

# Always Been Yours Chapter 1411 - 1420

By the time Adam arrived, Joseph had already gotten out of bed, "What are you doing here?" he asked puzzledly. "I'm still worried about the whole situation with Remus' family so I came to discuss things with you."

Adam sat on the couch and shared his concerns. "Nicholas won't let things slide so easily. He and Kieran are close. I'm sure he'll do a thorough investigation."

Joseph chuckled. "Doesn't that work exactly in our favor? I'd be more worried if that punk doesn't investigate the accident and focuses on our accounts instead."

"Aren't you afraid that he might link the accident back to us?" Adam stared anxiously at Joseph.

"Relax, Adam," Joseph laughed. "It can't be traced back to us. I had them prepare for all possibilities. Even if Nicholas looks into it, he'll only find what we want him to find."

Even so, Adam was still uneasy. "That's not enough. I'm still worried."

"Why don't I have them do it again then? It'd be good for us too. If something happens to both Nicholas and Kieran, Remus' family would be thrown into chaos, and we can even take advantage of that situation to reap some benefits for ourselves."

The success of this attempt got to Joseph's head. He wanted to double down and do it again with Nicholas as the target. However, Adam talked him out of it. "There's no point trying to do it again now. Nicholas will surely be on his guard."

Thus, Joseph gave up on that idea. It was only a spur-of-the-moment suggestion. In reality, he knew he couldn't make a move against Nicholas now.

Before Joseph could speak, Adam stated, "Now that Nicholas is busy looking for Kieran, think of a way to delay Nicholas' investigations. I'll do my best to fudge the accounts and get rid of all the information that could be used against us."

Meanwhile, it was late at night back in Xerthania. The rescue team had been searching for two hours but there was still no sign of Kieran.

Nicholas stood by the river with a grim expression. The pressuring aura that emanated from him made it hard for others to breathe around him.

Dozens of boats were scattered along the river as the rescue team searched the water. Another half hour passed, and the leader of the rescue team walked over to Nicholas.

“President Sawyer, we found Master Kieran’s car earlier, but he wasn’t inside. He must’ve escaped from the car, the man informed. Nicholas was frowning hard as he instructed coolly, ‘Since you didn’t find him, keep looking.’”

“Well, we’ve searched for hours now and there’s still no sign of Master Kieran. I suspect that Master Kieran... must have sunk somewhere. There’s... a chance that he didn’t survive.”

The man’s voice grew fainter toward the end and his calves began trembling. The look in Nicholas’ eyes was far too terrifying.

Edward quickly came forward to mediate the situation. He didn’t want the leader of the rescue team to be scared out of his wits. That would only delay the rescue mission even further..

Thanks to that, the man was able to exhale in relief. Edward voiced a possibility. “Is it possible that Master Kieran was swimming in the river and a passing boat saved him?”

“That’s extremely unlikely.”

The man shook his head and explained, “We checked the situation earlier and found that no boats have passed by the river, so... it’s best if President Sawyer is mentally prepared for the worst.”

He carefully eyed Nicholas again. Nicholas clenched his fists. He couldn’t accept this outcome. He didn’t believe that something happened to Kieran.

He’s a quick-witted man. I’m sure he must be hiding somewhere waiting for us to save him. “Whether dead or alive, I won’t stop until he’s found. Keep searching!” Nicholas snarled through gritted teeth. His eyes were bloodshot.

The leader of the rescue team had no choice but to arrange for his team to carry on with the search. Edward could sense Nicholas’ intense grief and sorrow. He wanted to comfort the latter, but he didn’t know what to say. Fortunately, he was able to sigh in relief as he noticed Timothy approaching.

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As Timothy was Tessa's brother and someone Nicholas thought highly of, Edward figured that words of consolation from Timothy would be more effective than his own.

"President Sawyer, President Reinhart is here. I'll go and see what they've discovered about the car." As Edward was turning to leave, he caught Timothy's gaze.

He signaled Timothy with a look to ask the latter to say a few words of comfort to Nicholas. Timothy got the message and nodded lightly before walking over to Nicholas.

"How are things going, Nicholas? Have they found Kieran yet?" "They're still looking for him. Why did you come here?" Nicholas asked but his eyes remained fixed on the search out on the river.

Timothy didn't mind. "I saw the news on the television, he replied. "Tess is very worried about you so she asked me to come and take a look to see if I can help you out with anything."

He patted Nicholas on the shoulder. "Kieran will be fine. A man as smart as him would've surely found a way to escape. We just haven't found him yet." "I hope that's the case."

Nicholas pursed his lips. Thus, the two men stood by the river and waited.

