Chapter 341 Surprising Tessa

"It is a pity." In the meantime, the corners of Nicholas' lips rose inscrutably, and his smile was a mysterious one.

However, Tessa was preoccupied and didn't notice his peculiarity. Although she was rather disappointed, she quickly regained her spirit and said with a smile, "Although you can't watch me performing live, I can ask someone to help me record the performance. Then, I'll send it to you after your meeting is over." He only smiled and nodded at her arrangement.

. . .

Since its day of establishment, Vienna Conservatory has had a history of more than 100 years. There were dozens of famous musicians who graduated from this school. Therefore, the day of the school anniversary was extraordinarily grandiose. The college would also be opened to the public on this day, allowing them to visit.

Tessa had arrived early at the music college while carrying her violin on her back. Currently, many elites and celebrities from all walks of life have arrived at the college.

The bespoke suits, perfumed dresses, and gorgeous hair; it was indeed a beautiful sight to behold. There were also a few media reporters at the scene, and they were akin to busy bees running around interviewing people and taking pictures.

Tessa went straight to the college's auditorium to get ready after a simple glance at the venus. In the backstage of the auditorium, it was crowded and boisterous. Everyone was busy with the anniversary event.

She walked through the crowd with difficulty, and when she finally arrived at the place that belonged to their orchestra, she saw Hathaway talking to a middle-aged foreign man in a tuxedo. She could see that the man had an artistic aura from a quick glance.

"Tessa, come over here."

Hathaway also spotted her when she arrived, so she called out to her. Then, she introduced her to the man. "This is the principal of the college, Mr. Byrne. And this is the person I mentioned to you a while ago, Mr. Byrne. My protégé, Tessa Reinhart."

"Hello, Principal Byrne." Tessa smiled and nodded politely.

Byrne regarded Tessa kindly. The girl wore a simple T-shirt and a pair of jeans. She tied up her jet-black hair into a ponytail, and her face, although without make-up, showed a youthful vigor.

"Such a spirited looking child. It's no wonder you took a fancy to her."

Byrne said to Hathaway, and then he turned to Tessa and said, "Hathaway told me just now that your music is very compelling. So, I'm very much looking forward to your performance later."

Tessa looked at Hathaway in surprise. She did not expect her teacher to have such high praise for her toward outsiders.

Even though Hathaway noticed her surprise, she did not say anything. Instead, she asked Tessa to get ready for the performance.

Meanwhile, at the Vienna International Airport, Nicholas led Gregory off the plane with a stern demeanor. Timothy walked behind the two with a smile on the corner of his mouth. He wore a black suit, looking like an elegant gentleman.

After they walked out of the VIP passage, Gregory started bouncing in happiness as he asked, "Daddy, will we be able to see Miss Tessa soon? Can I call her?"

"That's right! You can see Miss Tessa soon. But this is our surprise for her. So you can't tell her in advance."

Nicholas lowered his head and glanced at Gregory as he instructed him. His facial expression softened a little at Gregory's evident excitement.

When he heard that they would surprise Tessa, Gregory was full of glee. He nodded firmly and promised, "Then, Miss Tessa will definitely be surprised if we suddenly show up in front of her without calling her."

As if Gregory's happiness infected him, Timothy widened the smile on his face even more as he listened to Gregory's cheerful voice.

Suddenly, Timothy thought of a question and asked, "President Sawyer, Tess went to perform today. Could it be that we'll head to the venue directly?"

"Well, I have already arranged for someone to save us seats." Nicholas nodded.

Timothy was so shocked that he went speechless. As expected of President Sawyer, his influence is unparalleled. He can even give instructions to someone in Vienna.

An hour later, the three rushed to Vienna Conservatory. But, unfortunately, the performance had already begun.

"President Sawyer, right this way, please. The seats that we have arranged for you are here."

The staff in charge of ushering guests immediately led Nicholas and others to the second floor of the auditorium. After they were all seated, the employees retreated.

At the moment, the performance on the stage was a piano performance of 'Mozart's Piano Sonata No.8 in A Minor'.

Chapter 342 Perfect Performance

The sublime and solemn allegro was beautifully played, with a fluctuating rhythm that was a combination of weak and strong. The performance was truly outstanding. It was undeniable that this was a successful performance. The performer had fully immersed his artistic depth and emotion into his performance.

While the audience was fascinated by the vibrant performance, Gregory, on the other hand, was not attracted by the sound of the piano at all. It was probably because he was eager to see Tessa.

After listening for a while, Gregory could not help but jump off the chair and trot to Nicholas. Then, he pulled on Nicholas' trousers and asked, "Daddy, when can we look for Miss Tessa?"

Nicholas lowered his head slightly and met Gregory's expectant black eyes. Then, he brought Gregory into his arms.

"We'll wait for her to finish performing. Then, we'll go find her."

"When will it be Miss Tessa's turn to perform? I really want to see her."

Timothy also looked at Nicholas curiously as he heard the father and son's conversation. He felt that the omnipotent Nicholas must know when it would be Tessa's turn to perform.

