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Tessa's anxiety and fear from earlier had now turned into self-confidence. Her whole person seemed to have become one with the violin. The performance began when Tessa moved her bow gently.

At this moment, Tessa's figure looked elegant and tall in her white dress. Her fair fingers skillfully danced on the strings of the violin. The sound of the violin was sometimes tactful while sometimes bubbling with enthusiasm. Each movement was affecting people's emotions.

As the music ended, Tessa slowly opened her eyes. Her previous aura was still lingering. However, there was a tinge of nervousness in her eyes. Then, she raised her eyes cautiously and looked at the interviewers in front of her.

The interviewers looked at each other. Shortly after, a round of applause broke out.

Scott, who was beside Tessa, also sighed in relief.

*I really underestimated Tessa. The piece she performed last time was much gentler. So, I thought pieces with slow rhythm suits her better. I don't expect that she can even score such a difficult piece like 'Canon!*

Robert Miller was also a little shocked. *When I heard Tessa say she was going to perform this piece, I felt that she was a little too flamboyant and arrogant. I expected her to embarrass herself. However, now it seems that it is us who will eat our humble pies. Tessa is quite capable.*

Later, Robert smiled. "I have interviewed so many experienced performers before, and they rarely dared to challenge this kind of music. You are the first. Moreover,

you performed it so perfectly with various technical complexities such as pizzicato, overtone, glissando, and trill. There are simply no flaws in your techniques.”

Following the compliment, Tessa breathed a sigh of relief. When she saw they were looking at each other, she thought something was wrong. Then, she immediately smiled and thanked them by saying, “Thank you, fellow teachers, for your compliments.”

After that, Robert added, “You should thank yourself. It’s thanks to your talent and hard work that you achieved your success. Congratulations, you’ve passed the interview. Also, we would like to welcome you to the Berlin Philharmonic for further training and learning.”

Tessa was a little excited, and she bowed deeply again. “Thank you.”

Without a doubt, Tessa was on cloud nine. *This is the first good news I’ve heard after I got fired. Not only did I pass the interview, but I also passed the interview conducted by the internationally renowned Berlin Philharmonic! I’ll definitely work harder in the future. I will certainly stand on the best stage in the world!*

After walking out of the interview hall, Tessa was still so thrilled that her palms were sweaty.

Looking at her, Scott smiled and said, “I knew you could do it. I was truly amazed by your performance today.”

“Speaking of which, I haven’t officially thanked you yet. Thank you for introducing me and letting me come over to the Berlin Philharmonic for an interview. Also, thank you for listening to me playing the violin,” Tessa said very solemnly as she looked at Scott.

Upon hearing that, Scott smiled softly. “I have nothing to do with this. Just like what Mr. Miller said, it was your own hard work and talent that made you succeed. I was simply doing you a favor. Even without me, I believe you will still shine on the stage.”

“Nevertheless, I’m still in debt to you. Otherwise, I have no idea how much longer I’d wait for the right time to shine. So, I have to thank you no matter what. How about I invite you to dinner and repay your kindness for introducing me to the Berlin Philharmonic?” Still, Tessa was headstrong and insisted on thanking Scott.

In Tessa’s eyes, Scott showed up when she was at her worst. Therefore, he was nothing less than an angel sent by God to save her.

“Thank you, then.”

Seeing that Tessa was being so headstrong and insisted on thanking him, Scott immediately agreed as he actually wanted to chat with her more.

Hence, the two found a fancy restaurant.

After they entered the restaurant and sat down, Tessa felt a gaze staring at her all the time. The stare was very intense. It was as if the person would not stop until they caught her attention.

Feeling rather strange, Tessa turned her head. At once, her eyes met with the eager eyes of Gregory. When Gregory saw Tessa was looking over, the stars in his pair of eyes instantly gleamed.

Gregory was so overjoyed that he smiled.

*It’s Greg!* In an instant, Tessa was a little surprised. Then, it was followed by a moment of discomfort. *I have already made it clear to Nicholas, so I absolutely cannot go back on my words now!*

Gritting her teeth, Tessa forced herself to look away almost indifferently and stopped looking at Gregory.

Gregory came to the restaurant with his grandparents, who told him that they were going to take him out to play.

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Only when they left home did he find out that it was to meet Hayley, whom his father allegedly was going to get engaged to, as well as to meet her family.

Initially, Gregory was disinterested in meeting them, but it wouldn't be good for him to find fault with his grandparents and leave rudely, so he sat in his seat, acting indifferent.

As he looked at Hayley, who was in front of him, he started to miss Tessa even more.