A little while later, Edward came back with a serious expression. "President Sawyer, the police have just informed me that the brakes on the car had been sabotaged." Nicholas' expression darkened even further.

Things didn't stop there as Edward's next words made him even more furious. "The car belongs to you, so this means that the perpetrator was targeting you. It just so happened that Master Kieran borrowed your car."

"Look into it! Run a thorough investigation! I want to know who has the gall to plot against me, Nicholas instructed harshly through clenched teeth.

Edward nodded. "I've already instructed people to check the security cameras at the office. I'm sure we'll have a lead soon enough." "Good. Go there and keep an eye on things. If you find anything, let me know at once," Nicholas commanded.

Edward nodded and left. Timothy's expression was grim as well, but at the same time, he was a little relieved. Thank goodness it wasn't Nicholas who met with the accident. Otherwise, I can't imagine how destroyed Tess would be.

With that thought in mind, Timothy felt the urge to contribute in some way. "You should go and rest for a while, Nicholas.

Call Tess. She's very worried about you. I'll keep an eye on things here, and if there's any news about Kieran, I'll inform you right away." T'll give her a call first."

Nicholas didn't agree to rest, but he got his phone out and walked a little further away. He couldn't rest when Kieran hadn't been found yet.

Tessa answered almost immediately and her anxious voice filtered through the speakers. "Have they found Kieran?"

"No, but they've fished out the car. I've instructed the rescue team to carry on with the search. I won't be going back tonight. I want to stay here and wait to see if they find anything."

Nicholas gave her a summary of the current situation.

Tessa grew even more worried. "It's been so long. Why haven't they found him yet? Are they looking in the wrong place? Or did someone else rescue him already?"

She offered a few possibilities in the hopes that they would be of help. Nicholas narrowed his eyes and answered, "We can't rule those out. I'll arrange for them to search further downstream."

Although the leader of the rescue team had said that there most likely hadn't been any boats out on the river earlier, it wasn't for certain, so Nicholas wasn't going to overlook any possibilities.

"I'll leave Mom and Dad to you," Nicholas added. "Help me take good care of them." "I will, Tessa promised. They exchanged a few more words before hanging up.

Tessa went back to the living room and saw the butler walking over to her. "Madam Sawyer is awake, Young Madam. She wants to see you." "I got it," Tessa replied before heading upstairs.

When she entered the room, she saw Stefania sitting up in bed looking ghostly pale. Stefania noticed Tessa coming in and swiftly asked, "You talked to Nicholas, right? What did he say? Have they found Kieran?"

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Tobias was also worried about Kieran, but when he saw how distraught his wife was, he had to force himself to stay calm. He came forward to comfort her.

"You need to calm down, Stef. The doctor said that you can't be overwhelmed right now." He pulled her into his arms and gently patted her back.

Stefania knew she couldn't be too emotional right now, so she tried her best to calm down. When she finally composed herself a little, she turned back to Tessa.

Even without her saying anything, Tessa knew what she was about to ask. The latter bit her lip and said with some difficulty, "Nicholas said they haven't found Kieran yet."

As soon as those words rang out, Stefania began sobbing wretchedly. "It's been so long, and they still haven't found him! Something must've happened to him."

Stefania leaned against Tobias and wept.

Tessa quickly tried to console her. "Mom, even though they haven't found anything yet, it doesn't mean that something bad has happened. There's nothing to confirm that the worst has happened, and no news is good

news. Perhaps a passing boat rescued Kieran. We can't know for sure." "Don't cry, Grandma. Uncle Kieran will be fine." Gregory tried to reassure Stefania as well.

Tobias' eyes grew red, but he agreed with Tessa. He wiped the tears off Stefania's face and said, "Tessa's right. No news is good news. With the whole family consoling Stefania, she finally calmed down.

Just then, Tobias' phone started ringing with a call from Ian. "Master Tobias, Old Master Sawyer had a heart attack. He's being sent to the hospital right now. Please come over!"

"Got it. I'll be right there."

Tobias' expression stiffened. After ending the call, he quickly got up and said, "Tessa, Dad found out about Kieran's accident and he got a heart attack. I need to rush to the hospital now. You stay home to look after your mother."

After instructing Tessa, he told the butler to arrange his ride to the hospital. The Sawyers were in turmoil that night. The news of Kieran's accident and him being missing went viral online.

Due to this, Sawyer Group's shares were affected the next day. At the hospital, Remus was feeling better after receiving treatment last night, but he still looked ill.

He was fretful after watching the morning news that had a segment regarding Kieran who was still missing and the crisis that befell the Sawyer Group.