However, Nicholas was not aware of Timothy's thoughts. Instead, he glanced down at the performance on the stage. Then, with a slight smile on his lips, he said, "Soon."

Sure enough, the handsome emcee came on stage and interacted with the audience after the piano performance. Then, after engaging the atmosphere in the auditorium, he started announcing the next program.

"Next up, we have our college's outstanding graduate—Miss Hathaway's protégé, Tessa Reinhart. She will be performing this piece, 'Violin Concerto in G major 3rd Movement'."

At the end of the speech, there was applause from the audience.

"Daddy, it's time for Miss Tessa to perform!" Gregory heard the emcee's announcement, and he grabbed the clothes on Nicholas' chest as he shouted excitedly.

Gregory craned his neck to look at the stage entrance and clapped his hands so hard that they turned red. Nicholas looked at the stage in anticipation while protecting Gregory to prevent him from falling to the ground.

Meanwhile, Timothy, who was sitting next to him, also clapped his hands while looking at the stage expectantly.

In the eyes of thousands of people, a beautiful figure slowly stepped onto the stage.

Tessa, wearing a long, black, floor-length dress, gracefully walked to the center of the stage. Her jet-black hair was curled in a beautiful updo, revealing a snow-white swan neck. A pair of exquisite long earrings added a few enchanting points to her delicate face.

The audience present was amazed by Tessa's beautiful appearance, and the chatter continued.

On the VIP seat on the second floor, Gregory looked at the pretty lady standing in the center of the stage, and he couldn't help but squirm in excitement in Nicholas' arms.

"Daddy, look! It's Miss Tessa! She's so pretty!"

"Sit properly." Nicholas frowned as he lightly scolded the restless Gregory in his arms. However, his black eyes were staring at the particularly dazzling girl on stage.

Tessa bowed to the audience gracefully, with the silverish stage light falling on her; it made her look more enchanting and beautiful. Then, she put the violin around her slender neck and began to perform.

'Violin Concerto in G major 3rd Movement' belonged to the final chapter of Bruch's 'Violin Concerto No.1 in G major' that showcases a powerful allegro. The song's theme was a passionate dance number consisting of many dyads and tetrads. It was quite like a free combination of a rondo and a sonata.

It did not take long for the audience under the stage to immerse themselves in this passion-filled musical piece.

Likewise, Tessa was also immersed in the music as she performed. As if the enthusiasm of the music infected her, and her body swayed along with the rhythm.

As time passed, the violin's sound gradually became rapid as the music reached its peak and subsided. Tessa finally ended her performance in a flawless go.

Clap! Clap! Clap! At the end of the song, there was thunderous applause from the audience.

"Beautiful!"

"It's been a long time since I heard such a perfect performance of 'Violin Concerto in G major 3rd Movement'."

"As expected of Hathaway's student, the tone change was completely impeccable."

The audience was all full of praise for Tessa's performance.

In the meantime, Gregory's cheeks were also flushed with excitement. He shouted, "Daddy, Miss Tessa is amazing!"

Even though Nicholas did not utter a word, the expression on his face showed he clearly agreed with Gregory's words.

Next to him, Timothy felt proud yet guilty as he looked at Tessa, who was bowing on stage. If it wasn't because of me delaying Tess, I believe Tessa's achievements would have been higher than it is now with her talent.

Chapter 343 A Pleasant Surprise

At this moment, Gregory's anxious voice sounded again. "Miss Tessa is leaving. Daddy, let's go find her quickly!"

"Alright, let's wait for her at the college gate." Nicholas nodded in agreement as he looked at the girl on the stage who was about to leave.

Meanwhile, Hathaway was also delighted with Tessa's performance.

Byrne sincerely praised Tessa as he looked at her retreating figure. "As expected of your student. It seems like there will be another excellent violinist in the near future."

Similarly, Hathaway did not deny the fact that she was very optimistic about Tessa's future. However, Tessa was not aware of any of these; instead, she immediately went backstage after leaving the stage.

Due to the successful performance, Tessa could not suppress the smile on her face as she felt extremely thrilled inside. Then, she started to pack her things as she could not wait to go back and share the outcome of today's performance with Nicholas and the others.

A little later, Tessa packed up her things, changed out of her dress, and walked out of the auditorium through the back door with her violin case on her back. She was still very buoyant as she listened to the music faintly coming from the auditorium.

When she finally got to the college gate, she could not wait until she got back to her apartment. She just wanted to share her joy with Nicholas now. Hence, she stopped, took out her phone from her handbag, and dialed Nicholas' number immediately.

Unexpectedly, a familiar ringtone rang not far away from her. Tessa instinctively looked over, resulting in her becoming utterly dumbfounded by what she saw.

Nicholas and Timothy stood side by side not far away, but their temperaments were completely different. One was flawlessly handsome with the cold and arrogant aura of a superior, while another one was still looking a little young despite dressing up elegantly. Gregory stood between the two, and he looked just like their younger brother with his cherubic features.

Many passersby around noticed them with their striking looks and frequently cast their gazes on them. However, the three paid no attention as their gazes all landed on the figure by the college entrance.