While he was thinking about this, he heard Tessa's voice, so he raised his head abruptly. Sure enough, he saw Tessa opening the door and walking in.

Gregory was extremely happy that his dreams had been realized and he wanted nothing more than to rush forward and hug Tessa's leg.

However, he remembered that Tessa had been avoiding him recently, so he couldn't approach her and let her baby him, which made him feel a little dispirited.

He could only sit obediently in his seat while he stared at her, trying to get some response.

Yet, his heart sank when Tessa, whom he missed terribly, pretended not to see him, despite having obviously seen him. *Is Miss Tessa planning to ignore me forever?*

Tessa sensed that the look in Gregory's eyes had gotten a little sad, so she began to hesitate. Deliberately being indifferent to Gregory was also a form of torment to her, but she had no choice.

Not daring to look at Gregory again, she feigned calmness and chatted with Scott.

From the corners of her eyes, she saw that there was a classy lady sitting at Gregory's table, and she was coaxing the boy to talk to her the entire time.

At the table, Tessa heard Stefania call the woman Hayley, so she guessed that this was Nicholas' fiancée-Hayley Stone, the treasure of the Stone Family.

Nevertheless, who Nicholas would marry and who he was with had nothing to do with Tessa.

Hence, she stopped paying attention to their table and concentrated on her conversation with Scott.

Seeing that Tessa had completely shifted her attention, Gregory grew even more frustrated. *Miss Tessa doesn't even want to look at me anymore....*

Hayley noticed that Gregory's mood was fluctuating and she found it strange. "Greg, what's the matter? Are you unwell?"

Gregory shook his head and didn't answer. Even though Hayley was gentle, she still wasn't better than Tessa.

He didn't like Hayley.

Hayley didn't mind Gregory's attitude much either, as she had long known that he didn't like strangers. She believed that feelings could be cultivated.

She carried on smiling at Gregory while putting food on his plate. "Here, Greg. How about I feed you? The food in this restaurant is delicious. If you eat them, you'll definitely ask for more."

He turned his head away to dodge the food that was about to be fed into his mouth.

He wasn't a three-year-old child, and it had been a long time since he needed to be fed. He figured if Tessa saw this, she wouldn't come back anymore. What should he do then?

"Greg, Miss Stone is feeding you because she likes you. You'll have to give your opinion about whether you like it or not."

Stefania was a little embarrassed when she saw that Gregory wasn't showing Hayley any regard whatsoever, so she explained, "Gregory has always been like this. He's shy with strangers."

Hayley smiled, seemingly unbothered. "With time, I'll become less of a stranger. It's fine. I'm very patient. Gregory will definitely accept me, and I like his character very much because he expresses his dislikes outrightly."

When Stefania heard this, she secretly expressed her liking toward Hayley. Hayley was polite and also patient with Gregory. If she actually married into the Sawyer Family in the future, it would be regarded as a great thing to her.

She believed that Hayley would definitely treat Gregory as her own. Then, she smiled. "Hayley, you really are a good woman.!"

Hayley was also happy to have received the approval. To put it bluntly, the purpose of this meeting was none other than for her to tackle Gregory with all her heart and

soul,

The Stone and Sawyer Families had no objections to this marriage.

The only variable was the child in front of her. The Sawyer Family had spoiled this child, so if the child didn't agree, she was afraid that even if Hayley and Nicholas got married, Gregory wouldn't acknowledge Hayley. This was something that both families didn't want to see happen.

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However, no matter how Hayley coaxed Gregory, he ignored her as he remained in low spirits, wallowing in the misery that Tessa was ignoring him.

His mind was full of questions as to why Tessa would do that.

*Is it because Daddy is getting married? But, Daddy has already promised me that as long as I don't like it, he won't marry this woman.*

He didn't pay attention to the woman in front of him although she said that she wanted to take care of him. He didn't even look at her, for fear that Tessa might notice it.

Hayley didn't know what Gregory was thinking, so she continued to patiently coax him, only to realize that Gregory's gaze had been fixed on the woman at the next table, as if he knew her.

However, this woman wasn't even sparing Gregory a glance.

She assumed that Gregory was just taking a couple more glances at her because she was good-looking

Hayley didn't think much about it and continued to focus on Gregory, showering him with motherly love. Unfortunately, Gregory was unmoved.

Tessa wasn't aware of the situation happening at Gregory's table at all. At first, she forced her attention away from Gregory and asked Scott a series of questions.

She gradually forgot about Gregory's presence and was just focused on unearthing the secrets of the first chair violinist. When they talked about matters related to violin, both of them were utterly excited.