"You don't need to stay here with me. I'm fine now. Go back to the company and help Nicholas deal with work so that he can focus on finding Kieran, Remus instructed Tobias.

Tobias was hesitant. "The senior executives can handle things at Sawyer Group. I should stay here with you."

"I already said that you don't have to. Ian is here with me. Hurry up and head over to the company," Remus urged once more. Tobias had no choice but to leave.

Soon after he left, Adam and Joseph showed up at Remus' ward, claiming that they were there to visit Remus.

"Remus, we heard that Kieran crashed his car into the river and is currently missing, so we rushed over at once. We didn't expect you to fall sick as well. Are you all right?"

"Kieran has always been a smart boy. I'm sure he's fine. You don't have to worry about him." The two of them pretended to express their concern.

Ian kept eyeing them warily. All along, he had a feeling that they were people who would only do something if they stood to benefit from it.

Thus, when he saw them appearing now, he had a feeling that they were up to something. On the other hand, Remus wasn't surprised by his brothers' arrival.

He eyed them coolly and didn't respond. However, Adam and Joseph didn't mind. They assumed he was simply deeply affected by the news of Kieran's accident.

They immediately offered their help. "It's been a whole night and Nicholas hasn't found anything yet. Why don't I send some people over to help with the search?"

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"I'll make the calls right now," Joseph said as he fished out his phone. Remus saw what he was doing and didn't object. Regardless of what his two brothers were up to, he knew that locating Kieran was the utmost priority at this moment..

His gaze flickered with worry once more at the thought of his missing grandson. It looked as if he had aged years within the span of one night.

For the next two days, the rescue team still didn't find Kieran or any clues regarding his whereabouts. On the third day, the leader of the rescue team went over to Nicholas, who was still by the river.

"It's been three days, President Sawyer. We've searched everywhere and we still haven't found anything. I don't think there's any point in carrying on with the search any longer."

In other words, he hoped that Nicholas would call the search off now. Nicholas didn't respond immediately. He stared out at the peaceful river with a dark expression.

Eventually, he said hoarsely. "All right. You can go back now." The man nodded and offered his condolences before summoning his team back. Soon, the rescue team left the river.

Edward looked at Nicholas who was unmoving and went to talk to him. "Let's go back first, President Sawyer. You haven't slept in two days. Mistress is very worried about you."

Nicholas pursed his lips and took one last look at the river before leaving. The surrounding reporters took pictures of this scene. When Tessa saw Nicholas arriving back at Sawyer Residence with a look of utter exhaustion, she immediately went over to him.

Her heart ached when she saw his bloodshot eyes. "Prepare a cup of ginseng tea," she instructed the household staff. She helped Nicholas to the couch.

Stefania and Tobias knew that Nicholas was back as well, and they quickly came out of their room. "Nicholas, did you find Kieran?" As soon as Stefania came down, she immediately grabbed Nicholas' arm and asked.

Nicholas could tell that her hands were trembling. He shook his head and said with great difficulty, "Kieran... hasn't been found yet." "Why hasn't he been found yet..."

Stefania broke out in tears. However, she had only managed to sob a couple of times before fainting due to her agitation. Tessa and Nicholas were alarmed as they cried out, "Mom!" "Call the family doctor now!"

After some commotion, Stefania was brought back to her room. Tobias sat with his wife and waved the others off. "I'm sure you have things to talk about. Go ahead. I'll stay here with her."

"We'll leave for now then. If you need anything, send someone to come and tell us." Tessa didn't object to Tobias' suggestion as she wanted to let Nicholas rest for a bit.

They went back to their bedroom. Tessa looked at the despondent man in front of her and hugged him. "Kieran will be fine." However, despite saying that, her eyes were also red. In reality, she wasn't feeling all that hopeful.

After all, it had been three days. If Kieran was truly fine, he would've been found by now. Gregory couldn't help but cry as well.

The fact that he might never get to see the uncle who enjoyed teasing him all the time saddened him deeply. "Daddy, Uncle Kieran will be fine, right?"

Gregory sniffed as he looked up at Nicholas. Before Nicholas and Tessa could console Gregory, Gordon started crying too. It seemed as if he had been affected by everyone else's mood.

Meanwhile, the latest update regarding the situation flooded the internet.

'After a three-day search, there is still no sign of Kieran Sawyer. The chances of him surviving are almost non-existent and Sawyer Group has given up on the search.'

The news included a picture of Nicholas walking away from the river. The netizens lamented the news. 'He died at such a young age. Life is so fragile. Rest in peace.'