"Miss Tessa!" said Gregory in a gleeful tone. Then, he rushed toward Tessa with a genuine smile on his chubby cheeks.

Gregory hugged Tessa's thigh tightly. Then, raising his head, he said in a cheerful and adorable voice, "Miss Tessa, I miss you so much!"

Tessa only snapped back to her senses when she felt the weight on her legs. Her face was full of joy as she bent down and picked Gregory up. Finally, she asked with a smile, "What are you guys doing here?"

While the duo was conversing, Timothy and Nicholas also walked over slowly.

"Actually, we arrived early. We even went to see your performance." Timothy looked at Tessa, and a little pride appeared in the depths of his eyes.

She was pleasantly surprised, and her warm gaze fell on Nicholas.

"You're the one who arranged all of this, am I right?" Although the sentence sounded like a question, the tone was affirmative.

As Nicholas stared at the smile on the girl's face, he did not deny it.

At this time, Gregory wrapped his arms around Tessa's neck. Later, he said in a cute voice, "Daddy's the one who said we would give you a surprise. So we came here quietly. Miss Tessa, I miss you so much. Very, very much!"

"Pfft..." Tessa could not help but burst into laughter. She did not expect Gregory to rat out Nicholas so quickly. Hence, she lowered her head and rubbed Gregory's chubby cheeks against hers. Then, she said, grinning, "I miss you very much too."

As she spoke, she raised her eyes to look at Nicholas. Then, unexpectedly, her eyes bumped into a pair of mirthful black eyes. The two looked at each other affectionately, and a sweet scent gradually filled the air.

Timothy, who stood by the side, looked at the two staring at each other and sensed the barely obscured gazes from all around. He lightly coughed and said, "Tess, shall we go back first?"

"Uh... R-Right, we should go back first." Tessa retracted her gaze in embarrassment, and her originally fair cheeks turned crimson red.

Fortunately, it did not take long for her to calm down. Suddenly, she remembered that Timothy and the others had come over directly after getting off the plane. Tessa proposed to take them to dinner first as she figured that they had not eaten yet.

Timothy and Nicholas did not say anything contrary to her arrangement.

Chapter 344 You Are My Most Favorite

They were indeed a little hungry now after traveling to and fro. Soon, Nicholas drove his car over which he had parked on the roadside.

Tessa accompanied Gregory in the back seat while Timothy sat in the passenger seat. Along the way, Gregory kept snuggling in her arms. He was chattering, and his lips did not stop moving for even a second.

"Miss Tessa, I listened to your performance very carefully just now."

"Oh, really? How was it?"

"I think your performance was very, very good! I like it very much. But of course, I like you the best."

Gregory raised his head and looked at Tessa. His big eyes reflected his pure and unrestrained adoration for Tessa. Her heart was touched when she felt his love for her. "I also like you the most."

As Nicholas looked at the playful duo through the rearview mirror, his eyes were filled with joy that he could not conceal.

Similarly, Timothy also had a shallow smile on the corner of his lips. He felt that if Tessa ever got married to Nicholas in the future, he would not have to worry about her relationship with Gregory.

In a high-end Mediterranean restaurant's private room, Gregory sat next to Tessa. Meanwhile, Timothy and Nicholas sat across from each other.

While having their meal, Tessa took care of Gregory. She helped him scoop the vegetables, deshelled the shrimps, and cut the fish for him. Gregory would also be very sensible and feed Tessa some food.

"Miss Tessa, you eat too."

"Yum... The fish you fed me was delicious." She ate the food in one bite, and she did not forget to compliment Gregory.

Whenever this happened, Gregory would shyly purse his lips and smile. Then, he would continue feeding Tessa.

Meanwhile, although Tessa ate whatever Gregory fed her, her hands never stopped moving. Timothy started joking as he looked at the familial interaction between the two, "Tess, you and Greg look just like a real mother and son."

"Mr. Timothy, do we really look like mother and son?" Gregory joyfully looked at Timothy, his black eyes shining like stars.

I really want Miss Tessa to be my real mommy. But it's Daddy's fault for being so incompetent! After so long, he only managed to court her, and they just became a couple.

At the thought of this, Gregory side-eyed at Nicholas in disdain.

Nicholas keenly noticed Gregory's gaze. He raised his eyebrows slightly, not knowing what had gotten into Gregory for him to deserve such a look.

In the meantime, Timothy did not notice these little movements between the father and son. Instead, he nodded and said, "You two are so close that I feel like I'm looking at a real mother and son."

Gregory immediately forgot to hold his grudges against Nicholas' actions when he heard Timothy's words. Then, he smiled happily, and his round little face was flushed red in giddiness.

Tessa thought his reaction was adorable when she saw it. So, she could not help laughing. "It would be nice to have such a cute baby."

After those words escaped her lips, she suddenly realized that her words sounded like she wanted to have a child with Nicholas, no matter how one heard it. Then, almost reflexively, she looked at Nicholas and unexpectedly bumped into a pair of black eyes tinted by a playful smile. She suddenly became embarrassed.

"T-That was not what I meant," she explained with burning cheeks.