It didn't take long for the two of them to finish their meal, and the academic inquiry was over in just a short time. After paying the bill, they were about to leave the restaurant right away.

But, before the two of them could reach the door, they were blocked by a tall figure.

Tessa looked up at the person in a gloomy manner, and she was about to let him pass when she saw the familiar face. The person who had just arrived was none other than Nicholas,

Tessa gulped, then swallowed the words she was about to say.

Nicholas swept his indifferent gaze across her face. Then, as if he didn't know her, he turned sideways and avoided the two of them before walking toward Gregory's table.

Hayley saw Nicholas as soon as he entered the restaurant. Her eyes lit up in an instant, and her gaze was stuck on the man who exuded a powerful aura.

Even if he frowned and didn't show a single smile, so what? That was his character. He was unmatched in Brentwood City.

Seeing Nicholas again this time, Hayley was firmly attracted to him, and she decided that this man could only be hers!

As she had been staring at him, Hayley keenly sensed that something was wrong after he saw the woman who was sitting at the next table.



Nicholas was a person who didn't talk much, and he was indifferent toward strangers, so he usually ignored them. But just now, when he saw that woman, Hayley could feel that Nicholas' anger was undoubtedly rising.

Although he was silent as usual, she still felt that after seeing that woman, his mood took a change for the worse.

When the woman saw that it was him, she obviously froze for a moment before shifting her gaze, not daring to look at him. It was obvious that she knew him.

Among strangers, there was no need to be like this.

Coupled with Gregory's reaction, Hayley figured there must be something happening between the three of them.

Hayley's heart sank slightly, and there was now a different look in her eyes when she peered at Tessa's back. *What's that woman's identity?*

Nicholas walked to their table in a cold manner. "Dad, Mom, Mr. and Mrs. Stone."

"Nicholas, you're here. Have a seat. We haven't seen you in such a long time. You're getting more and more handsome. Let me take a good look at you," said Sonia with a smile.

A trace of displeasure flashed across Nicholas' eyes as he replied coldly, "I'm here to pick up my son. There's some business to attend to at the company, so I won't be staying."

Hearing this, Gregory got out of his seat directly and held tightly onto Nicholas' hand. "Then, let's go back, Daddy."

Nicholas gave his elders a slight nod before leaving the restaurant.

After Hayley returned to the Stone Residence, she found the situation increasingly strange the more she thought about it, so she told her assistant, "Find the

information of the woman who sat at the table in the upper right corner of the restaurant where I had lunch with the Sawyers this afternoon.”

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Her assistant did as she ordered.

Not long after, he handed Tessa's information to Hayley. "This woman's name is Tessa Reinhart, and she's a violinist. When Young Master Gregory's birthday party was held..."

When Hayley flipped through the document and saw that Tessa had once been Gregory's teacher, her grip tightened as her fingers turned pale.

Sure enough, they knew each other.

When Roselle's mother drugged Gregory and framed Tessa, she was eventually exposed by Nicholas, and he also let Tessa stay by Gregory's side. Hayley felt that something was off about this matter.

It seemed like this woman was special to Gregory. Judging from Gregory's attitude today, he didn't want Tessa to leave.

That woman was indifferent to Gregory, and she didn't even give him a look. It seemed that the woman had left on her own accord.

If she left on her own, why would Gregory still be hung up on her?

*Greg was so cold to me, but to Tessa...*

Hayley couldn't help but feel a little upset.

However, after pondering for a while, Hayley figured there was no reason for her to hate Tessa.

She was just a person who could play the violin, If she didn't have any background or status, and she didn't even know anything about high society etiquette, how could she be comparable to Hayley?

Moreover, with Tessa's status, it was absolutely impossible for her to marry into the Sawyer Family, so she didn't pose any threat to her.

She didn't necessarily have to take action personally to get rid of Tessa.

Hayley pondered for a moment, then made up her mind. She would take the initiative to act this time. Even if Nicholas didn't contact her, so what? It wasn't like

she couldn't go to him.

In a short period of time, she wanted to attack Nicholas, Gregory, and even Sawyer Group!

Remus was satisfied after he got to know about Hayley's intentions, so he told her to do whatever she wanted, and that he would give her permission to enter Sawyer Group

Every day for the next few days, Hayley brought lunch to the office for Nicholas.

As Remus had given a direct order to not stop her, Hayley came every day, which defeated the purpose of Nicholas' clarification,

On this day, Hayley came again. After nodding and smiling at the staff, she got into the elevator and went to Nicholas' office.