'Rest in peace, Kieran.' Nicholas slept for two hours before waking up in the afternoon. Tessa noticed his dark eye circles and was worried that his body would cave, so she urged, "You should sleep a little longer."

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"I can't go back to sleep right now. There are a lot of things at the office that I need to take care of. Nicholas shook his head and rejected the idea, but he pulled Tessa into a tight hug. "Don't worry. I won't take my health for granted."

Tessa couldn't press further, so she changed the subject. "A lot of the family relatives came over while you were asleep. Granduncles Adam and Joseph came over too. They're downstairs right now."

"They got here this quickly, huh?" He narrowed his eyes. She didn't quite catch what he said so she eyed him curiously. "What did you say?"

"It's nothing. Since we have guests here, let's go down." Nicholas released Tessa from his hug before taking her hand to walk down with her.

Quite a few people were sitting in the living room. Adam and Joseph were making a whole show out of their attempts to comfort Stefania and Tobias.

"I never thought something like this would happen. Thankfully, you still have Nicholas. You two have got long lives ahead of you still so you must take good care of yourselves." "My condolences."

"The deceased has passed on. You need to come to terms with it." Stefania and Tobias didn't respond. Their moods were somber as they listened to the barrage of words that were meant to console them.

The others didn't mind the lack of response. Adam and Joseph exchanged glances and mutually thought that they had done enough now, so it was time to bring up the purpose of their visit.

"Nicholas has been spending all his time looking for Kieran. The company has been in a crisis for three days now and nothing's been done to resolve it. It's just as well that we came back, so why don't we get our cousins to take over the responsibilities at the company? That way, Nicholas can just focus on the search."

As soon as those words were said, Nicholas' icy voice rang out through the living room. "Thanks for the kind gesture, Granduncle Adam and Granduncle Joseph, but I can still handle things at the company just fine."

Nicholas came downstairs with Tessa and walked straight over to his parents. "I'm heading into the office now. If there's anything that needs to be done at home, Tessa will take care of it."

He glanced at Tessa. She understood what he meant and said quietly, "Go ahead. I'll keep an eye on things here. Nothing will happen."

Nicholas nodded and left. Nevertheless, he was still wary of all these relatives with ulterior motives, so he instructed Edward to send someone over to keep an eye on them.

After arriving at the company, he immediately called for a private conference and invited all of the company's worried clients to the company headquarters.

"I know a lot has happened over the past three days due to the Sawyers' private matters. I won't touch on anything else, but I'll say this. Even though Kieran isn't here anymore, I'm still here!" Nicholas made this declaration with a firm, determined stance that settled all of the attendees' hearts..

When the conference was over, most of them stayed in their seats as they began muttering among themselves.

"I can see why Old Master Sawyer chose him as his successor. Even though his younger brother just died, he's still able to be this calm and clear-headed."

"Now that I've seen President Sawyer's composure, I'm no longer worried." After leaving the private conference, Nicholas went back to his office.

Edward followed along behind him to report on the relatives who had gathered at Sawyer Residence and what they were doing.

Nicholas listened without making any comments. Once they were inside his office, he suddenly asked, "Have you finished the investigations into the tampered brakes yet?"

"We have a lead. We were able to restore the security footage and saw that the person who tampered with the brakes was a security guard, but he resigned three days ago. I've reported this to the police and they're hunting him down. as we speak."

Nicholas was satisfied with Edward's arrangements. His gaze turned colder as he instructed, "Tell our people to cooperate with the police. Make sure they catch that man!"

"Don't worry. I've already given the instructions," Edward replied.

Nicholas narrowed his eyes. A thought seemed to have occurred to him as he remarked darkly, "Kieran suffered this fate on my behalf. I will definitely find the culprit behind this."

After taking a look at Nicholas and his hardened expression, Edward paused in thought before asking, "Is there anyone you suspect?" "The person who has been the most dishonest is the one behind this."

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Nicholas let out an icy scoff. It took Edward a few moments to finally understand what Nicholas meant, and Edward's face fell after that. "Are you saying that they..."

"Well, aside from Adam and Joseph, is there anyone else who really wants me dead?" Nicholas asked in response. Edward came up with an idea that sounded logical then. "I'll send people over to keep an eye on them!"

"It's one thing to keep an eye on them, but you should also get people to search for evidence against them. Since they're the ones who chose not to live a peaceful life, we should make sure that things turn into chaos for them!" Nicholas' eyes glinted with hatred as he spoke. After that, Edward nodded and went off to work.

Nicholas ended work late that night, so everyone was fast asleep by the time he returned to Sawyer Residence. Tessa was the only one who was still awake-she was sitting in bed and flipping through a book while she waited for Nicholas to get back.