It was just that her voice was weak. So, no matter how one listened to it, there was a feeling of her trying to cover up what she really thought. She was annoyed with herself. Thus, she explained again with an aggravated tone. "I really didn't mean it that way!"

Nicholas only thought she looked so cute when she was both embarrassed yet annoyed at the same time. The corners of his mouth twitched, and his voice was indescribably gentle. "Mhm... I know."

However, it was such a doting tone in his voice that made her feel that there were double meanings behind his words. At once, the temperature on her face grew a few degrees higher. Her originally fair cheeks seemed to be burning hot as they were glowing red.

Meanwhile, Timothy was a little emotionally exhausted as he sat on one side. He suddenly felt like a third wheel when he saw his sister and Nicholas flirting with each other.

Timothy shook his head and quickly threw this thought away. Then, he changed the subject and asked, "Tess, we're here this time to especially celebrate your birthday. Do you have any plans?"

Tessa calmed her throbbing heart and smiled as she heard his question. "I don't really have any plans, but I knew you were coming. So, I freed up the rest of my time, but I didn't expect Nicholas and Greg to come too."

Chapter 345 Tessa's Apartment

"How can I be absent from celebrating your birthday as your boyfriend?" Nicholas looked at Tessa tenderly.

Tessa nearly drowned in the affection those eyes held when her eyes met his. The temperature on her face that had finally dropped rose again. Then, at once, a sweet scent of love filled the air.

Timothy felt that the food in front of him was no longer edible because he was full from witnessing Tessa being lovey-dovey with Nicholas.

Meanwhile, Gregory was completely oblivious to what was going on.

When Gregory saw Tessa smiling sweetly at Nicholas, he feared that she would forget him. Therefore, he hastily swallowed the food in his mouth and then rushed over to hug Tessa.

"I also won't miss out on your birthday, Miss Tessa."

As she looked at the father and son, the corners of her lips continued to rise. At this moment, she felt really loved as she saw and felt their affection toward her.

After dinner, Tessa planned to take Nicholas, Gregory, and Timothy back to her apartment before doing anything else.

On the way back, Tessa suddenly remembered something and said, "I only have one bedroom in my apartment. I can't accommodate all of you, so I'll take you to a nearby hotel to check in later."

"There's no need for that. There's a hotel opposite your community, and I have already booked two rooms there. So we'll just check in there." Nicholas told Tessa what he had arranged in advance. "The hotel is also close to your house, so it's convenient for us to go back and forth."

Tessa did not expect Nicholas to think about everything and felt that this man was very meticulous.

Later, the car stopped at the gate of the community. Tessa came home with all of them in tow.

"Miss Tessa, your new house looks better in person than watching it through video."

Gregory immediately switched on his flattery mode when he smelled Tessa's scent in the air. Then, he began to praise her apartment. However, he was not exaggerating his compliments at all. Although this apartment was small, it was fully furnished. Moreover, Tessa decorated the space very attentively.

The green plants on the balcony, the flowers on the dining table with the floral tablecloth, the small fish tank on the TV cabinet, and the golden-red goldfishes were blowing bubbles in the tank. All in all, the apartment felt lived-in and cozy.

Even so, in Timothy's eyes, he could not ignore how minuscule the apartment was. He felt distressed and blamed himself as he noticed that she was living in a house smaller than he had envisioned. He felt that he was a negligent brother.

"Tess, I'll accompany you for house hunting after your birthday."

Tessa was stunned for a moment, and immediately she knew that Timothy had misunderstood.

Tessa explained with a smile as she gestured for them to take a seat on the sofa, "Don't overthink things. I don't feel wronged living here. In fact, I think this house

is just right for me as I live alone. It isn't too big that it would make me feel lonely, but it's not too small that it would cause me to feel claustrophobic."

Timothy frowned, and it was as if he was debating whether what Tessa said was genuine.

Likewise, she also saw through his disbelief. Therefore, she invited them for a small tour of her apartment. "I'll show you around. That way, you can decide for yourself whether I'm doing well or not."

Timothy did not refuse and stood up from the sofa. Gregory also jumped off the sofa, raised his hand, and said, "Miss Tessa! I'm going too. Bring me!"

"Okay, you're coming with us." Tessa grinned and held Gregory's hand, intending to leave.

Just as Timothy was about to follow, he suddenly spotted Nicholas sitting on the sofa through the corner of his eyes. He felt that it was a rather strange behavior as Nicholas was as cool as a cucumber.

Isn't President Sawyer Tess' boyfriend? So, why isn't he curious about her home at all?

Timothy could not help but ask when he thought about it, "President Sawyer, don't you want to come and see the room with us?"

Tessa and Gregory also stopped and looked over when they heard the question.

"Oh, I've seen it already."

As soon as these words escaped Nicholas' lips, he realized that he had said something wrong.

Instantly, Timothy was taken aback, and he ended up staring blankly at Nicholas.

Meanwhile, Tessa remembered the last time Nicholas stayed in her place. Her cheeks slowly became hot as she recalled how many times they nearly lost control and had sex in those two days.