When an employee watched her graceful figure as she left, they couldn't help but sigh. "Hey, it suddenly occurred to me that the president probably issued that statement to prevent the gossip from affecting Miss Stone. After all, there are all sorts of people on the Internet, and those who hate the rich would probably bash Miss Stone."

Another employee said enviously, “I think so too. Miss Stone is so gentle. The point is, she’s beautiful, has a nice figure, and she’s the daughter of a wealthy family. Together with President Sawyer, they’re a perfect match!”

“If President Sawyer really gets married with her as the bride, then I approve! I will support this couple!”

“Me too!”

After Hayley delivered lunch, she went, downstairs.

She wanted to establish herself as a gentle and virtuous person—someone who didn’t constantly pester Nicholas but knew when to advance and retreat. If Nicholas was busy, she wouldn’t stay and bother him.

Although so many days had passed, Nicholas was always busy, so the two of them barely said a word to each other. But, as long as she got to see Nicholas, Hayley was satisfied.

So what if Nicholas was like an iceberg? One day, she would melt him!

As soon as she exited the elevator, an employee smiled and said, “Miss Stone, you really are virtuous. I wonder when I’ll be able to attend your wedding. President Sawyer is really lucky to be able to marry someone like you.”

Hayley laughed. “Stop, you guys. It’s not confirmed yet.”

“So what if it’s not confirmed yet? Sooner or later, you’ll be the leading lady of Sawyer Group. We sincerely like you, so don’t be shy.”

“Yes, yes. In our minds, you’re the only candidate for leading lady, Miss Stone.”

Hayley was happy to hear this kind of praise, so she generously took out two brand new lipsticks in her bag and gave them to the two honey-lipped girls in front of her.

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“Thank you, Miss Stone.” The employees were grinning from ear to ear when they got the lipsticks.

These were limited-edition lipsticks from a high-end cosmetic brand. One of the employees had always wanted to buy it but couldn't bring herself to, and neither could she get her hands on it.

Now, someone gave it to her.

In an instant, the reputation of Sawyer Group's future leading lady as a generous person began to spread within the company.

Every day since then, Hayley heard all sorts of compliments when she came to the office, which was exactly the outcome she wanted.

She prepared a bunch of branded gifts as well, and would give them to anyone who praised her. Her popularity in the office was even higher than that of the humorous Kieran.

“Miss Stone is such a good person. She's so gentle and generous. I love her to death!”

“Me too!”

When Kieran returned to the office, he couldn't help but frown when he heard these gossips.

For the sake of his icy brother, Hayley not only brought him lunch every day, but also tried to gain popularity among the employees.

She figured this woman was quite scheming,

First, she went to the Sawyer Residence to meet with his brother, then she got someone to take ambiguous photos and publish them on the Internet to force a marriage.

Now that it wasn't possible to use the public opinion on the Internet to force a marriage, she changed her methods and played a nice person to establish a gentle and virtuous persona?

She even knew to start with the employees and let their opinions stabilize her position.

Kieran knocked on the table in front of him before saying solemnly, "It's office hours now. Do you want to go home and talk to your hearts' content?"

"Master Kieran, Miss Stone asked us to combine work and leisure."

An employee was a little afraid to see Kieran angry for the first time, so she brought up Hayley. At any rate, she was his future sister-in-law, so they figured he wouldn't humiliate her...

When Kieran heard this, his face darkened. Hayley bought them over so well that employees of Sawyer Group were actually speaking up for her?

He answered coldly, "If you want to combine work and leisure, go work at Stone Enterprise."

"We were wrong..."

Seeing that Kieran was truly angry, the employees immediately lowered their heads and apologized before quickly returning to their seats.

However, those employees couldn't help but think, *They're obviously going to become a family. Why is he still dividing Sawyer Group and Stone Enterprise? Why are the rich so complicated?*

Despite that, this had nothing to do with them. It was important for them to keep their jobs, so the most they would do was to not mention this in front of Kieran in the future.

“From now on, speak less of this kind of gossip. Sawyer Group pays you not to hang around and do nothing. Carry on with your work.”

Looking at their expressions, Kieran knew what this group of employees were thinking. Of course, they didn't know about the internal matters, so they spoke up for her after receiving benefits.

He had always been more relaxed with the employees and didn't really care about such matters, but it was best to not let his brother hear these sorts of remarks. Otherwise, there was no telling what the consequences would be.

He sighed. After making that statement, he took the elevator to the top floor to look for Nicholas.

As soon as he entered the room, he saw an eye-catching lunch box on Nicholas' table, and he figured Hayley had sent it. Although his brother didn't touch it, he found it a

sore sight.

