away?

With a fury like this, he'd have bulldozed the whole of Jetroina had he not been waiting on news of Madam. There was no way he was going to let them off even if it meant taking it to them head-on.

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And so, off went Karl to Jetroina.

Back on this end, Sebastian continued to wait on news of Sasha while he tended to the children and watched over Sabrina who was receiving treatment.

Sabrina was playing with the kids and was somewhat less reactive after her latest round of treatment.

"Shall we play hide-and-seek, Aunt Sabrina?"

"Yay, I love hide-and-seek," a delighted Sabrina laughed and started to clap happily like a child.

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The three munchkins immediately broke away to hide, and out of consideration for their aunt who was unwell, they chose spots that were easier to spot, like behind the planter box or under the table.

All except for the adorkable Vivian, who got a little more invested and decided to head upstairs.

She was spotted by Sabrina who proceeded to chase her and those stumpy legs of hers down.

Sabrina ended up inside Vivian's room and uncovered the little girl's hiding spot behind the curtains, upon which Vivian responded by purposefully wrapping her shower towel around her own head to throw her aunt off.

"Ah!"

The previously upright Sabrina, shrieked as she shrunk into a ball by the door.

Snapping out of a discussion with her doctor regarding her prognosis, Sebastian reacted quickly to the noise he heard coming from upstairs. "What? What happened?"

The aggrieved-looking Vivian then poked her head out from the second-floor corridor.

"Vivi was just playing hide-and-seek with Aunt Sabrina, Daddy. And when Aunt Sabrina saw me hiding behind the curtain, she said that I was a ghost..."

The flabbergasted Sebastian's head throbbed but could do precious else apart from moving quickly to comfort this pair of big and little women.

"Come here, Vivi. Let Aunt Sabrina have a good look at you." Sebastian could only call his own daughter over to the shivering mess by the bedroom door that was his older sister, and Vivian duly complied.

"Look, Aunt Sabrina. It's me, Vivi."

Cautiously peeking out, Sabrina slowly lifted her head away from the bend of her elbow and breathed a sigh of relief when she recognized the dainty little girl.

But as soon as she saw Sebastian, she evoked another traumatized look on her face. "There's a ghost. I'm telling you. There's really a ghost."

"What are you going on about? What ghost?"

Sebastian was fast losing patience and already thinking about helping this still unsound woman downstairs when she grasped his arm abruptly.

"It's real. Inside the memorial hall. It has extremely long hair and even chewed at my toes. Ah!"

It was not certain what frightful thing came to mind that caused her to clamber onto her feet and break into a sprint after a round of screeching.

The hapless Sebastian wondered if he should take her to have some tests done to see if she was actually the one with the genetic anomalies but quickly forgot about the whole incident.

Roxanne came by two days later with a full set of extremely advanced equipment to run some tests on Sabrina in order to see if it might be of help.

"I know that you don't wish to see me, Sebastian, but Sabrina is my family too. After having so little success with all the doctors you've had attend to her, won't you let me give it a try?"

She did not strut in directly, but humbly implored Sebastian outside the door.

Sebastian was positive that he did not want to entertain her, but those kids who were playing with their aunt in the yard curiously ran over to him.

"I think Ms. Rocke's right, Daddy. Aunt Sabrina hasn't gotten any better, and now she isn't willing to stay inside the yard anymore. What are we to do if Ms. Dolivo and the three of us were unable to handle her when you're not around?" Matteo said.

Sebastian looked at him with some surprise and also found his older boy, Ian, who usually had no fondness for this woman, nodding along in agreement.

"It's worth a shot, as she's quite skilled at what she does."

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After a moment of quiet deliberation and a glance over at his wild-haired sister who was running amok in the yard, Sebastian reluctantly consented.

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Roxanne's face turned pale for a moment.

She dared not utter another word. Taking out the medicine and injection, the woman started treating Sabrina.

As a result, the latter became much better. She wasn't as restless as before, sitting down and resting for an entire morning.

"Ms. Rocke, why don't you have lunch here today?" Wendy asked casually.

She's here to treat Ms. Sabrina, and it's going to be noon soon. It'll be rude if we don't invite her for lunch.