She immediately lowered her book and walked over to him when she saw him entering the room. "You're back," she uttered gently while reaching out to take his coat from him.

He nodded. "How was Mom and Dad's mood earlier today? Did the relatives cause any trouble?" he asked.

"Mom and Dad were okay, but I think they're still struggling to accept things with Kieran. The relatives didn't do or say much." Tessa gave him a brief summary of what happened at home earlier.

When Nicholas realized how occupied his wife had been and how she had tried to handle every single thing in the household for the past few days, he felt a surge of gratitude for her. "Thank you for doing so much in the past few days," he said.

"It's my duty, and it's not tiring for me at all. You're the one who must be tired..." Tessa hugged the man from behind. "You might not have expressed it in the last few days, but I can tell that you're really troubled after all that happened," she uttered.

Tessa's voice seemed to crack a little as she tightened her hug around the man. "It's just us now. If you're really sad or hurt, and if you want to let it out, you can do it now. It hurts me to see you trying to suppress everything," she uttered. Nicholas pressed his lips together after sensing how much his wife cared for him. "I'm fine. Don't worry," he replied in a deep and thick voice as he patted the back of her hand.

Upon hearing his words, Tessa assumed that Nicholas simply wanted to hide his weak and vulnerable side in front of her, so she let out a sigh before rubbing her face against his back. "How could such a thing happen? Kieran didn't even start his own family yet... How could he leave before his parents? I can imagine how Mom and Dad feel," Tessa muttered.

"Don't worry. Kieran's going to be fine. There's still a chance," Nicholas uttered. However, there was a dark look in his gaze that made him seem rather uncertain. Tessa didn't think too much about this matter-she simply assumed that Nicholas, like his parents, found it too hard to accept the truth of Kieran's matter. Nicholas didn't know what Tessa thought of him.

He pulled Tessa into his arms before lowering his head to give her a kiss on the forehead. "I'll need you to talk to Mom and Dad. I don't want them to worry too much about this," he said.

Tessa nodded to show that she would do as he said. That night, they cuddled and fell asleep together. The next day, Nicholas left for work early in the morning. Edward knocked on his door just moments after he arrived at his office. There was a tall man who followed closely behind Edward.

The tall man was Kieran's assistant, Liam Greenberg. He had some documents in his hands, and he wore a stern look on his face as he walked into the room. "I'm here to take over Master Kieran's job, President Sawyer, Liam explained.

"Alright. Which ones are urgent?" Nicholas nodded before ordering Liam to give him a general explanation of the situation. Liam quickly held out the documents in his arms.

"I've used a red sticker to highlight the files that are urgent, and I've written some notes on the other files that require your attention," Liam said.

"I got it. I'll go through them as soon as possible." Nicholas pulled out the papers that had red stickers on them while Edward went through and sorted out the rest of the files. It took them a few minutes to hand over the necessary matters before Nicholas sent Liam out. "You can go back to work," Nicholas uttered.

However, Liam stood in his spot with a hesitant look on his face. "Is anything the matter?" Edward asked when he saw Liam standing still. "Well, President Sawyer, I was wondering when Master Kieran's funeral will happen. Can I go there to help out?" Liam asked.

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Liam looked up at Nicholas, and a dark look flashed across Nicholas' face before he responded in a calm tone. "There's no rush for that. We can talk about it after you're done with your work," he said.

"I understand." Liam assumed that his request had been rejected, so he nodded and turned to leave. However, he couldn't conceal the sadness on his face. Nicholas and Edward were left alone in the office after that. Since Nicholas was reminded of Kieran, he no longer felt like he was in the mood to do work. So, he turned to look at Edward. "Do you have any updates on the investigation I told you to run?"

"We've found some stuff." Edward maintained a calm demeanor as he reported the news he had received. "We kept an eye on Master Joseph's men, and we found out that his assistant left the country today"

Nicholas scoffed upon hearing Edward's words. "It seems like he's finally showing his true colors." Nicholas' eyes glinted with a dangerous look in them as he spoke, and Edward let out an icy scoff as well. "Well, they probably can't sit around and do nothing after what happened," Edward replied.

"That's good. We need them to take action in order for us to find evidence against them. I want you to track their every move. I don't want any mistakes to be made at a time like this." Nicholas shot Edward a cold glare.

"I've already sent a lot of men over to keep an eye on them, so I'm sure we won't miss a thing," Edward said with a nod. Nicholas finally gave a nod of satisfaction after that.