Kieran frowned again. “Nicholas, you're not really going to obey grandpa and marry that Hayley woman, right?”

Although it was the old man's request and they couldn't disobey his wishes, Nicholas didn't seem like someone who was so easily ordered around.

He wouldn't possibly accept it wholeheartedly,



But, if he wasn't going to accept it, then what was he doing?

Kieran couldn't see through his brother's thoughts, and he felt that his brother had been a little strange lately, but he couldn't tell exactly what was strange about him.

Nicholas replied coldly, "If you're just here to gossip, get out."

"No, Nicholas. I was just asking a casual question. I came to you to talk business."

Kieran's expression turned bitter at once. He just asked one question. What was he so fierce for?

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Besides, he had obviously asked that for his brother's sake.

*Forget it. I'm aware of Nicholas' temper, and I'm not allowed to talk about personal matters during office hours, especially if they are related to him.*

Kieran was also the one who had said all that nonsense and agitated him.

He dared not dawdle anymore, so he quickly reported the progress of his work.

After Nicholas finished listening, he nodded slightly. "You did a good job handling this matter. There's one more thing that I need you to do. There's a social event tonight. Go on behalf of me."

"But, Nicholas, I... All right. I'll be sure to handle it well. There won't be any problems."

As soon as Kieran was about to complain, he received an unbelievably cold look from his brother. *Fine. I'll just go. It's just socializing.*

As for why Nicholas couldn't go on his own, he dared not ask. In the end, he could only leave his office, looking aggrieved.

After getting off work, Nicholas didn't go home, but drove to Regal Gardens instead.

After parking the car, Nicholas couldn't help frowning. Even he didn't know why he had come here.

Obviously, that woman had already made her intentions clear. She didn't want to have anything to do with Sawyer Group, so what was he doing here?

But, as soon as he thought of Tessa being with other men, he felt panicked and a little empty inside, even a little miserable...

When he met her in the restaurant the other day, his anger emerged from nowhere when he saw her acting indifferent when facing him despite talking and laughing with the man.

Although she had already made herself clear before this, how could she be so happy with another person so quickly?

He didn't believe that Tessa didn't see Gregory or his injured expression, yet she pretended not to know him, which was simply too cruel.

Nicholas looked up at the direction of Tessa's room, where the light was still turned off. *It's already so late, but she's not home yet... What the hell is she doing?*

Irritated, he took out a cigarette, got out of the car, then leaned against the tree on the side of the road. After lighting up the cigarette, he felt much better after inhaling once.

Suddenly, the sound of people talking sounded in front of him, causing his eyes to freeze.

He saw Tessa walking in the direction of her home while carrying a violin, and there was a man beside her. This man was none other than Scott.

*It's that man again.* Nicholas' eyes turned gloomy in an instant as he stared at the two people who were walking leisurely, talking and laughing along the way.

Tessa stopped at the bottom of her building, then looked at Scott and said, "Thank you for sending me back today."

"You don't have to be so courteous. It's along the way."

Scott gave Tessa a gentle smile as always.

All of a sudden, Tessa shuddered as she felt a cool sensation on her back, as if someone was watching her, so she couldn't help but look in that direction.

However, after turning back, she saw nothing except street lights and trees. There wasn't even a single pedestrian on the road.

Seeing that she suddenly turned to look behind, Scott turned as well, then said strangely, "What's the matter?"

"It's nothing."

Tessa shook her head. It might just be that it was getting cold. She was probably thinking too much. This was a high-end residential area, so visitors would have to register before entering. Naturally, no one would be randomly allowed entry.

"Well, I'm home," Tessa said.

Scott nodded. "Okay, I'll go first, then. Good night. See you tomorrow."

"Good night. See you tomorrow."

Tessa stood under the streetlamp and watched Scott leave, then turned and went upstairs.

Seeing that the two of them had parted ways, Nicholas extinguished his cigarette and trailed behind Tessa as they walked into the building together.

After Tessa entered the elevator, she heard the peculiar clatter of leather shoes against the marble floor. Then, she thought of the fact that she felt someone watching her earlier, so she was frightened and was about to close the elevator doors when she saw a hand stopping the elevator doors from closing.

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Then, a tall man walked in.

He brought with him the crisp smell of tobacco, which Tessa found inexplicably familiar, so she looked up nervously.

The person who came in was none other than Nicholas!

Seeing that it was him, Tessa breathed a sigh of relief, and she wasn't as scared as before. Fortunately, it was just him. But, what was he doing here?

She looked up at Nicholas and saw that the expression on his face was a little sour and gloomy, not as calm as usual. He was frowning, his demeanor hostile as he stared at her with anger in his eyes.