The room suddenly became quiet, and the atmosphere was a bit strange. Finally, Tessa calmed herself down forcefully and quickly gave Nicholas a warning look, threatening him to keep his mouth shut.

Chapter 346 Timothy Has Misunderstood

At once, Nicholas received Tessa's warning look. Since he did not want her to be embarrassed, he coughed lightly and explained, "I mean, I just arrived and haven't paid my visit yet."

Unexpectedly, as soon as these words came out of his mouth, Gregory yelled at him, "Daddy, you lied! You obviously stayed with Miss Tessa the last time you were on a business trip!"

When Timothy heard Gregory's words, his gaze instantly turned peculiar. "Tess, are you two..."

Timothy bit back the words he wanted to say, but his gaze shifted back and forth between Tessa and Nicholas. The meaning of his action was self-evident.

It felt that her head seemed to have exploded with a bang before her face and ears were in the shade of crimson red.

"Tim, listen to my explanation. Although he stayed here for two days, he slept on the couch while I was resting in the room. Nothing happened between us."

Tessa tried to explain to Timothy. However, it didn't have a great effect because it instead gave him the vibe that she wanted to cover up for something.

An awkward Timothy said, "Tess, this is your private matter. You don't need to explain it to me."

As she held Gregory in the silence, she felt extremely stuffy. It's as clear as day that Tim has misunderstood.

The furious Tessa then glared at Nicholas in anger. Her gaze seemed to be scolding him for ruining her innocent reputation in front of her brother. Nicholas! Look at what you've done!

Nicholas almost immediately understood the meaning behind Tessa's gaze, after which he smirked at Tessa. It was so sinister as if it carried some kind of charm that enchanted people's hearts.

Looking at his smirk, she felt her heart racing while her breaths quickened.

Suddenly, she felt that the temperature in the room was a little hot and stuffy while making her cheeks heat up.

Fortunately, Gregory's tender voice sounded at this time, saving Tessa from the abyss of misery. "Miss Tessa, are we still going to look around your house?"

"Sure, of course."

After saying this sentence, she took Gregory and fled the scene.

Nicholas could not help but burst out laughing when he saw it.

In the meantime, Timothy pursed his lips and said nothing because he knew this was Tessa and Nicholas' way of getting along with each other.

After looking around the house, they chatted for a while in the living room and the sky outside had turned dark unknowingly.

"I'm a little tired. I want to head home to rest. President Sawyer, how about the both of you?" Timothy stood up and planned to leave.

It was just that Gregory's voice rang before Nicholas could respond. "Daddy, I don't want to go back to the hotel with you. I want to stay the night with Miss Tessa here."

With that, Gregory hugged Tessa's arm tightly and declared his determination through his actions. I don't want to go back to the hotel with Daddy. How can a cold Daddy be comparable to a fragrant Miss Tessa?

"Miss Tessa, is it okay if I spend the night with you? I promise I'll be obedient."

Maybe it was because Gregory was afraid that Nicholas would reject his suggestion. Hence, he began to act like a spoiled child toward Tessa again.

Tessa could not resist, so she agreed immediately. "Okay, you sure can."

"Miss Tessa, you're the best!" A happy Gregory clapped his palms..

Nicholas laughed and turned to Timothy before he said, "Why don't you head back to the hotel first? I have to deal with something else."

While speaking, he gave Tessa a meaningful look.

Following Nicholas' gaze, Timothy saw Tessa's cheeks flushed in embarrassment and instantly left after receiving the hint.

Only Tessa, Nicholas, and Gregory were left in the living room, which caused the atmosphere to be slightly subtle.

In particular, Tessa noticed that Nicholas' looks were dark and deep; it made her feel uncomfortable.

"Well, it's getting late. I'll take Greg to take a bath."

She coughed lightly. Regardless of whether he wanted to speak or not, she carried Gregory and went to the bathroom.

After a while, the faint sound of water came from the bathroom before it was followed by the sound of Gregory and Tessa laughing.

As Nicholas listened to these voices, a tenderness that no one else had ever seen appeared across his face. At that moment, he felt that his life had never been more satisfying than it was now.

After taking a bath, Gregory was still very excited and could not sleep at all. Maybe it was because he had not seen Tessa for so long that he stayed close to her to play in the living room.

Chapter 347 A Heated Kiss

Tessa was also extremely patient with Gregory as she took out the toys that she usually bought for him.

When he saw these toys, he was overjoyed. "Miss Tessa, I love you to bits!"

With that, he ran into her arms. His little head was brushing against Tessa's chest, and his cute voice was filled with a delightful tone.

Tessa tightly hugged Gregory and a radiant smile was seen across her palm-sized face. "Greg, I like you very much too."

The two were glued to each other as they laughed while sitting on the couch.

Meanwhile, Nicholas sat on the sidelines and accompanied them while his gentle gaze landed on both Gregory and Tessa.

The ceiling lights had portrayed a scene where they were a happy family and it made people elated.

It was much later that Gregory became exhausted from playing. Then, he leaned against Tessa and went to sleep in a daze.