Nicholas was still as busy as ever in the next few days, and the news continued to make more reports on Kieran's situation. Tons of reporters camped outside Sawyer Group in hopes of receiving some breaking news, but Nicholas simply ignored these people.

"You need to stay strong, Grandma. We're here!" Gregory tried his best to comfort the woman. However, Stefania remained silent, and the atmosphere at home felt especially heavy and gloomy.

Tessa and Gregory had run out of ways to make Stefania feel better. Gordon, who was only a few months old, was the only one who had no idea what was going on. When he realized how silent the room was, he threw his stubby hands up as he babbled and cried out loud.

Tessa came up with an idea then. "Mom, there've been a lot of relatives visiting in the past few days, and I find it hard to take care of Gregory and Gordon while hosting them. I'm afraid I might need your help to take care of the kids, she suggested. It was clear that Tessa had struck one of Stefania's soft spots at the mention of her children.

Stefania took one glance at Gregory and Gordon before she realized what was going on. This is an unexpected situation, but I can't sit around and be sad all the time. "You're right.

I do have you guys with me," Stefania uttered. She then let out a sigh as she tried her best to cheer herself up. She was still beset by sorrow. Tessa could tell that Stefania was putting up a front, so Tessa was still especially mindful of Stefania's mood swings and emotions. Tessa tried her best to use Gordon to distract Stefania at times.

Right then, the housekeeper's voice came from the entrance of the house. "You're back, Master Nicholas." Gordon, Tessa, and Stefania all turned to look at the entrance.

"You're back, Daddy!" Gregory leaped out of the couch and tottered over to him. Tessa, too, got to her feet with Gordon in her arms. After greeting Nicholas, the whole family sat around for a chat in the dining area. Both Tessa and Stefania were especially concerned about the company's condition.

"The stocks have been really volatile because of Kieran's situation. How are things looking in the office? Did the stocks affect anything?" Both women gazed at Nicholas worriedly.

Nicholas didn't want them to worry, so he simply told them that everything was under control. They chatted for a while more before Stefania said that she was tired. She sent the two children to bed, and Nicholas and Tessa were the only ones left in the living room after that.

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"Has there been any news of Kieran?" Tessa asked with concern. "No," Nicholas replied while shaking his head. Tessa couldn't help but feel her heart sink when she heard his words. She figured that there wasn't much of a chance for Kieran to survive at that point.

Nicholas could sense her change in mood, so he reached over and wrapped his arms around her before changing the topic. "Thank you for your hard work today. Mom seems a little calmer now, he uttered before planting a kiss on Tessa's forehead. He knew how hard it was for Tessa to care for both her kids and his mother all at once.

Tessa felt a warm sensation in her chest when she felt the man's kiss on her forehead. "It wasn't hard at all. It's my duty as your wife to take care of household matters, she replied. Then, she leaned in and hugged his waist before rubbing her face against his firm chest.

Nicholas no longer said anything after that-he simply held her in his arms while sitting in silence. The housekeeper noticed that they were having a moment, so he chased the rest of the maids out of the living room.

Later that night, the housekeeper rushed over just before Nicholas and Tessa were about to head upstairs to bed. "Master Nicholas, Young Madam, Mr. Reinhart is here with Miss Gulliver," the housekeeper announced.

"What are they doing here at this hour?" Tessa was rather shocked, but she told the housekeeper to let them in. "Tessa, Nicholas," Timothy greeted as he stepped in. 'Miss Tessa, President Sawyer, Sabrina greeted them as well.

Tessa nodded before urging them to take a seat. "Did you come from the office? Are you hungry? I can get the kitchen to prepare some supper, Tessa offered. 'It's fine. We had something to eat while we stayed back at work earlier, Timothy replied as he held his hand up to reject his sister's offer.

Tessa nodded. "Well, in that case, what brings you two here at this hour? Is anything the matter?" she asked. Timothy and Sabrina exchanged glances and hesitated for a while before Sabrina spoke up. "Well, you just recovered a while ago, and there seems to be a lot going on now. It seems like there are a lot of people visiting the house every day as well.

So, I figured I could drop by to help you take care of things a little, Sabrina offered. Tessa was extremely grateful to hear this, and she didn't reject their offer this time.

In the next few days, people from the Sawyer Family gradually began to accept the news of Kieran's death. When Nicholas decided that the time was right, he called for Edward to enter his office. "You may ask the PR department to release a statement. The Sawyer Family will start preparing for Kieran's funeral in a few days," he announced.

"Got it," Edward replied. Soon enough, the news was released on Sawyer Family's official website. Many of the netizens and Kieran's fans wailed in agony after seeing the news. Kieran's fans, in particular, struggled to contain their emotions after they heard the news. Some of them left comments saying that they wanted to be present at the funeral.