Suddenly, her heart thumped. "You—"

Tessa was about to ask him why he was here and why he was looking at her like this.

But, before she could say anything, Nicholas closed the elevator doors, causing her to gulp. *Nicholas is quite scary when he acts like this...*

It seemed as if she had done something wrong, and he was here to seek revenge.

However, Tessa didn't know what she had done wrong. After they clarified matters that day, they had only seen each other once, and the two of them didn't even speak.

Now that he suddenly showed up, she found it strange no matter how she thought about it. She shrank into the corner, as far away from Nicholas as possible.

When Nicholas noticed her minor movements, his eyes darkened a little. Before Tessa could escape, he pressed her against the elevator wall in a swift action and trapped her.

“P-President Sawyer, what are you doing?”

Tessa was nervous and found this kind of enclosure a little stifling, so stifling that it made her uncomfortable. She wanted to escape from his confinement.

To her surprise, Nicholas lifted his other hand and pressed it against the wall as well, firmly trapping her between himself and the elevator, not giving Tessa any possibility of escaping

“W-What are you doing? Don’t do this.” Tessa began to panic a little, thinking that he was being truly frightening.

His voice was hoarse as he muttered, “Is that man the reason you rejected me?”

For a moment, Tessa was taken aback, then she realized who Nicholas was referring to.

She didn’t expect that after so long, Nicholas had come to her only to question her about this matter. However, the fact that she left the Sawyer Residence and left Gregory had nothing to do with Scott.

The two of them only started to meet after she had made up her mind to cut off relations with the Sawyer Family.

Tessa didn’t know how powerful Nicholas was, but she knew that she must not provoke him. He was number one on the list of people not to provoke in Brentwood

City.

Scott was such a good person, so she didn't want to implicate him because of her own affairs. Turning away, she said subconsciously, "It's not what you think. We're just—"

Nicholas pressed himself closer to her, his scorching spreading across her face. "If it's not what I think, then what is it? You're just what? What else do you want to explain?"

Seeing as Tessa was speechless, he gritted his teeth and snarled, "Tessa, you're quite something. In just the blink of an eye, you already got intimate with another man. Did you leave because you have someone you want more?"

Tessa was immediately annoyed by his remarks. *What does he mean getting intimate? What does he mean 'someone I want more'?*

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She didn't do anything. These were all just figments of his imagination!

She suppressed her anger. "Nicholas, do you have to be so harsh when you speak?!"

Nicholas snapped angrily, "Wow. You're actually calling me by my name now because of that man?"

"Enough with the nonsense. He and I aren't what you think. The two of us are just friends from work," Tessa said coldly.

Nicholas sneered, "Friends from work? Wow, you're friends now. You've only known each other for a few days, but you're friends already? Was this premeditated, or did

you just randomly find a man to hook up with?"

There were thorns in these words, and each sentence was more unpleasant than the one before. *In his eyes, what kind of a person have I become?*

His remarks angered Tessa in an instant.



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Gritting her teeth, she glared at Nicholas. “Regardless of what my relationship is with him, what does it have to do with you? Don’t forget—there’s nothing between us anymore. That day, I’ve already explained everything I should. I don’t want to have anything to do with the Sawyer Family anymore. I’d like to beg you, President Sawyer, as well as the Sawyer family, to not come find me again. Please don’t disturb me and my brother’s peace. Also, even if I didn’t resign and was still Gregory’s violin teacher, I’m afraid you wouldn’t have the right to interfere with my right to make friends either. Could it be that you believe no one can have their own freedom, President Sawyer?”

“Well...”

Nicholas didn’t mean it that way, but as she chattered on and repeatedly said that she wanted nothing more to do with him, he got inexplicably angry.

He couldn’t help himself anymore, so he bent down abruptly and sealed Tessa’s lips.

All of a sudden, Tessa’s mouth was blocked, and the entire elevator fell silent, so silent that Tessa could hear her heart beating rapidly.

She was shocked by Nicholas’ sudden action, and her eyes widened as she forgot to breathe. She even forgot to push him away.

Coincidentally, they happened to reach her floor, and the elevator slowly opened with a *ding*.

Standing outside the doors, Timothy was planning to enter the elevator when he suddenly saw two people inside, and they seemed to be his sister and Nicholas.

Initially, when he saw Tessa's message saying that she was about to reach home, he **wanted to go downstairs** to fetch her. Unexpectedly, he didn't need to fetch her now, as his sister was already home.

Moreover, she had returned home in this state, causing him to be dumbfounded.

The three of them stood frozen in place.