"I'll carry him into the room first," Tessa whispered to Nicholas.

After that, she carefully carried Gregory and gently walked into the bedroom.

A few minutes later, she had successfully tucked the child to sleep. Once she came out of the bedroom, she saw that a man was resting lazily on the couch.

Blessed with a handsome face that resembled the work of a supernaturally uncanny workmanship, the face turned rather mysterious under the flattery of the light.

Tessa was stunned for a while. Then, she went over and asked, "When are you going back to the hotel to rest?"

Staring at the girl in front of him, Nicholas did not immediately answer her. Instead, he reached out with his hand and pulled her into his arms.

Thus, she was being forced to sit on his lap when ringing in her ears was the man's low yet melodious voice.

"You have only been intimate with Greg from afternoon until now with no time for me. Don't you think you need to compensate me as well?"

"Who says I never cared about you?" Tessa pouted.

Nicholas stayed silent and stared straight at Tessa as if he was accusing Tessa of neglecting him.

She seemed to understand the accusatory look in his eyes, and she could not help but laugh out loud. Then, she teased, "I didn't expect that President Sawyer of Sawyer Group would actually be jealous of his own son."

"So, are you compensating me or not?"

Nicholas did not mind Tessa teasing him in the slightest. He lowered his head slightly with a look that said if she did not agree, he would realize his wish by force.

As she smelled the cold aura coming from him, her heart skipped a beat.

Tessa subconsciously leaned back to create some distance while her originally fair cheeks began to heat up.

Nicholas was protecting Tessa, preventing her from falling onto the ground.

Looking at the absent-minded Tessa, Nicholas let out an imitating voice from his nostril.

She snapped back from her thoughts while her face illustrated a helpless expression. Then, she gave a sweet smile and asked, "Alright, tell me. What do you wish for your compensation?"

"You don't know?"

His gaze darkened while he stared at her with gloomy eyes. There was even a trace of sexiness in his hoarse voice.

Blinking her eyes, she never expected that the man would throw questions at her! "How would I know how you wish to be compensated?"

"Anyway, we haven't seen each other for quite a long period of time. I think this can also be considered as our reunion after being separated for so long. Don't you have anything that you want to express?" Nicholas was hinting Tessa.

When she understood what he hinted at, she remembered the scene where the male and female characters in the movie or drama were reunited after a long separation.

Although she was a little shy, she still cupped Nicholas' face and lowered her head to kiss him.

The soft and gentle touch immediately left after a quick touch, but it left the recipient with an endless aftertaste.

"Is this good enough?"

Tessa's pair of dewy eyes looked around the surroundings with her cheeks in the shade of crimson red. However, she was embarrassed to look at Nicholas.

Nicholas looked at Tessa's flushed cheeks resembling ripe peaches emitting an alluring aroma. They made people have the urge to pluck it for a taste. Thinking of this, he actually carried out what he had in mind.

He pressed the back of her head with one hand before kissing her. Meanwhile, his other hand had tightly wrapped itself around her slim waist, after which he shortened the distance between their bodies until they were completely glued to each other.

The aroma which belonged to Tessa alone carried an alluring sense that couldn't stop Nicholas even if he wanted to.

Under Nicholas' highly skilled kiss, Tessa felt that she was becoming dizzy while only being able to react and respond instinctively.

Chapter 348 Liking You More and More

The entanglement in between the lips and teeth became more and more intense to the point where even the surrounding air became much thinner.

It was as if everything in the surrounding had been blurred where the two could only see each other in their eyes.

After the kiss ended, Tessa was nearly short of breath as her lips were swollen in the aftermath. She was gasping as she lay in Nicholas' arms with the feeling that all of her energy had been depleted.

Similarly, Nicholas was doing no better than Tessa. His handsome face was scrunched up under the twilight as he was holding back while the brightness of his pair of black eyes shocked her.

Tightening his grip on Tessa's waist, Nicholas looked as if he wanted to knead her into his body.

After a long while, the two finally calmed their pumped up emotions.

However, she was still in his arms.

Grabbing Nicholas' one hand, Tessa interlocked all their fingers together, which made them look matching.

"Have you been missing me all these days?"

Raising her head, she looked at his clean jaw with her dewy eyes.

While slightly lowering his eyes, he replied in a low and deep voice, "Of course I miss you. And you?"

"I miss you too, and I miss Greg. Sometimes I want to act impulsively and come back to look for your guys while disregarding everything."

"Then, come back."

"Forget it. Although I feel lonely here sometimes, I don't feel that way all the time." Tessa shook her head and smiled. "Besides, my career has just gained momentum. If I head back now, that means I'll have to start from zero again. Then, wouldn't my previous efforts all go to waste?"

"As long as you're happy. If worse comes to worst, I'll bring Greg over to visit you when I'm free." There was an indescribable trace of doting in Nicholas' words.

As she listened to him, she felt so sweet that it resembled someone pouring a jar of honey on her heart.

Tessa then sat up from Nicholas' embrace and the affection in her eyes was unconcealed. "Nicholas, what should I do? You're so good that I feel like I'm liking you more and more."