Please let me send my darling off, one comment wrote. 'Are we allowed to go in? I'd like to bid my hubby goodbye.' 'Yeah. I wouldn't mind just standing at the entrance!'

Nicholas ignored all of these comments. The news that he had released was just a smokescreen, after all. Later that night, Edward returned to Nicholas' office again. "We just received some news, President Sawyer. We've found the security guard who previously escaped."

"Where did you find him?" Nicholas put his work down to look at Edward. "We found him in his own place up in the hills. Fortunately, our men were cautious enough to track this security guard's whereabouts without being tricked by the other fake news that he put out there," Edward replied.

"I'm glad you caught him. Did you manage to find out who's the mastermind?" Nicholas didn't care about how they found the security guard- what he wanted to know was whether they could find the person who was in charge of all of this.

Edward understood Nicholas' intentions, so he nodded and responded, "We've asked the security guard about it, but he has never met the person behind this. He claimed that he's willing to step forward as a witness when needed," Edward explained.

Nicholas wasn't too pleased by this answer, but he didn't comment much on it. After all, it was expected for those two people to act without leaving any traces behind. "Well, in that case, please keep an eye on the security guard."

"I've already sent out the orders," Edward replied with a nod.

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Edward brought up another matter then. "By the way, I've gathered most of the evidence that you told me to get from abroad." Nicholas' gaze darkened upon hearing this. "Show it to me."

“Yes. Edward nodded before sending all of the evidence that he had gathered to Nicholas’ email. Nicholas glanced through it while questioning Edward. ‘Did they take any action while you guys were gathering evidence?’”

“Yeah. It seems like Master Adam and Master Joseph were trying to destroy some of the files. Fortunately, our men were faster than them, so we managed to acquire the original bills and evidence for their smuggling deeds.” Edward explained the situation. “We were lucky enough not to alert them in any way. Otherwise, all of our plans would’ve been derailed.”

Edward sent a cautious glance in Nicholas’ direction after he finished speaking. However, Nicholas didn’t make any comments and simply scrolled through the evidence on his laptop with a stern look on his face.

The temperature in the room seemed to drop a few degrees as Nicholas continued to look through the evidence. Edward could sense the change in atmosphere, so he lowered his head and stood in his spot as he awaited instructions from Nicholas.

Nicholas’ blood was boiling by the time he finished looking through all the files. “They’re a bunch of despicable, greedy people!” he hissed. “What should we do next?” Edward asked in a careful voice.

“Well, since these guys are so fearless, we should announce Kieran’s funeral and order a family meeting. Nicholas let out a scoff. His plan was to get rid of all the pests during the family meeting.

Edward left after taking orders from Nicholas. Soon enough, the Sawyer Family received the news of a family meeting. Many of the family members were abroad, so the meeting was scheduled for two days to give them notice.

Soon enough, the day of the family meeting. arrived. That morning, everyone aside from Joseph and Adam arrived at the Sawyer Residence. Adam had two sons-Zachary Sawyer, who was the eldest child, and Calvin Sawyer.

Both of them were married to women from the top ten richest families in the country. Zachary was married to Madeline Werner, while Calvin was married to Lisa Heidegger. Joseph, on the other hand, only had one child-Felix Sawyer. Felix was married to the daughter of a gang leader abroad.

Stefania wanted to prepare Tessa for the situation, so she carefully explained the background of each individual and their dynamics among one another. Then, Stefania

got Tessa to greet and host all of their visitors. Tessa understood Stefania's intentions, so she gave the visitors a generous welcome once they arrived. "Greetings, everyone."

The people from Adam and Joseph's families gave Tessa rather judgmental stares when they saw the elegant and gorgeous woman who had shown up to greet them. Madeline, the daughter-in-law of Adam, was the first to speak up. "Are you the woman that Nicholas got married to last year?"

Tessa knitted her brows together when she saw that her visitors weren't polite to her. Despite this, Tessa made sure to keep a smile on her face. Lisa spoke up in a lazy voice before Tessa could respond to Madeline's question. "I heard that you and Nicholas only got married after you were pregnant, and I heard that Nicholas had a few fights with his family because of you. You seem like a pretty impressive woman."

Tessa wiped the smile off her face after hearing their sharp comments. However, they weren't done talking yet. Madeline then turned to look at Stefania with a disapproving expression on her face. "You're the child of a powerful family, Stefania. You, of all people, should know that Nicholas is supposed to get married to someone presentable.