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After Timothy calmed down, he subconsciously took a few steps back, then turned around and left. He didn't pull them apart in a rage, nor did he interrupt them.

He just left the elevator to the two of them.

“Mmm!”

When Tessa saw her brother leaving, she instantly reacted and began to struggle, but she was being held firmly. Not only her lips, but even her hands and feet were held in place, firmly restrained so that she was unable to move.

Seeing the elevator door slowly closing again, Nicholas' lips curled up into an enigmatic smile as he leaned in toward Tessa again.

Tessa was a little scared when she saw the raised corners of his lips and the elevator door closing. *Nicholas is really scary today.*

Sure enough, he didn't disappoint Tessa's fear as he imprisoned her in his arms once again, so forceful that it was as if he wanted her to melt into his body:

With an aggressive kiss, he deprived Tessa of air.

After a while, Tessa was kissed until she had lost all her strength. Left with no strength to struggle, her whole body went limp.

When the long kiss ended, Tessa couldn't escape, so she could only lean against Nicholas' chest as she panted and relied on him to stand.

Tessa's breathing slowly stabilized, and she suddenly remembered that she was still leaning on Nicholas. Relying on him to stand up straight, she was instantly furious and pushed him away.

She moved aside, her face flushed. After keeping a safe distance from Nicholas, she gave the man in front of her a cold, hard stare.

She noticed that he was still smiling, as if he didn't feel that there was anything wrong with doing such a thing. On the contrary, it seemed that he was in a good mood after doing that, which made Tessa even more annoyed.

Biting her lip, Tessa snapped bitterly, "Pardon me, but do you know what you're doing, President Sawyer? If you are here just to... Then, you can leave now."

Nicholas didn't answer, but simply smiled and silently studied her.

Somehow, she looked cute when she was angry. Her face was flushed, and even her ears were red. Her aggrieved red-rimmed eyes and her puffy face made him want to pinch her cheeks.

He couldn't help but want to get closer to her.

He had just moved his feet a little when he saw Tessa glaring at him stubbornly, and she even moved a little more to the side.

Upon seeing this, Nicholas chuckled. He had no doubt that if they weren't in the elevator, Tessa would've turned and run away.

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Hence, he stopped approaching her and didn't force her anymore, no longer giving her stress. His rationality told him that this was enough. If he continued, the person in front of him would probably fight him.

Seeing that he didn't answer, Tessa said coldly, "President Sawyer, don't forget that you still have a fiancée. You went behind her back and did this to another woman. Aren't you afraid that,"

Before Tessa could finish speaking, Nicholas interrupted her as he said solemnly, "I don't have a fiancée."

From the very beginning, he had never agreed to an engagement, and there was nothing going on between him and Hayley whatsoever.

All this was just arranged by Remus and the Stone Family. As long as he didn't acknowledge it, he'd take it as if she didn't exist.

Moreover, he had already made it clear to Hayley that he wouldn't marry her, and he had never even been nice to her, but she was bent on having her own way. He didn't bother talking nonsense with her, so he stopped talking to her altogether.

Tessa was still staring at him coldly, making it clear that she didn't believe him.

Even if Sawyer Group had already clarified the matter, she had seen Hayley and the Sawyer Family having a meal together last time, and she was even being all affectionate with Gregory,

All of them looked happy, and she even heard Hayley calling his name affectionately.

Only a fool would believe that there was nothing going on between them.

All of this evidence made it clear that none of this was made up.

Her face hardened as she labeled Nicholas a scumbag in her mind.

He appeared rather decent, but the well-dressed President of Sawyer Group was actually a scumbag!

Nicholas smiled, discerning Tessa's thoughts from the way she was staring at him.

“Regardless whether you believe me or not, I'm telling you clearly that there's nothing going on between me and Hayley, and she's not my fiancée. No matter what, I won't marry her.”

For a moment, Tessa was taken aback. Then, she came to her senses and reckoned that whether anything was going on between Hayley and Nicholas had nothing to do with her.

She was just a passerby.

However, this couldn't be an excuse for Nicholas to forcibly kiss her!

Nicholas seemed to have figured out what she wanted to complain about, and his lips curled up into a smile. “There's one more thing. You asked if I know what I'm doing. Naturally, I do.”

Tessa's heartbeat instantly accelerated, and she vigilantly hid from him, staying as far away from him as possible.

Although this man was good looking when he smiled, in this case, his smile just felt evil, which made her a little flustered.

Feeling Tessa's nervousness, Nicholas deliberately paused before speaking again. "This is just a punishment for you."

With that, Nicholas didn't explain anything more. He just smiled and looked at Tessa, who was in a daze, before pressing the elevator button.