Without any hesitation, Roxanne replied gleefully, "Sure. Let me help you."

Wendy was rendered speechless.

Glancing at the sullen Sebastian, she felt an urge to slap herself.

After the two went into the kitchen, Matteo saw his father's surly face and quickly scampered over to him.

"Daddy, Aunt Sabrina's condition is not stable yet. It's great that Ms. Rocke stays for lunch, so she can check on Aunt Sabrina in the afternoon too."

"Yeah..." Ian agreed as well.

Sebastian's eyes flicked between the two boys, who seemed to have a sudden change of mind, but the man could do nothing about it.

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Ignoring them, he turned around and headed upstairs.

He was still waiting for Karl's phone call. According to the plan, Jetroina should have gotten the news since he had passed the ashes to Solomon two days ago.

But why is there no update from that brat?

In the study, Sebastian turned on his computer.

Forty minutes later, lunch was ready.

Should I get him?

Gazing at the spaghetti, Roxanne was overwhelmed with eagerness.

She came only to approach the man. Now that a golden opportunity had presented itself, there was no way she would let it go.

Then, she mustered up the courage and went upstairs.

"Sebastian, Wendy asked me to inform you that lunch is ready."

Gingerly, she tiptoed to the study. Afraid that the man might get mad at her voice, she pretended as though Wendy sent her upstairs to call him.

However, Sebastian didn't hear her, as he was on the phone with Karl.

"Mr. Hayes, I've asked about it. They've released her."

"Really? If they have released her, where is she now?" Sebastian questioned in a rage.

On the other side of the phone, Karl nodded his head in agreement. "Yes, I thought so too. But Sinch Enterprise insisted that they had let Mrs. Hayes go. They even showed me the security footage as proof."

Immediately, he sent the security footage to his agitated boss.

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Sebastian's expression softened a little as he played the footage.

Sure enough, the person in the footage was none other than his wife. Holding something in her hand, she came out of a small wooden house.

Soon, she went out of sight.

Could it be that she has indeed been released?

Such a thought thrilled Sebastian. "Find out where she is now as soon as you can. Up till now, I haven't seen her return to the country."

Karl nodded at once. "I got it. I'm looking for her already. There's one place I'd like to check out first. I've checked with the airport. Mrs. Hayes hasn't boarded any plane."

"Where is it?"

"Kenfort."

"What? Kenfort?"

Sebastian had been to Jetroina, as he had some properties over then. However, he didn't know much about this county named Kenfort.

In the end, he had no choice but to agree with Karl and hung up the phone in vexation.

Standing in the doorway, Roxanne took the chance and asked, "Is it the Spring Lake at Kenfort in Jetroina?"

The second the man heard her voice, he swiveled around to look at her.

A hint of disgust and coldness flitted across his face.

Nevertheless, he stifled his annoyance when he registered her words.

"Do you know that place?"

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Holding back her delight, Roxanne explained in detail, "No, I'm not sure. I once heard from Solomon that his adoptive mother has a villa there. So it reminded me of that place when you mentioned Kenfort earlier."

But had she really heard it from Solomon?

Of course not!

As the partner of those people, the Rocke family knew many things.

Sebastian squinted his eyes at her.

He had his guard up against her. The first thing he wanted to do when he heard her voice was to ask her to get lost. How dare she come up without my permission?

After scrutinizing her for a moment, he eventually sent the name of the place to Karl, who was now in Jetroina.

In the next second, his frigid gaze landed on her.

Her heart skipped a beat.

"Hmm... I came to inform you that lunch is ready. By the way, Solomon isn't as great as he appears to be. The one who has the final say is his adoptive mother."

She went all out, revealing important information just so the man wouldn't be provoked.

Sure enough, the man who wanted to chase her away bit back his words.

"His adoptive mother?"

"Yes. You might not know this, but Solomon became the president of Sinch Enterprise because his adoptive mother instructed Tsurka to do so."

Sebastian remained silent.

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This is weird. Doesn't Tsurka have his own son? Why does he allow his adoptive son to take over as the president of Sinch Enterprise?