This daughter-in-law of yours may claim to be a professional musician, but in other words, she's just an entertainer. Furthermore, she's always appearing in the public eye. She's such an embarrassment to the family." Both Stefania and Tessa were furious to hear Madeline's words.

However, since Tessa was younger than Madeline, Tessa felt like she wasn't in the right position to voice out. Stefania, on the other hand, rebutted Madeline's comment without any hesitation. "We didn't call for a meeting just so that you guys could comment on my daughter-in-law.

Why do I need my daughter-in-law to come from a prestigious family? It's clear that women from prestigious families don't always have a good attitude." Stefania was making an indirect remark-she shot Madeline and Lisa a look after finishing her words.

Both Madeline and Lisa felt like they were being exposed when they saw the way Stefania looked at them. They were immediately reminded of the nasty things that they had done throughout the years. The strong aura they had seemed to fade a little as they started to feel rather self-conscious.

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Tessa shot Stefania a look of admiration when she saw the way Stefania dealt with their visitors. The latecomers, Adam and Joseph, arrived at the house a while after that. When all the key people of the Sawyer Family were finally settled down in the large hall, the meeting officially began.

As the man in charge of the Sawyer Family, Nicholas was the first to lay things out in the meeting. "What does everything think of Kieran's funeral?" he asked. The crowd exchanged glances with one another upon hearing his words.

Adam was the first to speak in the end. "We're very sorry for what happened to Kieran. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, he uttered. The rest of the people chirped in as well. "My condolences."

'Rest in peace.' Nicholas didn't show any emotion in response to these people's words, but Stefania was tearing up. Right then, Joseph took the initiative to suggest something. "Since Kieran is the son of the eldest man in our generation, he deserves to have a grand funeral."

"That's right. Furthermore, now that the company is in such an unstable position, Nicholas and Tobias are probably too busy to handle these matters. People like us who have a little free time should help out with Kieran's funeral, Adam added with a nod. He looked as if he genuinely wanted to help Nicholas' family.

However, Nicholas rejected the two men's suggestions without any hesitation. "I might be busy with work, but I'm not too busy to handle this. Furthermore, Kieran is my brother. I'd rather handle his funeral on my own," he uttered in a firm tone. Adam and Joseph exchanged glances after that, and they both wore cunning looks on their faces as they did so.

They had already predicted that Nicholas wouldn't agree to allow them to handle the funeral. So, they had simply planned to use this as a form of support for their upcoming plans.

"Well, since you'd like to handle it on your own, then I believe it's best if we don't stick our noses into it. But in that case, would you be able to handle things at the company, Nicholas?" Joseph's eyes twinkled with greed as he stared at Nicholas.

The rest of the people could sense the ulterior motive behind the man's words, and some of them began to whisper among themselves. Nicholas took a glance at the crowd before he questioned Joseph. "What do you mean by that, Master Joseph?" Nicholas asked, even though he already knew the answer.

"Well, what I mean is... Since you have to deal with Kieran's matters, I'm sure you won't be able to handle the workload at the office. Wouldn't it be a good idea for you to bring in one of the more capable juniors in the family?" Joseph put out a suggestion that he had discussed with Adam.

Nicholas' gaze darkened after hearing the man's words. "Do you have anyone to recommend?" he asked. Many of the juniors piped up before Joseph could say anything. "I don't mind helping out, Nicholas, someone said. "You should pick me, Nicholas. I have way better skills."

"If we're talking about skills, the company I'm handling has shown a 10% growth within the past year, so I'm better than everyone here." Nicholas' gaze darkened when he saw the way the crowd was fighting and one-upping each other just to enter the company. "That's enough! Nicholas barked. "Kieran has only been gone for a few days, but you're all planning to replace him already. You sure are eager."

Upon finishing his last sentence, Nicholas' gaze swept across the crowd. He glared at everyone fiercely. Anyone who made eye contact with him shrank away after seeing the look in his eyes. "We were just trying to lift your burdens," someone uttered in a soft voice.

Nicholas scoffed at this. "I'm sure you know what you're thinking deep down. Anyway, that's all I have to say for now. No one is allowed to take anything that belongs to Kieran-not until I say so. I'll take over his workload for now!" Nicholas hissed.

The rest of the crowd gasped upon hearing this. Both Joseph and Adam knitted their brows together with displeasure as well. Nicholas continued speaking before they could say anything. "I know that some of you may not be pleased with this decision.

However, I'm not going to change my mind, and you will have to wait if you want anything that belonged to Kieran. Nicholas added the last sentence just to make it clear that he didn't want the rest of the family harassing or bothering them anytime soon. Stefania was furious at all the people in the family.