Tessa was stunned. The elevator slowly came to a stop on the first floor. With a *ding*, the elevator doors opened, then he strode out of the apartment contentedly, a pleasant spring in his steps.

*A punishment?*

Tessa's face darkened in an instant. *What kind of punishment is this?*

She didn't do anything wrong at all, and there was nothing going on between the two of them anymore. Even if she was with someone else, she wasn't doing anything wrong.

*That man is so strange. How puzzling!*

Tessa wiped her lips in annoyance. Her mind was already in a mess, as all she could think about was Nicholas' kiss.

Although she was very angry now that she had recovered her senses, Nicholas had still kissed her until her legs went soft and her whole body was numb...

As she thought of this, her face instantly turned red again.

*That b\*stard!*

After Nicholas left, she wasn't in a rush to go home. She stayed in the elevator alone, trying to calm down.

But after a long time, no matter how she tried to calm herself down and to persuade herself to not take this matter to heart, it was useless.

The empty elevator seemed to be filled with the man's aura, so she could not avoid it, and her mind was full of what he said and did.

## Always Been Yours Chapter 240

### Chapter 240

Feeling ashamed and annoyed, Tessa left the elevator and went straight home.

As soon as she entered the house, she saw her brother sitting on the sofa with a contemplative look, as if thinking about a difficult problem, and as if waiting for her to come back

“Tessa, what’s your relationship with President Sawyer?” Timothy asked out loud after hesitating for a moment.

Hearing this question, Tessa took a deep breath. He had seen the scene earlier after all.

In fact, Timothy didn’t think that there was anything wrong with who his sister was dating. Even if it was Nicholas, he didn’t think there was anything wrong with it.

It was just that from the beginning, he already found these two people to be weird, but he couldn’t determine what was weird about them. He just had a strange feeling about them.

But, how could they be together? His sister had obviously said that she wanted to cut off all contact with them, and she even refused to meet with Gregory.

However, this practice of cutting off all relations didn’t last long. Various incidents happened afterward, and they didn’t seem like anything other than a couple’s fight.

If there was nothing going on between them, then what could explain what he saw just now?



And every time he went to Sawyer Group to report on his work, Nicholas would always casually ask about Tessa. What was the reason?

This question had been on his mind for a long time, and he couldn't help it anymore; he truly wanted to ask his sister what was the relationship between them.

Looking at the sincere look on her brother's face, Tessa was suddenly a little speechless. What kind of a relationship did they have?

Even she didn't know what their relationship was.

She murmured, "If I say I don't know what's going on, do you believe me?"

"Of course I believe you, Tessa. No matter what you say, I'll believe it. I'll support whatever decision you make." Timothy smiled warmly.

When he saw the scene in the elevator, he had the feeling that these two people were probably already a couple, but now, his sister was obviously angry and a little confused.

Thinking back to the incident in the elevator earlier, he realized that he might have jumped to conclusions. Perhaps she was reluctant, and perhaps he shouldn't have walked away.

The matter between these two people was too complicated.

However, since his sister wasn't willing to speak of the matter, he would treat it as if he didn't know, and he wouldn't ask about it anymore. What mattered most was that his sister was happy.

I

!

Although Timothy didn't pursue it, Tessa still felt like a mess.

The impact this time was so strong that she couldn't recover from it.

Tessa worked hard to adjust her mentality. After cleaning herself up, she immediately went to bed, ready to rest. The next day, she would go and participate in orchestra training.

She finally got the opportunity to practice with the Berlin Philharmonic, so she couldn't be distracted by matters like this.

Despite that, Tessa still failed to fall asleep early,

Fortunately, Tessa's foundation was good enough, and she was serious when it came to training, so the next day's practice wasn't much affected.

After she finished her training, she had almost forgotten about the incident the day before. When she got into the elevator again, her mind was a lot calmer.

She was in a good mood today. Just after changing her shoes at the door, a little boy suddenly appeared before her and was looking at her sweetly. "Good evening, Miss Tessa!"

Tessa was momentarily stunned. "Greg?"

Immediately afterward, a tall figure walked toward her, and a familiar scent greeted her. Tessa couldn't help but look up, then her eyes widened in shock.

Yesterday's incident, coupled with the fact that they had showed up at her house unannounced, made Tessa a little angry. He was truly becoming more and more domineering and was doing whatever he wanted now, entering her house like it was no man's land.

Tessa asked coldly, "What are you doing here?"

Nicholas wasn't irritated when he saw her reaction; his lips even curled up as he said lightly, "I'm not here for you today."