"Then, continue to like me in this fashion."

There were ounces of smiles in Nicholas' eyes before he gave Tessa's lips a light peck.

After that, the two continued to be emotionally attached with each other for a while.

It wasn't until time for him to leave when he asked her for a good night kiss again. Then, he reluctantly left her apartment.

Tessa stood at the entryway after closing the door. As she touched her slightly numb lips, an unconcealed sweet smile crept onto her face.

Next, she went into the room after moments of being absent-minded. Once she entered the room, she saw an excited Gregory sleeping soundly. His cheeks are flushed while he pouts his pink lips. He seems to be having some sort of dream.

"Miss Tessa... Yummy... Still want..."

Once Tessa went closer to Gregory, she heard him murmuring those words with an adorable voice. In an instant, her entire heart was melted.

Tessa simply washed up and gently got into the bed. She didn't know whether it was her scent or something else, but Gregory immediately clung onto her like an octopus just as she was about to lie down.

"Miss Tessa... Huggie..."

When she heard him talking, she could not help but laugh.

After that, Tessa helped to tuck the blanket on Gregory's back before hugging him to sleep.

Before she slept, she could not help but sigh. I'm very much happy now!

Hayley sat on the executive chair with a frown inside the director's officer at Stone Enterprise.

She had just received news that Nicholas had gone abroad yesterday and was a little suspicious as to whether he did so to look for Tessa. After all, Tessa was now abroad.

Thinking about this, Hayley planned to have a word with Remus after she got off work in the hope that she could find out some news.

In Sawyer Residence, the housekeeper led Hayley to a garden pavilion where Remus was leisurely teasing the parrots in the pavilion.

"Sir, Miss Stone has arrived." Then, the housekeeper brought Hayley over to stand outside the pavilion.

When Remus heard that, he turned sideways a little as his sagacious gaze landed on Hayley. "What brings you here today?"

While speaking, Remus returned the parrot on his hand back to its bird cage. After that, he went to sit on a chair in the pavilion.

"I thought I should drop by and visit you since it's been so long since my last visit." Hayley obediently sat across from Remus before she took the teapot and poured them both some tea.

The housekeeper understood the hint and left the pavilion to wait at a place not too far away.

As he took a sip of the tea, Remus said lightly, "What's good for you to visit me? You may as well look for Nicholas if you have such free time. Oh, by the way, how's your recent progress with him?"

Chapter 349 Nicholas Went Abroad Yesterday

"Nicholas... He still has no interest in me," Hayley said and couldn't help but sigh.

Hearing that, Remus frowned as his brows reflected his expression.

At the sight of this, she deliberately retreated in order to advance and added, "Sometimes I can't help but wonder whether it's better not to force things—"

"Where did the reluctance come from? I will help you to teach that kid a lesson when I head back." He stopped her words in dissatisfaction and persuaded her, "Don't give up either. Nicholas has always been rather indifferent since he was a child, and he will naturally have feelings once you guys get along for a long while "

Hayley feigned hesitance to think about his words, but how could Remus not be able to read her thoughts?

Although he was not happy, he still went ahead to say, "Well, it's still early. Meet with Nicholas for dinner together tonight, and tell him it's my arrangement."

If he had said this before, then she would have been elated.

However, she couldn't help but feel lost at this moment.

After all, in the past, she would always be rejected whenever she wanted to make an appointment with Nicholas. Yet, if there was an order from Remus, then Nicholas would definitely go with it. When she thought of her purpose of coming over, she cautiously informed, "Nicholas went on a business trip abroad yesterday."

Remus frowned again and when he saw Hayley hesitating to speak, he immediately guessed the girl's purpose of visiting this time.

He didn't expose her, but instead gently replied, "Since that's the case, then we'll reschedule the meal when Nicholas returns."

When she saw how he had maintained his silence about Nicholas' trip abroad, Hayley nodded in disappointment. In fact, she really wanted to ask Remus whether Nicholas went abroad to meet Tessa.

However, when the words reached her mouth, she swallowed them back.

It was because Hayley was afraid that Remus would think that she was too preoccupied with gains and losses. She wouldn't want to seem too earnest, which would cause the man to greatly reduce his impression of her and make her lose more than what she could gain.

Now that she had nothing to gain, she sat for a while before proposing to make a move.

Remus watched her disappear into the garden, called the housekeeper over and said in a cold voice, "Go and investigate Nicholas' whereabouts abroad and see whether he has gone to see Tessa Reinhart."

"Yes." After being instructed, the butler left.

In the evening, the housekeeper received feedback from his subordinates after dinner.

He immediately knocked on the door to enter the study and respectfully reported, "Sir, Master Nicholas went abroad for the company mattress and did not go to see Miss Tessa."

It was a sunny day the next morning.

Nicholas walked out of the washroom in a white shirt, and his flawless handsome face was as expressionless as ever.

His slender legs were hidden in black suit pants.

While buttoning his cuffs, he walked toward the bedside table and immediately picked up his phone that had been ringing nonstop.

The call was from Edward.

"What's the matter?" Nicholas asked, his voice hoarse as he had just woken up.

Edward reported, "President Sawyer, Old Master Sawyer asked someone to investigate your whereabouts last night. I followed your instructions and sent the person away."

Nicholas hummed—he wasn't very surprised at the turn of events.

Before going abroad, he had thought of this and made arrangements in advance to hide his whereabouts, so that Remus' people were only aware that he was abroad, but not the fact that he was now in Vienna.

However, when he realized that Remus had unpredictable thoughts, Nicholas did not intend to lower his guard.

He coldly commanded, "For these few days, tell the people below to keep their mouths shut. If anyone leaks the news, don't blame me for being ruthless."

"Got it." Edward took the order.

Then, Nicholas explained a few more things and hung up the phone.

Now that he and Tessa were finally together, he would never give anyone a chance to destroy them.

Not long after putting down the phone, someone knocked on the door outside.

When Timothy saw Nicholas opening the door, he said with a smile, "My sister called earlier and said that breakfast is ready. Let's go over."

Nicholas nodded. He went back to the room, took his suit jacket and followed Timothy to Tessa's apartment.

Gregory was already awake in the apartment.

He didn't forget that today was Tessa's birthday. As soon as he opened his eyes, he gave her a sweet kiss.

Chapter 350 Birthday on a Cruise Ship

"Miss Tessa, happy birthday!"

"Thank you, Greg."

A joyful Tessa kissed the child on his cheek.

Then, she took out the clothes that she had previously bought with the toys and put them on him.

Now that he was wearing his gorgeous new clothes, Gregory was ecstatic and the smile on his face never faltered.

He couldn't wait to show off to them when Nicholas and Timothy entered the door.

"Daddy, Mr. Timothy, look, these are the new clothes that Miss Tessa bought for me. Don't they look awesome?"

"They look lovely."

Nicholas and Timothy's doting compliments made the smile on the child's face grow even brighter.

At this time, the two of them looked at Tessa with gentle eyes and said in unison.

"Tessa, happy birthday."

"Tess, happy birthday."

Then, Gregory also joined in and wished, "Miss Tessa, happy birthday!"

Tessa looked at the people in front of her with a heart that was full of happiness. She smiled and thanked them before beckoning them to have breakfast.

During the meal, Gregory stuffed his mouth full and complimented her in all kinds of ways, "Breakfast made by Miss Tessa is really delicious, if only I can eat it all the time."

Tessa was about to melt from his cuteness. She patted the child's back lightly and commented lovingly, "Eat slowly. There will be more tomorrow."

He nodded, but didn't stop moving.

After the meal, she had planned to take them out for a walk.

Gregory was holding Tessa as he jumped around in excitement.

Nicholas and Timothy were standing on each side to protect them both.

Along the way, the four of them talked and laughed.

Apart from that, Tessa had also made plans. She would take her brother and Gregory to visit the surrounding attractions today before they would have a meal and cake together in the evening. If they could really do that, she would be very satisfied.

It was just that plans could never keep up with the changes.

Nicholas had already made arrangements for her birthday where in the afternoon, he took Tessa, Timothy and Gregory to a cruise ship.

When they boarded the cruise ship, there was already a handsome steward in a vest waiting for them there.

"Mr. Sawyer, this way please."

He respectfully walked in front while leading the way for Nicholas and the others.

Tessa held Gregory and looked at her brother, but she didn't ask anything and only followed Nicholas.

A few minutes later, the steward took them to the door of a deluxe suite before he handed the room card to Nicholas and turned to leave.

"Mr. Sawyer, this is the room card. I wish you a good time."

Tessa looked at the departing steward and finally found the opportunity to ask, "Nicholas, what are we doing here?"

Timothy also looked at Nicholas when he heard the question.

"You'll know later. Now, we'll enter first."

After speaking, Nicholas was the first one to open the door and thereafter walked into the room.

The room was lavish with excellent lighting while soft carpet adorned the floor.

"I have instructed someone to keep a dress in the room. You should change into your dress first and we will attend the banquet on the ship later," he said to Tessa as he pointed to one of the bedrooms.

She glanced at the room. As if she had thought of something funny, she suddenly burst out laughing.

"What's wrong?" Nicholas looked over suspiciously.

Tessa waved her hand, but the smile on the corner of her mouth did not diminish at all. "It's nothing. I just remembered that the first time I saw you and Gregory was on a cruise ship."

When he heard this, he also thought of the scene at that time and laughed.

At the time, Gregory always wanted to follow Tessa and the level of his persistence had astonished Nicholas at one point, but he didn't expect that it was actually the nature of them being mother and child.

However, he was also fortunate that Gregory's persistence prevented him from missing out on her.

As he was thinking about it, he looked at Tessa tenderly. "Go ahead and change into your dress."

Tessa nodded, after which she turned and entered the room.

Nicholas waited in the living room with Gregory and Timothy.

She later walked out with an off-shoulder white dress with a V-neck and immediately amazed the people in the living room.

The slit of the attire was above her knees and revealed her perfect legs. As she had a slender waist, it made her look charming and elegant.